



STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

Excellence in Academics-Arts-Athletics

APRIL 2015

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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

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MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT KRUPINSKI

"Staying Power"

When you think of perseverance you probably don't think of the bee, but the bee is a terrific example of what can be accomplished through perseverance. The next time you enjoy some sweet, golden honey, consider these facts. A bee must visit 56,000 clover heads, performing its extracting operation about 3,360,000 times, to produce one pound of honey. There are two lessons we can learn from the busy bee. First, good things come to those who keep at it; and second, it is often the accumulation of little successes that make possible the big successes.

Perseverance and persistence are traits we all need. Life is full of obstacles, temporary setbacks and failures. The person who learns to keep trying, to continue getting up when knocked down, will be the person who is successful. Often, success comes in small increments, one step at a time.

I recall the Indians magical season when, no matter how far down they were, they somehow would rally and

pull out the victory. Remember when the Browns were the "Cardiac Kids?" They would always get the last quarter touchdown, on the last drive down the field. Well, we are into that last quarter of the 2014-15 school year and we all have to dig deep to continue to emphasize to our students that "inch by inch anything's a cinch" attitude.

As the daylight hours increase and the temperatures warm into the 70s, it gets tough to concentrate and have the motivation to achieve. Yet, there is much to learn and so little time to complete the tasks. Just like the honeybee, it is time to persevere and continue to strive to be the best we can be each day. Good luck! Enjoy the springtime!

-Superintendent John J. Krupinski



NASO TESTIFIES ABOUT PROPOSED STATE BUDGET CUTS

In mid-March, Board of Education President Carl Naso, Assistant Superintendent Cameron Ryba, and Board of Education Vice President Richard Micko traveled to Columbus to appear before the Legislature. Naso testified before the House Finance Committee about the devastating impact Governor Kasich's budget proposal would have on Strongsville City Schools. If adopted as proposed, the new state budget would cut Strongsville Schools state funding by \$4.2 million over two years, the highest cuts in the state.

Naso urged the House Subcommittee to modify the proposed funding formula for K-12 education because of the disproportionate and unfair outcome to districts like Strongsville. The Board asked that funding be allocated for K-12 education in a fair and equitable way by freezing the state funding levels for any school district that has already absorbed major state funding cuts and demonstrates strong performance.

Naso said, "The funding model is based on a perceived ability for districts to raise local funds. The model is far too simplistic and makes significant assumptions. It is a change but not progress or improvement. It does not appear to take into account previous levy success, current bond issue impacts, and other significant local events. Our district and community cannot absorb this major funding cut without devastating the quality of education. We strongly disagree with the Governor's assertion that, "Wealthier districts, with the capacity to raise more funding locally through tax levies, should do so." The capacity assumption is flawed.

We say this for several reasons. State cuts are slated to occur this year, leaving no time to plan for absorbing massive state funding cuts. This means we will have no choice but to slash expenditures and harm the quality of local education in Strongsville.

To read more about the impact of the proposed state budget cuts, visit OhioMeansEducation.com.

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IMPORTANT REMINDER: SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

As our families are making their plans for summer, we want to remind everyone of 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 the new Middle School.

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 normal in 2016.

The middle school is scheduled to open August 2016.

CAMERON RYBA NAMED SUPERINTENDENT EFFECTIVE JULY 1

The Board of Education voted to name Cameron Ryba the new Superintendent of Strongsville City Schools, effective July 1, upon the retirement of current Superintendent, John J. Krupinski.

Mr. Ryba has experience in all facets of K-12 education. Ryba began his career in education as a fourth grade teacher. In 2003, Ryba came to Strongsville Schools, first as an Assistant Principal at Albion Middle School and later as Principal at both Muraski Elementary and Center Middle School. Most recently, Ryba was a High School Principal and returned to Strongsville in 2012 as Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Staff Development.

Ryba graduated from Garfield Heights High School and attended The Ohio State University earning both Bachelor of Music and Master of Education degrees. He is currently completing his doctoral degree at the University of Akron and has served as a part-time lecturer for the University in their Educational Foundations and Leadership Program.

Ryba said, "I am passionate about the success of our district and honored that the Board of Education put their trust in my leadership. I look forward to continuing our advancement efforts and working collaboratively with our staff, parents, and community to ensure our students receive an excellent education and are prepared for future opportunities."



Cameron Ryba named Superintendent effective July 1



TECH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS DUE BY JUNE

Strongsville Schools named a Technology Committee to make recommendations to the Board of Education for improving district technology and student access to technological tools. Committee members include a board member, teachers, administrators, tech coordinators, and parents.

In its first meeting, the Committee reviewed a comprehensive district tech audit and named ad hoc groups to work in the following areas:

- Tech Plan Update
- Gmail Roll Out
- STEM Summer Camp
- Tech Infrastructure/Maintenance
- Tech Funding Sources
- Innovative Practices
- Policy/Communication

The Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Education by June. If you have any questions, please contact Vicki Turner vturner@scsmustangs.org

NEW COURSE OFFERING: CALLING ALL CODERS

An exciting new course is being added to the high school next year called **Exploring Computer Science through Mathematics**.

Open to students in grades 9-12, this two-semester introductory class is designed for students who are curious about how technology and computing affects their lives, want to use computers more effectively, and may consider becoming technology producers. Throughout the course, students will work to develop mathematical problem-solving skills by learning to approach computing challenges systematically and become more comfortable trying out new computer tools, all through a mathematical perspective.

Kim Scott and Michele Barrett will teach the course.

A conversation with Kim and Michele:



Kim: "Our students will be entering the workforce soon and need to have the tools available to adapt software to meet the needs of employers. We want to build a familiarity with the workings of a computer so that students have the tools to create their own websites, adapt to new programs, and, ultimately, have the confidence to reconstruct software to fit the needs of their task. Students who understand how to code can make their own apps while building a solid base of logical thinking that is critical to success in their future."

Michele: "I think the coding class will open up a whole new box of tools for the kids to understand how they can apply what they are learning in school to the world."

Kim: "One of the programs that we are going to be working with is called Scratch (developed by MIT), and it specifically allows students to program without being bogged down by the actual writing of the code. It lets them explore coding without knowing detailed specific commands."

High School Principal Mark Smithberger added: "We are absolutely excited about Code.org. We think it's important for students to learn about programming prior to leaving our building, and this is just the next step for us moving into an area where we're really trying to use technology as a tool and enhance the learning opportunities for students."

Assistant Principal Brian Tumino concurred stating: "One of the exciting things about the *Exploring Computer Science through Mathematics* class and Code.org is that this will provide future opportunities for students. One of the most exciting opportunities will be the year after next when we will be able to offer a brand new Advanced Placement course in computer science that would be called Computer Science principles."

According to Vicki Turner, Supervisor of Instructional Technology, the district is researching ways to introduce coding at all levels, including coding clubs for elementary students.

OHIO IMPROVEMENT PROCESS: RESTRUCTURING GIFTED SERVICES

In alignment with our central Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) goal of increasing student achievement and growth through differentiation, we have created a plan that will transition into one gifted intervention specialist in each elementary building by 2017-18.

This improvement means the District is moving from providing gifted services to a small group of gifted students to providing gifted and enrichment services to all eligible students. The program improvements will be phased in at no additional cost.

The gifted teachers will begin to serve identified gifted elementary students through the co-teaching/inclusive model consistent with the District's OIP action steps. The transition plan ensures that current students in the magnet program grades 3-5 will continue to be served in this model until they graduate to the middle school.

The new service model, with a gifted intervention specialist in each building, will allow teacher collaboration for an even more enriched education and increase in student achievement and growth.



AROUND THE DISTRICT

Chapman Math/Science Night with Ice Cream Social

On March 18, Chapman Elementary hosted its annual Math/Science and Ice Cream Social Event. This is a voluntary opportunity open to students to create a science presentation based on the scientific method. The event is judged by NASA scientists as highly qualified and objective evaluators of student work.

The math component comes from volunteers from the Chapman community that have stations established throughout the building for students to visit and experiment and experience the wonders of mathematics.

The Ice Cream Social encourages students to participate in future Science competitions and just enjoy some ice cream with fellow Chapman Chargers.

This event is a treasured opportunity for the community and school to join together in various ways. We appreciate the commitment of the NASA scientists, the high school Key Club and National Honor Society students, our celebrity teacher ice cream scoopers, and our incredible PTA and school community for making the event a success.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Middle School Construction Progress



Contractors are gearing up for a very busy spring and summer at the new middle school. Blocks are being distributed along the foundation so masons can begin to build the classroom wing of the building. Truckloads of block, piping, and other materials arrive daily as work begins to ramp up. The concrete gym floor will be poured in April and the brick veneer installed on the front and side of the building. With much of the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems completed over the winter, painting in the main office and kitchen area will begin before the end of April.

The high school project is progressing on schedule. The 600 wing demolition is almost complete and the data, phone, and electrical wiring is currently being installed. Several walls have been built out, restroom plumbing has been repaired or replaced as designed, and a few HVAC units have been replaced. The work in the 600 wing is on schedule and will be completed in June.

Over spring break, removal of the floor in the 700/800 hallways and construction of the main technology closet will begin.

By next school year, the 700/800 wing will have a fresh coat of paint, improved wireless access points, interactive projectors, sound systems, and replaced windows, lockers, and some light fixtures.

For more information about the planned high school phases of work, visit www.strongnet.org/Page/9695

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

We want all Strongsville residents to keep in touch with our district! Our district is 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. If you have suggestions or questions about our district, please email info@scsmustangs.org.