

## A Message from the Superintendent

The 2014-15 school year is off to a great start. As the new superintendent of Grandview Heights City Schools, it is an honor and a pleasure to become a part of a community that values education and is always striving for the best.



From my conversations with staff, families and community members, it is evident that great schools mean a lot to people. It's the reason why people choose to live in Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff and raise their children in our communities.

Strong communication between our schools and communities is also vital to our success. As a means to increase public awareness and transparency, we have created this quarterly newsletter so that community members, parents, staff and students are informed on

report that Grandview Heights Schools again received top marks. In fact, our Performance Index Score of 109.4 is the highest in all of Franklin County. That means more of our Grandview Heights students are achieving at higher levels than ever before.

And while there is much to applaud, we must always strive to be even better. An ongoing priority for us is to raise the academic bar while maintaining strong fiscal management. These two – fiscal responsibility and excellent academics – must go hand in hand.

This fall will be very important for the future of our school district. As I'm sure you are aware, Grandview Heights City Schools will be on the ballot November 4 for a 5.9 mill operating levy. We have stretched the last levy one year longer than promised, however, in order to maintain our excellent academic programming, we must generate additional operating dollars. In the weeks ahead, you will hear much about this levy. Please give the information your careful attention and learn the facts about this important issue.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we will continue the academic excellence our community has come to expect and keep our school district as one of the best in Ohio. ❖

Sincerely,

Andrew K. Culp  
Superintendent

what's going on in our schools. This is just one of the many ways my leadership team and I plan to communicate with you and I hope you will join in on the conversation.

Just recently, the state released its annual State Report Card for schools and we are pleased to



## We Want to Hear from You

Your feedback is important to us as we strive to maintain and improve our excellent schools. Here's how to join in on the conversation:



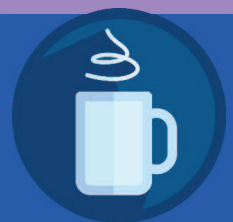
Call: (614) 481-3600

Email: [superintendent@ghcsd.org](mailto:superintendent@ghcsd.org)

Twitter: @CulpAndy



In person: Starting Oct. 17, and every third Friday of the month, have coffee with the superintendent from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. at Marshall's in Grandview, located at 1105 West First Avenue.



## 1:1 Computing Initiative Comes to Grandview Heights High School

This fall, Grandview Heights High School launched a program that will integrate more technology in the classroom and help students



access higher levels of learning. Grandview's 1:1 computing initiative provides every student in grades 9 through 12 with a Chromebook laptop computer for use at home and school.

"Throughout the design of our 1:1 program, we set our sights on mirroring the level of access students have to technology in their everyday lives," shared Marc Alter, Technology Integration Specialist Teacher Leader. "Technology has redefined where and when learning takes place, and in fact, has changed what learning looks like. The Chromebook will become part of each student's personalized learning space by providing

seamless, fluid, and consistent access to the information-rich world they live in."

The Chromebook is fast, portable, durable, easy to support, and reasonably priced. It provides

**"This is an innovative, well-researched and thought-out plan that will provide rigorous learning opportunities for our kids."** – *Principal Ken Chaffin*

opportunities for teachers and students to expand their learning environment beyond the school day and the school building.

"These students are digital natives and using a device is how they learn and what they grew up with," stated Principal Ken Chaffin. "By providing each of our high school students

with a computer, we can engage them in a way that they are accustomed and maximize learning for them."

Throughout the school year, teachers will work with the technology integration team and students to design instruction that aligns with student learning goals and takes full advantage of the devices.

"Technology in the classroom and integrating it into the curriculum is a priority – if not a mandate – in most schools today," added Chaffin. "This is an innovative, well-researched and thought-out plan that will provide rigorous learning opportunities for our kids."

As part of the permanent improvement issue passed in 2010, the district was able to make significant upgrades and add more technology in the classroom, including the purchase of Chromebooks for students.

"We are deeply appreciative to the community for their support. They demonstrate time and again that they value education and they see technology as playing a key role in that," added Superintendent Andy Culp. "We simply could not be where we are today with visionary projects like this without their support." ❖



## ¡Bienvenidos!

Welcome to Spanish at Robert Louis Stevenson Elementary! This fall, after input from families and teachers, Stevenson Elementary launched a Spanish program for students in grades K-3. Students in grades 1-3 attend two 30-minute Spanish classes each week while kindergarten students attend one 50-minute class per week. Program goals for this first year include building a solid foundation in Spanish

vocabulary and increasing cultural awareness. The classroom environment will be very interactive with students engaged in role-playing and hands-on learning. Students will focus on improving their oral and written communication in Spanish, as well as increasing their understanding of different cultures.

Spanish teacher, Emily Deprez, has seven years of experience teaching Spanish at the elementary level. Ms. Deprez spent a semester abroad in Cordoba, Spain, and has traveled

## A Message from the Treasurer

### Grandview Heights City Schools Provide Strong Fiscal Stewardship

**D**istrict efficiencies are a top priority for me as the treasurer of Grandview Heights City Schools. The district has done a great job managing its finances, and even with reductions in state funding totaling \$2.1 million over the last four years, the last levy was stretched one more year than promised.



programming that is helping our students progress and be ready for college.

In order to maintain the level of fiscal responsibility and academic excellence our community has come to expect, our schools are on the November 4 ballot for an operating levy. The levy will provide

the important services and instruction needed to continue the excellent education offered in our schools.

Looking ahead, we know that any levy request requires an expense for district residents; therefore, we are committed to seeking additional efficiencies, while still protecting and providing outstanding academic programming for our students. I am grateful for the support our community has consistently shown this district, and look forward to the future as we continue to best meet the needs of our students. ❖

Respectfully,

**Beth Collier**  
Treasurer

Several measures have been taken to keep costs down. In fact, our teachers and staff have played a key role and feel a tremendous investment in our schools and students. Recognizing the district's revenue challenges, teachers, aides, and school building staff stepped up to the plate and agreed to 0% increase on base pay in 2014-15, and they are paying more for health care.

Although we have been able to extend the 2010 operating levy by one year through responsible spending, the district's latest financial forecast shows that our costs are beginning to exceed our revenue. This means that the district's available cash balance must be used to maintain current programming –

extensively to Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and Mexico. Ms. Deprez is passionate about early language acquisition and is excited to be building this program from the ground up. Her goal is to develop a curriculum that will start students on a successful path to foreign language development. Ms. Deprez will be working with the other Grandview Spanish teachers, Rachel Smith, Carmen Mendoza and Carolyn Hatcher, to develop a K-12 Spanish program that will engage students in real-

world activities to enhance their learning of the Spanish language and culture.

Research shows that younger brains have a greater aptitude for learning other languages. Compared with adults, children are able to not only better grasp a new language, but also establish near-native pronunciation skills. While foreign languages have always been a part of middle school and high school programs, more and more elementary

**Students in grades 1-3 attend two 30-minute Spanish classes each week while kindergarten students attend one 50-minute class per week.**

schools across the nation are implementing foreign language instruction on a daily or weekly basis. Our students will be competing in a global economy – speaking more than one language will enhance their opportunities for employment and travel. ❖



### School Funding and Grandview Yard

Many residents have asked if the Grandview Yard will provide a significant amount of funding for our schools. While projections for future development at Grandview Yard indicate the potential for a significant increase in the city's income tax base, long-term, that revenue will be realized entirely by the city, **not the school district.**

In fact, the increase in funding the district receives from the Grandview Yard Development is **only 2%** of the district's annual general fund budget and that will remain true for the full cycle of the November levy. The Grandview Yard's anticipated revenue is primarily based on the increase in income tax. The school district's revenue is not based on income tax, but rather, real property tax. ❖

# KNOW the Facts ISSUE 2



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
COLUMBUS, OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 1213

## Grandview Heights City School District

### What:

ISSUE 2 is a 5.9 mill operating levy that will continue current programs, keep adequate class sizes, and maintain the great work happening in our classrooms.

Grandview Heights City School District  
1587 West Third Avenue  
Grandview Heights, OH 43212

### Why:

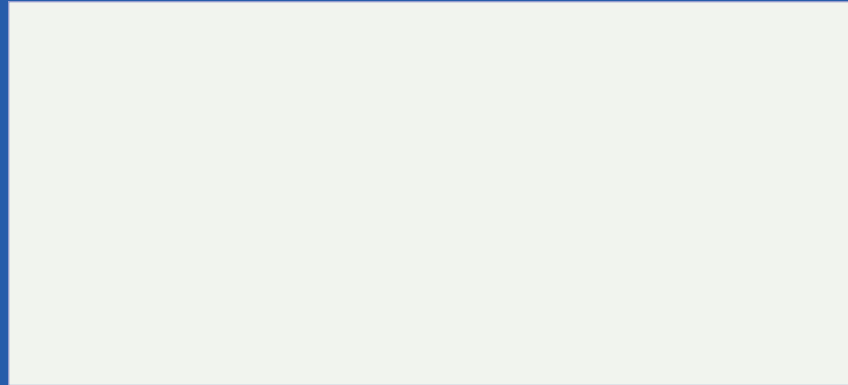
With the levy's passage, our schools will continue with the current level of academic programming and educational experiences available to students.

Without it, our financial picture will worsen, and in order to maintain existing programs and teachers, our schools would need to return to voters.

### When:

Tuesday, November 4, 2014.  
For more information, visit

[www.ghcsd.org](http://www.ghcsd.org)



## Middle School Students and Staff Place Emphasis on Positive School Climate

Edison Intermediate/Larry Larson Middle School staff and students are involved in a Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) framework to increase community and engagement across the school. We have continued to use our five expectations (Caring, Honest, Respectful, Responsible, and Safe) and have focused specifically on areas in the building identified by students, staff, and parents as concerns. These areas include cafeteria, playground/recess, hallways, and the computer labs.



As part of initiating the PBIS framework, Edison Intermediate/Larry Larson Middle School celebrated its first day of school with activities focused on increasing a sense of community throughout the building. All students were divided into groups of 10, two from each grade level, and were assigned a staff member. These groups are called Bobcat Groups and will be continued throughout the year to increase a sense of community, as well as provide opportunities for students to

connect in a more personal way with staff members and other students, across grades 4-8. Each Bobcat Group meeting will have a different focus

including service learning and mentoring opportunities. This focus on culture, climate, and citizenship are all a part of helping our young people become responsible, caring, and contributing citizens.

The PBIS team includes Bob Baeslack, Charity Kurz, Cheri Brown, Alex Beekman, Molly Eichner, Liz McClellan, Megan Shea, Vicki Dunlevy, Thom Hausler, and Jenny Rill. The team meets monthly to review the plan for implementation of the PBIS framework and evaluate current programming. ❖

Caring

Honest

Respectful

Responsible

Safe