

PRELIMINARY OGT RESULTS PROMISING

Mary Jo Williams
Director of Special Services

Senate Bill 1 provides for a statewide high school achievement test program for Ohio high school students. Starting this school year, students must meet local district curriculum requirements and must pass all required Ohio Graduation Tests in order to earn a diploma. The intended purposes of this program include assuring adequate achievement, measuring progress against state curriculum standards, and school and district accountability.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2007, every student must demonstrate at least a tenth-grade achievement level in all test areas (reading, mathematics, science, social studies, and writing) in order to graduate from high school. Students must attain the score established by the State Board of Education as indicative of a tenth grade level of achievement for each test area. A different form of each test is administered each time the tests are given. Questions vary on each form, however each form is designed to assess the same content standards each time it is administered. Students will have at least five opportunities to pass the OGT (Ohio Graduation Test) while in high school.

NEW JUNIOR HIGH MATH PROGRAM

This year students in grades 6-8 will be introduced to a new math program entitled "Connected Math". Through this new hands on approach to math students will develop higher level thinking and writing skills. This new math curriculum will help better prepare our students for the new tenth grade Ohio Graduation Test.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ August 24, 2004
Glandorf Elementary Open House, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- ▶ August 24, 2004
Ottawa Elementary Open House, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ August 25, 2004
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
- ▶ August 27, 2004
HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
- ▶ September 1 and 2, 2004
Titan T.I.K.E.S. Preschool Orientation
- ▶ September 6, 2004
NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
- ▶ September 7, 2004
FIRST DAY OF PRESCHOOL

During the month of March, 2004, all sophomores in Ohio took one form of the mathematics and reading tests from the OGT. These preliminary results give our district an idea of how successfully we are addressing the new Ohio Content Standards in our classrooms, even though the tests were not required for graduation for this group of students. The March, 2004 test results are as follows for our district, and state results are provided as a point of comparison:

READING

Performance Standards	Cut Score	% State	% O-G
Limited	--	2.1%	6.5%
Basic	13.5	10.3%	1.3%
Proficient	20.0	25.9%	17.6%
Accelerated	31.5	25.9%	31.4%
Advanced	39.0	25.9%	43.1%

A total of 141 of 153 students would have passed at a rate of 92.2%.

MATHEMATICS

Performance Standards	Cut Score	% State	% O-G
Limited	--	17.2%	3.3%
Basic	13.5	14.9%	7.2%
Proficient	19.0	31.3%	25.0%
Accelerated	30.0	19.6%	37.5%
Advanced	37.5	17.0%	27.0%

A total of 136 of 152 students would have passed at a rate of 89.5%.

NOTE: Passing scores include proficient, accelerated, and advanced levels. Limited and basic levels are not passing scores on the OGT.

While these results are very positive and passage rates were high for the first testing, we will continue to work hard to align our curriculum to state standards and provide the best learning opportunities for students at Ottawa-Glandorf. We are anxious to begin the 2004-05 school year, and look forward to very positive results from our current sophomore class.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Michelle Ellerbrock
Treasurer

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the expense reductions that have taken place over the last two years. Through attrition and targeted reductions, the district reduced its staff by 3.5 positions during the 2003-04 school year and an additional 7.1 positions for the 2004-05 school year. These reductions have resulted in a savings of over \$771,241.

REDUCTIONS

2003-2004 School Year:

▶ Savings realized through attrition (retirements, resignations, separation agreements, etc.)	\$ 185,377
▶ Half time kindergarten position reduced due to declining enrollment	18,531
▶ Use of grant funds for after-school and reading programs	46,183
▶ Use of Special Education Grant to fund HS LD salary	16,248

2004-2005 School Year:

▶ Savings realized through attrition (retirements, resignations, separation agreements, etc.)	326,456
▶ Elimination of two administrative positions	123,427
▶ Teaching staff layoffs	22,073
▶ Change to administrative co-pay on health insurance	13,165
▶ Teaching staff reduction in hours	10,731
▶ Elimination of transportation secretary position (3 hours per day)	9,050

GRAND TOTAL SAVINGS

\$ 771,241

In addition, the district has identified approximately \$100,000 in non-payroll (supplies, purchased services, capital, etc.) savings for the 2004-05 school year.

The district finished the 2003-04 fiscal year with a cash balance of \$2,808,008. This represents approximately three months of expenses for the district. This included the first settlement payment from Philips of \$558,157. For the 2003-04 school year, revenues exceeded expenses by \$424,517; however, without the settlement from Philips, the district would have had a deficit of \$133,640. The district will receive settlement payments from Philips in the amounts of \$297,600 for 2004-05, \$334,800 for 2005-06 and \$372,000 for 2006-07. If you have any questions, please contact me at 419-523-5690.

TRANSPORTATION

Soon the school buses will begin picking up more than 1500 eligible Ottawa - Glandorf student riders. Very few changes occurred over the summer in regards to the bus routes. Your child will be picked up and dropped off by the same bus as last year unless you were notified of a change by the transportation department. If your address has changed from last year or you are new to the district, you must notify the Superintendent's Office so we can schedule a bus pick up.

One big change to the transportation department is the elimination of the transportation secretary and the director's position. Please contact the Superintendent's Office at the

following number with any transportation issues or concerns:

419-523-5261

The old transportation phone number, 419-523-5575, is no longer in use. The Superintendent will make all necessary changes and must approve all route deviations.

Your cooperation in school bus transportation is very important to the safety of all students. Our buses attempt to maintain a very tight daily schedule. Having your child standing in the designated place of safety prior to the bus arrival time is very important to maintaining this schedule. Last year our 25 buses traveled 221,712 miles. This is a large number of miles and we need your assistance to assure that every mile is the safest for all parties concerned.

**LETTER FROM
THE SUPERINTENDENT**

As the Ottawa - Glandorf Schools are gearing up for the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year, I too am preparing to meet the challenges in my new position as Superintendent of O-G Schools. I would like to personally thank the School Board members for their confidence in my ability to lead this district in both the difficult times and the rewarding times. I have lived in this district my entire life and have always known that this community has outstanding opportunities for our youth. My number one goal is to provide the best possible education for our youth. I want the schools to be leading the way in providing positive experiences.

One of the first responsibilities I was faced with was the realignment of the Administrative Team. In this realignment we were able to reduce the positions of Director of Business and Dean of Students at Ottawa Elementary. This reduction left six administrative positions remaining (Superintendent, Director of Special Services, High School Principal, High School Dean of Students, and two Elementary Principals). The elimination of these two positions will mean that all administrators will need to pick up additional responsibilities. Along with the many duties and obligations of the Superintendent, I will retain a few responsibilities from the Director of Business position. These responsibilities include all areas of the transportation department as well as current and future building projects. The three building principals will continue to be responsible for all activities in their respective buildings with the addition of supervising the custodial/cleaning staff. The High School Dean of Students will be asked to take on the duties of maintenance supervisor. This additional role will include establishing and supervising the preventative maintenance program for all three buildings, generating requisitions for equipment repairs, and assuring the safety and appearance of all buildings and grounds.

The final administrative position that has been realigned is the Director of Special Services. This administrative position is responsible for curriculum development, instructional services, professional development for staff, special

education coordinator, testing coordinator, grant writing and management, federal programs and initiatives coordinator. Over the last five years this position has brought over \$815,700 in grant monies to the district. These grants have been used for improving literacy, technology, and general curriculum for students with disabilities. Another very important responsibility of this position is curriculum development. This position communicates directly with the Ohio Department of Education to assure that O-G is meeting all the Ohio Academic Content Standards. In so doing we communicate the need for alignment of curriculum and instruction with content standards to all teachers, establish procedures for accountability, and assist grade level and department teams in preparing curriculum maps which delineate which standards will be taught and assessed in every grading period. In addition to the curriculum and special education duties, the Director of Special Services will also supervise the cafeteria and be responsible for student nutritional services. Monthly and yearly cafeteria reports, commodity foods, and the financial stability of food service will also be the responsibility of this position.

As you have read, the Board of Education and I have taken steps to reduce administrative costs to the district. We will continue to monitor other means to reduce cost to the district without compromising the education of our children. The Ottawa - Glandorf Schools offers an outstanding education for our students and we are very fortunate to have the supportive staff, parents, and community to assure that O-G remains strong.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding O-G Schools. I look forward to serving you and the Ottawa - Glandorf school system during the 2004-2005 school year. You may contact me at 419-523-5261 or by e-mail at og_supt@noacsc.org.

Sincerely,
Kevin Brinkman
Superintendent

Non-Profit Organization
US POSTAGE PAID
Ottawa, OH 45875
Permit No. 26

CURRENT RESIDENT

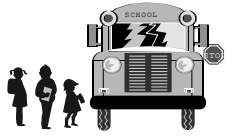


Ottawa-Glandorf Schools
630 Glendale Avenue
Ottawa, OH 45875



Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools

TITAN TRADITION



August, 2004

**HIGH SCHOOL ADDITION
AND RENOVATION PROJECT**

Kevin Brinkman

Over the summer, the high school has really taken on a new personality. The main corridors are nearly completed and will emphasize a new traffic pattern. The brightly decorated corridors now connect the cafeteria in two different locations in the building. Students will be able to enter the cafeteria from the new academic wing as well as the newly renovated area by the gymnasium. Another great feature to improve the traffic pattern is the additional stairway. Students will now be able to access the second floor in three different locations. We have also installed a new and larger elevator to the second floor.

The students and staff will be amazed by the completely new look of the cafeteria. We've added a much larger dining area with a new circular appearance. The walls are painted a darker color with a bright ceiling and a patterned floor. The students will enter the serving area utilizing two different entrances and checkout locations. The serving lines have been renovated and will have the capability to offer a wide variety of food items. I am confident the students will enjoy their new dining room, as well as the entire community when they utilize the cafeteria for special events.



Another area that will feature a different traffic pattern this year is the new parking lot and entrance from State Route 15. During school hours, only school buses and staff will use this new entrance. For the safety of all concerned we felt it was necessary to separate student traffic from school bus traffic. Students will continue to use the same parking lot entrance off of Glendale Avenue as they did last year. Parents dropping off or picking up their children from school are asked to drop them off by the student plaza next to the gymnasium on Glendale Avenue. The front entrance of the high school will be used for visitor parking and parents dropping off and picking up preschool children.

As you might be able to tell from reading the above paragraphs, I am very excited about the newly renovated high school. What a beautiful high school we will have at the completion of this project. This "new" building will be one that the community will be very proud to have their children attend. With all the changes and new technologies added we will be able to enhance an already outstanding educational opportunity for our youth. I thank the community for their support of this project. OGHS is a facility that we will all be proud to have in our community.

OGHS OPEN HOUSE

An open house at the High School is being planned for Friday, August 27, 2004. The High School will be open for viewing from 5:00 p.m. until the start of the first home football game. Anyone interested in viewing the renovation and addition is welcome. The total completion date is not until January, 2005 but we feel that it is important to showcase the progress to date. The auditorium and industrial arts areas will not be completed for this open house.

STARTING AND DISMISSAL TIMES

High School	7:50 a.m.	2:42 p.m.
Ottawa Elementary	7:55 a.m.	2:35 p.m.
Glandorf Elementary	8:20 a.m.	3:05 p.m.

LUNCHROOM PRICES

- \$ 1.75 - High School Students
- \$ 1.50 - Elementary Students
- \$.30 - Extra Milk