



STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

Excellence in Academics-Arts-Athletics

JUNE 2015

CONTACTS

John J. Krupinski
Superintendent
440-572-7010

krupinski@strongnet.org

Cameron M. Ryba
Assistant Superintendent
440-572-7037
ryba@strongnet.org

Our Schools

Strongsville High School
Albion Middle School
Center Middle School
Chapman Elementary School
Drake Elementary School
Kinsner Elementary School
Muraski Elementary School
Surrarrer Elementary School
Whitney Elementary School
Zellers Elementary School
Early Learning Preschool

Contact Us:

13200 Pearl Road
Strongsville 44136
www.strongnet.org
(440) 572-7000
info@scsmustangs.org

SUPERINTENDENT KRUPINSKI'S PARTING WORDS

It has been my privilege to have served in various administration positions in our District for the past seventeen years. We have an excellent school District thanks to the following:

- Our students, for their desire to learn and work toward their goals. We can provide the best opportunities for their learning, but they must do the learning.
- Our parents/families, for their support of their children's learning in so very many ways.
- Our teachers/certified staff, for their dedication to be the best they can be for their students. Dan Rather was quoted saying, "The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs, pushes, and leads you to the next plateau of your learning. Sometimes urging you along the way with something called truth."
- Our administrators, for their guidance and leadership.
- Our support staff, for their dedicated work in providing services to our students.
- Our Board of Education for their support and for making decisions with two goals in mind-Student Achievement and Financial Prudence. Decisions made are in the best interest of the students.
- Our community for their support, participation, and for generously providing the tax dollars to fund the educational programs and opportunities for our students/staff.

This has been a true team effort. To paraphrase an African proverb: *It takes a village to educate a child.*

Well, in our case it takes a "ville"-Strongsville.

The District has a bright future ahead and will continue to be one of the premier districts in our state as we get even better **together.**

Respectfully,

Mr. K



DISTRICT RECEIVES A1 MOODY'S RATING

Strongsville Schools received good news from Moody's Investors Service: an affirmation of an A1 rating. Now, the District can refinance debt that will save \$578,000 in interest over the life of the loan. This saves the District \$30,000 per year and reaffirms its commitment to financial prudence.

COMMUNITY SEES MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Strongsville Schools hosted dozens of community members on the first walk through of the new Middle School construction. Participants saw the new administration area, mechanical rooms, kitchen area, locker rooms, and gym, as well as a view of the new classroom wing currently under construction. The project is progressing on schedule, and the new Middle School will open in the Fall of 2016.



Mark Donnelly leading a tour of the new Middle School construction



Board of Education Member George Grozan and Michelle Holland



Board of Education Member Jane Ludwig (right) with Michelle Holland (left), math teacher at Albion, touring the new Middle School

Board of Education

Carl Naso

President

440-846-2375

naso@strongnet.org

Richard Micko

Vice President

440-238-9988

micko@strongnet.org

Jane Ludwig

440-238-6020

jludwig@strongnet.org

George Grozan

440-972-0507

grozan@strongnet.org

Duke Evans

216-392-3444

dukeevans@strongnet.org

STRONGSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AWARDED NEARLY \$90,000 IN "BELIEVE IN OHIO" STEM COMPETITION

Strongsville High School had approximately 400 students and 20 teachers participate in the Believe in Ohio program and 19 students won almost \$90,000 in cash or scholarship awards based on their participation in the statewide competition held on April 25, 2015.

The names of the State competition winners are shown below.

Believe in Ohio was co-founded by John Klipfell, a former Strongsville resident. The program was developed in collaboration with Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio with the support of the Ohio Board of Regents and the Ohio General Assembly. "Believe in Ohio is the only statewide Ohio student STEM education program to integrate **entrepreneurship** and **innovation** as pathways to create future jobs," said Dr. Lynn Elfner, CEO Emeritus of The Ohio Academy of Science and Co-Director of Believe in Ohio. For more information, visit our website or click [here](#).



From left to right: Maria Vargo (12), Haley Brengartner (11), Cassandra Nemeth (12)

In a special event on May 26, Strongsville High School recognized the following award winners:

- **Meghan Hayes**, grade 11, winner of a \$20,000 scholarship to an Ohio college or university
- **Mary Owen**, grade 12, winner of a \$10,000 scholarship to an Ohio college or university
- **Maria Vargo**, grade 12, winner of a \$10,000 scholarship to an Ohio college or university
- **Mary Papandreas**, grade 12, winner of a \$10,000 cash award to be applied to her education
- The team of **Suraj Srinivasan** and **Satya Nayagam**, grade 9, winners sharing a \$10,000 cash award to be applied to their education
- **Haley Brentgartner**, grade 11, winner of a \$2,500 cash award to be applied to her education
- **Grant Brighter**, grade 12, winner of a \$2,500 cash award to be applied to his education
- **Ellen DeWitt**, grade 12, winner of a \$2,500 cash award to be applied to her education
- **Paige Ingram**, grade 12, winner of a \$2,500 cash award to be applied to her education
- **Jeffrey Miles**, grade 12, winner of a \$2,500 cash award to be applied to his education
- **Cassandra Nemeth**, grade 12, winner of a \$2,500 cash award to be applied to her education
- **Francis Skupnik, Jr.** grade 12, winner of a \$2,500 cash award to be applied to his education
- **Tyler Treiber II**, grade 10, winner of a \$2,500 cash award to be applied to his education
- **Ryan Venter**, grade 10, winner of a \$2,500 cash award to be applied to his education
- The team of **Julia Clark** and **Ariana Moran**, grade 9, winners sharing a \$2,500 cash award to be applied to their education
- The team of **Julia Frost** and **Justyna Krupa**, grade 10, winners sharing a \$2,500 cash award to be applied to their education

STRONGSVILLE STUDENT NAMED INTERNATIONAL DECA FINALIST

Strongsville High School junior, **Olivia Abdallah**, earned the title of International Finalist at DECA's 69th International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida April 25-April 28, 2015.

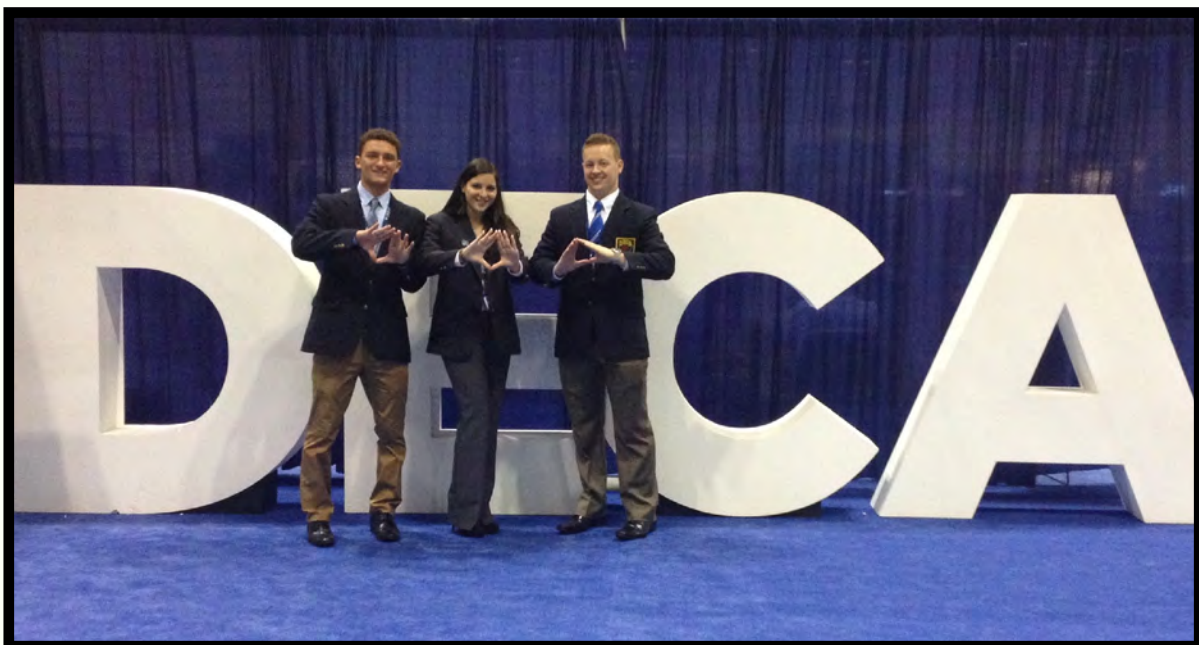
Kylen Bailey and **Justin Nadzan**, two Strongsville finalists from the Ohio DECA State Conference, joined Olivia at the DECA International Conference. The three competed in front of a record-breaking crowd of over 18,000 high school students, advisors, business leaders, and DECA alumni.

Olivia Abdallah competed in the Quick Serve Restaurant Management individual event. She showed off her marketing and management skills through a grueling comprehensive marketing exam followed by showing off her analysis of three case studies. Olivia competed against 200 other students and placed in the top 10%, which earned her the International Finalist title.

Seniors Justin Nadzan and Kylen Bailey competed together in the Financial Analysis Team Event. They took a comprehensive Finance Exam and presented a case study comprised of understanding the source and purpose of financial statements, the impact of management decisions on statements, and the analysis and interpretation of data for planning purposes.

Jennifer Pelko, Principal of Center Middle School said, "As former Center students, it makes me so proud to know they have continued to achieve such success."

During the school year, approximately 120,000 of DECA's 210,000 student members take part in the organization's competitive events program, allowing them to compete for district and state titles. The top state winners put their talents to the test during the program's final round of competition, DECA Internationals. The conference spotlighted DECA's top student performers from all 50 United States, Canada, China, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Spain.



Left to right: Justin Nadzan, Olivia Abdallah. and Kylen Bailey

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

The District named new members of the leadership team. In addition to incoming Superintendent Cameron M. Ryba, we are proud to announce the following appointments:

Jennifer Pelko Named Assistant Superintendent

The Board of Education voted to hire Jennifer Pelko as the new Assistant Superintendent, a position formerly held by incoming Superintendent Cameron M. Ryba.

Pelko has worked for Strongsville City Schools for 19 years, eleven of those as a Spanish instructor at the high school, three as an assistant principal, and five as principal at Center Middle School. Pelko will be responsible for human resources, professional development, recruitment, hiring, and working collaboratively on the collective bargaining process.

"Her leadership skills, tireless work ethic, and her ability to foster a positive culture through the development of meaningful relationships with students, staff, parents, and the community drives everyone she works with towards excellence," Cameron Ryba said, "I look forward to working with her in her new role."

George Anagnostou Named Treasurer

The Board of Education voted to hire Strongsville resident George Anagnostou as the new District Treasurer effective July 1. Anagnostou has 12 years of experience in government accounting. For the past six years, Anagnostou served as the Executive Director of Budgets and Grants for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. In that role, Anagnostou developed and managed a \$732 million general fund budget and prepared the School's Five Year Forecast.

School Board President Carl Naso is a Certified Public Accountant and enthusiastic about the new hire, "I see the enormous potential for George's contribution to our District goal of financial prudence. His experience as both an auditor and as an Executive Director in an extremely complicated District like Cleveland is exciting. Not only is he more than qualified, he is a Strongsville resident with young children entering our schools, which gives him a unique understanding of our community."

Andy Jalwan Named Athletic Director

Andy Jalwan was recently named the new High School Athletic Director. Before joining Strongsville, Jalwan was the Athletic Director at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School. He attended Bowling Green State University majoring in Sports Management with a minor in Marketing and later earned his Master's Degree in Sports Management from the University of Akron. Jalwan grew up in University Heights and is a graduate of University School. He brings thirteen years of experience in education to Strongsville.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

Don't forget to keep in touch with our District! We are updating our website and expanding our bi-weekly emails so please make sure you're on our list! Simply visit www.strongnet.org and click the "stay in touch" icon or click below to connect via Facebook or Twitter.



INVENTORcloud 3D PRINTING COMES TO STRONGSVILLE HS

INVENTORcloud challenges students to collaborate in problem-based activities to solve real-world challenges. Students apply the design process using computer design and visualization tools to create virtual prototypes which are then produced with rapid prototyping equipment. INVENTORcloud enables students to remotely access STORM:Lab's rapid prototyping equipment such as 3D printers, laser cutters, and mills to turn virtual prototypes into reality.

Some Strongsville staff members recently visited INVENTORcloud Fab Lab to learn more about 3D printing, MakerSpaces, and STEM curriculum, and they came away excited about the possibilities. According to Industrial Tech Teacher, Dan Hogan, "The online tools present an endless creative opportunity for our students to explore." Math teacher Kim Scott agreed, stating, "This is just the kind of learning we need to get our students excited about school." Kim was so impressed with the program, she asked high school principal Mark Smithberger if she could pilot a project with her geometry class this year. Mr. Smithberger was happy to help make that happen, noting, "We have been researching and moving in the direction of project based learning and STEM programs. This is another step in the right direction." The project was funded by the high school PTA.

Staff who visited INVENTORcloud: Joan Battle, Dan Hogan, Kim Scott, Michele Barrett, Mindy Bedrossian, Vicki Turner, Mark Smithberger, Steve Deitrick



Teacher Kim Scott working with students on INVENTORcloud



Teacher Dan Hogan talks with the creator of INVENTORcloud

ZELLERS' STUDENTS TOUR THEIR NEW SCHOOLS

Zellers Elementary School permanently closes in June and the transition team worked hard to make sure all students were comfortable in their new buildings. All students recently toured their new school and were welcomed by students and teachers. The District also prepared video introductions to help answer any questions families may have about the new school assignments. To view our videos, click [here](#).

The Facilities Task Force recommended closing Zellers and Drake to address declining enrollment. At the time, the District's seven elementary schools had 20 empty classrooms. When Drake closes at the end of the next school year, the District will save over \$700,000 in annual operating costs. More information, including the relocation map, can be found on the District's website or by clicking [here](#).

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

School may be out but our District will be busy with construction and transitions all summer. As we say goodbye to another successful school year, we also celebrate our retiring Superintendent John Krupinski and wish him all the best in his retirement!

SUPERINTENDENT KRUPINSKI RETIRES



John Krupinski with Board President, Carl Naso

We'll miss you, Mr. K!



John with Board Vice President, Richard Micko



John and his longtime secretary, Shelly Petrie



John with SEF President, Linda Mahoney

IMPORTANT REMINDER: SCHEDULE CHANGES FOR 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

As you're making your summer plans, please remember the scheduling change for the 2015-2016 school year. The school year will start earlier than usual, a change necessary to allow time for the demolition of Center Middle School and the opening of our new Middle School in the summer of 2016.

The 2015-16 school year will resume this fall on a staggered schedule: First through ninth grades resume August 12, tenth through twelfth grades and kindergarten resume August 13 and preschool resumes August 17. The early opening also means school will end earlier than in the past in 2016. The middle school is scheduled to open August 2016.