

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

### Developing a School Safety Plan That Works!

Recent tragic events across the United States have prompted schools, including Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools, to take a serious look at school safety plans and procedures within our buildings to assure a safe and secure environment for all students, staff, and visitors. In light of these events, it has served notice that terrible incidents of violence can happen anywhere, and schools must remain prepared to respond appropriately.

Since last summer, members of the Ottawa-Glandorf school system have been working with local law enforcement, area fire departments, the Office of Public Safety, and the Putnam County Educational Service Center to develop a workable safety plan. Access control measures, additional video surveillance, school safety drills, and staff training are just a few of the measures we have implemented since the beginning of this school year. In each of the buildings, additional outside entrances now remain locked throughout the school day. Each building has already conducted a school safety drill and noted areas for improved safety. We have also conducted in-service training with our staff so they will become more aware of their responsibilities during a crisis.

In conducting hours of research over the past year, I've come to the realization that establishing and maintaining open lines of communication with our youth is the most critical part of any school safety plan. Experts on school safety identified that in four out of five school shootings, the attackers told someone beforehand about their plans, usually another student. Everyday in school hallways students hear and see things that should be reported to teachers and/or administrators. It is out of fear that they remain silent. They don't want to be labeled as the snitch. Both teachers/school personnel and parents must take an active role to assure students to talk about what happens during the school day. All school employees must develop stronger relationships with students, so the students feel comfortable to discuss certain situations. Parents likewise must question their children about what goes on in school especially related to school safety concerns and report these findings to the appropriate administrators.

At the February School Board meeting, the School Safety Plan will be presented to the Board of Education for their review and approval. Since this document contains sensitive and secure information it will not be made available to the public, however if you have any general questions about the steps we have taken to protect our most valued resources, our students, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

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

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



# TITAN TRADITION

February, 2007

Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools

## OTTAWA-GLANDORF SCHOOLS WELCOME ROBERT WEBER

Hi, my name is Bob Weber and I'm glad to be your new Ottawa-Glandorf Treasurer. I started my new position on January 10, 2007.

I was born and raised in Ottoville and graduated high school from there. I received my Associates Degree in Accounting from Lima Technical College and graduated with my Bachelor's Degree from Ohio Dominican University in Columbus. I'm currently attending the University of Findlay to finish my classes necessary to receive my Treasurer's license in April or May.

My wife, Tina, is the Billing Manager at Putnam Acres Care Center. We have one son, Zachary, who is currently a sixth grader at Ottoville. Tina, Zach and I are huge sports fans, we love to travel, and enjoy spending time with family and friends.

In the future I plan to continue reporting key financial information on the school district in this area as Michelle did in the past. Thank you for letting me join your great school district and please feel free to call our offices any time with questions or concerns you may have.

*GO TITANS!*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ **February 19, 2007**  
NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day
- ▶ **March 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21, 2007**  
Senior Class Trip
- ▶ **March 23, 2007**  
NO SCHOOL - Quarter Break
- ▶ **April 6 and 9, 2007**  
NO SCHOOL - Easter Break
- ▶ **April 12, 13, 14, and 15, 2007**  
Dinner Theater



## CONGRATULATIONS CHRIS CORNELIUS

Christopher Cornelius, a senior at Ottawa-Glandorf High School, has earned a position in the 2007 OMEA (Ohio Music Education Association) Honors Jazz Band. Chris is one of five trumpet players in the state of Ohio selected for this prestigious ensemble. Following two days of rehearsals, the band will present a concert at the OMEA Convention on February 10, 2007. Chris is the first student from Ottawa-Glandorf Schools to earn membership in a State honors ensemble.

Chris is currently the trumpet section leader in the Titan Brass and is actively involved in the pep band, jazz band and community band. He has also performed and earned superior ratings in Class A solos for four years. He has been a four year member of the OMEA District III honor band and a three year member of the OMEA District III jazz band. He has also served the Ottawa and Glandorf communities by performing "taps" for nearly one hundred military funerals. Chris is the son of Dennis Cornelius, Ottawa.

## OPEN ENROLLMENT

Ottawa-Glandorf Schools are now accepting applications from non-resident students wanting to enroll for the 2007-08 school year. Anyone interested should complete an application. Applications can be found at

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

or are available in the Administrative Offices located in the High School. Completed applications should be mailed to:

Ottawa-Glandorf Schools  
Administrative Offices  
630 Glendale Avenue  
Ottawa, OH 45875

Applicants are considered on a first come, first serve basis and must meet the qualifications set by district policies and guidelines.

Please feel free to call the Administrative Offices at 419-523-5261 if you have any questions regarding open enrollment.

**PROGRESSBOOK IS HERE!**

*Mary Jo Williams*  
Director of Special Services

This past fall, Ottawa-Glandorf Schools implemented a new web-based student monitoring system called Progressbook. Progressbook is a comprehensive electronic grade book and information system that allows parents and students (high school only) access to student progress data.

Parents were provided with basic information about Progressbook in November. All parents should have received the website information and the passwords needed to access Progressbook information concerning their students. Parents are 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 type of information daily, instead of waiting for midterm reports and grade cards, can truly assist parents in helping their children succeed. Some students greatly benefit from the "extra push" that parents can provide, and just having conversations at home regarding student progress can help give students the motivation they need to improve their study and work habits.

As of early January, we were seeing a great increase in the number of "hits" to the Progressbook website, both from parents and high school students. Approximately two-thirds of high school students had accessed their accounts by the end of the first semester, while about 25% of parents had accessed student information by that time.

If you would like to access the Progressbook website, but have misplaced your instructions, username, and password, please contact Norm Schnipke by e-mail: [schnipn@og.noacsc.org](mailto:schnipn@og.noacsc.org). If you do not have an e-mail account, you can also call the appropriate school office for help.

Office Numbers:  
Ottawa-Glandorf High School 419-523-5702  
Ottawa Elementary School 419-523-4290  
Glandorf Elementary School 419-538-6880

**FAMILY INCOME GUIDELINES**

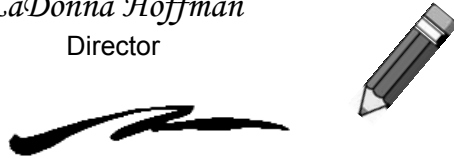
*(figures based on 2006-07 guidelines, may change slightly)*

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

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

**REGISTRATION**

*LaDonna Hoffman*  
Director



Titan T.I.K.E.S. Preschool (Totally Integrated Kids in an Educational Setting) has been in operation since 1990 and is a part of the Ottawa-Glandorf School System. We offer morning (9:00-11:30) or afternoon (12:30-3:00) sessions for children who are 3-5 years of age. We currently have 93 children attending our preschool. We have four sessions with the average class size of 11 students per classroom.

**REGISTRATION FOR O-G RESIDENTS  
2007-2008  
Wednesday, April 11, 2007  
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Registration is limited to residents of Ottawa-Glandorf School District only. (Out-of-district residents may register after April 30 if space is still available.) O-G Titan T.I.K.E.S. Preschool is funded by a grant through the Ohio Department of Education. Tuition assistance is available for children who are 3 or 4 by October 1, 2007.

Please refer to the chart below to see if you qualify for tuition assistance for children who are not five years old by October 1, 2007.

All staff members have Early Childhood Degrees and are licensed by the Ohio Department of Education in Pre-Kindergarten education. They are required to attend in-services dealing with early childhood education to keep their certificate current.

O-G Titan T.I.K.E.S. believes that young children learn best by doing. This includes math, science, social studies, literature, listening, verbal skills, letter recognition, creative thinking, music, large and small motor skills as well as cooperative play. The activities and curriculum are guided by the Ohio Department of Education Pre-Kindergarten Academic Standards.

Our location at the High School gives us the opportunity to go to the gym daily, and use the auditorium to act out stories. We also have High School students that come to our classroom to do activities with us. Please feel free to call the preschool office at 419-523-6464 for details.

*Childhood should be a journey . . .  
not a race.*

**DECLINING STUDENT ENROLLMENT AFFECTS MANY VARIABLES**

*Kevin Brinkman*  
Superintendent

Student enrollment is a vital component in the operation of any school district. Over the past 10 years, many schools in Putnam County have experienced a decline in student enrollment. The student population in the hallways and classrooms at Ottawa-Glandorf Schools is no different. As we make our projections for next school year, we are estimating approximately 48 students less than this year.

With continued declining enrollment on the horizon, Ottawa-Glandorf Schools will need to take a closer examination of curriculum, staffing, and other expenditures. Less students equals less money for Ottawa-Glandorf. State funding is almost entirely based on student population. Ottawa-Glandorf Schools receives approximately \$5,403 per student in basic aid. With 48 less students next year, we will receive approximately \$259,344 less than we did from the state this year.

During the next few months, Ottawa-Glandorf Schools will evaluate what changes can be made in the curriculum and staffing to accommodate the drop in student enrollment and still remain an "EXCELLENT" school as defined by the State of Ohio.

The below chart outlines the enrollment patterns over the past ten years in Putnam County. If you have any questions or comments that you would like to discuss with me personally, please stop by my office or give me a call and I would be more than willing to listen or answer any questions you might have. The telephone number is 419-523-5261 and my e-mail address is [og\\_supt@noacsc.org](mailto:og_supt@noacsc.org).

Thank you!

School District	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Columbus Grove	896	921	866	911	857	912	900	914	982	968
Continental	884	890	874	824	758	745	733	645	616	630
Fort Jennings	471	461	469	476	454	467	468	472	444	442
Kalida	790	781	775	778	750	751	739	732	711	693
Leipsic	787	774	764	728	687	697	659	671	685	658
Miller City-New Cleveland	517	513	514	536	536	507	506	507	508	507
<b>Ottawa-Glandorf</b>	<b>1846</b>	<b>1799</b>	<b>1769</b>	<b>1818</b>	<b>1753</b>	<b>1738</b>	<b>1709</b>	<b>1621</b>	<b>1570</b>	<b>1654</b>
Ottoville	677	660	654	659	664	634	620	582	580	563
Pandora-Gilboa	668	653	639	615	631	619	634	580	606	610

**CAFETERIA UPDATE**

As many of you know, this fall we began using a computerized point of sale system in our cafeterias. This computer system allows parents and students to put money "on account" and draw off the account using a unique pin number. This system eliminated the use of meal tickets in the elementary buildings, and the use of tokens for students receiving free or reduced price lunches at the high school.

Now as students receive their lunches and charge their accounts, it is not apparent to anyone as to which students receive free or reduced lunches, and who is paying full price. This "transparent" system is a great improvement to our former procedures. We certainly encourage all parents to consider completing a "free or reduced" lunch application if you feel you may qualify. This program can be very beneficial to families, and it is your right to receive these benefits if you meet the income requirements.

It is not too late to complete an application for this school year. Applications are available in the Administrative Offices, Building Offices and on-line at

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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
2007 MEETINGS**

*All meetings are scheduled to be held at the High School.*

February 13	7:30 p.m.
March 13	7:30 p.m.
April 10	7:30 p.m.
May 8	7:30 p.m.
June 12	5:00 p.m.
July 10	5:00 p.m.
August 14	5:00 p.m.
September 11	7:30 p.m.
October 9	7:30 p.m.
November 6	7:30 p.m.
December 11	7:30 p.m.