

# *Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools*

# Community *Update*

## *INSIDE:*

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*March 2018*

# A Message From Your Superintendent



Our students have entered into the fourth and final quarter of the school year. I would like to thank our families for their continued support. The final quarter is extremely busy as we complete standardized state testing, prepare for graduation and complete classroom instruction.

Our construction projects continue to remain on budget and on time as we now see walls coming up from the foundations and shape to each structure. August of 2019 will be an exciting time as we move into our new buildings.

School safety is at the forefront of the minds of parents when they send their children to school. Please be assured that Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools will always keep the safety of our students and staff as our highest priority.

Inside of this issue of the **Community Update**, you will find examples of some of the measures we are taking to ensure safety. As a district, we understand that it is our duty to educate students and keep them safe while completing that mission.

During the months of February and March, I began speaking with each of our

Parent Teacher Organizations to introduce our renewal levy and then we opened the floor to the questions and comments of our families. If you attended one of those meetings, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. If you were not able to attend one of those meetings, you can find a schedule of the upcoming meetings on our levy website, [supportweschools.org](http://supportweschools.org). I hope that you will consider coming and sharing your questions and ideas.

Our district continues to place students first, ensure quality instruction and maximize time on task. It is with this laser focus that we continue to **Improve Student Achievement**.

I hope that you enjoy this month's **Community Update**.

**Steve Thompson**

Superintendent  
Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools  
(440) 975 - 3757

## World Down Syndrome Day - Rock Your Socks



# Making a Difference

## North High Art Club Students - Empty Bowls

This year the Eastlake North High School Art Club students are partnering with area schools in the WRC to create over 300 bowls for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Empty Bowls service project. Art club advisors, Heidi Kirschnick and Nicole Staunton, helped the student initiative get started, but as time has passed it has truly become a student-run event.

The purpose of Empty Bowls is to raise awareness of world hunger. Sixteen local restaurants have joined the students to supply soup for the event, including our own Willoughby-Eastlake district Chef and The Orlando Bread Company. All of these establishments are committed to making this function a success and to helping our community. Last year in 2017, this benefit raised over \$2,600



for the local food banks. Those attending will be charged an admission fee of \$10.00 which will be donated to local food banks. Guests will be given their bowl as a reminder of the event and the issue of food insecurity in the world.

If you would like to learn more or sign up for this year's event, please visit the website below:

<https://northsartclub.weebly.com/empty-bowls.html>

**“Through this project, our students have gained insight to civic responsibility, they learned about hunger issues in the world and their community. Their hard work and diligence is making a difference in the world!”**

**Nicole Staunton, Visual  
Arts Teacher  
Eastlake North High School**



**Empty Bowls  
April 20, 2018  
NHS Cafe - 5:00-7:00 pm**

# A Message From Your Treasurer



**Bill Parkinson**

Treasurer/CFO

Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools

On May 8, 2018, Willoughby-Eastlake will be on the ballot. Issue 2 is the renewal of an **emergency operating levy** that was originally passed in 2003, renewed in 2008 and again in 2013. As an emergency operating levy, the district is required to renew this levy every five years in order to keep our funding the same. Passage of this issue will **NOT** increase your taxes and will allow the district to continue the current programming, staffing and services offered to our students.

The revenue generated by this levy represents approximately 6.6% of the district's revenue budget and is critical to its financial well-being.

**"Without these finances, the district would have to make significant cuts.**

**This tax initiative will NOT increase your taxes and will not increase the amount of money that the district receives. If you have questions about the issue or would like to submit questions, please visit our website: [www.supportweschools.org](http://www.supportweschools.org)."**

**Bill Parkinson,  
Treasurer**

## Please plan to attend an upcoming meeting!

### Issue 2 - Renewal Levy, Not a New Tax

May 8, 2018

- **South High School Booster Club Meeting, April 3, 7:00 p.m.**
- **Community Meeting - South High School, April 3, 7:30 p.m.**
- **Willowick Middle School, April 9, 6:00 p.m.**
- **Community Meeting - North High School, April 11, 7:00 p.m.**
- **Jefferson Elementary School, April 17, 6:00 p.m.**

## LEARNING GOES MOBILE

*Mobile Fab Lab Update*



Willoughby-Eastlake's NEW Mobile FAB Lab school visits are well underway. The lab has been housed inside two of our schools while necessary modifications were made to the trailer that will ultimately carry the FAB Lab equipment. Thank you to Grant Elementary and Eastlake Middle School for being the first schools to welcome the new lab. Our accomplishments include training over 15 teachers between the two schools, doing an introductory project with both 5th and 8th graders, and providing the opportunity for grades K-4 to tour the lab and see the machines in action! Thomas Jefferson Elementary staff and students were able to visit the lab while it was at Eastlake Middle School.

The next chapter begins, as we are loading up the improved trailer and heading to Willowick Middle School for a two week stay. Each of the remaining elementaries and middle schools will have the Mobile FAB Lab visit their school before the school year ends. The students that have already used the Mobile Fab Lab say that it has been very exciting and that they have had experiences that they never thought they would have in school!

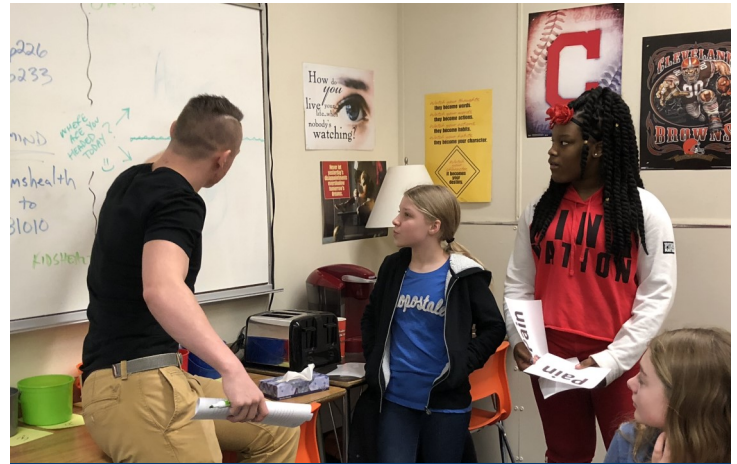


# Willoughby-Eastlake

## Across the District



Willowick Middle School Students spent time in the Mobile Fab Lab.



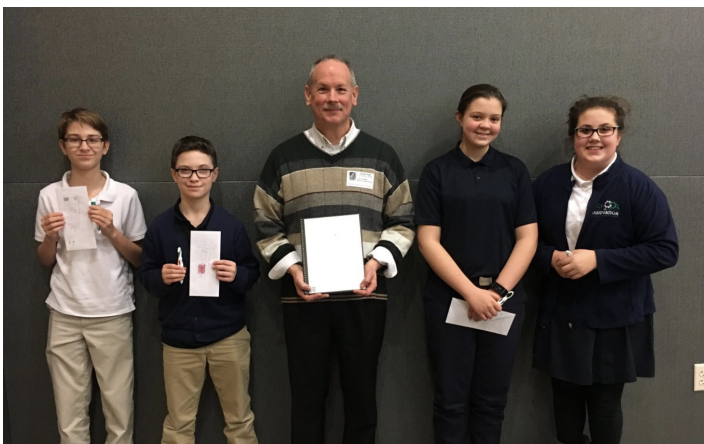
Willoughby Middle students participated in Project Opiate this month.



North High School students participated in leadership training with Leadership Lake County.



Jefferson Elementary had a great County Fair as a culminating activity to their One School, One Book story, Charlotte's Web.



The School of Innovation welcomed Carl Dister, the Chief Innovative Officer at Reliability First.



Edison Elementary School students celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss.



Students in the Willoughby-Eastlake Preschool celebrated Dr. Seuss week.



Students at South High School were featured for learning how to run a business by operating a school store by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation.



The Fine Arts Association has been collaborating with our students at Longfellow.



Royalview students celebrated Down Syndrome Day by "Rocking Their Socks!"



Students at Eastlake Middle School participated in "Wear Red Day" for the American Heart Association.



Grant students began reading Charlotte's Web for their One School, One Book initiative.

# Purple Star Award

On February 24, 2018, the Ohio Department of Education announced the winners of the Purple Star Award. The purple star is awarded to schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. Fifty-two schools in the state of Ohio were awarded the Purple Star and of those fifty-two, nine were schools in the Willoughby-Eastlake district.



NORTH HIGH CLASS OF 2017 MILITARY RECRUITS

The schools in our district receiving the award were North High School, South High School, Eastlake Middle School, Willoughby Middle School, Willowick Middle School, Grant Elementary School, Thomas Jefferson Elementary School, Royalview Elementary School and the School of Innovation.



Each of the award-winning schools in the district had a lead contact who worked to develop a plan to support our military families. Jeff Lyons, Joyce Contento, Karen Finnegan, Jill Golnick, Michelle Selby, Amanda Sawicki, Jacque Sparent, Monica Robinson and Brian Patrick are to be commended for their dedication and commitment to complete this task. Jen Chauby coordinated the initiative for the district.



NORTH HIGH MILITARY SIGNING DAY

The Purple Star Advisory Board, formed by the Ohio Department of Education, Higher Education, Veterans Services and the Adjutant General, helps decide a school's eligibility for the award.

"It is an honor to support our district's military families. Students and families are often in need of additional supports when a loved one is serving in the armed forces and we are pleased to provide those resources. On behalf of W-E Schools, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those currently serving and the veterans that have so valiantly represented our country. Thank you for your service."

**Steve Thompson**



# AUGMENTED REALITY SANDBOX

*Hands On Learning*



WILLOUGHBY MIDDLE SCIENCE STUDENTS  
AUGMENTED REALITY SANDBOX

Willoughby-Eastlake teachers recently attended a workshop to create their own augmented reality sandbox. This innovative tool, will assist students to study concepts such as landforms and topographical maps, watershed and erosion.

While in the classroom, the students are able to use this hands-on technology to simulate the Earth's natural process of breaking down and building up land, all while tying in and improving their understanding of topography.

With a swoop of their hand, students can change the land and observe changes in the land, water and contour lines in real time.

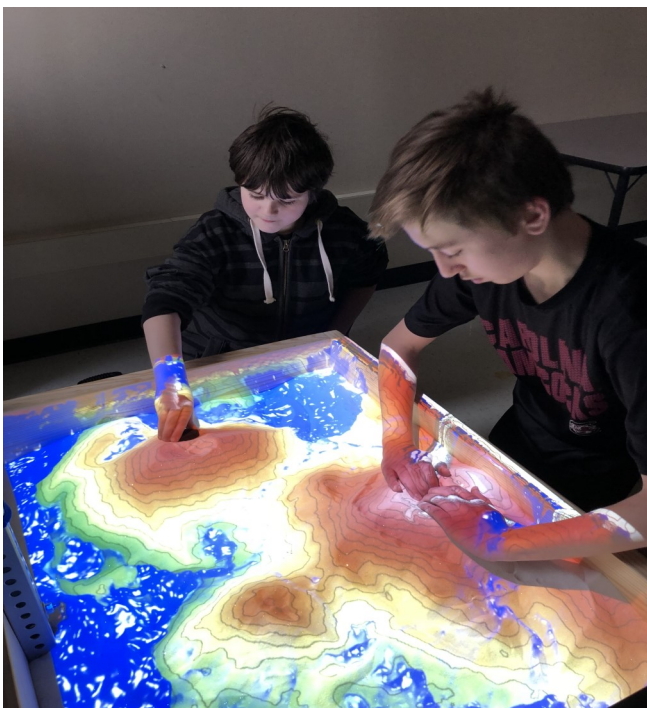


WILLOUGHBY MIDDLE STUDENTS

"The sandbox is a great learning tool to have in the classroom. It adds an interesting aspect to the material we learn and helps us learn the topic and makes it easier to understand, while adding a hands-on experience to the classroom!"

**Grace Woodcock, Grade 8  
Willoughby Middle School**

**Willoughby-Eastlake Community Update**



# STUDENT SAFETY

## WHAT HAS WILLOUGHBY-EASTLAKE DONE?

The concept of student safety has seen dramatic changes in the school district as we have moved from the parents and grandparents of the current students to today. Many Willoughby-Eastlake alumni still living in the community recall bringing their guns to school, along with the ammunition for the after-school gun club. Today, on any school campus in the nation, the thought of a person entering a school with a weapon is horrifying.

### ***What has the school district done?***

**Door buzzers. Locks on all classroom doors. Security cameras.**

These are only a few of the changes made by Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools to address the growing need for change in security. While not foolproof, these measures add a layer of control to who can access the building. As a result of Columbine, districts across the country learned that the first line of protection that should be modified was the entrance to all school buildings. Willoughby-Eastlake added bullpens, which require a person to be buzzed through two sets of doors in many of its school buildings. Once a visitor has entered the building, a security check is completed by running their driver's license through the **Raptor Visitor Management System**. This system identifies persons that may pose a viable threat to students and allows district personnel to stop them from entering the building.



The Ohio Department of Higher Education recommends that schools “prevent, prepare, respond and recover” in order to improve safety and security measures. In keeping with this suggestion, Willoughby-Eastlake has collaborated with Homeland Security and local law enforcement agencies to update all emergency operating plans annually, conduct safety drills (including fire, tornado and ALICE), provide and review ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate) training with all students and hired student resource officers to work in the district high schools and middle schools. In the

event of an actual emergency, Willoughby-Eastlake has also added MARCs (Multi-Agency Radio Communication System Radios) to the buildings and NaviGate Prepared safety software to improve the ability to communicate with law enforcement agencies.



### ***What can you do?***

Safety in school is a collaborative effort between parents, members of the community, students and district employees. It is critical to maintain an open line of communication when children have questions or concerns about their safety and that of others. If your child has a question it is important to answer their questions. Please encourage your child to follow the district mantra, “If you see something or hear something, say something.” Please ask your children to report when they hear rumors but also remind them of the importance of being truthful when reporting.

The district will take all reports seriously and will investigate all reports given to them. Once reports are investigated and it becomes possible to share information with families, it will do so immediately.

“School should be a safe place for students to grow and learn. I can assure you that Willoughby-Eastlake will take all measures to keep students safe when they enter our buildings each day. I would encourage you to talk to your children and discuss the safety measures that they have been taught. Sometimes, reminding your child of something as simple as, don’t open the school doors to people when they knock, could make the difference between their safety and lack thereof,” Steve Thompson, Willoughby-Eastlake Superintendent. “In the event of an emergency or even a threat to student safety, please understand that our district will follow established procedures, investigate the concern and inform our families as soon as possible.”

\*If you would like to learn more or educate yourself about school violence prevention, please refer to the site below:

[School Violence Prevention: Tips for Parents and Educators](#)

# EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION TIMELINE

- Complete intake of report (sometimes numerous) - If report is given by local law enforcement agencies, assist to identify source of threat
- Verify all facts with individual(s) reporting incident - if students are in session, determine impact on student safety/act accordingly and monitor students through all steps
- Notify law enforcement agencies and district crisis team members
- Monitor additional incoming reports and continue to ensure that law enforcement agencies have new information - live time
- Respond to all law enforcement agents and identify contact information so that police can interview/investigate pertinent parties
- Collaborate with law enforcement to determine timeline for informing community/parents (If immediate threat to students, police may need to investigate first, information to the public may jepordize police investigations and locating source of threat)
- Allow law enforcement agencies to investigate and assist as requested
- Determine appropriate information to be released based on police recommendations
- Create parent and community messages/review threats to students and student safety (If safety is in question, send students home as soon as possible. If the school day has not started, school is cancelled.)
  - Notify parents/community details of emergency
    - Continue to evaluate threat/assist police with questions/answer community questions

# CONGRATULATIONS!



The South High AcaDec Team is the Large School Champion for the State of Ohio. Marion Musgrave was the Golden Eagle winner for varsity division, Gigi Crockett-Tomasio for scholastic division, and Caty Johnston in honors division! In April, the team will travel to Texas for Nationals.



The North High AcaDec Team will be competing in the upcoming online National competition! Congratulations!



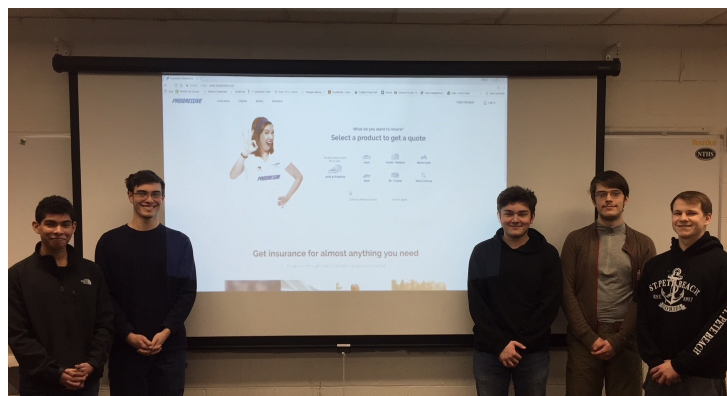
South High students, Hanna Blasinsky, Luke Marino and Oluwabukunmi Arabe each had outstanding performances in the Rotary Club's 4 Way Speech Competition! Congratulations!



Kristen Jesberger was recognized by the Cleveland Chapter of Positive Coaching Alliance as one of five (5) Triple-Impact Competitor® College Scholarship Winners from Northern Ohio.



Students from North High School won the A&G Awards! Congratulations!



Marko Varga (North) and Matt Buck (South) competed in The Progressive Capstone and accepted!



Samantha Pirosko became the all-time leading scorer in girls' basketball history at North High School.



Congratulations to the Willoughby Middle 8th grade girls basketball team for winning the Western Reserve League Title.



Students from Willoughby Middle School recently participated in the Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics Competition.



North High student, Hannah Norton was awarded a \$50,000 scholarship to the Cleveland Institute of Art, multiple awards from the 2018 Lake and Geauga County Juried Student Art Awards Show, a talent grant from Lakeland Community College and a renewable scholarship from the Cleveland Institute of Art admission committee!



Students from Willowick Middle School recently participated in the Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics Competition.

# Project Updates

Longfellow Elementary School saw its first steel beam going up this week and the steel will continue to go into place in the weeks to come. The first area to receive steel is the future home of kindergarten classrooms and first grade classrooms. In addition to this exciting advancement, the electricians have been on site working with the masons to establish areas for electrical boxes and the plumbers are completing "rough ins." The North and East walls of the gym area are completed and the veneer is being placed over those surfaces. Before leaving for Spring break, the students from Longfellow were able to sign one of the beams that will be used in the school. The progress at Longfellow has been significant and is very exciting.



LONGFELLOW STEEL BEAMS

the high school STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) classrooms will undergo remodeling this summer to eliminate the possibility of disruption to students. The water lines, fire department lines and the foundations in several areas have also been completed at South High.



LONGFELLOW GYM WALLS



NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

North High School, the orchestra pit is being finalized, and at this time much of the work is being done to the space that will be the auditorium. The plumbing is also being completed in the kitchen area and in the locker room area. In the next week, the electricians will be on site working to determine the locations for wall mounted electrical boxes and conduit feeds.

At South High School, site excavation and remediation is still being completed. The area of the existing South High School that will house



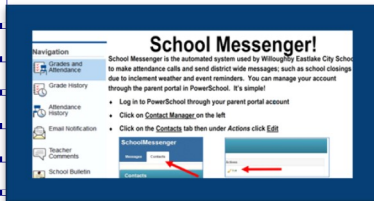
WILLOUGHBY-EASTLAKE CONSTRUCTION



# Important Updates



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## Find it on our website...

If you are not signed up for notifications, you can read the instructions here to begin receiving them.

[Click here >>>](#)

## OUR MISSION

IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

**April 3**

**School Resumes**

**May 21**

**South High School Graduation**

**May 24**

**North High School Graduation**

**This is not an inclusive list of all events during the upcoming month. For a more complete list, please check our district calendar or follow us on Facebook. Facebook is now being updated to include weekly events.**

## CONNECT WITH US



*Teach - Learn - Grow*

*Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools - 37047 Ridge Road - Willoughby, OH 44094*