

PAINT

THE PLOW

2026



CONTEST

OPEN TO 8- 12 GRADE BUTLER COUNTY SCHOOLS



All materials provided



Up to 3 entries per school



Two winning schools will have their painted plow displayed and used this winter!

WWW.BCEO.ORG/PAINT-THE-PLOW

BUTLER COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE



GREGORY J. WILKENS, P.E., P.S. BUTLER COUNTY ENGINEER



BUTLER
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PAINT THE PLOW CONTEST

OPEN TO STUDENTS IN 8 - 12 GRADE IN BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO

The Paint the Plow contest is here in southwest Ohio, and the Butler County Engineer's Office (BCEO), the Butler County Storm Water District (BCSWD), and the Butler Soil and Water Conservation District (Butler SWCD) are excited to invite your school to participate!

Why

Through this contest, we aim to promote public awareness of winter driving safety and the smart use of salt. This contest encourages high school students in Butler County to develop creative, original artwork on a snowplow that represents their school and fits the theme. Designs will have the opportunity to be visible during winter snow removal on various county-maintained roadways in the school district to enhance public awareness.

Who

The Paint the Plow program is open to teams of 8 - 12th grade students from schools in Butler County.

Submit a Design to Enter Contest

Two winning schools will be selected for this project in 2026.

Entries must be submitted by **4 pm on Friday, September 11, 2026.**

The entries will be judged by the Butler County Engineer, Storm Water District Coordinator, and the Director of Butler Soil and Water Conservation District.

If your school has more than three entries, please have an internal contest and submit the top three choices.

Entry form can be found at www.BCEO.org. If you have trouble with submitting this form please email info@bceo.org. Applications are preferred through the google form, but will not impact the scoring of entries.

Timeline

Application deadline: 4 pm on, September 11, 2026

Winning school projects announced: September 14, 2026

Blade Drop-off Deadline: Once your design is approved, BCEO will contact you to schedule a time to deliver the blade to your school. Deadline to schedule is September 18, 2026

Blade Pick-up Deadline: Blades will be picked up no later than October 18, 2026



New Miami HS, 2025 Winner



Expectations

Winning schools must have their plow completed by the deadline of October 18, 2026 for the plow to be placed back into service.

Design

Students are encouraged to create designs-based on the topics of **winter driving safety** and the **smart use of salt**.

School faculty may assist in creating the design, but only students should participate in painting the design without alteration.

Slogan: We have provided some slogans you can use:

- 1- Don't get salty - get safe
- 2- Don't crowd the plow
- 3- Salt helps. Speed hurts
- 4- Slow down, salt down
- 5- Salt with care, freshwater's rare

If you choose to create a your own slogan, keep it simple with only a few words and have it preapproved by emailing lentzb@stormwaterdistrict.org. Make sure the writing is large enough to make it easy to read as the plow is driving past.



Madison HS, 2025 Winner

We will provide paint in the following colors:

White Black Blue Red Yellow

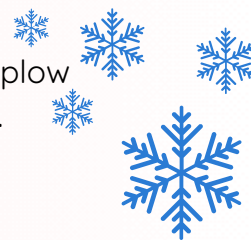
Designs can use the colors as is, or you can mix them to create a variety of colors and shades. We will supply mixing trays.

Handprints: If you choose to make handprints a part of your design, please wear a glove and use a brush or roller to add paint to the palm of the glove. Do not stick gloved (or ungloved) hands into the paint can.

Copyright infringement: All submissions must be the original work of the participating school's students and must not infringe on the rights of third parties, including but not limited to, intellectual property rights (Disney, Marvel, celebrities, etc.). Submitted designs containing these images will be disqualified from the competition.

Additional Design Information: Only non-partisan, non-political and non-violent material will be accepted for consideration. Plows cannot be modified with the addition of extra materials or ornaments. These are working plows that will be clearing our roads this winter.

Wear and Tear: Please note, it should be expected that the design on a given plow will wear away once the plow is put into service for snow and ice removal.



Artwork Size

The plows are 11 ft wide and 4 ft tall. Please note there is a 9" rubber flap that hangs down from the top of the blade. The rubber can be painted, however it will wear off quicker than the blade.

Plow Drop off

A plow blade will be delivered and placed at the location arranged by the school.

BCEO will only drop off the blade, they will not be leaving the truck.

When selecting a site for the plow to be dropped off, please think of the following:

- FLAT location for the blade to be stable, upright, and unable to move.
- On blacktop or concrete. It cannot be placed on grass or soil.
- We will provide a tarp for under the plow to protect the pavement/parking lot.
- The salt truck will need space to navigate drop-off and pick-up of the blade.
- Snowplow is in a location that is safe and will not be vandalized. If your location has a grounds/maintenance crew, make sure they are aware of the project, they may know of the best location.

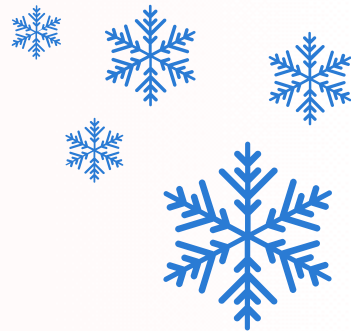
To ensure safety, no one should climb, sit, lean, or otherwise apply force to the plow blade.

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact
Betsy Horton at the Butler County Engineer's Office.

513.785.4151

hortonb@bceo.org



East Canton HS, ODOT Contest



Willard FFA, ODOT Contest



Bloomfield Mespo School District, ODOT Contest

