



VIKING NAVIGATOR

EVERGREEN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

EVERGREEN IS A GREAT PLACE TO WORK AND LEARN!


It's unanimous, Evergreen is a special place! Here are some of the reasons why:



"Born and raised a Viking, I chose to return to Evergreen as a professional because of all the support given every day,"
Sheri Call, EES Teacher.



"Evergreen is special because of the people that work here, the community support, and the school spirit,"
Angela Infante, Director of Technology.



"I like the teachers because they care about every student,"
Carson W., EHS Student.



"I love recess!"
Vivian C., EES Student.



"Evergreen is a great community!"
Emmanuel G., EHS Student.




"I love that through good or bad, our school unites all of the communities we serve. I also get to work with incredible students every day,"
Chris Lyons, Band Director.



"I love the students and my co-workers, we are a family at Evergreen,"
Linda Arquette, Paraprofessional.



"Evergreen provides a safe environment with caring people all around,"
Kennedy E., EHS Student.



"The Evergreen community means so much to me because it represents family and tradition. Growing up here has taught me the value of roots that run deep, how to care for your neighbor, and the importance of friendships,"
Brittaney Cymbolin, EHS Teacher.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



By Eric J. Smola, Superintendent

The Evergreen Local School District serves nearly 1,200 students residing in a 132 square mile area surrounding our campus.

Our staff is committed to meeting the academic, safety, and welfare needs of each child. Our students are offered challenging and innovative courses along with supporting programs and extra curricular activities. We are very proud of our schools and our community.

In order to maintain the high quality school district that our residents expect and our students deserve, community support is crucial. Aside from federal and state funding, school districts in Ohio have no other way to generate revenue than through levies. Transparency is important, and I welcome your questions and requests to understand school funding and how we are responsible stewards of your tax dollars.

Election Day is November 8. It is an important day for Evergreen Local Schools. Please make time to vote. Thank you.

BOARD MEMBERS

- Nora Kiefer - President
nkiefer@evgvikings.org
- Jason Miller - Vice-President
jmiller@evgvikings.org
- Zach Murry
zmurry@evgvikings.org
- Don Smith
dsmith@evgvikings.org
- Matt Vaculik
mvaculik@evgvikings.org

CONTACT INFO

By phone, use 419-644-3521 unless otherwise indicated.*

- Eric Smola, Ext 1132
Superintendent
esmola@evgvikings.org
- Dolores Swineford, Ext 1116
Asst. Superintendent &
Curriculum Director
dswineford@evgvikings.org
- Brian Carroll, Ext 1134
Treasurer
bcarroll@evgvikings.org
- Carrie Brown, Ext 1164
Transportation Coordinator
cbrown@evgvikings.org
- Jenny Conrad, Ext 1119
Communications Director
jconrad@evgvikings.org
- Brady Ruffer, Ext 1104
High School Principal
bruffer@evgvikings.org
- Dylan Henricks, Ext 1118
HS & MS Athletic Director
dhenricks@evgvikings.org
- Lucas Burkholder, Ext 1136
Middle School Principal
lburkholder@evgvikings.org
- Sherrie Brown
Elementary Principal
sbrown@evgvikings.org
*419-644-9221, Ext 3204

FREQUENTLY ASKED LEVY QUESTIONS

How are Evergreen Local Schools Funded?

Evergreen Schools are funded by the State of Ohio through the Ohio Department of Education, local property taxes, and a local income tax established by a traditional tax base.

How long has an income levy been collected by Evergreen Local Schools?

Voters living in the Evergreen Local School District approved a traditional income tax levy effective in 1990. As of January 2022, 210 Ohio school districts impose an income tax levy, according to the Ohio Department of Taxation. Some of the local school districts that also impose an income tax levy and the year it became effective include: Fayette (1992), Pettisville (2002), Pike-Delta-York (2022), Wauseon (2022), Swanton (2005), Liberty Center (1996), Patrick Henry (1991), Bowling Green (1993), Defiance (1992), Bryan (2007), Stryker (1991), and Perrysburg (1992).

What is Evergreen's breakdown of funding by source?

Based upon the last four years in which the income tax rate has not changed, Evergreen's funding is comprised of the following:

- 38.9% from state allocations
- 30.7% from property taxes
- 30.4% from income taxes

What is the total income tax rate for Evergreen Local Schools?

Evergreen Local Schools has a combined income tax rate of 1.5%.

What are the current income tax rates for the District?

- 0.75% continuing levy
- 0.50% levy expiring in 2024
- 0.25% levy expiring in December 2022. This 0.25% income tax renewal levy will be on the November 8, 2022 ballot for voter approval.

Is this a new tax?

No. This is not a new tax. District residents will not pay any additional taxes to Evergreen Schools. This tax will not generate any new money for Evergreen Schools but will continue to provide for planned expenses.

Why does Evergreen need to renew this operating levy?

Renewal of this levy is imperative for the District to maintain its current levels of service and programming for the students. Based on the current funding model, District revenue is essentially on a fixed income. The current state of the economy has inflation rates at the highest levels in 40 years with District operating expenses continuing to increase.

How much does the 0.25% income tax levy raise?

Last year, this levy was responsible for approximately \$670,000.00 of the District's General Fund.

What are these funds used for?

The General Fund pays for Evergreen's day-to-day expenses, including: teachers and staff, special education services, curriculum resources/textbooks, student programs, building utilities, transportation, and supplies. With the recent changes in the country's economy, Evergreen's income tax revenue has decreased to an amount comparable to the revenue collected in fiscal year 2015.

RENEWAL LEVY QUESTIONS CONTINUED

What expenses are not provided for through the General Fund?

The General Fund does not pay for food services, athletics, debt services, permanent improvement projects, or student scholarships; these areas have separate funds and separate sources of revenue that cannot be combined.

What are the greatest expenses for the District?

School districts cannot operate without qualified staff. In order to educate the community's children, Evergreen's largest expenditure is personnel costs followed by operating expenses.

What cuts will the District have to make if the levy renewal fails?

Additional reductions will need to be made in order for the District to balance its budget. The District has already cut costs by exchanging programs/software for less expensive ones, the Attendance Officer/Social Outreach position was not filled, the state-reporting (EMIS) duties have been absorbed into a current position, and the EMS cafeteria is no longer used to prepare food in order to reduce maintenance costs. Because this levy is responsible for a large portion of the District's general fund, cutting \$670,000.00 will be extremely difficult without eliminating staff and faculty positions. If this levy fails, the administration will have to also make significant reductions in the areas of curriculum resources, transportation, and student programs.

How much does this levy renewal cost the average resident?

A resident who makes \$50,000 per year will pay approximately \$125.00 annually.

Was this levy originally set at a higher percent?

Yes. This levy was at 0.50%, but it was reduced in 2017 to 0.25% due to the District's strong fiscal management. This was a way for the District to give back to its residents and remain good stewards of taxpayer money.

Is social security taxed for retirees?

No. This renewal tax does not tax social security income.

Is this renewal levy needed because of the recent EHS locker room renovation?

No. The renovation and upgrades were paid for with funds set aside for the project and federal grant dollars. The project was necessary in order to refurbish and expand facilities in poor condition while making them Title IX compliant.

DISTRICT FACTS

- This year, Evergreen Schools will educate 1,197 students in preschool through 12th grade.
- Evergreen Local Schools employs 151 individuals, making it one of the area's largest employers.
- The District's transportation department includes a fleet of 31 buses, 21 daily bus routes, covers more than 1,700 miles a day, and transports nearly 1,300 students to and from home daily (includes Holy Trinity students).
- The District maintains one campus with 3 school buildings and one bus maintenance garage which also houses the District's ag classroom and shop.
- EHS offers 8 Advanced Placement (AP) and honors courses.

COMMUNITY WELCOME TO ATTEND!



Veterans Day Program

All are welcome to attend this year's Veterans Day Program on Friday, November 11, 2022. The event will begin at 9:00 am in the Evergreen High School gymnasium and will include guest speakers, music, tributes and presentations. The District's students in grades 3-12 are looking forward to hosting this special day of honor.



"Evergreen is well respected for having a community of strong supporters and successful students," Brady Ruffer, EHS Principal.



"I can tell you with 35 years of experience, what makes Evergreen great is the people and the passion they have for their community and our school system," Jerry Keifer, EHS Teacher.



"I love my teacher, Mrs. Youtzy!" Callan S., EES Student.



"Evergreen's passion for offering engaging hands-on learning and its implementation of co-teaching in classrooms is a benefit to all learners," Heather Christensen, EMS Teacher.

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 8, 2022

STATE REPORT CARD

The Ohio Department of Education's Local Report Card is noticeably different. Letter grades are no longer assigned. Districts are now rated in six components based upon a star system. The component areas are: Achievement, Progress, Early Literacy, Gap Closing, Graduation, and College, Career, Workforce & Military Readiness. In addition to the new rating system, a new calculation process has been implemented for the components.

According to Dr. Dolores Swineford, assistant superintendent and curriculum director, "The new Local Report Card provides a snapshot of the quality education provided to students, but it does not always reflect the hard work and dedication to the learning process that occurs daily in our buildings."

Based on the data, the following strengths and areas of concerns have been identified. Evergreen will focus on various student supports to address the areas of concern.

STRENGTHS

- Increased the number of students meeting proficiency on 13 of the 20 state assessments.
- Performance index improved.
- EES increased the number of students moving from "not on track" to "on track."
- Third grade students scoring proficient on the test for ELA increased by 4.4%.

CONCERNS

- Decrease shown in yearly growth on multiple tests.
- Chronic absenteeism increased by 4.4% (Covid absences).
- Four & five-year graduation rates decreased.

WELCOME NEW VIKINGS!



Back Row, L to R: Deputy Kathy Zumfelde, Evan Karchner, Dylan Henricks, Jodi Gilsdorf, Nichole Wilson, Alex Lutheran, Sherrie Brown, Meghan Bose, and Alexis Howell. Front Row: Madeline Stewart, Katie Brannan, Tess Sutter, Abigayle Wood, and Laurie Schmidt.

Deputy Kathy Zumfelde

District Student Resource Officer (SRO)
Fulton County Sheriff's Office

Evan Karchner

District Substitute

Dylan Henricks

EMS & EHS Athletic Director

Jodi Gilsdorf

ESC Paraprofessional at EHS

Nichole Wilson

EHS Chemistry Teacher

Alex Lutheran

EHS Science Teacher

Sherrie Brown

EES Principal

Meghan Bose

EMS Intervention Specialist

Alexis Howell

EMS & EHS Agricultural Teacher

Madeline Stewart

EMS ELA Teacher

Katie Brannan

Preschool Teacher

Tess Sutter

1-1 Nurse

Abigayle Wood

PreSchool Teacher

Laurie Schmidt

EMS Intervention Specialist

FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES



Brady Ruffer
EHS Principal



Lucas Burkholder
EMS Principal



Jessica Root
EES Intervention Specialist



Caitlin Adamczak
EES Teacher, Gr. 2



Kelley Carmean
EES Teacher, Gr. 3

CHOIR STUDENTS SELECTED

Congratulations Kyle Feedback (gr. 12), Melanie Krempec (gr. 12), and Michael Wheeler (gr. 11) for being named OMEA All-State Choir Members. Students from all over the state auditioned for this prestigious opportunity, and it is quite an honor for one high school to have three representatives chosen for this accolade. The students will perform in Columbus this February. This is Feedback's second year to be invited to perform in the All-State Choir.



▲ (L to R): K. Feedback, M. Krempec & M. Wheeler

CONGRATULATIONS GOODSON

Jacob Goodson, gr. 12, has been named a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program, based upon his PSAT score. He is the only student in the Four-County area to achieve this status. Nationally, he represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors to achieve this honor. Finalists will be announced soon.



YELLOW FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

EMS and EHS students wore yellow in support of National Suicide Prevention Week in September. In addition, yellow ribbons were posted throughout the buildings and positive sidewalk messages were placed outside the main entrances. The message was clear, suicide is preventable and together we can find hope.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), suicide affects all ages. In 2020, suicide was among the top 9 leading causes of death for people ages 10-64, taking nearly 46,000 lives. The CDC also states that suicide was the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-14 and 25-34.

The Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available 24/7 by dialing/texting 988. A live chat is also available at 988lifeline.org.



PARKING LOT PAINTINGS

Check out the creativity in the student parking lot. For a small fee, seniors were able to reserve and paint a parking space that is their's to use during the school day. All proceeds benefitted the EHS Student Council.



EMS BOSS PROGRAM

EMS is excited to implement the BOSS program (Beyond Our Selves and School) to all sixth grade students this school year. BOSS is a youth-led program coordinated by the Fulton County Health Department. The program takes place during the school day and tasks the students to work toward tackling a pressing community issue to create change. The program is made possible with funding through a generous grant from the Ohio Community Impact Initiative for Coalitions and Youth Led Programs through Ohio Mental Health & Addiction Services.

EMS ARTISTS OF THE WEEK

The following EMS students have been named Artist of the Week for exemplary effort.



▲ Lily Flahiff, Surrealistic Combo



▲ Rebecca Hicks, Surrealistic Combo



▲ Landon Kiefer, Cityscape

BUS DRIVER SUBSTITUTES NEEDED!

- No experience necessary
- Training is provided
- Base pay \$16.75 an hour
- Great opportunity to have the same schedule as the students
- Rewarding part-time work

For more information, contact the Evergreen Transportation Dept. at 419-644-3521, ext. 1164.

EVERGREEN'S SRO

Aside from providing a top-notch education program, the safety of Evergreen's students and staff is the District's number one priority. Having a School Resource Officer (SRO) on campus full-time is one way Evergreen strives to protect every single individual under its watch.

"This is our fifth year with a SRO on campus, and we are very fortunate to have Deputy Kathy Zumfelde as part of our team," says Eric Smola, superintendent. "Unfortunately, in the world we live in, having a sheriff's deputy on campus full-time is not a luxury but a necessity. The piece of mind that comes with a having a law enforcement professional here is a great benefit to our community," he adds.

Deputy Zumfelde has 27 years of experience in law enforcement. Her resume includes working for the police departments in Napoleon, Liberty Center, Deshler, and Fulton County. She also served as a criminal investigator for the Ohio Department of Taxation, as well as spending a year on a police mission in Afghanistan. In July of 2020, after working for 32 years in public service, Deputy Zumfelde retired from her position with the Ohio Department of Taxation, but continues her work with the Fulton County Sheriff's Office.

"This summer when I was approached to be Evergreen's SRO on a permanent basis, I jumped at the chance!" says Deputy Zumfelde. "I love being around the kids knowing I can make a difference. I am looking forward to continuing and expanding the District's D.A.R.E. program and being here for the students."

Deputy Zumfelde has attended SRO school, Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), and attended the Safe Schools of Ohio School Safety Summit. In addition, she has attended a two-week intense D.A.R.E. instructor training course this summer and will bring the program to students in Evergreen's Pre-K through second grade. She will continue the D.A.R.E. program with the sixth grade students as well. D.A.R.E. is a Drug Abuse Resistance Education program that equips students with the skills necessary to recognize and resist pressures to experiment with drugs and other substances.

In addition, she is looking forward to having a Therapy K9 with her soon to help students cope with a variety of issues. According to Smola, "Deputy Zumfelde makes sure the campus is as secure as possible every day while making her positive presence known both inside and outside the classrooms."

"The presence of law enforcement in schools is not meant to scare kids, but it's a means for them to see that we, as officers, are always here to help while encouraging success and good decision making," Deputy Zumfelde states.



BUTTERFLY LESSONS

Third grade students studied monarch butterflies and their lifecycle, known as complete metamorphosis. Students hunted for monarch caterpillars and milkweed to feed them. Every third grade classroom had the opportunity to observe their caterpillars daily. To help the students understand the four stages of complete metamorphosis, the students created a pasta lifestyle wheel representing an egg, larva, pupa, and adult. The students were very excited to watch their larvas grow into adults. Their favorite part of the lesson was watching the butterflies take flight.



GRANDPARENTS VISIT

In recognition of September's Grandparents Day, first grade students welcomed their grandparents to EES. The special guests were treated to a short performance, donuts with their grandchild, and a tour of the building. Thank you attendees.



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Students in preschool through third grade participated in bus safety during the first week of school. Bus drivers Terri Burgess and Anna Boger explained the rules of riding a bus, how to safely board and disembark, and the importance of looking for cars and to always watch the bus driver for safety signals.



Ohio Law Regarding Stopped Buses:

- If a bus is stopped on a street that has fewer than four lanes, all traffic moving in either direction must stop at least 10 feet from the front or rear of the bus.
- If a bus is stopped on a street that has four or more lanes, only traffic moving in the same direction must stop at least 10 feet from the front or rear of the bus.
- Drivers must stop until the bus resumes motion or until signaled by the bus driver to proceed.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Senior Night

Senior fall athletes & marching band members recognized before the EHS football game vs. Swanton October 21, beginning at 6:00 pm

Trunk-or-Treat at the Ag Shop

Hosted by Evergreen's FFA
Open to the community's youth
October 22 from 5:30-7:00 pm

Marching Band Concert

October 23 at 2:00 at EHS

Veterans Day Program

November 11 at 9:00 am at EHS
Community invited to attend

Just Desserts Musical Showcase

November 12 at 7:00 pm at EMS
Ticket information coming soon

Thanksgiving Break

November 23-25

Holiday Concerts - December 18

- Band at 2:00 pm
- Choir at 4:00 pm

DOWN UNDER

This summer, recent Evergreen graduate Chloe Creque '22 spent two weeks in Australia helping animals and learning what it's like to be a veterinarian. Traveling with study-abroad organization Loop Abroad, Chloe was selected as part of a small team that volunteered at



Walkabout Wildlife Park caring for meerkats, kangaroos, koalas, and other native Australian animals.

Community CONVERSATION

The community is invited to come have a casual conversation with Mr. Eric J. Smola, Superintendent of Evergreen Local Schools, and Mr. Brian Carroll, Treasurer, to learn more about our school district.

Want to know about school finances or the renewal levy?
Put a rumor to rest? Ask a question about your tax dollar?
Introduce yourself? Express your opinion?

Then come to any of the following open tables, grab a seat, and let's talk!

⇒ **October 12**

Country Charm Cafe from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in Metamora

⇒ **October 12**

Richfield Township Fire Station from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in Berkey

⇒ **October 19**

Evergreen Community Library from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in Metamora


⇒ **October 28**

Wolf It Down BBQ from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Lyons



Evergreen Local School District
14544 County Road 6
Metamora, OH 43540

The Community Bulletin Board

- Evergreen Board of Education Meetings: October 17, November 15 & December 20 at 6:00 pm in the EHS media center. See agendas and summaries at www.evgvikings.org.
- Christ the Word Church invites the community to its Trunk-or-Treat event on October 22 from 4:00-6:00 pm at their location on the corner of Murd Road and Central Ave.
- Lourdes University's High School Financial Aid Night for seniors and their parents is November 9 from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Franciscan Center. All students are welcome regardless of which college they choose to attend. The event is free. Topics include filling out the FAFSA, types of aid available, and more.
- Evergreen Athletic Boosters' Annual Reverse Raffle is November 19 at Holy Trinity School. Doors open at 4:30 pm. Tickets are \$50 each and includes one entry, dinner, and beverages. Over \$5,000 in cash and prizes will be given away. Contact Amber Mossing at 419-346-6027 for tickets. Proceeds benefit Evergreen athletics.
- Metamora Christmas Parade, with the Evergreen Marching Band, is set for December 4.
- Lyons Christmas Parade, with the Evergreen Marching Band, is December 10 at 5:30 pm.
- St. Mary's CWV Post 306 thanks its committee members, volunteers, donors, and attendees for supporting the 2022 Mexican Fiesta Fundraiser held in August.
- MVP (Mini Viking Parent Association)  is excited to announce it has expanded to include supporting Evergreen Middle School! EMS parents are needed! The next MVP meetings are November 14 & December 12 at 6:00 pm in the EES library.