



# School Committee Update

Created by Student Advisory Council

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# Student Advisory Council Members

All Members - High School

Yash Shah - Little Mustangs & Willett

Joy Robinson - Coakley Middle School

Jonah Michalec - Coakley Middle School

Kaylie Delamere - Elementary Schools

Sophia Touma - Elementary Schools, Liaison





# Elementary Schools

Principals - Diane Ferreira (Balch), Scarlett Grandt (Callahan),  
Kerry Hutchins (Cleveland), Steven Olsen (Oldham), Bryan  
Riley (Prescott)

# Academic Highlights (All Elementary Schools)

- New Character Strong SEL curriculum that has been adopted by all grade levels. (Cleveland)
- students in 1st grade have taken off with reading, they are so excited to read books (Cleveland)
- Grades 3-5 have been learning through hands on science with the STEM Scopes program (Cleveland)
- The band and orchestra students participated a wonderful winter concert (Cleveland)

## **Academic Highlights (All Elementary Schools)**

- Balch Elementary School is in their third and final year of DESE (department of elementary and secondary education) MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) Tiered Literacy Academy.
- The Balch Elementary School utilized an early literacy grant to support a 10 week program with Springboard Learning. Students in grades 1-3 were invited to participate in after school learning around literacy skills. Students went twice a week for 90 minutes to classes taught by Balch Teachers.
- Balch Students in grades 1-3 will utilize the early literacy grant money to try the Ignite reading platform where students will meet online with a live tutor for 15 minutes, 5 days per week.

# Academic Highlights (All Elementary Schools)

- The prescott made a few shifts in their grade 5 team this year to provide more interdisciplinary opportunities and hands-on opportunities for students in Science and Social Studies.
- Students now switch classes each day and have both Science and Social Studies built into their schedules each day.
- Multiple Prescott teachers are currently working to receive Wilson Reading Program certification in order to better service students. This training is comprehensive and both "classroom" work as well as working directly with students to implement the program.
- Prescott's schoolwide academic and data team has spend significant time adjusting the process for examining data
  - looking closely at how to target instruction to build content and confidence in all students and then collaborate with staff to provide the necessary support.

# Activities (All Elementary Schools)

- monthly whole school assemblies and a schoolwide incentive system called CARES (Callahan)
- Spirit days: a full spirit week leading up to Winter Break, 90's day for the 90th day of school, and Norwood Spirit Days (Cleveland)
- Laser Light show focusing on America for Veterans Day (Cleveland)
- Winter Wonderland night at the Cleveland with readings by Mrs. Hutchins and Officer Baguma with Mustang Sally (Cleveland)
- Backtrack Vocals where the students heard acapella, learned how to beatbox and show off their skills on stage (Cleveland)

# Activities (All Elementary Schools)

- Students at Prescott School are actively preparing for honor band, chorus and orchestra auditions in February. This newly designed program allows for students to develop skills, receive adjudication and feedback as well as play alongside kids from across the Norwood Public Schools
- The Balch Elementary School has a very active and engaged PTO.
  - September- Open House and Ice Cream Social, Balch Run Run
  - October- Monster Mash, Sinha Capoeira
  - December- Traveling Lantern (plays), Nutcracker at Norwood Theater (whole school)
  - January- Family Bingo Night





# Coakley Middle School

Principal - Dr. Margo Fraczek



# Academic Highlights

Favorite classes:

1. Math (easy and fun)
2. ELA
3. History
4. Gym
5. Science
6. Chorus

# Activities

- Musical Theatre (Musicals)
- Honor Chorus
- Student Council
- Clothing and food drive
- Thanksgiving food drive
- Bowling Club
- Homework Club
- March Madness

Students wish they had more activities after school.

With the change in start times it interferes with out of other activities and limits free time out of school. This causes less time for homework.



# Norwood High School

Principal - Dr. Hugh Galligan



# Academic Highlights

- Term two ends
- Over February break - credit recovery opportunity held
- Submitting final application for business and finance and clean energy innovation pathways
- Beginning course selection in 8-11 for next year
- New and revised course offerings
- Student experience survey - focus on student sense of belonging

# Activities

- Hypnotist
- March - style on the hill
- Class act
- Lots of holiday sales for student council
  - Hot chocolate sale in December (2025)
  - Candy Cane sale (2024)
  - Valentines sales (2025 & 2026)



# Willett School and Little Mustangs Preschool

Dr. Baulier (Principal of the Willett Early Childhood Center)



# Academic Highlights

## Instructional Priorities

Instructional priorities: Equitable literacy, equity and inclusion, social and emotional learning, family engagement. These priorities align with Willett's school improvement plan and guide community-driven positive change.

## Equitable Initiatives

Equitable literacy supported by a literacy coach through a DESE grant for early literacy skills development. Implementation of Second Step, a tier I social and emotional learning curriculum for kindergarten students.

## Digital Math Learning

Introduction of ST Math through a grant from the One8 Foundation, enhancing digital math curriculum for kindergarten students. ST Math involves students solving mathematical puzzles to move JiJi the penguin across the screen on Chromebooks and iPads



# Academic Highlights

## Inclusion and Special Programs

- Full inclusion for neurodivergent kindergarten students.
- Specialized programs start in first grade, exception for ASD students in the PACS program.

## Expansion Plans

- Introducing a new kindergarten PACS classroom next year.
- Aims to provide inclusive learning opportunities and foster relationships among kindergarten families.

## Budget Request

- Seeking essential investments in the SY24-25 budget.
- Includes increased service provider allocations, more social-emotional-behavioral support, and additional special education staff.

## Early Childhood Support

- Emphasizes the importance of early childhood support.
- Believes investment in kindergarten can prevent higher needs in elementary school and beyond.

# Activities

- Family STEM Night (Fall):
  - Sharing teaching and learning information
  - Interactive activities
  - Fun learning materials
  - Practice of standards-aligned skills
- Family Literacy Night (Spring):
  - Similar format as Family STEM Night
  - Academic-oriented events
- Community Building:
  - Opportunities for families to meet
  - Building community throughout the school year
- Upcoming Events:
  - Family Movie Night (late January)
  - Exploring a parents' night out (later this winter)
  - Supported by PTO and School Council

# Advocacy (All Schools)

- start enrichment clubs after school so students can develop their hobbies without the connections to academics (Callahan)
- Looking for SAC to help Callahan students (starting with fifth graders) to lead whole school assemblies and share their ideas (Callahan)
- We are looking forward to hopefully receiving back funding through the Title 1 grant to support small group literacy support for the 2024-2025 school year! (Prescott)
- We are focusing on inclusion, as well as social emotional learning (Cleveland)