

Know Your Schools ... Online

Good News You Can Use about the Solon Schools.

Friday, December 29, 2023

Know Your Schools ... Online is part of the district's [Strategic Plan](#) goals for communications. This is a monthly publication for families, staff and our Solon Schools community. Look for each issue on the last Friday of the month.

SOLON STUDENTS GIVE BACK TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

Throughout the end of the year, our schools conducted several philanthropic collections to help those in need.



Solon High School and Solon Middle School held food drives that yielded thousands of collected items. SMS students collected more than 8,000 donated food and personal care items and SHS students collected more than 1,900 food items and \$2038.62 in cash donations. Orchard held a toy and blanket drive and Parkside collected hats and gloves. Roxbury and Lewis ran Thanksgiving food drives and Regano ELC families supported several foundations.

Thank you to all of the district families and community members who contributed to these philanthropy projects, enabling our students to put their empathy into action by helping others.



MAXIMIZING DISTRICT SAVINGS IS IMPORTANT BUT SCHOOL FUNDING IN OHIO IS COMPLICATED

Accountable to our community, the Solon City Schools look to maximize savings wherever possible. One way the district accomplishes this is through participation in the Ohio Schools Council, which leverages the cooperative purchasing power of a consortium of school districts through volume discounts. The district has participated in the Ohio Schools Council for many years and has reaped savings benefits from cooperative purchases of goods and services ranging from school buses and security enhancements to software and energy.



A 2022-23 school year Statement of Savings for the district from the Ohio Schools Council shows just under \$64,000 in savings for items such as natural gas (\$46,306), security film (\$10,359), media center software (\$3,888) and a safety plan program (\$2,400). Since 2018, the district has realized \$112,510 in cumulative savings in natural gas energy costs alone through the Ohio Schools Council, providing more budget certainty.

[HB 920 Ohio Law Curbs Local Revenues to Schools](#)

At the same time, pursuing opportunities for savings is not nearly enough to overcome the complexities and limitations of school funding in Ohio.

To address large-scale increases in property values in the mid-1970s, Ohio enacted legislation to curb inflationary growth in local property taxes. The provisions in the law, HB 920, were codified in Ohio's Constitution in 1980. HB 920 limits local real estate revenues for schools by imposing an inflationary cap that does not allow funds to school districts to increase with the addition of new homes or higher-valued homes in the community. The law restricts school revenues, prohibiting them from rising with inflation. So although it seems counter-intuitive, revenue to schools from property taxes do not increase on a per-home basis. HB 920 is one of the most restrictive property tax limitations in the country, according to the Ohio Education Policy Institute.

Delving into all the specifics and nuances of HB 920 and its full impact on Solon and Glenwillow residential and business taxpayers is difficult in a newsletter such as this. To enable you to read more in depth about HB 920 and the limiting effect it has on schools – especially in a district like ours that is heavily reliant on local support due to low state funding – we encourage you to read the Ohio Education Policy Institute's [white paper on HB 920 linked here](#) and posted on the district website under About Us/Finance.

We will continue to share information about how the Solon Schools are funded to build understanding throughout our community. If you have questions about school funding at any time, please reach out to Superintendent Fred Bolden or Treasurer Tim Pickana.

OLON SCHOOLS 2024-25 DRAFT CALENDAR

The draft 2024-25 school year calendar is now posted. The draft can be used for preliminary planning purposes, but is not final until the Board of Education adopts the calendar at its January 8 meeting. Looking ahead, the first day of school for grades 1-12 will be August 14. Kindergarteners start on August 16 and preschoolers on the 19th. The last day of school will be May 29. To view the calendar, go to [Solon City School District / District Calendar](#)

Solon School District 2024-2025 School Calendar

(DRAFT 12/4/23)

Events
8/12- 8/13 Teacher Prof. Day
8/14 - First Day Grades 1-12
8/16 - First Day Kindergarten
8/19 - First Day Preschool
10/3 Rosh Hashanah
10/17 - End 1st Qtr.
10/18 - Teacher Prof. Day
12/20- End 2nd Qtr.
12/23- 1/3 - Winter Break
2/17- Presidents' Day
4/18 - Good Friday

August						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

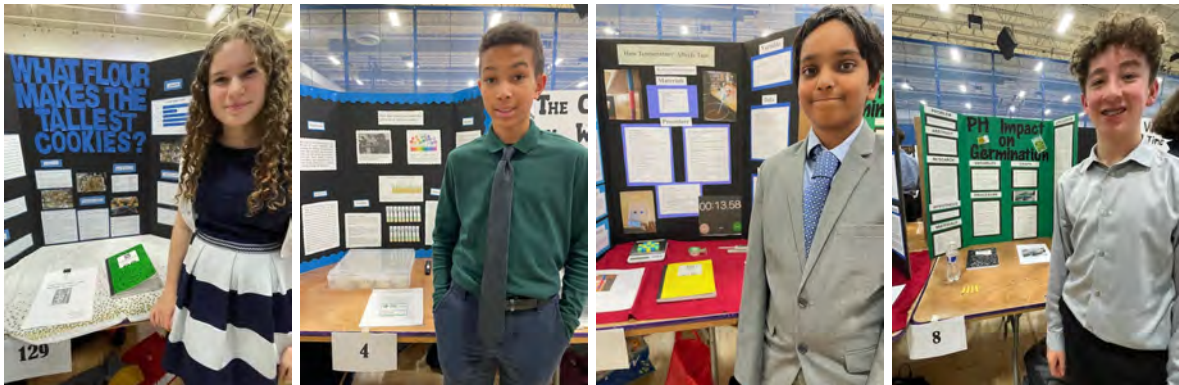
177 Pupil Days K-8						
Sem. 1: 85 Qtr. 1: 45 Qtr. 2: 40						
Sem. 2: 92 Qtr. 3: 45 Qtr. 4: 47						
178 Pupil Days 9-12						
Sem. 1: 86 Qtr. 1: 45 Qtr. 2: 41						
Sem. 2: 92 Qtr. 3: 45 Qtr. 4: 47						
185 Teacher Days						
Sem. 1: 86 Sem. 2: 95						

Events
9/2 - Labor Day
11/1 - Diwali (Teachers Report)
11/8 - K-8 Conf. No School K-8
11/27-11/29 - Thanksgiving Break
1/6 - Teacher Prof. Day
1/20 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
1/29 - Lunar New Year (Teachers Report)
3/13 - End 3rd Qtr.
3/14 - Teacher Prof. Day
3/24- 3/31 - Spring Break
3/31 - Eid al-Fitr
5/26 - Memorial Day
5/29 - Last Day / End 4th Qtr.
5/30 - Teacher Prof. Day

Key	
	No School Holiday
	No School Professional Day
	Sem. / Qtr. End

SOLON MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

After weeks of hard work, 8th grade students this month presented their inquiry projects during the annual Solon Middle School Science Fair. Student projects covered a variety of scientific categories, including biology, chemistry, earth science, environmental science, health behavioral science, engineering and physics. Participation in the science fair is required for 8th graders taking advanced science and is offered as an enrichment opportunity for other 8th graders, said science teacher Allison Gale. This year's fair saw an increased number of students conducting engineering experiments.





AND THE STATE QUALIFIERS ARE...

Ten Solon Middle School students are advancing to states based on the high scores they received for their 8th Grade Science Fair projects. Samuel Joo, was the overall Science Fair winner for his chemistry project "Effect of Plasticizers on the Mechanical Properties of Thermoplastic Starch Developed from Corn Starch."

The other state qualifiers are Mannat Thumati, Avi Drozhinskiy, Samipa Patel, Cole Soranno, Samantha Cohen, Evelyn Jin, Aarohi Khanna, Rajanya Bishi and Logan Hirsh. First, second and third place honors were awarded in the science categories of biology, chemistry, earth/environmental science, engineering, health behavioral science and physics.



HOLIDAY PARTIES

The mid-December snowstorm provided a perfect backdrop for holiday parties and spirit day events around the district heading into break. Students at Lewis, Parkside and Roxbury had winter-themed spirit days, such as pajama days. The class parties all featured fun, engaging activities. At Roxbury, students put a winter twist on dodgeball by having a “snowball fight” in the gym using soft white fluff balls. Middle school students stuck with traditional dodgeball.



HANDMADE MUGS SHOWCASE STUDENTS' CREATIVITY

Students in 8th grade art created unique 'face' mugs during their ceramics unit this month. In a history-art connection, the student artists read about traditional African-American face jugs from the southern United States and learned how community and beliefs influenced the art type. Students were then able to select a design for their face mug and create a 3D piece of artwork using a variety of tools and techniques. After their ceramic pieces were fired in the school kiln, they chose from a variety of glazes to finish their art.

"This has become one of the favorite projects for students in class because they love being able to create a three-dimensional piece and be creative with their choice of design in their face mug," said art teacher Lindsay Trutza. "This project gives our 8th graders an opportunity to experience ceramics and decide if they might like to continue with it at the high-school level."



WINTER FAMILY KITCHEN ACTIVITY

Spending time in the kitchen cooking together is a great family activity. The following Winter Family Kitchen Activity provides an opportunity for students to learn and apply new skills as well as to make nutritional food choices. Use the recipe below for Fruit Pizza Squares and share photos of your finished product with us at info@solonboe.org.



Winter

Family Kitchen Activity

INVOLVING YOUR CHILD IN THE KITCHEN IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH ABOUT NUTRITION AND LIFE SKILLS WHILE LEARNING IN A FUN AND ENGAGING WAY!

Cooking provides practical context for learning:

- Math and science skills
- Fine motor skills
- Healthy eating habits
- Confidence building
- Safety awareness in the kitchen
- Time management skills

try!
me!

Fruit Pizza Squares

Step 1: Chop up 2 cups of mixed fruit and mix with the juice from half of a lemon.

Step 2: In a bowl, mix ½ cup cream cheese, ½ cup plain Greek yogurt, ¼ tsp vanilla, and 1 tsp orange juice.

Step 3: Spread mixture onto graham cracker squares, top with fruit, and enjoy!



REGANO ELC PEER MODEL INFORMATION NIGHT

The Regano Early Learning Center is looking for students to serve as peer models for Solon preschoolers with disabilities. The qualifications for students serving as peer models are very specific and tie directly to the activities preschoolers do every day. In addition to being Solon or Glenwillow residents and age 3 by March 1, peer models would need to exhibit the following characteristics:

- Ability to follow directions and comply with teacher requests
- Age-appropriate play skills
- Excellent language and communication skills; able to speak and understand English
- Age-appropriate independence and ability to take initiative
- Age-appropriate self-help skills (dressing, toileting, caring for own belongings)
- Ability to make transitions and demonstrate flexibility in routines
- Ability to separate from parent/caregiver without distress or ability to quickly recover from distress

Please share this information with friends and neighbors who have preschool-age children.

REGANO EARLY LEARNING CENTER

**PEER MODEL
INFORMATION NIGHT
JANUARY 11 AT 6 PM**

The Solon Schools are seeking 3-5 year old peer models for the 2024-25 school year. Please join us on January 11 at 6 pm for a virtual presentation about our programming and the peer model screening process. Our program has a limited number of openings. To be considered for screening, students must turn 3 by March 1, 2024.

[Link to Register for Virtual Information Session](https://forms.gle/jSkE8k9LF7j9LEhK7)
[January 11th 6:00 pm](https://forms.gle/jSkE8k9LF7j9LEhK7)
<https://forms.gle/jSkE8k9LF7j9LEhK7>



All registrants will receive an email with the meeting link the week of the program.

Questions? Contact Amy Wallack, director
(440) 349-6210
amywallack@solonboe.org

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

From on-campus concerts to performances at the Solon Senior Center, Tower City, Cleveland Clinic and the Fox 8 Morning Show, Solon students shared the gift of music this holiday season. All Solon concerts are recorded and aired on **Solon Education TV**. You can view them on demand at setv.viebit.com or on our SETV YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/soloneducationtv>



To see the Solon High School Madrigals' on-air performance, click here: [Fox 8 Jukebox: The Madrigals from Solon High School | Fox 8 Cleveland WJW](#)

