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Elementary Survey

The district is considering some options for the elementary school program and is seeking input of parents and community members. A short on-line survey has been developed to obtain information related to foreign language and music instruction. Parents and others interested in responding to these questions are asked to go to the district's website, www.gpschools.org to complete the survey. The deadline for responding is May 23 and results will be shared with the public. Thank you for your participation.

Pointes of Pride

- South High School was named the number one school in the state for advanced placement. Both South and North offer 21 AP classes.
- Mary S. of Trombly was recognized in Lansing for her artwork in the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Earth Day Poster contest.
- Defer Safety Patrol member Molly K., was honored in Washington, D.C. for pulling a younger student out of the way of a school bus. She received a national lifesaving award sponsored by AAA.
- GPPSS was rated one of the top public school districts in the U.S. by Expansion Management, earning a Gold Medal (top 15% of the 2,800 districts rated).
- Ferry's Destination Imagination team, the Fuzzy Pickles, won the state competition and is headed to nationals.

Partners in Learning

Excellence in Education: Learning and Leading for Today and Tomorrow

Spring 2006

Strategic Plan 'sets the pace for the race'

Speaking to the Parcells student body and a collection of parents, staff, administrators and board members, Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick charged the State finalist Math Counts team to "Set the pace for the race, and we all will follow suit."

student, and providing an environment that fosters respect. Together we will create an environment and culture that reflects these guiding principles. The Strategic Plan also sets forth the following seven indicators of success.



Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick presented a challenge to the Parcells MathCounts team and student body -- set the pace. - photo by Robert McKean

While her presentation was directed to the Parcells Math Counts team and to the individual winner Matthew Vengali, her words echoed beyond that auditorium and reflect many of the ongoing initiatives in our district — particularly the adoption and implementation of our revised strategic plan.

The strategic plan is a living document. The latest round gathered input from a wide cross-section of over 75 parents and non-parents in our community, as well as teachers, administrators, and board members. That group took into account all of our stakeholders' needs and expectations as it drafted the district plan. The document sets the road map for our district's priorities so our students will be prepared not just to compete, but to lead.

As outlined in the document, the school district believes in, and is committed to, these five guiding principles: accountability, building partnerships at every level, developing and capitalizing on leadership skills, pursuing educational excellence for every

Student Learning

Curriculum, instruction, and assessment will be carefully aligned. The curriculum must be broad-based and challenging, accommodating the needs of all students. Instruction will be developmentally appropriate and personalized. Tests will be used to determine student achievement and guide further instruction.

Student Services/Learning Environment

Support services will help students maximize their learning potential. This includes a safe and caring environment, positive and engaging learning experiences, attention to individual needs, and character development.

Staff Development

All employees will have access to and participate in staff development opportunities. These offerings will focus on curriculum, instruction, testing, technology, and support of student learning.

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Camp Invention — Where Imaginations Run Wild!

Camp Invention is a week long summer enrichment day camp that fosters creativity, teamwork, inventive thinking skills and science literacy for boys and girls entering grades 2-6 next fall. It will run at Ferry Elementary, June 26-30, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and the cost is \$245 per student. Each day campers are immersed in five different hands-on adventures that will enhance their understanding of science, math, history and the arts - all while having lots of FUN! The program is geared to students who want a unique hands-on science experience. This year's session is entitled *Encounter*. Campers will put on their detective hats to explore the mysteries of a far-off island, study the inner workings of a household appliance and create new inventions from those parts, create carnival games while studying probability and statistics, and play *Amazing Games* where the only constant is change. Camp Invention is an opportunity to let your child's imagination run wild and see the world in the future tense. **To Enroll : call 1-800-968-4332 or register on-line at www.campinvention.org .**

Direct questions to Karen Sullivan at 432-3053 or karen.sullivan@gpschools.org .

Camp O'Fun Registration

The friendly neighborhood summer childcare program for students in Kindergarten through middle school began registration in February, 2006. All forms and payments are due May 15. This year's weekly themes are:

June 19-23 Camp Reunion
June 26-30 Around the World in 5 Days
July 10-14 Wizards and Witches
July 17-21 Batter Up!
July 24-28 What's In Your Wallet?
July 31- August 4 Circus-Circus
August 7-11 Weird Science
August 14-18 The End of the Road

There is no camp the week of July 3-7.

Look for more information and all required forms on the district web site www.gpschools.org. There is a \$65 registration fee per child and the cost is \$200/week/child for residents.

Feel welcome to call program director Cheryl Dorman at 313/432-3009, or e-mail her at cheryl.dorman@gpschools.org any time about Camp O'Fun, Kids Club (elementary childcare), and Pointe After (middle school childcare).

Summer school is reinvented

June 15 may mark the official end of the traditional school year, but learning doesn't end there in the Grosse Pointe community. The Grosse Pointe Public School System offers a cutting edge educational summer program at competitive rates. Courses that will enrich and enlighten our community's children are offered at all three levels. These courses reinforce our curriculum and are combined with appealing activities. All courses are taught by highly qualified teachers. Last year over 600 students participated in our summer school offerings.

Elementary School

First Grade Readiness - ages 5-6, \$60
Language Arts/Math Enrichment - grades 2-5, \$250
Musical Production - grades 2-5, \$160
Reading Clinic - grades 2-5, \$250
Speech and Language Enrichment - ages 3-8, \$250

Mini courses for busy schedules (\$60 each):

July 18-27

Animated storybook - grades 3-5
Author's workshop - grades 1-2
Creative drama - grades 1-2
Video production - grades 3-5
Intro to Journalism/digital photo-grades 3-5
Intro to Spanish - grades 3-5

August 1-10

Math Mania I (grades 2-3) and II (grades 4-5)
Experiment with Science I (2-3) and II (4-5)

Middle School

Enrichment courses (math, language arts, reading and writing) - costs vary
Get ready for high school (technology and study skills) - costs vary
Musical Production with performance - \$160
Music Learning Experiences - \$100

Mini Courses (\$80 each):

Problem Solving for the Inquisitive Minds, grades 5-8, July 18-27
Men and Women of Math - grades 5-9, August 1-16

High School

Credit and non-credit courses are offered. A wide variety of courses include enrichment courses (Increasing Your Word Power, ACT/SAT Prep, Going from Traditional to Honor English - dates vary), and academic offerings (nine full year, 10 semester classes).

Most classes begin the week of July 10 and run through August 16, except mini courses.

For more information, contact the Summer School Office at 313/432-3095 or go on-line at www.gpschools.org/summerschool The web site includes a snapshot of courses at each level, more extensive descriptions of each course, as well as all costs and forms necessary for registration. You may also e-mail the coordinators:

ranae.beyerlein@gpschools.org
kathy.sexton@gpschools.org

Sports camps offered at North and South

Both North and South High School Athletic Departments offer Summer Sports Clinics. Each session costs \$125 per student. Registration is handled separately, but information for both the North and South programs is available on the district web site www.gpschools.org. The deadline for registration is June 5 at North (with a \$25 late fee assessed after that as space permits) and the deadline is June 6 at South.

Programs Offered through South

Three sessions at South will be: June 19-23, June 26-30, and July 31- August 4. These include: Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball Softball, Track, Cross Country, Cheerleading, Football, Volleyball, Girls Soccer, Youth

Programs Offered Through North

Session I - June 19-23: Football, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, Wrestling, Softball, Boys Hockey, and Gymnastics
Session II - June 26-30: Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Volleyball, and Track/Cross Country. For further information about North programs, contact Todd Carney at 248/217-1447 or e-mail todd.carney@gpschools.org.

MEAP scores among top in state

Across the board, Grosse Pointe Public School System MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Program) scores are 15-20 percentage points above the state average, and right in line with our peer districts. In fact, Grosse Pointe and Troy are the only two districts in the Tri-County area that ranked among the top six districts in writing for all grade levels.

Summary of Results

Grosse Pointe science and reading scores

remained high and stable. Mathematics was also stable. The social studies test was rescaled to match that of the other tests. Now that those scores are comparable to the other subjects, they provide a more easily understood evaluation of district progress. Our social studies scores remain among the highest in the state. There was also no gender gap for mathematics, science, reading and social studies, and the gap for writing dropped significantly despite higher scores.

Dramatic Increase in ELA Scores

Grosse Pointe writing scores increased dramatically this year—by 31 points in elementary, and by 18 points in middle school. Many factors contributed to this increase. The appeal of district writing scores last year allowed us to examine students' papers and perform analysis of the skills needed. Dr. Roger McCaig, our testing consultant, provided valuable information regarding the need for students to write at length and the likelihood that choosing story rather than informational topics from state options would produce a better performance.

The Department of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction, building principals and district content specialists all agreed to a concerted focus on writing. Although it is unlikely that dramatic differences in students' skills were achieved by October (when tests

were taken this year), the sharpened focus emphasized writing as an important topic and may have increased the likelihood that students placed greater emphasis on the testing process. Content specialists also produced lesson packets for teacher use in the spring and first two weeks of fall that emphasized writing experiences. Greater long-term gains are likely to come from the broad instructional activities and staff development, and we anticipate seeing those confirmed by other assessments.

Reading 2006

Grade	3	4	5	6	7	8
District	94%	95	92	92	89	93
State	87%	83	80	80	76	73

Writing 2006

Grade	3	4	5	6	7	8
District	75%	79	85	89*	86	88
State	51%	55	63	n/a	67	65

English Language Arts 2006

Grade	3	4	5	6	7	8
District	91%	93	91	91*	88	92
State	78%	76	75	n/a	73	69

Mathematics 2006

Grade	3	4	5	6	7	8
District	94%	94	88	85	80	86
State	87%	82	73	65	60	63

Science 2006

Grade	5	8	Grade	6
District	90%	92%	District	91%
State	77%	77%	State	n/a

*State revised
n/a = not available

Plans for Continued Improvement

Although the district scores are high and improving, targeted intervention is still needed. Implementation of the district's new math curriculum with its more challenging standards is likely to create greater consistency and higher achievement. Initial data on the new middle school Foundations courses in math and reading show these as having real potential to help struggling learners. Instructional support resource teachers at elementary schools were just put in place prior to testing, so the district will study the effect of these as well. This spring, we will also begin revision of the social studies and high school math curricula. Finally, a revised assessment plan will provide more instructionally targeted data than that received by the MEAP alone. As teachers and administrators develop greater expertise in using data to improve instruction, opportunities for early and effective intervention will expand.

School Board Election

May 2, Brendan Walsh was elected to a four-year term and Fred Minturn was elected to a one-year term. Both seats were uncontested, and almost 3000 residents cast ballots.

School Administrator Update

The Board of Education recently approved the appointment of Thomas Harwood as Executive Director of Student Services and of Timothy Bearden as Principal of North High School. Bearden had previously worked for the district at South High School. He holds a Master of Arts from Eastern Michigan University.

Harwood was officially welcomed to the community through a reception at the War Memorial May 10 that was cosponsored by the Partnership for Different Learners, The ARC of Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe, and the Grosse Pointe Public School System. His background is in clinical psychology and he has worked at both the intermediate school district and local school district levels. He has taught classes at Oakland University, Saginaw Valley State, and Grand Valley State University in the teacher education programs for almost 20 years.

The Board also continued the contract with Chet Bauer as Principal of Monteith for another school year.

Library Board Appointed

After much deliberation over an impressive list of applicants, the Board of Education approved the following individuals for appointment to the open library board positions:

At large – Edwin Frederickson
Grosse Pointe City – Mary Beth Smith
Grosse Pointe Farms – Kathleen Allen
Harper Woods – James Haley

Senior Citizens: Call for Your Gold Card

Gold Cards offer Grosse Pointe senior citizens the opportunity to attend, without cost, various school sponsored events. Free admission to athletic functions and dramatic and musical productions is our way of thanking local senior citizens for the many years of support they have provided the Grosse Pointe Public School System. To obtain a calendar or a card, call 432-3007.

Register now for fall

Don't wait until August to establish residency and enroll your student. Call 432-3083 today to make an appointment.

Strategic Plan sets the pace for the race

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Human Resources

The district will recruit, develop, and retain staff committed to excellence, open to change, capable of strong leadership, and willing to work as a team.

Partnerships

We will capitalize on the input, talent, and resources of the community and surrounding areas. Frequent, open dialogue between

the schools and the public is essential.

Different methods of communication will be used. Accomplishments of students and staff will be shared with the community.

Finance

The budgeting process will reflect openness, fiscal responsibility, prudent planning, and skillful management.

Technology

Technology will be integrated into the instructional program to enhance learning and instruction and be utilized in business

operations and management to improve efficiency.

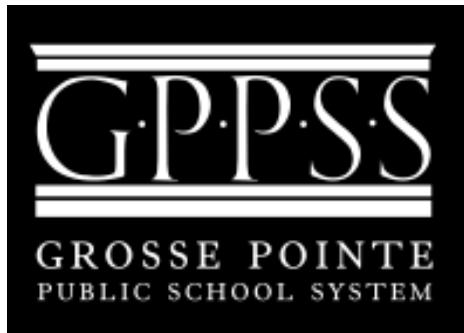
For each of the seven indicators outlined above, specific goals and measures were developed. The person or groups responsible for accomplishing each objective were also specified, as was an estimated cost and timeline for accomplishing each step.

The document itself is available on our district web site www.gpschools.org and will be revisited with periodic reviews and updates to ensure the district remains true to the five guiding principles as it implements the specific goals and objectives set forth. Having a clear vision for the district will also assist the Board of Education as it makes funding decisions in the best interest of our students and the educational program as a whole.

Funding and Fundraising

As budget season moves into full swing, many community members are investigating how their tax dollars are spent. A Board work session will be held at 6 p.m., May 24 in South's Wicking Library. The public hearing on the budget will be June 5, and the budget will be voted on June 12 as part of the regular Board agenda. Information is available on the web site or by calling 432-3087.

Recent questions raised by community members have focused not only on what cuts will be made to accommodate the almost \$4 million shortfall this year, with similar shortfalls projected for the next few years, but also how the district can use alternate methods to cover expenses. The district is not able to raise taxes to support programs and staff, but several organizations currently complement the district's financial resources. Booster and PTO groups already bring in over \$500,000 annually in support of our schools and programs. Friends of Grosse Pointe Pools have committed to raising over \$320,000 to expand the South pool project from eight to 12-lanes, and, after their kick-off event are one-third of the way toward their goal. Also under development is the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education. The mission of that autonomous group will be to provide funding to strengthen and enhance the academic and enrichment opportunities that make our school district what it is today.



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