



# ELIDA LOCAL SCHOOLS

*Inspired By Tradition, Educating For Tomorrow*

FEBRUARY 2021



## NEW ELEMENTARY BLDG. **UPDATE**

A tremendous amount of work has been completed on the new elementary building project at this point. It remains on time and on budget with less than seven months of construction time left until the building opens up for students and staff. Currently, the building is moving towards completion of the roof, ceiling grid and tile is now being hung, and soon the terrazzo floor will be poured in the lower level. Much of the drywall is in place and many of the windows have been installed.

Some painting has begun and will continue moving forward. We are currently waiting on the technology and loose furnishings bids to return, but from a budget standpoint, we are in excellent shape. We are also looking forward to construction of the **outdoor bathroom and concession building**, which will be a great addition for all of our outdoor activities that take place!

We are also in the process of preparing for the move to the new building as there is a large amount of files and supplies from each room that will need to make the move as soon as the school year ends.



*Photos courtesy of Peterson Construction*



## Elementary Auction



In April we'll have more information about the upcoming auction. Our plan is to have the auction done online so as to cause as little disruption as possible for our students and staff in the current building. There will be many items available - keep an eye on the district website and Facebook page for more details and your chance at purchasing a keepsake from the current building.

## A Message From Superintendent Mengerink

**A huge shout-out and thank you to all of our staff for their efforts during the pandemic!** Since August 10th, Elida Schools have been in session 5 days per week with only a few interruptions due to a lack of substitutes - not many schools in Ohio can say that. Many schools have been remote at least one day per week or have been running on a hybrid schedule. Many of the schools that are completely remote have never opened to in-person learning this year, and those students have not been in a school building since March of last year. Many of our staff members have tested positive at some point during the school year, but have not wavered in their determination to be in school and make sure that our students get the education that they deserve. Staff members have been asked to do things this year that they have never had to do, and they have done it graciously so that students can be in school. Teachers have taken time away from their families to teach after the normal school day has ended for little additional pay.

A lot of staff members and even parents were nervous about returning to school in August. None of us truly knew what to expect because we have never been through something like this. We weren't sure we would be able to have in-person learning taking place in October, much less in February.

### Remote Learning Lessons

A positive that has come out of the pandemic has been the improved use of technology by staff and students. While it hasn't always been something that was easy for everyone to do, we have seen a dramatic improvement on how better to use it.

The use of **Schoology** as a learning management platform has improved the availability for parents to follow what their children are in doing in school along with the progress they are making from a grading standpoint. For staff and students it has been critical to give students the ability to stay current when they may have been quarantined

We know that last minute decisions that are made put families in difficult situations. We also know that 2-3 days notice is a lot better than the morning of. We try to give notice as early as we can, when information allows us to do that. Unfortunately, as we have all learned during the pandemic that does not always happen.

As has been the case with many things, the dates and times for staff to receive their vaccinations has been assigned to us, not a choice that we made. We simply do the best we can with what has been assigned.

As is everyone, we are hopeful now that most of our staff are in the process of receiving vaccinations that there will be fewer disruptions at school due to the pandemic. Before long, we are hoping to take a look at all of our extra offerings/events to see what may be able to take place later this spring. That includes events like prom, field event days, drama productions, and graduation.

**In the meantime, *THANK YOU* to all of our staff members for your hard work, sacrifice, and dedication to the students of Elida Local Schools!**

during the pandemic or for other illnesses. Another benefit that we will be seeing soon will be the ability to use remote days on days of inclement weather, thus saving students from having to make-up days at the end of the school year.

Going forward, any day in which it is deemed to be unsafe for bus travel, **students will report to school remotely using Schoology at the conclusion of the 2-hour delay. Staff will be working from school to get lessons posted online when this happens.**

# Elida Theater Performances

**\*Possible performance pending approval from the Allen Co. Health Department**

**"Joseph" is planned for March 18-21, 2021**

- Tickets purchased and retained for the 2020 production may be exchanged for the 2021 Live performance.
- Turn in your tickets for a credit voucher for either *Joseph* or to the *Addams Family* show in June 2021
- Consider your ticket a donation to the theater program, having lost money with the cancellations.
- Live seating is limited and will be distributed until they run out. Exchanges will take place March 3rd & 4th 6-8 pm in the HS Commons.



**LIVE SHOW DATES & TIMES:**  
**March 18, 19 @ 7:30 pm**  
**March 20 @ 3:00 & 7:30 pm**  
**March 21 @ 4:00pm**

**Please contact Rhonda Bargerstock with questions:**  
[rbargerstock@elida.k12.oh.us](mailto:rbargerstock@elida.k12.oh.us)



**Plans are underway for a performance of The Addams Family in June. Details to come.**

## Spring Assessment Schedule

Elida Schools District State Testing Calendar 2020-21				
Grade	Testing Period	Test	Beginning of Window	End of Window
K-12	Spring	OELPA	February 1, 2021	April 23, 2021
K-12	Spring	AASWD	February 2, 2021	March 26, 2021
11th	Spring	ACT	March 9, 2021	
3rd-12th	Spring	Ohio ELA Test	March 22, 2021	April 14, 2021
3rd-12th	Spring	Ohio Math, Science, SS Tests	April 12, 2021	April 30, 2021
HS	Spring	AP Calculus AB	May 4, 2021 @ 8:00 a.m.	
HS	Spring	AP English	May 12, 2021 @ 8:00 a.m.	
HS	Spring	AP Chemistry	May 7, 2021 @ 8:00 a.m.	
HS	Spring	AP Latin	May 11, 2021 @ 12:00 p.m.	
HS	Spring	AP Psychology	May 11, 2021 @ 12:00 p.m.	

## A Special Donation

### Descendants of Class of 1893 Graduate Donate Commemorative Window

Descendants of one of Elida's very first students, from the very FIRST Class in 1893, made a special donation to Elida Local Schools last fall. The great-grandchildren of Mr. Glen Sherry donated a stained glass window that was made for the 100 year anniversary celebration that was held in 1993.

Thank you to the family of Glen Sherry and Jack Myers for this memorial donation!



**Elida High School FIRST Class of 1893:  
Mary (Lowry) Lutz, William Lowry, Glen  
Sherry & Gertrude (Sherrick) Kessler**

**Laura & Steve Miller donate window on  
behalf of their entire family on Nov. 19, 2020  
with Supt. Mengerink**

## Class of 2012 Graduate–Professional Wrestler Signs with WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment)

Elida Class of 2012 graduate Zachary Green is a professional wrestler and has signed with the WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment) on Dec. 2, 2020.

Green, 26, who wrestles under the name Zachary Wentz or “Wentz” is a former MMA fighter, who has previously wrestled around the world. He has won numerous matches including being named the “Rockstar Pro Wrestling” Champion and “CZW (Combat Zone Wrestling) Wired” Champion.

He is widely known for his tag-team competition with fellow wrestler Dezmond Xavier and are the current PWG (Pro-Wrestling Guerrilla) World Tag Team Champions.



Green’s former wrestling coach at Elida High School Mr. Kevin Bowers says was always a good student, reliable and resourceful.

“He was an exceptional student athlete at Elida and was a leader on the team while wrestling at Elida High School. He has tons of natural talent I’ve followed his career and not surprised at all that he’s made it this far.”

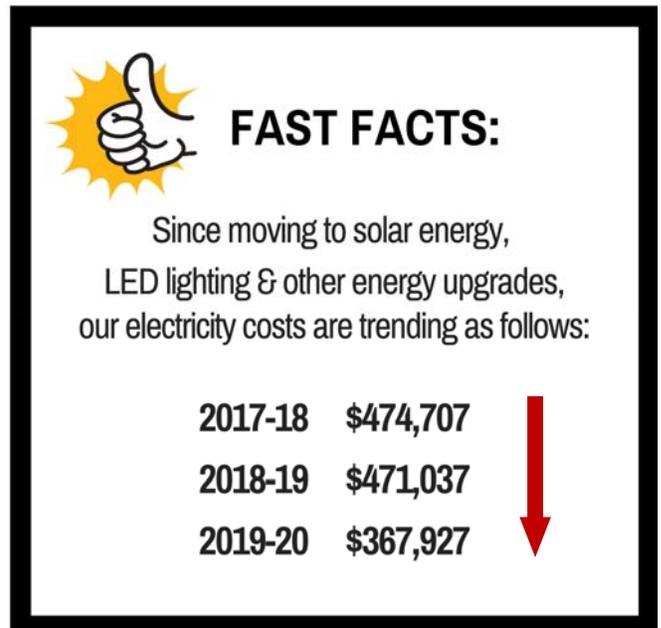
You can follow Zachary on Twitter at [@Zachswentz](https://twitter.com/Zachswentz).

## Financial Update From Treasurer Joel Parker 2020– A Year to Save!

**We continue to do our best to be fiscally responsible for Elida!  
Check out the savings below:**



- ◆ **\$240,010 Saved**  
Refinancing our capital improvements  
(LED lighting, boiler)
- ◆ **\$103,097 Saved**  
Federal dollars through the E-rate program to  
fund computer switches  
(Total project \$176,828)
- ◆ **\$96,901 Saved**  
Federal dollars from E-rate program to fund  
wireless access points  
(Total project \$161,501)
- ◆ **\$74,314 Saved**  
Federal dollars from E-rate program to install  
an updated fiber loop
- ◆ **\$30,293 Saved**  
Federal Broadband Grant dollars used to  
install the fiber loop.  
(Total Loop project \$125,698)



**TOTAL SAVINGS: \$544,616**

## School Board Support of Cupp/Patterson Legislation

**On December 3, 2020 the Elida School Board passed a resolution in support of the Cupp/Patterson School Funding Legislation. Some highlights of the resolution include:**

- Recognizes the need to overhaul Ohio's school-funding system. Cupp & Patterson spent **THREE YEARS** determining the inputs necessary to fund a "thorough & efficient system."
- Carefully recognizes national research, best practices & district spending data.
- Identified & provided a framework for providing additional resources to meet needs beyond those of basic education.
- Developed recommendations for properly funding career technology centers, educational service centers and charter and community schools.
- Rational, transparent, comprehensive and –most-of-all fair system for funding schools based on the actual cost of providing a basic education.
- Developed a method of sharing the funding of the Base Cost between the state and local taxpayers that is easy to understand.

# The Gift of Giving

## An Elida Story of Dr. James Mitchell

Dr. James Mitchell was always one of Elida's most passionate and faithful supporters. He was a dedicated and skilled substitute teacher, beloved by his students, and a man of great integrity and generosity.

Dr. Mitchell was a World War II Army Air Corps veteran. Through financial assistance from the "GI Bill," he was able to attend The University of Oklahoma, graduating with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. After college, he joined Westinghouse Electric Corporation, and went on to receive an M.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh, and, later, a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from The Ohio State University, Columbus.

### A Brilliant Career

Dr. Mitchell worked at Westinghouse for 41 years and made many technological advancements related to aircraft and aerospace. In 1953, he converted the company's aircraft motor design processes from slide rule to computer using IBM punch cards. Concepts he created and developed at Westinghouse resulted in five U.S. patents, for which he received recognition in 1983. He also developed hybrid thick-film circuits used in generators for the U.S. Space Shuttle program.

In 1985, he received Westinghouse's Engineering Achievement Award for advancing high-temperature, light-weight capacitors for aircraft electrical systems. In 1990, he was honored for historic engineering achievements in modern capacitor technology for Westinghouse. Following his retirement from Westinghouse, he consulted for Sundstrand Aerospace.

### "Dr. J" and Involvement at Elida

Dr. Mitchell supported Elida through the Citizens Advisory Committee, the Band Boosters and other committees, and he ran for the School Board. After retirement, he provided help and his vast knowledge by substitute teaching at Elida for more than ten years. He enjoyed the rapport with the other teachers and had a genuine love for his students. The feeling was mutual, as students fondly called him "Dr. J" and would stop to chat and give him a high-five when they would see him at the mail or out in the community. A few students even invited him to their graduation parties.

When Dr. Mitchell was in the hospital, Elida students and teachers showed their support by signing a poster-size get-well card, which he treasured.



### Creating the Mitchell Scholarship Foundation

As a substitute teacher, Dr. Mitchell recognized that there were gifted students who may not qualify for government grants or other scholarships. Because of the assistance he had received through the "GI Bill," he decided to start a scholarship fund that would help another young person to attend college.

While Dr. Mitchell initially had planned to help one student, once he started the fund, he decided to help three. The first Mitchell Scholarship recipient, Chelsea Saunders, an Elida Senior at the time, completed her Nursing degree at Rhodes State College and now works as a Critical Care nurse. A second student, Angela Thomas (now Mayer), was chosen for a scholarship to obtain her Education degree and is now a full-time teacher at Elida. Finally, a third recipient, Amy Miller, from Shawnee High School, completed her Nursing degree at Rhodes State and is now a Hospice nurse.

Through his scholarship, Dr. Mitchell and his daughter, Mary, provided each of the three young women what they needed for each quarter to complete their degrees, even helping Angela to earn her Masters Degree from The Ohio State University, as it was required for her to obtain her teaching certification.

### The Mitchell Scholarship Today

Mary Mitchell, who is proud of her father's legacy and of the achievements of the recipients, continues to manage the Mitchell Scholarship Foundation and relationships with the recipients. She is also grateful to friends and family members who have contributed over the years. She aims to rebuild the fund over the long term to continue her father's commitment to helping students.

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An Elida High School graduate (1978), Mary also earned a B.A. in Communications from Anderson University, an M.S. in Journalism from Ohio University, and an M.B.A. in International Management from Arizona State University's Thunderbird School of Global Management.

She has held Editorial, Product and Research leadership roles for CompuServe (AOL), Dow Jones & Company, Consumer Reports and ZINIO, and currently consults for digital media/e-commerce companies in the greater New York City area.

## Elida Teacher-Paying It Forward

### Scholarship Recipient Continues Dr. Mitchell's Generosity

Elida 4th grade teacher Angela (Thomas) Mayer always knew she wanted to become a teacher. Her grandmother, Helen Thomas, who raised her, was a wonderful influence, having taught at Gomer for more than 30 years. Angela's dream started to become real in 2008 when she was an Elida High School Senior participating in the Teacher Academy Program, observing teachers and exploring teaching as a career.

Yet, because of financial concerns at the time, Angela did not think it would be possible to attend college, nor handle the burden of future loan payments. She remained hopeful, but assumed she may not be able to pursue her degree.

If it wasn't for a sort of miracle from a generous benefactor, **Dr. James Mitchell**, and the help of his daughter, Mary Mitchell, she may never have been able to attend college. To her surprise, she was chosen as the second recipient of the Mitchell Scholarship.

Unfortunately, Dr. Mitchell passed away before Angela began her studies at The Ohio State University, Lima, so did not get to see her graduate. After earning her Bachelor of Education degree, she earned her master of Education degree in 2013, began substitute teaching at Lima City Schools, Bluffton and here at Elida, and was eventually hired for full time teaching at Elida in 2015.

**Dr. Mitchell's memory and legacy continues at Elida today and will remain with us always!**



**Mitchell Scholarship Recipient-  
Elida Teacher Angela Mayer**



**Former Gomer Teacher  
Helen Thomas**

Angela says that education has always been very important to her. "If it wasn't for the humble, gracious, generous heart of Dr. James Mitchell I may not have been able to pursue my dream. Because of him and all the great teachers in my life, the possibilities now seem endless and I am so grateful for every one of them."

Now, Angela **wants to pay it forward.**

***"How did I get so lucky? How can I give back and help another student pursue their education?"***

Angela is continuing the generosity shown to her by Dr. Mitchell and his family by donating to the Mitchell Scholarship to help fund scholarships for Elida students heading to college. "I hope they won't be held back or give up on their dreams."

*Read about the first Mitchell Scholarship recipient, Chelsea (Saunders) Zimmerman, on page 8.*

## First Mitchell Scholarship Recipient

### Working Front lines of the COVID Pandemic

The first recipient of The Mitchell Scholarship was Elida Class of 2007 graduate Chelsea (Saunders) Zimmerman. She attended James A. Rhodes State College and earned her Associate Degree in 2014 and was hired by Mercy Health St. Rita's as a new RN on the open-heart stepdown floor. She is now a supervisor with St. Rita's Urgent Care and has been working extra shifts during the pandemic.



Chelsea (Saunders) Zimmerman

Her passion for helping people grew into a leadership role. "Bon Secours Mercy Health St. Rita's invested in me as a leader, *much like Mary and Dr. James Mitchell*, to guide me on a path, to reach my career goals. Through the hospital, I was awarded an emerging leaders award in 2020. As a leader, I am able to encourage people to find success and fulfillment in their careers, the same way I was able to encourage open heart patients through recovery.

Being a nurse is the best way for me to fulfill my wishes of helping others to the fullest. I will continue to expand my knowledge in order to make myself the best nurse I can possibly be.

I am very passionate about the health of our community and work every day to carry out Bon Secours Mercy Health's mission, to extend the compassionate ministry of Jesus by improving the health and well-being of our communities and bring good help to those in need, especially people who are poor, dying and underserved."

Chelsea is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree, while working as a practice manager for the Bon Secours Mercy Health family practices in Shawnee and Delphos.

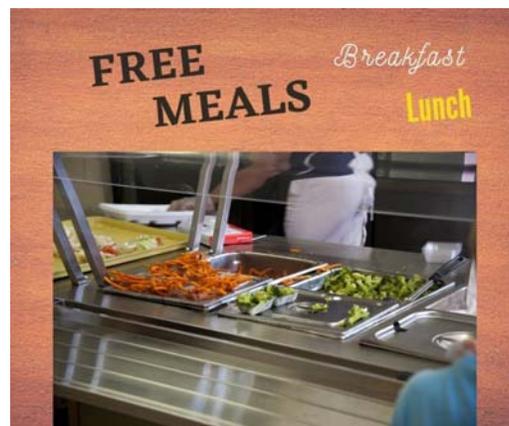
## You Can Help Support Scholarship Funds

If you'd like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Mitchell Scholarship or to the Elida Educational Foundation, please contact Treasurer Joel Parker [joel@elida.k12.oh.us](mailto:joel@elida.k12.oh.us).

THANK YOU!

## Free Meals For All Students

A reminder for families that we are able to provide **FREE meals (breakfast & lunch)** to all students until the end of the school year from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and Ohio Dept. of Education.



## Bus Drivers Needed

**We're Hiring!** With the new elementary construction and moving 5th grade to the new building, additional routes will mean the need for additional drivers.

Elida's Director of Transportation, Mr. Gregg Roth, anticipates that because of the additional routes and from driver retirements, we will need to hire 12-15 drivers.

**Compensation:** Drivers at Elida receive competitive wages: \$21.11/hr. beginning fall of 2021, attendance bonuses and paid holidays.



Driving just 20 hours is equivalent to 30-35 hours in retail or fast food.

**To learn more about becoming a bus driver call Gregg Roth at 419.331.4135.**

## Calendar of Events (Subject to Change)

March 9	Two Hour Delay Staff PD Day	April 6	School Resumes
March 15	No School -Teacher Contracted Work Day	April 17	District Art Show High School Commons
March 31	Two Hour Early Release-Easter Break	May 7	Commencement 7:00 pm
April 1-5	Easter Break	May 10	Two -Hour early release /Last Day



**VIRTUAL RAFFLE**

- This year's Vendor & Craft Fair will be VIRTUAL on April 23
- Donate Items at Elida Elementary between March 15-March 26
- Raffle items will be bundled & posted for public view on March 29
- Tickets will be pulled on April 23rd
- Thanks for supporting the STARS program!
- Get raffle tickets and more information on the school website.