



COVENTRY PRIDE

Destination Excellence: Academics, Arts and Athletics

“Excellent with Distinction” from the Ohio Department of Education 2011-2012

Notes from our Superintendent

~ Russell Chaboudy, Superintendent



Let me begin by saying thank you to all of our supporters. We are trying our best to continue to offer an outstanding academic program and take care of our facility needs while trying to keep costs down. Unfortunately, the upkeep on our facilities is having a negative impact on our bottom line, and we are truly at a breaking point. The future of this district will be determined by the community this year. Are we willing to invest in this community and our students or are we willing to accept the bare minimum in our academic offerings and continue to teach and learn in the poor facilities that currently exist in our school district?

Six years ago I came to Coventry with some very specific goals.

- Goal #1:** Raise the level of academic expectations
- Goal #2:** Move the district out of Fiscal Watch
- Goal #3:** Improve our facilities

The first goal was to help our teachers, principals and support staff improve on what we have and to raise the level of academic expectations for all. For the last three years, our district has been rated **Excellent** because of the outstanding work of our employees and our students. This year we will receive the highest scores ever on our state report card. Everyone in our community should be very proud of this accomplishment. Considering the facts that we have close to 50% of our students on the free or reduced lunch program, our facilities are the poorest in Summit County, and we have been in Fiscal Watch since 1997 (longest in the state of Ohio), this is a pretty amazing accomplishment! Our teachers, administrators and support staff are among the lowest paid in Summit County, yet they continue to do an outstanding job. Regardless of what people say about our district wasting money, I can assure you that

compared to other districts our size we have less teachers, administrators and support staff and spend less per pupil than most.

The second goal we had was to get this district out of Fiscal Watch and to get off the cycle of asking for a levy every two years. We are not there yet, but this year the community has the opportunity to move this district forward, put the Coventry Local Schools on solid financial ground and to get out of Fiscal Watch. Passing a **Renewal Levy (no new taxes)** in November will continue to bring the district its current revenue and avoid state takeover of our schools. The passage of a Bond/PI this year will also allow us to fix our facilities, pay off debt and build a new high school. In order

*Great communities have great schools.
Coventry Local Schools really do more with less. Our test scores prove it.*

for our district to survive, we must do something to upgrade our facilities. Passage of this issue will also ease the financial pressure our district currently faces. In order to pass this issue, we need to have every eligible voting parent show up to the polls.

Please do not allow those who do not have children in our schools or who are anti-public school make the choices for your children. Failure of either of these issues will result in a negative slide that will have dire consequences for this school district. Passage of these issues
(Continued on page 3.)

Treasurer's message

~ Aaron Butts, Treasurer



Imagine Coventry Schools as a large ship, maybe like the famous Titanic. Although we know the fate of the Titanic, try to imagine if it were able to turn quicker than it did. Coventry is like a large ship financially. We

are unable to turn as quickly as we would like, and we are close to hitting our own iceberg. However, we can turn this ship around. How? By utilizing our best assets: our community and staff—that includes you! Coventry desperately needs everyone's help and support in order to ensure passage of the renewal levy.

This is the time of year where I am required to share our five-year forecast. This forecast is a “snapshot” of our current finances and future projections based on economic assumptions and projections. As you may or may not be aware, the five-year forecast is a “fluid” document. It is constantly being adjusted and tweaked as things arise in our district.

Below, you can see where we stand financially, what you are looking at is our “bottom line” of the five-year forecast. One of the major assumptions included in this five-year forecast is the passage of the November 2012 Emergency Renewal Levy. As you can see, the passage of that levy is critical to the financial success of Coventry Local Schools. Passage of this levy will not be a tax increase for Coventry Local Schools.

Failure is not an option in November... based on the funds that this levy renewal generates, we could see a 32% reduction in local funding if the renewal fails. Together we can move Coventry forward by turning this “ship” around; we truly are on our way.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Fiscal Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
October 2012	52,275	114,246	(254,489)	(684,539)	(1,566,777)
FAILURE of November Renewal	52,275	(1,326,104)	(4,575,539)	(7,886,289)	(11,649,227)

If the November levy fails, we will most likely see drastic cuts to our programs.
Please remember this forecast is very fluid and can change month to month.

Coventry Local Schools – “Excellent with Distinction”

ANNOUNCEMENT ~ Lisa Blough, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

The Coventry Local School District has received the Ohio Department of Education’s highest academic honor by achieving the **Excellent with Distinction** rating on the 2012 State Report Card. Congratulations to our students, teachers, parents, administrators, and staff for this amazing accomplishment.

An Excellent rating on the District and Building Report Cards is assigned when a district/school meets four specific standards set forth by the Ohio Department of Education. An Excellent with Distinction rating can only be awarded if the district or school **exceeds** the Value Added goal. These standards include:

- **Indicators** – Includes the passage rates on the OAA and OGT, attendance rate, and graduation rate
- **Performance Index Score** – Measures how well the students performed on the assessments
- **Adequate Yearly Progress** – Federal goals for passing the tests for specific groups of students
- **Value Added** – Measurement of student growth. Students are expected to gain at least one year of academic growth.

Building	# of Indicators Met	Performance Index Score	Value-Added Results	AYP	Rating
Turkeyfoot	1 out of 1	NA	NA	Not Met	Not Rated
Erwine	8 out of 8	99.2	Above	Not Met	Excellent with Distinction
Middle School	8 out of 8	103.2	Above	Met	Excellent with Distinction
High School	12 out of 12	101.6	Met *Uses PI Score	Met	Excellent
District	26 out of 26	101.4	Above	Not Met	Excellent with Distinction

Highlights of our most significant accomplishments:

- The first time in history that our students have passed all of the state assessments!
- This year marks the **4th** consecutive year for improvement in our Performance Index Score!
- Top three achievement areas:
 1. Grade 6 – OAA Mathematics = **96.6%**
 2. Grade 8 – OAA Mathematics = **94.9%**
 3. Grade 6 – OAA English/LA = **93.2%**
- Largest improvement areas:
 1. Grade 8 – OAA Science = An increase from a 70.7% to **85.1%**
 2. Grade 10 – OGT Science = An increase from 76.5% to **84.1%**
 3. Grade 10 – OCT Social Studies = An increase from 81.6% to **87.3%**

It takes a tremendous amount of hard work, perseverance, and dedication to reach this level of success.

Academic accomplishments of this magnitude do not happen overnight. It takes a tremendous amount of hard work, perseverance, and dedication to reach this level of success. At the district level, we could not be more proud of our students and staff. We have achieved a great academic victory! Congratulations Coventry – A Job Well Done!

Inclusion and Co-Teaching

SPECIAL SERVICES UPDATE ~ Melissa Ostrowski, Director of Special Education

Over the past 5 years Coventry Local Schools has embraced the inclusion and co-teaching model. This year we are implementing inclusion strategies starting in grades 4 and all the way up through the high school. The model allows for an intervention specialist and a general education teacher to work together in one classroom to provide instruction for all the students in the classroom. There are several strategies that the two teachers together can use.

One Teach, One Observe. One of the advantages in co-teaching is that more detailed observation of students engaged in the learning process can occur. With advanced planning the teachers can decide who will teach the lesson and who will observe and collect data on students.

One Teach, One Assist. In this approach to co-teaching, one person would keep primary responsibility for teaching while the other professional circulated through

the room providing unobtrusive assistance to students as needed.

Parallel Teaching. In parallel teaching, the teachers are both covering the same information, but they divide the class into two groups and teach simultaneously.

Station Teaching. In this co-teaching approach, teachers divide content and students. Each teacher then teaches the content to one group and subsequently repeats the instruction for the other group.

Alternative Teacher. In most class groups, occasions arise in which several students need specialized attention. In alternative teaching, one teacher takes responsibility for the large group while the other works with a smaller group.

Team Teaching: In team teaching, both teachers are delivering the same instruction at the same time. Some teachers refer to this as having one brain in two bodies. Others



Mike Staiger and Amy Ragland co-teaching a 5th grade Math Lesson.

call it tag team teaching. Most co-teachers consider this approach the most complex but satisfying way to co-teach.

Co-teaching in inclusion classrooms allows our students with disabilities to receive their specialized instruction with their peers. They get the benefit of receiving their accommodations and modifications from their interventions specialist, along with the content knowledge of the general education teacher. Since Coventry has started providing this model, we have seen our students with IEP’s have greater academic success.

What is BYOD?

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

~ Kelly Kendrick, Director of Technology

Methods of teaching and learning at Coventry High School and Coventry Middle School are changing. Instead of carrying a calculator or dictionary to class, students may now bring their own personal laptops and tablets.

Both buildings are inviting students this year to BYOD, which stands for "Bring Your Own Device."

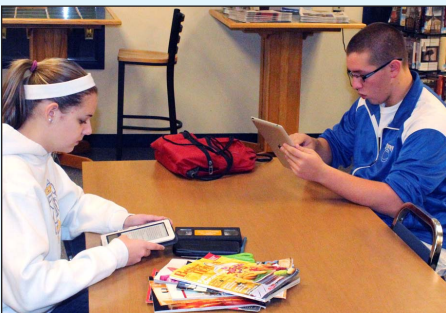
The use of laptops and cell phones is generally up to the teacher's discretion. But as new demands from state standards require students to utilize online programs and complete online testing, **the mobile devices increase the access students have to the technology they need to succeed.** It helps to create learner-centered instruction and moves our students towards developing critical readiness skills they will need to be life-long learners in the global workplace.

Having personal devices in students' hands has many benefits. It creates a personal learning experience in real time, and it allows them to engage in collaborative activities using devices they know. Students with different learning styles can take a picture of notes, slides or other content, and refer to their notes (picture) when it is time to study. They could also use email or audio to record and send their notes for later use.

The implementation of the BYOD structure allows teachers and students to enhance learning activities and encourage 21st Century skills such as collaboration, problem solving, critical thinking and communication.

Staff may invite students to use a personal device in place (or along with) a district device, if they choose. It is NOT required. Policies and procedures for using personal mobile devices are written in the student handbook and are available on our website at www.coventryschools.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Kendrick, Director of Technology at kkendrick@coventryschools.org or via phone at 330-644-2281 ext. 622015.



High school students Paige McKinney and Alex Morrow use their own personal devices (iPad and eReader) in the media center.

Do you know about Parent Access?

~ Kelly Kendrick, Director of Technology

Parent Access for Progress Book has changed for the 2012-13 school year. Parents will now be able to create their own user accounts using a registration key that the district provides. Letters containing the registration key, which a parent will need in order to create their account, were sent home in early September and again a few weeks ago. Once a parent creates their account and logs in, the website has a new look providing a quick summary of grades, homework, assignments and attendance. Should a parent forget their username or password, the 'Can't access your account?' link on the Progress Book page is there to assist them.

Parents who need assistance or who have not received their registration key should go to www.coventryschools.org and fill out the form located at the bottom of the home page.

Superintendent's Message

(Continued from front page.)

will take us out of Fiscal Watch and allow us to avoid putting a large operating issue on the ballot in the near future.

The third goal was to improve our facilities. While we have made some progress, closing Cottage Grove and Lakeview, paving some of our parking lots (first time in over 30 years), constructing a field house, renovating Turkeyfoot and turning the bowling lanes into classrooms, we have a long way to go. We would like to get down to three buildings in a campus like setting (all within 1/2 mile of each other). The reconfiguration of the district would save transportation costs, reduce energy costs and improve the teaching and learning environment. While many of our facility problems are not visible (boilers,

I would be more than happy to give guided tours to anyone who does not believe we need new or updated facilities.

drafty windows, rotting roofs), there are many that are including leaking roofs into classroom, snow actually coming through the windows, cracked and broken concrete, inadequate parking and a host of other problems throughout the district. A small Bond/PI will put our facilities in good shape for another 50 years.

Remember, great communities have great schools! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 330-644-8489 or by e-mail at rchaboudy@coventryschools.org.

Coventry Local Schools
3257 Cormany Rd., Akron, OH 44319
(330) 644-8489

Visit our school website:
www.coventryschools.org



New! Visit our website on your mobile device! Scan this code with your smart phone.

Tough decisions during economic times

FACILITIES UPDATE ~ Jon Hibian, Director of Facilities

The Coventry Local School District has been forced to make many hard decisions during these economic times. We have tried and failed a number of times to get a permanent improvement levy passed. Without this direct funding set aside for improvements, our district has had to make many tough choices. Instead of replacing entire roofs with longer-lasting materials, we have to patch holes; instead of installing energy-efficient replacements, we have to sink money into antiquated heating systems.

The unfortunate situation in Coventry is that many of the community members really don't see the conditions of the buildings unless they go in specifically looking for them.

The unfortunate situation in Coventry is that many of the community members really don't see the conditions of the buildings unless they go in specifically looking for them. The casual observer sees mown lawns, freshly-striped parking lots and friendly employees. Thanks in large part to Mr. Carothers, our maintenance supervisor, and his crew, many duress spending items are carried over from year to year, creating band-aids that keeps the real problems out of the public eye.

So far this school year, we have spent over \$35,000 to fix necessary operational items. These expenditures have included fixing boilers to pass inspection, replacement



Boiler tubes at the middle school are corroded and **FAILED INSPECTION**. And, two boilers at Erwine are also in need of repair. Cost to repair= \$30,000.

of industrial hot water heaters for the high school, replacing a safety grate at the middle school that had rotted and become unsafe. These, along with numerous other necessary fixes, happen every day. We have to address these items for the health and safety of our students and staff. In our district, though, because we don't have a Permanent Improvement Levy from which to draw funds, these monies have to be taken from the general fund. This has been going on since the late 1980's, and the number of duress-related fixes has continued to increase. By using the general fund monies, many programs that directly affect student learning

FAILED



Corroded pipes in the boiler at the middle school.



Dripping and peeling ceilings at the middle school.



have been effected. Larger class sizes, reduced staff and reduced services are all negative outcomes of the current duress spending.

Passing the upcoming levy issue is truly necessary to help maintain the academic excellence we have achieved and will help stop the forced duress spending by setting aside non-general fund monies to address repairs and replacements that are necessary to educate the children of the district.

Please help support our schools.

Coventry continues to race to the top

CURRICULUM UPDATE ~ Lisa Blough, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, more specifically the Race to the Top Fund (RttT), has provided Coventry Local Schools with an amazing opportunity to develop, maintain, and sustain conditions for true educational reform and innovation. The majority of Coventry's RttT efforts have been focused around three core areas. These areas involve the following:

Great Teachers and Leaders: Improving teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance.

Standards and Assessments: Adopting the new Learning Standards (Common Core and Ohio's Revised Standards) and ensuring our students are prepared for the next generation of assessments.

Data Systems for Support: Fully implementing a longitudinal data system that tracks student achievement and provides educators with the data they need to improve instructional practices.

Through the Race to the Top program, Coventry Local Schools has worked to establish and implement innovative approaches that are transforming the educational conditions that directly impact and improve student achievement.



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Race to the Top Fund

Last words

Here are the facts...

November 2012 emergency levy renewal was first approved in 2003 then renewed in 2008. This levy generates \$2,880,700 each year for a period of five years for a total amount of \$14,403,500. The renewal amount also equates to 32% of our local funding from property taxes each year. This levy helps pay for the daily operation of the district which includes staffing, supplies, purchased services, transportation, athletics, music programs, and the cafeteria.



COVENTRY PRIDE

October 2012

HIGH SCHOOL • MIDDLE SCHOOL • ERWINE • TURKEYFOOT

"Excellent with Distinction" from the Ohio Department of Education 2011-2012

Coventry High School Highlights



SpiritDay Grades 9-12, a victorious football game and an awesome homecoming dance attended by over 500 students/dates. Student attendance at all our sporting events has been up this year.

Mr. Baugess' AP Government students attended the University of Akron Forum Series to see former presidential candidate, former Utah governor, and diplomat to China Jon Huntsman. The topic of the presentation was US/China relations in an election year.

Mrs. Tucker's Life Skills class recently hosted a job fair where they collected information and gained experience for this type of job search setting.



Jobfair: Tailon Burrell, Jacob Mallory & LaMonica Baity

Mrs. Stump's art club students are creating lanterns to participate in the annual Don Drumm Lantern Festival.



Mr. Savage & Mrs. Welling's chemistry classes investigated physical and chemical changes using gummi bears.

Pictured: Cassie Kelly, Andrew Bullock, Tiffany Walker & other students

Mr. Savage and Mrs. Welling's chemistry classes investigated the differences between physical and chemical change. The students participated in dropping a gummi bear into a melted potassium chlorate solution. The sugar in the gummi bear reacts with the solution to create a spectacular light and fire show.

"It was *the* coolest experiment I've ever done!" junior Casey Prater exclaimed.

Mrs. Stephan is working diligently with our Destination College students. They participated in Mathpalooza in October and will be attending "Get Real About College" in November.

Mrs. Vincent and Mrs. Llewellyn's physical education classes will be participating in the "President's Youth Fitness Program," which includes aerobic capacity, body composition, muscular strength, endurance and flexibility.

Jim Tressel from the University of Akron is coming to speak to our high school students on November 21st. He will speak about planning for college and setting high goals for student education.

The English Department is investigating starting a local "Poetry Out Loud" contest. This program would help our students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage. Students could compete for \$50,000 in awards and school stipends that are awarded annually at the National Finals.

Mr. Pascoe's street law classes are once again participating in their model court project. The students take on various roles in the courtroom. Students may file lawsuits to reflect what they have learned about civil law. The street law program was designed by the Akron Bar Association to give students both an intellectual and an academic understanding of the law.



Sarah Holderbaum, Danny Morgan, Austin Shields and other students participate in the street law classes.

296 students who maintained a 3.0 GPA or higher were recently recognized at the Honors Breakfast.



6th grade students visit Cuyahoga Valley Park

Middle School News

With help from Mrs. Lorence, Mr. Trogdon's 7th period class completed an exciting project as a part of Disney's Planet Challenge where they received 2nd place in the Nation. Disney's Planet Challenge™ (DPC) is a project-based, environmental competition for middle school students all across the United States. The program inspires students to be good stewards of the environment and empowers them to make a difference in their school, at home and in their local communities.

Our students explored the environmental issue of algal bloom in Lake Erie. They include: Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ohio Division of Wildlife, The Ohio State University's Aquatics Center at Stone Lab, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Good Nature Organic Lawn Care and the University of Akron. Our students were also featured in various media outlets and received support from Rep. Betty Sutton, Senator Sherrod Brown and Earth Echo's Philippe Cousteau.

"I feel so fortunate to work at Erwine with a staff that is dedicated, caring and considerate. We come to school to help teach students to be 21st Century Learners and help them compete in the job market in the future. Our students demonstrate good character on a daily basis. It is so fun to watch them grow and mature into young adults." ~ 3rd grade teacher Emily Studeny.

Erwine Intermediate Highlights

The 3rd grade students visited Hale Farm & Village on Oct. 4th. During their visit, students experience life in the mid 1800s including a one-room schoolhouse, a first settlement log cabin, a blacksmith, how wool is sheared from sheep and spun into yarn, churning milk into butter, and glassblowing.



HaleFarm 3rd graders watch and listen intently to the "Blacksmith" from Hale Farm and Village!

The fifth graders have been working on the website SUMDOG. This website is an interactive website for the students to practice many different math skills. The students log on and can play against their classmates or against any other student in the world. Erwine has been ranked in the top 50 schools during the national competition.



Erwine's Environmental Club

Erwine students continually work on Physical Fitness and living a healthy lifestyle every day. We do this through our Physical Education classes, Walker's Club, Girls On The Run, other clubs and activities, along with offering a healthy breakfast and lunch menu in our cafeteria that was created by a licensed dietician.

Several of our 4th grade Social Studies classes have been studying the early people of Ohio. As part of their unit, students have been building and painting their own atlatl, a hook-shaped stick used to launch spears into the air at faster speeds.

Turkeyfoot Elementary Update

Turkeyfoot recently celebrated Kindergarten Apple Day, where parents spent an afternoon with their child learning about apples through math, song, and activities in the classroom. The day ended with the best activity of all, eating all kinds of apple desserts.

Mrs. Carr's class has written to President Obama for a writing assignment. They are still waiting to hear back. Students also recycled cans and made things from them that could be used at home.



The first graders in Mrs. Carr's class have had fun recycling and repurposing tin cans into useful things.

Mrs. Jones, Mrs. English, and Mrs. Burkhart's STEM classes are working with the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the Coventry Middle School teachers on a huge planting project. They planted lettuce and radish seeds. In a few weeks the Middle School students will transplant them in the Hoop House.

Mr. VanNostran's choir students are working on Veteran's Day songs as well as learning the sign language alphabet. They will be using this for the Veteran's Day assembly.

CONTACTS

Coventry High School

3089 Manchester Rd., Akron, OH 44319
(330) 644-3004

Cindy McDonald, Principal

Coventry Middle School

3257 Cormany Rd., Akron, OH 44319
(330) 644-2232

Tina Norris, Erwine Principal

Erwine Intermediate School

1135 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, OH 44319
(330) 644-2281

Don Schenz, Intermediate Principal

Turkeyfoot Elementary School

530 W. Turkeyfoot Lake Rd., Akron, OH 44319
(330) 644-8469

Timothy Bryan, Principal