

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The 2006-07 school year will present itself with many opportunities for the Ottawa-Glandorf School system to continue to experience success as well as to improve in many areas. The faculty, staff, administration and Board of Education are committed to providing and enhancing all areas of the educational process. I look forward to this school year and to focus my time and energy on maintaining the tradition of academic excellence.

Progressbook Software

The Ottawa-Glandorf Schools will unveil new programs this year that will allow us to operate more efficiently and strengthen the two-way communication with parents. One of the programs we will implement is called Progressbook. This initiative will assist parents and students to keep updated on class grades, assignments, and school related events.

Point of Sale Software

Another program we will begin is a debit accounting system in our cafeterias, which will enable students and parents to keep track of money spent on student lunches, as well as the types of food consumed on a daily basis. These are just two of the ways we plan to improve the communication with parents and the community.

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.

Student Bullying

Also this year we will begin several new programs on "Student Bullying". Bullying has been going on for almost as long as public schools have been in existence, but recently it has become a growing local concern by many students and parents. Paul Lintern, a well-known speaker on bully prevention, will spend a few days in our district working with students as well as providing a parent workshop in the evening. (*A date has not yet been determined. Further details will follow in building newsletters.*) A concentrated effort will be made this year so all students feel safe and accepted in our schools.

I look forward to working with the entire school community during the 2006-07 school year. If at any time you would like to share your thoughts or suggestions about O-G Schools, please feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail, og_supt@noacsc.org. I would be more than willing to discuss any topic.

Have a great school year and "GO TITANS"!

Sincerely,
Kevin Brinkman
Superintendent

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



Ottawa-Glandorf Schools
630 Glendale Avenue
Ottawa, OH 45875

"Home of the Titans!"

<http://og.noacsc.org>

CURRENT RESIDENT

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL - MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2006



TITAN TRADITION



August, 2006

Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools

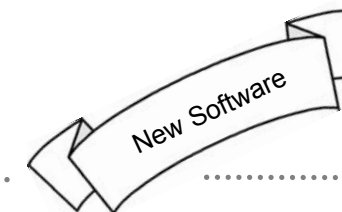
NEW BUS GARAGE AND CONCESSION BUILDING

During the first week of August, Ottawa-Glandorf Schools gained occupancy of our new Bus Garage and Restroom/Concession buildings located on O-G Road. We have heard so many positive comments already concerning this project. Many comments centered on the demolition of the old bus garage next to Glandorf Elementary. This site improvement, as well as the safety improvements at this location, has already been worth the expenditure. Providing security, shelter, and extra space needed for the larger buses was also worth the additional expense for the new bus garage. During the recent school bus inspection, the Ohio State Highway Patrol school bus inspection team commented that the O-G residents are very fortunate to have this new bus garage facility. They indicated that it would save buses from rusting and fading from the winter conditions and the summer sun for many years.

The new restrooms have also enhanced the O-G Road Complex. Bus drivers, athletes and spectators for baseball, softball, and soccer games will now have adequate restroom facilities. As was reported earlier, the funding for these two buildings was generated from the interest earned from the high school addition and renovation project. I feel confident that the residents will view these two buildings as a great asset to the Ottawa-Glandorf Schools.

DRESS CODE REMINDER

Providing a safe and educational environment that is conducive to learning remains a top priority with Ottawa-Glandorf Schools. One way in which to help achieve this goal is to implement and enforce a dress code for both students and staff. With this in mind, parents and students are reminded that 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. Clothing, accessories and personal items should be in good taste and not promote or refer to alcohol, drugs, tobacco, profanity or any anti-social behavior. For additional and more detailed guidelines, please refer to your building's student/parent handbook. Parents' assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.



PROGRESSBOOK IS COMING

The Ottawa-Glandorf Schools will be implementing a new web-based student monitoring system called Progressbook at the beginning of the 2006-07 school year. Progressbook is a comprehensive electronic grade book and information system that allows access to student progress data at a student, classroom, and district level. It combines many features to assist educators in monitoring their students' progress, including grade book and report card functions, attendance information, student demographics, lesson planning, and tracking grade level indicators.

Teachers will receive their initial training on the grade book functions on August 25. Future trainings will deal with other components that teachers may find useful such as on-line lesson planning. Once teachers are fully trained and we are satisfied that the software is working efficiently, parents will be invited to begin accessing information for their children.

In November, our plan is to provide parents with the information they will need (*website and passwords*) to access Progressbook information concerning their students. Parents will be able to see what assignments have been posted on a daily basis, and how students are scoring on homework, tests, quizzes, etc. The ability to access this information on-line daily, instead of waiting for midterms and report cards, will truly help parents to stay informed so that they can help their children to be more successful. Training sessions will also be held during parent-teacher conferences for interested parents. Please look for more information in November!

A LOOK INSIDE

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2005-2006 ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS

Mary Jo Williams
Director of Special Services

The Ottawa-Glandorf Schools have recently received very positive preliminary results from the Ohio Achievement Tests and Ohio Graduation Test given in March, 2006. The reports received to date indicate that student achievement continues to be at a very high level in all tested areas, including new tests just added this past year.

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

Writing - 97.7% Reading - 97.7%
Mathematics - 96.9%
Social Studies - 91.5% Science - 87.7%.

Passage rates for social studies and science are slightly lower than last year, and these results will be studied in detail this fall with a focus on keeping student achievement as high as possible in future years.

Many new achievement tests were given in grades 3-8 last year, as our old proficiency tests were phased out. These new tests measure student achievement against the current 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
Mathematics	90.0	86.8	77.2	86.4	80.0	89.7
Reading	83.0	83.5	86.1	89.3	92.0	88.8
Writing	--	95.6	--	--	--	--

The criteria set by the Ohio Department of Education is a 75% passage rate for all tests, which we met in every category. Our graduation rates and student attendance rates are also very high, therefore our district will meet 25 of the 25 indicators which will be included on this year's state report card to be released early this fall. Our district will be 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, as well as subgroups of students such as students on IEP's or students who are economically disadvantaged, achieve at varying performance levels that are set by the Ohio Department of Education and approved by the federal government.

These criteria increased last year, and will continue to increase over the next few years, giving us a constantly more difficult target to hit. The Ottawa-Glandorf Schools did not meet AYP either of the first two years that it was calculated, then did meet the AYP goals set for our district in 2004-05, but failed to meet AYP for the last school year. The only reason we failed to meet AYP as a district was due to our subgroup of IEP students not meeting the criteria set for them in reading. Our students as a whole, including all other subgroups of students (white, Hispanic, economically disadvantaged), met their AYP goals in reading and mathematics.

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.

LUNCHROOM PRICES

- \$ 2.00 - High School Students
- \$ 1.75 - Elementary Students
- \$.35 - Extra Milk
- \$ 1.00 - Breakfast (OE, Grades 1-5)

Applications for free/reduced price lunches/breakfast will be sent home with students during the first week of school. To receive free or reduced-price meals, the total household income must be equal to or less than the amounts listed in the guidelines listed below.

Additional applications and monthly lunch menus can be found at

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

FAMILY INCOME GUIDELINES		
Household Size	Annual	Monthly
1	18,130	1,511
2	24,420	2,035
3	30,710	2,560
4	37,000	3,084
5	43,290	3,608
6	49,580	4,132
7	55,870	4,656
8	62,160	5,180
For each additional member add	+ 6,290	+ 525

FINANCIAL REPORT

Michelle Ellerbrock
Treasurer

As we prepare for another school year, I'd like to present the financial results from the 2005-06 school year. Overall, it was a pretty good year for the district. The following chart compares 2005-06 to the previous year.

	2004-05	2005-06
Receipts		
Local Tax Receipts	4,200,015	4,330,325
State Receipts	5,796,891	6,038,747
Philips Settlement	910,475	-0-
Other Local Revenues	515,650	553,790
	<u>11,423,031</u>	<u>10,922,862</u>
Expenditures		
Salaries	6,045,259	6,010,229
Benefits	2,213,777	2,263,098
Purchased Services	1,028,009	1,109,226
Supplies	434,183	505,829
Capital	153,842	133,142
Other	615,950	684,598
Operational Transfers	110,000	158,000
	<u>10,601,020</u>	<u>10,864,122</u>
Revenues Over / (Under) Expenditures	822,011	58,740

For the most recent school year, revenues exceeded expenses by \$58,740. Enrollment for 2005-06 school year remained constant. Our Average Daily Membership (ADM), which is what the state uses to calculate funding for schools was 1,573 in 2004-05 and 1,570 for 2005-06. Enrollment is

POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS = FINANCIAL CHALLENGE

Kevin Brinkman
Superintendent

Recently the Putnam County Educational Service Center has taken a very active role in helping to provide Postsecondary classes for high school students. Since 1991, Postsecondary Enrollment Options have been established to permit high school students in grades eleven and twelve to earn college and high school graduation credit through the successful completion of college courses. Students who elect to enroll in college courses, receiving college and high school graduation credit for the same course, are not required to pay for tuition, books, materials, or fees associated with such courses. These expenses are paid for by the local schools' tax dollars. Last year, this amounted to approximately \$450.00 per college course or a total of \$19,926.54. We anticipate this year's expense for Postsecondary Options, with the additional opportunities provided by the Educational Service Center, will exceed \$31,000.00.

still projected to drop as our largest classes are the sophomore and senior classes at approximately 170 students each and our kindergarten classes have averaged around 130 students a year for the past five years.

Last year we saw an increase in purchased services and supplies. Just as in your homes, rising diesel fuel and natural gas prices are having a significant impact on our operating budget. We have seen diesel fuel go from an average of \$1.50/gallon during the 2003-04 school year to an average of \$2.58/gallon for the 2005-06 school year. The district purchases approximately 30,000 gallons of diesel annually. Likewise, our natural gas has increased from \$72,685 during the 2003-04 school year to \$112,692 for the 2005-06 school year. Our water costs have increased an average of 7% annually since 2003-04. While we have seen an increase in electric costs, it has not been as dramatic. The average increase in electricity over the past three years was 4.1%. Electric costs for this past school year were just under \$108,000 for all of the districts facilities.

For 2006-07, we are expecting general fund receipts to increase slightly and are budgeting a 3.8% increase in expenditures. Part of the increase in expenditures is due to the replacement of two buses during the upcoming school year. We had been hanging on to a couple of old Ward buses hoping the state would help fund new ones. The state has discontinued funding for this program. These two buses (#13 and #15) were purchased in 1988 and were expected to cost in excess of \$16,000 to repair for the upcoming school year. We have spent an average of \$12,000 annually on these two buses over the past three years. The 2006-07 school year should be a solid year financially for the district. If you have any questions regarding O-G school finances, please do not hesitate to contact me at 419-523-5690 or og_treas@noacsc.org.

Postsecondary Options are a great way for eligible students to earn college credit while attending high school and I encourage students and parents to explore this program. Postsecondary Options, however, do affect school funding. For every student who leaves our high school to enroll in college courses for both college and high school credit, O-G Schools is invoiced for the course. Our challenge is to determine how additional courses offered at the new educational learning center will affect our enrollment and staffing at OGHHS. Regardless of Postsecondary Options, Ottawa-Glandorf High School will continue to provide a comprehensive and challenging college preparatory curriculum including advanced placement and other advanced level courses for our students. To determine if your child is eligible for Postsecondary Courses please contact the high school guidance counselors.