

**LETTER FROM
THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Ottawa-Glandorf Schools have experienced many successes already during the quick passage of the first nine weeks of the 2004-2005 school year. Our students have excelled in many curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular events. We are very proud of the accomplishments of all our students. The O-G Band advanced to the State Competition and received an excellent rating of 2. The Vocal Music Department also presented their first concert of the season on October 18 and did a fantastic job. We look forward to many future accomplishments from the student as this year progresses.

A factor that greatly influences the success of any school district is largely dependent on how the community and school personnel communicate with one another. One of my goals as Superintendent of Ottawa - Glandorf is to improve the communication between all sectors of the school. In order to accomplish this, I recently established a Superintendent's Advisory Committee with our first meeting to be held in November. This advisory group consists of a wide variety of individuals. During our meetings I will share with the committee pertinent information and provide them with the opportunity to give feedback. I will use this information as a piece of the puzzle when making decisions that affect the entire district. This committee will only be used as an advisory group and will not make final decisions for the district; those decisions will rest in the hands of the administration and Board of Education. I do, however, have the strong belief that the best decisions are made with the input of those that will be affected by the decisions. Together, O-G Schools will continue to improve and better serve the residents of Ottawa and Glandorf.

If you have a topic or concern that you would like addressed in future issues of the Titan Tradition, please feel free to call or e-mail us.

High School Renovation / Rededication

We continue to make great strides towards the completion of this entire project. Recently, we gained possession of the Industrial Arts area. All the wood/metal working equipment has been moved back into their locations and the students have begun making projects. The weight room is also nearly completed with the weight equipment being relocated this month. This milestone completes the construction in all academic areas. The only portion of the building still under construction is the auditorium. We are approximately 50% complete with this area. The carpet and seating is scheduled to be completed during the Christmas break. I am very excited with the acoustical modifications as well as the general appeal of the auditorium. This area will definitely be one that the entire community will be very proud to have as part of the High School.

It is time to celebrate the completion of the addition and renovation project. The substantial completion date for the entire project is December. A Rededication Ceremony is being planned.

**Rededication Ceremony
January 23, 2005
2:00 p.m.
Ottawa-Glandorf High School**


Several speakers are planned followed by an Open House of the entire building. Everyone from the community is invited to attend this ceremony. Teachers and students will share stories of the construction process. A special financial announcement will also be given during this ceremony. I look forward to seeing you on January 23.

A special thank you to the community for your continued support of this project. We would not have been able to complete this project without your financial support. Also, if you have any questions or concerns about the school district, please contact me by calling 419-523-5261 or by e-mail, og_supt@noacsc.org.

Thank you,
Kevin Brinkman
Superintendent

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

CURRENT RESIDENT



Ottawa-Glandorf Schools
630 Glendale Avenue
Ottawa, OH 45875



TITAN TRADITION

Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools



November, 2004

TESTING PROGRAM CHANGES FOR THE 2004-05 SCHOOL YEAR

Mary Jo Williams
Director of Special Services

Education in Ohio continues to change annually. One basis for this change is new Academic Content Standards, which define what your child should know and be able to do at every grade level. There are new standards in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Our teachers are working hard to align our curriculum and instruction to these new standards to insure that our students are receiving the best education possible.

The No Child Left Behind Act was signed by President George W. Bush in January, 2002. The intent of the law is to provide all children with an equal opportunity to obtain a high quality education through standards-based education. Ohio was already making significant education reforms on its own when the federal law was being enacted, but we needed to make some changes in order to be in compliance. One major change is that all students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 must be assessed in reading and math annually. Ohio was assessing students in grades 4, 6 and 9 through proficiency testing in the past, but changes are now underway.

It will take three more years in order to institute all new federal and state requirements, but we will see many changes already this school year. Proficiency testing is being phased out as these tests are not aligned to the new content standards. New achievement tests will replace proficiency tests, and will be phased in over time. The testing schedule for the current school year (March, 2005) is as follows:

	Achievement Tests	Proficiency Tests
Grade 3:	Reading, Math	
Grade 4:	Reading, Writing	Math, Science, Social Studies
Grade 5:	Reading	
Grade 6:		Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Social Studies
Grade 7:	Math	
Grade 8:	Reading, Math	
Grade 10:	Ohio Graduation Tests - includes Reading, Math, Writing, Science, and Social Studies	

We will continue to inform you of changes in assessment annually. These assessments help us to know if students are achieving what is outlined in state standards. Test results also inform us of strengths and weaknesses in curriculum materials and instructional techniques, so that we can continually work toward making improvements. We are working hard to effectively prepare students for these new tests, and expect positive results later this school year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 22 and 23, 2004
Kindergarten Registration for 2005-06
- November 22 and 23, 2004
Parent/Teacher Conferences
- November 23, 2004
Preschool Open House
- November 23, 2004
NO SCHOOL - Elementary Buildings
- November 24, 25, and 26, 2004
NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
- December 6, 2004
Ottawa Elementary Christmas Program - 7:00 p.m.
- December 7, 2004
Band Christmas Concert - 7:30 p.m.
- December 9, 2004
Glandorf Elementary Christmas Program - 7:00 p.m.

A LOOK INSIDE

Ottawa Elementary Update	Page 2
Report from the Treasurer	Page 3
Athletic Department News	Page 3
Letter from the Superintendent	Page 4

OTTAWA ELEMENTARY FALL UPDATE

Denise Phillips
Principal

The staff of Ottawa Elementary School is committed to providing educational experiences inside and outside the classroom.

Positive role models are always in style at Ottawa Elementary. The 8th grade reading classes serve as "reading buddies" to several primary classrooms. The buddies read a book together and do an activity. Recently, the students and their buddies read "The Chalk Box Kid." After reading the story, the reading buddies made homemade chalk and created murals with their chalk.

At Ottawa Elementary we deal in facts---just ask any of our student reporters. From the Gobbler Gazette to the Titan Times, students are gathering information, taking pictures, writing articles, and publishing a final project. Real life situations are used throughout the building as students work on their writing skills.

Is there a conflict in the house? Our trained peer mediators use their mediation skills to help their classmates work through problems. They follow a problem-solving model. Both the mediators and the students in mediation are learning life-long skills in how to get along with others and to use words to solve problems.

Intervention and enrichment opportunities are available in our junior high classes. Extra classes have been created to meet the needs of all students to help them reach their potential. In Integrated Literacy, students are working on Veteran's Day projects to be displayed at the annual Veteran's Day Spaghetti Dinner. Student creativity blossoms in the poetry units and critical thinking skills are challenged with brain teasers. General geography students study current events. We knew the day before the election George Bush would be re-elected President as he won the 5th - 8th grade election at Ottawa Elementary sponsored by the geography class.

After-school intervention is available for grades K-8 sponsored by O-G Schools and the Putnam County Educational Service Center's 21st Century Grant. Students have a chance to make sure they understand all of their homework before it goes home. They also work on reading and math skills. Our goal is to boost our proficiency and achievement test scores.

In addition to the 21st Century Grant, our school is part of an Access Grant which provides funding for staff in-service to help us learn how to provide access to the general curriculum for all students. We have a building team participating in an Autism Team Grant. We always get ideas that can be applied to many different groups of students, not

just the ones targeted by the grants. The guidance office has received several grants for promoting diversity and character education.

Field trips are an excellent source of education outside the classroom. Teachers must design field trips that match with their curriculum and enhance something they are doing in the classroom. The ultimate field trip is when all 8th graders in the district are eligible to go to Washington D.C. Students get to see first hand the things they have studied in school. This is their first event as next year's freshmen class. Four buses have been chartered for this year's trip. Experiencing the trip through the eyes of the students is one of the most enjoyable parts of my job.

One of the curricular areas that has had the biggest impact on teaching and learning is technology. Each grade level has specific standards adopted by the State of Ohio that they are to meet. Students learn how to use the appropriate computer "tool" for each task, activity, or problem they are assigned. All activities build upon one another and help them advance to the next grade level or proficiency. Some common activities our students can do are keyboarding, word processing and formatting, creating a spreadsheet or database, collecting and analyzing data, graphic editing and enhancing photos, designing web pages and producing movies and animations. Each grade level/classroom has between two and 24 computers. Activities and projects that are taking place within the computer classroom may be found at:

<http://og.noacsc.org/ogoe/staff/teachers/becker/index.htm>

Computer projects and activities also take place in individual classrooms.

We are a Team at Ottawa Elementary. Our team is dedicated to providing a top-notch education for each and every child who comes to us. I appreciate this opportunity to showcase a small portion of what the Ottawa Elementary team does for the students.

Reading buddies become
"Chalk Box Kids"
and create a chalk garden.

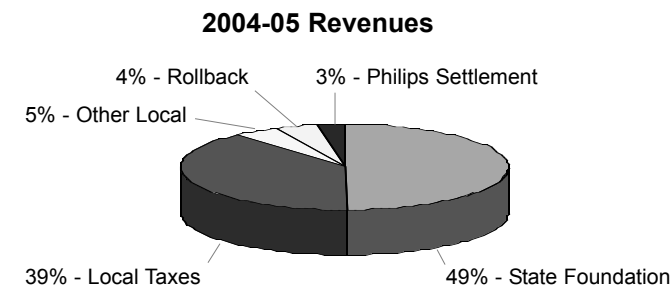


FINANCIAL REPORT

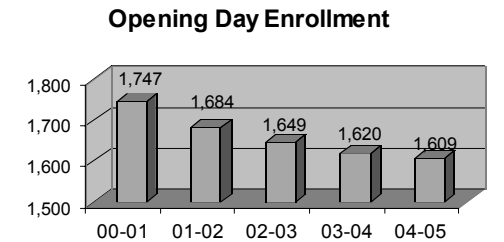
Michelle Ellerbrock
Treasurer

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. I thought for this edition, I would share some graphs illustrating Ottawa-Glandorf School's finances. I hope you find them informative.

The following graph illustrates projected 2004-2005 revenues for the District's general fund.

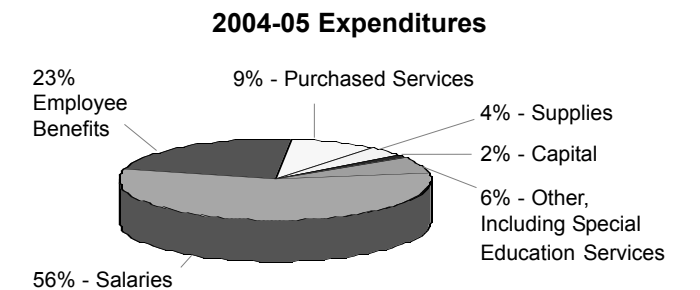


You can see in that the District receives 49% of its funding from the state of Ohio. The state distributes funds to school districts through the state foundation. The formula used for the state foundation is primarily driven by student enrollment. The next graph illustrates Ottawa-Glandorf's opening day enrollment over the past five years.



For the 2004-2005 school year, public schools receive \$5,169 per pupil for basic aid. You can see that the District has experienced a decline in enrollment over the past few years, which decreases the amount received in state funding. The trend of declining enrollment is common around the state of Ohio. The good news is that Ottawa-Glandorf did not realize as big of a drop in enrollment as it could have for 2004-2005 due to an increase in open enrollment. Open enrollment students are those that attend Ottawa-Glandorf, but live in another school district. For the 2004-2005 school year, Ottawa-Glandorf has a net increase of 18 students through open enrollment. This results in a net increase in funding from open enrollment of \$93,042.

The last graph is projected general fund expenditures for 2004-2005 school year. You can see that 79% of the expenditures are for salaries and benefits.



If you have a topic that you would like more information on, please let me know and I will try to address it in future issues of the Titan Tradition. Thank you for your continued support of Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools.

FALL SPORTS

Al Laubenthal
Athletic Director

Volleyball	13 - 5	Freshmen
	22 - 0	JV
	25 - 2	Varsity
	First in WBL, Regional Semi-Finalists	
Boys Soccer	11 - 5	JV
	11 - 6 - 1	Varsity
Girls Soccer	6 - 3 - 1	JV
	11 - 6 - 3	Varsity
Cross Country	36 - 50	Girls
	Ninth in WBL	
	61 - 27	Boys
	Third in WBL	
Football	6 - 3	Freshmen
	5 - 1 - 1	JV
	5 - 5	Varsity
Girls Tennis	10 - 5	Varsity
Golf	7 - 6	Varsity
	Fifth in WBL	

BASKETBALL SEASON TICKETS

Boys season basketball tickets will go on sale starting Wednesday, November 17, 2004. Only people that had season tickets last year will be able to again purchase a reserved or non-reserved season ticket. Parking lots at the renovated high school are now done and with the extension of the west parking lot, a new door and new set of restrooms will be available for use. The door by the new media center will be open for any person who has a ticket. No tickets will be sold at this door. Tickets will only be sold at the main gym doors and doors coming in from Perry Street.

