



**Warrensville Heights City Schools**  
4500 Warrensville Center Road  
Warrensville Heights, OH 44128

**Serving the Communities of:**  
**Warrensville Heights**  
**Highland Hills**  
**North Randall**

#### ATTENTION ALL RESIDENTS:

State of the Schools Meeting  
Thursday, November 20, 2014  
6:30-7:30 PM  
High School Auditorium

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



**Mrs. Eafford is committed to helping every student achieve!**

involvement in their child's education. As a result, Mrs. Eafford scheduled parent workshops throughout the year to help meet the needs of parents. "Parental involvement is key to student success," states Mrs. Eafford. "Our main goal is to help parents understand expectations for student learning, and provide effective strategies which they can implement at home with their child." The first parent workshop took place on September 17th, and focused on providing information and at-home strategies regarding the 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee.

### *Tiger Spotlight:* Eastwood Principal Stephanie Eafford

The Warrensville Heights City Schools proudly welcome Mrs. Stephanie Eafford as the new principal at Eastwood Elementary. Mrs. Eafford comes to the district after previously working in the Cleveland Public Schools as a building principal and teacher. Since starting her new position at Eastwood, Mrs. Eafford has identified three key areas of priority, including increasing parental involvement, improving student achievement and expectations, and providing instructional support for teachers.

During her daily interactions with parents, Mrs. Eafford discovered that many expressed a shared desire to increase their

Mrs. Eafford's commitment to improving student achievement and expectations is reflected in her daily interactions with students. She often refers to students as "scholars," and frequently encourages them by exclaiming "You are all accomplished students!" College readiness is a top priority in the classroom, as teachers review daily math and reading prompts based on the new PARCC assessments. Positive reinforcement is another key tool, as students receive PAWS points for exhibiting an understanding of daily prompts and content area knowledge, as well as displaying appropriate behavior in the hallways and cafeteria. The PAWS points can be redeemed for various rewards.

Providing instructional support for teachers is another key objective for Mrs. Eafford. During a recent teacher workshop, Mrs. Eafford modeled how to effectively include learning centers into classroom instruction. The inclusion of learning centers within instruction is an effective way to promote student learning, as they provide rigorous instruction, integrate different content areas, and incorporate various learning styles. Teachers were required to participate in the various learning centers and complete a post-assessment to measure their level of understanding. Mrs. Eafford is proud of the effort and determination displayed by the Eastwood staff to "be the best teacher possible" for their students.

The Warrensville Heights City Schools are excited to have Mrs. Eafford as the newest member of our faculty, and salute her commitment to helping our students achieve success!



The WHCSD is working to create a quality environment and education for ALL students.

### Superintendent's Report



**Dr. Gary M. Zoldesy**  
Interim Superintendent  
of Schools

#### **"Children are the World's Most Valuable Resource and its Best Hope for the Future"**

My name is Dr. Gary M. Zoldesy. Recently, the Warrensville Heights City School District Board of Education hired me to serve as the Interim Superintendent of Schools. I am excited about this opportunity to work with the board, administrators, staff, students and community of the Warrensville Heights City School District.

The evening I was hired, it was suggested that the community would want to learn more about me and my philosophies. That evening, I wrote down these thoughts to share with you.

I believe that teaching is one of the most important professions in the world. A good teacher can have a profound impact on their students that lasts a lifetime. I believe that the Warrensville Heights City School District has many good teachers.

I have had a sign hanging in my classrooms or offices which reads: "Children are the World's Most Valuable Resource and its Best Hope for the Future." I truly believe this.

As a parent of four children, a grandparent of thirteen grandchildren, and an educator, I understand that each child possesses special gifts that are unique and precious.

As an administrator, I believe that it is our responsibility to develop the special gifts each child possesses to their fullest potential.

As a superintendent, I understand the need to make decisions that are in the best interest of the children of the district.

As the Interim Superintendent of the Warrensville Heights City School District, I will work with the citizens and the professionals to bring both educational and physical improvements to our schools. I will work within my budget. I will also listen to all sides of the issues and make decisions based upon what is best for the children of the Warrensville Heights City School District.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Gary M. Zoldesy

### District Update

#### **Parent Survey Will Help District Better Serve Students and Parents**

In an effort to increase parental involvement district wide, the Warrensville Heights City School District has partnered with The Ohio State University to develop a brief, ten minute survey to help determine the perceptions of parents and guardians on the following categories:

- Information Sharing
- Communication
- Education Quality
- Leadership and Participation
- Support Services
- School Climate
- How You See Your Child's School



Parents and guardians can access the survey online or obtain paper copies at each school building. The survey is part of a district-wide initiative to make efficient decisions based on measurable data.

"The Parent Survey will allow the district to understand the parent/guardian perception of the Warrensville Heights City School District," states Arniece Basit, Coordinator of Accountability. "The district will be able to use the feedback to develop a plan to increase parental involvement and improve two way communication."

The Warrensville Heights City School District firmly believes that a strong partnership between parents and the district is essential to improving students' academic performance, as well as promoting their social and emotional development. Parents and guardians will have the opportunity to view the results of the survey and provide feedback during late fall 2014. The Warrensville Heights City Schools wish to thank all parents and guardians for their continued support, and look forward to developing a stronger, more vibrant partnership in the near future.



**Education Quality is one of the seven categories featured in the Parent Survey**

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



## Board Brief



June Taylor  
President



Harold Burks  
Vice President



Mary Pat  
Morris  
Member



Mimi Gaiter  
Member



Lisa Johnson  
Member

### Warrensville Heights City Schools Board Of Education

On behalf of the Board of Education, I welcome everyone back to another school year at the Warrensville Heights City Schools, where our mission is to educate, prepare, and empower students to be lifelong learners and well-adjusted productive citizens in a global society by providing an appropriate educational program.

For this first edition of the school year, the Board wanted to re-affirm some important values, during this time of transition. To be clear, our collective vision remains that by August 2017, the WHCSD will be effective on the state report card, while our ultimate goal is to be ranked excellent on the state report card, by raising student achievement through the accomplishment of our goals.

With the hiring of Dr. Gary Zoldesy as the Interim Superintendent, I encourage our WHCSD team to embody the true characteristics of teamwork. Some of those include:

- A new challenge requires a creative team
- A changing challenge requires a fast and flexible team
- A long-term challenge requires a determined team
- A team with a positive attitude finds it easier to dig in and overcome challenges

We are in the midst of a 'new beginning' in the WHCSD, and the district's hiring of the new Interim Superintendent serves as the next step in the process of that new beginning. This new beginning, is best for our students, and the Board determined that it needs to move forward in a NEW DIRECTION to reach the goals it has set for the students of the school district – outcomes that are so important to each of us, the parents and community.

(Board Brief continued) Those include: Improved Test Scores, Engaged Students and Parents, Building Excitement about Education and Educational Achievement.

We thank Dr. Zoldesy for stepping into this role under such short notice. An in-depth formal Superintendent search will be conducted beginning early next year. All the best on the start of the new school year.

### Curriculum and Instruction *Update*

This new column will feature a recurring update on the curriculum and instruction initiatives that are currently underway in the WHCSD. Specifically for this edition, we will spotlight current programs and academic initiatives our school district will implement this school year.

#### District Curriculum Initiatives

**Keystone Literacy Project:** a training program for teachers in grades K- 3 to improve their instruction.

**Reading Wonders:** A literacy program for grades PreK- 5 that helps to build a strong reading foundation.

**Code-X:** a comprehensive curriculum program that helps to build preparedness in science, social studies, technology and the arts.

**Read 180°:** an 8th grade reading intervention program to help improve reading performance.

These programs are designed to improve student performance and are aligned with the new Common Core state standards. In addition, these programs will help prepare our students for the "Next Generation" State Assessments, which are new, more highly rigorous testing standards to which our students will be subject as early as next year. Throughout the school year, you will learn more about each of these programs. Thank you for your continued support of the WHCSD.



Denise Ward  
Executive Director to  
the Superintendent

### Tiger Buck\$: With District Treasurer, Don Gambal

This edition of the Tiger's Roar Financial Report will focus on the topic of budgeting and appropriating funds for the Warrensville Heights City Schools. Essentially, these two are very different, but equally important, processes. This is precisely where educational planning must meet the financial realities of any school district. When programs and initiatives are proposed, a price tag is always associated with such endeavors. For example, the WHCS invested \$800,000 in a new reading fund with future dollars required as the program continues into the future. This money essentially must be budgeted when proposed, and into the forecasts for the years to come, so that the district remains solvent.

On the other hand, appropriations include money that is to be collected for the current fiscal year. The school budget is made up of many, many different accounts. Long-range planning is a part of the district's total operations, and a financial component is tied to this process as well. The district plans for expenditures, and it plans for appropriations. Planning ahead for at least five years can help a district reach established and stated goals, and these are reflected in the various 5-Year Forecasts which the district is required to produce to the public twice each year. The long-range plans are part of the strategic plan, and the Board of Education, administrators, and staff all have a say in how funds are spent. This should give readers a summary of how financial budgeting and appropriations work in our school district. As always, feel free to contact me at any time with additional questions.

### Eastwood Principal Makes Student Achievement a *Priority*

"Did your brain sweat today?" Students are commonly asked that question by new Eastwood Principal Stephanie Eafford, which reflects her priority of improving student achievement at Eastwood. Since the start of the new school year, Principal Eafford has taken several steps to achieve this goal. College readiness skills are emphasized through the incorporation of daily reading and math prompts based on the new PARCC assessments. Recent data reveals dramatic student progress in writing proficiency as a result of the daily writing prompts. The percentage of students who demonstrated an understanding of the writing process, including identifying sentence fragments and providing supporting details, increased from zero percent during the first week of school to 62% at the end of September! Mrs. Eafford and staff are proud of the students' progress to date, but will not be satisfied until 100% of students demonstrate proficiency in writing. Students are also encouraged to use My Accountable Talk Words during class discussions, which include phrases and questions designed to promote higher level thinking skills. Congratulations to Principal Eafford, and the students and staff at Eastwood for their commitment to academic success!



New Eastwood Principal Stephanie  
Eafford with students

## Wonderful WARRENSVILLE

This page is dedicated to showcasing a brief update from the buildings throughout the district and what student successes or building initiatives are underway. Our students are shining! And, district leadership is dedicated to making certain that the school culture and environment is safe, secure and suitable for learning. Read below to learn more!



### Warrensville Heights High School to Introduce New *Intervention Program*



The Power Wednesday Program provides  
academic intervention and support for  
EVERY High School student

Students at WHHS will be participating in a new academic intervention program beginning on October 27th. The Power Wednesday Program will provide intervention support to all students every Wednesday through the end of the school year. Students will have the opportunity to select a morning or afternoon session based on their daily class schedule. The new program was developed specifically for the High School to address the fact that not all students took advantage of existing optional intervention programs. All content area teachers will provide intervention sessions in the four main content areas of English/Language Arts, science, social studies and math. Each student will be assigned to a specific teacher based on their unique learning needs. During each session, students will complete class assignments and receive detailed, helpful feedback from the classroom teacher to help them improve their proficiency in the specific content area. In addition to this exciting new learning opportunity, students also have access to the existing 21st Century Learning Center, which provides credit recovery, tutoring and Ohio Graduation Test Preparation. The new program is one more way our students are being given the 'power' to achieve!

### John Dewey Focused on Preparing Students for Third Grade Reading *Guarantee*

In an ongoing effort to ensure that every student is on track to meet the requirements of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, the staff of John Dewey recently evaluated all students in grades K-2 to determine their level of reading proficiency. This was accomplished through the administration of two assessments during the month of September. A reading diagnostic assessment was administered to students in 1st and 2nd grade to measure their progress towards meeting Ohio's New Learning Standards. All kindergartners were evaluated using the new kindergarten readiness assessment, specifically in the areas of language and literacy, as well as social skills. If a student's test scores reveal that they are in danger of not being on track to meet the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, a Reading Improvement Plan will be created to meet the student's specific reading needs. This plan will involve a 'team effort' by teachers, tutors, and parents to provide additional support to help the student improve their reading proficiency. In addition, students' reading ability and growth will be monitored throughout the remaining school year. The WHCS are proud of the dedication and professionalism of the John Dewey staff, and look forward to hearing more stories of student success in the coming months!



Literacy Leader Greg Adkins  
and the rest of the John Dewey  
staff are focused on improving  
reading proficiency



John Dewey students are  
ready to learn!



### Strong Foundation Helps Middle School Staff Achieve a '*Rockin'* Start to New School Year



Mrs. Rudolph and staff are driving the  
"Energy Bus" towards student success!



Shortly before the start of the 2014-15 school year, Middle School Principal Constance Rudolph gave each teacher a navy blue t-shirt with "Our Energy Bus Rocks" in gold letters across the front. The gift was intended as a reminder for all staff members to remain focused on helping every student succeed in the classroom. Principal Rudolph has established three building initiatives to achieve this goal: collaboration and teamwork, organization and structure, and incorporating writing across the curriculum. Collaboration and teamwork, as well as organization and structure are accomplished through teacher based teams, collaboration meetings and identifying team leaders at each grade level. In order to improve student proficiency in reading and writing, classroom instruction now incorporates writing across all four content areas.

Students are required to utilize reading and writing strategies in their written answers to weekly prompts based on the new PARCC assessments. In addition, students use their student growth folders to track their progress on a weekly basis. Based on the first few weeks of the school year, the "Energy Bus" is off to a 'rockin' start! Teachers and staff have focused on ensuring that all students experience a smooth transition to start the school year and are actively engaged in classroom learning. Stay tuned for exciting updates from the Middle School, as the "Energy Bus" journeys down the road towards academic success!