



# the Keystonian

A PUBLICATION OF THE KEYSTONE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Winter 2012

[www.keystonelocalschools.org](http://www.keystonelocalschools.org)



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the Keystonian

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# District News

## A Message from the Superintendent



Jay Arbaugh, Superintendent

I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season and are as excited as we are to begin the 2012 year with continued educational success. Since the fall, much progress has been made on the middle school construction project, stadium project and educational initiatives.

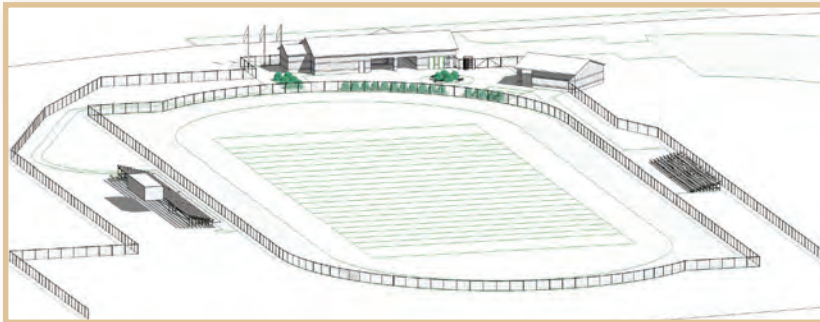
### Middle School Construction Update

Construction at the new middle school site is proceeding on the timeline that we established, with the building set to open in **December 2012**. We plan to have the academic wing completed and roofed within the next few weeks, so work can be done inside the shell of the building throughout the winter months. There will also be more construction blocks going up in the other wings of the building that will allow the "shell" to be more completely formed.



### Stadium Project Construction Update

In addition to the middle school construction, we have also made progress on the stadium project. The new stadium will be located near the high school and across from the new middle school on Opportunity Way. Currently we have a press box in the new stadium parking lot, which is being updated for installation this spring. **We will also be installing the home side bleachers and preparing the field to be "game ready" for varsity football and varsity soccer next year.** Keystone's Building Operations and Maintenance Department, headed by Supervisor Michael Smith, has been instrumental in making this project a reality. We are excited for the many opportunities this construction will bring for both the community and the district.



We have not only been making progress at our construction sites, but we have also made headway in many educational initiatives. The elementary school's *Full-Day Kindergarten program* is going very well thanks to the staff, parents and students at KES. We are happy to report that since its implementation this fall, we are serving 110 students. In other curriculum news, we continue to move forward to meet all of the impending changes that will occur in public education in the next few years. We are meeting the demands that are happening with the shift to the *Common Core*, Ohio's new academic standards and the increasing importance of utilizing Value Added data. **Our district is currently involved in the both the Ohio Improvement Process and the Race to the Top programs that are allowing our teachers to focus on specific educational criteria. I would like to compliment them for all of their hard work and dedication.**

We will continue to keep you fully informed of our progress during this exciting time of both change and growth for our district. Please feel free to contact me at 440-355-5131 or at Jay.Arbaugh@keystone.k12.oh.us with any questions you have.

**Thank you for all you do for our students here at Keystone!**

## Full-Day Kindergarten Program Benefits Students

Keystone Elementary School is in its first year of implementing the new *Full-Day Kindergarten* program. Prior to the 2011-2012 school year, students in kindergarten were attending school 2.5 days a week. With the new program, kindergarteners follow the same schedule as students in grades one through four. Several factors led Keystone to offer this program, including trends in educational philosophy and research as well as increasing enrollment.

According to research published on the U.S. Department of Education endorsed Education Resources Information Center, *“Full-day (or all-day) kindergarten had a positive association with academic achievement (compared to half-day kindergarten)... and evidence was suggestive of a substantial positive association with the child’s self-confidence and ability to work and play with others.”*



Keystone staff and students have certainly experienced the positive benefits of the full-day program this year. Anita Hunkley, a kindergarten teacher with 22 years of experience at Keystone, comments,

*“I have seen first-hand the many benefits of this new program. I now have time to cover more of the curriculum and reinforce the skills being taught on a daily basis. There is also more time for enrichment and intervention strategies, and special education teachers have an increased opportunity to work with the students. I have seen the students improve their social skills and interact at a high level. I am pleased to offer this program for kindergarteners and am excited at the continued success they will experience as a result of it.”*

KES Principal David Kish adds,

*“I have received positive feedback from both parents and staff about the program. Parents appreciate the consistent schedule, and teachers note the difference it is making for the students. The Full-day program creates a sense of teamwork that helps build community within the kindergarten classrooms.”*

Keystone would like to commend the elementary school kindergarten staff as well as the administration for their commitment to the full and successful implementation of this program during the 2011-2012 school year.

## PAWS Program Seeks Volunteers

Positive Adults with Students (PAWS) is a new program at the elementary school in which adults from the community will provide students with support and mentoring outside of the classroom. During school hours and on school premises, adult volunteers can have lunch with students, play games during recess, read age-appropriate literature or engage in other activities to provide positive mentoring.

**If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please follow the directions below.**

- 🐾 Complete a BCI/FBI background check. This can be done at the Lorain County Sheriff’s Office.
- 🐾 Complete the PAWS registration form, available on the KES website at [www.keystonelocalschools.org/keystone-elementary](http://www.keystonelocalschools.org/keystone-elementary).
- 🐾 Submit the BCI/FBI clearance letter and PAWS registration form to the elementary school office.
- 🐾 Commit to visiting KES twice a month during school hours at a predetermined time.
- 🐾 Make a difference in the life of a Keystone student!



## Keystone Aligns Curriculum to **New Standards**

The state of Ohio joined 47 other states in adopting a new set of standards for both mathematics and English Language Arts. These new standards, called the *Common Core State Standards*, will allow school districts across the United States and internationally to compare student achievement. Keystone's Curriculum Coordinator Dan White states, "When states tried to compare student achievement with one another, it was like comparing apples to oranges. So, in order to more accurately measure student achievement across the nation, the *Common Core* for math and English Language Arts was developed and adopted by 48 states."

In addition to the changes in the new state-defined curriculum, student achievement will also be assessed in a new format. This means that the state assessments for students will experience a change. The state will continue to require elementary and middle

school students to take the *Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA)* and will require high school students to take the *Ohio Graduation Test (OGT)* through the year 2014. Following this date, the state will implement a new assessment, currently under development, to test the subjects addressed in the *Common Core*.

To ensure student success in meeting the new standards, Keystone teachers are engaging in district-wide meetings to align curriculum to the *Common Core*. Staff have conducted professional development sessions to analyze the standards and discussed them within departments and content areas. Professional development will continue at Keystone as teacher-based teams analyze, interpret and align studies to the newly-adopted state curriculum. If you would like to learn more about the *Common Core State Standards*, navigate to [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org).

## Student Data Determines Teaching Strategies

**Keystone staff are committed to analyzing student data to make necessary changes in curriculum to ensure student success.**

Currently the elementary and middle schools are taking part in a process called "winter benchmarking." Winter benchmarking involves not only the testing of students in reading and math but also the analysis of the data with previously-taken test results.



The data collection begins with assessments given at the beginning of the year to students in grades one through eight. These assessments are called **STAR Reading and Math**. STAR assessments are provided by the Renaissance Learning Corporation. Over 70,000 schools use the tools provided by this company to "provide daily formative assessment and periodic progress-monitoring technology to enhance core curriculum, support differentiated instruction, and personalize practice in reading, writing and math" (Renaissance Learning).

Students took the STAR assessments again in late January so that teachers can analyze each student's growth in the tested area by comparing the winter benchmark to the fall benchmark. Building leadership teams will analyze this data to determine

strengths and weaknesses and what steps can be taken to improve student achievement. Students will take the STAR assessments in the spring and this same process of analyzing and aligning the curriculum will ensue.

These strategies help administrators, teachers and support staff identify the areas in which students succeed and the areas in which they need to improve. The staff's dedication to interpreting and utilizing this data in the classroom is further evidence of their commitment to providing students with a high-quality and comprehensive education.

## In Memoriam

Keystone would like to take this opportunity to recognize the service, compassion, dedication and strong character of the late Margaret Maurer.



Mrs. Maurer, a 1969 Keystone High School graduate, was employed at the Keystone Board Office for the past 19 years as the Assistant to the Superintendent. She served with five Keystone superintendents, including Jay Arbaugh, Gary Friedt, Stanley Mounts, David Ring and John Weber.

She was a vital part of the district's success, and she will be missed by all who had the pleasure of working with her. Current Keystone Superintendent Jay Arbaugh comments, "Margaret was an irreplaceable part of our Keystone family. Not only did she help the district run smoothly and effectively with her strong work ethic and organizational skills, she was an inspiration to all who came into contact with her. She will be greatly missed by all within the district." Staff would like to send their condolences to her family members, including her husband of 34 years, their six children, her mother, her seven siblings and her 12 grandchildren.

In memory of Mrs. Maurer, the district is creating a scholarship in her name through the Keystone Educational Endowment Program (KEEP). If you are interested in donating, please contact Gayle Gatzke at Keystone High School at 440-355-5132 or at [Gayle.Gatzke@keystone.k12.oh.us](mailto:Gayle.Gatzke@keystone.k12.oh.us).

## Community Service at the Heart of **Keystone Students**



Throughout the holiday season, students and staff at all three schools demonstrated their generosity through a variety of donation drives. At the elementary school, the annual Lions Club Loose Change Drive was held and yielded \$2,228 in donations. In addition, KES and KMS both collected canned goods, which resulted in the donation of over 3,000 non-perishable items to the LaGrange Lions Club.

KHS also held donation drives during the holiday season for the American Cancer Society, Starlight Children's Foundation, Coats for Kids program and Toys-4-LaGrange campaign.

Keystone would like to acknowledge the generosity of all students, parents and staff who participated in these donation drives and would like to thank them for their commitment to supporting the community.

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## Keystone School District **Fiscal Facts**

The information below provides insight into Keystone School District’s financial expenditures during the 2010-2011 school year. It compares this data with statewide averages. In addition information is provided about student enrollment, staff statistics and operational efficiency measures concerning the transportation, food service and maintenance departments. If you have any questions about this information, please contact Susan Bement, Treasurer/ CFO, at 440-355-5131 or at [Susan.Bement@keystone.k12.oh.us](mailto:Susan.Bement@keystone.k12.oh.us).

### **Keystone’s Fiscal Benchmark Statistics 2010-2011 School Year**

<i>Category</i>	<i>Statewide Average</i>	<i>Keystone</i>
Expenditure Per Pupil	\$10,705	\$8,834
Average Teacher Salary	\$57,893	\$56,376
K-12 Pupil Teacher Ratio	15.8	17.5

### **Enrollment & Staff Statistics**

Total Enrolled Students	1685
Total Number of Certified Staff, excluding Administrators	102
Total Number of Administrators & Supervisors	11
Total Number of *Classified Staff	96
Average Teacher Years of Service in the District	9.5 years

### **Transportation & Food Service**

Square Miles in the District	63
Riders per Square Mile (Density)	9.9
Average Daily Lunch Participation	38%

### **Building Operations and Maintenance**

Square Foot per Pupil	170.9
Cost per Square Foot	\$4.08

\*Classified staff include the following positions: secretaries, aides, monitors, custodial staff, cafeteria staff, bus drivers and maintenance staff.

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## CATS Day Earns National Award



KHS holds *Career/Achievement Testing for Success* (CATS) Day on a yearly basis. CATS Day is designed to provide a platform for testing upon which important decisions concerning student achievement and core curricula are made. On CATS Day, ninth, tenth and eleventh grade students take a sequence of ACT assessment measures. The EXPLORE, PLAN, and PRACTICE ACT are taken by students to give data to determine course placement, intervention assistance and enrichment courses. The data also acts as a guideline for curriculum and instructional review in relation to the new Common Core Standards.

As a result of the high school's development and use of the CATS program, KHS earned "The Red Quill Award" from the ACT organization. According to Red Quill Chairman Phillip J. Daniel, "The Red Quill award

was established to honor educational professionals who analyze data in robust ways and use data to support curricular and instructional changes and enhancements based on the needs of learners within their communities."

Keystone Local Schools would like to congratulate the high school on earning this award and would like to recognize the work of their staff in successfully facilitating the CATS program.



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