

SPORTS

Sports schedules for the 2003-04 can be mailed to you at your request. Please call the athletic office at 419-523-6220 if you wish to receive a high school sports schedule, for Ottawa Elementary, please call 419-523-4290 and for Glandorf Elementary, please call 419-538-6880.

Schedules can also be found on the district's web site at

<http://og.noacsc.org>

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

A question educators hear quite often during June, July and August is, "How is your summer going?" This summer the best answer to that question is, "Busy." A normal summer for a superintendent usually goes something like this: The early part of June is hectic as we finish out the school year. As June winds down, things get quieter as the students and teachers are on vacation. July is the time to try to catch up on paper work and squeeze in a vacation. In August, things start to get hectic again as the teachers return to get their classrooms ready and students begin fall sports practices.

This summer was definitely different from most summers. The building project at the high school is the reason. Between meetings with the contractors, selecting colors, picking out furniture and praying for the rain to stop, we have been very busy. The effort, however, is worth it! When this project is complete, we will have a building to be very proud of. Your support of this project is greatly appreciated. To view pictures of the construction, please visit our website at:

<http://og.noacsc.org/OG/construc.html>

Each year public schools face new challenges. A recent change is the Ninth Grade Proficiency Test has been replaced with the Ohio Graduation Test. This test has different outcomes, which will require curriculum and instructional changes. The requirements of the "No Child Left Behind Act" will cause schools to make major policy

CALENDARS

Recently, you should have received the district's 2002-03 Annual Report/2003-04 Back-to-School Calendar. Please contact the administrative offices at 419-523-5261 if you did not receive a copy. Also, additional calendars can be mailed to you at your request, while supply is available.

BOARD NOTICE

The Putnam County Board of Elections will be accepting petitions for school board members through Thursday, August 21, 2003. Any interested district residents should contact us for additional information.

changes and re-evaluate their hiring practices. In addition, no new funding is attached to these mandates. Our district continues to lose state and federal funds.

It is easy to complain about the difficulties we face. But, as we all know, it doesn't solve our problems. When it looks like the challenges are going to be too much to overcome, I look into our classrooms. I see a dedicated staff committed to the education of our children. I see students working hard to learn the concepts being taught. I see volunteers working in our buildings helping in many ways. If we all work together and do what is best for our students, everything will be just fine.

The beginning of the school year is almost here. I encourage you to visit the schools to see what goes on in our classrooms. Our students have many talents both in the classroom and in extra-curricular activities.

Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions about the [Titan Tradition](#). Also, if you have any questions or concerns about the school district, please contact me. My telephone number is 419-523-5261 and my e-mail address is og_supt@noacsc.org.

Sincerely,
David Lewis
Superintendent

Non-Profit Organization
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Permit No. 26

CURRENT RESIDENT



TITAN TRADITION

Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools



August, 2003

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: What This Means for our Schools

Mary Jo Williams
Director of Special Services

On December 2, 2002, the final regulations were released for the enactment of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, known as No Child Left Behind. This landmark legislation significantly expands the role of the federal government in primary and secondary education, and has important implications for all schools including small rural districts such as ours.

One important change that you will notice will be in the area of accountability and the state report card that has been issued in recent years describing the effectiveness of the district in comparison to other districts in the state of Ohio. No Child Left Behind requires that states report the previous year's results prior to the next school year. It also requires that the results are reported for individual buildings in the district, not just for the district results averaged across all buildings. For this reason, individual buildings will receive designations (excellent, effective, continuous improvement, academic watch, or academic emergency) this year.

The Ohio Department of Education will release final Local Report Card designations on its web site (www.ode.state.oh.us) when the data are completely verified and final. The tentative release date is scheduled for mid-August. It will take a few weeks beyond this initial release date to prepare and send this information to your homes, but we are told that this will likely occur in October, 2003.

One component of calculating this designation is Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) criteria, which requires a certain level of proficiency on state assessments for all students, including subgroups of students such as minorities, students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency. You will notice that this year the results for certain groups of students will be listed separately unless there are too few students in a subgroup for the data to be statistically meaningful.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ August 21, 2003
Glandorf Elementary Open House, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- ▶ August 21, 2003
Ottawa Elementary Open House, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ August 25, 2003
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
- ▶ August 27 and 28, 2003
Titan T.I.K.E.S. Preschool Orientation
- ▶ August 29, 2003
Civil War Encampment at Glandorf Park Festival
Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 from Glandorf Elementary, Ottawa Elementary and Sts. Peter and Paul will participate in the afternoon.
- ▶ September 1, 2003
NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
- ▶ September 2, 2003
FIRST DAY OF PRESCHOOL



2003 Titan Reading Camp
Readers and Volunteers
funded by Ohio Reads Grant

A LOOK INSIDE

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Ottawa-Glandorf Schools
360 N. Locust Street
Ottawa, OH 45875



Reading Camp
Students enjoy a snack!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Michelle Ellerbrock
Treasurer

There has recently been a lot of news regarding the state budget and cuts made to primary and secondary education. You may recall that the Ottawa-Glandorf School District was cut \$82,000 in state funding last year and will receive less funding again for the 2003-04 school year. The district is taking steps to reduce expenditures and tighten its belt to offset this decrease in revenue.

The district has experienced a decline in enrollment from 1,917 students during the 1998-99 school year to 1,738 during the 2002-03 school year. As a result, the district has been able to reduce staff through attrition. The district has had three and a half positions that have not been replaced just over this past year. These reductions have been made carefully so as not to reduce services to students, especially in areas of student intervention.

In addition to these reductions in staffing, the district has looked to other sources for funding. The district received an increase in its special education funding at the Federal level. As a result, these monies will be used to cover physical therapy, occupational therapy and other services for special education students that have been funded out of the general fund in the past.

In another area, the district is part of the Northwest Ohio Area Computer Services Cooperative (NOACSC) for purposes for workers compensation. This past year, the district worked with the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) in obtaining a group rating that will allow the district to receive a 95% discount on its workers compensation rating. The Bureau of Workers Compensation has given districts 75% and 50% discounts over the past two years. In 2003, the discounts have been eliminated. As a result, switching to the OSBA group rating program, the district will avoid seeing its premiums increase, saving the district an estimated \$10-15,000.

The district continues to struggle with rising health insurance premiums. The district participates in a county insurance consortium for health insurance. All of the county schools are members of this consortium. The consortium went to a partially self-funded plan this past year in hopes to control premium increases. The partially self-funded approach allows members to take advantage of an established network of health-care providers, while allowing participating districts to manage premium increases. Along

No Child Left Behind continued from Page 1

No Child Left Behind is greatly affecting the accountability system put in place in previous years by the state of Ohio. As a result, you will notice changes in state mandated testing programs every year for the next few years. Next year, we will begin using diagnostic assessments in reading, writing, and mathematics in kindergarten, first, second, and third (writing and math) grades. Our third graders will take a reading achievement test which will eventually replace the fourth grade proficiency test in reading.

We are also only one year away from high school students needing to pass the new Ohio Graduation Test in order to receive a diploma. This test will be much more rigorous than the Ohio Ninth Grade Proficiency Test currently in use. While the challenges are great, we can assure you that we are working hard to be certain that our curriculum and instruction match the expectations of these new assessments. With your involvement and support, we will help our Ottawa-Glandorf students meet these new challenges and succeed in surpassing these new expectations.

Other aspects of the law will be explained in future issues of the Titan Tradition.

with health insurance increases, the district has seen an increase in property and liability insurance. In 2003, the district joined the Ohio School Risk Sharing Authority (OSRSA). This move was made to partner with other school districts to obtain lower premiums as a group that what an individual school could obtain on its own. For 2003, the district's premiums were only slightly lower than what the district was quoted individually; however, we are hopeful that being a member of OSRSA will benefit the district in the future.

Finally, the district continues to monitor its utility costs. The new high school will have additional utility costs primarily due to the fact that it will be larger than the current facility and it will be air-conditioned. However, this increase is expected to be partially offset by a reduction in rent expense. In addition, the district is not anticipating a need to hire any additional custodial staff for the high school.

The district currently has a good cash position and expects to maintain this for the next two years. Unfortunately, with declining general fund revenues, this situation could quickly change. The district will continue to look for cost-saving measures while striving to maintain the highest level of education for our students. If you have any questions on the district's finances, please contact me at 419-523-5690.

Thank you for your continued support of the Ottawa-Glandorf Schools. It is this support that makes the Ottawa-Glandorf School District so successful.

HIGH SCHOOL ADDITION AND RENOVATION PROJECT

Kevin Brinkman
Director of Business and Educational Affairs



When I last updated you on the addition and renovation project we were just ready to have the groundbreaking ceremony. In just three short months, the building shell of the addition is three quarters complete and the renovation of the upstairs west classrooms are almost ready for paint. We plan to move into the upstairs west classrooms sometime in mid-October and then begin renovating the upstairs east classrooms. The upstairs east classrooms should be a quick turnaround given the fact that most of the construction material will already be on-site and there is little demolition work involved.

The biggest area of concentration this summer was the renovation of the front entrance and new stairway. We continue to work on installing the stairway to the second floor. With the redesign of the stairway, we were able to improve the traffic pattern as well as gain an electrical room and small teacher workroom. You will notice when you go into the front entrance that it is still under construction at this time. We simply ran out of time to complete the wall finishes and flooring. This might be completed during off school hours, Christmas break, or perhaps next summer.

One of the biggest changes you will notice is the new paved parking lot. Many engineers from our architect's office

worked on designing this new traffic pattern. We now only have two entrances/exits out of the parking lot. Previously, six lanes of cars exited the parking lot onto Glendale Avenue attempting to turn both right and left causing congestion. We looked at many different lots at area businesses as well as other schools and were advised to have only two exits. Two exits should keep the congestion off the road and should empty the parking lot quicker. The first few times entering and exiting the lot will be different for the students, but I am sure they will be able to make the adjustments. Next summer the new entrance (off of State Route 15) and additional parking spaces will be completed. We are currently utilizing this space for construction staging.

We plan to have times set aside during the school year where the new addition and renovated areas will be open for the community to view the progress. We hope you will be impressed with the new look of your High School.

Thank you
for your
continued
support!



PICTURES

- 1 Renovated Front Entrance
- 2 New Library/Media Center
- 3 Renovated Upstairs Classroom
- 4 Excavation for Cafeteria Expansion (Summer, 2004)
- 5 View of Lobby from Second Floor