



December 2024

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[www.ekschools.org](http://www.ekschools.org) and Facebook

## PURPLE PRIDE

### *East Knox Local School District From the Superintendent*

Greetings,

As I surpassed one hundred calendar days with East Knox and over sixty staff and student days at East Knox, thank you for a warm welcome to East Knox Local Schools. As we move through our first quarter, and toward the New Year, we look forward to the work that continues in our district.

Our District Leadership Team continues to plan and take steps to improvement in student success through achievement, progress, behavior, and wellness. We continue to analyze data to find our students' strengths and where they need more work and support. We will be launching our after school tutoring and learning program at both school buildings. We have already begun planning a summer program for our students. Each day our teachers and staff are working hard to know where the students are in their learning, and how far they can go. I am proud of the work so far to improve academic success. If you have any questions about our after school program, please feel free to contact the building principal.

We have added a full-time school social worker at our elementary school, and she has been working hard with our students and staff to help remove barriers to learning. We will be adding a new school social worker at the high school to continue the care of the wellness of our students. Staff training will continue as we become more trauma informed and address the needs of our students. We will update our safety plan with updated procedures, personnel, operations, and communication.

I have worked to build relationships within our district and our community. I have begun attending our township trustee meetings, Knox County Family Council Meetings, and we have had various agencies visit our buildings and administration to ensure our partnership and support of our students. We have joined the Knox County Chamber of Commerce with a vision of workforce partnerships to enhance the lives of our students and prepare them for the workforce. We have built strong relationships with our neighboring school districts and Knox County Career Center as we continue to navigate the needs of our community and students into the future.

We continue to update our website and make sure that our messenger system is up and running for information and emergency calls. Information is distributed through our classrooms and posting on social media.

continued on next page.....

#### **Elementary (K-6 grades)**

23081 Coshocton Road

Howard OH 43028

Phone: 740-599-7000

Mrs. Melissa Moreland, Principal

Mr. David Coleman, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Amanda Wilson, Building Secretary,  
X3002

Mrs. Krista Reese, Secretary/Aide X3003

#### **Jr./Sr. High School (7-12 grades)**

23227 Coshocton Road

Howard OH 43028

Phone: 740-599-7000

Mr. Cody Reese, Principal

Mr. Scott Brickner, Asst. Principal/A.D.

Mrs. Fawnda Stahl, Building Secretary, x2002

Mrs. Marjorie Williams, Attendance/Athletic Secretary,  
x2003

Mrs. Tara Scarazza, Guidance Counselor, x2008

Mrs. Alicia Simmons, Guidance Secretary, x2004

Dr. Ben Snedeker, Director of Student Services/Spec. Ed.  
Coord., x1008

Ms. Kathleen Herrmann, Student Services/Spec. Ed.  
Secretary x1088

School District Nurses x2006 or x3006

Transportation Supervisor

Ms. Angela Wells, x1016

#### **East Knox Board Office**

23201 Coshocton Road

Howard, Ohio 43028

Mr. Richard Baird, Superintendent

Mrs. Jessica Busenburg, CPA, Treasurer

Mrs. Tracy Beckett, Assist. Treasurer

Mrs. Kim Grindle, Superintendent Secretary  
740-599-7000 x1002

#### **East Knox Board Members**

Lindsay Bush-President

Randy Reese-Vice President

Larry Campbell

Alan Huffman

Kathy Tate

*Published to  
bring school  
news  
to the resi-  
dents of  
East Knox  
Local School  
District*



**Safer Ohio**

School Tip Line

**844.723.3764**

Report concerns for student safety

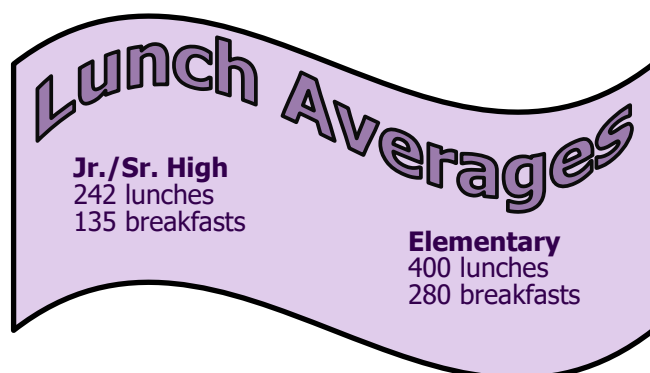
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At the October Board of Education Meeting, we were honored to celebrate an award given to our long time community servant and board member, Larry Campbell, for 35 years of service on the East Knox Local School District Board of Education. Congratulations to Larry, your service and dedication to our community is immeasurable, and we thank you.

I have been here long enough to understand, know, and appreciate that our community cares about our students, their success, and their wellness. Again, thank you for an outstanding welcome to an outstanding school district. I am looking forward to our work and success ahead.

Sincerely,

*Richard J. Baird*, Superintendent



## FFA Updates—The Students Have All Worked So Hard

### EAST KNOX FFA FIFTH IN EASTERN REGION NATIONAL NURSERY/LANDSCAPE—CDE

The East Knox FFA recently represented the state of Ohio and competed in the Eastern Regional National FFA Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event held at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts on September 13-14, 2024. Seniors **Aiden Kapper** and **Braylon Evans**, junior **Mackenzie Wilson**, and sophomore **Ava Page** placed fifth out of a field of FFA teams representing the 18 states in the Eastern Region of the United States. The top three teams and the top three individuals in the eastern region received awards for their ranking at the banquet held on Saturday night at the Sheraton Hotel in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The team qualified for the Eastern Regional CDE by placing second in the State Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event hosted by the Delaware Area Career Center in Delaware last March. Individually, in the State contest, Kapper placed seventh, Page finished thirteenth, and Evans placed 53rd out of 294 contestants.

The Eastern Regional National Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event is an activity designed to demonstrate students' skills in the area of Nursery and Landscape Management. In the event the students completed hands-on activities of demonstrating proper and safe use of a power blower and a string trimmer. Students also took a general information test; completed estimation problems; did a verbal customer relation situation; identified various trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, groundcovers, weeds, and physiological prob-

lems of plants; and completed a propagating activity.

This is the eleventh time that an East Knox FFA Nursery/Landscape team has represented Ohio at a National event with three of those being at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts, and eight at the National FFA Convention Event in Indianapolis, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; or Kansas City, Missouri.



PICTURE (L to R) – East Knox FFA Nursery/Landscape team members **Mackenzie Wilson**, **Braylon Evans**, **Aiden Kapper**, and **Ava Page** at the Eastern States Exposition FFA awards banquet in Springfield, Massachusetts.



## EAST KNOX FFA WINS STATE FORESTRY CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

The East Knox FFA recently competed in the State FFA Forestry Career Development Event held at Hocking College on September 28, where they placed first out of a field of teams from across Ohio. Eight members of the East Knox FFA competed in this event with the top four scores counting as the team score. Individually, **Dylan Springer** placed second, **Ariana Talbott** finished third, **Aiden Kapper** was fifth, and **Hayden Baker** placed eighth out of 235 competitors. The other East Knox team members were **Peyton Finch** - 25th, **Curtis Divan** - 27th, **Blake Elliott** - 48th, and **Kylie Griffith** - 146th. The team will receive a banner for winning the state competition and the top ten individuals will each receive a plaque at the annual Ohio FFA Convention next May in Columbus.

The Forestry Career Development Event is an activity designed to demonstrate students' skills in the area of Forestry Management. Students complete a 45 question online test over the forestry industry, identify tree species, identify forestry tools, complete a timber cruise to determine the volume of saw logs in a woods, perform a compass course practicum to determine azimuth and distance, read and interpret topographical maps, and conduct a wood products identification practicum.

This year's first-place finish in the State FFA Forestry Career Development Event marks the 33rd year in a row (dating back to 1993) that East Knox FFA has placed in the top 10 teams in the state contest and the 22nd time finishing in the top five in Ohio. In addition to this year's state win, they won the State in 2020, 2013, and 1999 and have finished fourth more than any other placing at nine times.



PICTURE ( L to R ) – **Peyton Finch, Kylie Griffith, Blake Elliott, Ariana Talbott, Hayden Baker, Curtis Divan, Aiden Kapper, and Dylan Springer**, members of the East Knox FFA State winning FFA Forestry Career Development Event team at the State FFA Forestry contest at Hocking College in Nelsonville.

## SEPTEMBER-STUDENTS OF THE MONTH





## EAST KNOX FFA 12TH IN STATE AG SOILS CDE

Recently, the East Knox FFA Agricultural Soils Career Development Event team placed 12th in the state event held on October 12th in Union County north of Plain City on the Dave Gruenbaum farm.

The team members were **Blake Elliott**, **Braylon Evans**, **Isabelle Bostic**, and **Weston Bostic**. Evans finished as the 39th highest individual in the state with **Isabelle Bostic** finishing 46th, **Elliott** placing 52nd, and **Weston Bostic** placing 91st out of 181 competitors from across Ohio.

East Knox earned a berth in the state agricultural contest after placing third out of 19 teams in the district 7 contest conducted earlier in Ross County near Londonderry. **Braylon Evans** was the sixth placing individual in the district with **Blake Elliott** placing seventh, **Isabelle Bostic** finishing 9th, **Weston Bostic** placing 17th, and **Rylan Winkler** finishing 18th out of 89 individuals.

The state is divided into ten FFA districts, and the top five teams in each district advance to the state-level competition making a field of 50 teams. The 50 teams at the state contest came from nearly 200 teams that entered district-level competition from across Ohio. District 7 is a six County area consisting of Knox, Licking, Franklin, Fairfield, Pickaway, and Ross counties with 30 schools that have FFA.

Prior to the district contest East Knox FFA placed first in the county event held at Fowler Farm south of Amity and sponsored by the Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District.

In the agricultural land evaluation event members determine soil slope, landform, surface soil texture, subsoil texture, structure in the topsoil, depth of topsoil, drainage class, depth to restrictive

features, compaction, infiltration and number of living organisms in the soil. This information is used to make recommendations for soil degradation based on soil erosion, soil compaction, water quality, and overall soil health. Best management practices are selected for each of these soil degradation problems. A soil fertility portion of the competition is also completed. Teams also take a written test over soils and find soil information from the web soil survey.

Although they narrowly missed the State top-ten this year, East Knox FFA has had a soil team place in the top 10 in the state 38 out of the past 42 years.



Picture (L to R) - **Blake Elliott**, **Weston Bostic**, **Braylon Evans**, and **Isabelle Bostic** standing in a field of cover crops at the State Agricultural Soils Career Development Event in Union County.

## Elementary—Health Expo held on October 25th



### Transportation Count Week:

- ♦ Transported 199 kids on average for the Jr./Sr. HS daily
- ♦ Transported 322 students on average for the Elementary daily
- ♦ Busses traveled approximately 1,049 miles per day.

## EAST KNOX FFA 15TH IN NATIONAL MILK QUALITY CDE, SPRINGER 9TH INDIVIDUAL

The East Knox FFA recently represented the state of Ohio and competed in the National FFA Milk Quality & Products Career Development Event held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in conjunction with the 97th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 23-26, 2024. **Dylan Springer, Hayden Baker, Aiden Kapper**, and **Jesse Wolford** placed 15th out of a field of 41 teams from across the United States with a team rating of Silver (just two places from receiving a Gold). The top 13 teams in the nation received a Gold rating, the next 17 teams finished with a Silver ranking, and the final 11 teams received Bronze ratings.

Individually, each student is rated Gold, Silver, or Bronze with East Knox FFA member **Dylan Springer** receiving a Gold, placing 9th overall out of 164 contestants. He received a \$900 scholarship for placing in the top ten. **Hayden Baker** finished 56th rating Silver, **Aiden Kapper** placed 69th rating Silver, and **Jesse Wolford** was 89th with a Silver rating. The team received a plaque for its placing and Springer received a Gold medal and Baker, Kapper, and Wolford each received a Silver medal for their individual national ranking at the awards banquet held on Friday of the National FFA Convention at the Indianapolis Convention Center. **Dylan Springer** also was recognized on-stage during the sixth session on Friday evening and received a National top-ten medal and a scholarship for \$900. Springer was also recognized as third place individual in the cheese category with a score of 99 out of 100.

The team advanced to the National contest after placing first in the State FFA Milk Quality & Products Career Development Event at The Ohio Exposition Center in Columbus on March 23. Individually at the state, Springer finished first, Kapper finished second, Wolford placed eighth, and Baker placed 15th out of 137 competitors. The top four scores make up the team score.

The National Milk Quality & Products event is an educational activity designed as a practical method of teaching students to perform hands-on skills and to identify various dairy products and quality problems associated with milk. In the individual events, students took milk marketing and production tests, completed a problem solving practicum, performed California Mastitis Tests, identified cheeses and completed a matrix based on six characteristics of

each cheese, tasted milk samples for off-flavors and their intensity, and determined dairy or nondairy and fat levels of product samples. The team members also completed a team activity where they had to determine standard plate count and preliminary incubation count by determining the number of bacteria colonies on petri-film, determine somatic cell count, use a SNAP test kit to determine a positive or negative antibiotic test, complete a swab test, and then present findings to a panel of judges based on five months of milk data.

The National Milk Quality & Products Career Development Event is sponsored by Cargill, Kerry, Culver's, Hormel Foods, and US POULTRY with In-Kind donors Bruens Bros Processing Equipment, Nelson Jameson, Inc., Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc., and Purdue University.

This is the fourth time since 2017 that an East Knox FFA Milk Quality & Products team has represented Ohio at the National event. The Chapter's other National-level competition in MQP came from placing second in the state in 1997, 2022, and 2023 when they represented Ohio at the Eastern States Exposition in Massachusetts.



PICTURE (L to R) – **Aiden Kapper, Jesse Wolford, Hayden Baker**, and **Dylan Springer** at the Indiana State Fairgrounds during the National FFA Milk Quality & Products Career Development Event.

"I follow three rules: Do the right thing, do the best you can, and always show people you care."-Lou Holtz



## **EAST KNOX FFA MEMBERS ATTEND NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION**

Eleven members of the East Knox FFA recently attended the 97th annual National FFA Convention held October 23-26, 2024 at Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis Convention Center, and Gainbridge Fieldhouse in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana where they attended sessions, received awards, listened to motivational speakers, attended workshops, and took tours.

The opening session was highlighted by the National FFA Officers Grant Norfleet, Carter Howell, and Kanyon Huntington, who chaired the session. The keynote speaker was Kevin Wanzer who has spoken in front of well over 3,000 audiences all over the world including all 50 states in the U.S., plus Canada, China, Europe and Singapore. He has been noted nationally as one of the most effective and entertaining speakers for corporations, organizations, schools, colleges and to audiences of adults who work with and empower the lives of youth. His programs encourage audiences to discover their hidden passions, embrace diversity and celebrate the laughter in us all.

The National FFA Officers each gave their retiring addresses at various sessions. The six new 2024-2025 National Officers were announced at the final session on Saturday, October 26 with Thaddeus Bergschneider from Illinois elected as National President and Luke Jennings from Felicity Franklin FFA in Ohio elected as the National Secretary.

In addition to attending convention sessions and the trade show, the members attended the Megan Moroney concert at the Gainbridge Fieldhouse in downtown Indianapolis.

The East Knox FFA state winning Milk Quality & Products team competed Thursday at the Indiana State Fairgrounds and attended their awards ceremony on Friday at the Indiana Convention Center where they learned that they placed 15th in the Nation.

The National FFA Convention had over 69,000 FFA members, parents, and guests in attendance marking the eleventh time of breaking the 60,000 attendance mark. The National FFA Convention provides FFA members the opportunity to reach the goals of the National FFA Mission Statement which is to provide premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.



*Picture – East Knox FFA members at the National FFA Convention outside of Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. (L to R) **Braxton Lahmon, Will Stokes, Aiden Kapper, Hunter Schrienk, Peyton Harris, Dylan Springer, Mackenzie Wilson, Hayden Baker, Kylie Griffith, and Braylon Evans.***

## October Specials Award Winners

### Third Grade

#### All A's & B's

Grayson Armstrong  
 Chloe Arter  
 Beau Brady  
 Garrett Brooks  
 Laiton Brumfield  
 Kaylee Cottrill  
 Liberty Dilly  
 Aria Dunmire  
 Phillip Enders  
 Easton Endsley  
 Harper Flowers  
 Alex French  
 Gannon Fritz  
 Sawyer Galloway  
 Arayah Hanna  
 Layne Hanna  
 Faith Hays  
 Adeline Heston  
 Presley Hull  
 Uriah Kovacevich  
 Aurora Legros  
 Mason Maniace  
 Raegan McGinnis  
 Kaicen McMillen  
 Cynthia Moran  
 Adleigh Morningstar  
 Kydin Morningstar  
 Olivia Murphy  
 Aurora Nelson  
 Avery Nelson  
 Waylon Ott  
 Evylynn Rettig  
 Aaliyah Riffle  
 Chloe Rigsby  
 Neida Saunders  
 Scout Staton  
 Jake St Clair  
 Owen Warner

### Third Grade

#### All A's

Hadrian Guardiola  
 Zacarah Hart  
 Zayden Horlcaher  
 Maxwell Keirns  
 Ellouise Kidd  
 Titus Levier  
 Ella Norris  
 Leighton Oare  
 Noah Pfettscher  
 Kenzie Rine  
 Klaire Willis  
 Ryder Yeager



### Fourth Grade

#### All A's

Hollis Banks  
 Addisyn Beltz  
 Cru Clark  
 Dharma Collins  
 Cameron Colopy  
 Jackson Daugherty  
 Vera Faucett  
 Connor Fisher  
 Morgan Griffith  
 Hudson Halla  
 Lincoln Halla  
 Carter Hysong  
 Charlotte Hoobler  
 Hadley Huffman  
 Ava Koontz  
 Marcus Link  
 Elijah Mac Iver  
 Aiden Nelson  
 Remington Nourse  
 Tinley Reese  
 Benton Riggle  
 Abigail Thomas  
 Dylan Undercoffer  
 Grace Weaver  
 Brady Whims  
 Kori Woods

### Fourth Grade

#### All A's & B's

Grace Alspach  
 Bently Ansley  
 Kinsley Beaver  
 Maddison Blankenship  
 Carson Bonham  
 Kinsley Clinedinst  
 Kyndrik Crawford  
 Walker Davies  
 Isaiah Dilly  
 Reagan Eickemeyer  
 Walid Ezzarouali  
 Alex Ferko  
 Carley Hammond  
 Jobey Hawkins  
 Carter Hysong  
 Payten Kern  
 Lainey Leibig  
 Grayden McDonald  
 Noah Miles  
 Kempton Newsome  
 Jordynn Norman  
 Elise Norris  
 Charlee Sivits  
 Halle Tharp  
 Kinley Wine



## Fifth Grade

### Fifth Grade

#### All A's

LillyAnne Alspach  
Savannah Arnold  
Raygan Clinedinst  
Ari Crawford  
Henley Ellis  
Maddox French  
Quinlan French  
Nicolas Grubaugh  
Parker Huffman  
Jace Miller  
Rylei Morton  
Lincoln Smith

#### All A's & B's

Gianna Baker  
Raelynn Black  
Makenna Blanton  
Carly Beckley  
Madelyn Dale  
Vanessa Dalton  
Sydney Ferenbaugh  
Amya Foote  
Luca Fratangelo  
Kennadi Fritz  
Camron Grandstaff  
Caleb Hess  
Abbigail Hobart  
Naima Holmes  
Adalyn Keirns  
Christopher Lang  
Junia Pfettscher  
Cecilia Pratt  
Abigail Proudfoot  
Camdyn Purdy  
Nicholas Rhinebolt  
Aaliyah Smith  
Ethan Thoma  
Nash Williams  
Zachary Wooten

## Sixth Grade

### Sixth Grade

#### All A's

Jordon Adams  
Jace Daugherty  
Makenzie Flowers  
Christian Hawn  
Phoenix Homes  
Elaina Koontz  
Leslie Neighbarger  
Tristen Reese  
Maria Scarazza  
Parker Woods

#### All A's & B's

Liam Arnold  
Rylee Black  
Mileyah Brady  
Savannah Brady  
Karly Brewer  
Caiden Cottrell  
Raylee Dunn  
Cambria Ell  
Ayden Hanna  
Ava Hoobler  
Jillian Kelley  
Pyper Kelley  
Samuel Kinsey  
Kora Logan  
Karsyn Pauley  
Emma Ridenour  
Kendall Schwartz  
Kaylana Smith  
James Thomas  
Shawn Wears  
Audrey Williams





# Jr./Sr. High School AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING

**WHO:** ANY STUDENT IN GRADES 7-12

**WHAT:** HELP WITH HOMEWORK,  
CLASSWORK, OR DIFFICULT  
SUBJECTS

**WHEN:** AFTER SCHOOL TUESDAY-  
THURSDAY 2:30-3:30

**WHERE:** EKHS MEDIA CENTER

**WHY:** BECAUSE EVERYONE NEEDS A  
LITTLE HELP SOMETIMES  
(AND IT'S COOL TO GET GOOD GRADES)



Elementary

# After School Study Sessions

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday  
3:30-4:30

Take advantage of this wonderful  
opportunity

## WHAT WE PROVIDE:

Tutoring  
Small group  
Intervention  
Individualized Instruction  
Transportation

To sign up, please notify your  
student's classroom teacher or  
the school office at  
740-599-7000 ext 3002





**967**  
ENROLLMENT

**642**  
LUNCHES PER DAY

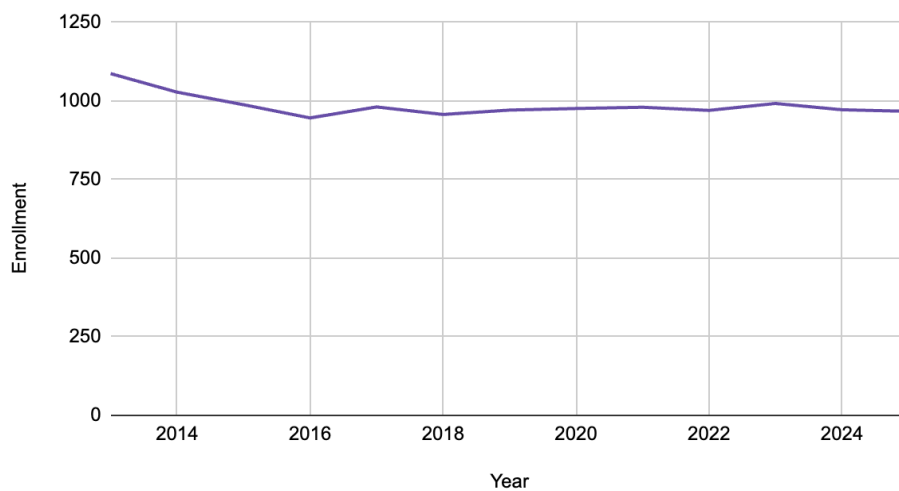
**415**  
BREAKFASTS PER DAY

**160**  
EMPLOYEES

**521**  
BUS RIDERS



East Knox Local School District Enrollment vs. Year



# Purple Pride

*Published to bring school news to the residents of East Knox Local School District*

East Knox Local School District  
23201 Coshocton Road  
Howard OH 43028  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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PERMIT #51  
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HOWARD, OH 43028

East Knox Local School District

*“However difficult life may seem, there is always something  
you can do and succeed at.”*

*– Stephen Hawking*

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**—This publication, a report to the residents of the East Knox Local School District, fulfills the requirements of section 3313.94 of the Ohio Revised Code. Suggestions or questions should be directed to the Board of Education Office, 23201 Coshocton Road, Howard, OH 43028.



**Safer Ohio**  
School Tip Line

**844.723.3764**

**Report concerns for student safety**