

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

O-G Schools Cutting Cost through Staff Reductions

In the January issue of the *Titan Tradition*, I made reference to the declining enrollment in most of Putnam County Schools, and specifically the O-G School System. Schools receive funding based on the number of students enrolled in the district; therefore, with fewer students, this means less funding for O-G Schools. The most recent five-year forecast approved during the May School Board Meeting shows that we are expected to deficit spend by \$12,474.00 for the 2006-2007 school year. In order to eliminate deficit spending and maintain an adequate balance, we need to continually evaluate ways to reduce expenditures.

Over the last few months, the Administration and Board of Education have explored ways to reduce expenses, while at the same time maintain our "EXCELLENT" rating on the State of Ohio report card. I take great pride in the fact that O-G Schools has been able to offer both a rigorous curriculum for college bound students as well as

Congratulations to the sophomores for great passage rates on the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) administered in March, 2007.

Reading	93.1 %
Mathematics	95.6 %
Writing	96.3 %
Science	87.5 %
Social Studies	93.2 %



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<http://og.noacsc.org>

challenging courses for students who plan to immediately enter the work force upon graduation. While still maintaining our curriculum and small class sizes, we were able to reduce our staff by one and one-half positions, saving the district \$110,191.56.

The changes at the high school involve the restructuring of the computer courses. We changed the focus of Data Processing (a required course for sophomores) to include a review of typing skills emphasizing word processing, data base and spreadsheet software, and power point presentation software. To reflect these changes, this required course will now be called Computer Applications. We will also continue to offer Computer Web Page Development, and Engineering Drawing (CAD). We did eliminate video production, computer programming I, and AP computers. The decision to eliminate these courses was based on a three-year historical study of declining student interests in these courses. This past year only seven students were enrolled in video production, nine students in computer programming, and six students in AP computer science. Careful consideration is always applied when we eliminate any courses from the curriculum, however, we must take into account the students' needs and interests as well as the financial situation of the entire district. These changes resulted in one less staff member at the High School. The other one-half time position occurred as a result of restructuring existing staff at Ottawa Elementary.

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.

Sincerely,
Kevin Brinkman
Superintendent

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CURRENT RESIDENT

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!



TITAN TRADITION

May, 2007

Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools

SCHOOLS PROVIDE NUTRITIOUS MEALS ACCORDING TO RECENT STUDY



As part of the National School Lunch Program, participating schools are subject to an evaluation of some of their kitchens every five years. This year, Glandorf Elementary School was selected to participate in this review.

The review is done in two parts, the first of which studies our free and reduced lunch identification procedures and general kitchen operations. They look to see if we are complying with all requirements of the National School Lunch Program. We passed this review with flying colors by meeting every standard that was part of the review.

Secondly, a nutritional analysis is done using the menus for an entire school week. Food labels, production records, serving sizes, and lunch count information was gathered and provided to the reviewers, and an on-site evaluation was also completed. The analysis determines if our school lunches provide enough calories, protein, calcium, iron, fiber, and Vitamins A and C. It also studies the levels of total fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, and sodium which must be under certain established levels.

The analysis of our meals concluded that we met every criteria established by the USDA! Congratulations to our kitchen staff at Glandorf Elementary, with special thanks to Judy Hermiller, head cook, for a job well done!

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

The Ohio High School Athletic Association released the new numbers for classifications for the next two years. Our boys are classified at 226 and our girls are classified at 228. We will use these numbers to enter tournaments and divisions for 2007-08 and 2008-09. We now offer 21 varsity sports within our school (*Football, Volleyball, Golf, Girls Tennis, Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Cheerleading, Wrestling, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Boys Swimming, Girls Swimming, Boys Bowling, Girls Bowling, Boys Track, Girls Track, Baseball, Softball, and Boys Tennis*). Schedules and informational items can be found at:

www.oghs.noacsc.org
www.highschoolsports.net

Go Titans!

EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS VISIT WASHINGTON D.C.

Once again, eighth grade students from Ottawa Elementary, Glandorf Elementary and Sts. Peter and Paul Elementary toured our nation's capital from April 19 - 22, 2007. A total of 138 students, along with 46 parents, toured Washington D.C. Some of the sights students visited included the U.S. Capitol, The White House, U.S. Holocaust Museum, Smithsonian Institute, Mount Vernon, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and Arlington National Cemetery. Students also visited the Vietnam Wall, World War II Memorial, Korean Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, and the Jefferson Memorial. The eighth grade class also presented a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during a special ceremony.



Stacy Kahle, Melissa Verhoff,
Katelyn Utendorf, Kylee Pothast
and Emilee Drerup
visit with Congressman Paul Gillmor
on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

A LOOK INSIDE

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**OTTAWA-GLANDORF SCHOOLS
RECEIVE GRANTS**

Robert Weber
Treasurer

Over the years, Ottawa-Glandorf Schools has been able to enhance many of the learning programs through grants administered through the Ohio Department of Education, Job and Family Services, and the Putnam County Educational Service Center. Funding programs for school districts are generally awarded for pre-defined purposes with the expectation of meeting specific service or performance standards.

For the current fiscal year, we have been allocated approximately \$600,000 for the following programs:

- ▶ Improving Teacher Quality, Title II-A
- ▶ Safe and Drug-Free Schools, Title IV-A
- ▶ Innovative Programs - Title V
- ▶ Special Education, Part B-IDEA
- ▶ Early Childhood Education (*Public Preschool*)
- ▶ Title V Discretionary Funds
- ▶ TANF Grant (*Before/After School Programs*)
- ▶ 21st Century Grant (*After School and Summer School Programs*)
- ▶ Ohio Reads Volunteer Program

These funding programs enhance our educational system offerings by:

- ▶ Addressing priorities to strengthen the core academic programs
- ▶ Promoting high quality professional development for instructional staff
- ▶ Addressing teaching and learning needs related to academic challenges of low achieving students
- ▶ Promoting effective parental involvement
- ▶ Offering before/after summer school activities if needed

Thank You!

Titan T.I.K.E.S. Preschool would like to thank all the community partners for allowing the students to visit their establishments.

FITNESS GRANTS AWARDED

Mary Jo Williams
Director of Special Services



Recently, the elementary schools in the Ottawa-Glandorf School District were each awarded a \$1500 grant, sponsored by Action for Healthy Kids. The focus of the two grants is to improve students' knowledge about fitness and to improve the fitness behavior patterns of our students. This spring, all students in grades K-7 completed an assessment of their knowledge of fitness information, and students in grades 1-5 participated in an assessment of their personal fitness levels.

Over the summer, fitness trails will be painted on the playground, and portable equipment for use on our "Roads to Fitness" will be purchased with grant funds. It is our goal for the students to use the fitness trails during recess and/or for organized classroom activities during the school year. Labor for the painting of the trails will be done by local Eagle Scout candidates from Ottawa-Glandorf.

In order to evaluate the outcomes of the grant, we will be administering post-assessments in October, 2007. This presents a challenge in that we will not be seeing our students throughout the summer months. We are, therefore, asking for the support and assistance of parents to keep students physically active over the summer so that their fitness levels do show improvement next fall. It is our plan to continue to assess students each fall and spring so that we can better meet the needs of our students and help them to become healthy adults.

Along with myself, the fitness grants are being coordinated by Paula Ruhe, school nurse, and building principals, Scott Ketner and Denise Phillips. Our physical education teachers, Lita Siefker and Lisa Hohman, are working to implement all grant activities, and the Eagle Scouts will be supervised by Scott Ketner. Many thanks to all who are involved with this project.

**BUSY YEAR AT TITAN T.I.K.E.S.
PRESCHOOL**

The Ottawa-Glandorf Titan T.I.K.E.S. preschool has had a wonderfully busy school year. Several field trips were included in this year's curriculum. We toured Kohls Market, with a lively produce manager as our guide. He showed us the different departments of the grocery store, pointing out all of the different foods along the way. To end the tour, the children watched as he went through the checkout procedure with a teacher. He carried our groceries to the bus and wished us a happy day. The teachers followed up the visit by setting up a grocery store in the preschool, and the children made excellent employees and customers as they stocked shelves, bagged groceries, and shopped.▶

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ANALYSIS REPORT
O-G SCHOOLS COMPARED TO SIMILAR DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS STATEWIDE**

Kevin Brinkman
Superintendent

Schools all across the state of Ohio are continually being compared to one another using different statistical data. The Ohio Department of Education recently published the District Profile Report which contains some of the most useful statistics on public schools in the state of Ohio. This report compares public schools across Ohio with similar schools and includes statewide averages in areas such as personnel data, property valuation and tax data, expenditure data, revenue data, and financial statistics. As I was reviewing the report for Ottawa-Glandorf Schools, I thought it would be a good idea to share this information with district residents.

The purpose of the District Profile publication is to not only provide individual district statistics and similar districts' averages, but statewide averages that reveal how a typical public school district in the state performs in respect to each statistic. The chart below indicates how Ottawa-Glandorf Schools compares to similar districts as well as statewide averages. Because of the length of the report, I didn't include the report in its entirety. If you would like to see the complete report, however, please feel free to stop by my office and I will be more than happy to review and discuss the entire report.

<i>source: Ohio Department of Education</i>	District Data	Similar District Averages	Statewide Averages
Total Average Daily Membership	1,569.43	1,819.75	2,968.22
Number of Classroom Teachers (FTE)	68.64	77.47	124.77
Classroom Teachers' Beginning Salary	27,518.00	28,348.24	28,191.73
Teachers with 0 - 4 Years Experience	6.70	18.56	20.90
Teachers with 10+ Years Experience	72.20	63.20	59.70
K-12 Pupil Teacher Ratio	19.61	18.86	18.49
Number of Administrators (FTE)	7.00	12.69	18.71
Pupil Administrator Ratio	224.20	138.61	155.99
Total Property Tax Per Pupil	2,592.80	3,257.33	4,661.54
Median Income (TY04)	30,324.00	31,284.00	30,476.00
Average Income (TY04)	39,918.00	41,342.05	55,338.00
Total Expenditure Per Pupil (FY06)	7,615.93	7,814.12	9,343.03

Titan T.I.K.E.S. (continued)

Also, we recently walked to McDonald's, where we got to see the preparation of some of our favorite fast foods. The classrooms were transformed into restaurants, and the children became cooks, cashiers, and waiters. They impressed the teachers with their growth in dramatic play as they carried out lengthy scenarios. To finish up our field trips, we walked to the park. The children actively enjoyed the play set that includes many various opportunities for large motor play.

Not only did we find adventure out in our community, but we went on frequent journeys right in our school. Having our classrooms inside the high school allows for lots of learning experiences. We had the opportunity to sing with the choir, dance with the show choir, and direct the band. The multi-purpose room served as our inside large motor area. The auditorium was an excellent theater for acting out books. The children were in awe as the teachers acted out stories

including *Goldilocks and The Three Bears*, *The Three Little Pigs*, and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The children got to be shining stars as well, as they performed some of the stories with much detail. We also visited the high school library where the children checked out some of their favorite story books. In addition, the Titan T.I.K.E.S. Zoo was created in the preschool storage room. Stuffed animals, plastic figurines, and large animals made of paper filled the room. You could even hear the animals and enjoy the smell and taste of popcorn. Another highlight of the school year was when Clifford, the big red dog, stopped by for a visit. There was a lot of hype at the preschool, as the children highly anticipated Clifford's arrival. In preparation, maps were created so that Clifford could find the preschool with ease. Upon arrival, some of his famous books were read. As you can see, we had quite an exciting year at Titan T.I.K.E.S., and we are looking forward to even more adventures next year!