

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The 2004-05 school year is rapidly coming to a close. As I reflect on my first year as Superintendent of Ottawa - Glandorf Schools, I will remember it as being both challenging and rewarding. I would like to personally thank the community for your overwhelming support throughout this year. In each decision made, I have tried to do the right thing as well as respond in a professional manner that would make the community proud of our school system. I am very proud of the many accomplishments and awards our students received this year. Our faculty and staff have worked very hard to meet the needs of both the students and the entire district. One thing that I have learned this school year, as I attended meetings and seminars with other school superintendents across the state, is that O-G is very fortunate to have great children to work with and such a supportive community. We have a very good educational program at Ottawa-Glandorf and I am very proud to work with such an outstanding staff and community.

Questionnaire Results

In the last Titan Tradition I asked for your input into the decision on what to do with the remaining 2.6 million dollars left over from the High School Addition and Renovation Project. I want to thank those of you who took the time to return the survey. Your input was very valuable in determining what would be the best use of these remaining funds. The survey results were as follows:

65% agreed that the remaining dollars from the High School Addition/Renovation Project should be set aside in a special account to earn interest and be used when the elementary buildings are granted from the State Department.

81% agreed to the construction of an eleven-bay bus garage on O-G Road.

Even though the elementary buildings may not be granted for several years, this money will gain interest the entire time it is in this special account and will only benefit us when the elementary buildings are granted.



Ottawa-Glandorf Schools
630 Glendale Avenue
Ottawa, OH 45875

"Home of the Titans!"

<http://og.noacsc.org>

The comments on the survey also provided us with some very good information. Many of the individuals who were in favor of the construction of the bus garage also indicated the need for restroom facilities on this complex to be used for the bus drivers as well as the soccer, softball, and baseball programs. Since this bus garage will be a public building we will need to provide a restroom. In the design phase, we will work with the architect to design a plan that will meet the needs of each group listed above. Some of the comments questioned the need for a bus garage since there are a few other school districts that park their buses outside. To address this concern, there are a few items to keep in mind. Even if we parked the buses outside, we would still need to provide electrical outlets to plug in the diesel buses during the cold months. Lights for early morning pre-trip inspections would also be needed. This is a requirement prior to any bus leaving the facility. For security reasons we would need to have a fenced in area for the buses. Also, in the winter months we would need to approve additional time for drivers, or hire additional staff, to warm up and defrost all the windows on the buses thus resulting in additional diesel fuel as well as additional funds for staffing.

Some comments suggested that we use the remaining funds (after the bus garage) for other operational expenses. It is very important that everyone understand that these funds cannot be used for operational expenses. The remaining funds will be set aside in a special account, viewable to the community upon request and disclosed in the annual report, to be used for the construction of the new elementary buildings. I will assure you that the money will not be used for anything other than the new elementary schools. Your trust in this matter is appreciated.

If you have any questions or comments that you would like to discuss with me personally about this article or the school district in general, 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.

Sincerely,
Kevin Brinkman
Superintendent

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CURRENT RESIDENT

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



TITAN TRADITION

May, 2005

Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

GLANDORF ELEMENTARY SPRING UPDATE

Scott Kettner
Principal

This year has truly been a busy one here at Glandorf Elementary. The staff has been really working hard to assure that we are meeting the ever-changing needs of our students. This year we have focused on developing curriculum maps for all of the core academic subjects. These maps, which are based on the new Ohio Academic Content Standards, are driving what we teach in each subject at each grade level. It is our intent to make sure that the curriculum we are teaching matches the new state standards.

One area of curriculum that we have made a big change in recently is in the area of math. We have implemented a totally new math program in grades K-4 entitled "Everyday Math" with 5th grade scheduled to come on board next fall. We have also started a new math program entitled "Connected Math" in grades 6-8. We have also expanded our reading/language arts program by having students spend more time in the writing process to encourage high-level thinking skills. For students in grades K-2 we have also implemented a new early reading intervention program through technology with the Waterford computers.

This spring we are also looking at updating our science program with the purchase of new science kits and materials. We are also planning next fall to update our social studies curriculum materials. It is our goal, by the end of next year, to have all of our curriculum maps and updated curriculum materials in place to best meet the needs of our students.

In the area of technology we continue to expand the types of projects and activities our students are doing with computers. Students in all grade levels are integrating technology into all subject areas. Recently students began using a new software program entitled "Kidspiration" and "Inspiration" which provides them a tool to use during the pre-writing stage of formal writing. Students are now better able to organize their thoughts and ideas which encourage higher-level thinking skills.

Glandorf Elementary also has a very active Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). One of their major projects this year is the replacement and renovation of the playground equipment on the south end of the building. The PTO also continues to provide a variety of positive activities for our students including our Blue Ribbon Breakfasts, Field Days, COSI on Wheels, a Junior High Dance, a Family Fun Night, and an Eighth Grade Graduation Dinner.

We feel that our school, and the district as a whole, is one of those places where children are learning and are being successful. Our caring and loving staff is extremely dedicated and committed to meeting the ever-changing needs of our students. Our parents value education and are willing to work with us to help the students of Glandorf Elementary grow to their fullest potential.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 7, 2005

Cabaret - High School - 7:30 p.m.

May 8, 2005

Jazz Band Show - High School - 2:00 p.m.

May 16, 2005

Choir Concert - High School - 7:30 p.m.

May 24, 2005

Kindergarten Graduation - Ottawa Elementary - 7:00 p.m.

May 29, 2005

Graduation - Class of 2005 - 2:00 p.m.

June 2, 2005

8th Grade Graduation - Glandorf Elementary - 6:30 p.m.

June 3, 2005

8th Grade Breakfast - Ottawa Elementary - 8:30 a.m.

A LOOK INSIDE

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Continuous Improvement Plan Completed

Mary Jo Williams
Director of Special Services

A committee of administrators, teachers, staff members, parents and community members has been meeting since January to develop a new Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) for the district. The group has reviewed achievement and attendance data, financial information, job trend data, and student survey results to determine the greatest needs in the district. The CIP reflects the four priorities that were decided upon, and suggests the action steps needed in order to meet our new goals.

The first goal is focused on closing the achievement gap that currently exists. Students who are economically disadvantaged are currently not achieving to the same levels as other students. The CIP includes recommendations for continued staff development in the areas of raising student achievement, removing barriers that may be preventing access to learning opportunities for these children, and providing supports to their families through links to community agencies.

Goal 2 is focused on remaining competitive with other school districts and improving course offerings. We hope to bring two times more students into the district through open enrollment than those who leave our district to attend elsewhere. Action steps include creating promotional materials to communicate the positive programs in our district, and increasing and improving existing course offerings to better meet the needs of our high school students.

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

LaDonna Hoffman
Director

Titan T.I.K.E.S. Preschool is operated by Ottawa-Glandorf Schools and is located in the High School (Rooms 102 and 104). The preschool **currently has openings** in the room for children **3-4 years old** that will not be going to kindergarten in 2006-2007 (attending preschool two years). The openings are in the afternoon session which runs from 12:30-3:00 p.m. The morning session for children that are **4-5 years old** and will be going to kindergarten in 2006-2007 is full, but if we can get a minimum of 10 children, we will **open another session** on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. If you are interested, please call the preschool office to get your child's name on the list. On August 1, we will notify those on the list as to whether or not we will open this additional room. Spots are available for children who qualify for the income eligible grant. Please call the office at 419-523-6464 for details, questions, or leave a message and we will get back with you.

Technology integration and use of computer resources is the focus of our third goal. Over a three year period, we will work to achieve better integration of technology in the teaching process through software programs that promote higher student achievement such as Kidspiration and Inspiration. These programs provide students with graphic representations of content which aids in understanding and retention of material. We plan to provide needed staff development to insure teacher knowledge of these programs and to assist teachers in developing websites which students can use as part of their educational experience.

Our final goal involves the use of student surveys to help inform district decisions regarding programs and course offerings. Students in grades 5, 8 and 10 will be surveyed next year, and the results will be compared to those received this year to determine any changes in student perception as we work to improve our schools. Additionally, we plan to survey the last five graduating classes to gather student opinions regarding the quality of education they received at Ottawa-Glandorf High School, and what recommendations for improvement they can offer.

The CIP that has been developed will help to guide the district for the next 3-5 years. The plan will be reviewed and updated annually to reflect the results of our improvement efforts. We wish to thank all the members of the CIP Committee for their contributions to this project. Their help, commitment, and ideas were vital to the completion of our new CIP.



Logan Hoffman
and the students of Titan T.I.K.E.S. Preschool
enjoy flying homemade kites on a sunny day.

BIENNIAL BUDGET

Michelle Ellerbrock
Treasurer

On April 12, 2005, the Ohio House of Representatives passed House Bill 66 which is their budget bill for 2006 and 2007. This bill has been sent to the Senate for deliberation. The Senate is expected to have its changes made by early June. With all of the press, we can see that this year's state budget is one of the tightest in history. Like the local governments, we are watching the budget activity closely as state funding makes up 51% of the district's operating revenues.

Both the Governor's budget proposal and HB 66 included provisions to eliminate tangible personal property taxes over the next five years. Tangible personal property makes up \$350,000 of O-G's revenues. HB 66 includes a mechanism for full replacement of these funds to schools for five years. After that, the payments would be phased out. Overall, both the Governor's budget proposal and HB 66 keep the burden of funding education on the local taxpayer.

One interesting item in HB 66 is that it requires statewide pooling of health care plans for school employees, with waivers for consortiums of two or more districts covering 5000 or more employees. O-G Schools currently participates in the Putnam County Health Insurance Consortium.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Due to inclement weather, it was necessary for Ottawa-Glandorf Schools to cancel school eleven days during the 2004-05 school year. For this reason, we continue to have make-up days. The last day that school will be in session for students will be as follows:

Titan T.I.K.E.S. Preschool	Friday, June 3
Ottawa Elementary	Friday, June 3 1:00 Dismissal
Glandorf Elementary	Friday, June 3 1:15 Dismissal
Sts. Peter and Paul Elementary	Friday, June 3 1:05 Dismissal
O-G High School, Grades 9-11	Thursday, June 2

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.

Like many local businesses, O-G Schools have seen annual premium increases in excess of 15% over the last couple of years. A 15% increase in health insurance costs the district approximately \$185,000. It remains to be seen if a statewide pool can help control health care costs without negatively impacting the care received by its participants.

With little or no additional financial support anticipated from the state, the O-G Board of Education continues to look for ways to operate more efficiently. As of today, the Board has accepted six teacher's retirement resignations. Personnel expenses make up 80% of the district's budget. The administrative team is reviewing the projected enrollment for the next couple of years in each of these areas and evaluating staffing levels. Non-payroll expenses are being reviewed as well. The district has seen a 39% increase in fuel costs. Natural gas expenses for the district are down for 2005 due to locking in rates last fall. Electricity costs have increased; however, the increase has been more than offset by a decrease in operating expenses at the Locust Street building. Finally, the district saw a decrease in its special education contract with the Putnam County Educational Service Center during 2005.

With the current tax burden placed on Ohio residents, schools will continue to have to look for ways to operate more efficiently without negatively impacting education. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or suggestions for topics in future editions of the Titan Tradition.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Ottawa-Glandorf Schools are now accepting applications from non-resident students wanting to enroll for the 2005-06 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.

SURVEY RESULTS