Superintendent’s Report

Academic Top Ten Demonstrates Student Achievement

With a hint of warmer temperatures and more sunlight during the day, Springtime is upon the community and with that comes more opportunities for success in our District. I would like to congratulate this year’s 2019 Academic Top Ten from Garfield Heights High School, a full listing of whom are featured in the picture below. These individuals demonstrate the success that is possible when students take full advantage of the academic coursework and teacher relationships that are available to everyone in this District. This year’s Academic Top Ten and the instructors who have inspired them were publicly recognized at the April Board of Education meeting during the annual Roses for Teachers ceremony. Congratulations to these fine Bulldog students, who have set a high standard for hard work, determination and successful pursuit of opportunities in the District. You have made us all proud!

Calling all Little Bulldogs Who Turn 5 Years Old on or before August 1st!
While the Academic Top Ten represents all that is possible for our District’s oldest students, on the other end of the age and grade spectrum, The Garfield Heights City Schools would like to announce that students in our community who turn five years old on or before August 1st are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten. The GHCS knows that the earlier we can invite the youngest students in our community into our family, the more successful they can become in their academic pursuits. Hopefully parents had the opportunity to attend our annual Little Bulldogs Kindergarten Information Night, which was held on Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at Garfield Heights High School. At this annual event, the District provided resources for kindergarten registration and the chance to meet elementary school principals and teachers. In addition, the routine Kindergarten registration appointments began on Monday, April 1st and ran through Thursday, April 4th. They were held again on Monday, April 8th and ran through Thursday, April 11th, 2019. Please be certain to learn more about our Kinderbound® program, which runs from Monday, June 3rd until Thursday, June 27th, as our preparatory summer program for incoming Kindergarten students. Parents who are interested in learning more about the Kindergarten registration process should contact the District at the main line to learn more about how your Little Bulldogs can become part of our family!

In the GHCS, the Cafeteria is an Extension of the Classroom
Finally, the District’s partnership with Pisanick Partners has greatly helped us realize the importance of fueling our students with proper nutrition. The GHCS firmly believes that there may be nothing better for promoting student success than offering a comprehensive meal program at all grade levels. The Garfield Heights City Schools first began by assessing exactly what our students eat and what they waste. After all, food can’t be nutritional, unless it’s actually consumed. From there, we constantly challenge our team of dietitians to create meal opportunities that improve health and teach our students that there is a definite connection between their success in the classroom and what they eat at breakfast, lunch and throughout the entire day. We develop new food and nutritional experiences for our students, which prompt excitement, enthusiasm but most significantly…inspire our students to eat well. These new initiatives include our hot breakfast program and fresh farm-to-school produce, which expose our children to food that they may not have the opportunity to eat when away from school. In a sense, the cafeteria truly becomes an extension of the classroom.

Thank you for another successful school year full of opportunities and achievement.

GO BULLDOGS!
Terry Olszewski
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Garfield Heights City Schools Community,

On behalf of the Board of Education for the Garfield Heights City Schools, congratulations goes out to the Class of 2019. With each passing year, the graduates continue to aspire to new heights and considerable levels of achievement. The best and brightest of the Class of 2019 was on display during the April 2019 Board Meeting, when this year’s Academic Top Ten were formally honored. Congratulations to Cory Baczkowski, this year’s Valedictorian who graduates with a 4.365 grade point average and Jeremiah Ukwele, this year’s Salutatorian, who graduates with a 4.339 grade point average. These students represent all that is possible when our Bulldogs set their focus on success. All the best in your future endeavors.

The Roses for Teachers Ceremony is among the most anticipated Board meetings each and every year, and the Board of Education would like to commend the instructors who were selected for recognition. Each and every teacher and staff member in this District helps to make the student experience successful, effective and future-oriented. The Board of Education sincerely thanks the employees of this District for their hard work, dedication, passion for instruction and devotion to our students. Coming to work every day with the purpose of preparing our students is a noble task, and our staff rises to the occasion. Our collective gratitude is expressed to you all. The community may note that with the pending adoption of the next State of Ohio Biennium Budget, new proposals are being discussed to address the inadequacies of funding for public education. While the District is glad to see that some of our representatives are working in a bipartisan fashion to address the funding imbalance, the Board of Education stresses to the community that what has been printed in the paper to this point has been proposals and nothing more. The legislature appears to be moving in the direction of creating new solutions, but the conclusion will require the approval of the Ohio House of Representatives, the Ohio Senate and the Governor.

With more than 600 school districts in the State of Ohio, it is unlikely that each one comes out with more money. Keep in mind that the Garfield Heights City Schools, in that, they move in the direction of providing more funding for our District. However, the community must keep in mind that this proposal is bold and progressive and does increase funding for schools, it must be approved by the full legislature and the Governor’s Office. By some estimates, the Governor has proposed $250 Million for public education spending in the first year of the budget and an additional $50 Million for the second year of the budget. These differences will all be ironed out in the next several months.

In summary, the community is best positioned to view the Cupp-Patterson proposal on its face value as a proposal that is likely to change. Though this proposal is bold and progressive and does increase funding for schools, it must be approved by the full legislature and the Governor’s Office. With more than 600 school districts in the State of Ohio, it is unlikely that each one comes out with more money. Keep in mind that the GHCS would benefit from this proposal since more than 60% of our funding comes from the State of Ohio. The Treasurer’s Office will continue to closely monitor the various proposals that emerge from Columbus, the final budgeting process and how it impacts our District. Thank you for your continued support, and as always, please contact our office at anytime!
Success Stories and Important Updates from the GHCS!

On behalf of the Garfield Heights City Schools, thank you to the many parents who attended the annual Little Bulldogs Kindergarten Information Night, which was held on Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at Garfield Heights High School. Providing the opportunity for parents to pick up kindergarten registration materials, meet elementary school principals and teachers and also enjoy a bit of fun and activities, the District has found a great deal of value in hosting this event for our future kindergarten students. Hot dogs and refreshments were served, mock-bus rides were given to students, face painting took place courtesy of volunteer high school students and more. Please be advised that boys and girls who turn five years old on or before August 1st are eligible to register for Kindergarten. Parents can contact the District’s main phone number at 216-475-8100 at anytime to establish an appointment to register for Kindergarten. In addition, please be sure to inquire about Kinderbound, the District’s Pre-Kindergarten preparatory program, that will be held at Maple Leaf Elementary School between June 3rd and June 27, 2019. Learn more by visiting the District website!

Thank You to Garfield Heights Middle School Parents for Participation in Literacy Night

The Garfield Heights Middle School thanks the more than 500 parents and family members who participated in the Literacy Night held earlier this spring. Garfield Heights Middle School thanks the more than 500 parents and family members who participated in the Literacy Night held earlier this spring.
Senior Marlon Jordan: Attending Ashland University in the Fall

Our first Spotlight is on Marlon Jordan, a proud senior at Garfield Heights High School, where he has taken full advantage of the opportunities presented to him. This year alone, Marlon has had the privilege of being the starting varsity quarterback and team captain of the football team, where he has played for the last four years. He has also excelled for four years on the varsity baseball team. For the last two years, he has been a merit roll student with a 3.1 Grade Point Average, and his favorite class is English, with Beowulf being his favorite novel because it’s about being a hero! Marlon would like to thank all of the awesome teachers at William Foster, Maple Leaf, the Middle School and the High School that he has had over the years of being a student in the Garfield Heights City Schools, who have been willing to help each of the students succeed! He would like to offer a special thanks to Mrs. Porter at the Middle School, who helped him to jump start many years ago to succeed and excel. In addition, he is also a student at the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, where he has been a student in the construction trades. Marlon Jordan will be attending Ashland University next fall where he will play football. Congratulations Marlon!

Senior Evan Jasterbowski: Attending The Ohio State University in the Fall

Evan Jasterbowski is another shining example of what it means to be a Bulldog, amassing an impressive listing of accomplishments and accolades during his tenure in the District. Evan has been a Bulldog his entire life, attending William Foster, Maple Leaf and the Middle School and credits his teachers with his academic and co-curricular success. “They truly care about students personally and in the classroom,” says Evan. Apart from taking such challenging courses as College Biology, College Math and Advanced Placement English, Evan is also involved in the Choir, Music Express, Marching Band, Concert Band and National Honors Society. His overall grade point average of 4.16 has earned him a highly regarded spot in the Academic Top 10. Evan would like to thank Music Express advisor Ms. Reiko Carey for her motivation and belief in him over the years, and who helped to pull him out of his shell. Evan’s future plans involve attending The Ohio State University and studying Computer Engineering.

Please help the District in congratulating Marlon Jordan and Evan Jasterbowski in taking advantage of all of the opportunities that the Garfield Heights City Schools has to offer. Best of luck in your future endeavors!