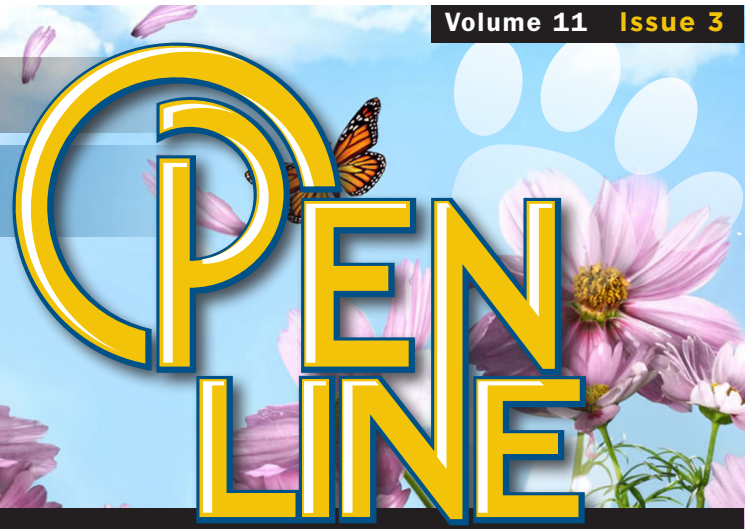


Garfield Heights City Schools

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



Superintendent's Message:



**Superintendent
Terry Olszewski**

Test Taking Season is Upon the Garfield Heights City Schools, and on behalf of the entire district, thank you for your continued support. Many of the students in our district will be in **test-taking mode**, for the next few weeks, and if you read this article and are in a position to help encourage your student, please consider the following helpful hints:

- Encourage your students to do the best he or she can;
- Promote full completion of homework and reading assignments;
- Maintain a positive attitude toward the tests;
- Praise your child for academic milestones;
- Ensure proper rest and sleep schedules for your students;
- Provide healthy breakfasts during test season;

Although test-taking time is important, the GHCS measures the progress of student growth throughout the entire school year. Please take time to help ensure that your child is prepared for tests this spring.

Kindergarten Registration

The Garfield Heights City Schools recently hosted its annual "Little Bulldog Registration Event" at the High School, to officially kick-off the registration season. Please keep in mind that if your son or daughter turns five years old before September 30, 2016 that he or she is eligible for kindergarten in the Garfield Heights City Schools. The district will be hosting Kindergarten Registration on Monday, April 25 thru Thursday, April 28, 2016, at the Central Office during normal school hours. Please contact the district at 216-475-8100 and ask to speak with Betty Hegedus about scheduling an appointment. In addition, the district makes available to those enrolled in Kindergarten our "Kinderbound" program, which is a six-week program at Maple Leaf Elementary School over the summer, to provide incoming kindergarten students with the academic and social skills needed for when

they begin school in the fall. Please take advantage of the benefits associated with the program.

Congratulations!

On behalf of the Garfield Heights City Schools, the district congratulates Varsity Basketball Coach Sonny Johnson on another outstanding season, finishing 23-5 and making it all the way to the State Final Four in Division I this past season. This marks the third time that Coach Johnson has taken his team to the state semi-finals game. Congratulations to the student-athletes, Coach Johnson and his staff. The district also congratulates the High School Academic Challenge team for their strong performance on Saturday, April 2, 2016. The Bulldogs are proud of your academic accomplishments!

Thank you for your continued support of the Garfield Heights City Schools, and as always... GO BULLDOGS!

Terry Olszewski
Superintendent of Schools



New families are registering for Kindergarten. Please see Page 4 for more information about the registration process!



Joseph M. Juby
President
District Liaison



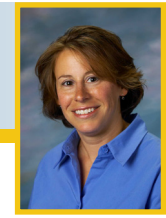
Gary Wolske
Vice President
Legislative Liaison
Policy Liaison



Robert A. Dobies, Sr.
City Liaison



June A. Geraci
Student Activities



Christine A. Kitson
Cuyahoga Valley
Career Center
Policy Liaison

The Board Seeks Partnership with the Community

Dear Community,

The Board of Education wishes each and every one of the community members a wonderful spring and early summer season. By now, the warm temperatures should be here to stay and the Board encourages everyone to come out and support their Bulldog spring sports as they compete and represent this district. Our student athletes and our co-curricular participants make a loyal sacrifice to further involve themselves with school organizations with the hopes of advancing causes which promote skills such as teamwork, leadership, communication and collaboration.

The Board of Education accepts the results of the March 2016 primary election, on which the district placed a levy to upgrade the athletic complex and transportation facility. Through a variety of communications, including written letter, newspaper coverage, direct mail, dozens of social media updates, web postings and public meetings, the Board felt that it had helped to present the factual information about the need for this levy and how it helps the overall student body. In this particular levy's case, the added bonus included an opportunity for the citizens of this community to benefit through use of the all-purpose track and field. The Board of Education also credits the dedicated volunteers of the Citizens for Garfield Heights committee and the Stadium Club for their commitment to advance this school district.

What the Board continues to strive for is continued partnership with the community and the citizens that it serves. The district tries to remain transparent, as readers will note in the nearby Treasurer's Article, where Mr. Sluka presents the quickest way receive financial information about the Garfield Heights City Schools. As always, you can contact any of the members of the Board of Education any time if you have questions.

The community is a combination of the citizens, the city and the school district working together to improve the lives of the people who live, work and raise a family here. Values such as hard work, pride, loyalty, honesty and partnership have long characterized this community. Real collaboration comes when people are willing to enter into honest relationships with each other. The Board of Education has a fiduciary responsible to advance the district, enhance the lives of its student and staff population and create leaders for the 21st Century. Because the GHCS has great students, the Board believes that they deserve great assets and great opportunities. Though we respect the decision of the electorate, the Board will always continue to provide the very best academic and co-curricular experience to the students in this district. They deserve that much.

The Board of Education



Allen Sluka,
Treasurer

Talking Finances With Garfield Heights City Schools Treasurer and Business Director Allen Sluka

For this edition of Talking Finances, a comprehensive list of ways that the community can receive information about district finances, revenues and expenditures is listed below. The Garfield Heights City Schools take a very proactive interest in ensuring that relevant and useable financial information is available to the public in a manner that is easy to understand. Please take a moment to review the list of ways to receive financial information about the district.

TOP TEN WAYS TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOLS

- 1) Financial information is available online at the School District's website (www.garfieldheightscityschools.com), Two clicks from the home page provides readers with a wealth of financial information: click on the Central Office option and then click on Financial and Business Operations.
- 2) Financial information is available on the Ohio Department of Education's Website at <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding> and searching for Garfield Heights City Schools.
- 3) Financial information is available on the Ohio Auditor of State's Website at <http://www.auditor.state.oh.us/auditsearch/Search.aspx> and searching for Garfield Heights City Schools.
- 4) Financial information is available at the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer Website at <http://fiscalofficer.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/Schools-Local-Governments-Data.aspx> and searching for Garfield Heights City Schools under annual information or schools' collection information.

- 5) The Board of Education hosts its regular monthly meeting on the third Monday of the month, at which time a thorough financial report is supplied, reviewed, publicly vetted and approved by the Board. This information includes revenues, expenditures, checks written, investment updates and projected versus actual revenues.
- 6) The GHCS participates in a yearly "State of the Schools" which is open to the public and at which a financial update is provided.
- 7) The GHCS is required to produce TWO 5-year forecasts each and every year, one in October and an update in May. They are presented to the Board, approved and submitted to the Ohio Department of Education for review. These forecasts are also posted on the school district's web site.
- 8) A Financial Report is delivered through this column up to four times each year, for the last eleven years. That's nearly 50 articles about district finances mailed to your home in that time.
- 9) Residents can contact any of their board members, for financial information.
- 10) Residents can contact my office at 216-475-8100, or email me any time at asluka@ghbulldogs.org

Financial information is readily available for those who seek such information. As district Treasurer and Director of Business Services for my alma mater, the finance office takes great pride in providing thorough, accurate and timely information to all individuals who seek or request such information. Please feel free to contact this office any time you have questions or concerns about the finances or business operations of the district. This office is here to serve you.

Student Success Stories from Around the District

Maple Leaf Elementary School Collects Water for Flint, Michigan

Students at Maple Leaf Elementary School recently collected approximately 70 cases of bottled water in an effort to support the Flint, Michigan water crisis. The gathering of literally dozens of bottles of water came as a culmination to National Acts of Kindness Month, which was celebrated throughout the entire month of February 2016. Students from Maple Leaf collaborated with local motivational speaker Basheer Jones and the Cleveland Renaissance Movement, to assemble and organize the entire effort. Students at Maple Leaf were led by the 4th and 5th grade National Elementary Honor Society along with students from the Kiwanis K-Club. Congratulations students for leading the charge to improve communities, one at a time.



Students from Maple Leaf gathered bottles of water for citizens in Flint, Michigan

Garfield Heights High School Announces Academic Top Ten

Garfield Heights High School recently announced its "Academic Top Ten" from the Class of 2016, and honored these individuals with its annual Rose Ceremony at the Board of Education meeting in April. This special occasion includes a distinguished ceremony, a summary of each of the Top Ten's respective backgrounds, and their honoring of a teacher who had significantly impacted their educational journeys. This year's Academic Top Ten are:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| #1: Branden Kraus | # 6: Nathan Dregely |
| #2: Alyssa Granita | # 7: Jahru McCulley |
| # 3: Vincent Orzel | # 8: John Kristof |
| # 4: Haitam Baqacem | # 9: Nicholas Kostura |
| # 5: Andrianna Watson | #10: Terez Siggers |

Congratulations on being fine representatives of the Bulldog Tradition at the Garfield Heights City Schools.

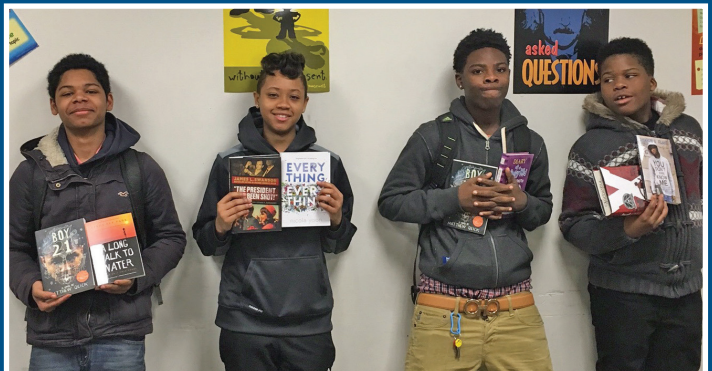


A special recognition for the Academic Top Ten was recently held at the regular meeting of the Board of Education on April 18, 2016. Each member of the Top Ten honored the instructor at Garfield Heights who had the greatest impact on them with a rose.

Students at Garfield Heights Learning Center are Meeting and Exceeding Goals

Students enrolled at the Garfield Heights Learning Center are becoming increasingly exposed to goal-setting and to independent reading, two skills which Principal Lemon Bradford, are hoping to instill in his students at a young age so that they carry with his students to the next stop of their academic journey. As part of Mrs. Skocdopole's reading class in the Learning Center Academy, students recently benefitted from 50 new, donated books from Donorschoose.org. To make good on this special donation, Mrs. Skocdopole's class read these books, and then celebrated with a pizza party to recognize the accomplishment. These students include:

8th Grade: Wayonna Anderson, Brandell Boykin, William Bufford, Sha'nia Butler, Jordan Carlock, Davyun Diggs, Mecalin Leeth, Shaakir Maddox, Rae'Darrion Magwood, Bernard Motley, Janala Redd, Ronald Smith, Chareana Tyes, Matthew Yon



The Garfield Heights City Schools encourages students at the Learning Center to keep reading and to keep striving for success.

9th Grade: Marvin Bennett, Dayton Dunikowski, Diamond Gay, Patrick Hopson, Chris McCree, Dewayne McGhaw, James Mingo, DeShawn Robinson, Tyrell Stephenson, James Smith, Taniya Swanson, Zack Touville, Jason Walker



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www.garfieldheightscityschools.com  

***District Spotlight:* Questions about the Registration Process? Call 216-475-8100 and ask for the Registrar!**

District Spotlight: With the District's Registrar's Office

Did you know that the process for registering your students for school is as easy as submitting information online and taking time for a brief in-person meeting? It's true, and whether your student is registering for kindergarten or high school, the Registrar's Office encourages you to be proactive in engaging its staff to make the process seamless for everyone. This edition's District Spotlight features a variety of "commonly asked questions" when it comes to student registration. Please read below if you find yourself in a situation that may involve the Registrar. Contact the Registrar's Office any time at 216-475-8100.

What's the first step for the registration process?

From the district's home page, www.garfieldheightscityschools.com, find the "Quick Links" option on the right-hand side, click it, and then choose between the options for New and Returning Students. If you are re-enrolling your child, you still need to enroll them as a New Student. It's that easy!

Does this complete the process?

Once completed online, visitors will be prompted to schedule an in-person meeting with the Registrar for the district. This can be done by calling 216-475-8100 and scheduling an appointment with the receptionist. Appointments generally last no more than 15 minutes!

What do I need for the meeting?

The full list of required documents is listed on the Introduction page while registering, but here's just a few: Original birth certificate, residency information, parent ID and immunization charts.

If registering for Kindergarten, how do I know if my son or daughter is eligible?

If your son or daughter is five years old by September 30, 2016, your son or daughter is eligible for kindergarten during the 2016-2017 school year.

If I live in a nearby community, can I register for school in the Garfield Heights City Schools?

Only current residents are eligible for enrollment in the Garfield Heights City Schools.

What if I move within the city to a new home?

Please notify the Registrar's Office immediately at 216-475-8100. Contacting your individual school building falls short of the requirement. The Registrar's Office needs to know.

Can I register a student if he or she is not my own son or daughter?

Only court ordered guardians with proper custody documentation can enroll students if they are not a legal son or daughter.

Once again, the process to register your student for Kindergarten or any grade in the Garfield Heights City Schools is an easy process. Keep in mind that it begins online at the district's home page, and concludes with a meeting in the Registrar's Office. Readers can contact us any time at 216-475-8100. We look forward to serving you!