



# COMMUNITY Connection

## Innovation & Communication Focus for 2014-15

By Superintendent John Marschhausen, Ph.D.

Hilliard City Schools is extremely excited to welcome nearly 16,000 students on August 19 as we officially begin the 2014-15 school year! With so many hopes and dreams of what the year may bring we are ready to empower our students and families and inspire them to become the artists, inventors and leaders of tomorrow. This is going to be a great school year with an intense focus on not only continuing our personalization of instruction through an innovative use of technology, but in being open and honest with our community about where the district is today and the challenges we will have to face together in the future.

Soon the district will release our first Quality Profile. This was one of three promises I made during last year's State of the Schools address. This report will move beyond the basics of the Ohio Department of Education Local Report Card and show how Hilliard Schools is meeting the community's goals, where we need to improve and how an innovative approach to both education and



operations can lead us in the future. This will be our first attempt at this type of dialogue with the community and thus it will not be perfect. But it will be an important step in sharing with our community the entire picture of the value a Hilliard Schools education provides.

Looking ahead to this year, we will continue to dedicate our attention to the district's academics, facility needs and finances. Technology is changing the way education can be delivered. We are embracing the power these tools can provide to enhance our personalized experience for every student. We will host community dialogues regarding our financial picture and the need for additional

resources. We will also discuss the fact that many of our schools are showing their age and the types of choices our community must make to protect this investment and address these challenges.

Finally we are not only welcoming back nearly 16,000 students but also more than 1,000 teachers, many of whom have spent their summer in professional development opportunities. Hilliard Schools offered a multitude of opportunities for teachers including the Innovative Learning Environments Conference, Academy classes and curriculum development. In addition, many teachers took advantage of experiences outside our community. These professionals are returning to classes eager to help students succeed.

Together as a community of partners, we are ready for the start of the 2014-15 school year. We are excited to see what this year will bring and eager to ensure that all Hilliard Schools students are ready for tomorrow!



Sixth Grade Science Teacher Karen Dietz uses part of her summer time developing rigorous technology tools that align with Hilliard's high curricular goals.

# Using Technology to Change the Way we Teach and Save Taxpayer Dollars

Hilliard City Schools is continuing to lead the way in education. By using technology to develop and enhance curriculum needs, Hilliard teachers can personalize education to a whole new level. This not only provides a better experience for the student, in many cases it provides a more cost effective way of doing business.

For example, during the summer months 23 teachers came together to create digital resources for six different science courses. The district was scheduled to purchase new resources, including class sets of textbooks and digital bundles. Once printed, the books can't be altered, updated or enhanced and are costly to repair or replace when they are lost or damaged.

Instead, the district's teaching professionals are developing a Learning Management System

of digital resources. "Moving to a Learning Management System is the wave of the future and it allows us to personalize content that is useful and relevant. The resources will specifically align to Ohio's new learning standards and are easily updated," said Kim Halley, chief academic officer. "In addition, the added benefit is that we can avoid more than \$530,000 in costs compared to purchasing the paper textbook packages."

"We are pretty proud of this work," noted Superintendent John Marschhausen, Ph.D. "Our teachers have considerable expertise in their area of studies and with our students. This gives them the liberty to combine all of our curricular goals that go well beyond state requirements and combine them into something that meets the high expectations of Hilliard parents and students."



# Planning for the Future and Talking to the Community

In November 2011, Hilliard City Schools' voters approved an operating levy that the district promised would keep it solvent for three fiscal years. Because of strong fiscal management and a more favorable state funding formula, that levy was stretched an additional year. Hilliard Schools is grateful for the support of the community.

Looking ahead, there are many questions that we have considered. For example, what are the district's needs for daily operations of the district and facility upkeep of the schools? How do these issues impact the community and what is the district doing now to prepare for the future? These are all important questions that Hilliard City Schools will continue to explore and discuss with the community during the coming year.

Hilliard City Schools will host a Community Conversation regarding the district's finances. This will include an open dialogue about both the operational and facility challenges that the district is facing and what may be needed in order to protect

the community's investment in its schools.

The district hopes to arrive at a decision regarding what the next ballot issue will include and when it will appear on the ballot sometime in the coming school year. While these decisions will be difficult, they will include community input as to what the future may hold for the entire community.

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Here is a brief summary of the needs we know exist within the district.

## Building Upkeep Needs

Just as with any home, our schools need regular upkeep and maintenance. Parking lots need to be replaced, leaky roofs need repairs and regular maintenance is needed inside our schools similar to what a normal homeowner faces. As the district has aged so have the schools

and as a community we must discuss not only these needs, but the best way to address these concerns to protect these investments.

## Day-to-Day Operating Needs

As a community we also need to discuss the day-to-day operating needs of the district. Strong schools go hand in hand with strong communities. Stretching the last levy an additional year has certainly helped. But even with our lean operations, the district will need to seek additional funding to maintain the excellent value to the community and keep our schools strong.

## Community Conversation

Please join the Hilliard City Schools Board of Education as well as school leaders for an important Community Conversation regarding the district's finances. It will be held on Monday, September 8 at Britton Elementary School, 4501 Britton Parkway in Hilliard from 6-7 p.m. A regular board meeting will follow at 7 p.m. The conversation will include important information from the district as well as the opportunity to address community questions.



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## *What's Inside*

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## *State Grant Promotes Innovation for Jobs of Tomorrow*

New this year to the McVey Innovative Learning Center is the addition of Academy MD. Thanks to a nearly \$1 million grant from the State's *Straight A Fund* as well as great partnerships with Tolles Career and Technical Center and Columbus State, Hilliard City Schools is expanding its medical field opportunities for students.

During the two-year program, students can earn up to four elective credits while also learning technical skills for industry specific certificates

and/or up to 10.5 hours of college credits related to: Clinical Medical Assistant, Medical Administrative Assistant, Health Information Management, Phlebotomist Lab Technician and EKG Technician.

**Learn more about Academy MD  
and the ILC online.**



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