



District Newsletter of Your

# Dover City Schools

Addressing Tomorrow's Challenges Today

.....  
October  
2022

## A Message From Your Superintendent

# Enthusiasm and Optimism Abound



*"There's no doubt that staff and students have begun the school year with hearts full of optimism and enthusiasm."*

- Karie McCrate  
Superintendent

### Dear Dover Residents:

The 2022-2023 school year is off to a great start! We remain committed to our mission of Addressing Tomorrow's Challenges Today. There's no doubt that staff and students have begun the school year with hearts full of optimism and enthusiasm.

I'd like to share with you what parents, staff, students and community members can expect this year:

### Academic Excellence

Our students and staff are learning and growing together. Within the pages of this newsletter, we share stories about great student work happening in our classrooms - from preschoolers through seniors!

### Strategic Planning

District and community leaders including board of education members, administrators, teachers, business leaders, parents and students have been engaging with each other in a strategic planning process. The goal of strategic planning will be to develop themes, goals and action items that will be a roadmap to ensure we continue on a path of progress.

We want to make sure our schools reflect the values of this community and are producing career and college-ready graduates - where students will have the tools and life skills to enter a college or career of their choice. We look forward to sharing the results of this work in early 2023.

### Finances

Dover City Schools is on the Nov. 8 ballot for two renewal levies. Since both issues are renewal levies, it is a **zero increase in taxes**. Funding from the renewal levies will go toward our daily operations including teachers in the classroom, current programming, technology and utilities.

We encourage you to visit our website and follow us on social media for the latest information about our schools. Thank you for your support in making Dover City Schools one of the best!

Sincerely,

Karie McCrate,  
Superintendent



Photo  
credit:  
Solid Rock  
Photos

## Renewal Levies Maintain Current Funding for Dover Schools



School funding may be a complex topic, but it's important to us to provide residents with facts about our finances on a regular basis. Earlier this month, we mailed every resident a copy of our latest Financial Prospectus. It highlights our strong fiscal management as well as the challenges we face in the short and long term so you have a better understanding of our planning priorities. I hope you've had a chance to review it and find it informative.

In November, the board of education will review our latest financial forecast. An important component of our financial stability is the upcoming renewal levies, which will be on the Nov. 8 General Election ballot. These two renewal levies, known as Issues 4 and 5, are a zero increase in taxes.

Combined they will maintain \$5.1 million a year for the school district and represent 22%, or 1/5, of the district's current income. The funding from these two issues would continue to fund the day-to-day operations of the district, including teachers, technology, supplies and utilities.

For more information, please visit our website. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions. I can be reached at (330) 364-7106 or [bruggerk@dovertornadoes.com](mailto:bruggerk@dovertornadoes.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn E. Brugger".

Kathryn Brugger,  
Treasurer



## Welcome New School Resource Officer

Dover City Schools has partnered with the city of Dover to secure a full-time member of the Dover Police Department to serve as a School Resource Officer (SRO) for the district. The SRO will be involved at all schools, playing a key, consistent role in the district's required Threat Assessment Team and in proactively working to avoid safety and security threats within the schools. The officer will be part of the Dover Schools team, collaborating with staff members and assisting as needed in family or student situations.

We are thankful for those who engaged in this process and helped make this happen. An SRO is a valuable resource as one of Dover's multiple layers of safety strategies.



Mrs. Hammerstrom and  
Mrs. Martin's students  
have been learning all  
about apples and Johnny  
Appleseed!



**Share your thoughts.**

**Be a voice.**

**Help our school district by participating in a quick survey.**

OCTOBER | **1-31** | 2022

Dover City Schools is working hard to create a strategic plan for our district.

**We need your help!**

Your anonymous feedback will provide valuable information to the Board of Education as we create a strategic plan to carry the school district through the next three years.



[Click here](#) or scan the code to take our Community/Parent Survey.

The survey is on our website under "News."

**www.dovertornadoes.com**



## Dover Schools Hosting Parent, Renowned Artist Next Spring

For the second year in a row, Dover's high school art students will have the chance to work with – and learn from – a renowned artist: Dover resident Sarah Dugger.

The opportunity is made possible by the Ohio Arts Council, which awards grants through its TeachArtsOhio program. The Artist in Residence program places accomplished professional artists in a variety of educational and community settings to facilitate learning in, through, and about the arts.

Mrs. Stratton, a high school art teacher, secured the grant, and said, "It allows students to gain perspective from their instructor but also from someone who is making a living creating art. It shows them that the arts truly are a career path for those who are more creative or don't see themselves in traditional roles."

Sarah Dugger, a Dover Schools parent and local artist, will visit for roughly two weeks in the spring to share with students her love for textiles. She is a professional textile designer, fine artist and muralist. She has worked in the fashion and home furnishings industries in both New York City and San Francisco and her work has been shown nationally in galleries and museums.

Mrs. Stratton and Mrs. Dugger will work together to convey the lesson, but having Mrs. Dugger guide students throughout the



project will allow the school to expand on its typical printmaking curriculum.

The experience will also involve a lesson from Mrs. Sherrel Rieger, a former Spanish Teacher for Dover Schools, on Guatemalan patterns.

"I hope that it will teach students how to bring their cultural heritage into their design, or at

least appreciate it more," said Mrs. Stratton.

The Artist in Residence program will culminate with a traditional art opening so the community can view the students as well as Mrs. Dugger's work.



## Dover Schools Honing in on Early Literacy With Preschool Children



This school year marks the third in which Dover Schools is using the Heggerty® Phonemic Awareness program to support early literacy, and the results are evident.

South School preschool teachers, Amy Owens and Ashley Kline work with students Tuesday-Friday and spend approximately 10 minutes in both the morning and afternoon sessions each day on these early literacy skills. Heggerty® focuses on beginning sounds, ending sounds, and syllables, but the program is unique because it's all oral; no pictures or letters are used.

Owens said they also emphasize motion along with oral teaching as this often helps cement lessons for early learners.

"About half of our [preschool] students are on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). We've found that this program serves them especially well, partly because every student is working on the same lesson and it makes them feel a part of the group," said Owens.



Another component of the Heggerty® program is Foundations, which includes the use of an alphabet chart – the same one students use in kindergarten and beyond. Kline said it helps build kids' confidence.

"Kindergarten is very different from preschool. We start

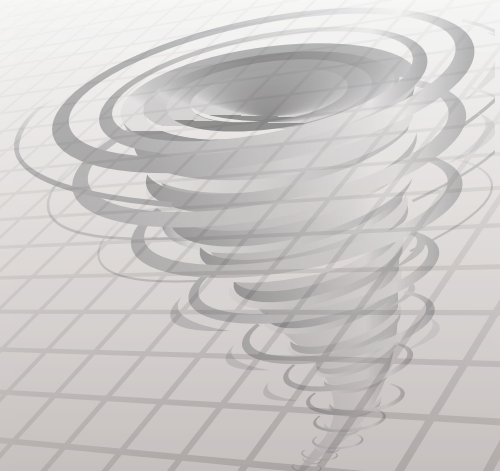
working with a lot of our students when they are just 3-years-old, so by the time they reach kindergarten, they've been consistently using this program for at least two years. They know how to do the lessons and what is expected of them," she said.

Owens and Kline said the amount of growth they see throughout the year is incredible. Many students enter preschool knowing only the first letter of their name; by the end of the year, most of them know nearly the entire alphabet.

The Heggerty® program makes it easy for parents to follow along and reinforce the lessons being taught as well as lessons are sent to parents each Monday.

"I think part of why this program works so well is that it's still very play-based, which is appropriate for this age group," said Owens.

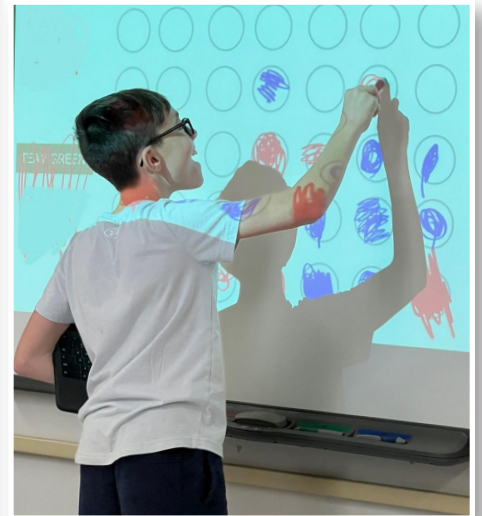
Our preschool students have been enjoying magnatiles, Legos™ and more! Play is a great way for students to learn and build friendships. We love watching these friendships blossom in school!



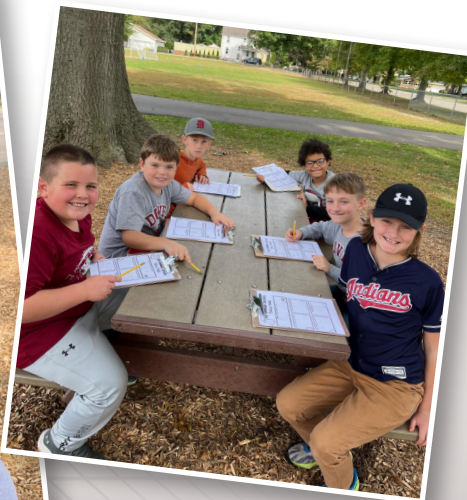




Congratulations to our boys' cross country team for their first place finish at the Meadowbrook Colt Carnival Invitational.



Ms. Krause's seventh-grade math students practiced proportional relationships with a game of Connect Four™ on the class SmartBoard. They were surprised to learn they completed over 450 math problems while playing.



East School students took a nature walk to practice using their five senses. They made observations during the walk and documented what they found. We love seeing our students put their knowledge into practice!





The 22-23 Dover High School Teen Leadership Corps has many opportunities for school and community members to get involved throughout the year, while acquiring leadership skills that will assist them in their futures. Follow them at **@dovertlc** to stay up-to-date.



Mrs. Durant's kindergarten class celebrated Constitution Day by learning about our flag and its importance as a symbol of the United States. They created their own versions of our flag to show their love for our country.







DOVER CITY SCHOOLS

HOME OF THE DOVER TORNAOES

228 West 6th Street  
Dover OH 44622

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
DOVER, OH 44622  
Permit No. 62

**ECRWSS**

## What's Inside:

- Learn more about the Zero Tax Increase Levies for Dover Schools
- We need your Feedback on the Strategic Plan
- Artist in Residency at Dover High School, Preschool and more

**POSTAL PATRON 44622**



Our third-grade Student Council held a Hat Day! Their hat day donations helped raise money for Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County.