

WILLARD CITY SCHOOLS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Superintendent's News

Time has quickly passed since the first day of school and we have already reached our second semester. Before we know it, school will be out for the summer and plans for another year will begin!

Throughout each school year, the Board of Education is constantly assessing the needs of our students, staff, and facilities. Our amazing community helped fill the need for a new facility. Over the course of the three year building process, we were able to save \$3 million on the entire project, with 37% (approximately 1 mil) returning to our district to be spent on capital projects.

Over the next year, Willard City Schools will begin Phase II (closeout) of the building project, and will be exploring several possible capital projects, including a new bus garage, outdoor track renovation, new drainage and watering systems for the football stadium, and possibly moving the weight room facilities into the Haas Gymnasium. These potential projects will be paid for out of the savings from Phase I, our new building project. The Athletic Boosters plan to contribute approx. \$80,000 towards the track and the football stadium projects. As plans are explored and finalized, the Willard City School District

look forward to the continued improvements to our campus and other facilities.

Finally, our Flashes Fitness Center has had finishing touches with the addition of a mural celebrating each decade of Willard Flashes Football. We are very thankful for the support of Don and Kathe Graham to make this fitness center possible and available to our students, faculty and community. The facility is open three nights per week from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. A schedule is available on our Facebook page and in school offices.

As always, please feel free to contact Willard City Schools at 419-935-1541 if you have any questions or would like more details about Phase II of this process.

Flashes Pride
District Wide

Jeff Ritz
Superintendent

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Willard High School

At the High School, we began our second semester on January 17th. We have a number of semester courses and many of our students have started their new semester classes.

Senior Projects

With the end of the first semester, our seniors have moved a step closer to graduation as they finished up their senior projects. This class incorporates a number of the 21st century skills that our kids will need in order to find success after high school. We want to thank all of our staff members and all of the community members that took time out of

their busy schedules to judge the senior project presentations. Our seniors did an outstanding job in presenting their senior projects and we are proud of them.

Extra Curricular Events

Currently we are more than half way through the winter sports season. We hope that many of you have taken the opportunity to come out and watch our kids compete in basketball, wrestling, swimming, or bowling. Practice for the Spring Musical is also well underway, our FFA students are preparing for FFA week and their banquet, and our Aca-

demic Challenge team is nearing the end of their season. Student Council is busy planning for various activities for the student body. It is important for kids to be involved in extra-curricular activities at school. It teaches the importance of working together toward a common goal and also allows them to pursue their own interests and work towards getting better in those areas.

Exam Time

Finally, we are working on getting ready for the end of course exams in which our students earn points towards their diploma. These are important

tests for our kids and we strive to make them well prepared to be successful on those tests. Soon, we will begin the process of scheduling our kids for classes next school year. Our guidance counselors will sit down with students to schedule their classes for next year. We have had an outstanding year so far with a great group of kids and are beginning to look at next school year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at 419-935-0181.

Chris Schaaf
Principal

Joe Crawford
Assistant Principal



Willard Middle School

It's hard to believe that we have reached the halfway point in the 2016-2017 school year. The Middle School students and staff have been engaged this semester on improving our students' academic and social skills. In the second quarter we had 135 students make the Honor Roll by achieving a 3.5 grade point or higher. Of those 135 students making the Honor Roll, 54 had all A's. We also had 72 students make Merit Roll by achieving a 3.0 -3.4 grade point in the second quarter.

P.R.I.D.E.

The teaching staff has worked diligently on providing a learning environment which stresses the importance of respect for self, others and our school. The implementation of the P.R.I.D.E. program has allowed us to model and reinforce positive social behavior which is an important step of a student's educational experience. Students are recognized daily for making a positive impact in our building

which qualifies them for a monthly drawing. Some of our students serve as mentors for students struggling academically.

Polar Express

In December the Eighth Grade Team created the "Polar Express" in their ELA so that all of our students in the Willard school community could receive a visit with Santa and take home a Christmas present. We have many students involved with our extra-curricular activities, which is another avenue for them to experience the values of hard work, commitment, and teamwork.

Winter Conferences

Our second quarter ended January 12th and grade cards were sent home on January 20th. Parent-teacher conferences will be held February 8th and 9th. We have early dismissal both days at 12:30 pm, and no school on Friday, February 10th. Conferences can be scheduled from 12:45-2:40 and 4:00-8:00 on February 8th and 9th. Parent-teacher conferences are a time when teachers and parents can come together to

discuss the progress or lack of progress made this quarter. It is a time when the very important partnership between parents and teachers can be formed. Please call the Middle School at 419-935-0181 to schedule a conference.

Mike Eicher
Principal

Dave Hirschy
Dean of Students



Willard Elementary School

St. Jude Math-A-Thon

It's time again for our annual Math-A-Thon which benefits St. Jude's Research Hospital. Our K-5 students will be participating in this wonderful fundraising project. We will be partnering with our 8th Grade Math and High School Leadership students to help elementary students work on completing their Math "Funbook". Last year we collected over \$3,500 for St. Jude Hospital. If you are interested in participating in the Math-A Thon Fundraiser, contact Mrs. Betty Kelly at Willard Elementary School. Mrs. Kelly has been in charge of organizing the Math-A-Thon for many years. We thank her for her hard work every year for a great cause. Willard Elementary has a Kindergarten student that is currently receiving treatment at St. Jude's. We hope this fundraising project will help St. Jude's Hospital helping young children and their families.

100 Days of School

On February 6, 2017, we will celebrate the 100th day of school. The teachers have lots of different activities planned around the number 100. Our Kindergarten teachers and students will dress up like they are 100 years old to cele-

brate. The rest of our students will celebrate in style by wearing "fancy clothes" to celebrate our special day.

Christmas Carnival

The Willard Elementary PTG had their annual Christmas Carnival. This event was organized by the PTG officers, parents and teachers. The teaching staff and High School students worked the event so that the students and their families could enjoy a fun evening together. The students enjoyed playing games in the gym, decorating a cookie, popcorn, hot choco-

late, face painting, shopping at Santa's Secret Shoppe and the Scholastic Book Fair, and of course Santa and Mrs. Claus were here for pictures. Thanks to everyone that helped organize this fun evening. It was very well attended and a GREAT time was had by all.

Family Night

Our kindergarten, first and second graders held a Family Night on January 24th. Grades one and two gave a wonderful performance of some winter songs for their parents and families that evening. The rest of the evening consisted of going to their

grade level pods and working on language arts and math strategies.

Tracy Stephens
Principal

Mandy Polachek
Assistant Principal



Food Services

Mornings can be really crazy! The alarm doesn't go off, the kids don't want to get up, there's no time to eat breakfast before the bus comes, or maybe they're just not ready to eat. Perhaps your teenager grabs some coffee and a candy bar on the way to school. If this sounds like your house, we have good news for you. Breakfast is available at school! Take advantage of this option

to ensure your child eats a nutritious breakfast. Recent studies show a link between nutrition and learning. A nutritious breakfast helps students be more alert so they can actively participate in class. Breakfast provides students with $\frac{1}{4}$ of their nutritional needs each day. Breakfast at school is affordable, too. A full breakfast costs less than convenience-store items. If

you qualify for free or reduced-price meals, you also qualify for the breakfast program, with no additional paperwork. The price of school breakfast is \$1.50. Where else will you find a balanced breakfast at such a low cost? So take advantage of this opportunity to start the day on the right foot. Your child will find breakfast at school provides not only a nutritious meal, but also a relaxed at-

mosphere for socializing with friends!

If you have any questions or concerns about school lunch or breakfast, please contact me via phone at (419) 935-3821 or via email at king.shannon@willardschools.org.

Shannon King
Food Service Director

National Anthem



Kindergarten students sang the National Anthem at our Willard Lady Flashes Basketball Game on Friday, January 27th. They were assisted by the High School Show Choir. The students did a wonderful job and helped kick off a Lady Flashes victory with a wonderful performance!

Special Education

“One of the greatest pleasures in life is doing what people say you cannot do.”

Walter Bagehot

What is New in the Special Needs Department

All of our Intervention Specialists participated in an IEP (Individual Education Program) writing session on January 4, 2017. Mr. Ed Kapel from State Support Team #7 in Mansfield came to Willard for the day to provide our teachers with the latest in updates in IEP writing from the Ohio Department of Education.

Among the many duties of the Intervention Specialists are the annual meetings to review the IEP of each of their students. Our district currently has 256 students on the Special Needs roster. According to state and federal law, each student must have an annual meeting to review the progress that the student is making toward achieving goals and to set new goals where they are appropriate.

The meetings also allow parents, intervention specialists, general education teachers, therapists and administrators the opportunity to gather together and discuss the needs of the individual child.

There have been 133 IEP meetings take place as of January 31st. Most of them have taken place in our building at One Flashes Avenue. However, we are responsible for servicing all special needs students who are residents of our district no matter where the students attend school. Thus, our students who are open-enrolled to surrounding districts such as Plymouth-Shiloh, Seneca East, Norwalk, or those who are attending St. Francis, Celeryville Christian School, Head Start or TMC are on our roster and must be a part of the IEP annual review process.

Besides the annual review meeting,

each special needs student must be re-evaluated every three years to determine the student's current needs and to determine if the student continues to qualify for special services. An Evaluation Team Report (ETR) meeting is held following the multifaceted testing done by the school psychologist. The team report also contains the results of questionnaires and comments contributed by teachers and parents. Willard City Schools has held 32 ETR meetings so far this year.

Deb Harwood
Special Education
Supervisor

Buildings and Operations / Transportation

Buildings and Operations

Energy Report

Improving energy efficiency of buildings and energy systems began in the 1990's. Design standards were guided by what is known as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). Energy costs loom large in school district budgets, comprising the second biggest expenditure after personnel costs. Our K-12 campus has some of the most sophisticated controls on the market. The exterior lighting has made major revolutions from T-12 to T-8 to T-5 and now LED lamps that not only provide energy savings but also better lighting levels in classrooms.

Did you know that our classrooms, lecture halls, etc., are controlled with the use of occupancy and daylight sensors? Classes are not typically conducted in hallways therefore full lighting is only needed two to three hours a day. Our hallways will turn off if the sensors do not detect motion thus resulting in a significant energy reduction and an overall increase in lighting efficiency.

Another feature we have is that the HVAC systems, especially the sixteen (16) air-handling units are controlled by occupancy sensors as well. This feature prevents fresh outside air

to be introduced to spaces when no one is there. This equates to huge savings for the district.

We have a five year maintenance plan with Honeywell. They come every quarter to calibrate and monitor the heating and cooling in each classroom and other academic spaces. Controlling energy usage from a centralized controller offers ease and cost savings.



Transportation

Seat Belts or Not?

With the latest bus accident tragedy in Tennessee, the discussion of adding seat belts to school buses has been a heated and debated discussion. The National School Transportation Board (NSTB) is a non-regulatory agency who is studying this issue and will make recommendations to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Any rule change will take three years to implement.

Logic would suggest your child's school bus should have seat belts since all motor vehicles are required to have them. Did you know in Ohio for the last forty-four years there has been one fatality in-

side a school bus (2010)? From 2000-2012 there were ten (10) fatalities outside a school bus. To me it would be wiser to spend the estimated 102 million dollars to implement the seat belt policy for additional outside safety items such as 360 degree cameras. Seat belts are meant to prevent someone from being ejected during an accident. School bus construction standards have done two important changes to the interiors of buses. The key word is compartmentalization. Today's buses have high back padded seats and smaller windows to protect children from being ejected during a crash. Have an open mind when you notice all these messages questioning why school buses don't have seat belts. I am concerned how a driver can

get 50 to 60 children off a bus if there were a fire, accident or other major evacuation situation. Evacuation time



from a school bus is critical. Training exercises have proven it only takes seconds for the bus to be filled with smoke.

The school bus industry is pro-active, with safety as the main concern. Students are at their safest when onboard and seated in the bus. The most dangerous time is during pickup or drop-off.

Michael A. Lillo
Transportation
Buildings/Operations

Energy Efficient Building Features

HVAC & Hot Water Systems:

- Variable air volume units
- Energy recover ventilators
- Terminal units with reheat
- Condensing hot water boilers
- Frictionless chiller
- Direct digital controls
- Demand ventilation sensors

Interior Lighting Systems:

- Fluorescent lighting
- Occupancy sensors
- Bi-level switching
- Lighting control system

Building Envelope Systems:

- Insulated metal wall panels
- Low-E windows

Technology

1:1 Device Program for Grades 11-12

1:1 is defined as a program whereby students are issued a device to use for educational purposes. This usually refers to a device such as a laptop, a Chromebook or an iPad. A 1:1 program requires teachers to produce and post many of their assignments online. In turn, students must complete and submit classroom projects/assignments online. Many of our teachers and our students are already doing some of this, minus the option for our students to take devices to and from school.

Beginning next year the district will rollout a 1:1 Device Program for all juniors and seniors attending classes in the district. Students at these grade levels will be issued a Chromebook during the first week of school and trained on the use and care of the device. Those teachers that are teaching students at those grade levels will receive training on the best uses and practices of the devices and ideas for teaching and issuing projects and assignments using them.

These students will also be carrying their device with them daily and will be expected to take it home each evening to complete work issued by their teachers.

Beginning in 2018-2019, we plan to issue all freshman and sophomore students a device, as well. Chromebooks that are currently located in the High School will be relocated to the Middle School. There will be enough additional devices to cover all 6th, 7th and 8th grade classrooms, allowing us to go 1:1 at the Middle School. We do not initially plan on a take-home option, but will reevaluate that option at a later time that year.

All of our elementary students currently have access to computers, Chromebooks, and tablets/iPads on a daily basis. However, by 2019-2020 we should have enough of these devices throughout the district for all of our elementary classrooms to have their own set assigned to them.

We believe that it is extremely important and owe it to our students to provide them with this opportunity.

Like the majority of other districts that have gone to a one-to-one, providing devices to our students will come at a cost. Beginning next school year, students at each grade level will incur the following premium for the use of these devices (see below for details). We are very excited to be moving forward with

the way we provide instruction and continue to strive to provide your children with the best educational opportunities possible.

Each school year students and their parent/guardians will be required to read and sign the Acceptable Use and 1:1 Policy prior to a device being placed in the student's care. We will issue more on this soon.

Annual usage premiums for each grade level are as follows:

2017 - 2018	
K - 2	\$20
3 - 8	\$25
9 - 12	\$30
2018 - 2019	
K - 2	\$20
3 - 6	\$25
7 - 12	\$30
2019 - and on	
K - 2	\$20
3 - 5	\$25
6 - 12	\$30

District Public Wifi

The Willard City School District is proud to offer its community members wifi access after school hours and during weekend events. Those with a smartphone or a laptop may choose wil-public from the list of wifi options. After selecting wil-public you will be prompted for your cell phone number. Once you enter the number you will be sent a text message, 6-digit code to enter on the device from which you wish to access the Internet. Simply enter that code and you're in.

Community Classes

We are proud to announce that we will again be hosting community tech nights, as were provided last spring. These sessions are FREE to the public and will begin Wednesday, March 1, 2017. We invite any and all community members who are interested in learning some basic technology skills to come in and learn about some of the great things available with today's technology.

The classes are scheduled to take place most Wednesday's from 6 to 7pm in the Roger Donnemiller Computer Lab (HS 101), located in the K-12 building. Community members may park and enter from either side of the building, but the closest entrance to the lab are the doors labeled D22, which are located on the west side of the building, one set of doors west of the main entrance.

Please contact Willard City Schools' Technology Coordinator, Mark White, at 419-935-0181, extension 46005 or email white.mark@willardschools.org to sign up or find out more information. We hope to see you there.

Mark White
Director of Technology

Curriculum

Testing

It's the time of year when people start thinking about testing. This year, all state testing at Willard City Schools will be done online! This will be a change from the paper/pencil format that our elementary students are used to seeing. Teachers and students have been working very hard here at school, to prepare your child academically. Come testing days we would like our students to come to school fresh and ready to work hard on their assessments.



Help Your Child Be Successful

Here are things you can do at home to help your child be successful.

*Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before testing.

*Have your child eat a healthy breakfast, either at home or here at school.

*Make sure your child arrives to school on time.

*Schedule appointments on non-testing dates.

*Encourage your child to do his/her best.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will regular instruction be happening during the testing windows?

Yes, instruction will continue throughout the testing windows. The typical daily schedule will have modifications to allow for the testing times.

How will results be reported to parents?

Family reports describing results are delivered to the school by the end of the school year. These reports will be mailed to parents.

What happens if my child is out ill during a testing day?

Although we hope everyone is able to be at school on their scheduled test days, we do have make ups times available if needed.

What happens if Willard City Schools are closed or a 2-hour delay due to weather conditions is required? If WCS close or delay due to weather or any other reason, the testing schedule will be moved back one day or that date will be adjusted to a later date within the testing window. Those decisions will be made in the best interest of students and the order which they are testing.

Where can I go to learn more about state testing? The Ohio Department of Education wants to keep families informed about what their children are expected to learn in school and the state tests that show us if they are reaching their learning goals.

ODE has created a newsletter "Test Talk" for parents. To sign up, please visit <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Testing/Test-Talk-for-Parents>

For more information, resources, and for practice items please visit: <http://oh.portal.airast.org/ocba/resources/?section=1-student-practice-resources>

For information from Ohio Department of Education on state testing please visit:

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Testing>

As always,

Flashes Pride - District Wide!

Jenni Smith
Curriculum Director





WILLARD CITY SCHOOLS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

**Willard City Schools
Board of Education Office
110 S. Myrtle Avenue
Willard, Ohio 44890**

**Phone: 419-935-1541
Fax: 419-935-8491**

Capital Campaign

Would you like to have your name or business recognized as a supporter of the new K-12 school building?

Consider purchasing a granite paver. Please call the Board of Education Office at 419-935-1541 for more information.

Invest in the Future of Our Kids!

Treasurer's News

Keeping our students safe and providing a quality education is a top priority for the Willard City Schools. To do that, it is extremely important for our district to be good stewards of our taxpayer dollars and to maintain fiscal responsibility

of that money. Since 2014, Willard City Schools have ended the fiscal year with revenues exceeding expenses, allowing our district to maintain a carry-over balance at the end of each fiscal year. In three years of controlling our expenses, our

carry-over balance has increased from \$766,000 from \$1,735,000. Because of the challenges in the state funding levels for schools, carry-over balances are more important than ever for schools in Ohio. To enhance Willard City School's

financial position, we must continue to be fiscally responsible, while still providing a quality education for all of our students.

**Cyndi Shoup
Treasurer**