



PASSING *notes*

K-8 2020 Work Completed



In 2006, Superintendent Dale A. McVey kicked off the High School 2020 initiative to determine the programming and curriculum necessary to provide high school students with the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in the 21st century. The recommendations that came out of this body of research included the continuation of the initiative with grades kindergarten through eight.

The committee formed to work on K-8 2020 has now completed their own research and have submitted their recommendations

to the Superintendent. More than 80 teacher and administrative volunteers and representatives from the Board of Education, Nationwide Children’s Hospital and Tolles Career Center worked together on the effort. Their challenge was to identify the educational experiences required for our younger students to be fully prepared for the future opportunities that await them in high school and beyond.

“I am extremely pleased with the K-8 2020 report and grateful to all who gave their time and expertise to this extensive research project,”

Superintendent McVey said. “Together with the work of High School 2020, we have created for our district a blueprint for success in the future.”

We already have seen great success through the implementation of some of our High School 2020 recommendations, such as our pre-engineering courses and college dual enrollment opportunities, to name just a couple. Now, we are beginning to see early results from the K-8 2020 work.

Throughout the K-8 report, a recommendation appears several times requesting a review of our elementary and middle level school building arrangements in light of the new 21st century requirements. Therefore, a study to determine the best grade level configuration in our school buildings will be conducted this coming fall with both staff and public participation.

Another initiative to come out of K-8 2020 is a 4-year planning project for eighth grade students. Beginning next year, all eighth grade students will take the ACT Explore Test, which is a career and college readiness planning assessment. Students will work with

continued on page 3

Go Blue, Be Green

Student Recycling Event Huge Success

by Superintendent Dale A. McVey

“Go Blue, Be Green” was the theme for the second annual Community Environmental Awareness Day sponsored by the District Student Advisors on Saturday, April 17 at Hilliard Darby High School. This event offered residents of the school district a drop-off location for electronics recycling and document shredding.

The event was a huge success with more than 700 vehicles dropping off recyclables and documents for shredding. Students collected three box trucks full of electronics and nearly seven tons of shredded documents - more than tripling last year's collection!

The District Student Advisors are a group of student leaders from each high school selected to be a part of the Superintendent's advisory committee. The purpose of the group is to create an ongoing, open line of communication between myself and the students of our district. As a committee, we meet five times a year to share information and discuss any concerns students may have. The group also engages in a community service project



each year, which has become the Community Environmental Awareness Day.

The event offers a multitude of educational and leadership opportunities for the students involved. Students gain real-life experience learning how to acquire and coordinate multiple sponsors and organizers; plan logistics; market and promote the day; and coordinate the various aspects of the educational festival. Of course, the

principal goal is to provide “green” alternatives to district residents, but it also provides students the chance to learn more about recycling and being environmentally friendly citizens.

I am always impressed with the extraordinary giving nature of our school community, particularly our students. This group of 27 students representing all three of our high schools embraced this event once again with enthusiasm, creativity and in partnership with the community. I am so proud of their efforts, and I commend each and every one for their leadership and commitment to the Hilliard City Schools and its greater community.



Study Planned for Fall



In response to several K-8 2020 recommendations, Hilliard City Schools will conduct a study

this coming fall to determine the best grade level configuration for our existing elementary and middle level school buildings. This study will determine if our housing needs will change as we move forward with our 21st century learning initiatives. It also will be essential to our planning for the governor's mandated all-day kindergarten.

A committee of teachers, administrators, and community members will be formed to evaluate our current grade level structures of kindergarten - fifth grade elementaries, sixth grade buildings, and seventh/eighth grade middle schools. The committee members will research the pros and cons of altering the current configuration and report their findings to the Board of Education.

The committee will begin their work in September and are expected to conclude in February 2011 with their presentation to the Board.

Financial Update

Reductions Necessary in 2010-11

As was announced in the fall, the Hilliard City School District is stretching the 2008 levy dollars one more year than expected and will not return to the ballot until 2011. It is our hope that delaying a new levy until 2011 will help residents financially and allow the economy to rebound further before we must return to the voters.

To keep our commitment to extend the levy, we said we would need to make additional reductions in the coming school years. Therefore, we have identified in excess of \$1 million in necessary reductions for the upcoming 2010-11 school year.

These reductions will draw from all three of our employee ranks: administrators, teachers and support staff. The majority of the reductions will be accomplished through reallocations and reassignments of existing staff, as well as through attrition from resignations and retirements. With the addition of these new cuts, the district has implemented more than \$8.5 million in staff reductions and department budget cuts over the past three years.

As always, we will continue to look for ways to save dollars and operate as efficiently as possible, while remaining committed to providing the highest quality education for our students.



continued from front

their guidance counselors, using these test results, to create a personalized plan for their four years of high school.

As a result of both 2020 reports, the district will see a more concerted effort to weave in 21st century skills across the curriculum. Skills identified as essential for the 21st century learner include creativity, innovation, critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration and communication.

This coming August, a professional development summit will offer all staff members the opportunity to learn more about incorporating 21st century skills into their classrooms from top national speakers specializing in 21st century learning. The district's continuous improvement plan also will focus on 21st century instructional design by upgrading instructional strategies with 21st century skills.

The outcomes from the district's 2020 initiatives have only begun to scratch the surface of what is to come. We look forward to sharing with our community the progress of 2020 as we move forward in the coming years.

Board of Education

- Andy Teater, President
- Dave Lundregan, Vice President
- Paul Lambert, Member
- Doug Maggied, Member
- Lisa Whiting, Member

Student Highlights



Nitz Takes National Merit Scholarship

Darby senior Thomas J. Nitz has won the Battelle-sponsored National Merit Scholarship. Nitz is one of only 13 central Ohio students to achieve this honor for high scores on the SAT, strong academics and a solid essay.

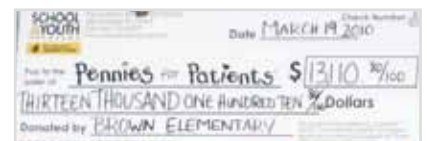


Student Artwork Takes State Honors

Davidson seniors Matt Maynard and Connor Richards had their video artwork selected as two of the top twenty-five in the 2010 Ohio Governor's Youth Art exhibition. Their artwork was selected from almost 12,000 works entered from across the state.

Brown Elementary #1 Fundraiser

Students at Brown Elementary raised more than \$13,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients program.



Brown was the #1 school in central Ohio raising the most money out of 455 schools and the #1 elementary school in the state of Ohio!

Symphonic Choir Sings in Carnegie Hall

The Bradley High School Symphonic Choir received the prestigious invitation to perform in New York City's Carnegie Hall on April 17. Thirty-five members of the choir joined other outstanding choristers from across the nation to participate in the Distinguished Concerts Singers International Choir of Distinction.

