



READY FOR TOMORROW

PASSING *notes*

Excellent with Distinction

Once again, Hilliard City Schools has earned the highest rating possible of "Excellent with Distinction," an A+, on the Ohio Department of Education's 2008-09 local report card.

"As the now eighth largest district in the state ever growing in size and diversity, this is an exceptional accomplishment," Superintendent Dale A. McVey said. "The credit goes to our hardworking students, staff and supportive community who continue to raise the bar and set the standard for excellent education in our district."

Overall, the district met 29 of the 30 indicators on the report card this year. The district's performance index score increased to 101.5, the highest score the system has ever received. A performance index score of 100 or above indicates that a large percentage of students scored within the highest performance levels of accelerated or advanced on state achievement testing.

The report card's growth calculation showed sustained improvement for all students. The growth calculation measures students' progress over

several years.

Therefore, the district also met the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculation within our diverse student groups for the second year in a row.

Each of the schools in the district also performed well individually. All 21 schools received a Performance Index Score of 94 or higher, with 6 schools rated "Excellent with Distinction," 8 schools rated "Excellent" and 6 schools rated "Effective."

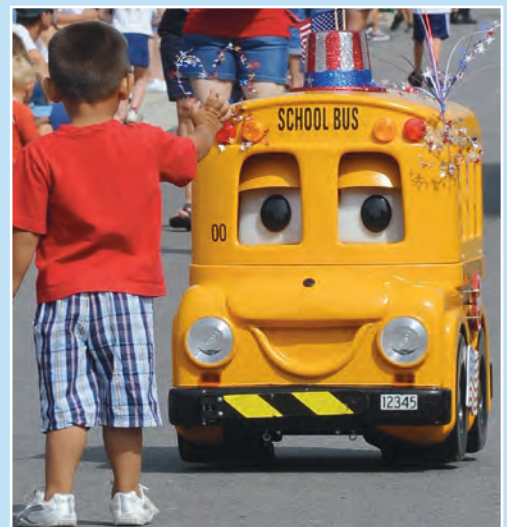


School Transportation More Efficient

Along with the staff reductions and spending cuts necessary to balance the budget last year, the Board of Education asked the administration to take a close look at the transportation department to identify possible cost-saving measures. As a result, two significant changes were made to transportation this school year to save dollars and provide more efficient service.

First, the district's transportation department maintains a fleet of 148 buses and typically services more than 3,000 bus stops each day. This year, a new bus stop consolidation plan has been implemented that increases the distance between group stops in neighborhoods for students in grades 6 - 12. This consolidation has eliminated nearly 900 bus stops from the routes and will save the district a minimum \$150,000 a year.

continued on page 3



Fond Farewell

By Denise Bobbitt, President, Board of Education



Over the last couple of months, people have asked me what I will miss about being on the Board of Education when

my term ends in December. The answer comes from what the last eight years have held.

Eight graduations...four filing drawers full of school board related papers... hundreds of concerts, plays, sporting events, award ceremonies...thousands of e-mails, letters and phone calls... learning about school funding, special education, transportation, negotiations, school safety, wellness...hearing expulsion appeals...sleepless nights... redistricting...operating levies and bond issues...Coffee with the Board... the list goes on and on.

What will I miss? Sleepless nights? No! All of the rest? Absolutely! As I think about the Hilliard City Schools over the last eight years, I am filled with pride for the accomplishments this district has achieved.

Hilliard is the 8th largest school district in Ohio and for the second year in a row has achieved an "Excellent with Distinction" rating on the state local report card.

The construction of Bradley High School which opened this fall finally eased the overcrowding at the high school

level. Built in the protected area of the Big Darby, it is a model school for EPA standards and will serve our students for decades to come.

High School 2020, the vision cast by Superintendent Dale McVey, has proved to be ahead of its time. Many of the recommendations brought forth and implemented are part of the governor's plan for high school reform.

We have well-maintained, up-to-date facilities, leading to environments that are conducive to learning. The district has 100 master teachers, of which 80 are nationally board certified. We have received national recognition for our media centers and our music programs. Several athletic teams have been recognized as state champs, and our drama students have performed at international venues.

For the continued success of our district, we must maintain a strong commitment to doing what is best for students. Education looks different than what it did eight years ago, and it will look different still eight years from now. What must remain the same is our commitment to the community's most valuable resource...its children.

Thank you for placing your trust in me the last eight years. It has been an honor and privilege serving as a board member. I will be forever grateful for the opportunities I have been afforded and deeply humbled by your support.



HCS Honored for Music Education

Hilliard City Schools has been named as one of the "Best Communities for Music Education" by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation. The district was one of only 12 in Ohio and 124 across the nation to receive this honor.

"We are thrilled to be counted among this select group of school systems," said Mark Scholl, Music Director at Davidson High School. "I am thankful to be in a place where arts are valued and resources are made available to ensure a first-rate comprehensive music program."

The "Best Communities for Music Education" acknowledges districts for their commitment and support of music education in schools. Selection for the designation is based upon many factors, including program offerings, funding, administrative and community support.

Bradley High Enjoys Smooth Opening

More than 1,500 students, parents, staff and community members from across the district attended the official opening of the new Hilliard Bradley High School on August 23. The event was full of school pride, building firsts and a strong sense of community.

Since then, the new high school has had a wonderful start to the school year. The teachers and students have settled into their new surroundings and schedules with ease. The Bradley Jaguars football team kicked off their season with two consecutive wins, despite not having a senior class. And, the high school was featured on the WTTE Fox 28 Good Day Columbus morning show as the “Cool School” of the week in mid-September.

Building Stats

1,100 Students (no seniors)

83 Teachers

Mascot: Jaguars

Colors: Royal Blue, Black, Silver, White

Located in the Wetlands of Big Darby Creek

Environmentally-friendly design, inside and out



School Transportation

continued from front

Second, the transportation department has expanded the satellite bus location at the district’s Support Services Facility. This location now houses 47 buses to better serve the school community in the south and southwestern portions of the district, while conserving fuel, saving wear and tear on buses, and reducing personnel expenses.

Another change in transportation came in late summer 2009 when it was discovered the City of Hilliard’s Main Street roundabout project would require utility and road work in front of our schools along Scioto Darby Road. In response, the district has built a temporary service road behind these three school buildings to allow buses to drop off and pick up students at the rear of the school properties.

The new bus loop is working well, not only as a safer alternative for students, but also with alleviating much of the congestion along Scioto Darby Road during school start and dismissal times. The district plans to replace the temporary service road with a permanent surface in the coming year.

Welcome to the “Real World”

Did you know juniors and seniors in our high schools have the opportunity to spend 50 hours exploring a career that is of interest to them?

Our Career Mentorship program introduces approximately 120 students each year to the realities of the workplace, while providing authentic, hands-on learning experiences. Students work side by side with profes-

sionals in businesses representing a variety of sectors – medical, accounting, communications, marketing, and education to name a few.

In addition, students spend the first half of the semester learning valuable workforce development skills, such as resume writing, interviewing, leadership, and presentation design. Students from all three high schools take

this course at Darby High School, allowing the district to streamline human and financial resources.

This program would not be possible without the support of many mentors within the district and across central Ohio. Mentors develop relationships with students that involve coaching, leadership development, advocacy, and professional friend-

ships. These relationships often prove valuable in later years as students enter the workforce and rely on their professional network.

During the State of Schools event on October 8th, the district featured local long-time business partners and mentors, Dr. David Reudrich and Dr. Michael Kelleher. We thank them for their continued support of our students.

Sign
Up

Subscribe today to receive the latest news concerning the Hilliard City School District. Hilliard eNews is a regular update sent through e-mail to subscribers. You can sign up to receive news and information from the district as well as from individual school buildings. **Subscribe online at www.hilliardschools.org/enews.**

www.hilliardschools.org

Denise Bobbitt, President
Andy Teater, Vice President
Dave Lundregan, Member
Doug Maggied, Member
Lisa Whiting, Member

Board of Education

Hilliard City Schools
5323 Cemetery Road
Hilliard, OH 43026

