

Serving Parma, Parma Heights, & Seven Hills November 2024



PCSD PRESS

DISTRICT NEWS FROM PARMA CITY SCHOOLS

A Day of Learning for Educators: Professional Development Day Recap

We hope that the first quarter of the school year has started well for you and your family! We wanted to take this opportunity to explain the professional development sessions that our staff members attended on November 4 while students were home. We recognize the stress that off days for students can pose to families and, accordingly, work to maximize the value of these days for our professionals. Importantly, almost all sessions feature presentations from our own staff and/or students. We recognize the incredible amount of knowledge and talent we have in our own district and love to employ them to everyone's benefit. We are proud of the learning opportunities we provided!

Our elementary staff members met at Normandy High School where they began the day with a panel discussion entitled, "Supporting our Students' Emotional and Behavioral Needs," featuring mental health professionals from local agencies. Later, teachers had a wide array of sessions from which to choose, including "Best Practices for Teaching English Learners," "Engaging Early Learners with Technology," "Supporting Students' Academic Needs with Online Tutoring and Test Prep", and "Curriculum to Reach Extended Standards." They closed the day with another full staff panel discussion, this one entitled, "Our Students' Experiences as English Learners in Parma."

Our secondary staff convened at Valley Forge, beginning their day hearing from representatives of local major employers and colleges provide their answers to the prompt, "What Do Our Students Need to be College and Career Ready?" As the day continued, our team members chose from many offerings, including, "Magic School AI for Teachers", "Supporting new Students and Families in School and Beyond," "QPR: Question, Persuade, Refer. Help Prevent Youth Suicide." They, too, closed this professional development day hearing directly from our students through their collective attendance at "Our Students' Experiences as English Learners in Parma."

Important Dates

Nov 7 2024

NHS: CTE Open House

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Normandy High School

Nov 7 2024

Board of Education Regular Meeting

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Normandy High School

Nov 14 2024

VF: CTE Open House

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Valley Forge High School

Nov 15 2024

NHS: Fall Musical

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Normandy High School Auditorium

Nov 15 2024

VF: Fall Play

7:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Valley Forge High School

Nov 16 2024

NHS: Fall Musical

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Normandy High School Auditorium

As you can observe, we work to offer valuable, relevant sessions and we believe that our educators emerge from such days with a few more tools and strategies to help our students thrive!

Thanks,
Charlie
Superintendent

The Parma City School District Joins Innovative GEAR UP Program to Boost College Readiness



The Parma City School District (PCSD) is proud to announce its participation in a groundbreaking educational initiative aimed at preparing our students for success in higher education. As part of the First Ring Schools Collaborative, our district has been selected to benefit from a \$3.8 million per year GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education to the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Northeast Ohio.

This seven-year program, running through 2031, will provide comprehensive support to our middle and high school students, setting them on a path to postsecondary education success. PCSD joins nine other districts in this transformative project, including Brooklyn, Cleveland Heights-University Heights, East Cleveland, Euclid, Garfield Heights, Maple Heights, Richmond Heights, South Euclid-Lyndhurst, and Warrensville Heights City Schools.

Key highlights of the program include:

1. Early Intervention: The program will start with the district's current 6th and 7th- grade students, following them through high school graduation.
2. Support & Engagement: Students can receive a combination of academic and career advising, college exploration opportunities, and test preparation, through programming that may be offered during the school day, after school, and during the summer months.
3. Expert Guidance: College Now Greater Cleveland will provide experienced college and career advisors to work directly with the district's students.
4. Postsecondary Focus: The program aims to increase the number of students prepared for, enrolling in, and graduating from college.
5. Partnerships: Collaborations with Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland State University, the Greater Cleveland Career Consortium, and the Higher Education Compact will enhance the program's effectiveness.

Dr. Michele Scott Taylor, College Now president and incoming CEO, emphasized the program's importance: "This opportunity allows us to reach more students and families earlier, starting with middle school students, so that by the time they begin high school, a college-going mindset will already be deeply rooted in them."

The GEAR UP program addresses a critical need in this region. With only 51% of Ohio's population currently meeting the credentials required for 65% of jobs in the state, this initiative will play a crucial role in preparing our students for future success and contributing to the economic growth of Northeast Ohio.

PCSD is excited to embark on this journey with our students and families. We believe this program will open doors of opportunity and empower our young learners to reach their full potential!

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