



COMMUNITY Connection

Lean Finances and Quality Schools Means we are Ready For Tomorrow



By Superintendent
John Marschhausen, Ph.D.

I had the pleasure of delivering my first State of the Schools address to parents, students, teachers and

local leaders about their local schools. That is the epitome of "The Hilliard Way." It takes all of these groups working together to create the kind of excellence and value this community has in its schools.

It is because of The Hilliard Way that we as a community work together to ensure that every student is ready for tomorrow. We have taken the work, initiatives and efforts of so many and boiled them down to three simple yet powerful words: Embrace, Empower and Inspire. But what does this mean not only for our students, but for our entire community as well?

Embrace

Hilliard City Schools has students that learn differently, that speak different languages and come to us with different kinds of challenges and opportunities outside of school. At Hilliard City Schools we care about our students and our community. That's why we go the extra mile to embrace every student wherever they are and work with parents and various community partners to ensure every student reaches his or her potential. It doesn't matter where a student comes from or what challenges they have in their life to overcome. What matters is how we work together to ensure every student is ready for tomorrow.

Empower

Next we empower and this doesn't just mean students. Empowering includes parents, teachers and community as well. It is through this idea of full empowerment that Hilliard City Schools is committing to two important community engagement initiatives. First, is the

Technology Task Force that will work with parent, student and staff groups to develop a clear vision for where Hilliard Schools is related to individual devices and technology integration in our classrooms. We are empowering the community to be part of this vision which will be shared in the spring of 2014.

Second is the development of a Value Profile. While the Ohio Department of Education Local Report Card is valuable information, it doesn't tell the whole story of a school district. So we will empower our students, teachers, parents and community members to be part of the creation of our own report that determines not only what a high performing school district should look like, but what is important to our local community.

Inspire

Finally we inspire. During the State of the Schools I announced that the three-year promise from the 2011

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Teachers Ensure Students are Ready For Tomorrow

When you ask Jennifer Zedekar how she teaches her students, she says "I just love them." Jennifer is an intervention specialist teacher at Darby Creek Elementary School. Like most teachers, each day is different, with one new challenge after another. Her lesson plans change as soon as her students walk in the door.

Principal Cindy Teske shares how "Ms. Z" makes a difference in her students' lives. "One student who came to Darby Creek in second grade a few years ago wouldn't talk much. Through daily interaction and lessons in social and emotional behavior, Ms. Z opened the little girl's world. By the time she was in fifth grade she was able to sing and dance in the school talent show."

Zedekar uses technology such as Skype to open up the world to her students. Her classes have talked to other kids in Oregon, Michigan, Minnesota and New York. They read to each other and teach each other life lessons on perseverance and strength.

The most important thing Ms. Z does is embrace each child. She has been with Darby Creek Elementary for eleven years and Principal Teske says she always finds a special bond with each child and family. She doesn't stop until she connects with the student and creates a way for the child to reach their fullest potential. At Hilliard City Schools there are more than 1,000 teachers just like Ms. Z who care about their students and go the extra mile to ensure that every student is ready for tomorrow.

Students & Staff Care About Community

During this time of year there are many programs that staff and the students participate in to help local families. One way Hilliard Schools embraces the community is through the Thanksgiving Dinner Brown Bag Outreach. More than 850 bags are filled with ingredients for a thanksgiving meal. Many schools collect winter clothing for shelters or organize giving tree programs. Schools empower students and their parents to help save lives by hosting blood drives while others collect food and supplies for pets at shelters. Just about any school you walk into will be in the middle of a community outreach program to help those in need. When students and staff work together to create a better community it ensures that we are all ready for tomorrow.

Visit www.hilliardschools.org to learn about other giving opportunities.



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Operating Levy can be extended into at least 2015. Hilliard City Schools has taken action to ensure lean operations while also maintaining a quality education for students. As a community we have come together to protect our investment and inspire confidence in Hilliard City Schools strong fiscal management. We continually strive to provide a strong return on your investment; the value of a "Hilliard Education" is a great source of pride for our community. Our partnership creates a strong link between the quality of our schools and the desirability to raise a family in our community.

Our work together has just begun; our journey has no destination. Preparing students to be Ready For Tomorrow is a commitment to constant reflection and improvement. So as you can see embrace, empower and inspire are alive and well in our community, and because we choose to engage all stakeholders around these principles, we can confidently say that at Hilliard City Schools we are Ready For Tomorrow.

Financial Management Stretches Levy



By Treasurer Brian Wilson

At Hilliard City Schools we know our community expects a good value for their investment. We understand that taxpayers expect resources to be used wisely and that we control operating costs where we can. This is why Hilliard City Schools' top priority is ensuring a fiscally responsible budget while providing a quality education to our students.

This is how we ensure that Hilliard City Schools is ready for tomorrow.

Since 2008, Hilliard Schools has eliminated more than \$21 million from its budget. We have implemented energy savings projects, reallocated resources and reduced expenditures where possible. Our community knows we are headed in the right direction and understands the good value that we provide.

It is because of this kind of strong fiscal management, and with the help of additional state dollars, that Hilliard City Schools is able to stretch the 2011 Operating Levy dollars an additional year.

This is great news for our school district and our community. At Hilliard City Schools we are grateful for the continued support from our taxpayers. They have consistently supported how we spend and manage the district's finances. Yet we cannot take that trust for granted. This is why we will engage with taxpayers in 2014 about future financial decisions.

We promise to continue to be good stewards of taxpayer resources while providing the kinds of opportunities today's students need to be prepared for the workforce of tomorrow. This is how Hilliard City Schools is able to provide such a great value to our community.



Ready For Tomorrow

2140 Atlas Street
Columbus, OH 43228

What's Inside



Teachers Prepare
Students for
Tomorrow



Conservative
Financial
Management
Stretches Levy
Another Year



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National Merit Recognition

Hilliard City Schools is proud to recognize 29 students who have received recognition from the National Merit Scholarship Program. Each year, more than 1.5 million students across the country enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Semifinalists

Rachel Baker, Bradley HS
Jared McCollum, Darby HS
Jason Ng, Davidson HS
Kevin Qian, Davidson HS
Elizabeth Sarkel, Davidson HS
Ellen Slater, Darby HS
Sarah Vermillion, Darby HS
Jonathan Wegener, Davidson HS

Commended Students

Kinsey Cantrell, Bradley HS
Mary Carson, Davidson HS
Abigail Connell, Darby HS
Joshua Courtney, Darby HS
Mohammed Faiz, Darby HS
Jacob Huss, Darby HS

Connor Jenkins, Bradley HS
Katherine Kallis, Darby HS
Alexander Keller, Darby HS
Aisha Keshik, Darby HS
Mark Lust, Bradley HS
Jonathan Morrison, Bradley HS
Sanjana Naidu, Darby HS
Bradley Petrella, Davidson HS
Evan Pliska, Bradley HS
Edward Powers, Davidson HS
Emily Prior, Davidson HS
Collin Ries, Davidson HS
Sounak Roy, Darby HS
Joshua Sines, Davidson HS
Nick Tarney, Bradley HS

Board of Education

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