



HILLIARD CITY SCHOOLS

Ready For Tomorrow

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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Certainly, the biggest success of last year is the persistence and dedication shown by our students and staff. We have all been challenged, and we will continue to work collaboratively to meet any new challenges moving forward. We have learned that technology provides exciting opportunities to extend learning. Still, it will never replace the value of people in safe but rigorous learning spaces talking, playing, and working together.

What I want this year is the opportunity for educators to connect with our students. We will continue to balance our focus both on student achievement and well-being to ensure we meet the needs of the students as we prepare each one to be Ready for Tomorrow. I want us to provide rigorous, innovative, and personalized learning because we all know that when children feel a connection to their school and their

teacher, and when their education is connected to their interests, they learn more.

When I look forward, I can't help but see just how wonderfully diverse our school district is. We have multiple languages, cultures, and lived experiences. Yet, we remain steadfast in our mission to prepare the next generation of global citizens to prosper and thrive in a world that will demand critical thinking skills and competencies and the ability to connect with constituencies from all over the world.

On behalf of the Board of Education as well as our nearly 2000 employees, I thank you for the opportunity to serve the students, families, and community members of the Hilliard City Schools.



David Stewart, Superintendent

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NEW PARTNERSHIP LETS STUDENTS TAKE FLIGHT

In partnership with The Ohio State University and Dublin City Schools, Hilliard City Schools is launching the Taxi to Takeoff!! Aviation Academy program this year.

"We're excited for our students to have the chance to explore future career paths in aviation. From pilot to mechanic to administrator, there are a lot of opportunities across the industry," said John Badow, Director of Outreach and Engagement.

In fact, Boeing predicts that by 2039, North America alone will need 208,000 new pilots, 192,000 new technicians, and 169,000 cabin crew members to satisfy the industry's growing demand.

Students will take courses through The Ohio State University's Center for Aviation Studies. Upon completion, students will be awarded

eight credit hours, receive a graduation certificate, and be eligible for the FAA Knowledge Test for drone pilots.

There will be an information night held at the OSU Airport on December 7th. Interested students should talk to their counselors to learn more about this event and program.





TREASURER'S UPDATE - FLAT FUNDING FROM STATE CONTINUES

House Bill 110, otherwise known as Ohio's two-year budget bill (covering Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023), was signed into law on June 30.

As part of this bill, the Fair School Funding Plan, which is expected to create a more equitable, stable, and predictable revenue stream for Ohio's schools, went into effect. Upon closer inspection, however, Hilliard Schools is not expected to see a significant increase in its overall budget due to this new funding model.

"It's still too early to say with certainty, but early calculations show our district receiving the same amount of funding it does today over the next two years," said Brian Wilson, Treasurer. "If the legislature continues phasing in the new formula in the next budget, we will have flat funding for an additional two years after this."

While this isn't the news the district hoped for, ESSER funds, which are one-time monies

allocated by the federal government to address the impact of COVID-19, are continuing to help the district maintain a lean budget.

Board of Education Member Mark Abate said, "These funds enabled our schools to reopen safely last year and covered additional expenses that were not part of our original budget. ESSER monies have also been instrumental in keeping our buildings open this school year safely and have benefited students in a variety of ways."

Being good stewards of taxpayer dollars, including maintaining transparency, remains a top priority for Hilliard Schools.

"We will continue to manage our finances the way we always have — by focusing on maximizing resources in the classroom," said Abate.



HILLIARD PRESCHOOL EXPANDING

Hilliard City Schools will nearly double its special needs preschool capacity beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, thanks to an expansion taking place on the Alton Darby Creek Campus.

The need for additional preschool space was highlighted by the Master Facilities Planning process last year, which highlighted the need to increase capacity for our special needs students. The process included input from Hilliard residents through a survey, public meetings, and a steering committee comprised of community members and internal stakeholders.

The 10,400 square-foot project will add eight classrooms, bringing the total to 20. Construction will be complete in July of next year.

"We're making the best use of our resources by centrally locating all preschool staff on the new Alton Darby Creek Campus," said Cliff Hetzel, Chief Operating Officer. "Additionally, we're breaking ground in late fall, a non-traditional time for new construction, hoping to gain a market advantage at a downtime for contractors to help stretch our dollars."

Hilliard's special needs preschool serves children ages three to six who have a delay in one or more developmental areas, as well as peer models. The goal is to better prepare children and their families for school-age opportunities through play and social interactions. The teachers follow the Ohio Department of Education's Early Learning Standards to provide a rigorous early childhood academic foundation.



MEDIA CENTERS REIMAGINED

Hilliard Schools unveiled 16 Innovation and Discovery Centers (IDCs) across all 14 elementary schools and Station and Tharp sixth-grade buildings at the start of the 2021-2022 school year. The IDCs were once known as the Media Center, a space where children could read quietly and complete small group work. Now you'll find students actively engaged in learning through hands-on experimentation.

"Our vision is that the IDCs will be a place for students to get excited about learning and let their dreams come to life while keeping a focus on literacy and informational skills," said Mark Pohlman, Director of Instructional Technology. "It's a place where they can try new things, fail and learn from their mistakes, collaborate, and build and tear things apart."

The Centers will eventually be separated into seven zones. Two of these zones — Science and Creation — were introduced this year. The Science Zone, by design, supports the curriculum taught in the classroom. At the same time, the Creation Zone features Legos®, light tables, tinker sets, and arts and crafts materials so students can use their imagination to invent whatever they choose.

Pohlman said, "The focus of our innovation and discovery specialists this year is building relationships with teachers throughout their respective buildings. We want to help students build upon what they are learning in the classroom but also spark new ideas that students can take back to the classroom."



EXPO INTRODUCES STUDENTS TO SKILLED TRADES

In partnership with the Ohio Contractors Association, the Associated General Contractors of America, and the Building Trades Council, Hilliard City Schools is hosting a Skilled Trades Expo in October.

The goal? To educate our students about career pathways through hands-on experiences. More than 3,000 Hilliard high school and Tolles Career and Technical Center students attended the event, where they learned about skilled trades like bricklaying, carpentry, masonry, roofing, and plumbing. While many job sectors have reported slow to no job growth since the start of the pandemic, the skilled trades industry is seeing a boom across the nation offering high wages, articulated college credit, and immediate employment.

"College is not the only option, and we feel this was a unique way to expand interest in the skilled trades industry," said Mark Tremayne, Director of Innovation and Extended Learning. "We hope this is the first of many new opportunities for students to explore various pathways."



Hilliard City School District

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