

Q & A on the May 7 Operating Levy

What's on the ballot?

An operating levy that will generate \$2,631,975 additional funds for our school district. It will cost property owners \$20 per

month more per \$100,000 of property value. Funding from the levy will be used for day-to-day operations.

What's the difference between this levy and the Nov. 2018 levy?

District leaders listened to the community. We went back to the drawing board and reduced last November's request. A focus on long-term efficiencies from the elementary reconfiguration plan and staff reductions allows us to lower this request.

Why now?

It has been more than a decade since Dover City Schools has had a new operating levy, and only four have been approved in the past 30 years.

While costs of daily operations continue to rise, our district has been losing state funding since 2005 due to the elimination of the tangible personal property tax (TPP). For example, during the 2006-07 school year, Dover received more than \$3.5 million in TPP tax, but for the current school year, we are only anticipating \$561,195.

The need for additional funds was not caused by overspending; rather, it is a revenue problem. Even with the additional funds, we will not lose sight of our goal to operating as efficiently as possible.

What has the district done to save money?

We will continue to provide a quality education in the most financially efficient manner possible.

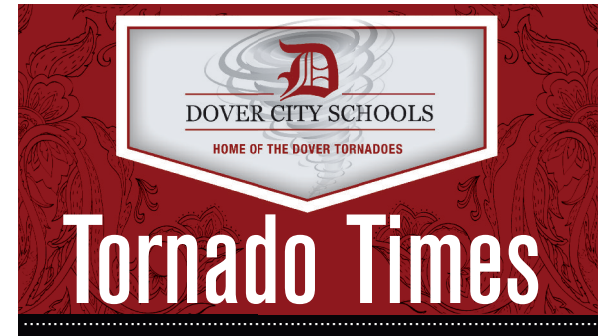
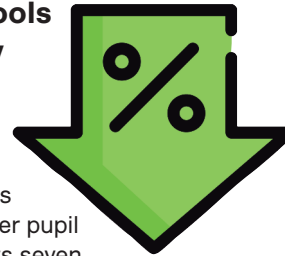
To cut costs, Dover City Schools has already:

- Reduced maintenance/custodial staff
- Reduced the number of kindergarten classroom assistants and library aides
- Reconfigured the high school and middle school daily schedules to educate more students without adding teachers
- Eliminated three teaching positions for the 2018-19 school year
- Will implement pay-to-participate fees for sports and activities beginning in Fall 2019
- Reconfigured our elementary buildings for the 2019-2020 school year and reduced the budget by eliminating teaching positions

Are Dover City Schools a good value for my tax dollars?



Yes! The district spends less per pupil than its seven neighboring districts and **19 percent below the state average.**



Celebrating 100 days of school!

Dover Offers Excellent Schools at a Great Value

We have a lot to celebrate in Dover. Students are offered a well-rounded educational experience while we continue to maintain a lean and efficient budget. This May, our school district will be on the ballot for an operating levy. Over the next several months, we will continue to communicate with our community so you are informed about what's at stake for the future of our schools. The reality is that, without additional funding, our long-term financial stability and the programs and opportunities we offer to students are at risk. Within the pages of the latest Tornado Times, we answer some of the most frequently asked questions about the May 7th levy.

Carla Birney

Trip to Nation's Capital Offers Important Civic Lessons to Students

Each May, middle school teacher Jeff Margletta and over a dozen other teachers embark on a journey to Washington D.C. with over 200 students. It is a very real example of an opportunity to learn outside the classroom.

"The D.C. trip is a rite of passage," said Margletta. "These kids are going from eighth grade into their high school years and they're working on responsibility and independence."

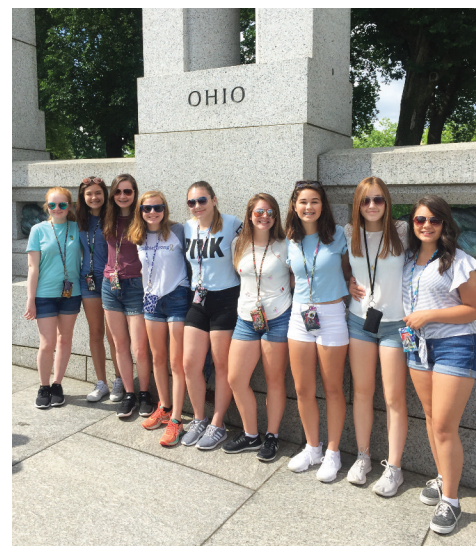
Margletta, who was actually a part of the first-ever D.C. trip at Dover Middle School, has been in charge of the annual trip for the past four years.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience," he said. "A lot of these kids may never go to D.C. again. They may not travel out of Ohio, again. If they're given this opportunity, we're going to make sure they get their money's worth."

Planning for this year's trip began the moment the group got back home from last year's expedition. Hotels were booked and buses were lined up through a tour company.

Four buses will depart Dover on May 22, following months of preparations, including fundraising, meetings with parents and training of students.

"We're meeting with the kids monthly," Margletta explained, "prepping them on how to conduct themselves in the city, how to conduct themselves outside of their parents' realm in a positive way. Part of the experience is preparing for it."

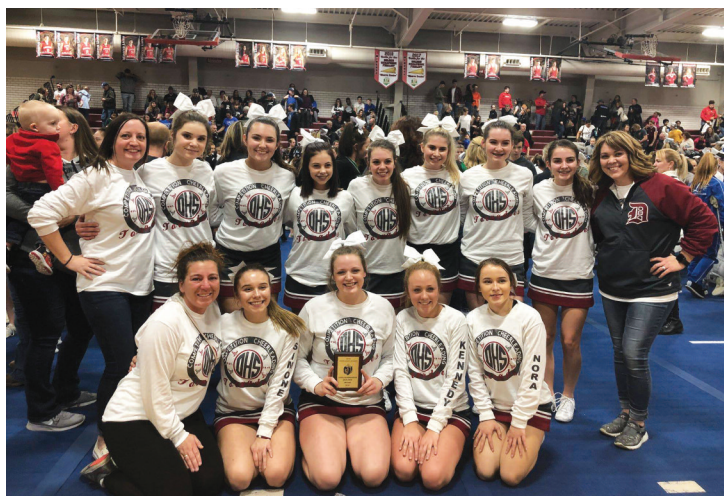


Mirroring the eighth-grade history curriculum, students will experience a trip to George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, they will see all three branches of federal government – the White House, Congress and the Supreme Court – and will experience life in a big, international city.

Margletta has been a part of this trip for nearly two decades, and he looks forward to it every year.

"Every year is just a tremendous experience," he said. "Last year we had one of the guards from the Tomb of the Unknown (Soldier) speak to our school. That was pretty intense because to be qualified to be part of the old guard, the Third Infantry, is a pretty great honor.

"His talk about civic responsibility to our students pretty much reflects the values we teach our students every day. It was good for them to hear."



Congratulations to the DHS competition team who competed in the OASSA Cheer & Dance competition.



Mrs. Spradling's kindergarten class celebrated a month of positive behavior choices with the "Green Team" Dover Dance Force members' visit.