Strongsville

School News
John Krupinski, Superintendent

This is how I colored on the First Day of Kindergarten

Issue 1: September 2014

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www.facebook.com/strongsvillecs

Find us on Twitter!
https://twitter.com/SuptKrupinski

"Education is not filling a pail but the lighting of a fire."
William Butler Yeats

It is hard to believe that another summer has gone by so quickly and teachers and students are finishing the first full month of school.

We have the awesome job of guiding our students in their journey towards excellence—excellence not only measured by standardized tests but also by a chorus or band performance, a three-point shot, a touchdown, a sculpture, community service, and academic awards.

Our students continue to be our number one priority, and we are dedicated to offering them an engaging educational experience.

Welcome back and have a great year!

Students and Staff Support ALS Research

Throughout the district, students and staff have supported ALS research through donations, and, of course, by dumping buckets of ice water on their heads.

We are proud of their efforts and willingness to help others.

Ohio Improvement Process (OIP)

Our district has been successful in implementing and sustaining a continuous improvement model called The Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) (three-year plan).

Continuous improvement planning is the fundamental process for enhancing instructional practice, leading to higher achievement for all students.
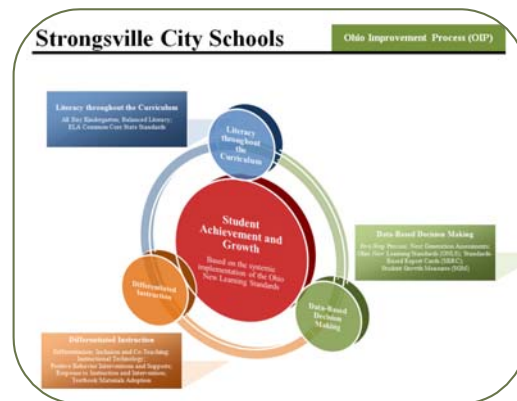
Continuous improvement is accomplished by using data to drive decisions, (collecting assessment scores to determine what is or is not working for the curricular program or the individual student) aligning objectives and goals throughout the district, and focusing on key achievable goals while closely monitoring outcomes.

Our District Leadership Team (33 members with representation from all buildings in the district) identified gaps in student achievement, developed targeted strategies to address those gaps, and provided professional development to staff to address those needs.

A copy of the District's OIP Plan can be found on our home web page at www.strongnet.org.

Goal 1:
Data-Based Decision Making
Goal 2:
Differentiated Instruction
Goal 3:
Literacy throughout the Curriculum

Cameron Ryba, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Staff Development

Strongsville City Schools

Ohio Improvement Process

Model

Facilities Update

Providing facilities that afford students the tools and learning environment they need to succeed is an enormous responsibility.

Ensuring that all students, whatever their needs, have a school where they can thrive, is critical.

Our preschool renovation, providing additional learning space for students, was the first of many successful projects that will be completed using the funds generated by the bond issue.

Our elementary schools now have wireless connectivity and we have infused Chromebooks (1,500 district-wide) and the Google platform across the district.

Students can communicate and work on projects together and can share on-line resources, simultaneously.

We are proud to announce that our high school administration has worked out a plan to provide additional "swing space" classrooms that will alleviate the necessity of locating modular classrooms outside the building, at a cost savings of $500.000. Those dollars can be reallocated into the renovation project.

Our middle school construction is on schedule for its opening in August, 2016. Utilities, cable, and fiber optic networks have already been relocated. Basic site work has been completed and foundation work and masonry should begin as early as late September. (Check construction progress by going to the district home web page at www.strongnet.org.

Curriculum Update

In June 2010, the State Board of Education adopted Ohio's New Learning Standards in English language arts and math, the results of a multi-state effort.

The board has also adopted Ohio's New Learning Standards in science, social studies, fine arts, world languages, and several other content areas. These more rigorous standards, directed toward preparing students for college and career readiness, have been implemented in classrooms this year.

The standards emphasize critical thinking, evidence-based learning, problem solving, and effective communication skills across all content areas. It is not just about completing or reading, it is about what can be created from the information learned; how knowledge can be applied.

These new standards do not mandate, stipulate, or tell teachers how to teach. We, at the local district level, remain the decision makers regarding the curriculum, textbooks, and instructional materials that will engage our students in learning.

The Ohio Department of Education has worked with teams of teachers across our state to develop a model curriculum of teaching strategies and resources aligned with the standards.

Content is taught in greater depth. Our district has provided professional development focused on best teaching practices and research-based instruction strategies.

We have provided the following recent textbook adoptions at a cost of $665,970.55:

Science K-8
Advanced Placement Language & Composition
Family & Consumer Science
Algebra 2
Advanced Placement Human Geography
Advanced Placement French & Spanish
Leveled reading materials, K-8

Erin Green, Director of Curriculum and Talent Development

ALS Ice Bucket Continued

Facilities Continued

Under "Shortcuts" click on "Construction" which leads to the construction page.

Under "Contents" click on "Work Zone Camera Website" for the most recent view of construction progress as well as a time-lapse movie.) New main electrical distribution panels have been installed at the high school.

Six "swing space" classrooms are being completed in the high school media center so classes can be relocated as various sections of the building are renovated.

Mark Donnelly, Director of Business Services & Technology

Guest Principal Update
Mark Smithberger, SHS

We are excited about our renovation project that will officially kick off in a few months and will include many technology updates, including wireless Internet access throughout the building.

To help maximize these opportunities, the Strongsville Education Foundation (SEF) is undertaking a major fundraising effort to raise $250,000 to supply our high school students with Chromebooks.

The goal is by the start of the 2016-2017 school year to have a Chromebook for every student at the high school.

This is truly exciting for our students and staff and a great example of how our community supports education. Thank you, Strongsville Education

Staff Seen Around

Board of Education

Carl Naso, President

Richard Micko, Vice President

Duke Evans

George Grozan

Jane Ludwig

Instructional Technology

The world of educational technology is constantly expanding.

Technology is an important tool in preparing students for college, careers, and citizenship.

Ten years ago, technology questions focused on "should we?"

Today, we focus on "How can we?"

Ultimately, students must have the ability to use digital media responsibly and effectively to communicate, synthesize, and create new knowledge; solve problems and analyze critically; learn from mistakes and adapt to new thinking; and determine validity and relevance of information, among other skills.

We are in the era where there seems to be an application or "app" for just about everything.

Want to practice math facts?

There is an app for that.

There is no app that creates the systematic integration of technology to increase academic success.

We will be building a strategic plan for the integration of technology and are committed to the implementation of instructional technology district-wide.

We have begun a comprehensive technology audit to assist in this process.

Professional development is the key to the successful use of instructional technology.
Vicki Turner, Supervisor of Instructional Technology, is providing ongoing professional development to teachers, administrators, and classified staff.

To achieve lasting change, a process that engages staff and students, builds technological skills/capacity, introduces technology in a reasonable time frame, and has evaluation embedded to allow for course correction options is of vital importance.

We must realize that devices will change and software (apps) will change so we must focus our plan on discerning which avenues of instructional technology will prepare students to have the skills for college and careers, many of which, at this point, may not even exist!

Tech Tip Bulletins
http://goo.gl/SJVLrs

Staff Members Use Chromebooks to Learn Google Apps for Educators

Chromebook Cart