

**YOUR SCHOOL REPORT**

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**Copley-Fairlawn Third Graders  
 Achieve Success on the Fall OAA**

All third graders across the state of Ohio participated in the mandated Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA) for the first time since beginning school in kindergarten. The students completed the Reading Test which assessed their ability to read and comprehend multiple passages. Our students demonstrated a high level ability especially considering that it was their first exposure to this type of assessment. Below is a table that illustrates our students' achievement as a district and the state's achievement as a whole.

Third Graders Achievement on the Fall Reading OAA								
School	Average Score	Student Count	% Limited	% Basic	% Proficient	% Accelerated	% Advanced	% Passing
State of Ohio 2010	404	127454	23	20	22	20	16	58
Copley-Fairlawn Schools 2010	413	238	11	19	21	24	25	70
Copley-Fairlawn Schools 2009	409	240	16	18	27	17	23	67

Third graders who did not pass the Reading Assessment in the fall will have a second chance in the spring. Students who did not perform at the proficient level will be provided extra support to help insure their success in the spring. Our district has a history of over 90% of our third graders passing the test in the spring. In addition to the Reading Assessment the third graders will complete the Math Assessment. Students from across various grade levels will participate in the Ohio Achievement Assessment and the Ohio Graduation Test this spring.

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*Learning Today ~ Leading Tomorrow*

**Copley High School Welcomes New Administrative Team**

The Copley-Fairlawn City Schools would like to welcome new Copley High School Principal Mr. Cameron Ryba and Assistant Principal Mr. Rick Gurski to the district and communities. We would also like to wish Mr. Jim Borchik good luck in his new role as Assistant Principal/Director of Athletics.

community's support and value for education makes the Copley-Fairlawn City Schools one of the premier districts in the state.

Mr. Ryba earned his Bachelor and Master degrees from The Ohio State University. He is currently completing his Doctoral coursework at the University of Akron. Prior to coming to Copley, Mr. Ryba was a fourth grade math and science teacher for Twinsburg City Schools. Most recently, he spent the past seven years as an administrator for Strongsville City Schools as an Assistant Principal and Head Principal at the elementary and middle school levels. Mr. Ryba also serves as a part-time professor at the University of Akron teaching in their Educational Foundations and Leadership program. He currently lives in Medina with his wife and 3 year old twin boys.

Mr. Borchik served as the Assistant Principal at Copley High School for the past seventeen years. He was a teacher and basketball coach at Barberton High School for ten years prior to becoming a Copley Indian. Mr. Borchik and his wife reside in Copley. They have four sons that have attended Copley-Fairlawn Schools; Jamie (CHS 2003), Jason (CHS 2006), Daniel (CHS 2008), and David (CHS 2011).



Mr. Gurski is a native Clevelander, growing up in the city, graduating from St. Ignatius High School, Cleveland State and Ursuline Colleges. He has spent the last six years at Cleveland Heights High School, working as a science teacher and administrative intern. Mr. Gurski is excited to be part of Copley High School. He believes that the

**Bullying Workshop Presented at Copley-Fairlawn Middle School**

Bullying is a prevalent and insidious problem facing young people in our schools and our communities. Our goal at Copley-Fairlawn Middle School is to promote a school climate that fosters good citizenship and one that promotes a safe learning environment for our school community. Although we cannot prevent bullying altogether we have set into place initiatives that will give our staff and students the tools they need to effectively combat bullying. We have also supplied resources to support them if they are the victims of bullies. Our goal is to minimize incidents of bullying through awareness. Although we are not aware of a large number of bullying incidents we are aware that it takes place within and outside the walls of our school. We consider one incident of bullying to be one too many. With that in mind, this year

our goal is to be proactive when it comes to addressing this problem. During the month of September we had the opportunity to have Mrs. Susan Tucker, who is from the Summit County Court of Domestic Relations, present a workshop to all of our students, provide staff development and conduct a parent meeting which was open to the community. We were fortunate to receive a grant from the OMNOVA Solutions Foundation which will afford us the opportunity to provide additional staff development in January. This grant will also allow us to purchase materials that will effectively support an anti-bullying program in our school as well as provide a peer mentoring component. It is our goal to develop a program at Copley-Fairlawn Middle School that will be on-going and sustained from year to year.

 <p><b>Important Dates</b>                  Winter 2010-11</p>	<p>Dec. 23 - Jan. 3 Winter Break                  Jan. 17 ML King Jr. Day-No School                  Jan. 21 End of First Semester                  Jan. 24 Records Day-No School                  Jan. 28 Report Cards Sent Home                  Feb. 17 Evening Conferences K-8                  Feb. 21 President's Day-No School                  Feb. 24 Evening Conferences 9-12</p>	<p><b>Winter Music Programs</b></p> 
<p>Dec. 10 Mid-term Progress Reports                  Dec. 11 Copley Athletics Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony                  Dec. 14 BOE meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>Dec. 6 CFMS Band                  Dec. 8 Herberich                  Dec. 9 Fort Island                  Dec. 14 CHS Choir                  Dec. 16 CHS Band                  Dec. 21 CFMS Choir                  Jan. 27 Arrowhead</p>	

## Copley High School Students Rank Amongst the Best in Ohio

Copley sophomores completed the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) in late March. This is a mandated assessment for all high school students in the state of Ohio. Students must earn a score of 400 or better on all sections of the test in order to be eligible to earn a high school diploma. There are five parts to the test which include Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The test was administered over a five day period. The passage rate of Copley students well exceeded the state averages as listed below.

	Copley Students	State Average
Reading	94%	83%
Math	94%	81%
Writing	95%	84%
Science	88%	73%
Social Studies	92%	80%

Copley High School students' passage rate was not only high, but the percentage of students passing with scores in the Accelerated or Advanced ranges was also impressive.

### Copley Students Passing with Advanced or Accelerated Scores

Reading	55%
Math	77%
Writing	54%
Science	59%
Social Studies	70%

Copley students outstanding performance was in part due to the new programming implemented at the high school which included Curriculum Mapping, Response to Intervention, Academic Enrichment, OGT Practice Tests, OGT Intervention Software, and Review Slam Sessions. A congratulations is to be extended to our teachers and students for their hard work and performance. Copley High School continues to strive to be an elite high school in the state of Ohio.

## FLAP Grant

The Copley-Fairlawn City Schools will participate in the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) Grant during the 2010-2011 school year. This is the second year the district has been involved with this initiative. The Flap Grant is intended to support the development of what the federal government deems as "essential world languages." Examples of essential world languages are Arabic, Chinese, and Japanese.

The FLAP Grant provided matching funds for costs related to the new Chinese program at the high school last school year. Similar funds will be available during the 2010-2011 school year. The funds will support the Chinese program at the middle school and high school. Professional development opportunities will also be available to our Chinese teacher at the local and state levels through the grant. This opportunity has been made available to our district through our partnerships with the Summit County Educational Service Center, neighboring districts, and Kent State University.

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## District Diversity Training

Copley-Fairlawn teachers and staff participated in a diversity workshop presented by Michael Douglas from Diversity Initiatives during the October in-service day. The objective of the morning's activities was to start meaningful discussion about modern day diversity challenges and opportunities that exist in the Copley-Fairlawn City Schools. Michael related to the teachers because of his background in education. He is a former teacher from Nordonia Schools. He served as an administrator in multiple districts as a Curricular Diversity Director. Michael will be returning to our district in the coming months to work with staff members at the building level. He will also meet with the district administrative team to provide the administrators with tools to help maintain and continue this diversity initiative.

## Speech and Debate Team Hosts Tournament

On November 20, 2010 the Copley Speech and Debate team hosted the 22nd annual Copley Invitational Speech and Debate tournament. The nine different speech events were housed at Copley High School and the three different debate events took place at Copley-Fairlawn Middle School. There were 605 students from twenty-eight high schools that participated. Some of the schools included: Massillon Perry, Jackson, Wooster, Wadsworth, Highland, Norton, Canfield, and North Canton Hoover, just to name a few. Stow-Monroe Falls high school was the overall winner of the tournament. The Copley Speech and Debate team came in thirteenth overall and a few of our students walked away with trophies. Lear Jiang came in 5th in Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Jason Makishi and Sahand Farahati came in 3rd. Nick Martin placed 6th in his chamber and was Best Presiding Officer in Student Congress Debate. Adam Brown won his chamber and was Best Presiding Officer in Student Congress Debate.

This was the third varsity tournament of the season. The team will compete in Districts in January and the State Speech and Debate Finals the first weekend in March.

## New Elementary Report Card

Administrators, kindergarten, and first grade teachers have finalized a new elementary report card to be implemented this school year. The report card is standards-based. It will provide parents with information on how their child is achieving and progressing within specific learning goals and state/district standards throughout the school year. It will also be a data tool for teachers to track student progress.

The report card will be introduced first at the kindergarten and first grade levels. These grade levels have been selected for the initial implementation because the students and parents have either not been introduced to the current system or are fairly new in the process. The new report card will be phased into the other grade levels over time. This will allow the current second, third, and fourth graders to continue with the system to which they are accustomed. An informational newsletter and pamphlet are available at each of the elementary buildings for parents seeking more information.

## Herberich Readers are Meeting the Challenge

The implementation of leveled classroom libraries has enabled all first through fourth graders at Herberich Primary School to select literature books at their independent reading level while attaining the Ohio English Language Arts Academic Content Standards. It is a struggle for teachers to provide literature books for their students to read every day in class and at home. The "100 Book Challenge" program is aligned with the Ohio Content Standards and is a scientifically-based researched supplemental reading program that will address the instructional needs of every learner in the classroom. Ten baskets of thirty literature books per basket were purchased for each classroom through the support of the Herberich PTA, GAR Foundation grant and district funds. Teachers received staff development that focused on student assessment, applying skills and strategies that support what is being taught in the basal reading series and implementation of the home reading component. The "Reader's Workshop" assures that, every day, the students will be taught a "mini-skill lesson", select a literature book, write the book title in the reading log, and read independently for 15-30 minutes. The students record the amount of reading time and share book reflections. Students take home a book to read with their home reading coach for 15-30 minutes each night. The goals of implementing the "100 Book Challenge" program are to assess individual student performance, provide instruction reflective of a student's reading level and skills assessed, reading authentic children's literature for thirty minutes a day, establish and sustain a school-home partnership, increase student reading levels and motivate readers. When students reach a reading milestone in increments of 25 hours of reading they receive a medal which is celebrated during morning announcements. Herberich readers are meeting the challenge! If you have any questions please contact Miss Kathy Ashcroft, Herberich Principal.



## ALEKS - A Math Support Program for 3rd & 4th Graders

This year our three Primary Schools are providing third and fourth grade students who need support in the area of mathematics with an internet based program called "ALEKS." Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces is a Web-based, artificially intelligent assessment and learning system. ALEKS uses adaptive questioning to quickly and accurately determine exactly what a student knows and doesn't know in relation to the Ohio Academic Content Standards for his/her grade level. ALEKS then instructs the student on the topics he or she is most ready to learn. As a student works through a course, ALEKS periodically reassesses the student to ensure that topics learned are also retained. This program is designed to provide remediation as well as data for teachers on concepts that need to be addressed. Students are provided time to work on this program at school and also have access to the software at home via the internet. Building principals and classroom teachers can monitor student progress daily and are eager to see how ALEKS will impact the overall math achievement of participating students.

[www.copley-fairlawn.org](http://www.copley-fairlawn.org)

## Elementary Schools Implement AIMS Assessments

All elementary students in the Copley-Fairlawn City Schools had their reading and math skills measured using the AIMSweb benchmark assessments this fall. This research-based program was introduced last spring and is being fully implemented this year in order to help teachers more accurately measure the attainment of grade level skills and monitor the effectiveness of interventions provided to struggling learners. All students are assessed three times per year with the benchmark probes and those in need of additional support are monitored more frequently in the classroom and during intervention times with progress monitor probes. This information is uploaded into the AIMSweb program where it is compiled to determine building averages and norms which are then broken into a variety of grade level, classroom, and individual reports for use by teachers. The data is also used to create easily understood graphic representations of student progress that can be readily communicated to parents at conference times. This exciting new program is an important tool in our efforts to rely on data to make instructional decisions that will positively impact student growth.

## Happy 50th Birthday Fort Island!

The Fort Island 50th anniversary mural is now complete and installed under the awning on the front of the building. The three panels represent fall, winter and spring, the three seasons that students are in school. The central feature of each scene is an amazing maple tree that graces our playground and under whose branches all of the children play during their time at Fort Island. On the surface, this tree represents the natural beauty of the campus. On a deeper level, the tree, which is estimated to be 50 years old, symbolizes solidity, growth, beauty and change. This is reflective of what has been happening in the lives of Fort Island children since 1959 as they travel the hallways. The artwork that frames the trees is comprised of all original creations submitted by Fort Island students. Their pictures mirror the natural setting of the campus and many of the animal friends that have visited over the years. Important words "hidden" throughout the panels were brainstormed and selected by the children from themes that are related to their school.

This project would not have been possible without the artistic efforts of Mrs. Anita Hendershott, Fort Island Art teacher, many PTA parents, and our visiting artist in residence, Ms. Wendy Mahon from Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio. Financial support was provided by the families of Fort Island, Copley-Fairlawn City Schools, the Fort Island PTA, and the Copley-Fairlawn City Schools Foundation. Please stop by and see our masterpiece!

