



Community Report

Clark-Shawnee Local Schools

Volume 30, Number 1

August 2016



A Message from the Superintendent

The 2015-16 school year was another highly successful year in our school district. Our students continue to succeed at high levels, and our district leads the county in many of the benchmarks of student achievement.

Inside this newsletter, you will find information about Reid School's designation as an Ohio School of Promise for its achievements in helping all students succeed, and our preschool program earning the highest possible rating from the state. In the report card released this spring, Clark-Shawnee Schools earned As and Bs in all categories, including performance on state tests,

graduation rates, and performance among different groups of students. Our community has high expectations of its schools, and we work hard to maintain Clark-Shawnee's tradition of excellence in education. Credit for these successes goes to many facets of our community, all working together to do what's best for students in the district.

Our students and their families value education. Our students work hard in school and understand the importance of their studies. Parents and families support them in their schoolwork, working closely with our staff to ensure that students are able to make the most of their education. We are fortunate to have a number of involved and passionate parents who volunteer their time, energy and talents to help our schools in any way they can.

We are also fortunate to have a highly-qualified and skilled teaching staff, assisted in their efforts by our dedicated support staff. Because of Clark-Shawnee's legacy of excellence, and our reputation as a community that supports schools, Clark-Shawnee is a desirable place to work, and we are able to attract and retain top-notch educators. Every day, those teachers and staff members work hard to help every student reach their potential, providing individual support for students and working collaborative with families to ensure every child is able to succeed.

And finally, the success of this district is due to our supportive community. Clark-Shawnee Local School District is known for its outstanding schools, and widely-recognized as a community that is supportive of excellent education. Our community values outstanding schools, and recognizes that providing a quality education is best for the young people of our district. We work hard each day to meet the expectations of providing a well-rounded, rigorous and engaging education to students, and will continue to take the necessary steps to preserve Clark-Shawnee's legacy of excellence.

The Clark-Shawnee Local School District's reputation as an excellent place to live and raise children is well-earned, and together we will ensure that Clark-Shawnee is a leader in high-quality education for years to come.

Sincerely,
Gregg Morris
Superintendent

Clark-Shawnee Places Levy on Nov. 8 Ballot to Renovate SHS, Build New Elementary

With input from the community after months of dialogue and feedback, the Clark-Shawnee Board of Education unanimously voted to place a 5.25-mill levy on the November 8 ballot.

The levy will provide funding for renovations for Shawnee High School, grades 9-12, and the middle school, grades 7 and 8, within the facility and for construction of a new elementary building for a primary school, grades prekindergarten through 3, and an intermediate school, grades 4-6, within the facility at the southeast corner of Selma and Possum roads on land the district owns.

“Our elementary facilities have served this community well for more than 80 years, but they were never designed to meet the needs of a modern education,” Superintendent Gregg Morris said. “Our dedicated faculty and staff work hard to provide an excellent education to the students of Clark-Shawnee but it is becoming increasingly difficult and time-consuming to adapt these aging facilities to accommodate technology.”

Safety is also an issue with an old school facility with multiple corridors and entrances, and Possum and Reid School struggle with overcrowding.

“With our facilities and major systems such as heating, plumbing, and electricity approaching nearly 100 years old, the cost to keep the buildings running increases each year,” said Mr. Morris. “After a thorough evaluation of the buildings, experts estimated the cost of maintenance and repairs to reach nearly \$20 million over the next 10 years.”

If approved, the proposed ballot issue would generate \$37.2 million over 37 years and the state’s Ohio Schools Facilities Commission would contribute an additional \$15.6 million, or about 30 percent of the cost through a funding partnership offered to Ohio schools called the Exceptional Needs Program. It would cost an additional \$183.75 per year (or \$15 per month) for the owner of a \$100,000 home.

The OSFC gives districts 13 months to secure voter approval of a bond issue. After 13 months, the 30 percent funding match is no longer guaranteed, although funding may still be available in the future.

“Many of our surrounding districts have used this offer of OSFC to address facilities issues at a reduced cost to the community,” added Board President David DeHart. “Through our conversations with the community over the last few months, we have clearly heard that this is the time for our district to utilize state funding to improve technology and safety, reduce maintenance and repair spending, and ensure that Clark-Shawnee remains a leader in student success for years to come.”

School district leaders will continue to meet with the community to provide details on the plan and to answer any questions throughout the fall.

Clark ESC Leases Kindergarten Village

The Clark County Educational Service Center will lease Kindergarten Village for the 2016-17 school year, utilizing the facility to offer educational programs to meet the needs of Clark County students.

The ESC, an organization that helps districts partner to reduce costs to provide quality educational services for students, will pay \$12,000 a year to rent the facility, and assume responsibility for custodial and utilities costs.

“This is a win-win arrangement for our community,” said Clark-Shawnee Treasurer Tom Faulkner. “The district will receive revenue for use of the facility, no longer bear the minimal utilities and custodial costs the facility incurred, and the village will once again be used to serve students in our community.”



Preschool at Rockway Earns Five-Star Rating

Clark-Shawnee Local School District's commitment to exceptional early childhood education in the preschool program at Rockway School has earned a Five-Star Step Up To Quality Award from the State of Ohio.

"We know from research that early childhood education can have a significant impact on students," said Rockway Principal Chrissy Elliott. "At Rockway, we are proud to offer a high-quality preschool program to help children prepare for success in school and to work closely with our students and families to help all students reach their goals."

The preschool program at Rockway is designed to help students who may need interventions to help them prepare for school with the inclusion of peer models. Preschool students are taught by Mrs. Jennifer James in a nurturing and engaging classroom environment.

Step up to Quality is Ohio's rating system for learning and development programs. Participating programs can earn a one to five star rating. Programs earning five-stars may have lower staff/child ratios, use child assessment results to plan activities, create goals for students, develop plans to support children in their transition to a new classroom, have accreditation by an approved organization, and utilize parental and community involvement and input to strengthen the program.

"The first years of a child's life set a foundation for future success," said Superintendent Gregg Morris. "Providing excellent early childhood opportunities is an important part of our mission to meet our community's expectations of high-quality education."

Research confirms that the first five years of a child's life has a direct impact on how children develop emotional well-being, in addition to learning and social skills. For these reasons, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Education are committed to improving early childhood opportunities for all children in the state.

To learn more about preschool at Rockway, call 937-328-5378 or visit clark-shawnee.k12.oh.us.

Shawnee High Plans Staggered First Day

For Shawnee High School's returning sophomores, juniors, and seniors, there will be a two-hour delay on the first day of school Wednesday, Aug. 17, as ninth grade freshman and new students attend an orientation beginning at 7:30 a.m.

At the New Student and Freshman Orientation, the faculty, staff, and Freshman Advisory Board will help students acclimate to their new school. Students will be given information about operating procedures, attendance and discipline guidelines.

Buses will run on the normal school day schedule. Any sophomores, juniors, and seniors who ride the bus will be allowed to go to the media center during the orientation.

The school day will begin for all students at 9:20 a.m. Students will fill out paperwork and review the student handbook, and then proceed to an abbreviated class schedule where they will be given important information about required class materials and other details.

Schedules will be available in the lobby on the first day of school.

Summer Reading Assignments Posted On Website

The Shawnee High School English Department believes strongly in the need for students to continue to practice and master their reading and thinking skills over the summer months as a means of retaining the rigor and stamina of academic study. For this purpose, every student at Shawnee High School, including incoming ninth graders, is required to complete a summer reading assignment.. Each course has an assignment created to keep students sharp over the summer months. The English courses offered next year are as follows:

- Freshmen Composition and Literature (for ninth graders)
- Sophomore Composition and Literature OR Introduction to College Composition (for tenth graders)
- Junior Composition and Literature OR College English I/College English II (for eleventh graders)
- Senior Composition and Literature OR College English I/College English II (for twelfth graders)

All of the assignments are posted on our website at clark-shawnee.k12.oh.us. If you have any questions or are unable to access the summer reading assignments, please contact the high school.

Home of the BRAVES

- The Shawnee High School Athletic Department will athletic passes for students and adults this school year. The cost for a student pass is \$50 and an adult pass is \$100. These passes give the holder access to all home competitions for the entire school year. OHSAA and CBC Tournament contests are not included in the pass.
- Congratulations to Shawnee's team doctor, Dr. David Galluch, ho received the 2016 Team Physician Award from the Ohio Athletic Trainer's Association. We appreciate Dr. Galluch's dedication to keeping our student athletes healthy and safe as they compete on the athletic field.

Reid Earns Recognition as School of Promise

Reid Elementary School is one of just 22 schools in the state to earn the distinction of being an Ohio School of Promise for its high achievement among all students for 2014-15.

Ohio's School of Promise program recognizes schools that are closing achievements gaps between economically disadvantaged students and their peers. To qualify, schools must serve a population of at least 40 percent economically disadvantaged students and 80 percent of those students must achieve a score of proficient or higher on reading and math state exams. The school must also earn a progress grade of A or B.

"We are so proud of our students and staff for all their hard work to ensure that every student in our building is successful," said Reid Principal Ms. Amanda Ike. "While these honors are always nice to receive, the real reward for our teachers and staff is seeing our students grow and learn in an engaging and nurturing environment that is designed to provide students with the support they need to excel."

Reid School far exceeded the state's School of Promise standards, with 88 percent of economically-disadvantaged students passing the math exam, and 94 percent passing the reading exam. The school also earned an A in progress.

"At Clark-Shawnee, our faculty and staff are committed to working with students and families to help every child succeed to their fullest potential," said Clark-Shawnee Local Schools Superintendent Mr. Gregg Morris. "Reid School's honor as a School of Promise is a credit to the excellent teachers and support staff who carry out our student-centered approach to helping students overcome challenges and strive for excellence in all they do."

Reid Elementary School also earned recognition as a School of Promise in 2012-13, and is the only school on the list in Clark, Champaign, Greene, Montgomery, and other surrounding counties.





Community Report is a publication of the Clark-Shawnee Local School District Board of Education.

Board Members

Mr. Dave DeHart, President
Mr. Gary Barnes, Vice President
Dr. Susan Page
Mrs. Judy Pierce
Mrs. Michelle Garrett

Staff

Mr. Gregg Morris, Superintendent
Mr. Brian Kuhn, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Tom Faulkner, Treasurer
Mrs. Deborah Boysel, Admin. Secretary

Board of Education Office: 328-5378

Clark-Shawnee Local School District
3680 Selma Road
Springfield, Ohio 45502

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SPRINGFIELD, OH
PERMIT NO. 151

New School Year Begins Wednesday, Aug. 17

The 2016-17 school year will begin on Wednesday, August 17. The Clark-Shawnee faculty and staff look forward to welcoming our learners back to another great school year!

Open houses will be held at each building on Monday, August 15 at each school. This is an excellent opportunity for students and parents to get to know their classroom, building, and teachers for the school year ahead!

OPEN HOUSE — Monday, August 15

Reid, Rockway, and Possum Schools

Kindergarten: 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Elementary (Grades 1-4): 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Middle (Grades 5-8) 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Shawnee High School

7 to 8:30 p.m.