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THE GARAWAY

Fall 17/18

AT THE HELM: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



As this school year unfolds, it is important to understand that everything we do revolves around relationships and the culture that undergirds them. That means that our values, behaviors, and actions are more important than the instruction and learning. However, when we get those right, the instruction and learning will be world-class. This year, pay close attention to the values, behaviors and actions that are shaping Garaway Schools. You will be amazed at what you find.

In this newsletter, take note of the positive "bucket filling" program at our elementary schools. Notice how our high school lives

our theme of "E+R=O." Look at the examples of staff and students supporting each other in a positive manner. See how our student athletes and coaches rise to the top and claim a number of OHSAA accolades this fall. Examine how our community and businesses come together to support facility improvements. The culture of Garaway Schools is conducive to uncommon success.

So, how do we define success at Garaway? We carefully track progress and the ultimate outcomes related to both school environment and academics (including school culture, behaviors, and engagement or actions). Additionally, we monitor student performance including student progress and student outcomes (local and state testing). Those metrics reveal several areas that make us proud of our students, staff, and community. Finally, we measure the success of our fiscal responsibility to our stakeholders. For three consecutive years, we not only ensured that our revenue exceeded expenditures, but we continued to implement significant upgrades and improvements to all of our buildings and grounds.

On behalf of the Garaway Schools, thank you for your support and encouragement. We look forward to serving you the second half of this school year. As we experience this journey together let us all offer support to one another as we build and maintain a culture necessary for success.

FINANCIAL FORECAST - TREASURERS REPORT



Financial Forecast Shows Sustainability.

With the new five-year forecast submitted to the state in mid-October, Garaway Local School District shows financial sustainability. According to the forecast, there will be no projected fund balance deficits through FY2021. This extends the viability of present configurations of buildings and staff through that year. However, unforeseen costs may hit cash ending balances hard. The District's financial goal is to end each year in the black, that is, when revenues exceed expenditures, or at least, breaking-even when possible. This is increasingly difficult as state funding to public schools is flat-lined or reduced from year to year. Despite this, the Garaway Board and staff are committed to providing our students the needed resources required to succeed academically as well in their chosen path in life. This forecast takes into account

the renewal of the existing emergency levy which will be on the ballot in the May of 2018. As always, an important source of revenue is continued state financial support of Garaway through maintenance of pro-public education legislation. The state of Ohio provides approximately \$4.18 million of Garaway revenues through the Unrestricted State Grants In-Aid payments, commonly known as "foundation support." The amount of state support allocated during in the state's budget is always uncertain and even more so because of decreases in state tax revenue collection and increasing political lobbyist's favoritism of charter "community" schools. Because of these factors, this stream of revenue was flat-lined over the five years in the forecast. It is critical that Garaway residents contact their state representatives to remind them that their vote for school funding is needed to ensure that foundation revenue

support is maintained for small, local schools like Garaway in towns such as Sugarcreek, Dundee, Ragersville, and Baltic, Ohio. The five-year forecast is a planning document prepared by the District Treasurer and approved by the Board of Education. Forecasts are updated at least every October and sometimes throughout the year if financial conditions change. It reflects three years of general operations for the General Fund, historical revenues and expenditures, as well as a forecast of the present fiscal year and four additional fiscal years. Garaway's five-year forecast can be viewed at:

<http://fyf.oecn.k12.oh.us/>

FALL SPORTS RECAP

As the frost begins to settle in the valley, it's fun to take a look back at the successful Garaway fall seasons that began many months ago in the summer heat. We had approximately 215 athletes grades 7-12 participate in this Fall's athletic season. That, in itself, is a huge success! My goal is to make the athletic experience here at Garaway one of growth and development in key areas such as responsibility, servanthood, and leadership.

Hopefully all 215 athletes were affected in a positive way and had opportunities to grow in those areas. As usual, many of our fall programs experienced high levels of accomplishment with 3 of our programs represented at State.

Our Girls Golf team made solid strides in building team unity on their way to State again! Jocelyn Troyer earned IVC Eastern District Player of the Year as well as All-Ohio status. Kalyn Mast earned Academic All-Ohio as well. Jocelyn Troyer, Kalyn Mast, Leigh Ann Williams, Halle Hallman, and Helena Immel earned 1st team IVC and Mikayla Miller 2nd team IVC. Troyer, Mast, Williams, and Hallman also earned 1st team Eastern District with Immel earning 2nd team.

The Girls Cross Country team represented the Pirates at State this year as well. On their way to a very impressive team finish of 19th place at State, they placed 2nd at the IVC race and 1st in the Districts. Maybe even more impressive is that Jocelyn

Miller, Lindsey Goehring, Malory Millet, and Bethany Rider were all Academic All-Ohio winners. Miller was 1st team IVC and Goehring, Wilhelm, and Rider were 2nd team.

Boys golf was represented at State by Brevin Weaver with a 9th place finish. Brevin shot a 1 under round, only 4 golfers were able to achieve that this year at State. He was All-Ohioan, Eastern District co-player of the year and Eastern District and IVC 1st team. Zehnder Gibson was 1st team IVC and Eastern District. Rendell Weaver was 1st team IVC and 2nd team Eastern District. Ethan Miller and Micah Hallman earned 2nd team IVC and ED awards and Zach Immel was Honorable Mention IVC and ED.

Our boys of fall, Garaway football team turned in a 5-5 record this year as they grew from a very young team to one that developed an identity as leaders surfaced through adversity. I have never seen a group so excited for next season. They are ready to prove they are better than this year's record would reflect.

Several players received honors including 1st team IVC winners Kory Stress, Brady Winters, Ethan Roden, and Matthew

Mullen. 2nd team included Dillon Donaldson, Ryan Alleshire, and Austin Fearon was Honorable Mention.

Volleyball had a good season growing under a new head coach. The girls played super hard every match and took very good competition into 4 or 5 sets most games. With the change in the league, the level of competition for our volleyball has greatly increased. I have no doubt that Coach Scott and our Lady Pirates will rise to the challenge! Samantha Putt had a very good year earning 2nd team IVC, 1st team Dist. 5, and offensive player of the year from the coaching staff. Emma Warkall received 2nd team IVC, 2nd team Dist. 5. Liz Yoder earned an Honorable Mention IVC and Dist. 5 as well as staff defensive player of the year award.

Great things lie ahead for the Fall Athletic programs of Garaway. I'm proud of our coaches and the hard work, care, and love they invest in the athletes. Until next Fall, Go Pirates!



7-12 NEWS AND NOTES - MR. TAGGART

The 2017-18 school year is upon us and we are nearly at the halfway point. Coming into this year, we had three points of emphasis: 1) Sustain the success of our struggling student protocol 2) Reduce the number of students missing more than 7 days throughout the school year 3) Better preparing our students for assessments, including our state testing as well as our school exams.

We have gathered data over the past 4 school years to gauge our progress in these areas. The following charts display our progress.

The first table illustrates the data supporting the number of students failing a course at the conclusion of the first nine week grading period as well as the average GPA for all students grades 7-12. This data was also taken at the conclusion of the first nine week grading period.

School Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
# of Students Failing a Class	48	26	17	6
Average GPA	3.37	3.35	3.4	3.46

The second table signifies the improvements we have made in attendance this year. This data was taken through Thanksgiving Break and is based on the number of active students missing a minimum of 7 days of school. This data reflects all absences from school.

School Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
# of Students Missing 7 Days	45	49	27	12

In addition to these improvements academically and with our attendance rates, we have made a conscious effort to better prepare our students for assessments, both statewide and our school exams. With our school exams, we viewed exam schedules from previous years, and went as far back as the 2005-06 school year to develop something which promoted students success. This year, students will not have more than three exams on the same day and the content areas were strategically scheduled to avoid math and science exams on the same day.

In conjunction with these exam scheduling changes, the teachers are also taking the student data from the exams and analyzing it to help structure their second semester lesson planning. There are certain blueprints or standards which will be on the State Tests in April, some of these blueprints the students will be tested over in December on their school exams. The other blueprints will be addressed during the second semester. With these changes, students will be exposed to all of the testing blueprint standards prior to their state tests in the spring. Teachers can also assess whether topics from the first semester need to be reinforced prior to testing given the data from the first semester exams.

We are very excited about the academic and attendance data as well as the changes to improve our students' testing scores. We are very proud of our students and staff at Garaway 7-12 for all of their investment into making the Garaway 7-12 building an environment which promotes academic, professional, and personal growth for all.



Students recently participated in Camp Buckeye's outdoor education event, complete with sing-a-longs around the fire!

PARTNERSHIPS ARE PRIMARY FOR GVA

In the third year of operation, Garaway Virtual Academy has made many improvements in service of Garaway students.

Briefly explaining the history of the program, GVA was started in the 2015- 2016 school year with the aim of providing flexible and individualized educational options for students. Service, personal relationships, and traditional values are the foundation of this innovative program. The program began with 25 students and has steadily grown to 60 students in the 2017-2018 school year. Curriculums have improved over time with current platforms allowing for adaptive learning (the online system tailors education to each individual student). The program has been fortunate to include certified staff tutors to assist students in all grade levels.

Our partnerships with our local community have been key to the program. Local businesses have provided unique opportunities for students. Some examples include:

- NuCamp donation of a teardrop trailer to assist with GVA promotion as well as a partnership to potentially employ students for real-world educational opportunity.
- Ohio Star Theater donation of theater performances for increased student experiences.
- Various business donations of promotional materials for potential new students (Park St. Pizza, WJER Radio, Mullet Heirlooms, WallHouse Coffee, Walnut Creek Cheese, Killbuck Savings Bank, East of Chicago Pizza, Dutch Valley Restaurant, Maddie Braun Photography, Studio L Photography, Jon Ianniello-Farmer's Insurance)
- New Pointe Community Church has provided elective courses for students interested in potential ministry careers.
- Camp Buckeye has provided outdoor educational and community service opportunities for students. The program plans to continue making more partnerships with our community for increased opportunities for students. At GVA we serve, at GVA we care, at GVA we will always look to improve. Families interested in Garaway Virtual Academy may contact coordinator, Chuck Zobel, at 330.852.4699, czobel@garaway.org, or visit garawayvirtual.org. We have many options and opportunities for all students

DUNDEE & MILLER ELEMENTARY - MR. FISHER



At Miller Ave. and Dundee Elementary Schools, we opened our school year reading Have you Filled a Bucket Today?, the children's book by Carol McCleod. We believe that all students are the people who "fill buckets," or pour encouragement into each others' lives. Our Garaway Local School District theme this year is "E + R = O" which encourages all of our stakeholders to have the most positive response, no matter what events come into our lives. Our response (whether positive or negative) determines the quality of our outcome. By "filling buckets," students are responding positively, and at the same time, giving a positive event to others throughout the day.

We like to invite our community into our schools in several ways - one of which is Breakfast with Books. Each year as

our Book Fair comes, we open it up to parents, grandparents, other relatives, and students to come and eat breakfast together and then shop for books. It provides a great opportunity for students to teach their relatives about genres, types of books they like to read, and the latest in children's literature.

In our schools, we teach, encourage, and reward good reading. Each quarter, we celebrate those who have reached their reading goals through Accelerated Reader. The nine weeks is culminated with an AR party with a different theme; as well as handing out refreshments and ribbons for exemplary work in the classroom. For example, the first quarter party at Miller Avenue Elementary we played a lot of games, ran relay races and decorated pumpkins! At Dundee after one quarter, we take a bus trip to local bowling alleys so that

kids of all ages can practice knocking down their spares!

Both of our schools, along with others in the district, make use of Chromebooks. We have enough of them to allow our 5th and 6th graders to each have one every day, as well as additional Chromebooks for other grades to use. Teachers and students do a great job utilizing Google Classroom, online quizzes, journaling, and collaborating on various writing projects using Google tools. We preserve Garaway's decorated history, while allowing students to make memories using the technology of today.





Ragersville and Baltic Elementaries have been quite busy to start the school year! We've had so many opportunities for our students to get into the community and we've had multiple opportunities for our staff and students to welcome the community into our hallways. We had a very successful Granola with Grandparents breakfast week in early October with more than 200 grandparents and special friends joining us for breakfast and book fairs. We had our Veterans Day breakfast on November 10 with 30 veterans at the two schools eating breakfast and then hitting up our classrooms for

some awesome Q&A with our students.

Our Spirit Week culminated in pep rallies with varsity football players and cheerleaders helping our students celebrate their PIRATE PRIDE! We also held dance parties at both schools sponsored by our wonderful PTOs. This was the first Accelerated Reader reward of the year. We are hoping to go bowling, see a movie in Coshocton, and bring in inflatables for the kids to end each of the final three nine weeks.

Many of our students volunteered to walk in the Swiss Festival and Baltic Homecoming parades as part of

the Baltic Area Business Association and our student council students at Ragersville and Baltic will be appearing on 102.3 FM in Dover as part of the children's show "Gimme That Shu" to talk about all the cool things we're doing at both schools with our student councils.

Finally, at Baltic, our new playground was up and operational the second week of school. It was a tremendous team effort with Mr. Meek and Mr. Zimmerman helping to lay down mulch and keep the project moving!

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT

As you travel throughout our district buildings, you will see many improvements. Some are great and some are small, but our goal is to continually improve the facilities for our community.

At the 7-12 building you have to see the refinished gym floor. We have a new finish and a spectacular new design thanks to Ohio Floors. Above the gym is a new roof.

This was a significant project that should keep our floor and students dry for decades. Outside the school we have a new digital sign and flagpole. The sign was funded by the Sugarcreek Rotary. The pole was supplied by the American Legion and other donors. Our digital sign is keeping the community up to date on a variety of events. The 7-12 building has many other improvements and beautification that occurred this summer.

At our elementary schools, we have a number of significant projects that were recently completed. Dundee Elementary received a huge lighting upgrade



thanks to the Kimble Foundation. In addition to the lighting, the Dundee gym received a brand new, interior ceiling. It truly looks like the best elementary gymnasium in the county. Baltic Elementary has new cafeteria furniture as well as a new playground. Those upgrades were provided by the Marhofer Foundation. Additionally, Baltic and Miller Avenue Elementary have new sensory rooms for state of the art educational purposes. Those were also supported by grants. Not to be outdone, Ragersville Elementary received a significant, water purification system. Additionally, the Ragersville baseball field (as well as the high school boys' baseball field) were renovated. This was

another project supported by the generosity of our community. We have many other upgrades that are too numerous to mention.

As we look to the future, our buildings and grounds committee has committed to projects that will bring improved energy efficiency as well as aesthetic upgrades. Such projects include new LED lighting throughout the district and new windows throughout our buildings. Both of those significant projects will bring immediate savings to or utility bills. We will also be seeking grant and business support to make the projects feasible within our allotted budget.