



*A Message from
Your Superintendent*

Our Future, Together

Dear Residents:

It's time once again to reflect on another school year for Dover City Schools. For our 192 graduates, it's time to celebrate stepping forward into a new phase in their lives. We celebrate their accomplishments in academics, music, art, theater, and athletics and wish them the very best as they pursue their dreams. The students, along with their teachers and families, are focused on their futures.

Our district values the many programs that we offer to develop our students into well-rounded adults. Their preparation for college or a career is much more than the academic skills they learn in the classroom. The lessons learned on the stage or the competition field will stay with them as they face challenges in their future endeavors. An investment in our children's education pays great dividends.

"As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I want to thank our community, staff, parents, and students for making Dover a future-focused community."



- Carla Birney
Superintendent

As the district moves forward with the reconfiguration of our three elementary buildings, it provides an opportunity to move forward as a community. Change is an opportunity to grow. Elementary staff are moved into their new buildings and working together to create environments in each building designed to meet the needs of all students.

The work to educate our students does not stop over the summer. Our custodial staff is working to clean and prepare our buildings for our students who will return in the fall. Secretaries are working to collect and organize records and materials in each building to best serve our staff, students, and families. Teachers are unpacking, collaborating on curriculum, setting goals, and being trained on the latest educational updates.

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I want to thank our community, staff, parents, and students for making Dover a future-focused community. By working together, we will make the future strong for our kids and community.

Sincerely,

Carla Birney, Superintendent

2019 Dover High School Graduation



Give Us Some Feedback: Take the Community Survey

<https://www.dovertornadoes.com/survey.aspx>

As we are in the process of wrapping up the school year, the Dover City Schools Board of Education continues to face difficult decisions. Following the May loss of the operating levy, the Board and administration have been considering what next steps to take in order to secure long term financial stability in our schools.

And we need your help.

We know that we need to engage more

See **Community Survey** inside

Community Survey

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community members in the conversation. To remain solvent and maintain current operations, the need for additional funds still exists, so we want to work together with our community to decide what our next steps should be.

We would like to hear from you. Whether in a phone conversation or face to face meeting, we want to hear from our stakeholders - community members, parents, and staff - to discuss what you believe the future should look like for our schools. If it is more convenient for you, we will also be conducting an online survey. You can participate by visiting <https://www.dovortornadoes.com/survey.aspx>.

No one likes the idea of asking local community members for additional funding. In education there are only two options to balance our budget: either continue making reductions or seek additional revenue from local residents. These are difficult conversations, but many times difficult decisions must be made.

We remain committed to open communication that provides factual information about our schools to our residents. Our community values and supports our schools. We are sincerely grateful for this strong bond and common goal that we share.

Together, let's decide the future of our schools. Please take the time to provide us with your feedback.

A Message from Treasurer Andrew Bache:

District Financial Forecast Remains a Challenge

It is an honor and a pleasure to serve as the new Dover City Schools treasurer.

As a 2010 graduate, I am thrilled to serve my school district. My teachers at Dover inspired me to pursue a career in finance, and I look forward to being a responsible steward of our taxpayer dollars.

Dover has a history of strong fiscal management. The numbers have to be accurate when they're being used to make tough financial decisions. The treasurer's department has done an exceptional job over the past 15 years crafting forecasts that typically have a 1-2% variance forecast to actual. Our goal is to offer a high-quality education at the best possible value for taxpayers.

Our commitment to lean operations and belt-tightening is evident in our latest five-year financial forecast. The actions taken by the school district to reorganize elementary schools and make other long term reductions have made a positive impact on our financial bottom line. The forecast indicates that our



"I look forward to being a responsible steward of our taxpayer dollars."

- Andrew Bache
Treasurer

financial deficit has been pushed out one year, to 2022.

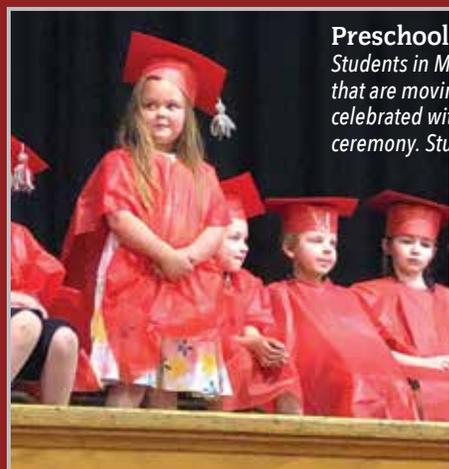
Although we have improved our financial standing, we still have tough decisions ahead. Our financial stability remains at risk and the need for additional funding isn't going away.

Funding options are limited for schools. The fact is the district needs additional resources or we will have to continue to reduce. Any further reductions will have a huge impact in what we offer our students.

No one likes the idea of asking local community members for additional funding. However, we also can't continue to offer

our current programs and opportunities without additional funding.

Conversations with the community are important to our success, and I am happy to answer any financial questions you may have about the school district. Together with our superintendent, Board of Education and staff, I look forward to working with our community to determine the future of our schools.



Preschool Graduation
Students in Mrs. Bellinski's class that are moving on to kindergarten, celebrated with a "graduation" ceremony. Students and families enjoyed hearing about future plans of the Class of 2032. Good luck in kindergarten.

Last Day of School
Students enjoying the last day of school festivities.



AP Capstone Projects Challenge Students

There is a new program in Dover: Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Projects. The first year of this rigorous two-year program just came to a close. AP Capstone projects allow students to pursue independent research and tackle real world problems while working toward an AP Capstone Diploma, the hallmark for a top-achieving student.

Two years ago Assistant Superintendent, Karie McCrate, proposed the idea that Dover apply for becoming a capstone school with the CollegeBoard. Dover was invited to participate. It has taken approximately a year and a half for the planning and implementation process.

Sarah Nottingham teaches the first course of a two course program called AP Seminar and will serve as a mentor and a member of the Internal Review Board, which is currently being formed. The Internal Review Board (IRB) provides an ethical review system for students conducting research. This pivotal committee allows our students to pursue publication of their research after the course has reached its conclusion.

There are 26 students working towards an AP Capstone Diploma. Fourteen seniors will begin their final capstone project in the coming school year and twelve juniors will be completing the AP Seminar course in 2019-2020. Teacher Sarah Nottingham notes the level of confidence of her students as the most substantial change she has witnessed through this program. She explains, "When our juniors



Top-achieving students pursue independent research and tackle real world problems to earn the AP Capstone Diploma.



began the class this year, they were clearly overwhelmed and unsure of themselves. Recently, they presented their final projects, and the pride in their work and the confidence in their abilities was remarkable."

Another important aspect of this program is empowering students to contribute their voice and research to some of society's most difficult issues. Nottingham would love to share the work of her students with the community. She believes that while there is a perception that teens only care about their phones and friends, "the reality is that the kids who are involved in this program care deeply about the political, social, environmental, and economic problems facing the world today. When they are challenged and empowered, they bring new dimensions of creativity and problem-solving."

The varied interests of students and the flexibility and interdisciplinary nature of the course allowed for a wide range of topics for research this year. One project focused on environmental problems such as using nuclear power as a renewable energy source using new nuclear technology that requires mini-processing stations rather than large nuclear power plants. Another project explored the possibility of increasing student achievement by beginning the school day at a later start time. Yet another looked at the impact of society following a vegan diet as a way to reduce global emissions. The possibilities of this program are limitless.



Shout Out

Dover Ave. held their annual "Shout Out"..... as fifth graders were greeted by younger classmates as they exited the building at dismissal on the last day of school! Congratulations to these members of Dover's Class of 2026!

Buckeye Boys State Representatives

Congratulations to the Dover High students who represented DHS at the American Legion Buckeye Boys State 2019 at Miami University: Cameron Spraggins, Ethan Stuart, Michael Murphy, Bradley Gigax, David Finnell, and Noah Morris. All of these young men will be seniors this school year.





Positive Behavior Rewards

Sixth grade students enjoyed time at Tuscora Park, a pizza party, and bowling to celebrate a successful school year. Students were issued a challenge board at the beginning of the final nine weeks with academic and good character criteria. Students who met the criteria goals were rewarded for their success.



DOVER CITY SCHOOLS

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Dover City Schools provides programming to reach students at all literacy levels.

Accelerated Reader Program Engages, Motivates Young Readers

Literacy and reading skills serve as the foundation for all learning. Dover City Schools provides programming to reach students at all literacy levels through the Accelerated Reader program, a differentiated researched-based literacy program. The student reading levels vary as much as five grade levels within one class. Accelerated Reader is individualized according to student reading levels; determined by brief comprehension quizzes.

During their weekly library visits, students are given charms for every five Accelerated Reader points they earn. Twice a year students have the opportunity to earn extra charms; in November is a turkey charm and a heart charm in February. There are also charms that are given in increments of 100 points. Librarian Sue Stephens explains, "It's fulfilling to walk down the hall and have a student give me a 'shout out' that he/she will get a charm on their next visit."

The culminating reward for Accelerated Reader is the Milk and Donut Party. This is a goal students strive for from the beginning of the year. The party has turned into a popular incentive for students. This year 540 students were at the party. Stephens says, "My personal reward for the party was when a student told me that attending the party was the best day of her life!"

Teacher Sharon Maholm says, "Accelerated Reader is a community effort. It truly takes a village. The librarians and teachers emphasize the importance of the program, the parents encourage their children to read, and our PTG provides the incentives. Our Dover Public Library comes into our school and helps promote our Summer Reading Program and has labeled their Accelerated Reader books." An Accelerated Reader Plaque hangs in the library. Every year the student with the highest Accelerated Reader points is celebrated with his/her name added to the plaque.