



## Report Card

### Superintendent's Update

As many of you are aware, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) releases its state report cards every year in early September. I personally dislike that I am addressing the results for the second time this calendar year, but I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the distribution of the report cards and the results. (Report card results are on the ODEW website at <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/>)

I was optimistic that our overall score would improve compared to previous years, but unfortunately, results take time. I do believe we are very close to moving from an overall 2.5 star to a 3 star rating.

While ODEW shares the results of their measurements annually, we are looking at those results daily through programs and results such as weekly student progress meetings, diagnostic testing, attendance tracking, PBIS, state testing results, data days, and other various measures. We must look at all aspects of our operations to evaluate ways in which we can positively impact the building report card that ultimately funnels to the overall district report card.

A few years ago we became extremely focused on our graduation rate being in the low 80 percent range for many years. Within a few years, we were able to identify solutions, implement them and ultimately correct the issue with a 5 Star designation this year. It is



now time that we as a district take the same approach with the Progress and Achievement component of the report card.



I have asked our administration to become laser focused on these two components as we know that these two account for 50 percent of the report card while the others are valued at 12.5 percent each.

Each component is important as they all impact the math calculation of the report card. However, we must understand that two of the six components are 50 percent and obviously carry more weight. We must embrace the fact that state testing and teacher value added results must be our academic focus moving forward.

As a district, from the Board of Education down through all of our staff, we must continue to focus on how we can impact and improve the report card with a goal and expectation that we move to the 3.5 Star outcome that many other like demographic districts have.

I have been extremely impressed with the “conversations” that I have had so far at the High School and Intermediate School that staff are embracing the need to focus on these two components and have already actively begun to better understand the results so that together we can correct this.

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## Data Days

### Understanding and Using the Information

Throughout this school year, all teachers will participate in six district Data Days. These days are intentionally built into our calendar because improving student outcomes requires more than simply collecting data; we must take time to understand it and use it.

Our district goal is clear: improve Achievement and Progress on the Ohio School Report Card. To do that, we first must identify where we are doing well, where students are struggling, and where our instructional practices may need to adjust.

Data Days will give teachers dedicated time to examine multiple sources of information, including state assessment results, diagnostic data, attendance, behavior, classroom performance, and other evidence that helps us better understand our students and our instruction.

This work is not limited to teachers of tested subjects. Every teacher contributes to student growth through the quality of instruction, student engagement, literacy, problem-solving, relationships, attendance, and the expectations we establish in our classrooms. Improving our district outcomes is a shared responsibility.

These days are also not about blaming or evaluating teachers. They are about improvement. We cannot address a problem we have not clearly identified, and we cannot know whether a strategy is working unless we examine the evidence.

Each Data Day should result in a focused goal and a specific action to implement before the next Data Day. When we meet again, we will look at what changed, what worked, and what needs adjusted. The goal is simple: use the information we already have to make better decisions for students and continue to build better Bobcats.

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## CATS Camp

### Ninth Year for Afterschool Program

The Cambridge CATS Club Afterschool Program is up and running again for its ninth year. The program has morphed over the years based on needs and funding but is still garnering great results.

“We have seen tremendous success in the afterschool program, and we have had great support from families, teachers and aides,” Program Director Laurie Goggin said. “This is a great program that benefits the students that participate.”



More than 160 students at Primary, Intermediate, Middle and High schools are participating this year.

Currently, 36 students are enrolled at the Primary School, 49 students at the Intermediate School with a waitlist of approximately 30 students. The combined Middle School and High School program currently has 77 students enrolled.

Registration was completed this year in Final Forms to streamline the information that is required by the parents/guardians.

All programs get homework help and a nutritious snack every day. Community partners - Guernsey County District Public Library and Deerassic Park Education Center visit with programs every month.

Every Wednesday is “Wanna Try It Wednesday” where the students prepare and taste different food items that they can then make at home.

The afterschool program also features the following clubs:

- Fitness Club for all grades
- Craft Club for all grades
- D&D Club for High School
- Boys Club for Middle School
- Game Club for all grades
- ROXS for High School and Middle School

The program is led in the buildings by 23 teachers and seven aides with two teachers and an aide in each building each day due to decreased funding in recent years.

Funding for the program comes from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers grant funding provided by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, and the Ohio Department of Children and Youth.

The district previously earned funding from the MVHC Summer Learning and Afterschool Opportunity Grant and Covid Relief Funds which have both expired.



“Despite some funding challenges, our goal is to continue to provide this opportunity for the students who will benefit the most from the additional intervention they receive in the afterschool program,” Goggin said. “We are focusing on attendance and learning through fun activities as this is what future funding will be based on by the grant.”

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## Science Classes Visit Yokoso Center

### Unit on Japan Culminates with Hands On Experience

Exploring diverse cultures can capture a student’s attention no matter what class the experience takes place in.



Cambridge High School students in Ms. Rankin’s environmental science class and Mrs. Hoylman’s zoology class recently ventured to Columbus to the Yokoso Center where students learned about ikebana, an ancient Japanese style of flower arranging, from a master, Sensei Joe Rotella.

“I was so impressed with the students,” Sensei Joe Rotella said. “They were incredibly polite, attentive, and engaged, and they seemed genuinely interested in learning about Ikebana and Japanese culture. I hope they enjoyed the experience as much as I enjoyed sharing it with them.”

Students also explored the Japanese shops (bakery, gift shop, grocery store) and tried bento boxes for lunch.

The High School students have been working through a Japanese unit in environmental science which included:

- A geography lesson focusing on the Ring of Fire and why Japan has earthquakes and volcanoes.
- An introduction to Japanese religion, pop culture, traditions, and vocabulary.
- Kintsugi, the act of putting broken pottery back together and seeing its beauty.

- Wabi-sabi, the idea that there is beauty in imperfection.
- Fugglers, making wabi-sabi creatures from recyclable material.
- Read about Sadako Sasaki and her 1,000 paper cranes, a story about a girl who developed leukemia caused by radiation from the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.
- Minamata Disease/mercury bioaccumulation
- Read a manga comic book.
- Studied the Fukushima nuclear disaster.
- Created a boba milk tea bar.

“The unit was well done, and the students were very engaged and well behaved on our trip to the Yokoso Center,” Holyman said. “It was a great experience.”

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# Homecoming a Success

King and Queen Selected; Traditions Honored



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# Employee Tootles

## Recognizing a Job Well Done

Last year, the Bobcat Times, following the lead of our Intermediate, Primary and Preschool buildings, began collecting and sharing Employee Tootles as a way to recognize employees for a job well done.

In this month's edition of the Bobcat Times, we have several Tootles. Thanks to those who contributed. This is a great way to provide recognition to your colleagues.

As a reminder, Tootles are notes of thanks written to a deserving employee of the district to recognize them for a job well done or to compliment a good effort. They should also let the person know how that behavior positively affected those around them. Thank you for recognizing your colleagues.

This is a place for all employees to recognize and complement their colleagues. Please use this link to submit your Tootles: <https://forms.gle/cZy4gRRsb6BWuHM97>.

**To: 6th Grade Staff, Kasey Wharton, Bob Willis and Mrs. Lorenz**

**From: Angela Hannon**

Dear ROX Supporters,

Thank you for helping to get the ROX program started. Your help with selection of the students and tweaking the schedule to make it work, made ROX for 6th grade girls at CMS possible. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated and I am looking forward to great future benefits!

**To: April Childers**

**From: Meghan Fondriest**

Dear April,

Thanks for always looking out for others and providing a safe and positive learning environment for our students. You are willing to help co-workers. You offer advice and model classroom management strategies. Your students are always engaged and have fun learning. You can tell you care deeply for our students.

**To: Angela Hannon**

**From: Amelia Wollard**

Dear Angela,

You deserve this Tootle because the first few weeks of school, you have gone out of your way to help me as a new teacher. You have shared your experience, helped me with Skills Lab, given me ideas for staying organized, and been someone I can go to when I feel overwhelmed. I really appreciate how willing you are to take the time to help and support me.

Your support has helped me feel more confident and prepared in my classroom, which directly benefits my students. The ideas, organization strategies, and teaching advice you shared have helped me stay on top of things and be better prepared to support my students. Your willingness to help also creates a supportive environment for other teachers, especially those who are new to the school.

**To: Julie Maury, Ashley Daugherty, Officer Harper, Pippa Mikes, Jeremy Wheeler, George Marshall, Jake Pethtel, Jodi Neff, Jadyn Carpenter, Angie Hannon, Jennifer Lorenz, Nichole Thomas, and Jennifer Hickman**

**From: Ty Cota**

Dear 9/11 Memorial Supporters,

I can't thank you all enough for all that you did to help make our 9/11 memorial possible. Whether it was coming out on your prep time to help place flags, covering my class so I could give my attention to the project, or helping to facilitate the students as they placed flags during lunch, I could not have done it without you! I am sure I am forgetting somebody, but it was definitely a team effort!

Thanks to all of you, I was able to give my attention to the project until it was finished and not worry about all of my other duties. This made the 9/11 display memorable as each student got to contribute to the placing of flags and learn why we were placing them on the lawn.

**To: DJ Todd**

**From: Angela Hannon**

Dear DJ,

You consistently demonstrate a genuine commitment to our students and staff.

Your enthusiasm, kindness, and encouraging nature help create a welcoming and supportive environment for everyone around you. You are truly deserving of recognition for the positive impact you have on our school.

**To: Colton Renner**

**From: Ty Cota**

Dear Colton,

Thank you for setting up all of the sound equipment for our 9/11 ceremony! You did a great job even though you've never been here for our ceremony to know how it goes. The students and people in attendance were able to hear everything very well and you helped make everything run very smoothly!

**To: April Childers**

**From: Alyssa Taylor**

Dear April,

You have been amazing at helping me get everything ready I need to teach my kiddos. I worked with you during kindergarten boot camp and I have the privilege of now working next to you. I absolutely feel so comfortable being able to ask you questions and know you will answer them. You let me know the positive things and keep me calm during stressful times. You are a very good coworker to be around!

**To: Ty Cota**

**From: Dan Coffman**

Dear Ty,

I want to recognize you for the CMS remembrance activity for 9/11/2001. Although we all wish an event like this wasn't needed, it truly makes a meaningful impact on our students, staff, and community. The planning and organization were top-notch. I really appreciate your dedication to keeping the memory of 9/11 alive and educating our students appropriately.

**To: DJ Todd**

**From: Laurie Goggin**

Dear DJ,

You are one of the many dedicated teachers in the Afterschool Program. You work two days a week and have a specific group of students who work diligently to ensure that they are able to participate in your group. Just recently, you planned a "Movie Night Under the Stars" for your groups and their families. The attendance, at close to 100 people, was amazing. Parents came with their students for a night out on the turf for pizza, snacks, athletics, gaming, and a movie. The time and effort that goes into preparing for this event is not fully realized by the students, however it is realized by the rest of us in the program and you are truly appreciated for all of your efforts to make this a great night!

**To: Alyssa Taylor**

**From: Meghan Fondriest**

Dear Alyssa,

You are working very hard to implement behavior interventions in your classroom. You are willing to try different strategies and maintain a positive outlook. Your students have a positive environment to learn and develop.

**To: Dr. Sherry**

**From: Kenneth Triplett**

Dear Dr. Sherry,

Thank you for coming in frequently while you are on leave to help your sub and other teachers. You have been very helpful to me in learning to navigate an unfamiliar LMS.

**To: Mrs. Wood**

**From: April Childers**

Dear Mrs. Wood,

Thank you for everything you do for the kindergarten team! I appreciate how you are always willing to troubleshoot any issues that may arise. You are a wonderful team player and we are lucky to have you. I appreciate your willingness to go above and beyond for your coworkers, but even more importantly....you give your best to your students every single day! Everyone knows they can go to you for help and you always have an answer. If you don't, you know who to contact to get an answer!

**To: Angie Fulton**

**From: April Childers**

Dear Angie,

Thank you for being you! I love how you go out of your way to be helpful to every single person that works at our school. I always hear you say, "Do you need any help?" You are an incredible team player. I appreciate how you stepped up to help with kindergarten dismissal. Because of you, we were able to continue with our normal routine...even though people were missing. It makes life easier for everyone that she is always willing to lend a helping hand. She made, what could have been a stressful time, calm and peaceful.

**To: 21st CCCLC AfterSchool Staff**

**From: Laurie Goggin**

Every day, our amazing Afterschool program staff members do something truly remarkable. After working a full school day, you pivot straight into creating fun, exciting lessons, running clubs, and keeping our students constantly engaged for another three hours. Even when you are exhausted from a long day, you take a quick breath and jump right back in the moment our students gather for snacks and downtime. Your dedication shines through in everything we see: booming daily attendance, high student engagement, and a growing waitlist of families eager to join. Your tireless commitment shows our students, families, and the entire community just how deeply you want to see our Bobcats succeed!

**To: Kira Wakuchik**

**From: Lisa Taylor**

I would like to give a special shout-out to Kira Wakuchik, our wonderful art teacher, for going above and beyond to help make our Start With Hello Week a success! Last week, you took the time to create two beautiful posters that I needed for the week and even helped me hang them up. I truly appreciate your willingness to give your time, share your creativity, and help make our school's Start With Hello activities special for our students. Your willingness to help positively impacted our students and staff by helping create a welcoming and positive environment during Start With Hello Week. The posters helped bring attention to the importance of kindness, connection, and inclusion throughout our school. Your creativity and willingness to give your time also supported the success of the week's activities and encouraged a stronger sense of school community.

Thank you, Kira, for all of your help and for making a difference! Your time and effort are so appreciated!

**To: Bob Willis**

**From: Lisa Taylor**

I would like to give a special shout-out to Bob Willis for helping make our Start With Hello Week a success! You took the time to line up students to help take pictures throughout the week, which was a huge help in capturing and documenting the activities.

Your help positively impacted our Start With Hello Week by making it possible to capture pictures of the activities and document the positive connections happening throughout the school. Your support helped promote the week's message of kindness, inclusion, and connection while making it easier for staff to showcase the success of the activities.

I truly appreciate the time and effort you put into helping make the week successful. Thank you, Bob, for all of your help and support!

**To: Nichole Thomas**

**From: Lisa Taylor**

I would like to give a very special shout-out to Nichole Thomas for always having my back, especially during Start With Hello Week! You are always there to make sure we have everything we need by ordering the necessary supplies and helping behind the scenes to make the week a success.

Your support, dependability, and willingness to help mean so much to me. I truly could not have done it without you, Nichole! Thank you for always being there and for helping make Start With Hello Week so special! Your

**To: DJ Todd**

**From: Lisa Taylor**

I would like to give a special shout-out to DJ Todd for coming to our rescue when we had computer and connection issues during our Start With Hello presentation. When we needed help, You came right away and worked with us to get everything connected and running. Your quick response and technical support allowed our Start With Hello presentation to continue successfully without disrupting the students' experience. Your willingness to step in when we needed help reduced stress for staff and ensured that students were able to participate in the presentation as planned. Your support played an important part in making the event a success.

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## Schools in the Media

Recent Media Coverage

<https://yourradioplace.com/cambridge-city-schools-shares-scam-letter-being-sent-to-community-members/>

<https://yourradioplace.com/fao-announces-2026-scholarship-recipients/>

<https://yourradioplace.com/cambridge-career-navigator-helps-students-plan-for-life-after-high-school/>

<https://yourradioplace.com/ohio-school-report-cards-show-five-year-highs-in-literacy-and-math/>

<https://yourradioplace.com/area-high-schools-and-districts-receive-2025-26-ohio-report-card-ratings/>

<https://yourradioplace.com/cambridge-middle-school-inducts-20-into-national-junior-honor-society/>

<https://www.daily-jeff.com/story/news/local/2026/09/22/cambridge-high-school-homecoming-week-gets-underway-sept-20/91781243007/>

Also, the [Guernsey News](#) ran several of our articles including

- Homecoming Preview
- Homecoming King and Queen crowning
- School Board Summary

If you have any story ideas that would be of interest to the community, please feel free to share with John Charlton directly at [john.charlton@cambridgecityschools.org](mailto:john.charlton@cambridgecityschools.org).

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