



## MESSAGE from the SUPERINTENDENT

*Dear Hilltopper Community,*



As we prepare to enter the 2024–25 school year, Chardon Schools remains committed to making continuous and

significant improvements to our facilities to provide the best experience for our students and faculty.

At Chardon High School, crews continue to work on the installation of a new security vestibule which will greatly enhance the safety of students and staff. The project is scheduled to be completed before the start of school.

Work is also being done to improve students' athletic experiences, with new scoreboards being installed in the CHS gym and new lighting being installed at Chardon Memorial Field. At Chardon Middle School, a new floor is being installed in the gymnasium.

The district continues to update certain portions of its curricular materials, which will be highlighted later in this edition of *Open Lines*.

Chardon Schools extends a warm welcome to its families and the community as we look forward to another great school year.

*Michael P. Hanlon Jr.*

Michael P. Hanlon, Jr., Ph.D.  
Superintendent

Pastor Photography

**C**hardon Schools celebrated its 151st annual Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, May 26, 2024

at Chardon Memorial Field. During the event, the district celebrated a talented class of 246 graduates.

The commencement address was given by Dr. Mark Mendeszoon of Precision Orthopaedic Specialties.

The commencement event provided an opportunity to showcase the culmination of the efforts of the district's students, staff, and administration in preparing students to pursue one, or more, of the Four E's— Enrollment, Employment, Enlistment or Entrepreneurship.

### CLASS OF 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

- 72% Graduates Enrolling in a 2- or 4-year college
- 27% Graduates Pursuing a Career
- 4 Graduates Enlisting in the U.S. Military
- 84 Academic Honors Diplomas
- 246 Graduates

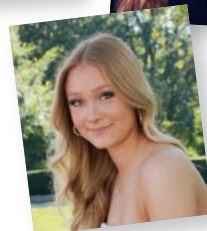
On top of earning their 2024 Chardon High School diplomas this spring, four students also earned college degrees.

Dominick Lakatos graduated from Kent State University on May 10 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Integrative Studies, focusing on Business Management and Communications. He earned his associate degree from Lakeland Community College in May 2022, at the age of 15.

Connor Norton earned both his Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees from Lakeland. Selah Rogers and Hannah Toth each earned an Associate of Arts degree from Lakeland on May 11.

Additionally, Hannah achieved the distinction of Magna Cum Laude and was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society.

Congratulations to (pictured top to bottom) Dominick, Connor, Selah and Hannah on all their achievements!



Pastor Photography



# Tiny Toppers Graduate

Chardon Early Learning Center held a graduation ceremony to celebrate 50 Pre-K Tiny Toppers on May 20.

The students, who will be part of the Chardon High School class of 2037, were honored at the ceremony by friends and family, Chardon Early Learning Center Pre-K Coordinator Andrea Ryan and Chardon Schools Superintendent Mike Hanlon who handed the Tiny Toppers their diplomas.

*Congratulations to all of the graduating students!*



## WELCOME NEW ADMINISTRATORS



*Adam Tomco*



*Christina Sherwood*



*Edward Yeomans*



*Craig Caroff*

The district extends warm welcomes to the four individuals who will be taking over important administrative positions with Chardon Schools.

Former Chardon Middle School Principal, Adam Tomco has assumed the position of principal at Chardon High School. Christina Sherwood and Edward Yeomans join Mr. Tomco on the CHS administrative team as assistant principals.

At the middle school, Craig Caroff will be joining the administrative staff as the school's new principal.

All of the appointments were approved by the Chardon Board of Education in recent months.

The new administrators began their work with the district on August 1.

## Chardon Local Schools Introduces Standards-Based Grading for Third Grade

Chardon Local Schools is excited to announce the expansion of standards-based grading to third grade, beginning during the upcoming 2024–25 school year.

This initiative builds upon the successful implementation in kindergarten, first, and second grades over the past school year.

Assistant Superintendent, Ed Klein notes that, "Standards-based grading provides a clearer picture of students' strengths and areas needing improvement, fostering a more personalized approach to education. It supports Chardon Local Schools' commitment to academic excellence and ensures that students are well-prepared for future educational challenges."

Third grade teachers underwent comprehensive professional development and training focused on deepening their understanding of educational standards and refining methods to effectively communicate student progress to both students and parents.

"Our mission within the Chardon Schools is a commitment to high achievement for all students. How we effectively communicate student mastery is integral to that mission," Dr. Klein said.

Mat Prezioso, principal of Munson Elementary School, praised the initiative's early success, saying "We have had great success with the implementation of standards-based grading. Parents and students really like it and appreciate the understanding of how a student is progressing in their learning."

Throughout the 2024–25 school year, fourth grade teachers will gradually transition their grading practices to align with standards-based grading, preparing for full implementation in the 2025–26 school year.

# Geauga County Public Library Receives Superintendent's Award



Each year, the district presents this award to an individual or organization making an important contribution towards enhancing the quality of the school district. The award is presented by Superintendent, Mike Hanlon, at the Chardon Education Association's Annual Recognition Dinner.

This year's event was held on May 6 at the Judge Lester Taylor Lodge in Claridon Woodlands.

During the presentation, Superintendent Hanlon credited the library and its Director, Kris Carroll, for its tremendous effort in creating the Chardon Creativity Center, a functional makerspace, at Chardon High School.

"Geauga County Public Library has been an outstanding partner, investing a significant amount of time, energy, equipment and resources into making the makerspace a reality at our high school," he said.

GCPL Assistant Director, Katy Farrell, and IT Manager, Mike Pope, accepted the award on behalf of the library.

# District Keeps Pace with Curricular Updates

The Chardon Board of Education's approval of revised courses of study and textbook adoptions for multiple disciplines in Spring 2024 marks a pivotal step in enhancing educational standards across World Languages, Art, Music, Health & Physical Education and Psychology & Sociology.

"Over the past eight years, our district has worked diligently to align all of our curriculum with state standards, ensuring our commitment to high achievement for all students," Assistant Superintendent, Ed Klein said.

Throughout the previous school year, educators in World Languages, Art, Music, Health & Physical Education, and Psychology & Sociology collaborated to refine teaching methodologies, align student assignments, and integrate state standards into the curriculum. This collaborative effort ensures consistency and effectiveness in delivering quality education across these disciplines.

Looking ahead to the 2024–25 school year, Chardon Local Schools will extend its curriculum review efforts to include Science and Social Studies for grades kindergarten through third grade. Additionally, the district will renew curricular materials for English Language Arts, further enhancing instructional resources to meet the evolving needs of students and educational standards.

This comprehensive approach to curriculum review and material adoption reflects the district's commitment to providing a robust educational experience that prepares students for academic success and lifelong learning. By continually updating and aligning curriculum, the district aims to empower educators and inspire student achievement in an ever-changing educational landscape.

## CURRICULUM 5-YEAR PLAN

| ACADEMIC YEAR   | 2023-24  | 2024-25  | 2025-26      | 2026-27  | 2027-28                             | 2028-29         |
|---|--|--|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>FORECASTED BUDGET</b>                                |  | \$600,000  | \$600,000    | \$600,000  | \$600,000                           | \$600,000       |
| <b>COURSE OF STUDY REVISIONS AND MATERIALS PURCHASE</b> | HEALTH/<br>PHYSICAL<br>EDUCATION<br>—<br>WORLD<br>LANGUAGE<br>—<br>MUSIC<br>—<br>ART | K-3<br>SCIENCE<br>(5-YEAR<br>PURCHASE)<br>—<br>K-3<br>SOCIAL<br>STUDIES<br>(2-YEAR<br>PURCHASE)<br>—<br>K-12<br>ENGLISH<br>LANGUAGE<br>ARTS<br>(2-YEAR<br>RENEWAL; NO<br>COURSE OF<br>STUDY WORK<br>ANTICIPATED) | K-12<br>MATH | K-12<br>SOCIAL<br>STUDIES<br>—<br>4-12<br>SCIENCE<br>(2-YEAR<br>RENEWAL; NO<br>COURSE OF<br>STUDY WORK<br>ANTICIPATED) | K-12<br>ENGLISH<br>LANGUAGE<br>ARTS | K-12<br>SCIENCE |

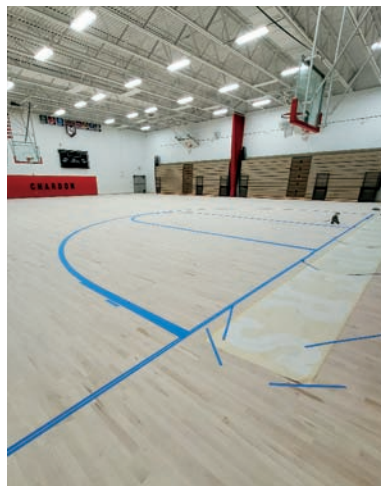


## CHARDON SCHOOLS WORKING ON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Throughout the summer, the Chardon Local School District has continued to conduct work on several important capital improvement projects, continuing to improve infrastructure for students ahead of the start of school.

The district invested \$5M in capital improvements, among those are the following projects highlighted by Assistant Superintendent of Business Affairs Steven Kofol:

- Initial work beginning on the new Transportation/Business Affairs Complex on Washington Street.
- New security vestibule at Chardon High School (*top*), scheduled to be completed before the start of school.
- Replacement of lights with LED fixtures at Chardon Memorial Field.
- Installation of a new gym floor at Chardon Middle School (*below right*).
- Replacement of scoreboards at the CHS gym.
- Installation of outdoor digital signs at CHS and CMS.
- Parking lot improvements at CHS, CMS, Chardon Early Learning Center and Munson Elementary School.
- Installation of landscaping at CMS and the Board of Education office.
- Installation of new windows on the east elevation of the 100s and 300s at CHS (*below left*).
- Replacement of gutters at the early learning center.
- Installation of a new travel curtain in the auditorium of Park Elementary School.



### *Student Paints Commemorative Hard Hat to Celebrate Courthouse Expansion*

**M**akenna Rose, CHS '25, under the mentorship of high school teacher Erik Hauber painted a commemorative hard hat for Infinity Construction to present as a gift to Geauga County Commissioner Jim Dvorak to celebrate the Geauga County Courthouse expansion that is currently underway.

Hauber was offered the unique community involvement opportunity this year when he was contacted by Infinity Construction project superintendent, Joe Daugherty who requested commissioning students to create the commemorative hat.

Makenna was chosen to design the hard hat. Rising to the occasion, she surpassed the envisioned artistic outcome for the hard hat, capturing extraordinary detail of the historic courthouse.

The gift was presented to Mr. Dvorak at CHS on May 2.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

The district is maintaining a positive cash balance and is projected to deficit spend for the next five years, reducing the cash balance. Deficit spending occurs when the district spends more money than it collects in revenue, using its savings or reserves instead of seeking additional funds.

Here's why deficit spending isn't necessarily bad:

- **Stimulates the Economy:** Spending maintains jobs and increases demand for goods and services in the community.
- **Supports Public Services:** Ensures that essential services like healthcare, education, and infrastructure continue running smoothly, even during tough economic times.
- **Invests in Growth:** Funds important projects that can lead to long-term economic benefits, like improving school buildings.

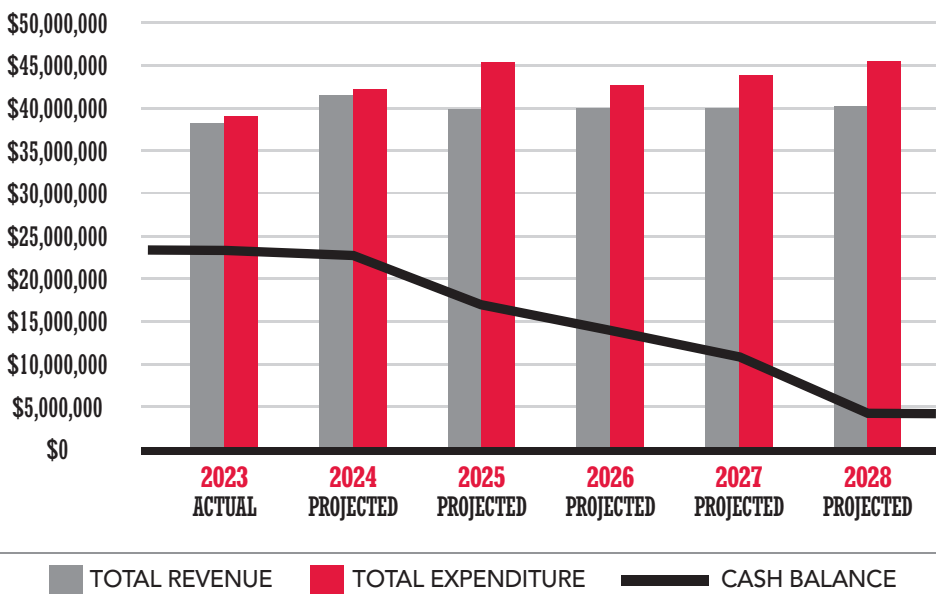
Deficit spending reduces the cash balance while maintaining a high quality education for the students. The district has a 1.93% average revenue growth and a 5.2% expenditure growth.

The district does everything possible to maintain a balanced budget, improve the programs and services offered in our schools and avoid additional levy requests. Our projection for a possible new operating levy to occur is fiscal year 2027.



**Deb M. Armbuster**  
Treasurer/CFO

## Chardon Local Schools Five-Year Forecast May 2024



## Four Chardon Businesses Named to OSBA Business Honor Roll '24



The Chardon Board of Education was pleased to nominate four organizations to the Ohio School Boards Association's Business Honor Roll 2024 this spring at its June 17, 2024 meeting.

The OSBA Business Honor Roll provides Ohio's public school districts the opportunity each school year to showcase up to four organizations that have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the schools.

The district's 2024 nominees are as follows:

- Dumpster Bandit, LLC, Chardon, OH. Award presented to Caitlyn and Mark Horvath, Owners.
- Heinen's, Inc. Chardon, OH Location. Award presented to Justin Wehr, Chardon Store Manager.
- Hornyak Farms, LLC Chardon, OH. Award presented to the Hornyak Family—Leigh, Matthew, Kate and Evan.
- Mihalic Associates & Auctioneers, LLC, Chardon, OH. Award presented to Scott Mihalic, Owner.

*Congratulations to all of the nominees!*



#WeAreChardon

CHARDON LOCAL SCHOOLS  
428 NORTH STREET  
CHARDON, OH 44024

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CHARDON, OH  
PERMIT #13

# openlines

*A Newsletter for the Chardon Community*

### *Mission Statement*

We commit to  
high achievement  
for all students.

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

PRESIDENT  
**Karen L. Blankenship**

VICE PRESIDENT  
**Todd R. Albright**

MEMBERS  
**Andrea L. Clark**  
**James E. Midyette**  
**Carmen J. Paterniti**

SUPERINTENDENT  
**Michael P. Hanlon, Jr., Ph.D.**

TREASURER/CFO  
**Deb M. Armbruster**

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR  
**Mason E. Cole**

[www.chardonschools.org](http://www.chardonschools.org)

440-285-4052

E-MAIL  
[communications@chardonschools.org](mailto:communications@chardonschools.org)



@ChardonSchools



@ChardonHilltoppers



@Chardon\_Schools

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 14—First day of school for all students, K-12
- August 19—Regular Board of Education meeting
- September 2—Labor Day, no school
- September 11—Chardon High School—State of the Schools



*Chardon High School Seniors gathered at Munson Township Park on May 24 for the Senior Picnic. The event was planned and hosted by parents of the class of 2024.*