



T H E G C S

360

Newsletter

GOSHEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

SEPTEMBER 2016

Exciting times at Goshen Schools

by Diane Woodworth
GCS Superintendent



Another summer has come and gone and I for one could not be more excited about what the new academic year has in store. In all the years I've been part of the Goshen Schools family, I can't recall another school year starting with so much excitement for our future.

To start with, our International Baccalaureate Degree program, an iconic feature of our high school curriculum, is now being offered as a primary school program at West Goshen Elementary.

The long-anticipated New Tech program has launched at Goshen Middle School and Model Elementary and will be a cornerstone feature for the advancement of our mission to make our children the most real-world ready students ever to pass through our halls.

We are coming off of a year in which our academic reputation continued to grow in recognition of excellence and our students are excelling in all facets of their scholastic experience in and out of the classroom.

We have new turf on Foreman Field and great expectations for an outstanding season – not only in football but also in our

Meeting real-world challenges with New Tech

Project-based learning program puts students in driver's seat



With the start of the current academic year, the students at Goshen Middle School and Model Elementary will be eligible will be eligible to participate in one of the most dynamic new ideas in education. It's called New Tech and it truly is a new tool to help students learn essential problem-solving skills that not only will enhance their education, but also enables them to address quality-of-life issues in their local and global communities.

Interest in project-based learning (PBL) has been trending through the educational community for a number of years and New Tech takes PBL to the next level. Students collaborate with their classmates and use technology to address specific projects, often of their own choosing. Along the way, they develop important real-world skills like teamwork, productivity, creative problem solving, communications and personal accountability. According to Renee Manno, the New Tech coach for Goshen Schools,

the program is a powerful blend of technology and educational innovation.

"In many ways, the students are the drivers of the educational experience," Manno says. "They are encouraged to identify what we call the 'driving questions,' the problems or challenges to be explored. To address these tasks, students form groups with specific individual responsibilities based on their skills and interests. The process really can go as far and deep as the students want."

Teachers assist the students in following the process, identifying needed resources (speakers, materials, etc.) and staying focused on the assignment. As students become more acclimated with the program, they are expected to take the lead in the inquiry and problem-solving process. In doing so, they will be learning three core attributes of the New Tech model: trust, respect and responsibility.

Technology also fits into New Tech. Effective problem-solving in today's world requires advanced technological skills for acquiring information, performing research, building databases and calculating specific problems. At the middle school level, every student will be provided with an Apple MacBook Air laptop computer within the next two years.

Indiana is one of the leading states to adapt the New Tech model and Goshen Schools are leading the way regionally. "Goshen is all about preparing students for the real world and New Tech is one more way to help achieve that goal," says Manno.

Exciting times

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And our outstanding faculty is embracing their role as inspirational and engaged educators as never before.

So how did all of this happen?

First and foremost, it reflects the tremendous dedication and determination of our faculty and staff. It also speaks to the vision of the Board of Education and the leadership of each of our schools. And that vision is beautifully articulated in our new Strategic Plan, starting with our new mission statement: "Inspiring Innovation... Empowering Potential... Enriching our World." It's a very powerful aspiration, but one I believe is not only consistent with our heritage here at Goshen Schools, but is also especially relevant to our future.

Our task as educators is to be relentless in our quest for improving the quality of learning for each and every student. We aspire to excellence as much as we expect our students to have the same aspirations. In doing so, we are also fulfilling another key responsibility – to serve this community that we love and call home.

On that note, let me wish all of you a heartfelt Goshen welcome back for the 2016-17 academic year. I look forward to seeing many of you in the days ahead. And please let us know how we are doing. If you have any questions or concerns, I hope you will reach out to your teachers, principals and the district office as appropriate.

These are exciting times. Let's enjoy the ride together. Thank you.

Liane

IB | Taking International Baccalaureate to another level

The International Baccalaureate Diploma program in Goshen High School has been a source of pride and accomplishment since its implementation in 2008. Hundreds of students have taken advantage of this popular program to enhance their learning skills, character development and global awareness.

Another track in the IB curriculum is called the Primary Years Programme (PYP). West Goshen Elementary School has been designated as an IB candidate school and, effective with the current semester, all West Goshen students will be participating.

Lori Line, West Goshen principal, is the lead administrator of the initiative. "We couldn't be more excited to be able to implement the IB model here at our school. When we met with our parents in the spring, they were overwhelmingly in favor of it. And they were especially excited about the foreign language component."

Spanish will be offered to all West Goshen students. Line emphasizes the importance

of parents understanding that the instruction will be differentiated for native and non-native speakers. Children whose primary language is Spanish will be challenged with an advanced course of study to enhance their literacy skills, while non-Spanish speaking children will receive more basic language education.

In addition to the second language module, Primary Years IB students will participate in high-level instruction in science, math and reading. Another program facet, the "PYP Learner Profile," encourages students to incorporate respect, tolerance and caring into their interactions, as well as developing their thinking, communication and inquiry skills.

When asked about the desired outcomes of the Primary Years IB initiative, Line's passion for the initiative shows through. "In our increasingly global society, our children must be ready for each phase of their lives. This program enables them to take on an amazingly high level of skill at finding solutions for whatever challenges or opportunities they encounter."



WARNING

Area construction to impact transportation

Several major construction projects are expected to have an impact on the bus schedule for Goshen Schools, particularly for schools west of the Elkhart River. The primary project is the U.S. 33 realignment "Northern Connector" which, according to the Indiana Department of Transportation, will "reroute U.S. 33 around the downtown historic district and will include bridges over the railroad tracks, over Lincoln Avenue and over Cottage Avenue. Work will also include the widening of U.S. 33/Pike Street from S.R. 15/Third Street to the Elkhart River."

In addition, the closure of the bridge on C.R. 38 will take place after Labor Day and will continue to be closed for 18 months. This will increase the traffic on C.R. 40 and S.R. 119, and could also lead to delays in transportation for students from Goshen Middle School.

While we are endeavoring to keep our bus schedule as close to normal as possible, we are advising parents and students that construction detours and delays may require earlier bus pick-ups or delays in drop-offs. We appreciate everyone's understanding and patience. If you have questions, please visit goshenschools.org/parents-students/transportation, follow us on Twitter at @GCSTranspo or call the GCS transportation department at 574-533-7176.

Turf Talk

When Goshen High School Head Football Coach Kyle Park talks about protecting our home field this season, it will take on a whole new meaning. In August, installation was completed on a new artificial turf surface and it represents a change over the natural turf field that has been in place at Foreman Field since 1972.

According to Goshen Athletic Director Larry Kissinger, the benefits of the new turf go beyond aesthetics and enhanced drainage. Although Foreman Field will still be used primarily for football, it can now be more multi-purpose in nature. "It gives us much more space," Kissinger said. "That means we can now use it for practice drill work for soccer and small field games when the weather is bad." Physical education and the marching band will also use the field. Kissinger added that he could even foresee Foreman Field being available for youth sports in the community.

The new turf was installed by the Motz Group out of Cincinnati, Ohio, and sponsored in part by IU Health Goshen with a \$100,000 contribution.

In other summer sports news, Kissinger noted the success of Goshen High School track and field athletes. State qualifiers included seniors Jordan Holley in shot put and discus, Hudson Kay and Brenn McKee in pole vault, and juniors Rummell Johnson in high jump plus Josuel Sanchez in intermediate and high hurdles. Johnson placed 8th in the state and McKee 12th in their respective competitions. Placing 14th in the state was the girls 4 x 800 relay team consisting of Nora Rangel, Hannah Kurtz, Jillian Kissinger and Maggie Gallagher.

Expectations are high for fall sports in 2016. Last year, the boys soccer team was undefeated in the regular season and the football team is clearly on an upward trend as well.

The new Aquatic Center opens this fall and the main gym at the high school has all new bleachers as well as a new floor.



SPORTS

**TRACK & FIELD
SPRING
2016**



GIRLS TRACK - Left to Right: Nora Rangel, Maggie Gallagher, Hannah Kurtz, Jillian Kissinger



BOYS TRACK - Rummell Johnson earned 8th place at the state track meet.



STATE TRACK - Student-athletes who competed in the state track meet.



Goshen Middle School construction update

Although construction seems to be ramping up all over town, we are pleased to report it is winding down at Goshen Middle School with impressive results.

The new 32,440-square-foot Aquatic Center was completed in January and features both a large new competition pool and a second instructional pool.

The old pool was filled in and is now in use as

a band room and fitness area. The previous band room now houses a large orchestra room. Kitchen and cafeteria renovations are complete as well.

Facilities Director Tom Boomershine tells us the new parking area and driveway are complete with just a little bit of finish work and landscaping needed. A dedication and open house will be held on Sunday, September 11 at 3:00 pm.

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Merit Learning Center	574.533.9743
Model Elementary	574.533.7677
Parkside Elementary	574.533.7765
Prarie View Elementary	574.533.4710
Waterford Elementary	574.533.6811
West Goshen Elementary	574.533.7855

Online



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We welcome our readers' letters, comments and critique. Write to Editor, 360 Newsletter, Goshen Community School Corporation, 613 E. Purl St., Goshen IN 46526 or call 574.533.8631

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Dollars for scholars

Nothing can prepare a student for college better than a great Goshen Schools education – except perhaps more financial support. That's why Goshen High School has Dollars for Scholars, an all-volunteer chapter of the Scholarship America® program. The mission of the organization is to send as many graduating seniors to college or post-high school education as possible. Since 1992, the GHS chapter has provided almost \$2 million in financial assistance to 2000 Goshen students. Scholarships are available to graduating seniors planning to attend any accredited, post secondary educational institution, including trade and technical institutes, community and junior colleges, four-year colleges and universities. These grants are frequently eligible for additional matching funds from the institution of choice, usually based on financial need.

Nothing trivial about this night

Ready to impress your family and friends with your knowledge of obscure facts? Then mark your calendars for Tuesday, Oct. 25, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Peddler Village Event Center. It's all for a great cause – the **Goshen Community Schools Foundation**. Be a sponsor or sign up your team. Everything you need to know is at goshenschoolsfoundation.org. Just click on the Trivia Night banner.

2016 Events

September 5

No School | Labor Day

(District Wide)

September 11

Dedication & Open House

(GMS | Sunday @ 3pm)

September 22-24

GHS Fall Play

September 27

Parent/Teacher Conferences

(GMS | 4-8pm)

October 4

Elkhart County Regional
College Fair

(at GHS)

October 4

Parent/Teacher Conferences

(GMS | 4-8pm)

October 6

Parent/Teacher Conferences

(GHS | 4-8pm)

October 7

End of 1st Quarter
Grading Period

(Elementary & GHS)

October 11 & 13

Parent/Teacher Conferences

(Elementary | 4-8pm)