



# TIGER PRIDE

*A Publication Sharing the News of the Warrensville Heights City School District with the Community*



Donald J. Jolly  
Superintendent  
Warrensville Heights  
City School District

## Superintendent's Report

Welcome to the latest edition of Tiger Pride! On behalf of the district, I would like to express our gratitude to our parents and community members for your continued support of our scholars. Featured below are some important news and initiatives taking place in the Warrensville Heights City School district.

### Welcoming Our New Board Members

On Election Day, Tuesday, November 3rd, voters from the tri-city area elected three new members to the WHCSD Board of Education. The district proudly welcomes Michele Elba, Barbara A. Mumin and Traci Mitchell as the newest members of 'Team Warrensville', as they started their terms in January. The WHCSD would also like to recognize outgoing board members June Taylor, Harold Burks and Mary Pat Morris for their years of committed service and leadership on behalf of our scholars and the community. Finally, congratulations to board member Ray Freeman, who was elected to a four-year term, after being appointed to fill a vacant seat in June 2015.

### Giving Our Scholars a Voice

It is with great pride and excitement that I announce the formation of the Superintendent Student Advisory Council (SAC) for the WHCSD. The student-led organization will provide a select group of scholars the opportunity to share their voice on a variety of topics and work with myself and other district administrators to find evidence-based solutions for important issues facing our district. Approximately seventeen High School and Middle School scholars have been selected to serve on the SAC, and are listed below:

Tasheana Cole - 7th grade	Tylen Woods - 8th grade
Charlee Chapman - 7th grade	Senica Smith - 9th grade
Louis Minor - 7th grade	Katrice McNair - 9th grade
Deonte Steele - 7th grade	Jasmin Williams - 9th grade
Logan Tyson - 7th grade	Maria Hicks - 11th grade
Devani Haughton - 8th grade	Edmund Rucker - 11th grade

Ronzell Clayton II - 11th grade

Elisia Parham - 12th grade

Elijah Austin - 12th grade

Saidah Tarrence - 12th grade

Mekelle Brooks - 12th grade

The candidates were selected through an open application process based on personal character, expressed commitment to serving the district and leadership qualities. Each member of the SAC will be expected to serve a 19-month term, beginning in December 2015 through June 2017. The term will provide them an opportunity to develop leadership, team-building and public speaking skills through monthly meetings with the Superintendent, leadership development workshops and other special events. Congratulations to the scholars listed above for being selected to be a part of this exciting and important initiative!

### District Considering Reopening of Randalwood Elementary

For many graduates of the WHCSD, Randalwood Elementary was a source of fond memories and lifelong friendships, but sadly, was closed in previous years due to declining enrollment. Recent figures show that this is no longer the case, as the district has experienced an increase in enrollment of over 10% for the 2015-2016 school year, the first enrollment increase since 2006! As a result, the district is considering reopening Randalwood Elementary to address our increasing enrollment. This is truly exciting news and proof that our district is returning to greatness!

As we enter the New Year, our teachers and staff will remain committed to ensuring that our scholars are learning and obtaining the 21st Century skills necessary to succeed in a global society. We will also continue to implement our Return to Excellence Plan which will focus our efforts on addressing key areas of our operations. I encourage you to learn more by reading the Return to Excellence Plan Spotlight. Thank you again for supporting our scholars and our proud district!



Superintendent Donald J. Jolly with members of the Superintendent Student Advisory Council

## **Tiger Spotlight:** WHHS Junior Saidah Tarrence

This edition of the Tiger Spotlight shines on WHHS Junior Saidah Tarrence, who returned to the district after attending private schools since the fourth grade. Saidah and her family have deep ties to the WHCSD and the community. Several of her family members, including her mother, Warrensville Heights Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell attended WHHS and currently live in Warrensville Heights. A recent opportunity to shadow a student at the High School, confirmed for Andrea her desire to return to the district and make a positive impact not only at the High School, but within her community. She cites the friendliness of the students, as well as the dedication of the staff to push each student to “be the best” as one of the main attributes that set the WHCSD apart.

Saidah is committed to academic success, and is currently taking classes at Cuyahoga Community College, Eastern Campus, as part of the College Credit Plus program. Participation in the program provides her the opportunity to save money and earn college credit. As a result, Saidah anticipates earning an Associate’s

Degree upon graduating from WHHS. Her future plans include attending a four-year college or university, and has already visited several institutions, including Wilberforce University, Central State University and Eastern Michigan. While undecided on a major, Saidah stated that she is interested in a career that involves working with big ideas and making a positive impact.

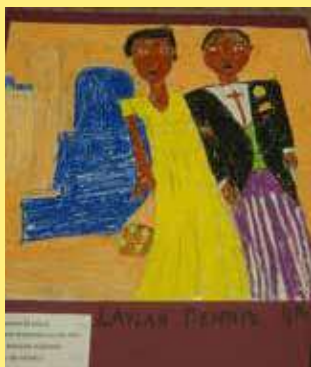
In addition to academics, Saidah is involved in several extra-curricular activities, including tracking statistics for the varsity football team. Saidah is also a member of the new Superintendent Student Advisory Council, which will provide scholars the opportunity to collaborate and propose ways to address key issues facing students in the district. In addition, Saidah is involved in several internships. As a member of Youth 360, a student group sponsored by the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, she has the opportunity to learn about important community issues and is currently working on a project to educate members of the community. Saidah also participates in Look Up to Cleveland, a teen internship program sponsored by the Cleveland



WHHS Junior Saidah Tarrence is proud to be a Tiger

Leadership Center that promotes entrepreneurship and civic involvement. The WHCSD is proud to welcome back Saidah Tarrence to the district, and recognizes her accomplishments and commitment to the community as a shining example of what it means to be a Tiger.

## **Highlights From Our First Winter STEAM Festival**



## **Eastwood Elementary:** South Pointe Hospital Partners With Eastwood to Provide a New Tutoring Program

South Pointe Hospital recently partnered with Eastwood Elementary to create a new tutoring program for scholars who need additional support with reading. Approximately sixty-five scholars were selected to participate in the program based on their MAPS reading scores, which ranked them below grade level (one grade level below) or at-risk (two grade levels below). The scholars are organized into groups of five and work with an assigned volunteer from South Pointe Hospital for one hour each week. During each weekly session, the scholars read two short stories with their assigned volunteer and then answer discussion questions. Twenty-two volunteers, including South Pointe Hospital President Dr. Robert Juhasz and Vice President John Bruyere participate in the year-long program. Principal Stephanie Eafford is very encouraged

by the results so far, as she has witnessed improvement in the scholars’ writing skills since the program started.

The South Pointe volunteers also helped students complete a recent book report contest, which 210 out of 340 students volunteered to participate in! Teachers selected the top twenty entries, which were then evaluated by the South Pointe volunteers and outgoing Board Members Mary Pat Morris and June Taylor. The ten winners received prizes from Five Below, as well as trophies at a school-wide awards ceremony. Congratulations to all of our scholars for their hard work! The WHCSD would like to thank South Pointe Hospital and the Cleveland Clinic for their continued support of our scholars!



Patricia Lambert, RN is one of 22 volunteers from South Pointe Hospital dedicated to helping our scholars achieve!



## WHHS: WHHS Introduces ACE Mentor Program

WHHS scholars now have an opportunity to explore and pursue a career in the design, construction, architecture and engineering fields with the ACE Mentor Program of America. ACE engages sponsors and volunteers to expose scholars to real-world opportunities, while providing financial support through various scholarships and grants. To complete the ACE Mentor Program, scholars are placed into teams of 15-25 students which are overseen by three industry mentors. Each team completes fifteen after-school sessions throughout the school year, during which the mentors help scholars complete mock projects in the areas of architecture, engineering and construction.

The ACE Mentor Program was introduced this school year with the assistance of Ariana Kirkpatrick, founder of AKA Construction

and a proud 1983 graduate of WHHS. Ariana has served in the ACE Mentor program for the past six years, and is excited to give her fellow 'Tigers' the opportunity to obtain real-world experience and skills. Recently, she had the opportunity to join WHHS scholars on a site visit to the \$70-million Thistledown Racino expansion project in North Randall, OH. Several notable local institutions are involved in supporting the ACE Mentor program as well, including Cuyahoga Community College, Kent State University, the University of Akron, Cleveland State University, Dominion East Ohio, and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. The ACE Mentor program is a prime example of the many ways the WHCSD is seeking to rebuild and restore 'Tiger' pride in our schools and community.



WHHS Alumna Ariana Kirkpatrick (fluorescent jacket) is helping scholars obtain real world experience through the ACE Mentor Program

## John Dewey Elementary: Community Partnerships Help Promote Literacy with New Club Connect

In partnership with United Way, Scholastic Books and Omnova Solutions, John Dewey Elementary recently opened Club Connect, a mini-library that will help promote literacy both in-school and at home. Located just outside the cafeteria, Club Connect boasts a cozy, inviting atmosphere, complete with a carpeted area and bean bags for students to read or listen along with their teacher. The library also features colorful murals with reading themes painted by volunteers from the United Way and Omnova Solutions, as well as John Dewey Title I Teacher Mrs. Heather Lemmerbrock.

All books were provided by Scholastic and include an online component, providing scholars the opportunity to complete comprehension questions at home. Research shows that reading books at their grade level increases scholars' reading fluency and comprehension. Parental involvement is promoted through the use of an online code which enables parents to register books read by their scholar. The WHCSD would like to thank United Way and Omnova Solutions for their generous support of our scholars!



The New Club Connect is another fun way to promote literacy in school and at home

## Middle School: Middle School Offers Expanded Learning Opportunities

As part of the district's renewed commitment to academic achievement, Middle School scholars now have access to expanded learning opportunities. This includes Springboard, a Pre-Advanced Placement curriculum that provides a rigorous, enrichment based approach for scholars that are achieving beyond their grade level. The new curriculum is offered in 90-minute blocks each day and incorporates class discussions, project-based learning, as well as an interactive online textbook.

During the 1st grading period, scholars had the opportunity to participate in a 3-day STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) based workshop sponsored by the Progressive Arts Alliance. Working together in teams, scholars built kinetic sculptures

which were showcased at the district Winter STEAM Festival in December. Feedback from our scholars was extremely positive, as the district looks forward to providing additional learning opportunities with the Progressive Arts Alliance in the future.

Stay tuned for future updates from our scholars as they continue to achieve!



Teachers Reshonda Turner and Jessica Grimes oversee Springboard, a new pre-AP curriculum at the Middle School



Middle School students building kinetic sculptures

## Board of Education Update



**Mimi Gaiter**  
*President*



**Ray A. Freeman**  
*Vice-President*



**Michele Elba**  
*Member*



**Traci Mitchell**  
*Member*



**Barbara A. Mumin**  
*Member*

## New Bus Routing System Will Improve Efficiency and Save District Dollars

The WHCSD is dedicated to sharing with the community the various ways that it is attempting to identify opportunities for improved efficiencies and cost saving measures. With a new bus routing system that is set to launch in the very near future, the district will be doing just that, along with enhancing student safety. "Superintendent Jolly recognized an immediate need to have a tool that could map appropriate and efficient bus routes for students," says district transportation supervisor, Eldridge Black. "We are excited to deploy this new technology in order to improve efficiencies and student safety."

This new bus routing system will allow administrators to keep comprehensive notes on student data, medical information, best routes to and from a given list of students and their respective addresses, railroad crossings, unsafe bus stops and high volume traffic areas. In addition, student identification pictures and emergency contact numbers are also logged into the system. Then, as an internal control procedure, the bus routing program can synthesize the data in its entirety and produce bus routes that reduce inefficiencies and improve safety. Cost and resource savings will come as a result of reduced downtime, more properly aligned bus routes, fuel

savings and perhaps even personnel costs. Best of all, the cost savings are identified by analytics provided by the system itself.

In all, the new bus routing system has been deployed by Mr. Jolly to help fulfill his new vision for the district's transportation department and overall strategic plan. The system is currently in Phase I of the project and is expected to be fully operational by spring 2016. Stay tuned for more updates on this, and other internal controls that the district will be utilizing for improving efficiency and bringing cost savings to the district.

## District Prepares to Debut New Substitute Teacher Management System

In order to more efficiently fill vacancies and recruit high quality, certified substitute teachers the WHCSD recently launched a new substitute teacher management system in February. The new system will involve the Cuyahoga County Educational Services Center (ESC) and North Coast Shared Services Alliance (NCSSA). The first step will involve the recruitment, hiring, and training of qualified substitute teacher candidates by the NCSSA. Once each candidate has been properly trained and developed, they will be employed by the Cuyahoga

County ESC which fills open substitute teacher positions in participating districts, including the WHCSD.

The new system will not only streamline the substitute management process, but enable specific departments to focus their time and resources on other important responsibilities. Previously, the Director of Human Resources and Human Resources Assistant were responsible for the entire substitute management process, including recruitment, hiring, training and assigning candidates. In addition, the Payroll department

was forced to devote large amounts of time to calculate actual time worked by the substitute teachers, increasing the chance for human error. In contrast, the new system will enable the HR department to apply more of its focus to important personnel issues such as medical benefits, performance reviews and staffing, while the Payroll department will save costs with reduced overtime. Most importantly, the new system will ensure that our scholars will be provided a safe and engaging learning environment throughout the school year.

## District Enters Into Planning Process with Ohio Facilities Construction Commission

During the fall of 2015, the WHCSD Board of Education passed a resolution with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC). The resolution formally enters the district into an active planning cycle with the OFCC, which is responsible for overseeing construction projects for all K-12 public school districts in the State of Ohio. The action taken by the Board is the first step in the planning process, which may include a number of key issues, including a building

assessment, student enrollment projections, environmental assessment, coordination with an educational planner, and an educational planning conference.

As part of the planning cycle, the OFCC will contact the WHCSD with regular updates on its current status in the planning process. The district plans to inform the OFCC of its intention to move forward with a building project in the upcoming cycle.

The decision to formally enter the planning process with the OFCC reflects the district's firm commitment to providing all students the resources and tools necessary to achieve in a global society. In addition, the district will continue to utilize this publication and other channels of communication to keep the community informed on important district news. For additional information or questions on this topic and other district matters, please feel free to contact the Treasurer's Office.

# Attention Parents: Important Changes to Immunization Requirements

## Immunization Summary for School Attendance Ohio

VACCINES	<i>FALL 2016</i> IMMUNIZATIONS FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
<b>DTaP/DT Tdap/Td</b> Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis	<b><u>K</u></b> Four (4) or more of DTaP or DT, or any combination. If all four doses were given before the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday, a fifth (5) dose is required. If the fourth dose was administered at least six months after the third dose, and on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday, a fifth (5) dose is not required.* <b><u>1-12</u></b> Four (4) or more of DTaP or DT, or any combination. Three doses of Td or a combination of Td and Tdap is the minimum acceptable for children age seven (7) and up. <b><u>Grades 7-12</u></b> One (1) dose of Tdap vaccine must be administered prior to entry.**
<b>POLIO</b>	<b><u>K-6</u></b> Three (3) or more doses of IPV. The FINAL dose must be administered on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday regardless of the number of previous doses. If a combination of OPV and IPV was received, four (4) doses of either vaccine are required.*** <b><u>Grades 7-12</u></b> Three (3) or more doses of IPV or OPV. If the third dose of either series was received prior to the fourth birthday, a fourth (4) dose is required; If a combination of OPV and IPV was received, four (4) doses of either vaccine are required.
<b>MMR</b> Measles, Mumps, Rubella	<b><u>K-12</u></b> Two (2) doses of MMR. Dose 1 must be administered on or after the first birthday. The second dose must be administered at least 28 days after dose 1.
<b>HEP B</b> Hepatitis B	<b><u>K-12</u></b> Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B. The second dose must be administered at least 28 days after the first dose. The third dose must be given at least 16 weeks after the first dose and at least 8 weeks after the second dose. The last dose in the series (third or fourth dose), must not be administered before age 24 weeks.
<b>Varicella</b> (Chickenpox)	<b><u>K-6</u></b> Two (2) doses of varicella vaccine must be administered prior to entry. Dose 1 must be administered on or after the first birthday. The second dose should be administered at least three (3) months after dose one (1); however, if the second dose is administered at least 28 days after first dose, it is considered valid. <b><u>Grades 7-10</u></b> One (1) dose of varicella vaccine must be administered on or after the first birthday.
<b>MCV4</b> Meningococcal	<b><u>Grade 7</u></b> One (1) dose of meningococcal (serogroup A, C, W, and Y) vaccine must be administered prior to entry <b><u>Grade 12</u></b> Two (2) doses of meningococcal (serogroup A, C, W, and Y) vaccine must be administered prior to entry****

### NOTES:

- Vaccine should be administered according to the most recent version of the *Recommended Immunization Schedules for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 Years* or the *Catch-up Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 4 Months Through 18 Years Who Start Late or Who Are More Than 1 Month Behind*, as published by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Schedules are available for print or download at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/default.htm>.
- Vaccine doses administered ≤ 4 days before the minimum interval or age are valid (grace period). Doses administered ≥ 5 days earlier than the minimum interval or age are not valid doses and should be repeated as age-appropriate. If MMR and Varicella are not given on the same day, the doses must be separated by at least 28 days with no grace period.
- For additional information please refer to the Ohio Revised Code 3313.67 and 3313.671 for School Attendance and the ODH Director's Journal Entry (available at [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov), Immunization: Required Vaccines for Childcare and School). These documents list required and recommended immunizations and indicate exemptions to immunizations.
- Please contact the Ohio Department of Health Immunization Program at (800) 282-0546 or (614) 466-4643 with questions or concerns.

\*Recommended DTaP or DT minimum intervals for kindergarten students four (4) weeks between doses 1-2 and 2-3; six (6) month minimum intervals between doses 3-4 and 4-5. If a fifth dose is administered prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday, a sixth dose is recommended but not required.

\*\* Pupils who received one dose of Tdap as part of the initial series are not required to receive another dose. For students in 12th grade, one dose of Td (Tetanus and diphtheria) is acceptable. Tdap can be given regardless of the interval since the last Tetanus or diphtheria- toxoid containing vaccine. DTaP given to patients age 7 or older can be counted as valid for the one-time Tdap dose.

\*\*\* The final polio dose in the IPV series must be administered at age 4 or older with at least six months between the final and previous dose.

\*\*\*\* Recommended MCV4 minimum interval of at least eight (8) weeks between dose one (1) and dose two (2). If the first (1<sup>st</sup>) dose of MCV4 was administered on or after the 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) dose is not required. If a pupil is in 12<sup>th</sup> grade and is 15 years of age or younger, only 1 dose is required. Currently there are no school entry requirements for meningococcal B vaccine.

**\* The Immunization Requirements for 2016 School Entry have been revised to include the Meningococcal vaccine for students entering the 7th and 12th grades.**



## **Warrensville Heights City School District**

4500 Warrensville Center Road

Warrensville Heights, OH 44128

### ***Serving the Communities of:***

**Warrensville Heights**

**Highland Hills**

**North Randall**

[www.warrensville.k12.oh.us](http://www.warrensville.k12.oh.us)

### ***Return to Excellence Plan Spotlight:*** Curriculum

Welcome to the newest section of our district newsletter, the Return to Excellence Plan Spotlight! Created by recommendations from the WHCSD Transition Committee, the Return to Excellence Plan features nine specific Return to Excellence Goals that address important issues, including finances, staffing, curriculum, community involvement and facilities. More detailed sub-goals are included under each main goal, with specific actions to be taken by the district. This section will provide an overview of a specific Return to Excellence Goal and the steps the district has taken to meet its requirements. The Curriculum goal seeks to ensure that the district's "curriculum is aligned with today's educational needs and testing," and that "AP and college credit is available" for scholars.

Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, the district now offers a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) focused curriculum for all scholars. The new emphasis on STEAM based learning will ensure that every scholar possesses 21st Century skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in a global society. The district has also partnered with the Progressive Arts

Alliance for STEAM programming at John Dewey Elementary School and Warrensville Heights Middle School.

Increasing classroom rigor and expectations is a key part of improving the district's curriculum. In response, the district has adapted its curriculum so that it focuses on promoting college readiness. The Tiger Tracks College and Career Readiness Program is now offered at Warrensville Heights High School, and will prepare scholars for STEAM, Career & Technical Fields, Early College, Fine Arts and Business Pathways. These additions bring greater opportunities and reflect increased focus on preparing students for their futures.

In November, WHHS hosted the 13th annual HBCU College Fair, providing our scholars and those from Greater Cleveland and nearby states the opportunity to meet representatives from and learn more about historically black colleges. Beginning in 2016, scholars at the High School will be able to participate in the Beachwood Medical Academy, a unique partnership with University Hospitals and Beachwood City Schools that will prepare scholars planning to pursue pre-med programs and related medical careers.

The district has also made an effort to provide staffing and course resources for a successful Advanced Placement program. Beginning this year, the district launched Springboard, a Pre-AP curriculum for students at the Middle School, as well as four additional AP courses at the High School. Moving forward, the district will share more information and successes with parents and the community.

Investing in our teachers and staff through continued professional development is a key part of ensuring that our scholars are learning. The Blue and Gold Academy provided a strong foundation to start the school year with various workshops regarding the best practices and latest educational tools. Additional professional development opportunities will be offered throughout the school year.

Moving forward, the district will continue to be proactive in taking the steps necessary to ensure that our scholars' curriculum meets their educational needs and prepares them for a successful future. Stay tuned for future updates on the Return to Excellence Plan!