Greeneview Enhances Early Childhood Education Opportunities with All Day, Every Day Kindergarten

"All day, every day kindergarten will allow our students and teachers to build each year on the broader foundational skills our kindergarten students will receive, and it will allow our teachers to guide our students to dig deeper into content and to achieve at a higher level," said Superintendent Isaac Seevers. "The committee’s work shows that we can no longer afford not to have a full-day kindergarten program."

Each year, the expectations from the state increase for students not just in kindergarten, but in all primary grades. Most notably, the Third Grade Reading Guarantee requires that students pass the 3rd grade English Language Arts test with a certain test score before being promoted to 4th grade. According to our assessment data, over 40% of our students begin kindergarten already not on track to meet this measure. By building a stronger foundation for all students through all day, every day kindergarten, more students will have the tools and instructional time to ensure they successfully meet the requirements of the Third Grade Guarantee and other educational milestones.

The cost of the expansion will be a mix of one-time costs to prepare...
Kindergarten (continued)

Energy Optimizers Returns to Update Lighting and HVAC Controls

Greeneview Schools continues to make the most of the community’s investment in strong public schools by proactively pursuing energy efficient upgrades to the district’s facilities. Working with Energy Optimizers, the district has upgraded LED lighting inside all three facilities and updated the controls on HVAC systems. These improvements will reduce energy spending by taking advantage of the decreasing costs of LED fixtures and technological advances to make the systems more energy efficient.

“We have worked hard to be good stewards of the taxpayer dollars, and traditionally rank in the lowest 20 percent of expenditures per pupil in the state of Ohio,” said Treasurer Jacob McGrath. “These types of projects allow us to gain operational savings in our monthly expenses, perform needed facility upgrades, and improve the learning environment.”

This is the district’s second energy conservation project in recent years. The first project replaced interior light bulbs at Greeneview High School, and Greeneview Elementary School and converted all exterior fixtures in the district to LED. The 2014 project was estimated to save the district $42,598 annually in energy savings and has out-performed the projections in the first five years. By converting all interior lights to LED, the district will realize savings to help pay for the cost of the HVAC repairs and updates. All District HVAC systems are now controlled through an integrated web-based system that will allow for greater control and improve comfort levels in all buildings.

The project saw nearly 2,500 new bulbs, fixtures and motion sensors installed across the district this winter and cost approximately $780,000. Each project will yield a return on investment over 11 percent and will save the district an estimated $38,500 in utilities costs each year.

“In the first two years following the 2014 project, we saw a significant decline in the gas and electric payments as a district,” said Mr. McGrath. “We have reduced our high school gas bill by nearly 50 percent and electricity bill by 20 percent, while adding air conditioning to the facility, and reduced our elementary gas bill by 38 percent. These reduction in expenditures have allowed us to drive more of our operating dollars to the classroom to make a difference for Greeneview students.”

Greeneview Middle School Welcomes Families

Nothing is more important than family and Greeneview Middle School embraces the opportunity to welcome family members of students to the school for family events. GMS hosted three mornings of Pastries with Parents. This event is an opportunity for the entire family to eat breakfast together, followed by students leading their parents and siblings on a tour to show off the school building, classrooms, and lockers. More than 600 individuals attended this year’s Pastries with Parents.

On October 19, the GMS cafeteria was packed with 355 loving grandparents of 5th and 6th grade Rams. Thank you to the PTO for decorating for this activity and to all the parents, student council members and staff members who pitched in to help clean up after the event.

Service Club Raises Money to Combat Cancer

Greeneview High School Service Club’s largest service project, the annual high school cancer walk, seeks to recognize those who are currently fighting or have fought cancer and to provide necessary funding for the Jamestown Families Cancer Care Group to assist those in the midst of their cancer battle.

This year, the Service Club raised more than $1200 through the sale of t-shirts and walk donations. The walk featured more signs honoring friends and family members than ever before, showing just how close to home this important fundraiser often hits.

K.I.S.S. Club Learns Life Skills

The K.I.S.S. (Keep It Sweet & Savory) Club is a new organization at GHS this year. For students who want to learn cooking, baking, sewing, and other crafting skills. Since its inception in November, students have met after school to bake cookies, learn the art of making pie dough and homemade candies, welcome a guest chef, Joe Reffitt, to provide a knife skills demonstration and pork recipe for an easy meal, and start some basic sewing machine skills.

Most recently, Nancy Campbell & D’Awn Lowe from the Miami Valley Rug Hooking Guild brought in samples and supplies to let club members try at hooking a rug. The K.I.S.S. Club is looking forward to continuing to pursue the creative interests of its members.

Soup, Ceramics, and a Song Raises Money for Community Meal

The Soup, Ceramics, and a Song event raised $863 to donate to the Jamestown Community Meal. Art students made ceramic bowls that were used to serve soup made by Spanish 2 and 3 classes for a meal served before the March 5 Choir and Band Concert. This great event showcases the many talents of the Greeneview Rams while raising money for a worthy community cause. Special thanks to the music boosters, AVI, and James Rhinehart who made generous donations to help get this event started.

DID YOU KNOW?
The district has a special fund called the Permanent Improvement fund that is only allowed to be used for equipment, repairs and maintenance that will last five years or longer. This fund cannot be used to pay for operations of the district, like salaries, utilities, and day-to-day supplies. Improvements like the energy efficiency upgrades and technology purchases (page 6) are paid for with PI funds.

Technology Initiative In Overdrive Since January 2018

The Greeneview Technology Department has introduced 1:1 technology to students in grades 7 through 12, following the district’s mission of leading the way to prepare our students for success in the future.

The technology department has rolled out more than 550 new mobile devices - integrated with Google Suite for Education, ThinkCerca, TCI, and many other digital content tools - directly to students since January 2018. The improved access to mobile technology improves the ability of students to engage in learning and collaboration and supports the integration of technology into their education.

In the fall of the 2018-19 school year, each high school student was issued a new Chrome device with traveling case. This device is assigned to the student for their high school career and travels home with the student to support learning outside of the school day. Upon graduation, students have the option to take this device with them as they continue on with their future endeavors.

Seventh and eighth grade students are also enjoying one-to-one access to their own district device. While these devices stay at school outside of the school day, the device travels throughout the day with the student and then at the end of each day it is returned to a charging cart in preparation for the next day of learning.

Digital fluency and responsible use of technology are critical skills students need to prepare for the future. As devices become more accessible to students, digital integration in the classrooms has increased. Teachers are using technology as a tool to engage in positive learning activities, quickly assess student knowledge, and instruct students both in and outside the classroom walls. Each student has access to their own device, which allows each student to learn at their own pace and look for guidance in specific areas of instruction with their teacher.

Responsible use of technology is a core principle of the 1:1 program. The technology department has taken proactive steps to implement many additional services to help monitor and enforce internet safety and student behavior as they access the internet. The district’s monitoring service conducts keyword searches on all district devices for inappropriate searches, profanity, cyberbullying, self-harm, and threat detection. Each device sent home with students also gives parents the ability to adjust, view, and monitor their child’s usage on the device device. We strive to keep our students safe as they use these digital tools, just as we strive to ensure their safety when they are in our school. Greeneview Schools will continue to take steps forward for our students to help them become critical thinkers, strategic learners, and successful individuals.

INTERNET SAFETY

Not only is it important to keep our students safe while they use technology but it is also a priority to inform our parents of best practices and guidance as questions arise around digital content. Under the Technology Department on our website, we have updated information for parents and community members on how devices are being used in our district, along with links to other resources.

Partnerships Enhance Elementary Experience

The Greeneview Elementary learning community of teachers, staff and students is enhanced by valuable local partnerships. These partnerships provide powerful opportunities for teachers to broaden the worldview of their students and provide memorable learning experiences that go beyond the curriculum.

“Out students are filled with the wonder of the world and of life,” said Greeneview Elementary Principal Mr. Bill Hayes. “Anyone who spends time with children knows what excitement even the simplest things, like the petals of a flower or the feel of the fur on a dog or cat, can bring. Boys and girls are full of questions and always looking to know more about the world in which they live, and in addition to the regular lessons, our teachers are always seeking to provide experiences that will foster questions and interest in the world.”

With the support of Greene County Parks and Trails, third grade Rams went to the Narrows Reserve to participate in Sugar Maple Tours. Students learned about the process of collecting and processing maple syrup and were able to actually try on and try out gathering and processing equipment. This unique learning experience provide new insight for students about natural sources of some of their favorite foods.

For twenty one days, students in one first grade classroom waited expectancy for the hatching of chicks. Once the eggs were delivered to classroom, the eggs were put into the incubator to stay warm, and the students began the process of watching and caring for the eggs. Students learned about the need for consistent temperatures and careful attention to the needs of the eggs. Every four days, students were able to “candle” the eggs to observe the progress of the chicks inside. After the eight chicks hatched, students furthered their knowledge by feeding, watering, observing, holding, and caring for the chicks. Seeing these creatures up close has given the students a new and bigger view of their world.

Through a partnership with the Jamestown Branch of the Greene County Public Library, all first graders learned about penguins up close when penguins visited the library. Every student was able to see and pet the penguin. Not only will those students remember the penguins visit to the library, but they will remember how incredibly soft the feathers were when they were able to pet the penguin.

Some of the memorable experiences our students take part in happen right in the elementary building. Students prepare and present a musical program to the school and community several times each year. The most recent program was called Celebrating America, and it contained traditional and contemporary American songs presented by second grade students.

These music programs provide a great chance for students to experience the arts and get a taste of the music and fine arts opportunities they can pursue as they continue through the grades at Greeneview. This year, elementary students got another preview of these future opportunities when high school students visited the school to present their musical production of Mary Poppins.

“Our teachers provide solid and important instruction in all of our regular content areas, but our school is much bigger than just the courses we offer and the lessons we teach,” said Mr. Hayes. “Our teachers and staff work hard to build an environment in which students are known and valued and are able to explore and celebrate the wonders of our world and their places in it. Greeneview Elementary is stronger because of our students and their interests and because our staff regularly finds ways to build their interests and engage them in the world around them.”
High School Club Puts the Green in Greeneview

Ten Greene Club members recently attended the OEP Energy Summit building leadership skills and increasing their knowledge of renewable resources. The group returned to Wright State University to lead the Energy Summit with other high school leaders by teaching more than 120 area elementary students. The entire Greene Club engaged third grade students with experiments focused on their science standards for a morning of learning fun. The Greene Club has helped implement a more efficient recycling center for high school classrooms. Improvements were made thanks to an OEP/DP&L grant that funded the purchase of containers for plastic and aluminum for each room. Currently, paper and paper products are recycled to earn money based on weight through a program with Royal Oaks Recycling. The club continues to put the “Green” in Greeneview.

Greeneview Middle Begins Annual Event with Broom Zoom 5K

The cold and damp weather did not deter the 196 hardy runners from participating in the first ever Greeneview Middle School Broom Zoom on Saturday, October 27. The Broom Zoom is a 5K fun-run where participants are encouraged to dress up in Halloween costumes and run. Prizes were awarded to the top finishers in each category of the race and to the runners with the best costumes. The best part of this new community event was the teamwork to put this event together and then the opportunity to see entire families talking, bonding, and having fun together. Congratulations to top student runners Brenden Manor and Temperance Hoke.

Community Partners Enhance Athletic Facilities

Exciting updates have been made to our baseball and softball fields this spring. Thanks to generous donations from local businesses, both fields were upgraded with electronic scoreboards for the first time since the fields were constructed. Thank you to our community donors:
- Germain Ford & Honda of Beavercreek
- Stephan & Associates Wealth Management
- Stephan & Stephan Law Group
- Reichley Insurance Agency
- Clark State Community College
- Maxim Roofing

Fully funded by the generous donations from our community partners, the scoreboards are wireless and solar-powered for maximum efficiency.

New Writing Program Boosts Achievement Scores

Preliminary achievement test scores show improvement in 11 tested areas at Greeneview schools, based on spring 2019 state assessments. Initial results show that the 80 percent passage rate was met in four tested areas with a potential to earn three more indicators in the final scores. The largest gains were achieved in English Language Arts, where scores improved in 5 of eight categories with the remaining three categories equivalent to past years. The biggest improvements were made in 5th and 8th grades in areas where we have implemented a new district-wide writing program called ThinkCERCA.

Our new writing programs is in its second year of implementation at Greeneview Middle School and first year of implementation at Greeneview High School. ThinkCERCA is a research-based writing program that teaches close reading and critical thinking through argumentative writing. The program guarantees 1.5 to 2.5 years of writing growth if implemented with fidelity.

The CERCA framework encourages the development of critical thinking and literacy skills by breaking down reading and writing into five key components: Claim, Evidence, Reasoning, Counterargument, and Audience. This platform is being used across all content areas to provide repetition, consistency, and common language. Our courses will continue to implement this program with one writing lesson in math, science, and social studies per semester and one writing lesson per quarter in English courses. We will continue to implement this program for the next two years and expect that we will continue to see the improvements we have experienced this year. “It is our belief that writing is evidence of thought and argumentative writing, based in evidence, is essential to any profession our students choose,” said Superintendent Isaac Seevers. “We will continue to focus on improving our reading and writing standards because we believe that these are essential to success in all other courses. Education success hinges on reading and writing and like JFK said, ‘A rising tide lifts all boats.’ Reading and writing is that tide and we will continue to invest in strategies and tools to improve the quality of our students’ education.”

Department of Defense Program Offers Learning Opportunities at GMS

Greeneview Middle School fifth graders had the opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering and math at the Department of Defense (DoD) STARBASE. The week-long program engages students through the inquiry-based curriculum with its “hands-on, minds on” experiential activities. Students learned about Newton’s Law and Bernoulli’s Principle and experienced nanotechnology, navigation and mapping. They were captivated by engineering as they used the computer to design space stations, all-terrain vehicles, and submersibles. Each activity encouraged teamwork as the students worked together to explore, explain, elaborate, and evaluate concepts.
Rams Excel in Athletic Competitions

Congratulations to our student athletes who excelled on the field this year:
Faith Rutherford, Girls Soccer - 2nd Team, All Ohio
High School Volleyball - OHC South Champs
High School Football - OHC South Champs, fifth consecutive playoff appearance
High School Boys Golf - OHC South Champs
Nick Clevenger and Clay Payton, Football - Honorable Mention, All Ohio
Mason Witt, Boys Golf - District Qualifier
High School Girls Basketball - back-to-back OHC South Champs
Devan Hendricks, Wrestling - Sectional Champ, 8th place finish in the State
8th Grade Boys Basketball - Perfect 36-0 record in 7th and 8th grade, back-to-back OHC South Champs
Braedan Brenneman, Bowling - Sectional Champ
Boys Bowling - advanced to Districts
Middle School Wrestling - four shutouts in the season in duals, OHC second place
Jaren Stoneburner - District Discus and Shot put Champion
High School Girls Track - OHC South Champions