



THE GARAWAY

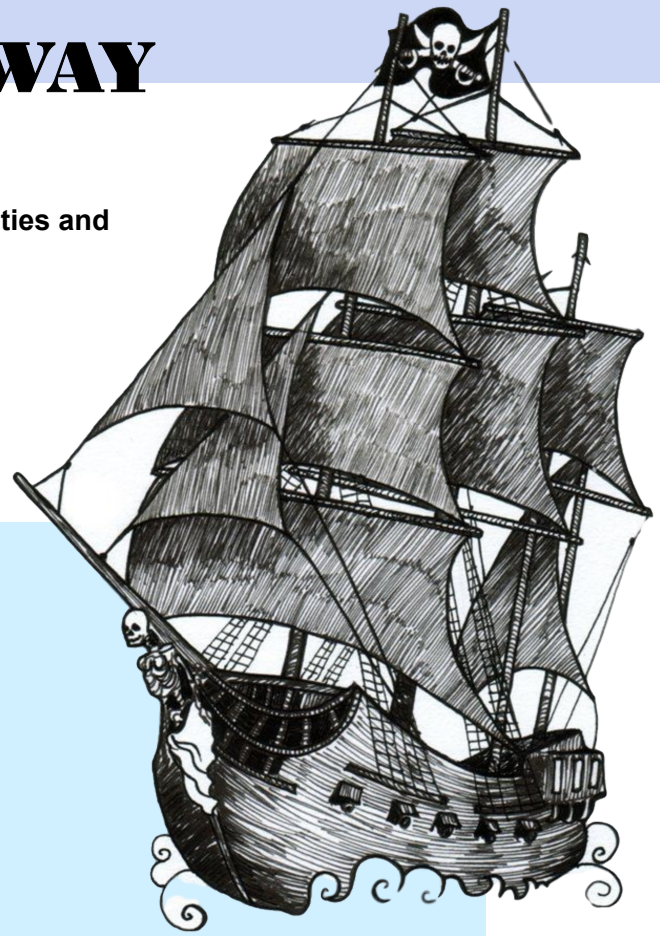
Superintendent Message

Strategic Initiatives: Facilities and Teaching and Learning

Four years ago we completed a strategic plan for our school district. Additionally, our buildings and grounds committee conducted a thorough assessment of our facilities. Over the subsequent years, the improvement of our facilities as well as teaching and learning has been a priority. Our singular focus is maximizing every person's potential on a daily basis. The facilities and classroom instruction are crucial in this pursuit.

Effective stewardship and optimization of our resources has led to drastic improvements of our buildings. We have completed significant roofing projects, new windows, doors, water system upgrades, masonry, and lighting. Our lighting project involves new LED lights which makes us more efficient and improves the learning conditions in the classroom. At this juncture, we have not converted the entire district but we are already seeing \$500 to \$600 a month savings in our utility bills. Private donations and grants have also led to a number of significant improvements like new playgrounds and a new turf football field. Those additions were completed without the contribution of any tax revenue.

Our teaching and learning improvements center around teacher professional development and new curriculum. This year we installed a new math curriculum and supplementary writing supports. Furthermore, we



made a commitment to more technology for our younger students as well as a learning management system that will open a host of new opportunities in the near future. If we want to improve our education, new curriculum is important. It helps teachers to deliver an effective and quality education by setting standards, goals and learning outcomes that align with the updated expectations set by our state.

Along with all of these major improvements to the district, we have also ensured that our revenue exceeds our expenditures. We have done this every single year. This is a big deal because it has prolonged the need for additional tax revenue despite major state and federal budget cuts. However, as those cuts continue, our need for additional revenue

has arrived. That is why we recently asked for a 4 mill levy. Our future budget projections show a deficit as early as 2020. We also know that we must add more safety improvements (cameras), classroom materials (curriculum) and building upgrades (boilers and parking lots) to keep our buildings and education strong for our children.

Looking ahead, our team will continue living our mission of **"MAXIMIZING EVERY PERSON'S POTENTIAL,"** to reach our vision of changing the world in a positive manner. We will continue the critical process of seeking excellence by monitoring our results with objective and meaningful measurements. As citizens, we will persist in navigating the "public" part of public education with continued stewardship with local funds. Thank you for supporting our schools!

Inside this issue:

Treasurer's Report	2
Student Services	2
Garaway 7-12	3
Dundee/Miller Ave.	4
Baltic/Ragersville	4
Athletic Spotlight	5
What's Cooking	5
Garaway's Getting Social	5
Garaway Virtual Academy	6

Treasurer's Office—Sheryl Hardesty, Treasurer

Twice each year school districts across Ohio prepare a five-year forecast. The purpose of the forecast is to engage the Board and the community in long range planning and discussions of the financial issues facing the school district. It also serves as a basis that determines the district's ability to enter into contractual agreements as required by Ohio Revised Code section 5705.12 (the 412 certificate) and to provide a method for the Department of Education and the Auditor of State to identify school districts with a financial problem.

Based on current revenue and expenditure estimates, Garaway will remain in the black for the current fiscal year 2018-19. However in future years beginning in 2019-20, it appears that the District will go into deficit spending and begin to dip into reserves to sustain the viability of present configurations of buildings and staff. However, costs such as those for security to keep our students safe, updated curriculum that prepares our students for their future, and maintenance costs for our community school buildings hit

cash ending balances hard. 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.

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. We understand that it is important for us to live within our means. Garaway is committed to strong financial management.

Breaking even is increasingly difficult as state funding to public schools is subject to changing political winds that divert public money to private community schools and other initiatives. The latest available Cupp report (FY17) provided on the Ohio Department of Education website, shows that per pupil "formula funding" from the state of Ohio only provides \$3,316.94, roughly 33.5% of the \$9,891.32 expenditures needed per pupil in fiscal year 2016-17. This scenario places the largest part of the financial burden of educating students on

local property owners. Garaway is thankful for and appreciative to our citizens for their support of local property tax issues. With the upcoming change in state governor and other legislators as well as a new state biennium budget in Spring 2019, it is critical that Garaway residents contact their state representatives to remind them that their vote for school funding is needed to ensure that state revenue support is maintained or increased for small, local public schools like Garaway in towns such as Sugarcreek, Dundee, Ragersville, and Baltic, Ohio. The five-year forecast is a planning document prepared by the Treasurer and approved by the Board of Education. Forecasts are updated at least every October and throughout the year if financial conditions significantly 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://fy.oecn.k12.oh.us/>.



Keeping the treasure chest in the black is becoming increasingly difficult.



Pictured above is the boiler at Miller Ave. Elementary (the only heat source for the building) in need of being replaced. There is no backup if it were to go out.

Student Services—Jeff Williams, Director

The start of the school year has been very exciting in regards to curriculum and instruction at Garaway Local Schools. The Ready Math program was instituted from Kindergarten through eighth grade. Included in this program has been a workbook and textbook (both consumables) per student and teacher as well as the online iReady com-

ponent. The online component allows for diagnostic testing and tracking of students by grade level. Students also have an option to use online teaching videos and activities through the iReady. Teachers have had two professional development sessions to become fully entrenched into Ready Math and the response has been all posi-

tive. We also find our district utilizing ThinkCERCA which is an online writing program. Grades 6 to 12 in all subject areas have used ThinkCERCA. It breaks writing down to 5 parts and has students focus on each part while working towards the culminating activity where they put it all together.



Garaway 7-12—Mr. Ryan Taggart, Principal

The 2018-19 school year is nearly at the halfway point. This year, we are focusing on testing in terms of preparing students for success on our state exams as well as the assessments which are presented within our classroom curricula. Last year, we took data from our semester exams and applied such to our lesson planning leading up to our End of Course exams. This year, we are doing the same. In conjunction, we are taking a deeper look into the End of Course exam data provided by the Ohio Department of Education. Pulling data from these sources as well as our baseline data from the beginning of

the year, allows us to be more intentional with our lesson planning, ultimately better preparing our students for success on the state exams.

Academic growth for our students is a high priority for our entire district and at the 7-12 building we are continuing to become more efficient with our struggling student protocol. Alongside the push of academic growth is our stance to make sure students are attending school as regularly as possible. Last year, our attendance rates were among the best in the state of Ohio with a 98% student attendance rate. Sustaining the success with our

attendance rates and academic progress are strong points of emphasis again in 2018-19.

We have gathered data over the past 5 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 weeks grading period as well as the average GPA for all students grades 7-12. Both sets of data were taken at the conclusion of the first nine weeks grading period.

School Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
# of Students Failing a Class	48	26	17	6	4
Average GPA	3.37	3.35	3.40	3.46	3.53

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 42 hours of school.

School Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
# of Students Missing 42 Hours	45	49	27	13	10

We firmly believe our intentionality with attendance, grades, and becoming more data driven in terms of lesson planning are the reason the previously illustrated data is the best it has been at the Garaway 7-12 building.

As our teachers become more knowledgeable about the information students are retaining, they can become more efficient and effective in their lesson planning. Such information and planning will ultimately allow our students to be better prepared for success on the End of Course exams and long after graduation.

For the past 20 years, Garaway High School and Middle School

have selected Students of the Month to be recognized at each board meeting throughout the school year. In addition to the Students of the Month, the athletic department also recognizes Athletes of the Month. This year, we are very excited to recognize an Artist of the Month at each board meeting. Each student recognized in these capacities has the opportunity to honor a staff member



who has been a positive influence in their experience here at Garaway. It is with great pleasure we get to celebrate the success of these students, with the Board of Education, each month.

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 investments into making the Garaway 7-12 building an environment which promotes academic, professional, and personal growth for all. Our mission continues to be empowering each individual to become a better version of themselves each and every day.

Dundee & Miller Ave. Elementaries—Mr. Curt Fisher, Principal

Miller Avenue and Dundee Elementaries have some exciting opportunities to integrate with the community in 2018-19. In addition, each school has some newer features and improvements for the new school year.

One of our standard events is the Breakfast with Books along with our Scholastic Book Fair. We invite all family members in to eat breakfast with their students - and have the opportunity to shop together in the book fair. Dundee's event took place at the end of October, and Miller Avenue integrated theirs with Christmas by having it during the first week of December. Each student

who attended received a free book! We had outstanding participation this year, as well as book fair sales.

One of the coolest things in terms of building improvements for Miller Avenue is that we have a

new playground for the K-2nd graders. It was installed in August, and funded by our generous community, as all of our fundraisers from 2017-18 were earmarked for this project. On top of that, the Rainbow Connection in New Philadelphia helped us out with a generous donation to help us put in a wheelchair ramp and rubber mulch, which is much longer lasting. For Dundee, we are very excited to be getting some new classroom doors, generously donated to us by ProVia. They will be installed this winter to upgrade the quality of our interior and improve safety - further preserving the legacy of the building.

We love to involve our high school students at Miller Ave. and Dundee to serve as positive role models for our younger students. Some of the ways our Garaway high school students helped us so far is by having a choir concert at each elementary for Veterans Day, football players and cheerlead-

ers coming to have cool pep rallies for Spirit Week during the last week of football season, and our student council students coming over and mentoring some younger students in academics and personal lives. They work together with the elementary teachers to coordinate times and topics.

At Miller and Dundee, we love to reward our students for outstanding academic progress. Each quarter, students aim to reach their Accelerated Reader points in order to obtain a specific reward. In the first quarter, we played BINGO and had a snack. In the second quarter, we'll have a game day. And in the third quarter, we'll go bowling for all students who reach their goals. Our teachers are continually working to motivate and find ways to help all students reach their highest potential.



Miller Ave. Playground funded completely by donations from the community and PTO fundraisers.



Baltic & Ragersville Elementaries—Mrs. Mollie Parisi, Principal

September 14th and September 27th are two days that the students and staff at Baltic and Ragersville will remember for years to come. The Color Run made its debut and was a HUGE hit. Participants were able to tackle an obstacle course and then run a few laps around the field while being sprinkled with bright colors! Pink, purple, orange, yellow and blue were worn proudly as a right of passage during their last lap! Staff and students alike thoroughly enjoyed this event which was followed by generous donations of apples, cheese and ice cream from local area businesses.

Breakfast with Grandparents along with our Scholastic Book Fair are parallel events that the community looks forward

to each year. Ragersville's took place at the beginning of October with Baltic following the first week of November. Grandparents and special guests are invited to join their loved ones for a special breakfast and then take a little time to shop at the book fair. We had record numbers this year for participation as well as book fair sales.

Each quarter, students aim to reach their Accelerated Reader points in order to obtain the reward. 95% of students reached their goal! Students hopped onto busses that took

them to Wabash Lanes to enjoy games of bowling. The love of reading has grown tremendously since the implementation of this reward system. Each school has a special place that students can move their picture once they reach a special point value. The sense of pride that goes along with moving from one category to the next is something that never gets old.





Athletic Spotlight: Julian Shrock - Outstanding Runner, Exceptional Leader

It takes a special athlete to be a successful cross country runner. Not everyone can have the resilience, focus, and strength it takes to participate in the sport, let alone be outstanding in the sport. Julian Shrock has certainly proven he has what it takes to perform at the highest level of a very competitive sport. Noah Wentworth (teammate) comments, “Julian works harder than anyone you will meet. He will always put in the extra mile...quite literally!”

As a freshman, he was a crucial member of the 2015 state qualifying boys team. His continued persistence and train-

ing then led him to being an individual state qualifier during his junior and senior year. During those seasons, he placed 8th at the state tournament twice, making him a two-time All-Ohioian.

More importantly than his individual accomplishments, he was a model leader, always keeping a positive attitude and putting his teammates before himself. Teammate Kristian Stocksedale remarks, “I have never seen him in a bad mood at school or during practice.” Kristian also appreciates how Julian “is always a team first athlete, always look-

ing for team success, not individual awards.” Chuck Zobel, who coached Julian previously, raves about Julian’s stubborn drive to outwork his competition, but it is Julian’s humility and attention to his cross country “family” that coach Zobel most admires. The greatest thing Julian did was impact his teammates and solidify a culture of love and sacrifice for others. According to his current coach Luke Immel, “his selfless nature and leading by example will be his true legacy left behind after he graduates from Garaway.”

“Leave the cooking to us and make your morning rush easier.”

What’s Cooking—Child Nutrition

It’s 5 am and you have hit the snooze button before tumbling out of bed. You wanted to get up early to pack your child’s lunch box so they could get a healthy meal at lunch time but the pillow was calling for a few more minutes. Time slips away, but don’t worry – the cafeteria ladies are up and getting ready to head into school to not only make sure your child has a hot and healthy lunch, but they are also preparing a healthy breakfast as well.

Leave the cooking to us and make your morning rush easier. Breakfast is served between 8:30 and 9:00 am at the elementary schools and between 7:15 and 7:45 at the high school. All of our break-

fast items are packaged in a convenient Grab N Go bag which can be carried to their classrooms to save time. Breakfast consists of a whole grain entrée or a whole grain/protein entrée combo, juice, fruit and milk for only \$1.00.

Review the cafeteria menu with your child. Our menus offer many alternate choices, such as entrée salads, sandwiches and yogurt parfaits for those who don’t care for the daily special. We also offer a wide variety of fruit and vegetable side dishes to go with each meal. Encourage them to try something new. You may also join your child for lunch in the school cafeteria. You may also choose from the daily special or order an alter-

native lunch delivered from the high school in the morning. We ask that you call or send a note in with the school secretary to let them know you will be eating and what your menu selection will be.

We also offer Grab N Go items at lunch if you or your child is leaving school early but needs a lunch. Most of our menu items can be easily packaged up to take out and provides a more nutritious lunch than the local drive through restaurants. If you have any questions about any of our programs you can email Melissa Biltz, the Child Nutrition Supervisor, at mbiltz@garaway.org or give her a call at 330-852-3215.

Garaway’s Getting Social



With Social Media becoming more and more popular, Garaway recognizes the value of this as a useful tool to communicate information. We are currently on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Our **Facebook** page ‘Garaway Local School District’ will provide news, information, school

closings and delays, events, and even giveaways.

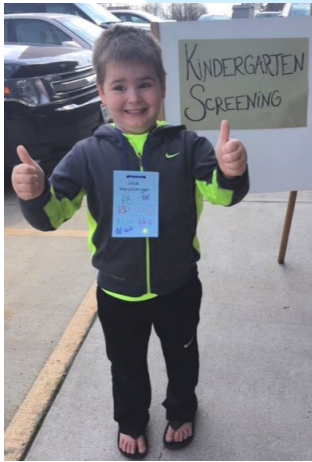
Twitter @GarawayLocal also keeps you up-to-date on happenings around the district.

Instagram is a great tool to **see** what is going on in the District K-12. We can’t get to every event so if you have a great photo or story to tell

about our awesome students, email it to Kelli Troyer, ktroyer@garaway.org.

Going along with this, we are working with our web developer to launch a redesigned website that will incorporate all of these social media channels right on our site. Watch for this after the first of the year, www.garaway.org.

GVA Improves Student Opportunities



Garaway Virtual Academy (GVA) is our district option for students who wish to pursue alternative forms of education. This program, in its fourth year, has consistently grown each year allowing the district to offer improved digital options, increased revenue, and flexible opportunities for our students. GVA is able to help students with schedule difficulties, medical issues, increased elective opportunity, blended options, as well as credit advancement and recovery to assist in graduation. We are fortunate to be in a position to serve students with varied academic needs in numerous ways.

A major improvement for students is the addition of a head teacher. This position

offers full time student academic support during the school day and by appointment. Mr. Brian Gibson has done a remarkable job staying in touch with our students and helping with each and every academic need. Students are able to receive help both face-to-face and online through video chat in the instance of transportation issues. Mr. Gibson has also been instrumental in creating remedial help videos especially in the subject of math.

We also have been able to retain an assistant teacher on a part-time basis. Mrs. Megan Taggart has done a tremendous job with helping our elementary students specifically with reading and assisting where necessary with student

testing and elementary academic matters. This allows us the opportunity to specialize with GVA students in the area of reading as the needs present themselves.

GVA students have continued to be involved in our extra-curricular programs in both the arts and in athletics while continuing to strive for excellence academically. GVA had two graduates in 2018 who were top of the class academically and featured one of our co-valedictorians. Families interested in the GVA program are encouraged to contact Mr. Zobel at 330-852-4699 or send an email to czobel@garaway.org.

“Like us on Facebook. Each week we give a shout out to the student of the week on our Facebook page Garaway Virtual Academy.”

