

**YOUR SCHOOL REPORT**

Published periodically by the  
 Copley-Fairlawn Board of Education

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**Financial Update**

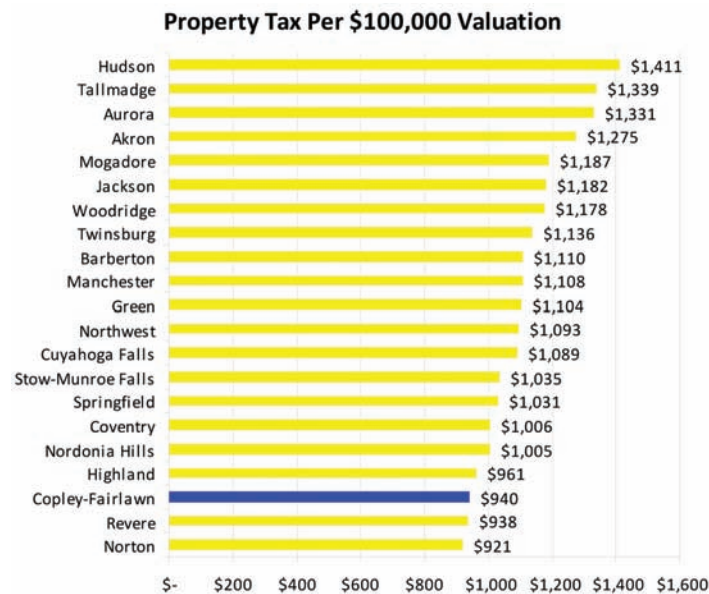
The Copley-Fairlawn City School District has continued to be rated an “Excellent” school district by the State of Ohio while keeping your taxes low. Of the 21 public schools for which the Summit County Fiscal Office collects taxes, Copley-Fairlawn is the 19th lowest. Only two area districts have lower taxes.

Our District has worked diligently to maintain our “Excellent” status at a low cost to every taxpayer.

Our last operating levy was passed in November, 2002. At that time, the Board of Education promised they would be good stewards of your money and make it last for five years. After stretching our tax dollars an extra three years, the District anticipates asking for your continued support in order to maintain the excellent programs we have come to expect.

We are all experiencing the most difficult economic times in recent history. Some tough decisions have been made and reductions have taken place over the course of the past five years. This has been done to extend your tax dollars while making every effort to minimize the impact on our staff members and classroom instruction.

Financial data of the district is available on the school website at www.copley-fairlawn.org under the Treasurer’s section. Please feel free to call 330-664-4800 if you would like additional information or have specific questions.



Learning Today ~ Leading Tomorrow

**Brian Poe**  
**Named New Superintendent**  
**Effective August 1, 2010**



The Copley-Fairlawn City Schools Board of Education voted unanimously to hire Brian Poe, currently the district’s assistant superintendent, at their January meeting. The Board approved a three-year contract as superintendent to begin August 1, 2010.

“We are fortunate to have an individual who has already proven himself to be a leader within our District,” said Board President Mr. Charles Dressler. “As assistant superintendent, Mr. Poe has been able to contribute significantly to the balance of continuing the excellence of the Copley-Fairlawn Schools while maintaining fiscal responsibility.”

Mr. Poe has been married to his wife Beth for twenty years. They have two children, Braden age fourteen and Brenna age twelve. Mr. Poe will succeed Dr. Saurer, who will retire after working for eight years in the Copley-Fairlawn Schools, the last three were spent leading the district as superintendent.

**Welcome Jessica Vargo**

A warm welcome to Copley-Fairlawn’s new Board of Education member, Jessica Vargo. Mrs. Vargo was elected to a four year term on November 3, 2009. Mrs. Vargo and her husband, Matt, live in Copley and their children, Erin and Sara, attend Copley-Fairlawn Middle School.



**Thank You John Trecaso**

Thank you to John Trecaso, outgoing Board of Education member. Mr. Trecaso provided eight years of service to the community, students and staff members of the Copley-Fairlawn City Schools.



March 15 - CHS Winter Sports Reception  
 March 15-26 - OGT Testing Weeks, (Grades 10-12)  
 March 26 - End of Third Grading Period  
 March 29-April 2 - Spring Break  
 April 9 - Grades 1-12 Report Cards Go Home  
 April 19-30 - OAA Testing Weeks, (Grades 3-8)

## Aaron Sable Named New Assistant Superintendent



Aaron Sable, Copley High School Principal, was named assistant superintendent effective August 1, 2010. Mr. Sable has served as Copley High School Principal for the past two years. Prior to coming to Copley-Fairlawn, Mr. Sable was principal at Crestwood High School in Mantua for three years and was a science teacher in the Northwest Local Schools District in Cincinnati. Mr. Sable has been married to his high school sweetheart, Amanda for ten years. He has two daughters and a son. They are Gretchen age seven, Abigail age four, and A.J. who is two years old.

During his time as Copley High School principal, Mr. Sable has displayed strong leadership in implementing positive changes with curriculum, staff development and safety and security. In his new position as assistant superintendent, he will be heavily involved in continuing the innovative programs in curriculum and instruction to improve upon the District's strong rate of success.

## PTA Council Awards Helping Hands and Educator of the Year

Mrs. Debbie Forster, PTA Council President, reports that the school buildings have nominated the following community members for the Helping Hands award and staff members for the Educator of the Year. The *Helping Hands* nominees include: **Mrs. Cheryl Wells**, Copley High School; **Mrs. Barb Varley**, Copley-Fairlawn Middle School; **Mrs. Nikki Cox**, Arrowhead Primary School; **Mrs. Liz Timm**, Fort Island Primary School; and **Mrs. Laura Poundstone**, Herberich Primary School. *Educator of the Year* nominees are: **Mr. Matt Young**, Copley High School; **Mrs. Kathy Forchione**, Copley-Fairlawn Middle School; **Mrs. Nancy Sasinowski**, Arrowhead Primary School; **Mrs. Susan Martin**, Fort Island Primary School; and **Mrs. Karen Albrecht**, Herberich Primary School.

Congratulations to **Mrs. Barb Varley**, Copley-Fairlawn Middle School as the *Helping Hands* and **Mr. Matt Young**, Copley High School as the *Educator of the Year* for the 2009-2010 school year as voted on by the Copley-Fairlawn City Schools PTA Council.

## District Report Card Changes Coming

The District's Kindergarten and First Grade Teachers began work in January to revise their report cards. The Copley-Fairlawn City Schools K-4 report cards will be revised over a two year period and transition to a "Standards Based" report card to more effectively reflect student progress and mastery toward grade level benchmarks and indicators from the Ohio Academic Content Standards. Kindergarten and first grade teachers will begin utilizing the new report card in the 2010-2011 year. During that same school year, second, third, and fourth grade teachers will work to develop new report cards that will be used in the 2011-2012 year. The Copley-Fairlawn City School District believes that the new report cards, pending Board of Education approval, will improve our ability to communicate a child's progress toward meeting the standards of our rigorous curriculum and to specifically highlight the skills in which a student is asked to master during an academic year.

## New Online Scheduling Process at Copley High School

Students at Copley High School will be scheduling for classes online for the 2010-2011 school year. The new format is similar to how students register for classes upon entering college or post secondary studies. Students will complete course selection sheets with their guidance counselors and parents and then schedule online in their English classes. This new process is intended to provide students with more responsibility in the development of their schedule and expose them to a college scheduling format. Another benefit is to afford more flexibility for guidance counselors and teachers to work with students through the scheduling process. The new scheduling procedures are in their infancy, but may lead to students having the ability to schedule for classes on their own in the future. Students began scheduling for classes in February.



Pictured at left is Mrs. Barb Varley, *Helping Hands* winner; and, at right Mr. Matt Young, *Educator of the Year*.

## Copley High School Athletes Earn Community Recognition

During the course of the 2009-2010 school year, a number of our student athletes have earned community recognition. They are:



### Akron Beacon Journal Athletes of the Week

- **Taylor Reif** - Girl's Basketball
- **Jessica Wharton** - Girl's Tennis
- **Sam Wheeler** - Wrestling

### WAKR Student Athlete of the Week

- **Sam Wheeler** - Wrestling

### Akron Area Touchdown Club Award Winners

- **Micki Gallien** - Volleyball
- **Brittany Kungle** - Girl's Soccer
- **Tanner Manfull** - Boy's Soccer
- **Brian Ruhaak** - Boy's Soccer

## Copley High School Implements New Programs to Boost Student Achievement

New programming has been implemented at the high school to help increase student success. **Mrs. Corinne Magensky**, High School Guidance Counselor, has spearheaded a new Response to Intervention (RTI) program. The RTI model consists of a team of teachers, counselors, and administrators who regularly review students' academic achievement and implements intervention to increase their success. This program is intended to work cooperatively with parents in an effort to meet all of our students' needs.

The RTI team and teachers have many new intervention strategies within the school to offer to students. They include an Academic Enrichment period, Study Island OGT software, OGT slam sessions, and extracurricular study tables to name a few. The Academic Enrichment period is proctored by **Mrs. Mable Gracen**. She works with students in a small study hall setting where she provides tutoring, organizational counseling, OGT support, and grade monitoring. All staff at Copley High School are making an effort to provide academic support for all students at the classroom level.

## Arrowhead, Fort Island, and Herberich After-School Programs

For many elementary students learning does not end when the dismissal bell rings. The PTA's from each primary school provide exciting educational experiences for our elementary students after the school day ends. Each PTA has a parent volunteer that coordinates the class offerings and registration at their primary school. Although the sessions and classes vary by building, this school year the class offerings have included Chinese, Spanish, hip hop, knitting, chess, Tae Kwon Do, art, violin, computer, science club, zoo mobile, baton, jump rope and dance classes. The primary schools appreciate all of the opportunities the PTA has provided for the students.

## English As A Second Language Program

One hundred and eighty-five students represent thirty-five countries and speak thirty-nine different languages in the Copley-Fairlawn City School District. The journey for these students begins with the completion of a Home Language Survey by their parent(s). Using information from the survey, along with federal and state laws, the English as a Second Language (ESL) tutor determines if the student requires further testing to assess if he or she is Limited English Proficient. The students that do qualify receive services using a wide variety of instructional methods. Those methods include, but are not limited to, thematic units, language skills, and learning strategies. Thematic units allow for grade level content to be presented through theme based units which also provide the basis for language learning. Language skills is an integrated approach to teaching content using listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities.

The district employs six ESL tutors to provide services to the 185 students using a hybrid method consisting of a pull out program and an inclusion program. Class activities are developed according to the ages and English level proficiency of the students. One component of the ESL program is to have students experience the culture and traditions of the United States. Students do this in a variety of ways, some of which include attending local sporting events, carving pumpkins in October and sharing a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with classmates and their families.

## Primary Level Classrooms Using Cutting Edge Technology

The students at Fort Island, Herberich and Arrowhead Primary schools began the school year with cutting edge technology upgrades in their classrooms. These high tech classrooms were made possible through the Points for Technology Program that was developed by the Copley-Fairlawn Technology Department. The goal of the program is to research innovative instructional technology, make it available to the teaching staff, and then provide training and support during its implementation in the classroom. This is all part of a five-year plan that was developed to keep the district's technology up to date in a fiscally responsible manner.

When you visit our K-4 classrooms you will see many Smart Boards in use. These are touch sensitive interactive whiteboards that allow teachers to create and share lessons that are projected from their computers. The information can then be manipulated to reinforce the instructional objective. Class notes can also be written in digital ink and saved to share later.

Elmo document cameras are another item in the teacher's toolboxes. Elmos are replacing the overhead projectors because they are able to project books, worksheets, photos,

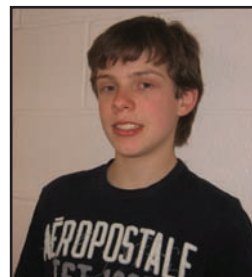
and manipulatives as they actually appear without the need for creating transparencies. They can also be used as a video recorder to record student plays and Reader's Theater projects. This is much more engaging and effective for the students than the old colored pen and plastic sheets model.

Another piece of technology found in many of our classrooms is the Turning Point Student Response systems. Teachers and students simply call them "clickers" because they resemble the devices used on TV shows that gather audience feedback. This simple name does not indicate the wide ranging applications of these tools in the classroom. A classroom set can be used to conduct electronic pre and post testing, surveys, and polls to determine what students currently know and what they need to know. This in turn will determine the instruction the teacher will tailor to meet the needs of the class. Targeted instruction is a key component of raising student achievement.

The Copley-Fairlawn City Schools are committed to building lifelong learners now and in the future. Staying in the forefront of the wave of technology and using it effectively to teach children is one of the many ways we are developing our future leaders.

## National Geographic Bee Competition for Middle School

For the 22nd year, the *National Geographic Society* is holding the National Geographic Bee for middle school students in thousands of schools across the United States. This year Copley-Fairlawn Middle School had over forty students that practiced and participated in geography bee grade level bees and a school bee. The winner of the school bee was 7th grader **Bobby Wagner**. He has completed a written examination to determine his ability to compete in state competition on April 9. For the past ten years CFMS students have qualified to participate in the state finals. Last year **Keval Yerigeri** placed second in the state.



Pictured at left is Bobby Wagner, a seventh grade student at Copley-Fairlawn Middle School. Bobby won the school geography bee and will represent his school if he qualifies to compete in the state competition in April.

## Middle School Power of the Pen Teams Compete

On Saturday, February 13, twelve Copley-Fairlawn Middle School students competed at Clear Fork Middle School in their first Power of the Pen tournament: 8th graders **Jaya Adkins, Colleen Carrol, Kerry Crowley, Emily DiDonato, Brandon Hofacker, and Emily Nist**; and 7th graders **Safa Aman, Susan Negowski, Anokhi Saklecha, Shareena Shaik, Shelby Timm, and Alison Vrabec**. The teams made a strong start, the 8th-grade team placed first and the 7th-grade team placed second. In addition, a number of individuals placed: 8th graders, **Emily DiDonato** came in first, **Colleen Carrol** in fifth, and **Brandon Hofacker** in seventh; and 7th graders, **Alison Vrabec** came in second, **Anokhi Saklecha** in fourth, and **Susan Negowski** in fifth. **Alison Vrabec** received an additional award for having the best story from round one, as did **Anokhi Saklecha** for having the best story from round two both out of sixty students. The Copley-Fairlawn Middle School teams hope to continue to demonstrate their writing prowess at the regional competition on March 20.

## Copley-Fairlawn Middle School Committed to Excellence

This fall Copley-Fairlawn Middle School was rated by the Ohio Department of Education as "Excellent With Distinction". This achievement was accomplished through the hard work of the students, exemplary teaching by the staff, and the support of our parents. In order to maintain this excellence we continue to look for strategies to increase student achievement.

Next fall selected students at Copley-Fairlawn Middle School will have the opportunity to take an Honor's 8th Grade Science Course which will be taught by Mr. Wally Senk. Students that meet the identified criteria will have the opportunity to add Honors 8th Grade Science to their schedule. The criteria will include the score of a Science pre-test for 8th grade, previous Ohio Achievement Test scores, current science grades, attendance and teacher recommendation.

Every student has the opportunity to participate in enrichment activities that continue to flourish at the middle school. Recently, our MathCounts team qualified to compete at the state level in Columbus, Ohio. We had three students finish in the top ten at the Summit County Spelling Bee. **Bryan Check** finished second overall and will compete in the Regional Bee on March 13.

Although these are just a few of the many opportunities we offer for our middle school students, we continue to strive to provide enriched learning experiences throughout the school day.



Copley-Fairlawn Middle School MathCounts team members, Erik Muller (8), David Patuwo (7), Manit Jain (8), Jasmine Li (8), Will Gao (6), and Ms. Jill Plank (coach), are pictured after placing second in the competition.

## Technology in Action at Copley High School

The **Business Education** department is steadily introducing new ideas and procedures to Copley-Fairlawn students. As technology opens new avenues to facilitate business communications, current business students create wikis, podcasts, web pages, movies, and presentations.

Our **Business Technologies** and **Senior Business** classes recently completed piloting a new program that will benefit all Copley-Fairlawn students. Each student will have an email account to communicate with fellow students, teachers, and the administration. In just a few short weeks, students will register for fall classes online. Along with email, they will be able to collaborate on classroom projects using a closed system of Google Apps. Google Apps will include creation and/or collaboration on documents, forms, wikis, website, spreadsheets and more. These programs will be accessible by students from their homes as well as school.

**Personal Finance** is currently using an individualized interactive computer program to practice financial concepts. This program was obtained through a grant from H & R Block to promote financial literacy.

Through the CHS technology courses, our students will be well prepared to meet the demands they will face in the business world.

## Kindergarten Registration March 25, 2010

Registration is scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 2010, for students who are entering Copley-Fairlawn City Schools this fall as kindergarten students or as first-time-enrolling grade one students. Registration will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the auxiliary gymnasium at Copley High School, 3807 Ridgewood Road, Copley.

Parents are asked to bring the following when enrolling their child/ren: 1) a completed registration packet for the child (available from each primary school building, the Board of Education Office or online at [www.copley-fairlawn.org](http://www.copley-fairlawn.org)); 2) parent/guardian driver's license; 3) two proofs of residency in the district; 4) the child's birth certificate showing that he/she is 5 years old prior to September 30, 2010; 5) the child's immunization record; and 6) the child's social security card. Guardians must present a legal certificate of guardianship or custody. For further information contact the Board of Education Office at 330-664-4800.