



Post Secondary Readiness

What Matters Most in Middle School

February 2012

Volume I, Issue 3

Career & College Readiness: Statewide and Local Assessment

As Oak Hills Local School District continues to focus on career & college readiness, the state of Ohio is also making strides in connecting and partnering with national organizations that are aligning with Common Core State Standards to develop national assessments that will promote the expectation of career and college readiness for ALL students.

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness of College and Careers (PARCC)

An alliance of 24 states working together to develop a common set of K-12 assessments aligned to Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and mathematics, PARCC's vision embodies the essence of career and college readiness for all students. The assessments developed by PARCC will be implemented in the year 2014-2015 in place of the current testing model, including the OAA and OGT. PARCC'S vision is to: build a pathway to college and career readiness for all students, create better assessments, support K-12 educators in the classroom, make better use of technology in assessments, and advance accountability at all levels. The intent of the PARCC assessments is that students will take parts of assessments at key times throughout the year as a means to more accurately assess students where they are and provide teacher with more timely information. (www.parcc.com)

ACT's Longitudinal Approach

ACT continues to provide continuity in their educational and career planning through student assessment and educator support. Their research-based assessments and reports provide insight into a student's career and college readiness and how teachers can further support students in the classroom. ACT will continue to focus their future work in two different areas related to curricular and assessment alignment: Measuring Student Progress Toward Readiness and Improving Course Rigor. Student progress can be measured through the EXPLORE, PLAN, ACT and ENGAGE while the focus on QualityCore helps improve course rigor.

Next Generation Science Standards

Ohio was invited to join this consortium in summer of 2011 as nearly 25 states work to develop common science standards that will stand parallel to the ELA and mathematics Common Core State Standards. The development of the Next Generation Science Standards is a two-step process; the first step was completed with the unveiling of A Framework of K-12 Science Education by the National Research Council. This framework recognizes the core ideas and practices in natural sciences and engineering that all students should know by the time the graduate.

**PARCC's goal:
[To] build their collective capacity to dramatically increase the rates at which students graduate from high school prepared for success in college and the workplace.**

Nearly eight in ten future job openings in the next decade in the U.S. will require postsecondary education or training.

Fewer than two in ten eighth graders were on target to be ready for college-level work by the time they graduate from high school.
National Statistic

MEASURING STUDENT PROGRESS TOWARD READINESS

EXPLORE

8th and 9th grade curriculum-based educational and career planning program

PLAN

10th grade curriculum-based educational and career planning program

The ACT

11th and 12th grade curriculum-based assessment for learning outcomes

ENGAGE

Middle and high school assessment that measures all factors of academic success

IMPROVING COURSE RIGOR

QualityCore

Research-driven solutions for strengthening curriculum

Featured Staff:

What's Their Story?

Bridgetown Middle School
Melissa McKnight
7th Grade, Math

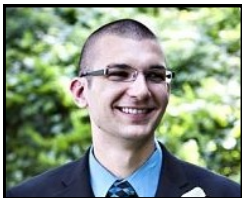


Bachelor's Degree: Miami University in Middle Childhood Education
Master's Degree: Xavier University in Educational Administration
30+ hours: Miami University and the University of Cincinnati

I chose Miami University because it is my hometown! Miami has a strong undergraduate educational program and offered a well-rounded education. After teaching my first year I decided to go to Xavier University to receive my masters in Administration. I was then offered the opportunity through a partnership between Oak Hills and the University of Cincinnati to take classes to receive my license for Gifted Education.

My decision to become a teacher was largely influenced by the teachers I had growing up and through my experiences working with children. Many of my teachers growing up had a positive impact on my life and I knew I wanted to give those same opportunities to children. During my senior year of high school I was given the opportunity to shadow a teacher weekly in the classroom, which helped me decide my future plans. I also have to give credit to my parents who were a big part in encouraging me to attend college and get my degree in education. I could not be happier!

Delhi Middle School
CJ Dicks
Science



Bachelor's and Master's Degrees: The University of Cincinnati

I attended the University of Cincinnati for my undergraduate and graduate degrees. I chose the University of Cincinnati because of its highly regarded education program. U.C. was also an affordable option that was close to home. I toured the campus during my high school year and liked the architecture and layout of the University.

My biggest influence for education was Mrs. McGeen, my freshman year English teacher. She cared for her students, had a

The Academic Future

Course Registration for 2012-2013

With the beginning of second semester underway, registration for the 2012-2013 school year is right around the corner. We are looking forward to providing even more enriching opportunities for our students through expanded course opportunities at each grade level. We strongly encourage parents and students to discuss their academic options and utilize resources in the counseling departments in each building to help facilitate academic planning.

Current 6th Graders:
Our current 6th grade students will have additional opportunities to explore and engage in online learning as well as encore courses that may meet their areas of high interest, including eLearning courses, online Health, and online Spanish I.

Current 7th Graders
Current 7th grade students will

Current 8th Graders:
Our 8th graders had the opportunity to visit the high school last Friday and they received registration information from their middle schools early this week. This registration process is a critical piece to their academic puzzle as they continue to map their high school career, including course choices and co-curricular experiences. Students should also begin considering if they would be interested in pursuing a Program of Study, to be determined in January of their sophomore year.

have nearly limitless possibilities as they consider high school credit courses for next school year. Students will have the opportunity to enroll in not only various high school elective courses, but they can also consider online offerings as well.

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*You will receive registration deadline information within the next month.

TIPS FOR THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

1. Talk with your child about his or her interests before identifying courses of interest.
2. Use the resources available through the middle schools and high school to make important academic choices. Call your child's counselor or administrator with questions or concerns.
3. After your child has selected his or her courses, review them prior to signing the registration card. You want to ensure you are supporting the academic process by understanding the choices your child has made.

A eLearning A

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Oak Hills middle school students have been challenging themselves with a new learning management systems this year through several online and blended courses. We will continue to offer extended online learning opportunities to our students in the 2012-13 school year.

2011-2012 eLearning Courses:

- Health
- Spanish for 7th graders*
- Mandarin Chinese*(grade 8)
- eKids

*These courses were offered as a pilot course to a select number of students.

2012-2013 eLearning & New Courses:

- Health
- Spanish for 7th graders
- Mandarin Chinese (grade 8)
- eLearning 3: Societal Outreach through Technology
- eLearning 4: Digital Citizenship/Community & Media
- PBL

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Anywhere



Social Studies Revision

Engaging in 21st Curriculum

As Oak Hills Local School District continues to evaluate programs that will prepare our students for the 21st Century, teachers, parents, administrators, and students will explore options for social studies.

Social Studies will be faced with a new challenge in 2014-2015 as Language Arts and Mathematics transitions to Common Core Standards. Social Studies will also be included in the Common Core Language Arts Standards with a laser focus on content area literacy skills.

Recently, stakeholders were involved in an initial engagement surrounding the social studies review. Several professionals shared their reflections on the day's work.

What are some of the enhanced curricular components that will be integrated into the Social Studies program?

"The most exciting thing about the Social Studies curriculum revisions is the realization that social studies plays such a large role in literacy. The shared standards for literacy with Language Arts directly addresses the needs of AP classes, as well as college courses...the State [is] providing a format that is student friendly and student centered.

Mike Taylor, OHHS AP and

Government Teacher

"The new Social Studies standards recognize that literacy isn't exclusive to Language Arts and that Social studies classes will engage students with skills development [such as] understanding point of view, attribution, and research based writing, that will be used the rest of their lives."

Bob Klotz, OHHS AP and Humanities Teacher

How can the revision process be defined?

"Social Studies teachers from across the district are working on integrating the new Social Studies content and Common Core standards into our classrooms in order to provide our students with rigorous and relevant lessons that encourage them to deepen their thinking about what it means to be college and career ready as well as globally aware in the 21st century. Middle School teachers are working with high school teachers to learn more about Advanced Placement courses to better prepare students for these classes at the high school."

Mr. Brooks Klosterman, BMS 8th Grade Teacher

"Working on the 2012 Social Studies revision is exciting. Teachers are working together to increase rigor, ensure that students are career and college ready, but doing it with the keen awareness of where the students are coming from and where

they are headed. The new standards are engaging and continue to raise the expectations that we have for our students. This process in Oak Hills will ensure that students will be well prepare citizens when they graduate."

Janice Hickman, C.O. Harrison

What are the benefits of a district wide revision process?

"Throughout this revision process teachers are focusing on developing more project, problem, and inquiry based learning opportunities for our students. Within these types of lessons the students will be challenged to use their knowledge and skills in order to find solutions to real world problems."

Mr. Brooks Klosterman, BMS

"As a team, we have the opportunity to clearly and logically identify skills necessary for success in the 21st century and how these skills are embedded in the new standards without limiting individual teacher creativity in instruction."

Mr. Bob Klotz, OHHS

"I like the broad group of people brought together as part of the process; stakeholders across all grade levels are involved. [Also] the vertical alignment across the grade levels sets a clear path [and] clarifies the connection with other District initiatives and programs (i.e. E-21)."

Steve Schinkal, School Board Member

Featured Staff:

What's Their Story?

sense of humor, and connected with us to the point that I was interested in all of her stories, even the stories that weren't so interesting. Mrs. McGeen made Shakespeare engaging, planned unique projects, and even arranged a field trip to the University of Cincinnati to listen to Elie Wiesel speak. As a freshman, I heard a world-renowned author and survivor of the Holocaust speak, which was an unforgettable experience as a high school student.

I chose education after tutoring during my freshman year in college. I decided to volunteer for Schiel Primary School's tutoring program. During this experience, I enjoyed helping students and contributing to the educational needs of the students. This helped foster my interest in education and paved the path to my career as a middle school teacher.

Rapid Run Middle School

Andrew Renner
6th Grade, Science



Bachelor's Degree: Valparaiso University, Meteorology

Master's Degree: Xavier University

I chose Valparaiso primarily to study meteorology, few schools offered this area of study at the time. I chose Xavier for willingness they had to accept people from career changes who desired to enter the field of education.

Greatest Influence: The greatest influence for me is not a person, but the ideal that I can make a difference in this world through this profession.

I think what draws me into education is my own continued pursuit of exploring new concepts, discovering new information, conducting experiments, and learning about myself. These are things that I enjoy doing, and I hope that I can influence students to feel the same way about education.



Congratulations to

**Bridgetown
Middle School**

&

**Rapid Run
Middle School**

We would like to recognize and congratulate both middle schools for being re-designated as Ohio Schools to Watch! Thank you for serving and supporting our students and the Oak Hills community!

Post Secondary Readiness Workshops

Oak Hills is excited to reach out to our Middle School parents and students to build an understanding and awareness of post secondary readiness in grades 6 - 8. We realize that some of the topics surrounding career & college seem years away. In reality, every day we are preparing our students for the next step. Our goal is that all of our students have options when they graduate from Oak Hills Local Schools. In order to facilitate this greater understanding, Oak Hills' middle schools will be offering a monthly workshop providing invaluable information to our students and parents.

Please note the date and location next to each event title. We look forward to seeing you throughout our post secondary series workshops. If you plan on attending, please RSVP at <http://tiny.cc/0bbjr>.

*All workshops begin at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Paving the Way for Your Future

February 23, 2012

Oak Hills High School

For Grades 6 and 7 ONLY. High School seems years away still, but high school experiences are right at your fingertips. Understand the learning opportunities for our middle school students through high school credit courses, including core content, online courses, and credit flex

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Closing the Gap - Taking Advantage of Summer Enrichment

May 3, 2012

Bridgetown Middle School

School's almost out for the summer! Learn about summer enrichment opportunities and how your student can make the most of his or her vacation.

Summer Opportunities

Consider these enrichment experiences

Northwestern University - NUMATS Free Testing - JKC Scholarship

A community outreach program for the Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University provides the Jack Kent Cooke (JKC) Young Scholars Program which is a national scholarship program for high achieving 7th grade students with financial need. This program provides exceptional students with individualized education guidance and educational services, which could include tutors, summer programs, online classes, computers, and possible tuition support through high school and college. For more information go to their website, <http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats/>.

Davidson Young Scholar Application

The national Davidson Young Scholars program helps profoundly gifted students discover others with similar interests and abilities, utilizing their unique skills and talents to maximize their educational potential and make a difference in the lives of others. Read Young Scholar Success Stories at www.DavidsonGifted.org/YSSuccessStories. The application deadline is the first of each month.

Visit our newly designed district website for up-to-date curricular information: <http://ohlsd.us>



Oak Hills Local School District

Bridgetown Middle School

3900 Race Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45211
513.574.3511

Delhi Middle School

5280 Foley Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45238
513.922.8400

Rapid Run Middle School

6345 Rapid Run Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45233
513.467.0300