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Grant Medical Center



Doctors Hospital



Grady Memorial Hospital



Dublin Methodist Hospital

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South International Baccalaureate Students Lend a Helping Hand in Caldwell, Ohio

Under the direction of educator Bill Kulju, students and other leaders from Westerville South traveled to southeastern Ohio where they made positive changes in one week that will impact the lives of many for years to come.

Students Invited to Attend 12th Annual India Festival

Thanks to a partnership between Westerville City Schools and the Federation of Indian Associations, every student in the district received a ticket to attend the 12th annual India Festival. Festival activities for students included a guided "discover India" tour, food booths, cultural programs, musical performances, a market place, fashion show, children's area, scavenger hunt, journaling activity, exercises in art, and educational areas.

Westerville City Schools Lauded for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the Westerville City School District by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

J. Scott Gooding II Nominated as Business First's Chief Financial Officer of the Year

Westerville City School District Treasurer/CFO J. Scott Gooding II was named as a finalist for the Chief Financial Officer of the Year Award, sponsored by Columbus Business First. Finalists were selected by an independent panel of judges based on quantitative examples of success in financial management, strategic thinking, and contribution to an organization's reputation.



Streamlining of Westerville City Schools' leadership structure continues

Several changes to the Westerville City School District's leadership structure were put in place for the 2010-11 school year in an effort to strengthen organizational capacity and meet future district needs. The restructuring does not add any Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) administrative positions, remains within current costs for the leadership team and better aligns personnel to the goals and priorities within the district's strategic plan.

Westerville Students Receive President's Volunteer Service Award

In conjunction with serving as the 2009 Ohio FIRST/LEGO League Ambassadors, members of Blendon's Turbulent Typhoons Robotics Engineering Team received the President's Volunteer Service Award, which recognizes volunteers nationwide who answer the President's call to serve others through their current volunteer activities or lifetime service.

These "snippets" represent many of the great things happening in our schools. View the news archive at www.wcsd.org for more detail, or better yet, sign up to receive weekly news and announcements by e-mail through our e-communications service! If you lack Internet access, just call 797-5700 and we'll send you "the rest of the story" for any of these items.

Non-Discrimination Policy: It is the policy of the Westerville City School District not to discriminate, in violation of federal or state law, on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, or disability in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in any service, program, or activity sponsored by the Westerville City Schools.



Important Dates & Information

from Westerville City Schools

School Calendar

Oct. 15	Central OEA/NEA Day (No School)
Oct. 27	Last Day of Classes (First Grading Period)
Oct. 28	First Day of Classes (Second Grading Period)
Nov. 2	Waiver Day/Staff Development (No School)
Nov. 24-26	Thanksgiving Break (No School)
Dec. 20-31	Winter Break (No School)
Jan. 3, 2011	Classes resume

Coffee & Conversation

Sept. 30 @ 7:30 AM	Serendipity Ice Cream & Coffee House 33 East College Avenue
Oct. 13 @ 6:00 PM	Fiesta Jalisco Mexican Restaurant 2670 E. Dublin-Granville Road
Nov. 5 @ 12:00 PM	Westerville Firehouse Training Room 400 West Main Street
Dec. 8 @ 9:30 AM	Jersey Mike's Subs 5957 Sunbury Road

Board of Education
Kristi Robbins, President; Jeff Gale, Vice President;
Cindy Crowe; Kevin Hoffman; Denise Pope

District Leadership
Dr. J. Daniel Good, Superintendent/CEO;
Mark Hershiser, Asst. Superintendent/COO;
Scott Gooding, Treasurer/CFO;
Diane Conley, Chief of Academic Affairs;
Karen McClellan, Deputy Chief Academic Officer

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Suzanne Kile, Director of Community Relations Services;
Matt Davis, Visual Communications Coordinator;
Lynne Maslowski, Community Engagement Coordinator



Don't forget to check out the
"MONTH IN REVIEW"
photo gallery on the District website.

www.WCSOH.org



Vol. 3, Issue 1

Academic progress continues

DISTRICT CELEBRATES "EXCELLENT WITH DISTINCTION"

Westerville City School District (WCSD) officials during the past two years pledged that continued community support would help maintain the excellence for which the district is known. Results from the latest state report card confirmed that the district delivered on that pledge, and then some.

Westerville City Schools met 25 of 26 state indicators on the 2010 State Report Card and earned the rating of "Excellent with Distinction," the highest designation awarded by the Ohio Department of Education.

The district barely missed meeting all 26 report card indicators. The percent proficient in eighth-grade science came in at 74.7 percent, which is three-tenths of a percent shy of meeting the state standard of 75 percent.

"I'm pleased to announce to our community that the Westerville City School District has taken the next step in its improvement efforts and achieved the state's highest rating of Excellent with Distinction," said Superintendent Dr. Dan Good. "Our continued success is the result of the hard work of our faculty and staff, as well as the continued involvement of our families and support of our community. There's always room for improvement, so we will continue to make the adjustments necessary to raise student achievement and remain fiscally responsible while doing so."

The district also earned a Performance Index score of 100.8, which is up from last year's score of 99.9 and the highest score achieved by the district since the Performance Index was first reported in 2000-2001.

"A district's Performance Index score increases when more students score at the advanced, accelerated and proficient levels," explained Deputy Chief Academic Officer Karen McClellan. "We're proud that we've earned our highest score ever, which is a testament to the hard work that everyone has put into our improvement efforts."



McClellan said the district has a comprehensive strategy for approaching its improvement efforts, including examining its curriculum and instruction alignment; analyzing data; reviewing the resources provided to teachers; and providing focused professional development in these areas. The district also gives students a diagnostic practice test early in the school year to identify specific needs for each classroom, subject and individual student.

The district also has met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements for three consecutive years and its Value Added Rating over that same three-year period has been designated as "Above." This means that students have demonstrated academic growth that exceeds state-level growth expectations.

"While we're pleased that we have jumped into the state's highest rating of Excellent with Distinction, we continue to hold ourselves accountable for demonstrating improvement in every child," said Good. "We recognize that we still have individual students, student groups and schools that are not growing quickly enough to demonstrate Adequate

Yearly Progress. We will continue to focus our energies on nurturing a year's worth of growth in each student, not just aggregates of the student body."

District officials will use several strategies to improve AYP and continue to close achievement gaps, including:

- Analyzing district-wide data on student groups not meeting AYP,
- Analyzing individual school data on student groups not meeting AYP,
- Providing professional development and other resources as required by the results of these analyses.
- Working closely with principals to develop goals and action plans that specify how each school and the district will accomplish higher achievement for all students.

The production and distribution of SNIPPETS is underwritten by a partnership with OhioHealth and other alternative revenue sources.

All Three Westerville High Schools Make *Newsweek's* Best List



Westerville South



Westerville North



Westerville Central

Newsweek annually picks the best high schools in the country based on the level to which students are challenged with advanced placement college-level courses and tests. Only 6 percent of all the public schools in the U.S. (just over 1,600 schools out of approximately 27,000) made the list. Westerville Central (rated 1,604), Westerville North (rated 1,129) and Westerville South (rated 1,358) were included among the 36 schools from the State of Ohio that made the list.

Newsweek editors arrive at their ratings by dividing by the number of seniors graduating in May or June by the total number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or Cambridge (AICE) tests given at a school each year. All public schools that achieved a ratio of at least 1,000 (meaning they had as many tests in 2009 as they had graduates), made the list. Each list is based on the previous year's data, so the 2010 list reflects figures for 2009.

Westerville City Schools Superintendent Dr. Dan Good was pleased that all three Westerville high schools made the grade, saying, "Our entire community can take pride in the ranking of Westerville Central, North and South in the nation's top high schools. It is the support of citizens that comprise our school district that allows our faculty and staff to provide the right conditions for learning. They have helped us maintain high quality

education, and so this honor belongs to them. Congratulations, to the families and friends of the Westerville City School District."

Westerville's high school principals commended students and staff, and vowed to continue to make positive strides in all areas to ensure that each student in every building experiences academic success.

Westerville North High School principal Kurt Yancey said, "The Westerville North learning community is fortunate to have the opportunity to be included on the prestigious list of America's Best High Schools for 2010. Our mission is to ensure our students are learning each and every day and this distinction reflects the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and families to meet this goal. We are very proud of our students' ability to excel both in and out of the classroom and we will continue our work toward higher achievement for all during the upcoming school year."

Westerville South High School principal Steve Andersson said, "South High School can be proud of the good work it does to prepare its students at the highest levels for 21st century global living. Truly these students enter the world well prepared for anything. While inclusion on the *Newsweek* list is flattering, the real reward is the pleasure of knowing that the work we do at South every day leads our students to such success."

Westerville Central High School principal Todd Spinner concluded, "It is an honor to be included in the list of America's Best High Schools 2010. The staff at Westerville Central High School truly provides our students with a top quality education. Central is an educational institution where students and faculty members can come to promote learning and independence through relationships, relevance and rigor. We are fortunate to have a very supportive community, superintendent, board of education and central office staff."

Don't be caught off guard!

The **2011-2012** school year in Westerville City Schools **will begin earlier** than previous school years.

The **first day of school** for students will be **August 17, 2011.**

Summer Crews Kept Busy with Capital Improvement Projects

Thanks to the generosity of Westerville School District voters, funds from the Capital Improvements Renewal Levy have enabled the district to maintain its facilities while providing resources and tools to support learning through the replacement of textbooks, technology, and instructional materials.

Some of the physical improvements completed or in progress over the summer of 2010 included partial roof replacement at Cherrington, McVay, Wilder, North and South; partial HVAC replacement at Heritage, North and South; building envelope repairs at 13 locations; chimney removal at Hanby, Hawthorne, Longfellow, Pointview and Whittier; window and door replacement at Longfellow; fire alarm upgrades at North and South; Farmhouse renovation; South boys' locker room renovation; South field-house renovation and addition; salt shed replacement; Transportation Building replacement; Blendon media center renovation; conversion of woodshop to classroom at Blendon; conversion of storage area to classroom at Emerson; North Land Lab replacement; site paving repairs district-wide; expansion of parking lots at Huber Ridge and McVay; replacement of 15 school buses; and computer replacements at Blendon, Heritage and Walnut Springs.

The district once again would like to thank the community for approving the Capital Improvements Renewal Levy, which generates funds for future capital expenses including curriculum materials, computers, buses, and building equipment repairs and replacement.



Window replacement at Longfellow (above), roof replacement at McVay (bottom left), and fieldhouse renovations and addition at Westerville South's stadium (bottom right) are just a few projects that were on tap before classes began.



Superintendent Hosts Secondary Student Art Exhibition

The Superintendent's Secondary Student Art Exhibition, featuring pieces created by middle and high school pupils, is on display at the Westerville City Schools' Administration Building, 336 S. Otterbein Ave. Dr. J. Daniel Good hosted a reception for the student artists and their families on Wednesday, September 1, 2010.

Award Named in Honor of Beloved School Bus Driver

Bus driver Ferdie Crider was surprised at the Westerville City Schools Transportation Department in-service when he received the first annual Ferdie Crider Award in gratitude for Crider's kindness, efficiency, and concern for the children he transports.

Walnut Springs Middle School holds "Part of the Pack" Party

An orientation session was held prior to the start of the new school year to welcome incoming sixth graders. Students were given tours of the building, had an opportunity to practice their locker combinations and purchase Walnut wear and school supplies at the *Wolfpack Shack*. The evening culminated with a cookout in the stadium.

Krieger Ford Aids Westerville Central's Football Booster Club

A lineup of brand new automobiles drew hundreds of test drivers to the Westerville Central High School parking lot on Friday, August 20, as Krieger Ford representatives showcased their latest models for an event dubbed "Drive One for Your School." Krieger paid \$20 to the school's Football Booster Club for each person that test drove a new Ford or Lincoln. At the end of the day, 300 drivers generated \$6,000 for the school.

Nationwide Children's Hospital Provides Services at Hawthorne Elementary

A physician and medical assistant arrived at Hawthorne Elementary's Back to School days on August 18 in the Nationwide Children's Hospital Mobile Clinic to administer well child exams, immunizations, and hearing and vision screenings for children from ages 4-18. Families also were able to pay fees, purchase supplies, and sign up for library cards from Westerville Public Library.

Training Day for Teachers Focuses on Science

Math/science magnet school teachers from Longfellow, Central College and Robert Frost, along with educators from Cherrington Elementary School, gathered on August 17 for a retreat at Cherrington for a full day of professional development in the area of science. The goals of the training included how to integrate technology and engineering into the K-5 curriculum.

Westerville Central High School Hosts Fourth Annual Leadership Conference

One hundred thirty-seven Westerville Central High School pupils got an early jump start on the school year when they attended the fourth annual Student Leadership Conference held on August 17. Superintendent Dan Good, Central Principal Todd Spinner, and other district administrators were on hand to discuss leadership qualities. The students shared ideas about academic and social goals for the year.

Paul Price Memorial Fund Finances Westerville South High School Weight Room Addition

A 2,200 square-foot addition to the Westerville South High School weight room was made possible through a \$180,000 donation from the Paul G. Price Memorial Fund. The donation represents the culmination of six years of fundraising efforts by the Paul G. Price Memorial Fund Committee.

Marty Wicks Named Ohio School Resource Officers' Teacher of the Year

Marty Wicks, a sixth grade mathematics teacher at Heritage Middle School, has been named Teacher of the Year by the Ohio School Resource Officers Association. Wicks was nominated for the honor by Sara Rath, School Resource Officer at Genoa Middle School.

District Celebrates Summer Class of 2010

Summer graduates from Westerville Central, Westerville North, and Westerville South high schools participated in a special graduation ceremony at the August 23, 2010, Board of Education meeting. Principals from all three high schools addressed the students who received their diplomas as part of the ceremony.

English as a Second Language Summer Camp at Hanby Acclimates Newcomers to U.S. Schools

Starting classes in a new school can be stressful for any child. Imagine doing so in a different country where you don't know any classmates, aren't familiar with the customs, and aren't yet fluent in the native tongue. To alleviate some of the apprehension, the district recently hosted a two-week English as a Second Language Summer Camp at Hanby Arts Magnet School for emergent level children, ages 8-13.

Schools Raise \$32,055 for the American Heart Association

Students at 16 schools raised the funds during the 2009-10 school year by jumping rope and shooting baskets. Proceeds support of the AHA's research and educational programming efforts.



400 Attend First Time Riders Open House

Westerville City Schools students boarded their buses with confidence on the first day of classes, thanks to a program developed by Transportation Director Bob Lynde. The fourth annual First Time Rider open house, held at Westerville North High School on August 7, attracted more than 400 youngsters and their parents. The event gave pupils the opportunity to explore a school bus up close; learn about bus safety; ride a real school bus with their parents; and meet Buster the (remote control) Bus. The activity was featured in the July 2008 edition of School Bus Fleet magazine, which can be viewed by clicking the "Transportation" link at www.wcsd.org.

