

SPOTLIGHT ON SOUTHWEST

A quarterly publication for the parents/guardians and local residents sharing good news and updates about our students, staff and the Southwest Local School District!
Fall, 2019



Ground Breaking Ceremonies Begin!

After two years of design meetings, we have finally broken ground! August 23, 2019 was a big day for SLSD! We held three separate ceremonies, one at each of the three new sites: Crosby, Harrison Elementary and the Central Campus. We will start construction on the four new schools, concurrently, this fall. The buildings should be “coming out of the ground” near the end of this calendar year. Construction is scheduled to be complete by the spring of 2021, with demolition of the old schools taking place in the summer of 2021 and then occupancy of the new schools in August of 2021. For a detailed look at the new schools—please visit our website: southwestlocalschools.org and click on the “Facilities for the Future” tab towards the middle of the page.



Superintendent’s Message: Start Fast!

The start of the school year brings with it a tremendous amount of energy! The kids are excited to see friends they may not have seen over the summer, teachers are excited to get back in the classroom with students, and parents are often relieved to get back into a more normal routine with which the school year tends to bring. The start of this school year was no different! We had numerous church and civic leaders help our teachers greet students at the door on opening day—turning it in to quite the celebration! Seeing our students faces as they enter the schools on day 1 is always memorable! From Kindergartners taking on their first day of elementary school to seniors walking through the high school doors—for their last opening day, it’s a powerful experience!

We want to thank our parents and community at large for their flexibility during the first few weeks of school as we grapple with the tremendous growth and additional students to start the year. We also want to thank the Harrison Police Department and Hamilton County Sherriff’s office for their assistance with traffic flow.

This school year will bring about significant changes in terms of both curriculum and delivery of instruction. We have new instructional materials in English Language Arts for grades K-12 and for Math in grades K-8. Both of these resources are much more rigorous than our past materials, and better aligned to Ohio’s Learning Standards at each grade level. There are parent tips available for our new math programs, with homework help tips and video tutorials for each grade level on our district website, under DEPARTMENTS, and then CURRICULUM. The High School also has added a new focus on Industry Credentialing to help prepare students for the workforce.



Harrison High School Students enter school—day 1 (Left)
WWV Principal Mrs. Neckel welcomes back student (Right)



Mrs. Herrick meets with her second graders at Crosby Elem. Day 1

As we continue designing the new schools, slated to open in August of 2021, our athletic department is also embarking on an aggressive facility upgrade to our Wildcat Stadium—including the installation of a turf playing surface, new visitors bleachers, press box and concessions as well as several new irrigated, multi-purpose grass practice fields to the west of the stadium.

This project will consist of multiple phases and will require the assistance of both corporate, family and / or personal donations to make happen! ZERO tax dollars will be used to fund this project, it's purely funded from private donations.

Replacing the grass field inside the stadium currently, with turf, will begin this coming spring, as will the new practice fields. The turf end of the project is estimated to be completed by the fall of 2020. The turf field will enable us to host larger band competitions, youth football games and Special Olympic events that often get hindered by poor weather and a grass playing surface. Future phases and upgrades will involve the visitors bleachers, press box, and concessions.

It's safe to say that in two years our school district, both from an academic and extra-curricular stand point, will look very, very different! If you are interested in contributing to our "Inspired by Excellence" campaign, please contact Athletic Director: Mark Meibers @ 513.367.4169 or mark.meibers@southwestschools.org



2019 / 20 School District Scoreboard Revealed at Annual State of the School's Event

Each year, we set goals for each school and our district in general. The goals are all targeted at living our mission: "Academic and Social Growth, for ALL Students, Every Day!" and reflect parent feedback from the previous end-of-year surveys. Several goals from last year—carry forward to this school year: Staff and Student Safety being the #1 priority each and every day; 100% of our State Report Card academic indicators being met; and 100% of our students participating in an extra-curricular activity during the school year. We also have an operational efficiency goal of saving \$1 million dollars in how we do business throughout the year. Growing our students academically and socially, as well as living our goals of Trust, Respect, Ownership and Leadership are extremely important to what we do each day! We ask that our parents and community join us as we strive to reach each of our goals this school year!

New Elementary School Boundaries Released

The new elementary school boundary lines were released at the State of the Schools event on August 7, 2019. Despite being two years out from occupying the new schools, we wanted to give parents ample time to prepare for what is to come. A quick reminder, each of the new schools will be very similar in design and multiple factors were taken in to account when drawing the boundary lines:

1. Balancing out projected enrollment at each school. With much of the growth happening in the north end of the district, we left a bit more room for future enrollment spikes at Crosby and Central Elementary.
2. Transportation /and bus routes were taken into consideration as well—keeping a student's time on the bus to a minimum is important .
3. And finally, making sure that the schools were as equitable as possible—with regards to mobility, poverty and diversity.

We fully realize that change is not easy and that things may look different today than what our projections hold for 2+ years from now. It's important to remember that all of our K—8th grade students will be in brand new, state of the art schools, built for the 21st century!

Important dates coming up:

- Labor Day (Sept. 2) - No School
- Day of Service (Sept. 14) - Get involved!
- New School Construction Site Fencing Up (Sept. 16)
- Coffee with the Superintendent (Sept. 27)
- First quarter ends (Oct. 11) - No School for Students
- Fall Break (Oct. 14—15) - No School

*Our District webpage offers a much more detailed layout of key dates and events coming up at each school!