



# Newsletter

GOSHEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

NOVEMBER 2016

## So much for which to be thankful

by Diane Woodworth  
GCS Superintendent



We did it!

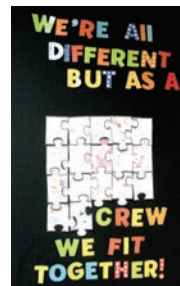
Another school year is underway and I believe we are off to a great start. All of us at GCS are so grateful for the incredible support and cooperation of our students and families. In addition to the usual settling in process at the start of a school year, we've had to deal with inconveniences caused by construction and road closings. But all in all, things are going smoothly.

We are also thankful for the introduction of some exciting new programs and the successful continuation of others. We've included articles about some of these in this issue of GCS 360. I encourage you to read all about them.

We are excited about the wonderful news that teacher Aimee Schade was recognized with the very prestigious Milken Award. Additionally, Goshen High senior Jacob Biller was elected by his peers to serve as the first youth advisor on the Goshen City Council. We are so proud of both Aimee and Jacob, as well as Jacob's fellow candidates for this Council seat.

cont. on page 2 | **Thankful**

## Expeditionary Learning: Chamberlain students on road to discovery



### Enhancing student engagement and learning environment.

Lewis & Clark. Columbus. The Apollo space program. When we think of expeditions, our minds tend to focus on historic voyages of discovery. But the pursuit of learning isn't limited to historic or geographic journeys. It is a mindset that recognizes the inherent joys of discovery.

This is the driving force behind an exciting new learning model at Chamberlain Elementary. It's called Expeditionary Learning (EL). The goal of EL is to create classrooms where teachers can fulfill their highest aspirations, and students can achieve more than they may think possible, becoming active contributors to building a better world.

Like any voyage of discovery, success depends on the motivation and engagement of the "crew." According to Kim Branham, principal at Chamberlain, the focus is on building a culture of respect and crew spirit. "We want the kids to understand that a crew is a team that works together. They are not passengers. A crew helps each other. They show respect and take

care of each other. They take ownership in the work they do together."

These objectives led the staff at Chamberlain to Expeditionary Learning, a model based on years of research in progressive schools across the country. One study found that middle school students participating in the EL program gained an extra 10 months of learning growth in math and seven months of learning growth in reading after three years.

To Principal Branham, the program is all about "increasing the meaningfulness of learning – participating in learning that is more active and engaging. We believe that as students lead the process in their own learning and are invested in growing as individuals, it will have a profound impact on their lives now and in the future."

EL is still in its formative stages at the school. Parents and interested community members who want more information about Expeditionary Learning are asked to visit [chartingchamberlain.org](http://chartingchamberlain.org).



## Thankful

(continued from page 1)

I also want to call your attention to the continuing work on the GCS Strategic Planning process. In this issue we are specifically addressing the Facilities pillar and the exciting and challenging work of the Facilities Committee. Everyone involved in the planning process is putting in an amazing amount of time, effort, creativity and leadership to make it successful. And I would be remiss if I didn't remind everyone that your input will continue to be essential to achieving our goals.

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays because I love the premise of taking time to express gratitude for all the blessings we have received including the joys of family, friends, colleagues and community. So on behalf of all of us at GCS, let me say thank you to every one of you and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

*Diane*

## One-of-a-kind computer repair program

**GHS saves district money while teaching valuable IT skills.**

Everyone knows how resourcefulness can turn lemons into lemonade. And that's exactly what Goshen High School is up to these days. It's called the Computer Peer Repair Program (CPRP), but most people would just call it smart. A group of GHS students, under the supervision of Brock Maust, are now responsible for maintaining 2,500 laptop computers for the district. Beyond a valuable service, these students are learning IT skills that could open doors to career opportunities. What's more, the program is self-funding in that the maintenance and repair services once outsourced at a considerable expense are now performed by students.

The story begins when the district initiated a one-to-one program based on the phased-in issuance of laptop computers and tablets to students. The goal is to eventually provide every student with a computer. Of course, more computers meant more needs for maintenance and repair. Enter Maust, a trained technology engineer, teacher and highly motivated member of the GHS faculty. Once approached by the GHS principal and district superintendent, Maust became the driving force behind the CPRP initiative.

Maust states emphatically that CPRP is literally a one-of-a-kind program providing real-world skills to our students.



Although the program is still relatively new, it is already paying dividends. Thanks to their training at GHS, several students have already received IT certification from Ivy Tech State College. Three graduates are now working in IT careers in the Goshen area and several others are utilizing their education either in a profession or in college. And the program is growing. It started with nine students and at last count, nearly 150 have participated in the training.

Maust feels the success of the program is just the tip of the iceberg. Plans are already underway to create a community-wide co-op to enable the students in other districts to take IT courses at Goshen High. "Life is about creating 'win-win' opportunities," Maust says. "This program falls into that category big-time."

## New principals at Prairie View and Chandler

The new school year saw two new faces in the principals' chairs at Prairie View and Chandler elementary schools. Donna Wiktorowski has come home to Prairie View after several years as a principal in another school district. Wiktorowski earned her undergraduate degree at Indiana University Bloomington, her masters at IU South Bend and administrator's license at Indiana Wesleyan University. A teacher in Goshen for 20 years including three at Prairie View, she is excited to return. "I absolutely love Goshen Community Schools, the city and the positive, forward-thinking environment of Prairie View. I could not be happier to be part of it again."

Jeromy Sheets is equally effusive about his new role at Chandler Elementary. He received his undergraduate degree at Bethel College, and both his masters and principal's license at Indiana Wesleyan University. A graduate of Goshen High School himself, Sheets previously was a teacher at West Goshen. Most recently, he was assistant principal at Goshen Middle School where he started the E3 program that pairs boys between the sixth and eighth grades with dedicated mentors as they learn life skills throughout the school year and at a special summer camp.



Donna Wiktorowski (left) welcomed as new principal at Prairie View.



Jeromy Sheets becomes new principal at Chandler Elementary.

## Future vision essential to planning

In 2007, Goshen Community Schools formed a feasibility committee to look into future needs of the school district. This committee, a predecessor of the current Strategic Planning Steering Committee, identified the need for a Grade 5/6 intermediate school and acquired 30 acres of land specifically for that purpose. Then the recession hit, and plans were put on hold. Since then, 250 students have been added to the district population.

The current Strategic Planning Facilities Committee is tasked with anticipating district needs for the next decade. This committee includes a diverse group of members such as faculty, administrators, and community representatives. They are actively engaged in careful consideration of all possible options and scenarios. They are reconsidering a 5/6 intermediate school, which could relieve the crowding in other facilities. The likelihood of adding pre-kindergarten must also be taken into account. The options are many and complex, but must be evaluated in the context of the overall needs of the community.

According to GCS Superintendent Diane Woodworth, the steering committee is undertaking its task with due diligence. This includes a current demographic study and several community input sessions, tentatively scheduled for December and early 2017.

"All of our Strategic Planning sub-committees are doing a great job," Woodworth says. "Anticipating future facility needs may be one of the most difficult challenges. Still, I am really excited about what the future holds for GCS and I am confident that we have the right people in place to make the right calls. We are all very appreciative of the hard work being invested in the planning process."



## Goshen teacher receives award



The Milken Educator Awards have been called the "Oscars of Teaching." Goshen Community Schools can now boast that one of its own is a recipient of this prestigious recognition. Aimee Schade, a master teacher at West Goshen Elementary, was honored with the award and the accompanying \$25,000 cash prize at a special presentation on October 6. Presenting the award, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz noted Schade's commitment to professional development and serving the needs of her students.

"Aimee Schade embodies what it means to be a teacher-leader – supporting the professional development of her colleagues while developing innovative methods to individual instruction for West Goshen Elementary School students," said Ritz.

Schade earned her bachelor's degree from Clarion University of Pennsylvania and her master's degree from Indiana Wesleyan University. Schade taught first, second and fourth grades before earning her 2013 designation of master teacher – defined as someone who has mastered the basics of teaching, goes above and beyond to ensure a positive learning experience for each student and shares his or her knowledge with the broader learning community.

Schade has also completed primary years International Baccalaureate training in advance of West Goshen's recent introduction of the IB curriculum.

## All of the world's a stage

**Theater performances highlight English Department excursion to Stratford.**

Goshen English Department students have been traveling to Stratford, Ontario, for over 30 years and, as this year's contingent will attest, the experience is always a memorable event. Thirty-eight students, teachers and adults spent three days in Stratford over the Labor Day weekend. During their stay, they viewed four outstanding performances at the famed Avon Theater including Shakespeare classics "As You Like It" and "MacBeth" plus Stephen Sondheim's "A Little Night Music" and Moliere's "The Hypochondriac."

Sue Neeb, a Goshen High School English teacher and one of the facilitators of this year's trip, believes the experience is invaluable for all involved. "First and foremost," she says, "our students are exposed to some of the world's great literature and outstanding theater performances. Although Stratford isn't all that far from Goshen in actual miles, it is a world away in terms of the international experience. It's exciting and interesting and very much aligned with our core values here at GCS in preparing students for life in the global community."





## Contact Us



Administration Office	574.533.8631
Goshen High School	574.533.8651
Goshen Middle School	574.533.0391
Chamberlain Elementary	574.534.2691
Chandler Elementary	574.533.5085
Merit Learning Center	574.533.9743
Model Elementary	574.533.7677
Parkside Elementary	574.533.7765
Prairie View Elementary	574.533.4710
Waterford Elementary	574.533.6811
West Goshen Elementary	574.533.7855

## Online



[www.goshenschools.org](http://www.goshenschools.org)



[www.facebook.com/goshen.schools](https://www.facebook.com/goshen.schools)



[www.twitter.com/goshenschools](https://www.twitter.com/goshenschools)

## Feedback

We welcome our readers' feedback, comments and critique. You may write to Editor, GCS 360 Newsletter, Goshen Community Schools, 613 E. Purl St., Goshen IN 46526, call 574.533.8631 or email [superintendent@goshenschools.org](mailto:superintendent@goshenschools.org)

## Board Members

Catherine Cripe .....	President
James Ramer .....	Vice President
Roger Nafziger .....	Secretary
Jane DeVoe .....	Member
Bob Duell .....	Member
José Ortiz .....	Member
Jane Troup .....	Member

Goshen Community School Corporation  
Administration Center  
613 East Purl Street  
Goshen, IN 46526

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Goshen, IN  
Permit No. 68

## Real world experience. Personified.

One of the central messages of Goshen Community Schools is the system's reputation for graduating real-world ready students. That message has achieved even



greater credence with the election of Goshen High School senior, Jacob Biller, as youth advisor to the Goshen City Council. Biller assumed his new role in November. Although the Council seat is non-voting, city leaders expect him to be a voice for the community's youth and freely express his opinions on relevant issues.

Biller was one of four candidates from the ranks of the Goshen High senior class. The others were Charlie Collins, Natalie Neufeld and Joshua Schuster. Biller won the special election at the high school with nearly 50 percent of the overall vote.

The role of youth advisor to the City Council grew out of a plan developed by Goshen Mayor Jeremy Stutsman to stimulate greater collaboration between the city and Goshen Community Schools. After the election, Stutsman said he would be meeting with Biller soon to discuss the GHS student's role with the Council and the possible formation of a new committee at the school to provide a greater connection with area youth.

## 2016 Events

### November 15

GHS Jazz Band Concert  
(Life Center | 7pm)

### November 17

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choral Showcase  
(GMS | 7:30pm)

### November 21

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Concert  
(GMS | 6:30pm)

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Concert  
(GMS | 7:45pm)

### November 23-25

Thanksgiving Break  
(No School District Wide)

### December 1

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra Concert  
(GMS | 6:45pm)

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra Concert  
(GMS | 8pm)

### December 2

Crimsonaires @ First Fridays  
(1st Presbyterian Church |  
6:30 & 7:30pm)

### December 4

Winter Orchestra Concert  
(GHS | 3pm)

### December 5

Winter Band Concert  
(GHS | 7pm)

### December 8

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Concert  
(GMS | 7:45pm)

### December 9

GHS Choirs Christmas Concert  
(GHS | 6 & 8:15pm)

### December 16

End of First Semester

### December 19-Jan 2

Holiday Break  
(No School District Wide)