



GARFIELD HEIGHTS
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District Spotlight: Principal Chris Sauer, Assistant Principals Leslie Tranter & Michael Freilino

Garfield Heights Middle School is home to three new administrators who have quickly assumed the important responsibilities of preparing sixth, seventh and eighth graders from an academic and social perspective for their current and future educational journeys. New building principal Chris Sauer, and assistant principals Leslie Tranter and Michael Freilino are this edition's District Spotlights, so that the community can become familiar with these newest additions to the district's leadership team.

Chris Sauer is no stranger to the Middle School serving as a veteran teacher and administrator. In total, he has served in public education for the last 10 years, fulfilling a variety of roles including classroom teacher, instructional leader for 7th and 9th grade social studies and assistant principal. Mr. Sauer says that his top priorities will include increasing student achievement and partnering with families. He plans to build on the school's Community Engagement efforts and then also continue to address the social and emotional needs of the students at the middle school. Overall, Mr. Sauer believes in a collaborative approach toward public education both from an administrative, staff and student standpoint. His plan is to be approachable and highly visible during his tenure.

Leslie Tranter joins the administrative team at Garfield Heights Middle School with a comprehensive background in public education. With more than twenty years in academia, Mrs. Tranter's role will be to help bolster the experience of the Middle School's leadership team. She plans to do so by constructing formative relationships with students and staff members, and strongly guide academics with her experience in the Common Core curriculum. Mrs. Tranter wants to invest in younger staff members as well, hoping to help influence their respective approach to students. Before becoming an administrator, Mrs. Tranter was a first and second grade teacher. She holds a Master's Degree in Education, among other important certifications.

In addition to Mrs. Tranter, Michael Freilino has joined the principal's staff at the Middle School, after a lengthy career fulfilling a variety of roles in public education. His stated goal with Middle School students is to have a positive impact on them and to ensure their safety and quality instruction on a daily basis. Teaching language arts at the 6-7-8 grade levels, English at the 9th grade level and US History at the 8 and 9 grade level uniquely prepares Mr. Freilino for this role as Assistant Principal. His past leadership experience also includes developing district-wide lesson plans and curriculum and also leading a broad-based Extended Day Program that he oversaw on a daily basis. Mr. Freilino plans to use this combination of classroom time and leadership experience in doing what he very much enjoys, which is mentoring students into fine, young adults.

Combined, the newest additions to the Middle School administrative team will help to bolster the educational experience and positive behavior support initiatives taking place throughout the building. The Garfield Heights City Schools welcomes these individuals to their respective roles.



The Incoming Leadership Team at Garfield Heights

Garfield Heights City Schools

A publication designed to keep an open line of communication with the community.

OPEN LINE

Superintendent's Message:



Superintendent
Terry

The 2015-2016 School Year is officially underway and on behalf of the Board of Education and the entire school district, I want to express my gratitude to the students, parents, staff members and the whole community for their help in making these first few weeks so successful. First, the community should know that the school year did deliberately kick-off earlier than usual! Together with neighboring school districts, the Garfield Heights City Schools discovered that students were burned

Heights City Schools at all ages of development.

Finally, as the 2015-2016 School Year continues to unfold, the district will periodically make the community aware of the need for a complete renovation of the athletic complex at Garfield Heights High School. A resource that has the opportunity to benefit not only high school students, but elementary students, middle school students and the residential and corporate communities. The complex has not been renovated in more than 60 years. The playing surface for our football and soccer teams must be improved. The cinder track has not permitted a home track and field meet in more than 15 years. Safety and security could be vastly improved. The transportation center, where the district's busses are housed will be moved to a facility north of the high school. Once again, the safety and security of our students is the top priority of the district. The complete renovation of this facility is part of the district's 10 -year Master Plan and you can expect the Garfield Heights City Schools to continue sharing the realities of this complex with the community.

Terry Olszewski
Superintendent of Schools

out after the extensive state-mandated testing season, and that the school year needed to coincide more closely with the testing schedule. The change allows us to maximize our students' educational experience prior to end-of-year exams and eliminate wasted time at the end of the year. The district will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of this decision. Without question, the Garfield Heights City Schools is... **Rollin'!**

Additionally, the Garfield Heights City Schools made another significant investment in technological resources over the summer months. The district upgraded its internal network so that each and every one of the district's buildings are wired to be up to ten times faster in terms of its Internet speed, an upgrade of substantial proportion. Additionally, the district is moving toward utilizing more online textbooks, especially in the areas of reading and math. Mobile technology has been of specific importance throughout the district, where B.Y.O.D., or Bring Your Own Device best-practices will soon be shared with parents and will be strongly promoted to all students. Best of all, the district is partnered with eRate, a federal program with certain requirements, which permits the schools to be reimbursed up to 80% of its costs for various technologies being returned to the district. At this point in time, all K-1st Grade classrooms have at least 5 iPads in each room, and each 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classrooms have at least 7 chrome books per room. Technology has been, and will continue to be, a top priority for the Garfield



William Foster Elementary School

visit us online at: www.garfieldheightscityschools.com



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The Board of Education wishes the entire student body and staff at the Garfield Heights City Schools the best of luck for the upcoming school year, and welcomes everyone back from their summer vacation. This community has always been extremely hard working and dedicated to their educations, so please know that the first few weeks of school have gotten off to a great start. A number of new administrators and staff members have been added to the district, and to these newcomers, the Board of Education extends a formal welcome and best wishes for success. The entire staff of the Garfield Heights City Schools does a great job in preparing the students of this district and the Board thanks them as well.

The fall sports season is officially underway and the Board of Education encourages the community to come out and watch their Bulldog student-athletes represent this district. Students who take the time to commit to more than the routine day of academic coursework should be commended, and whether one is involved in a sport or student organization, the Board of Education applauds your involvement. When watching the Bulldogs in action on the grid iron this fall, pay special attention to the condition of the overall athletic complex. Though our staff has "made do" with various patchwork efforts to maintain the field, such as re-seeding the playing surface, these attempts are merely short-term band-aids. In fact, a set of bleachers was recently removed for safety purposes. This is why a comprehensive overhaul and upgrade of the entire athletic complex at Garfield Heights High School is drastically needed for students

today and tomorrow. The district will continue to share updates with the community about the condition of the athletic complex and how it could be transformed into a true asset for students, residents and our corporate customers as well.

The Board of Education remains steadfast in its commitment to openness and accessibility to the community. This is why it will continue to rotate regular meetings throughout the entire campus of the Garfield Heights City Schools. Doing so not only promotes more community participation in the process, but it allows each of the buildings to showcase what is taking place there and notable student achievements. For a full schedule of Board Meetings, please take time to visit our website. In all, this is an exciting time of year for the community. The Board of Education truly appreciates the level of support it receives from the City of Garfield Heights and the Garfield Heights Police Department. Thank you to Officer James Seawright for the fantastic job he does at Garfield Heights High School, and a special welcome to Officer Doug Dillon, who joins the Middle School staff as an additional police presence in the buildings. This continued partnership means that students throughout the entire school district can learn and engage in co-curricular activities in a safe and secure environment. All the best this school year. Feel free to contact any of us at any time.

The Garfield Heights Board of Education



Allen Sluka,
Treasurer

Talking Finances With district financial bulldog, Allen Sluka, Treasurer.

For this edition of the Treasurer's Report, the Garfield Heights City Schools has a variety of topics to share with the community from a finance and business perspective. This article will briefly share an update from both departments within the school district, and inform the residents about some of the more positive news impacting the overall operations of the Garfield Heights

City Schools.

Beginning with a finance report, the Garfield Heights City Schools was recently and positively impacted with the state's latest budget. Every two years, the Ohio General Assembly votes on a Biennium Budget, with a significant portion of that budget, allocated for public school districts throughout the state. Where many school districts in Northeast Ohio were negatively impacted, meaning they actually lost dollars in this two-year budget cycle, the Garfield Heights City Schools is slated to experience a slight increase in state funding for the next two years. This is due to the fact that the Garfield Heights City Schools is considered to be a capped eligible district, which ultimately results in a 7 ½ % increase in the funding it received from the state. Despite the slight increase, the GHCS will continue to be diligent in their allocation of resources so that taxpayer dollars are efficiently utilized. Residents who have further questions on the impact of the state's budget should contact the finance department directly.

In news from the Business Office, the Garfield Heights City Schools was recently featured in a WEWS Newschannel 5 broadcast for favorable ratings it has received from the state for one very important operation of the school district: **Transportation**. Busing students can be a very complex operation, and each year, the State of Ohio releases efficiency ratings on the way in which districts manage their transportation processes and protocols. In a recent interview with Newschannel 5, Transportation Manager Greg Hovan discussed how and why Garfield Heights City Schools was only one of two districts in the entire county to receive favorable efficiency ratings for transportation. The diligence of the district's management team and the efficiency of the drivers have contributed to such high marks, and the GHCS will continue to be watchful of not only transportation but of all services it performs.

Finally, the district continues to make significant investments in various long-term capital purchases so that students and staff can benefit for many years to come. Two new busses were purchased through an innovative Lease-Purchase program, bringing the district's total count of busses to eighteen. In addition, a new camera system for safety and security purposes was purchased, along with the technology outlined in Mr. Olszewski's report. As always, with questions pertaining to the finance or business operations of the district, please feel free to contact our office at any time.

Welcome Back Garfield Heights Student

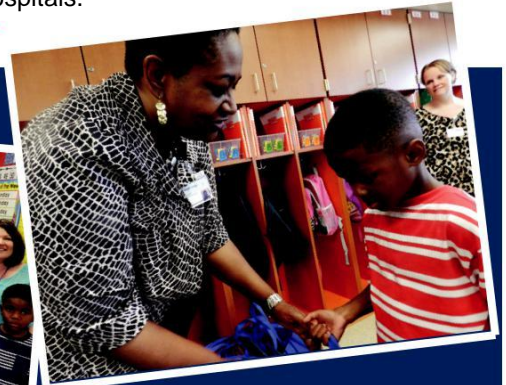
Garfield Heights City Schools Back to School

The 2015-2016 School Year officially kicked off on Monday, August 17, 2015 with a variety of excitement, anticipation and enthusiasm. Throughout the school buildings, students and staff showed off their smiles. A special thank you to the parents who helped to prepare their students for the first few weeks of school. A special ceremony took place, for the third consecutive year, at Elmwood Elementary School where members of the Helping Hands Committee from Marymount Hospital donated nearly 75 bags of school supplies to first grade students. Led by Michael O'Connell, Director for Clinical and Support Services, a handful of volunteers passed out the bags of supplies, which included flashcards, pens, pencils, tissues and hand sanitizers. When completed, the Helping Hands Committee then read stories aloud to our third graders. Thank you to the continued generosity from Marymount Hospitals.

Your support is truly appreciated.



Welcome Back to School!



Members of the Helping Hands Committee Donated Bags of School Supplies to First Graders for the Third Consecutive Year.

Enrollment Numbers Up! District Registrar's Office Has Busy Summer

The Registrar's Office at the Garfield Heights City Schools was quite busy over the summer months, helping to oversee an increase in enrollment from last year. Approximately 550 new students were registered for enrollment in the GHCS, with the highest numbers coming from newcomers to William Foster Elementary School. Kindergarten registration totals remain approximately on-par with last year's totals, and the schools are happy to report that 20 students signed up for pre-school this year. The Garfield Heights City Schools has long believed that the earlier a student can become exposed to our district, the better prepared and more successful he or she will be in the future. Welcome new students to the Garfield Heights City Schools!

Way to go Registrar's Office!

Officer Doug Dillon Playing Important Role at Middle School

Garfield Heights Middle School is the new home to recently retired Garfield Heights Police Officer Doug Dillon, who has quickly become part of the fabric of this important building in the school district. In his capacity as "School Officer" at the Middle School, Officer Dillon is onsite to be a proactive presence in the building and to help avoid conflict before it begins. With a long and extensive background, including 13 years as part of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Division at the Garfield Heights Police Department, Officer Dillon works to mediate certain issues, involves himself when criminal situations arise, but mainly acts as a resource for everyone in the building. From time to time, he will instruct in the classroom on matters of bullying, and appropriate behavior for Middle School students. Officer Dillon was even a first responder to the terrorist attacks of 9/11/2001 and has had the chance to share this experience with students. Though he spends his time primarily at the Middle School once students are dismissed, he then provides daily traffic management and behavior support at Maple Leaf Elementary School. From time to time, Officer Dillon spends time at the other elementary buildings in the district as well. If you see Officer Dillon, please thank him for his service, as he has become a major resource for the Middle School.



Doug Dillon Now Serves as a Vital Resource to the