



# the Keystonian

A PUBLICATION OF THE KEYSTONE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Fall 2011

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



# Leap *into* Fall

... a look inside  
the Keystonian

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## A Message from the Superintendent



Jay Arbaugh, Superintendent

We're off to a great school year at Keystone Local Schools. I hope you all enjoyed your summer and had an opportunity to spend some quality time with family and friends. At Keystone we were busy reviewing end-of-the-year reports, analyzing report card data, planning professional development opportunities and updating many of our existing programs. In addition, we were delving fully into the middle school construction process.

We continue to encourage you to use the many resources we have in place to enhance our communication with the Keystone community. **ProgressBook**, a web-based program, allows you to access your student's grades 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition to viewing your student's grades, **ProgressBook** allows you to see completed or missing work, attendance, notes from teachers and other important information. **ProgressBook** is a powerful tool of communication between teachers and parents that results in positive growth and performance for students. In addition to **ProgressBook**, you can also utilize teacher webpages to view additional classroom information or communicate with Keystone educators. Both **ProgressBook** and teacher webpages are available from our website at [www.keystonelocalschools.org](http://www.keystonelocalschools.org). Simply click

on a staff member's name to be directed to his/her teacher webpage or **ProgressBook** site.

Other powerful tools of communication between Keystone staff, parents and local residents include our E-newsletter publications. Our web-based publications include weekly bulletins as well as monthly newsletters. Weekly bulletins are specific to each school's announcements, activities and upcoming events. Keystone's *Keynote* is a monthly newsletter that contains information regarding school programs, events, awards, sports and other items related to our Board Office, Elementary, Middle and High School. You can easily subscribe to these newsletters by clicking on the *E-News Signup* option from our website.

This year we have added a few new programs to enhance our communication with you. We now have a **Facebook** page as well as a **Twitter** account; both are accessible via our website. In addition, we have added a SMS text service to our Instant Alert phone calls for inclement weather and important district notifications.

Again, I would like to wish all students, parents and staff a successful 2011-12 school year, and I look forward to the continued growth and progress of our district.

## GO WILDCATS!

## Honors Program *Expanded*

Keystone is excited to announce the expansion of our English/Language Arts Honors Program. The purpose of this expansion is to individually meet the learning needs of more students. An Honors Program will allow us to reach more students with a differentiated curriculum to meet their needs. This will further our core beliefs that:

- Everyone should be valued and respected as an individual.
- A varied curriculum is necessary to meet the many levels and interests of students.
- Administration and teachers will work together to ensure on-going professional development for our English/Language Arts Honors teachers. In addition to professional development, the honors teachers will collaborate monthly during the 2011-2012 school year to ensure successful implementation of our new program.

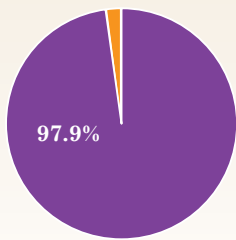
Another Core Belief held at Keystone is that communication is essential. So if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call a middle school administrator or Dan White, Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

# State Releases Report Card Data

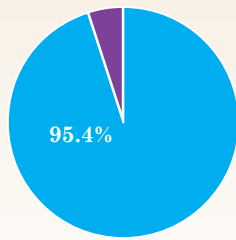
The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) recently released the school report card data collected over the 2010-11 school year. Ratings on ODE report cards are determined by a district's score on four measures of performance: *26 State Indicators, Performance Index Score, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Value Added Measure*.

Based on these four assessments, districts and schools are assigned one of six ratings: *Excellent with Distinction, Excellent, Effective, Continuous Improvement, Academic Watch and Academic Emergency*.

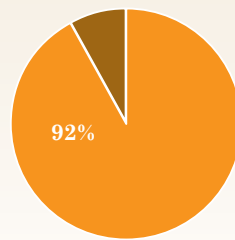
This year Keystone District received an *Effective* rating, Keystone Elementary was rated *Excellent with Distinction*, Keystone Middle was rated *Effective*, and Keystone High was rated *Excellent*. The district was four tenths (.04) of a percent away from earning an *Excellent* rating. The data and graphs below specifically detail the district's growth over the past three years and indicate the scores received on the four measures of performance.



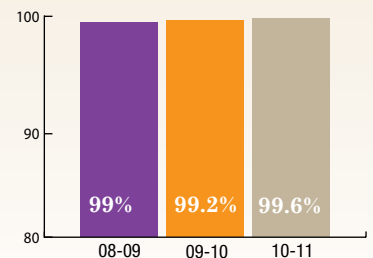
**Graduation Rate = 97.9%**



**Attendance = 95.4%**



**Passed State Indicators = 92%  
(or 23 out of 26 indicators)**



**Continued Growth in the  
Performance Index**

A district's *Value Added* score plays a role in determining an overall rating. To determine a *Value Added* score, the ODE uses a complex formula that projects how far each child will grow academically over the course of one year. This year, we were rated "Below" *Value Added*. We are committed to improving this score throughout this year by becoming involved in a variety of initiatives to both maintain and enhance student learning.

Administrators and teaching staff members have conducted extensive research on new and innovative ways to increase student learning. Their research led them to an educational concept called *Assessment for Learning*, which focuses on clarity of learning and feedback. Learning targets provide this clarity, and Keystone is implementing a district-wide learning target initiative. This initiative will ensure that students in every class will have clearly identified objectives and goals with each lesson. Research shows that learning targets aid in student focus and understanding of content. In addition to utilizing learning targets district-wide, leadership teams at Keystone are also working on analyzing Ohio Achievement Assessment and Ohio Graduation Test data to measure student growth and identify areas of success and areas in need of improvement.

Keystone's Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dan White would like to thank the staff for all of the hard work and dedication they continually show the district, the students and their parents.



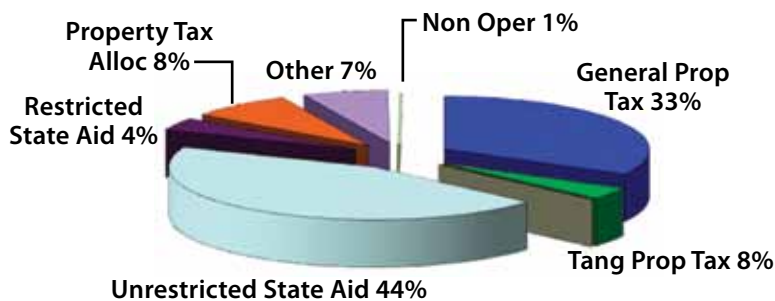
## Treasurer's Update

Keystone Local Schools are proud to welcome Susan Bement to the administrative staff as the district's Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer. Bement joins the district with 26 years of experience in the field. She served for 12 years as a School Treasurer in both the Sheffield-Sheffield Lake School District and North Ridgeville School District. For the past 14 years, she worked as a Financial Liaison with the Lake Erie Educational Computer Association.

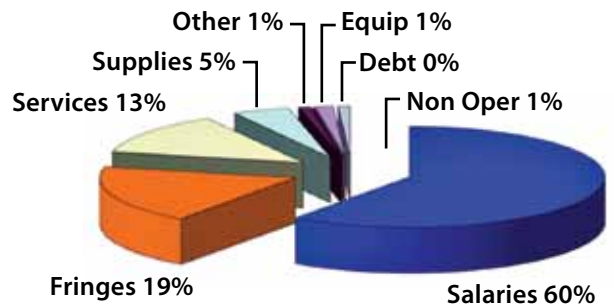
Bement received a Bachelor's of Business Administration degree in Accounting from the University of Toledo and a Masters of Business Administration from Baldwin-Wallace College. She states, "I am very happy to be a part of Keystone Schools, especially during this exciting time of growth and development for the district, its staff, and their students."

To continue the district's commitment to excellence in financial reporting, the treasurer's office would like to take this opportunity to describe and explain revenues and expenditures for the 2011 Fiscal Year (FY). This information is provided in detail within the charts below. In addition, answers to frequently asked questions concerning general funds and expenditures are available below. If you have questions concerning this or other financial data relating to the Keystone District, 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) or visit the Treasurer's Webpage on our website at [www.keystonelocalschools.org/district/treasurer](http://www.keystonelocalschools.org/district/treasurer).

### FY2011 General Fund Revenues



### FY2011 General Fund Expenditures



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Where does the General Fund Money come from?

General Property (Real Estate)	\$ 4,560,273
Tangible Personal Property Tax	\$ 510,378
State Funding-Unrestricted	\$ 6,171,275
Restricted State Funding	\$ 560,276
Property Tax Allocation	\$ 1,129,324
All Other Operating Revenue (Fees, Rentals, Invest. Interest, Misc)	\$ 932,908
Transfers In	\$ 33,072
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$13,897,505</b>

### How is the General Fund Money spent?

Personnel	\$ 8,254,667
Employee's Retirement / Ins Benefits	\$ 2,554,501
Purchased Services	\$ 1,972,022
Supplies and Materials	\$ 520,295
Capital Outlay (Equip)	\$ 82,294
Other (Fees, Insurance, etc)	\$ 204,917
Transfers Out	\$ 127,096
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 13,715,791</b>

A sound fiscal practice is to keep expenditures within revenues received for the year. Revenues exceeded expenditures in the amount of \$181,714 or 1.3% for FY11. The surplus is added to the general fund cash balance for carryover into the next fiscal year.

## Middle School Construction Project Underway



The passage of our bond levy last November enabled us to begin construction on a new middle school. Currently, the site work is almost complete, and the foundations work will begin soon. Within the projected time frame, the architects will plan to hand the keys to the building over to the district in November of 2012, with students and staff starting in the new building after Christmas Break. We will continue to work out the logistics of this as we get closer to the deadline, but we are confident that this would be the best timeline to ensure things are done correctly, efficiently and on budget.

Our goal is to have the middle school construction project completed exactly two years after its passage in November 2010. We're hopeful that the market settles and that other variables, like the weather we had this spring, cooperate. The progress on the middle school is consistently updated on our website; please feel free to contact Jay Arbaugh, Superintendent at **440.355.5131** or at [Jay.Arbaugh@keystone.k12.oh.us](mailto:Jay.Arbaugh@keystone.k12.oh.us) with any questions.



## Subscribe to Keystone's Text Service

In our continuing effort to enhance communication within the Keystone community, we are excited to add a Short Message Service (SMS) to our array of communication tools. This service sends cell phones a text message when school has been cancelled or delayed; the service can also be used to communicate important district-wide reminders. Instructions for signing up for this service are below. They are also available on our website at [www.keystonelocalschools.org](http://www.keystonelocalschools.org). Please contact the Keystone Board Office with any additional questions at **440-355-5131**.



### To Subscribe & Receive SMS Texts:

1

Text **JOIN** to the short code **56360** from the phone at which you want to receive texts from the district. The system can send texts only to subscribed phone numbers.

2

The phone number must **ALSO** be in the school database system address book. If you do not have a number on file, you will receive a text telling you to contact the district to ensure your phone number is in the system.

3

You should then enter the short code in your contact list on your mobile phone and identify it as the school district.



## District Utilizes Technological Resources



KLSD is committed to incorporating the most up-to-date and comprehensive technologies in the classroom to aid in the education of students. Students at the elementary school frequently participate in videoconferences to meet with individuals both across the nation and worldwide. Recently, they participated in a question and answer session with employees of the Columbus Zoo and earned an opportunity to appear on Jack Hanna's popular television show *Into the Wild*.

Elementary students are also using blogging to compose and share work with classmates, families and friends. Simply stated, blogging is a collaborative space to share writings, thoughts and ideas. KES student blogs are shared on an educationally sound website called Kid Blog ([www.kidblog.org](http://www.kidblog.org)). This site was created by teachers and is a free blog space for students and classes. It provides a safe online workspace for students to interactively share thoughts and ideas in an online community setting.

The middle school frequently uses Smart Boards to enhance student learning. Smart Boards are interactive whiteboards that essentially act as large touchscreens to input, access and display information. Many websites are geared for classroom and Smart Board use. They include features like interactive worksheets, virtual

science labs, math challenges and live video streaming. Students can listen to famous people read books, play games to practice skill sets and access information about numerous school subjects.

In addition to the programs at the elementary and middle schools, seventeen high school students are involved in an advanced placement American history class that enables the use of wireless devices in the classroom. Keystone provided these students with Intel Classmate computers. These computers allow students to interact with class lessons, exchange messages with their teacher and even access textbooks and supplemental materials. Program pioneer and history teacher Scott Schuster states, "The use of the computers is helping students gain a better understanding of the subject area and interact with the lessons in new and innovative ways. I am very pleased with the progress thus far and know it will continue to be a successful tool in my classroom."

This advanced placement pilot program is tied to the district initiative to enable students to Bring Your Own Device (computers, laptops, iPads, etc.) into the classroom. The district hopes to employ this concept next year in grades six through eight. The use of these devices in Schuster's class

will help gather data to review the benefits and challenges of implementing this program.

At all three schools, it is clear that technology is a tool that aids and enhances student learning. Keystone is committed to finding new ways to incorporate it into the classroom to benefit students.

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# KEYSTONE

Local School District

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## New Faces of the 2011-12 School Year

Keystone Local Schools would like to extend a warm welcome to 13 new staff members for the 2011-12 school year. These staff members share in the district's philosophy that every student can learn and can be successful within the school community.

### Central Office

#### Administrative Staff



**Susan Bement**  
*Treasurer/Chief  
Financial Officer*

#### Keystone High School



**Don Griswold**  
*Athletic Director  
& Social Studies  
Teacher*

#### Keystone Middle School



**LeeAnn Popovich**  
*Assistant Principal*

#### Keystone Elementary School



**Benjamin Bushong**  
*Intervention Specialist*



**Jillian Hrdy**  
*Kindergarten*



**Justin Nacarato**  
*Reading Specialist*



**Shelley Wyzynski**  
*Music Teacher*



**Taya Neuman**  
*Special Education  
Supervisor*



**Jacqueline  
Townsend**  
*KHS & KMS  
Music Teacher*



**Courtney DiFranco**  
*Sixth Grade Teacher*



**Hannah Folley**  
*Third Grade Teacher*



**Amy McVay**  
*Reading Specialist*



**Chelsea Palubiak**  
*Guidance Counselor*



## Administrative Contact Information

### District:

440-355-5131

**Jay Arbaugh**, Superintendent

Jay.Arbaugh@keystone.k12.oh.us

### Keystone High School:

440-355-5132

**Thomas Clary**, Principal

Thomas.Clary@keystone.k12.oh.us

**Darryl Graves**, Assistant Principal

Darryl.Graves@keystone.k12.oh.us

### Keystone Middle School:

440-355-5133

**Timothy Jenkins**, Principal

Timothy.Jenkins@keystone.k12.oh.us

**LeeAnn Popovich**, Assistant Principal

Leann.Popovich@keystone.k12.oh.us

### Keystone Elementary School:

440-355-5134

**David Kish**, Principal

David.Kish@keystone.k12.oh.us



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