

OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS

FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE

ABOUT THIS PAGE

■ This weekly page is focused on the 16 Montgomery County public school districts involved in Learn to Earn Dayton,

a collective impact initiative committed to ensuring that children in the Dayton region are ready for kindergarten, third-grade reading proficient, and college and career ready.

■ **Today:** Brookville, Centerville, Dayton, Trotwood-Madison, ■ **Next week:** Northmont, Kettering, Northridge and Jefferson.

TROTWOOD-MADISON



Kevin Bell is superintendent of Trotwood-Madison City Schools.

Students' success goal for district

Many people attempt to define success in varying ways, but ultimately it is very simple. Webster's II New College Dictionary defines success as gaining something desired, planned, or attempted. That simplistic definition gets to the heart of what achieving success is for our school system.

While acknowledging every student has a different starting point based on past academic and home life experiences, the district's staff works to guarantee the success of our community's greatest asset, its children. Trotwood-Madison City Schools strives to achieve success on multiple benchmarks of progress. Whether the goal is aligning our academic program to new learning standards, identifying the best assessment practices to measure the level of learning, creating student support services for at-risk learners, or designing programs for family outreach and engagement, we always seek to attain success. In other words, we want to hit the mark on what we plan or attempt to achieve.

This happens by working with community partners to accomplish what is important and putting strategies in place to realize success. The importance of reading on level by the end of third grade has been widely publicized in Ohio and across the country as a defining benchmark of future academic success. Given this fact, the district has established its Reading Promise initiative and works with elected officials and volunteers from within and outside of the city to listen to students read and assist with strengthening their literacy development skills. Looking at data regarding the progress in reading our students are making lets us know that we're on the right road leading to success.

As one measure of success in the early years is based on making sure students can read, at the other end of the spectrum, schools must ensure every student has a post-graduation plan. Success at this stage is making sure students and families have been equipped with information about available options and connected to resources to attain their goals. Continuing to value local partnership initiatives, the school district is working with the Trotwood branch of the Dayton Metro Library system to support graduating seniors with FAFSA completion events, one on Feb. 11 and the next on March 11. Measuring success for this initiative is simple, as all we need to ask ourselves is did we help bridge the way to post-secondary education for families and their upcoming graduate.

Success cannot always be determined by letter grades on a report card based on once-a-year testing of young people from varying backgrounds and experiences. Success can be measured by evaluating whether you gained what you desired ... a productive citizen with a life plan.

Success: Whether you gained a productive citizen with a life plan.

DAYTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Men of Color Initiative

About 100 African American male role models and community leaders visited more than 25 Dayton Public Schools in December to meet and talk with young men about reaching their potential in a complex world. The event was a kickoff of the DPS-City of Dayton Men of Color Initiative. Dayton police officer Terry Perdue, a Dunbar graduate, is shown talking with Dunbar students about his path to success. CONTRIBUTED



Best sportsmanship

Ponitz CTC engineering students competed against 40 other teams to win the Xtreme Combat Robot regional competition at the Wright State University Nutter Center. The team also was awarded the Best Sportsmanship award. Team members included, from left to right, James Cummings, Francisco Garcia, Cody Blankenship, Allan Herrera, and Jerel Wilson. CONTRIBUTED



Oratorical winners

Dayton Public Schools held its annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Oratorical Contest recently. First-through third-place winners were, pictured from left to right, Tia Daniels (Charity Adams Earley Girls Academy), Rio Famble (Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy), and Elijah Stollings (Wright Brothers PreK-8 School). CONTRIBUTED

Painting mural to music



Stivers School for the Arts culminated its holiday program with a group of student artists painting Degas' Blue Dancers on a 17-by-17-foot mural as it slowly unfurled live on stage while the orchestra played three pieces from "The Nutcracker Suite." Various other works of art have been recreated for live audiences in a number of Stivers productions. CONTRIBUTED

CENTERVILLE



Ken Barrett is a teacher at Centerville High School.

Profile Ken Barrett, Teacher

Education: I graduated from Bay High School in 2002, University of Dayton in 2006 and 2010.

Family: Allison is my lovely and supportive wife. We have two kids, Cormac (2 years old) and Eveline (6 months). Dobby is our obnoxious dog.

Where do you live? Washington Township

Where did you grow up? Bay Village, a west side suburb of Cleveland.

How long have you taught at CHS? This is my eighth year teaching math and coaching wrestling at Centerville.

What's your favorite thing about the community? My favorite thing about teaching in this community is the resilience of the students. In both academics and extracurricular activities we are able to push students to do more than they think is possible. They are resilient and hardworking young adults.

Describe your teaching philosophy in 10 words or less: Be demanding, be fair, be caring.

What one word best describes you? Genuine

What's your greatest achievement as a teacher so far? It's always reassuring to know you've made an impact on the lives of a few students.

As educators, we very rarely get tangible evidence of our impact. This past year a former student nominated me for an award and I won it. It was the Yale University Educator Recognition Award For Outstanding Dedication to Students. The recognition was nice, but knowing I made an impact on a student is the best reward.

What's your favorite thing about your job? Helping young students to find and mold themselves into the adult they want to become.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? Teaching and coaching at Centerville, being involved with state and national math education professional communities, and terrified at how fast my children have grown up.

What are your favorite hobbies? Reading, following Cleveland sports teams, playing video games, and cooking.

What's your favorite movie or TV show? My favorite TV show of all time is The Wire, but for shows still in production it's Game of Thrones.

What's your hidden talent? I've made some moderately acceptable pieces of furniture.

Who would you most like to meet? I'd love to have a sit down conversation with my favorite author, Chuck Klosterman.

IN BRIEF | BROOKVILLE

Brookville Band will go to Disney World

The Brookville High School band will be venturing to Walt Disney World for an enjoyable skill-building trip on Feb. 11. "This is a chance for the band to build off of their success as a Mid-States Band Association finalist," said Emily Moler, the band's director. "Students will have the opportunity to work together, bond, build skills and perform at a high level." The Brookville marching band will be participating in the Future World March, a Disney sight-reading workshop and a Disney instrumental workshop.

Students at Brookville Elementary are moving

Numerous studies over the past 20 years support the idea that exercise and movement are crucial for learning. Not only do students in grades 1-3 benefit from physical education and music, they also have ABL lab every Friday. ABL is an acronym for Action Based Learning.

The goal of ABL is to help prepare the brain for learning: Students rotate through eight stations, each aimed at developing and/or improving balance, spatial awareness, ocular fitness, cross lateral movement, rhythm or sensory integration. Physical education teachers, occupational therapists, music teachers, behavioral optometrists and physical therapists have provided influence in this lab.

Wind-power event at intermediate school

At Brookville Intermediate School, students are learning to solve problems and persevere using the engineering design process.

Thursday, Jan. 15, the third of five STEM design challenges welcomed over 50 students. They worked in teams to design, build, test and refine their own windmills. Using a milk carton, rubber bands and other typical school materials, individual designs were put to the test to see how much weight

each windmill could lift.

The after-school STEM events at Brookville Intermediate, which have hosted more than 300 students so far, are a result of collaboration between science teachers, parents, administrators, the Dayton Regional STEM Center coordinator and the LAGI foundation, under the leadership of fourth-grade teacher Katie Henry.

Brookville Athletic Hall of Fame to induct 2

The annual BHS Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be Feb. 13. This year's inductees include former football coach Craig Turner and three-sport standout Tony Ramsey. Turner, a 1969 Brookville grad, returned to Brookville to coach from 1986 to 1992. He retired as a Brookville teacher in 2012. His coaching record at Brookville was 65-13, including a 29-game win streak, five SWBL titles and five OHSAA playoff berths. Turner is now an assistant football coach with the University of Dayton. Ramsey is a 1975

Brookville graduate who lettered in baseball, wrestling and football. He was a state qualifier in wrestling and a standout as a football lineman. Ramsey was all conference, all district and third team all-state as a senior. He went on to be a four-year starter at Wittenberg University, where he played in three national championship games.

Students help collect 560 toys for program

Brookville Local Schools, in collaboration with the Brookville Police Department, collected 560 toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. This event each year collects toys and books for needy families.

Principals in the high school and intermediate school encouraged a friendly competition in which the eighth-graders and ninth-graders collected the most toys for the district. A contribution by Brookville High School juniors included collecting about 50 books.