



# SUPERINTENDENT'S TIP OF THE HAT



—February 24, 2026—

## JMS' Katie Mattson Surprised With "Leaders For Learning Award"



Congratulations to Johnstown Middle School Intervention Specialist Katie Mattson, who was surprised on Friday, February 20, 2026, with the presentation of "The Leaders for Learning Award." The award is presented annually by the Licking County Foundation.

The award was created in 1993 to promote excellence in public education and honor exemplary teachers in Licking County. See video of the surprise presentation [HERE](#).



January and February can be challenging months because of inclement weather, shorter daylight hours, and bitter temperatures. Fortunately, the days are getting warmer, getting longer, and we've enjoyed some unseasonably high temperatures as we approach March and our Spring Break, which kicks off on March 30 (classes resuming on April 7)! In the meantime, please enjoy this latest edition of The Tip of the Hat, celebrating some of the highlights of these last wintery days of the 2025-26 Johnstown-Monroe school year!

# Summit Home Care Visits CNA & Patient Center Care Program

Our CNS Patient Center Care Program within Johnstown High School continues to attract interest from area health and home care providers. On Feb. 20, Konrod Morris and Miya Chaffee of Summit Home Care visited JHS to discuss student employment and internship possibilities with Dr. Philip H. Wagner, Principal Michael Shipton, and Health Sciences Teacher Abby Lambert.



## JHS Students Meet Balderson

Johnstown High School students Audrey McCrady and Abigail Smith recently met Congressman Troy Balderson at a Newark Rotary Luncheon. The students were also scheduled to give speeches before the Rotary the week of February 23, 2026.



# Love The Bus Month Celebration

February was "Love the Bus Month." Once again, we visited our transportation partner, Community Bus Services, at their bus complex at Kyber Run Golf Course to celebrate our drivers and their services to our students.



# Data Center Employment Event Planning

We are in the process of executing a special “Exploring Careers That Are Powering The Digital World” program in conjunction with Vantage Data Centers on March 25, 2026. On Friday, February 20, we completed a walk-through of event locations. Watch for more information, coming soon!



## JIS Students Practice Self-Defense



Johnstown Intermediate School students participating in the ROX (“Ruling Our eXperiences”) program practiced self-defense moves with JIS Student Support Specialist Annalise Howell on Feb. 12, 2026. See some video highlights [HERE](#).

# Smith, Ruffle Graduate “Handshake America”



Seniors Ben Smith and Ava Ruffle recently graduated the “Handshake America” program. It is a year-long coaching and scholarship opportunity for high school student-athletes that focuses on personal growth and life success beyond sports. Students selected for the program are paired with trained adult volunteer coaches and take part in about eight coaching sessions over the course of a year. These sessions are built around Handshake America’s “5 Practices of Success”: perseverance, passion, positivity, building strong relationships, and presence, which includes confidence and professionalism. Students who complete the program earn a postsecondary scholarship, typically at least \$1,000. The program’s mission is to help student-athletes develop leadership skills, self-confidence, and a clear sense of purpose that will support them in college and in life.

**Help Us Grow Our  
Johnnies Team!**



Johnstown-Monroe is hiring! View all available positions [HERE](#).



## JHS Students Visit Johnstown Pointe

JHS Family and Consumer Science students recently celebrated National FCCLA week (February is Career Tech month) with a visit to Johnstown Pointe as a community outreach field trip to create crafts with some of the residents.



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