

A Message from the Superintendent

Given the significant changes to the state assessments in Ohio I want to provide an update about what the current changes will look like for all students this spring. The Ohio Department of Education and the State Legislature continue to discuss, modify, and tweak Ohio's assessment and testing schedule for this academic school year. As recently as last month, the Legislature discussed proposed changes in



Social Studies. These assessments will be administered in Social Studies to all 4th and 6th grade students. In Science they will be administered to all 5th and 8th grade students. For more information regarding these assessments please visit <http://oh.portal.airast.org>.

Also, new this spring is that all 9th graders will take performance-based and end-of-course assessments in English 9, and Algebra I, Geometry or Algebra II, and Physical Science or Biology. Additionally, any student enrolled in U.S. History will take the performance-based and end-of-year assessment for the course. These new end-of-course assessments will increase to include additional courses and will replace the 10th grade Ohio Graduation Test (OGT). For this academic school year, all 10th graders will be taking the Ohio Graduation Test and will need to successfully pass these assessments to graduate.

We are remaining poised and patient during this dynamic time of change. I think it is important that we also recognize that these assessments are but one measure of student, school, and district success. We will provide more information, as well as face-to-face meetings, with parents and staff about the final testing schedules and details as these dates draw near. We will also continue to collaborate with all staff to help ensure that our students are as prepared as possible going forward. ❖

Sincerely,

Andrew K. Culp
Superintendent

accountability and testing requirements for all districts in Ohio.

Grandview Heights City Schools have historically done very well on Ohio's Achievement Assessments.

The landscape for assessments is altogether new this year and likely will have implications on district results throughout the state.

Ohio has adopted the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments. These assessments are aligned to a more rigorous set of state standards, are computer based, and will require students to synthesize, apply their knowledge, and think more deeply. There are two different types of PARCC assessments. The first is a "Performance-Based Assessment" to be offered February 16 - March 20 and the second is an "End-of-Year Assessment" to be offered April 13 - May 15. All third graders will take the third grade reading OAA in the spring. More information about these assessments can be found online at www.parcconline.org/practice-tests.

Another new assessment that all districts will be administering this spring is Ohio's Computer Based Assessments (OCBA) in Science and



Students, Staff Turn Out for Annual Grandview Heights Pumpkin Run



Students and staff displayed their community spirit by participating in the Grandview Heights Parks and Recreation annual Pumpkin Run on Saturday, October 25. Many staff members sported costumes while sprinting through Grandview.



Seventh grade science teacher, Lana Williamson, reaches the finish line.

Meet Grandview Heights' New Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jamie Lusher

The Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff communities are lucky to have such wonderful teachers and administrators who inspire students and personalize their education, ensuring every child learns and grows to meet their fullest potential. Grandview Heights Schools is proud to welcome Dr. Jamie Lusher this year to join our team as the Chief Academic Officer.

Dr. Lusher brings over fourteen years of experience to our school district and has served in many capacities in her career as a classroom teacher, principal, and administrator. She also serves as an Adjunct Professor at Ashland University



where she uses her experience and expertise to mentor and teach fellow educators. Before joining the educational leadership team at Grandview Heights, she was the Coordinator of Academic Achievement and District Literacy Coordinator for Worthington City Schools.

As Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Lusher is charged with advancing the school district's academic programs and focusing on teaching and learning to benefit the unique needs of every child. We are delighted to welcome her to the Grandview Heights Schools' team. ❖

TED X Speaker Inspires GHHS Students Through Our PBIS Initiatives



The students of Grandview Heights High School were afforded the opportunity to hear a presentation from Alex Shen, founder of *Because I Said I Would*, which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bettering humanity through promises made and kept. Part of this movement involves people writing down a promise and sending it to the person to whom they are committing their promise.

We had a range of emotions as some students were brought to tears, some laughed, and a high majority of students reported leaving inspired.

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Through our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports) initiatives at GHHS we have worked hard to identify and implement ways to emphasize what we call *The Bobcat Way*. Our vision is building a culture of individual students who are Inclusive, Invested, Independent, Responsible, and Motivated. As we continue to increase the level of priority on college and career readiness, we are also reminded of the fact that soft skills (or

non-cognitive skills) have resurfaced in research as strong success predictors in the workplace. Being able to show resolve and demonstrate grit are only a few of those qualities and skills that were highlighted in this presentation.

To learn more about the *Because I Said I Would* organization, please visit their website at: <http://becauseisaidiwould.com/>

In total, 2.3 million promise cards have been sent to over 138 different countries. Alex has been featured as a TED X speaker, in school presentations across the country, and in various national media outlets. Alex gave specific examples from his own life and relevant examples from the lives of others focused on promises made and kept to better the lives of others. We had a range of emotions as some students were brought

The Bobcat Way

Inclusive

Invested

Independent

Responsible

Motivated



For twenty years plus Grandview Heights eighth grade students have traveled annually to Washington, D.C. Students spend three days and two nights visiting memorials, the Smithsonian, and other areas of interest. Educationally and socially the trip is a high point and memorable event in a student's middle school experience. The PTO and parents lend their support in helping any students who wish to attend by providing scholarship opportunities.

This year's eighth grade students are pictured at left near the nation's Capitol building.

BCTV Delivers News to Students and Staff for 16 Years Strong

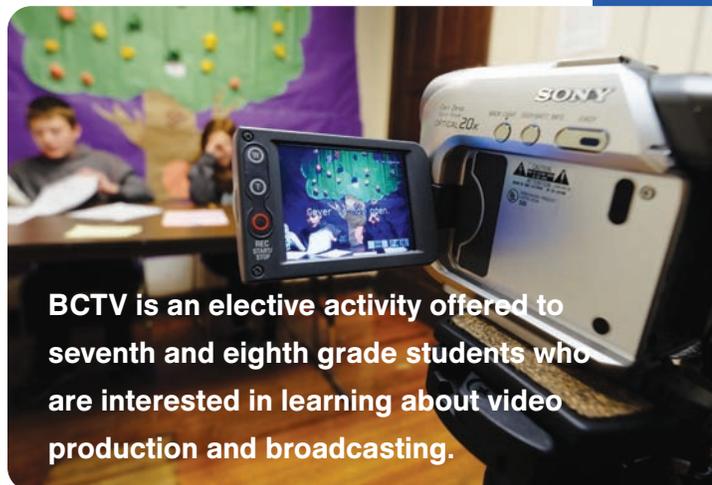
Come to the BCTV room on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday morning and you might think you've entered a real newsroom. There is a flurry of activity as the BCTV crew prepares to deliver the daily announcements to Edison Intermediate/Larry Larson Middle School students and staff. The students are busy doing script 'run-throughs,' organizing announcements, and making last minute changes. By 8:01 a.m. the hustle and bustle subsides, 'Bobcasters' take their places and it's "Lights! Camera! Action!"

Bobcat Television, also known as BCTV, is in its 16th year of production and is taught by teacher Megan Brady. BCTV is an elective activity offered to seventh and eighth grade students who are interested in learning about video production and broadcasting.

BCTV is a unique activity designed to empower students by giving them

ownership of all aspects of producing a live show. Everyone involved has an equal opportunity to contribute ideas and try their hand at planning, producing, and broadcasting. If you walked into a meeting, you would find groups of students working on anything from writing scripts, to creating scene backdrops, to editing video clips. Others might be off interviewing a teacher or attending a student council meeting so they can report on what is happening around the school.

From the first meeting, the crew is told by Mrs. Brady, "You are signing up for the serious responsibility of representing this school. This is your show. It is up to you to make it great." The BCTV crew has taken this statement to heart. They



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collaborate to find ways to bring enthusiasm and humor to the news and always in a respectful way. The talents they are developing and the lessons they are learning about working together and sharing responsibility will certainly prepare them for bright futures ahead. ❖

A Message from the Treasurer

Grandview Heights Schools Remain Committed to Operational Efficiencies

Our school district has many outstanding traditions. One of these important traditions is fiscal management and the partnership we have with the community to ensure our school district remains on a path of financial stability. We would not be able to provide the excellent programs and schools we have here in Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff without your support. **Thank You, Voters!**

The passage of the levy last year also renews Grandview Heights' commitment to remain ever vigilant to ongoing belt tightening and efficiencies. To best illustrate this commitment, we plan to share with you exactly what we are doing to maintain excellent schools at a good value to taxpayers on a regular basis.

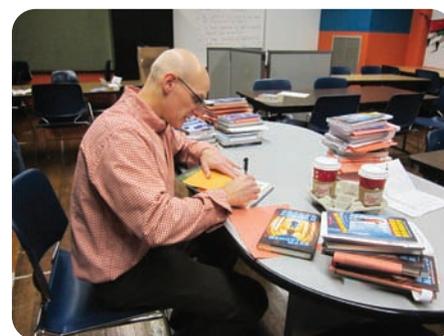
There's a lot of pressure on school districts these days to continually

analyze their budgets and to streamline operations. In Grandview Heights Schools, it's not just something we promise, but something we put into action. In fact, my own department was recently reorganized resulting in significant cost-savings to the district.

Being more efficient on the business end of our schools leaves more resources to be directed towards student achievement. As we plan for the financial future, residents can be confident that their tax dollars are being well spent on great teachers, staff, and student instruction. ❖

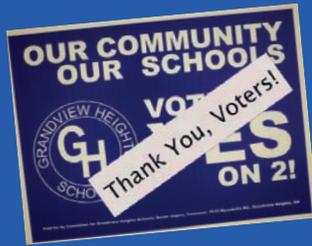


Beth Collier
Beth Collier, Treasurer



Gordon Korman, a New York Times best-selling author of children's and young adult books, visited Edison Intermediate/Larry Larson Middle School on November 14, 2014.





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 **We Want to Hear from You**
Your feedback is important to us as we strive to maintain and improve our excellent schools. Here's how to join in on the conversation:

 **Call:** (614) 481-3600
Email: superintendent@ghcsd.org
 **Twitter:** @CulpAndy

 **In person:** Have coffee with the superintendent from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. every third Friday of the month, at Marshall's in Grandview, located at 1105 West First Avenue.

Grandview Heights City School District
1587 West Third Avenue
Grandview Heights, OH 43212



www.ghcsd.org

Imagining Students' Futures: *Innovation Generation*

Imagine an education program that allows students to explore their interests earlier, obtain workplace experience while in high school, and graduate with a head start on college. If you can imagine all of that, you've imagined ***Innovation Generation***.

Innovation Generation is a unique collaboration of 15 Ohio school districts, businesses, and higher education partners to help students gain the skills needed after high school. The career- and college-readiness initiative offers students a pathway into some of the region's most vital industry sectors.

Students at Grandview Heights High School have the opportunity to pursue, alongside their regular courses, one of three pathways: Advanced Manufacturing, Networking & Digital Technology, or Academy M.D.

Advanced Manufacturing students gain hands-on experience by working with industry-leading technology and software, such as a 3D printer and a robotic arm in Grandview Heights City Schools' MIT Mobile Fab Lab, along with their advanced manufacturing coursework.



Networking & Digital Technology students learn about network applications, telecommunications, computer and network security as well as database security preparing them for careers as an IT specialist, system developer, or Cisco communications engineer.

Academy M.D. students participate in a two-year experience, in partnership with a number of local

medical and pharmaceutical organizations, where students benefit from in-depth coursework and on-site internships.

"By encouraging our students to find their passions and interests early in their lives, we help them navigate a path to a successful, fulfilling career in the future," said Superintendent Andy Culp.

To find out more about the pathways and how to participate in the 2015-2016 school year, contact Grandview Heights High School Counselor **Bryan Stork** at **481-3620** or via email at **bryan.stork@ghcsd.org**. For more information about the initiative, go to **innovationgenerationohio.com**.