



EST. 1906

# GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS SCHOOLS



www.ghcsd.org | 1587 WEST THIRD AVENUE | COLUMBUS, OH 43212 | (614) 485-4015

FALL 2016

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

### Dear Grandview Heights Schools Community,

At Grandview Heights Schools, the learning never stops. In this issue you will learn about the innovative ways our students and staff members engaged in learning over the summer months. From Camp Invention to a Caribbean Island to educational conferences, our students and staff members found unique opportunities to explore and share new ideas and thinking.

Now, it's time to welcome a new school year at Grandview Heights Schools. The 2016-2017 year promises to deliver even more of what our mission demands: to maximize and personalize every student's learning.

Last school year, we identified a Continuous Improvement Plan, which guides our instructional vision for the future. Ultimately, this work will ensure our students can compete globally and succeed consistently in tomorrow's world.

#### Here's how:

We are evolving our curriculum and teaching methods to ensure college and career preparedness, empowering our students to lead and achieve in an increasingly competitive world.

We are creating personalized

learning experiences with and for our students to help challenge and prepare them for their future, encouraging them to reach their full potential.

We are designing and implementing innovative learning spaces and increasing technology in our facilities to ensure a solid infrastructure.

The plans we have in place for this school year are what enables Grandview Heights Schools to be "A Small Place to Dream Big." I look forward to all that the 2016-2017 school year has to offer and thank our students, staff, families, and residents for their continued support.

Sincerely,

Andrew K. Culp  
Superintendent



## Middle School Students Dive Into Study of Science, Culture on Caribbean Island



This summer, 20 Larson Middle School students traveled to the Caribbean island of Bonaire to participate in a fish and reef study program and to learn about the local culture. Grandview Heights High School Science teacher Jeremy Rummer wanted to provide middle school students with an opportunity to travel and learn more about ocean life, including scuba diving. Teachers Cheri Brown, Naome Allison, Meredith Lenz, and Doug Page, as well as volunteer Pete Precario, helped Mr. Rummer organize and lead the trip, providing lessons about the history and culture of the island. The teachers and students spent a week scuba diving, snorkeling, hiking, bird-watching, and traveling from one end of the island to the other, taking in the uniqueness of this small Caribbean island.

Students also had the opportunity to earn .5 high school Science credit while in Bonaire. In addition to attending classes each day, they were required to choose a research topic, schedule interviews with experts on the island, and then upon their return home prepare final reports and create a visual component to share.



# Residents, Staff Turn Out for FIRST FACILITIES PLANNING PROCESS MEETING

**G**randview Heights Schools welcomed more than 175 guests to the first Community Facilities Planning Process meeting on Wednesday evening, August 24, 2016. The audience included parents, residents, community members, district staff, and students.



The goals of this planning process are to determine if our school buildings are up to standards when it comes to student learning and safety and to also ensure that we are spending taxpayer dollars wisely when it comes to maintaining our aging buildings.

## At the meeting, participants reviewed three main objectives:

An exploration of the question “Why are we here?” and current teaching and learning expectations; an overview of the educational planning process and schedule and where we are in that process; and a review of the results of the comprehensive facility assessments completed by Harrison Planning Group (HPG).

What the future holds for our school buildings depends on the participation and input of our community. Community members were given the opportunity to ask questions and share what aspects they think need to be a part of this important process. No decisions have been made at this time and we hope residents continue to join the conversation.

For those who were not able to attend the meeting, the presentations and a video of the meeting can be viewed at: <http://link.ghcsd.org/facilities>. This page is a dedicated addition to our district website that will offer transparency, better communication, and provide accurate and consistent information.

**The next Community Engagement Meetings will be the Building Team Level Meetings. The upcoming dates are:**

FACILITY PLANNING PROCESS

**Stevenson Elementary – Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., with building tours available from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.**

**Edison Intermediate/Larson Middle School – Monday, October 24, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., with building tours available from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.**

**Grandview Heights High School – Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., with building tours available from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.**

Please continue to “Join the Conversation” and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [superintendent@ghcsd.org](mailto:superintendent@ghcsd.org).

## District Hosts *Camp Invention*, SPARKS SUMMER CREATIVITY



In June, over 50 students in grades 1-6 participated in the district's first *Camp Invention* at Edison Intermediate/Larson Middle School demonstrating once again how Grandview Heights Schools is a small place to dream big.

*Camp Invention*, created by the National Inventors Hall of Fame, is the only nationally recognized summer program focused on creativity, innovation, real-world problem solving, and the spirit of invention.

Campers explored their way through various activities, experiments, endeavors, and exercises to spark creativity and learning in chemistry, physical science, biology, environmental science, and engineering.

## Summer Conference Inspires Educators to **THINK DIFFERENTLY**

In August, Grandview Heights Schools partnered with the Hilliard City Schools to lead and provide the Innovative Learning Environments (ILE) Conference at Hilliard Bradley High School. For three days, colleagues from around the state of Ohio, as well as various parts of the country, participated in learning opportunities focused on the latest best practices for educators. Superintendent Andy Culp served as a keynote speaker alongside Jim Tressel and Author John Gordon. In addition, Grandview Heights Schools teachers Megan Brady and Elizabeth Page led various sessions where they shared strategies that are making a difference in their classrooms.

Conference Director and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jamie Lusher said, "The ILE Conference provided staff with the added value time to collaborate and actualize learning into engaging opportunities for our students."



## Senior Explore Program Allows **Students to EXPLORE PASSIONS, UNLOCK POTENTIAL**

Grandview Heights High School is excited to announce a new addition to the curriculum that will allow students to chart their own path. The Senior Explore Program is an independent study workshop where students can explore passions and increase knowledge in an independent manner.

"The Senior Explore Program gives students an opportunity to have a more personalized and hands-on learning experience," stated Superintendent Andy Culp. "They can choose an initiative, whether it be composing a musical score or creating a nonprofit to raise funds for Alzheimer's or cancer research, and figure out how to make it happen."



The completed project or product will be the result of their own individual efforts to explore and define a topic or item. It is a chance for students to strike out on their own and do their part to influence or change the world around them.

Seniors will collaborate with teacher Tony Thivener, Director of 21st Century Learning Marc Alter, and Principal Ken Chaffin along the way, and will work with community members to design their experiences.

"We are excited about the new Senior Explore Program," added Chaffin. "It's the preparation they need to be ready for today's colleges and careers."

## Celebrating **INCLUSIVENESS**

In July, five Stevenson Elementary staff members presented at the annual Batten Disease Support and Research Association (BDSRA) Conference in St Louis, MO. Teachers Hope McDonald, Liz Weaver, and Paraprofessional Kelsey Starr (pictured) presented to families, researchers, and medical specialists about the inclusive model Stevenson Elementary uses in educating all of our students and embracing their families.

The teachers, along with Principal Angie Ullum and then Director of Student Services Jennifer Haddow, were recognized at the final banquet for providing an outstanding model of special education and utilizing inclusive practices. BDSRA Director Dr. Margie Frazier stated, "I have been to 26 countries (for this disease) and have never seen anything like this in education!" These staff members then received a standing ovation from the audience.





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## MAXIMIZING TAX DOLLARS



In today's economic realities, value is a word we are hearing more often. In a nutshell, taxpayers expect value and results for their investment in their schools.

Here in Grandview Heights Schools, we are able to offer our students an excellent education at a good value for taxpayers.

Grandview Heights Schools has the 5th lowest school tax rate in Franklin County. This means our residents are paying lower school taxes and getting a great return on their investment.

Over 73% of our funds are spent on classroom instruction. In fact, we rank 6th out of 276 similar size districts when it comes to maximizing classroom spending. That's money that keeps our class sizes small, provides more individualized instruction for students, and employs some of the best teachers in the state.

As well, the Auditor of State has recognized our school district for our perfect record keeping. Residents can be confident in knowing that every dollar contributed to the operations of our

schools has been accounted for.

We are pleased to share this information as affirmation that we are achieving our district goal

of managing financial resources in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner in order to meet the academic goals of the district. But we also recognize that it is important to continue to look for ways to streamline our operations where possible. In fact, we have realized more than \$175,000 in savings over the last two years as a result of strong fiscal management. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [beth.collier@ghcsd.org](mailto:beth.collier@ghcsd.org) or 614-485-4021.

Beth Collier, Treasurer

