



COMMUNITY Connection

Communications, Excellence are Key For Hilliard Schools

By Superintendent John Marschhausen, Ph.D.

This has been a great year for our Hilliard Schools. While students may be headed full board into summer the teachers and staff at Hilliard remain as energized and focused as ever.

Here's what I mean.

Throughout this year we have challenged each other to be innovative and creative in how we educate students. In fact, I doubt that any district is innovating like Hilliard is right now. The Innovative Learning Center is a great example of that and is fast becoming the model for the integration of technology and education. We are proud that we are on the cusp of delivering education in new and innovative ways and at a lean cost. That's something that should make us proud.

Looking ahead to this next school year we will begin to discuss more openly the district's finances. We run a lean and conservative budget and are doing a great job managing our limited funds. In fact, we stretched our levy to last one year beyond what we promised to voters. That's fantastic news.

district will host conversations with the community. Residents can and must continue to be an important part of this school system and we invite you to plan on being a part of this discussion.

In the meantime, thank you for making this a great year for our students and



Coming up, we intend to have some conversations with the community about what comes next in terms of the next levy. Although that is a little way off, 2015 in fact, the planning starts now. To facilitate that, the

schools. In addition, thank you for welcoming my family and me. We too have had a great year. There is nothing more energizing than being among residents who believe in excellence and love innovation.



Advice for the class of 2027

It's hard to believe the little ones who will enter kindergarten in the fall are part of the graduating class of 2027. Those first days of school bring back so many memories. We asked the J.W. Reason Elementary kindergarten students for some advice.

The first thing every student talked about was being nice. They say being

right away, that's what the teachers will help with. You can see the student's advice video at hilliardschools.org.

So what advice do teachers have for parents? First talk to your child about what to expect at school. Tell them how they will get to and from school, who the teacher will be and what they can expect on the first day.

nice will help you make friends and that helps with the nerves. Others said don't worry about knowing how to read

You can help get your student ready by encouraging pretend play with other children, read every day, talk about the words in books, ask what will happen next and make up stories. Provide pencils, markers, crayons and paper for drawing and "writing."

Even though your own emotions may run high, you should try to keep things as normal as possible. Share the excitement, but keep expectations under control.



Cutting Edge Learning

Hilliard Schools has spent much time implementing and exploring the impact of digital learning. We know that to give students an advantage in their post-Hilliard career we have to be more aggressive with integrating technology. Hilliard is not only doing this but the district is leading the way while making it cost effective.

"We get calls all the time from other districts who are amazed at what we are doing with technology," stated Superintendent John Marschhausen, Ph.D. "Not only are we integrating

technology to improve academics for students but we are doing so in a very cost effective way."

Last October, Marschhausen initiated a full study and review of technology in the district. The task force he created involved students, parents, community members and staff.

"Involving the community in our schools is critical for the future success of our students," stated Marschhausen. "In developing curriculum and implementing technology, we also

have to involve students."

After extensive research and evaluation, the task force found the district should expand to a 1:1 initiative: one technology device per student. This will allow the district to save money by reducing the amount of paper resources purchased.

More detailed findings and videos on learning with technology can be found at hilliardschools.org/techconnect.





Summer Improvement Projects

Throughout the summer months our district employees work to maintain and repair our schools and facilities. In Hilliard City Schools, that ongoing work is funded by a permanent improvement levy that was approved by voters in 2006.

"We carefully plan the work for these projects," stated Tim

Hamilton, assistant superintendent. "That's especially critical since these funds are always so tight and because they have to cover planned maintenance

as well as unforeseen repairs. Much like a home, we have to provide upkeep to our schools so that they last as long as possible."

This summer, blacktop projects include the first phase of Davidson's parking lot and the start of the Heritage parking lot. The estimated cost for the

entire Davidson project is \$3.4 million. We will also begin the renovation of two high school tracks, carpeting classrooms and replacing fences.

"We have done a great job stretching and maximizing these dollars but we are up against some schools that are getting older," stated Superintendent John Marschhausen.

In the fall, Marschhausen will host a financial planning community meeting. This will be your chance to give input into how the district spends tax dollars and learn what the needs will be in the next few years.

District on Track to Extend Levy One Year

Earlier this year, Superintendent John Marschhausen announced that the district is on track to extend the 2011 operating levy by one additional year. Recently, the treasurer provided an update to the board reaffirming the news. "The board and district heard voters in that last election," stated Treasurer Brian Wilson. "They wanted the district to be lean and to share in the sacrifice of these times. So that is what we have done."

Since fiscal year 2011 the district has kept the compounded annual growth rate of expenditures below one percent. This has helped reduce future spending and extended the levy.

"Times are still challenging and we continue to lobby the state on behalf of our taxpayers, while we continue to operate in a frugal manner."



Wilson noted that the next major update to the district's finances will occur in October. At that time, the board will approve the five-year financial forecast. The forecast is the financial planning document that allocates

funds to the district's educational programs and initiatives. That forecast will continue to show a delay by one year of the levy.



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What's Inside

Advice for Class of
2027



Cutting Edge
Learning



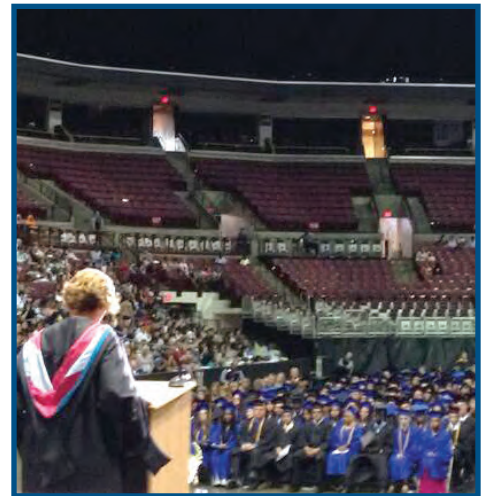
Levy Extended
Another Year



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Class of 2014

The Hilliard City School District would like to congratulate the 1,117 seniors who graduated this year. This outstanding graduating class earned more than \$33.5 million in scholarship

offers and accepted more than \$18.5 million. Superintendent John Marschhausen said all three classes of 2014 represent "a talented, diverse and accomplished group of graduates.

These new alumni truly represent Hilliard's desire to embrace, empower and inspire students to achieve at the highest level."

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