



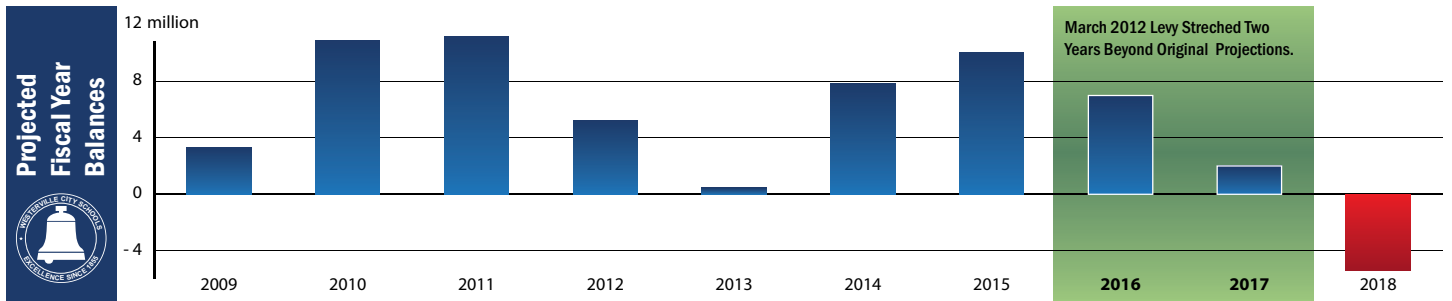
SNIPPETS

"Snapshots" of activities & headlines from around the district.



END OF THE YEAR EDITION

RETIREMENTS Will HELP DISTRICT STRETCH EMERGENCY LEVY THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2017



A revised five-year financial forecast presented by Treasurer Bart Griffith at the May 21, 2012, Board of Education meeting indicates that, due to a significant number of retirements, as well as budget reductions and program restorations this school year, the emergency operating levy approved by voters last March will fund district operations beyond initial projections.

“The number of retirements we’ve experienced is nearly triple the typical amount in any given school year,” Griffith explained. “This will have a significant impact on district personnel costs and allow us to remain cash-positive through Fiscal Year 2017, which is two years longer than originally anticipated.”

As of today, the district’s Office of Human Resources and Employee Relations has received 63 retirement notifications representing a cumulative 2,209 years of experience. A typical year brings 25 retirement notices.

“While a number of veteran employees will retire this year, true to their altruistic nature, they’ve built high quality systems that will ensure we continue to mature as an educational institution,” said Dr. Dan Good, superintendent. “Additionally, for our community and its taxpayers, it means good fiscal news. Having the ability to stretch this emergency levy two years beyond original projections now means that we will not need to appear on the ballot for at least four or five fiscal years. This will be the longest break for levy requests since a six-year time span between successful levies in 1982 and 1988.”

Griffith shared with Board members that the district would maintain a cash balance of \$2.16 million through Fiscal Year 2017. He also presented to Board members another scenario presenting the dire financial situation in which the district would find itself should the effort to reduce the district’s effective tax millage by 6.71 mills be successful.

“If the repeal effort is successful this year, it would be extremely devastating to our long-term fiscal health,” Griffith explained. “Instead of having a cash balance through Fiscal Year 2017, we would face a \$7.4 million deficit in Fiscal Year 2013, which is next school year.”

Good said that should the repeal initiative appear on the November 2012 ballot, the district will need to develop a budget reduction plan that would be put into effect for the second semester of next school year.

“I can’t say just yet what this budget reduction plan would entail, but the fact that we would lose this revenue in the middle of a school year makes it particularly challenging to address,” Good said. “It’s no coincidence that the deficit we’d be facing is roughly equal to the amount of program reductions we were able to avoid with the approval of Issue 10 last March.”

While the effort to repeal district revenue began locally, it is being supported by an outside organization that, according to WKSU National Public Radio, wants to use Westerville as a “test market” to expand its influence and involvement in such initiatives across the state.



The Westerville City School District Board of Education on April 23, 2012, unanimously approved a Budget Reduction Restoration Plan that reinstates approximately \$7.35 million in personnel, programs and services previously included as part of \$18.5 million in reductions to address a deficit at the end of Fiscal Year 2013. Academic program, staffing and service level restorations were made possible by passage of Issue 10 in March.

As retirements and resignations continued to arrive in the district's Human Resources office, the final number of teachers losing employment decreased by more than half, from 71 teachers on March 28, 2012, to 32 teachers on the final Reduction In Force list approved by the Board in April. The restoration plan brings back the following items either in their original format or as part of a re-imagined service delivery model:

- Non-Title Reading Intervention Teachers
- Gifted Intervention Services
- Related Arts
- Non-Title Instructional Coaches
- High School Electives
- International Baccalaureate Diploma Program
- Extra/Co-Curricular Activities
- Middle School Guidance Services
- World Languages
- Media Specialists
- Magnet Program
- Transportation Services
- Custodial/maintenance services
- School day schedules

There is a significant amount of detail behind each of these restoration categories. These details are available at <http://tiny.cc/upxtew>. Restorations were prioritized based upon the breadth of their impact, how they would positively affect performance on the

local report card, and how they would contribute to students' acquisition of 21st century skills.

"We were conservative in our estimates in order to provide the financial flexibility needed to address any future unfunded or underfunded state mandates," said Superintendent Dr. Dan Good. "In hindsight, it appears that this was a wise move given recent legislative activities."

Shortly after releasing the restoration plan, district officials received a 70-page summary of SB316. Forty-six of the pages pertain to education.

"We're busy analyzing the impact these mandates would have on our programs, services and budget," Good added. "These changes likely would be very difficult to meet without voters' approval of Issue 10 last March."



No longer will the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) use terms such as “Excellent with Distinction” or “Effective” to communicate a school’s or school district’s effectiveness. Instead, the state will begin using the more familiar letter-grade system.

In addition, state officials are raising the bar in terms of what they expect from Ohio’s schools, and Westerville City School District officials are ready to respond. Simulations provided by the ODE indicate that Westerville City Schools would receive a “B-” grade under the new model.

“The simulation was based on metrics proposed by the ODE in its request for a waiver from portions of the federal No Child Left Behind law,” explained Superintendent Dr. Dan Good. “I believe the new rating system’s data points would reinforce for us that there is opportunity to grow in areas we are presently focused for improvement.”

Not one central Ohio school district that earned an “Excellent” or an “Excellent with Distinction” rating last year would earn an “A” or “A+” grade under the current simulation. One district would earn an “A-” and the majority of others would earn a grade in the “B” range. Some districts would drop from the equivalent of a “B” to an “F.”

“That doesn’t mean districts have slipped in their performance,” Good said. “It’s simply that the state has adjusted the metrics and we will continue to work toward meeting those expectations.”

The United States Department of Education issued its first response to the ODE waiver and changes were made to the initial proposal.

“We will begin educating others on how to read and interpret the new system,” Good added. “Regardless, we still must drill deeply into the data to determine how best to generate greater achievement for our students, and we do that quite well.”



Students, Police Join Forces to Investigate Mystery at McVay

Everyone likes a good who-done-it, even first grade students at McVay Elementary School. Someone has been using the playground at McVay after hours, and they have been leaving a trail of trash. First graders brought this to the attention of their teacher, Latresa Rieves. They were so distraught at finding the litter that they asked that Principal Amy Miller be notified – and the police. Evidence was carefully collected, organized, marked, and bagged, using investigation kits provided by Westerville Police Detective Doug Dietz.

Westerville Central Students make Lifelong Gifts for Children in Need

Painting students at Westerville Central High School have joined the Memory Project, a nationwide initiative in which art students create original portraits for children around the world who have been orphaned, neglected, or disadvantaged.

South Students Excel on National Chemistry Olympiad Exam

One hundred thirty-six chemistry students in Central Ohio took the National Chemistry Olympiad Examination, and when the results were tallied, two pupils from Westerville South High School placed in the top 11. Hartlee Johnston, a freshman, was the top scorer among first-year students taking the test, and she earned a cash prize. Senior Brian Rice placed in the Top 11 overall. Both pupils qualified to advance to the second round, where candidates will be considered for inclusion on the United States International Chemistry Olympiad Team.

Eight Westerville Students Earn Accolades at Ohio PTA Reflections Contest

Eight student artists from the Westerville City School District have earned honors in the Ohio PTA Reflections competition. Fifty-six entries were submitted to the state level for judging, following the Westerville Parent Council Reflections contest, which was organized by volunteers Lisa Wood and Jody McClain. This year's theme was, "Diversity Means." Winners from Westerville are:

- Janie Lee Nickel, Fouse Elementary, Dance, Award of Merit;
- Charles Jaeger, Robert Frost Elementary, Music, Honorable Mention;
- Natalie Kloos, Robert Frost Elementary, Music, Award of Outstanding Achievement;
- Sarah Stevens, Longfellow Magnet, Music, Award of Excellence;
- Landon Bailey, Wilder Elementary, Photography, Award of Outstanding Achievement;
- Michael Doud, Walnut Springs Middle School, Photography, Award of Merit;
- Jadyn Sano, Mark Twain Elementary, Photography, Award of Excellence; and
- Olivia Talamo, Genoa Middle School, Photography, Award of Excellence.

Summer Food Service Program Available at Hawthorne and Huber Ridge

Westerville City Schools announces its sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program for Children. Free meals will be made available to eligible children 18 years of age and under or persons over 18 who are determined by a state or local public educational agency to be mentally or physically disabled. Children who are members of food stamp households or OWF assistance units are automatically eligible for free meals. To be eligible, children participating in residential camps must meet the income guidelines for reduced meals in the National School Lunch Program.

Rotary Sunrise Grant will Help Autistic Children

Westerville Sunrise Rotary awarded Westerville Schools a \$2,000 grant to purchase three Southpaw Enterprises Steamroller machines. Whittier and Cherrington Schools, home of elementary Autism units, and the Early Learning Center, where most preschool classrooms are located, have been using the colorful, four-roller, child friendly adaptations of a "squeeze machine" for several weeks. The anticipated benefits of gained focus in the classroom are noticeable for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and

ADHD. Additionally, nearly 100% of the school population that has used the new equipment have enjoyed and requested more turns experiencing the device. After paying for the Steamrollers, left-over funds were used to purchase foam blocks that were secured inside a duvet cover which serves as a foam pit for jumping into and crawling under.

North Mock Trial Team Places Third in the State

The Westerville North High School Mock Trial Team participated in the annual Ohio Center for Law Related Education's State High School Mock Trial competition held March 8-10. Westerville North's Team Tempest advanced to the state semi-finals and finished third in Ohio. Westerville North's Team Apollo also finished well at the state tournament, placing in the top 20. Both North teams finished first and second at both district and regional competitions to advance to the state contest.

Pointview Hosts Math Camp-In for Students in Grades 3-5

April 3 was a special day for students in grades 3-5 at Pointview Elementary School. The Math Camp-In gave pupils the opportunity to travel to nine "trail posts" where they applied their mathematical knowledge using interesting and complex problems involving outdoor camping scenarios. Later that evening, students were invited to bring their parents to school where they used their math skills to make special campsite treats, shared fun activities and journals, and enjoyed a Pointview Campers slide show.



Blendon Middle School Celebrates Renaissance Awards Program

Blendon Middle School celebrated student achievement at a Renaissance Awards Program held January 20, recognizing 189 students who excelled in five areas of endeavor. To qualify for the Renaissance Awards Program, pupils had to meet specific goals with grades, attendance, school spirit, deportment, and community service.

School District Receives \$25,000 Grant to Support Parent Mentor Program

Westerville City Schools was recently awarded an annual grant from the Ohio Department of Education for \$25,000 to support its Parent Mentor program. Parent mentors provide support and resources to families of children with disabilities and the professionals who serve them.

Annehurst Students Donate Halloween Candy to U.S. Military Troops

The students of Annehurst Elementary School participated in a Halloween Candy Give Back program run by Operation Gratitude and sponsored by Edgewood Manor of Westerville. Pupils were asked to voluntarily donate some of their Halloween candy to be used to help fill care packages for our military troops. In the two days following Halloween, Annehurst students donated 134 pounds of candy for this wonderful cause. Operation Gratitude is a nonprofit organization that ships care packages to the troops.

Alcott Students Raise \$500 to Shop for Families in Need

Who better knows what children want for holiday celebrations than children themselves? On Friday evening, December 9, dozens of youngsters from Alcott Elementary School converged on Meijers to shop for three deserving families in the community. They used the more than \$500 they had earned by completing chores at home. The Adopt-a-Family event was organized by teachers Christina Spencer and Katie Reinker.

Hanby's Chocolate Paradise Co. Provides Sweet Treats to Benefit Those in Need

The enticing smell of chocolate permeated the hallways at Hanby Arts Magnet School on February 3 as fifth grade students gathered in the lunchroom to make candy for their philanthropic production company called Chocolate Paradise. The service learning/economics unit required pupils to conduct market research, advertise and produce a product to fill orders. Family members pre-ordered chocolate clusters, and all profits from the company were donated to three social service organizations that serve the homeless in the Columbus metropolitan area.

Emerson Students Receive Gift from Consulate General of Japan

The story of Emerson students' efforts to preserve tiles from the recently-demolished Japanese Tea House and Shinto Shrine in Uptown Westerville gained significant attention in the media. Students used the tiles to create new artwork that will remind citizens of the significance of that property and its ties to Japan. This news

eventually made its way to the offices of the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit. Consul General Kuninori Matsuda decided to thank the Emerson students for their efforts by surprising them with the gift of several Japanese figurines, which are now proudly displayed at the school. The Consul General wrote, "...I hope that someday I may have the opportunity to see the final result. Until that time, I hope you will accept this small gift for your school as a reminder of my admiration for your willingness to take on such an important project and my sincere appreciation."



Westerville Teams Fare Well at Future City Competition

Dozens of middle school teams gathered at Columbus State Community College on January 21 to compete in the National Engineers Week Future City Competition. When the event concluded, Heritage Middle School placed third and Genoa Middle School came in fourth. Each team also earned a number of special awards. This year's theme was "Fuel Your Future." The program is sponsored in part by the National Engineers Week Foundation, a consortium of professional and technical societies and major U.S. corporations.

Harlem Globetrotter Visits Students

Central College Math & Science Magnet School recently hosted "Buckets" Blakes, who shared his enthusiasm for goal setting and good character, as well as basketball. Blakes focused on the importance of cooperation, having a healthy mind and body, effort, enthusiasm, and responsibility.



ACADEMIC 2012-13 CALENDAR

First Period

8/13/12 - 10/16/12

Aug 13 & 14 Teacher Professional Days (No School)
 Aug 15 Classes Begin
 Aug 20 Classes Begin Kindergarten & Pre-School
 Sept 3 Labor Day (No School)
 Oct 16 End of First Grading Period

Second Period

10/17/12 - 12/19/12

Oct 17 Beginning of Second Grading Period
 Oct 19 Central OEA/NEA Day (No School)
 Nov 21-23 Thanksgiving Break (No School)
 Dec 19 End of Second Grading Period
 Dec 20 Teacher Professional Day (No School)
 Dec 21-Jan 2 Winter Break (No School)

Third Period

1/3/13 - 3/12/13

Jan 3 Classes Resume (Third Grading Period)
 Jan 21 Martin Luther King Day (No School)
 Feb 18 Presidents Day (No School)
 Mar 12 End of Third Grading Period

Fourth Period

3/13/13 - 5/23/13

Mar 13 Beginning of Fourth Grading Period
 Mar 25-29 Spring Break (No School)
 May 23 End of Fourth Grading Period
 May 24 Teacher Professional Day (No School)
 May 27 Memorial Day (No School)

Parent Teacher Conference/Comp Day

Sep 21 & Feb 22 High School ONLY (No School, HS ONLY)
 Oct 25 & 26 Elementary & Middle School ONLY (No School, Ele/MS ONLY)

One (1) Hour Early Release

Sep 13, Oct 18, Jan 17, Feb 14, Apr 18

First Day of Classes: Wednesday, 8/15/12
 Winter Break: Friday, 12/21/12 - Wednesday, 1/2/13
 Spring Break: Monday, 3/25/13 - Friday, 3/29/13
 Last Day of Classes: Thursday, May 23, 2013

ACADEMIC 2013-14 CALENDAR

First Period

8/14/13 - 10/14/13

Aug 12 & 13 Teacher Professional Days (No School)
 Aug 14 Classes Begin
 Aug 20 Classes Begin Kindergarten
 TBD Classes Begin Pre-School
 Sept 2 Labor Day (No School)
 Oct 14 End of First Grading Period

Second Period

10/15/13 - 12/20/13

Oct 15 Beginning of Second Grading Period
 Oct 18 Central OEA/NEA Day (No School)
 Nov 27 (No School)
 Nov 28-29 Thanksgiving Break (No School)
 Dec 20 End of Second Grading Period
 Dec 23-Jan 2 Winter Break (No School)
 Jan 3 Teacher Professional Day (No School)

Third Period

1/6/14 - 3/7/14

Jan 6 Classes Resume (Third Grading Period)
 Jan 20 Martin Luther King Day (No School)
 Feb 17 Presidents Day (No School)
 Mar 7 End of Third Grading Period

Fourth Period

3/10/14 - 5/23/14

Mar 10 Beginning of Fourth Grading Period
 Mar 24-28 Spring Break (No School)
 Apr 18 (No School)
 May 23 End of Fourth Grading Period
 May 26 Memorial Day (No School)
 May 27 Teacher Professional Day (No School)

First Day of Classes: Wednesday, 8/14/13
 Winter Break: Monday, 12/23/13 - Friday, 1/3/14
 Spring Break: Monday, 3/24/14 - Friday, 3/28/14
 Last Day of Classes: Friday, May 23, 2014



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Time Changes for

2012 -2013 School Year



Academic program changes will require a slight reduction to the length of the academic day in Westerville City Schools next year. **The elementary day will be shortened by 10 minutes.** The start time will be 9:10 a.m., which is five minutes later than the current start time, and the day will end five minutes earlier at 3:25 p.m. **The middle school day will be shortened by 23 minutes.** The start time will be 8:10 a.m., (15 minutes later than the current start time) and the day will end at eight minutes earlier at 2:40 p.m.

The high school day will have eight periods and decrease by 16 minutes. All students will have a seven-period schedule but their arrival and dismissal time will be staggered based upon transportation needs and chosen courses. Students receiving bus transportation, as well as many of our 9th and 10th graders, will begin their day at 7:30 a.m. (five minutes later than now) and end their day at 2 p.m. (11 minutes earlier than now). These students primarily will schedule their courses during periods 1-7, though some classes may be available to them in period 8.

Students not receiving bus transportation, as well as many of our 11th and 12th graders, will begin their school day during second period. Second period will begin at approximately 8:25 a.m. (based upon each high school's bell schedule). This is approximately one hour later than the current start time and their day will end at 2:54 p.m., which is 43 minutes after the current end time. These students primarily will schedule their courses during periods 2-8, though some classes may be available to them in period 1.

Accommodations, such as study tables and other activities, will be available for high school students who need to arrive earlier or leave later in the day than their scheduled arrival and departure time. **Additional information is available on each building's homepage and can be found at www.wcsoh.org.**

NEW Start and End Times Effective 2012-13 School Year

Elementary	2011-12	2012-13
Start Time	9:05 a.m.	9:10 a.m.
End Time	3:30 p.m.	3:25 p.m.
Length of Instructional Day	6 hrs. 25 mins.	6 hrs. 15 mins.
Middle School	2011-12	2012-13
Start Time	7:55 a.m.	8:10 a.m.
End Time	2:48 p.m.	2:40 p.m.
Length of Instructional Day	6 hrs. 53 mins.	6 hrs. 30 mins.
High School	2011-12	2012-13
<i>For students receiving bus transportation, as well as many of our 9th and 10th graders.</i>		
Start Time	7:25 a.m.	7:30 a.m.
End Time	2:11 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
<i>For students not receiving bus transportation, as well as many of our 11th and 12th graders.</i>		
Start Time (approximate; based upon each high school's bell schedule)	7:25 a.m.	8:25 a.m.
End Time	2:11 p.m.	2:54 p.m.
Length of Instructional Day	6 hrs. 46 mins.	6 hrs. 30 mins.
<i>Accommodations, such as study tables and other activities, will be available for high school students who need to arrive earlier or leave later in the day than their scheduled arrival and departure time.</i>		



Board of Education: Kevin Hoffman, President; Denise Pope, Vice President; Cindy Crowe; Dr. Carol French; Kristi Robbins
 District Leadership: Dr. J. Daniel Good, Superintendent/CEO; Bart Griffith, Treasurer/CFO; Mark Hershiser, Asst. Supt./COO; Karen McClellan, Chief Academic Officer
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