

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that the 2005-2006 school year is quickly approaching. I look forward to welcoming over 1700 students and 190 staff members back to school after a long and deserving summer break. I feel very honored to serve these students, staff members, and the communities of Ottawa and Glandorf as Superintendent. I feel fortunate to be actively involved with Ottawa-Glandorf Schools.

The residents of Ottawa-Glandorf Schools can be very proud of the academic accomplishments of our students. The results of the State Local Report Card indicates that O-G Schools will be rated "EXCELLENT" as our students met 22 of the 23 state indicators. Our sophomore students also scored very well on the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) with the lowest areas scored being a tremendous 95.8%. These scores are testimonials to the dedication to excellence that our administration, faculty, staff, and students have for education. The administration and faculty have worked very hard and have dedicated many hours to incorporate newly developed state and national content standards in the curriculum. I am very proud of our faculty, staff, and volunteers who have accomplished this goal.

During the 2005-2006 school year we will be met with many challenges. During the first three months, I will dedicate many hours attempting to relay as much information as I can regarding the two emergency renewal levies. In July, the School Board approved placing two emergency operating levies on the November ballot. These two levies together collect approximately \$450,000 annually for the

district and are crucial to providing a quality education for our children. We can not survive without these two levies. I have continually looked at ways to reduce expenditures whenever possible without jeopardizing the quality of education we provide. Over the past two years we have eliminated several personnel positions. We were able to do this without affecting the quality of education as is reflective in the previous paragraph. We have watched our expenditures while at the same time moving to an *excellent* rating. In the next few weeks I will be establishing a levy committee to assist us in getting information out to the community. If you would like to be a member of this committee please give me a call and I will add your name.

Another area the staff at Ottawa-Glandorf will work on this school year is the development of a safety/crisis plan. In cooperation with the Putnam County Sheriff's office we will review our existing safety plans and make the needed changes to assure that our buildings are safe for all students, staff, and visitors. Included in this plan are in-service programs for our staff to become aware of the signs of threats, harassment, suicides, and drug awareness. We will also work with the Sheriff's office to conduct a crisis drill.

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 2005-2006 school year. You may contact me at 419-523-5261 or by e-mail at [og\\_supt@noacsc.org](mailto:og_supt@noacsc.org).

Sincerely,  
*Kevin Brinkman*  
Superintendent

Non-Profit Organization  
**US POSTAGE PAID**  
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Permit No. 26



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"Home of the Titans!"

<http://og.noacsc.org>

## CURRENT RESIDENT

Please feel free to contact us with questions, comments or suggestions for future issues.



# TITAN TRADITION



August, 2005

Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### August 22, 2005

Ottawa Elementary Open House, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

### August 22, 2005

Glandorf Elementary Open House, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

### August 23, 2005

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

### August 25, 2005

Preschool Orientation - 6:00 p.m.

### August 29, 2005

Preschool Orientation - 11:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m.

### August 31, 2005

FIRST DAY OF PRESCHOOL

### September 26, 2005

Mid Term Reports

### September 27, 2005

Glandorf Elementary School Pictures

### October 12, 2005

Ottawa Elementary School Pictures

## DRESS CODE

Student attire has become an increasing issue in schools all across Ohio. Ottawa-Glandorf School is no exception. We have received many comments regarding the casual dress of our students during the school day. Many of our students, both male and female, are wearing clothing today that exposes too much. In keeping with the establishment of a safe and secure theme for this school year the dress of students can play a large roll in assisting this goal. Tank tops, spaghetti strap tops and bare midriff blouses or shirts are not acceptable. Hemlines of skirts and dresses must be an appropriate length so undergarments will not show. A good rule of thumb is that if you have to question whether something exposes too much, it more than likely does and should not be worn to school. Parents' assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

## TRANSPORTATION

The first day of school is fast approaching and soon, early morning school bus rides will replace those extra hours of summer sleep. Ottawa-Glandorf school buses will once again be on the road picking up many children for a new and exciting school year. One thing parents should not have to worry about is your child's safety to and from school. National studies show school buses are the safest method for transporting children - 30 times safer than passenger cars. Recent reports by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the National Academy of Science have confirmed this data. To keep school bus transportation safe, parents play an integral role. Before your children climb aboard that yellow bus, make sure they:

- ▶ Get to the bus stop in plenty of time
- ▶ Stay back away from the bus until it is safe to board
- ▶ Know to remain seated while on the bus
- ▶ Know that making excessive noise and other nuisance will distract the driver

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. Pupil transportation safety is a partnership among school transportation staff, parents, and students.

Very few changes occurred over the summer to the bus routes. For the most part, your child will be picked up and dropped off by the same bus as last year. If you changed addresses from last year or moved into the district, you must notify the Superintendent's office so we can schedule a bus pick up. You can contact the Superintendent's office by calling 419-523-5261.

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## ACHIEVEMENT GAINS MADE IN 2004-05

Mary Jo Williams  
Director of Special Services

The Ottawa-Glandorf Schools have recently received very positive preliminary results from the proficiency and achievement tests given in March, 2005. The reports received to date indicate that significant gains have been realized last year, and student achievement is generally higher compared to the past two years. New tests were also given in a number of grade levels last March, and our results were very favorable.

The Ohio Graduation Test was given in all five subject areas for the first time, and students are now required to pass the test in order to graduate from high school. Last year's sophomore class performed very well, and achieved the following passage rates:

Writing	97.0 %
Reading	98.8 %
Mathematics	95.8 %
Social Studies	95.8 %
Science	96.4 %

Many new achievement tests were given in grades 3-8 last year, in addition to some proficiency tests in certain subject areas in grades 4 and 6. New achievement tests will replace all proficiency tests beginning this year, and will measure student achievement against the new Ohio Academic Content Standards. Results in grades 3-8 are indicated by the following passage rates:

	Passage Rates by Grade Level					
	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Citizenship	--	85.7	--	88.5	--	--
Mathematics	89.0	80.6	--	67.7	83.3	81.7
Reading	85.5	92.9	86.1	82.3	--	94.5
Science	--	76.5	--	78.1	--	--
Writing	--	86.7	--	92.7	--	--

## TITAN T.I.K.E.S. PRESCHOOL

LaDonna Hoffman  
Director



Ottawa-Glandorf Titan T.I.K.E.S. Preschool will be starting its 15th year serving children from 3 to 5 years of age. The staff has four members who have been with the preschool for 15 years with an average of 90 children a year. There have been many changes in the field of early childhood. Our curriculum has changed to meet the Pre-Kindergarten Academic Standards adopted by the Ohio Department of Education. These standards are presented to the children in learning centers, which have been created by the teachers with the children's interests in mind. A variety of learning centers such as creative art, pre-writing, books, blocks, and

The criteria set by the Ohio Department of Education is a 75% passage rate for all tests, and we failed to meet that criteria only in Grade 6 Mathematics. Our graduation rates and student attendance rates are also very high, therefore our district will meet 22 of the 23 indicators which will be included on this year's state report card which will be released early this fall. Our district is anticipating being classified as "Excellent", which is the highest rating possible.

One additional measure of accountability required by the federal government is AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress). This measure requires that all students as a whole, and subgroups of students such as students on IEP's or students who are economically disadvantaged, achieve at various performance levels that are set by the U. S. Department of Education. These criteria increased last year, and will continue to increase over the next few years, giving us a constantly increasing target to hit. The Ottawa-Glandorf Schools did not meet AYP either of the previous two years, but did meet the AYP goals set for our district in 2004-05, even though the required passage rates were higher than in previous years!

We are extremely pleased with the progress we are making in meeting increasingly difficult achievement standards. Staff development programs providing information on effective teaching strategies and insuring that the Ohio Academic Content Standards are being taught through curriculum mapping efforts have likely played a part in these improved results. Another important factor is the dedication of administrators and teachers to do what is necessary to get the job done. We are indeed fortunate to have a combination of effective teachers, concerned parents, and hard-working students. We will continue to work hard to improve where it is needed and to maintain excellence where it already exists.

dramatic play, etc. give the children the opportunity to experience the standards at their own level of development. Literacy is a key focus area in the preschool and reinforced in all the learning centers. Preschoolers are introduced to letter sounds beginning with their own name and familiar sounds (mom, dad) and rhyming words through songs and activities, which are the beginning foundation for reading.

The high school staff and administration has helped us feel at home in our new location. When we are in our preschool classrooms, we hardly know that we are in a building with over 600 other people. We have adapted our schedule so that when we leave the classrooms to go elsewhere in the building, we do it when the high school students are in class. Several teachers have shared their field of expertise with the children. The high school students have read to the children and interacted with them in the learning centers and in the gym. Another benefit of being at the high school and one that has been a big favorite of the preschoolers is going to the gym and playing outside on the play set in the courtyard. As our second year at our new location begins, we will find more assets to explore in our new surroundings.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Michelle Ellerbrock  
Treasurer

Ottawa-Glandorf Schools finished the 2004-2005 school year on a positive note. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005, revenues exceeded expenses by \$822,011. This included \$910,474 from the final Philips settlement. Without the Philips settlement, expenses would have exceeded revenues by \$88,463.

The following table summarizes the last two fiscal year's revenue:

	FY 2004	FY 2005
Real Estate	3,026,594	3,024,955
Personal Tangible	434,639	350,366
Income Tax	758,571	824,694
Unrestricted Grants	5,204,084	5,374,953
Restricted Grants	30,482	24,248
Homestead/Rollback	394,056	397,690
Other Sources	463,784	515,650
	<u>10,312,210</u>	<u>10,512,556</u>
Philip's Settlement	558,157	910,475
	<u>10,870,367</u>	<u>11,423,031</u>

Without Philips, district revenues increased 1.9% for the year. While state funding and income tax collections increased, we saw the decrease in personal tangible taxes continue. With the passage of House Bill 66, we will see personal tangible taxes phased out completely over the next four years. HB 66 included language to hold schools harmless for the next five years. After that, these funds will be phased out.

## 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

## DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The commitment of the Ottawa-Glandorf Schools, in partnership with our families and community, will provide superior educational opportunities for all children, to establish a foundation for a life of learning and personal success.

On the expense side, we saw increases in purchased services, supplies/textbooks and capital. Salaries and benefits decreased from FY 2004 due to a reduction in the number of administrative, teaching and non-teaching positions in the district.

	FY 2004	FY 2005
Salaries	6,115,379	6,045,259
Retirement/Benefits	2,239,690	2,213,777
Purchased Services	947,574	1,028,009
Supplies/Textbooks	353,365	434,183
Capital	32,641	153,842
Other	757,202	725,950
	<u>10,445,851</u>	<u>10,601,020</u>

Looking forward to FY 2006, salaries and benefits are expected to remain constant. This is in spite of an expected increase of 15-20% in health care premiums which could cost the district \$150,000-\$200,000 in additional premiums. The additional healthcare costs are going to be offset by savings realized through several retirements this past year.

Fiscal Year 2006 will bring a couple of challenges. The first is the tightest state budget in years. Preliminary simulations show Ottawa-Glandorf Schools receiving a 1.9% increase for FY 2006 and 0% for FY 2007. A 1.9% increase is approximately \$100,000. This does not go far with the rising cost of health insurance, utilities and fuel. The second challenge is the renewal request of two emergency tax levies on November 8, 2005. These two levies combined provide \$450,000 in operating revenues for the district. These levies were initially passed in 1980 and have each been renewed five times. These two levies collect the same amount today as they did when they were originally passed. These funds are used for operating expenses and they represent over 4% of the district's FY 2006 revenues. Additional information on these levies will be sent out in the next few months.

In closing, Ottawa-Glandorf Schools is in a sound financial position right now. The Board has been conservative in its spending and has eliminated over \$1,000,000 in expenses over the past two years. In addition, the Philips settlement has provided a cash balance to help sustain the district while the impact of the state budget is realized over the next couple of years. I am hopeful that the changes that the legislature made to the tax code will be beneficial to both residents and businesses in Ohio and that it will help lead the state to financial recovery.

As always, if you have any questions on the finances of Ottawa-Glandorf Schools, please do not hesitate to contact me at 419-523-5690 or og\_treas@noacsc.org.