

## Welcome Back to School!

That first bell of the school year is scheduled to ring on the morning of August 20. That signifies the beginning of another year full of excitement, creativity, new experiences, and the usual anxiety. Our Vantage students actually begin August 15 and our full kindergarten classes come together for the first time on August 22.

We welcome six new employees this year: Bethany Niese and Lauren Birkemeier will be teaching first grade, Paige Sarca returns to provide intervention support in the elementary, Caitlyn Morris will be a new fifth and sixth grade teacher, Ashley Buss will be greeting everyone at KHS as our new administrative assistant, and Jenna Miller will be serving up great meals in the HS cafeteria.

One personal ambition I have this year for staff and students is developing leaders to step up and take charge. It's a process, but by empowering others and making them a little uncomfortable at times, we hope to cultivate skills that will give them the confidence to lead in the future. Developing the qualities of decisiveness, trustworthiness, communicating, and many other characteristics is a journey of continuous growth and a crucible for obtaining the tenacity and grit to motivate and guide others. Stay tuned and watch our leaders emerge.

As usual, a primary focus of Kalida Local Schools is to always provide a safe and welcoming learning environment for everyone. We will continue to build on a successful bullying awareness program introduced last year. Parents, school staff, and other adults in the community can continue to prevent bullying by talking about it, building a safe school environment, and promoting a community-wide prevention strategy. On behalf of the Kalida Local Schools staff, we thank you for your continued support and look forward to a great school year.

*Karl Lammers, Superintendent*

## Treasurer Report

The Kalida Board of Education has strategically paid off the remaining \$2.2 million balance on the bond for the high school building 6.5 years early. The bond was set to expire December 2030, but due to the strong financial growth in the Kalida community, Kalida Board of Education seized the opportunity to pay off the bond early. The Kalida School District taxpayers should see an approximately \$115.50 reduction, per \$100,000 of assessed property value, starting in January 2025. This makes Kalida Schools debt free! The Kalida Board of Education appreciates our residents who have greatly supported our school system for so many years.

*Michelle Buss, Treasurer*

## Enrollment Numbers

The Kalida Local School welcomes 28 **kindergarten** students into the *Wildcat Pride*. There are 203 students in grades K-4 in the elementary. The middle school and high school, grades 5-12, have 383 students enrolled. Twenty-one Kalida students will be attending a vocational school.

## Elementary Open House

**August 15th** from 4-5 p.m. Come bring your supplies, meet your teacher, & check out your classroom for the year! Lunch money & book bills can be paid in the office on open house night as well.

## New Arrival!

Sloane Vivian Schwieterman was born on Sunday, August 11. She weighed 6 lb. 9 oz. and was 19 inches long.

Congratulations to  
Gracyn & Luke Schwieterman!



## Elementary Transportation Reminders

Parent drop-off begins at **7:30 a.m.** each day.

**Parent drop-off and pick-up:** For student safety, will take place **ONLY** on North Fourth St. along the school side curb.

**BUS ONLY - arrival & dismissal:** will continue to take place by the gym doors on E. Price Street.



Please log in to FinalForms to complete and sign all forms for 24-25 school

year. There are a few changes and additions from last year. **Parents please review all information and sign all forms as soon as possible.**

Students in grades 7-12 will log into final forms with their school email address and password to complete and sign their forms. Additional information is located on the school district's website, under the Resources Tab: <http://kalidaschools.org>

Remind



It is time to review your Remind App preferences for the upcoming school year. You can access the information from the Remind app on your cell phone or visit our

**Remind App link** on the school district's website under the Resources Tab: <http://kalidaschools.org/cms/index.php?page=remind-notifications>

# Kalida Local School Staff List 2024-25

## District Administration                      419-532-3534

|                    |                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Karl Lammers       | Superintendent                        |
| Michelle Buss      | Treasurer                             |
| Cheryl Simon       | Assistant Treasurer, EMIS Coordinator |
| Dean Brinkman      | Middle/High School Principal          |
| Kayla Stechschulte | Elementary Principal                  |
| Jeremy Okuley      | Director of Technology                |

## Middle School/High School                      419-532-3529

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Bev Berheide        | Paraprofessional   |
| Carol Bockrath      | Athletic Dept./ Study Hall Monitor   |
| Tristine Bockrath   | HS Science   |
| Brenda Burgei       | HS Mathematics   |
| Ashley Buss         | Administrative Assistant/<br>Student Records/Fees  |
| Jeff Clement        | Guidance Counselor   |
| Lachlan Clymer      | JH Reading/Language Arts   |
| Kelly Dube          | Intervention Specialist  |
| Mitch Gable         | Vocational Agriculture   |
| Neil Gerding        | HS Social Studies  |
| Beth Grime          | JH/HS Science  |
| Molly Haberman      | Grade 5/6 Team Teacher   |
| Adam Huber          | JH/HS Mathematics/Athletic Director  |
| Stacy Kneuve        | Business/Computers/Tech Support  |
| Dale Liebrecht      | JH/HS Technology/ Engineering  |
| Jacob Litwiller     | Band   |
| Emily Maag          | HS Language Arts   |
| Scott Miller        | JH/HS Social Studies   |
| Caitlin Morris      | Grade 5/6 Team Teacher   |
| Steve Myers         | Art  |
| Robb Schultz        | JH Science/Social Studies/JH Phys. Ed  |
| Roxie Schumacher    | HS Mathematics   |
| Gracyn Schwieterman | HS Vocal Music   |
| Morgan Schroeder    | Intervention Specialist  |
| Kristen Sebenoler   | Spanish  |
| Mary Siefker        | Administrative Assistant/ Attendance/<br>Assistant Transportation Supervisor/<br>ASL Moderator |
| Mary Smith          | Grade 5/6 Team Teacher   |
| Wendy Stechschulte  | Grade 5/6 Team Teacher   |
| Melanie Thorbahn    | HS Intervention  |
| Blyth Turnwald      | Grade 5/6 Team Teacher   |
| Kaylan Unverferth   | HS Language Arts   |
| Darla Warnecke      | HS Science/ BioMed   |
| Beth Wolke          | Psychologist   |

## Elementary    419-532-3845

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Lauren Birkemeier    | Grade 1                  |
| Lauren Csukker       | Grade 4                  |
| Deb Eickholt         | Grade 2                  |
| Gina Erhart          | Grade 4                  |
| Lori Goedde          | Paraprofessional         |
| Jenny Goubeaux       | Paraprofessional         |
| Darlene Imm          | Grade 2                  |
| Deb Kahle            | Reading Specialist       |
| Jill Leis            | Kindergarten             |
| Jacob Litwiller      | Band                     |
| Steve Myers          | Elementary Counselor     |
| Bethany Niese        | Grade 1                  |
| Michele Niese        | Grade 4                  |
| Chelsea Recker       | Grade 3                  |
| Jessica Recker       | Grade 3                  |
| Paige Sarka          | Elementary Intervention  |
| Linda Schmenk        | Paraprofessional         |
| Gracyn Schwieterman  | Music                    |
| Kelly Siefker        | Grade 1                  |
| Kristen Stechschulte | Physical Education       |
| Andriene Swyers      | Library/Tech             |
| Marcia Vennekotter   | Administrative Assistant |
| Natasha Verhoff      | Kindergarten             |
| Megan Westenbarger   | Speech                   |
| Makeysha Wiler       | Paraprofessional         |

## Maintenance/Custodial

|              |                      |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Dan Bellmann | Head of Maintenance  |
| Gary Vorst   | Elementary Custodian |
| Cody Wagner  | HS Custodian         |

## Cafeteria

|                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Sarah Neidert  | District Cafeteria Manager |
| Jenny Goubeaux | Elementary Lead Cook       |
| Mandy Anspach  | HS Cook/Cashier            |
| Carolyn Miller | HS Cook                    |
| Jenna Miller   | HS Cook                    |
| Sarah Bendele  | Elementary Cook            |
| Sue Wehri      | Elementary Cook            |

## Transportation

Mary Siefker– Assistant Transportation Supervisor,  
Bev Berheide, Carl Luersman, Linda Schmenk,  
Andrew Wehri, Melissa Wurst

## Welcome to Kalida Local Schools

### Miss Lauren Birkemeier

I am from Columbus Grove and have taught two years at St. Anthony of Padua School. Many of you may know Beth Birkemeier and Cheryl Koch. Beth, my mother, and Cheryl, my aunt, have been role models in my life as I have seen the ways they motivated and supported their students. As well, I hope to be a guide for KES students and instill qualities in them that will encourage them to be lifelong learners. Thank you to the staff at KES as they've been so welcoming and supportive to me! I am excited to see what this year will bring and look forward meeting many of you at school, Pioneer, and other community events!



### Mrs. Ashley Buss

I've been married to Ryan for 13 years and we have three daughters. Ali and Gabby are 5th graders and Emma is in the 2nd grade. I worked in the medical field for 15 years. Being the High School secretary, I am very excited to make anyone that walks into Kalida High School feel welcomed. I am grateful for the opportunity to work in the school and to help in any way I can.



### Mrs. Jenna Miller

I graduated from Lincolnview and Rhodes State College with a degree in Occupational Therapy Assisting. I worked in Ottawa for almost 14 years in the schools, outpatient, and home health. For the past 7 years I have worked from home. I have been married to my husband, Dustin, for 13 years. We have 3 children ages, 12, 10, and 5 who attend Wayne Trace. All 3 kids are active in the farm, 4H, sports. We farm hay, grain, and raise beef cattle as a family. I'm excited to be at Kalida this year and to get to know more of the students and staff.



### Mrs. Caitlin Morris

I will be teaching fifth and sixth grade language arts. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in middle childhood education, grades 4-9, from The University of Findlay in May of 2024. Also in May I got married to Tyler Morris and we now live in Putnam County. I am very excited to get to know and become a part of this community. Go Wildcats!



### Mrs. Bethany Niese

I am so blessed to have the opportunity to teach at the same school that I attended as a child! Some of you may remember me as Bethany Smith. I was a 2009 graduate of Kalida High School. I attended Bowling Green State University majoring in Early Childhood Education. For the past 10 years I have been teaching Kindergarten in the Paulding District. I now live in Miller City with my husband, Jared and two sons, Brooks and Hank. I am very excited to start this next chapter of my life as a First Grade teacher here at Kalida Elementary!



PaySchools Central allows you to monitor the student's lunch purchases & balance, limit spending, add money to their lunch account, transfer money between siblings, sign up for low account text alerts and enter an online Free & Reduced-Price Meal Application. If you have not already created an account with [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com), we encourage you to create your account.



\*\* You may also pay for your student fees through PaySchool Central.

Convenience and Processing Fees —The following fees will be incurred for each PaySchools Central Transaction:

- Paid with Checking-account transfer: \$1.75
- Paid with debit or credit card: 4.50%

*You may continue to send cash or check to the school in an envelope with the student's name, ID/lunch account number and amount enclosed for your child's lunch account and student bookbill/fees to avoid the PaySchool Central processing fees.*

## Free and Reduced Meal Applications

With the implementation of PaySchools Central, we have online Free and Reduced Meal Applications. If you have not already created a PaySchools Central account, please follow the directions above to create your account and apply. Those eligible for free/reduced lunches must re-apply. Once you complete the application you will receive immediate notification if you qualify for the program. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Mary Siefker at 419-532-3543.

## Cafeteria Prices

Prices are the following:

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>Elementary lunches (K-4)</b>  | <b>\$2.50</b> |
| <b>JH/HS lunches (5-12)</b>  | <b>\$2.65</b> |
| * Grades 7-12 can substitute the entrée for a salad                          |               |
| *All students may substitute the entrée for a Sub or peanut butter sandwich. |               |
| <b>Ala Carte (5-12)</b>  | <b>\$2.00</b> |
| <b>Adult lunches</b>   | <b>\$4.00</b> |
| <b>Extra milks-students</b>  | <b>\$.50</b>  |



## 7th & 12th Grade Vaccination Requirements

**Prior to August 20, 2024**, 7th graders are required to have both the Tdap and Meningitis (MCV4) vaccine and 12th graders are required to have two doses of the Meningitis vaccine. Upload the shot record into FinalForms OR drop off a copy at the school.

## Welcome Back Mrs. Paige Sarka

I obtained my teaching degree through Bowling Green State University. I currently live in Kalida with my husband, Robert, and my daughter, Elliana. I am so excited to have the opportunity to be at Kalida Elementary and can't wait to see all of the amazing things the kids can do!





**Superintendent Karl Lammers** 419-532-3534  
High School Principal Dean Brinkman 419-532-3529  
Elementary Principal Kayla Stechschulte 419-532-3845  
Treasurer Michelle Buss 419-532-3556

Kalida Board of Education  
Box 269  
Kalida, OH 45853  
Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #4  
KALIDA, OH 45853

### School Board Meetings

Second Wednesday 7:00 PM  
Kalida School Board Room

### School Board Members

Brad Niemeyer, President  
Brent Helmke, Vice President  
Emily Peck, Craig Schmenk, Greg von der Embse



## Music Booster Drawings

### August Winners

#### \$50 Winner

|                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Gary Siebeneck   | Michelle Kleman           |
| John H. Warnecke | Deb McIntyre              |
| Leroy Wehri      | Katie (Dustin) Unverferth |

## Kalida Music Boosters 50/50 Club

### Tickets on Sale through August 23rd

Tickets are \$30 and you are entered for a chance to win five monthly drawings of \$50 and several more chances with special drawings throughout the year. Please contact a band or choir student to get yours today. If you don't know of a band or choir student please reach out to Emily Wehri 419-796-9022 or Kathy Lammers 419-890-6564 to get one.

## Kalida Music Boosters

Kalida Music Boosters wants to give a huge shout out to all of the area businesses who have supported the program time and time again. And we also want to say THANK YOU to all members of the community for their continued support to this program. Without all of your support we could not have the continued success for these programs that we do!

## Blood Mobile

Thank you to all who donated blood on July 19. We collected 68 units. The next blood drive is October 31, 2024 from 12-6 p.m. at Kalida High School. Appointments are highly recommended. To schedule an appointment: (below are scheduling options)

- log into your American Red Cross app
- go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)
- call 1-800-REDCROSS



## Thank you Kalida Community!

Ryker an Gunner Nickerson experienced the loss of their father in February. Many community members and classmates donated funds in his memory. A memorial stone for the Four Season's Outdoor Classroom and \$1000 worth of elementary indoor and outdoor recess equipment was purchased in his memory. We can't express our thankfulness and the amount of appreciation we have for each of you. *Amber Erhart, Ryker & Gunner Nickerson*

## 2024-25 School Calendar

8/20/24—First Day for Students  
9/2/24—Labor Day—*No School*  
9/9/24—Staff Development—*No School*  
10/22/24—End of First Nine Weeks  
10/25/24—Fall Break—*No School*  
11/21/24—Parent Teacher Conferences 5-8 p.m.  
11/25/24—Professional Development  
8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.—*No School*  
11/25/24—Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30-8 p.m.—*No School*  
11/26/24 through 11/29/24—Thanksgiving Break—*No School*  
12/20/24—*2-Hour Early Dismissal—Christmas Break Begins*  
1/2/25—Classes Resume  
1/10/25—End of Second Nine Weeks  
1/20/25—Martin Luther King Day—*No School*  
2/17/25—Presidents' Day—*No School*  
3/14/25—End of Third Nine Weeks  
3/21/25—Break—*No School*  
4/18/25—Spring Break Begins—*No School*  
4/22/25—Classes Resume  
5/21/25—Last Day for Students—*2 Hour Early Dismissal*  
5/22/25—Teacher Workday  
5/25/25—Graduation—Class of 2025  
5/26/25—Memorial Day

*Possible Make-Up Days: Friday, March 21 and Monday, April 21*

## Kalida All Sports Passes

Kalida Schools are selling the Sports Passes in the Superintendent's office during the week from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### Family All-Sports Pass

**Adult \$125, Student/Sr. Citizen \$90, Family \$350**

### Fall Only Pass

**Adult \$70 or Student/Sr. Citizen \$50**

### Winter Only Pass

**Adult \$80 or Student/Sr. Citizen \$50**

Varsity ticket prices will be \$7 for adults and \$5 for students for soccer, volleyball and girls' basketball games.

JH and Freshmen games price are \$5.