

Bluffton Exempted Village Schools

Summer District Newsletter

News from the Superintendent~

We welcomed over 1150 students to our school system this past Monday and had an excellent first day of school. With the new year also brings new staff members to our district: teachers- Kelly Yarnell, Kindergarten; Linda Sycks, 2nd Grade; Janelle Bogart, 3rd grade; Brigette Hoff, HS Latin; Ashley Stevely, HS Intervention Specialist; and Kevin King, HS Spanish. We also have a new bus driver, DeAnn Scott. We welcome each of these new staff members and look forward to working with them for many years to come.

The 2012 State Report Card has not been officially released by the Ohio Department of Education for any district in the state due to attendance reporting issues with some school districts. However, we have received our unofficial scores, which indicate that **our district performance index rating should be 107.4—the highest we have ever achieved. This rating should put our district in the top 3-5% of all districts in the state.** In addition, when the State Report Card is officially released (sometime this fall), we anticipate our district will have achieved 100% of the state indicators for the seventh consecutive year. With these scores, our district should once again receive an "Excellent" rating and maybe even "Excellent with Distinction" if we hit the value-added growth measure. It is also important to note that in the future, schools will be ranked by a letter system rather than by terms, such as "Excellent." Looking back, if we apply that new ranking system to our 2011 State Report Card, we would be 1 of only 3 districts in the state to achieve an "A." This ranking could not be achieved without the combined effort of parents, students, staff, and the community, so please know that your support is appreciated. When the State Report Card is released, we will send the report out in our next District Newsletter. In the meantime, we, the staff at Bluffton Exempted Village Schools, will continue to give our students the best education possible and prepare our graduates for the next stages of their lives.

The financial report on this page shows our general fund carry-over balance of over \$2.2 million for the 2012 fiscal year. We finished our general fund in the red on June 30th by \$71,307. This was the first year in four years that we ended in the red. Please note that cutbacks in state funding to our school have impacted our finances in a negative way. Last year we lost over \$400,000 in revenue from the state and federal funds. We have absorbed many positions through retirements in the last 4 years, and we have some staff members in new roles to help us financially. We will continue to look for ways to be fiscally responsible to you, our community, while still providing our students with an excellent education.

In fiscal year 2010, which is the most recent date that statewide comparison expenditure statistics are available, we spent \$8,641.63 per student to educate each child. This is \$2,000+ less than the state average of \$10,696.94 per student statewide. As noted above, our district performs within the highest level in the state for much less money on average.

Our professional development this year with our staff will focus on Formative Instructional Practices or FIP for short. This professional development will be important as we move toward new state assessments for our students starting in 2014-2015. FIP will be used to aid teachers in challenging students to think more critically about subject matter as well as gain deeper knowledge of course concepts.

On the back of this newsletter is a list of the Senior Citizen Breakfast performances each month. We look forward to seeing those of you who have patronized these performances in the past as well as any newcomers who may join us in this monthly entertainment and fellowship.

On a different note, it is amazing to see the number and types of activities that our students are involved in at all different age groups. From sporting activities, quiz bowl, and math club to music activities, plays, musical, etc.—the list goes on and on. These activities are indicative of a vibrant and active school community.

Finally, we look forward to educating the students in our district this year. This is a wonderful privilege and opportunity. Thank you for your continued support of Bluffton Exempted Village Schools and the students we serve. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to stop in or call me at 419-358-5901.

Greg Denecker, Superintendent

Financial Information for 2011-2012 General Fund

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Beginning Balance (July 1, 2011) | 2,277,549 |
| Outstanding Encumbrances (FY 2011) | 31,753 |
| Beginning Cash Balance (July 1, 2011) | 2,309,302 |
| Revenue: | |
| Local Sources: | |
| Real Estate | 2,757,210 |
| Personal Tangible | 7,031 |
| Investment Earnings | 9,892 |
| Sale of Notes | -0- |
| Other Local Sources | 757,446 |
| State Sources: | |
| Foundation Program | 3,743,282 |
| Rollback & Homestead | 362,724 |
| Other State Sources | 552,623 |
| Other Receipts: | |
| Non-Operating Revenue | -0- |
| Total Receipts Above | 8,190,208 |
| Plus Cash Balance | 2,309,302 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | 10,499,510 |
| Expenditures: | |
| Salaries & Wages | 5,021,252 |
| Fringe Benefits | 1,724,841 |
| Purchased Service | 1,023,454 |
| Materials, Supplies, Texts | 295,469 |
| Capital Outlay | 4,861 |
| Repayment of Debt Service | -0- |
| Other Expenditures | 122,582 |
| Transfers/Advances | 54,852 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES: | 8,247,311 |
| ENDING CASH BALANCE | 2,252,199 |
| Outstanding Encumbrances | 45,957 |
| Ending Balance (June 30, 2012) | 2,206,242 |

Permanent Improvement Projects

Over the course of the past year, our district has completed many different permanent improvement projects. In each summer's district newsletter, The Bluffton News, and the Bluffton Icon, we outline the revenue that was brought in from this 1/2% permanent improvement income tax and the projects (along with the cost of each project) completed with these tax dollars. Below is the revenue chart of the combined monies brought in by the tax. Below that is the list of expenditures and projects completed thanks to this fund.

| Date | Revenue |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Balance Forward from Sept. 2011 | \$130,543.95 |
| October, 2011 | \$121,186.96 |
| January, 2012 | \$125,966.19 |
| April, 2012 | \$166,670.31 |
| July, 2012 | <u>\$249,770.11</u> |
| PI Funds Sept. 2011-Aug.2012 | \$794,137.52 |

| Projects Sept. 2011-Aug. 2012 | Expenditures |
|---|-------------------|
| Elementary K-1 Wing Renovations | \$38,890.00 |
| Steinmetz Field R/R&Concession Stand | \$142,066.36 |
| Computers/Technology | \$99,024.30 |
| HVAC Repairs | \$35,334.59 |
| Tuckpointing Elementary and HS | \$35,610.00 |
| Elementary Bathroom Partitions | \$24,426.53 |
| Elementary and HS New Outside Doors | \$36,190.57 |
| Window Replacements Elementary and HS | \$10,225.93 |
| HS Gym Ceiling Repair and Updates | \$45,727.63 |
| Plumbing Repairs and Updates | \$4,936.23 |
| Electric Repairs and Updates | \$10,242.05 |
| Furniture and Flooring | \$11,572.42 |
| Roof Repairs and Updates | \$24,224.37 |
| Outside Grounds Maintenance and Updates | \$27,640.09 |
| Pump Repairs, Refrigeration, and Dishwasher | \$41,662.74 |
| Fencing Repair and Updates | \$15,641.00 |
| Bleacher Repairs | \$7,911.00 |
| Cages SB/BB and Gym Equipment | \$8,748.80 |
| Equipment Repairs and Parts | <u>\$3,139.64</u> |
| Total | \$623,214.25 |

Bluffton Schools will continue to use these funds to update our facilities as promised to the taxpayers of this community. As always, we at Bluffton Schools appreciate the community's support of our district's efforts to maintain and improve facilities. If you would like to see these improvements in person, please come to our school open house on September 24, or call me to set up a convenient time to view these updates firsthand.

Visit Bluffton Schools Website:

www.blufftonschools.org

If you do not want your child's name or picture released to any media outlet or on our website, please tell your child's building office in writing by September 19, 2012.

New Additions to our Staff...

Janelle Bogart – Third Grade Teacher

Janelle is married to Nathan Bogart, and they have four children: Ethan, Garret, Gavin, and Ellie. She has done two long-term substitute teaching assignments and also day-to-day subbing here in Bluffton. Janelle taught third grade in Lima for five years before she decided to stay home with her children for seven years. Janelle loves to watch her children, nieces, and nephews in all their sporting events and loves to read and do yoga. She is very excited to begin teaching in the same school she once attended.

Brigette Hoff – Latin Teacher

Brigette returns to Bluffton High School after spending time at home with her children when they were young and recently teaching Latin at Findlay High School. She graduated from Bluffton High School where she was active in the band and choirs; she received her BA in Education at The University of Akron (also playing in many band and trumpet groups) and her MA at Bluffton University in 2009. She coached the academic team from 1992-1999 and continues to be active with the music program at Bluffton. Brigette resides in Bluffton with her husband Scott and three children: Andrew, a junior at Bluffton; Sydney, a seventh grader; and Rebekah, a fourth grader. She enjoys playing the piano and trumpet at church, advising 4-Hers, spending time with family and friends, and attending all the music and sport activities in which her children participate.

Kevin King – Spanish Teacher

Kevin King is the Spanish teacher at Bluffton High School. He is married to Alison (BHS'98), and they have lived in Bluffton since 2004. Kevin had been teaching Spanish since 2006 in the Lima area. He graduated from Goshen College in 2001 with a BA in Business Administration. His college experience gave him the opportunity to study, travel, and serve in Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Spain. He went back to college and received his Spanish education degree from the University of Findlay. He has coached volleyball at Elida High School for the past 6 seasons. He enjoys traveling in the US and abroad, water skiing, and spending time on the boat.

DeAnn Scott – Bus Driver

DeAnn Scott, originally from North-Central Ohio, has lived in Columbus Grove for 25 years with her husband John and four children. Currently three children are college students, and one is a senior at Columbus Grove. She has been a substitute bus driver for ten years for several schools and is happy to be joining Bluffton full-time this year. Her hobbies include waitressing at Dick's Steak House on weekends, flower gardening, and cooking.

Ashley Steveley – Intervention Specialist Teacher

Ashley is a graduate of Wapakoneta High School and received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. Prior to coming to Bluffton she had been a teacher and a coach in Lee County, North Carolina. She also taught and coached for Lima City Schools. In her free time she enjoys spending time with her parents (David and Kim) and her sisters (Kayla, Jenna, and Emily). Ashley also enjoys traveling, shopping, and playing sports. She is thankful for the opportunity to be teaching and coaching in this district and is looking forward to a great school year.

Annual Notification to Building Users and Employees

In accordance with Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986, our facilities have been inspected, and a management plan has been developed for the control of any asbestos-containing material (ACM) found in our buildings. The inspection report and management plan were completed by a certified consulting firm. A copy of the inspection report and management plan is located in each building office for public review.

It is significant to report that the buildings in our district have had all accessible, friable ACM removed. All miscellaneous non-friable ACM has been well-maintained and is being managed by professionals through periodic evaluations and inspections.

Any suspect ACM should not be disturbed. Contact Bob Holt for additional information.

Annual Notification of Federal Funds

The Bluffton Exempted Village School receives federal funds in the areas of reading, math, library, and education of handicapped children. If you have any suggestions on how these funds should be used, please contact the district superintendent at 419-358-5901.

Senior Citizens Breakfast Schedule 2012-2013

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| September 12 | Marching Band |
| October 17 | Show Choir |
| November 14 | Drama Club |
| December 12 | High School Concert Choir |
| January 9 | Strings |
| February 13 | Ladies First Choir |
| March 6 | High School Concert Band |
| April 10 | High School Musical |
| May 8 | Jazz Band |

Each month, breakfast begins at 8:30 A.M. in the Middle School Cafetorium.

**Bluffton Exempted Village School
District Board of Education**

Brad Fruchey, President

Ken Luginbuhl, Vice-President

Kay Miller

Renee Smith

Jeremy Scoles

The Board of Education meets the third Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in the Elementary Media Center. If there is a change in the date, time, or meeting place, it is announced in the newspaper. Please note the September Board of Education meeting will be held on the second Monday of September.

Bluffton Exempted Village Schools
102 S. Jackson St.
Bluffton, OH 45817

Return Service Requested

POSTAL PATRON

Listed below are the addresses and phone numbers for each of the buildings in the Bluffton School District. Please write or call our offices with any questions and concerns you might have about the schools. We appreciate any input you might have in helping maintain a quality education for our students.

Administrative Office 419-358-5901
Superintendent, Greg Denecker
Secretary, Julie Steiner
102 S. Jackson St.
Bluffton, OH 45817

Treasurer's Office 419-358-5901
Treasurer, Paula M. Parish
Assistant Treasurer, Becky Gerschutz
102 S. Jackson St.
Bluffton, OH 45817

High School 419-358-7941
Principal, Mike Minnig
Secretary, Deb Kiene
106 W. College Ave.
Bluffton, OH 45817

Middle School 419-358-7961
Principal, Dean Giesige
Secretary, Julie Oberly
116 S. Jackson St.
Bluffton, OH 45817

Elementary School 419-358-7951
Principal, Tim Closson
Secretary, Teresa Marquart
102 S. Jackson St.
Bluffton, OH 45817

Bluffton Exempted Village Schools Mission Statement

The mission of the Bluffton Exempted Village School District is to provide a safe and stimulating environment in which flexibility is encouraged in meeting the needs of every student, and to value all persons and learning in order to develop individuals who demonstrate problem-solving skills, personal responsibility, and a desire for lifelong learning.