

SPOTLIGHT ON SOUTHWEST

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



The Class of 2019 Leaves a Legacy

Each year, SLSD graduates between 250 and 300 seniors. The Class of 2019 walked across the stage on May 30, and all 248 of them leave a lasting legacy and look forward to big futures! Of the 248, 100+ plan on attending a two or four year university, colleges across the United States. We have 15 students signed up to join the military to defend the freedoms we enjoy on a daily basis, and the remaining 125+ are work-place ready! The Class of 2019 earned just over \$600K in college scholarship money and nearly \$100K in college credit via the College Credit Plus program offered at WHHHS! Hats or caps off to our graduates! And 19 student athletes will continue playing at the collegiate level, next year.



Superintendent's Message: Summer 2019, a Time to Rest, Recharge and Reboot!

We had an exciting finish to the 2018 / 19 school year – with numerous music performances, art shows and athletic accomplishments, from grades K – 12! Our teachers and students also really stepped up with both their preparation and performance on the state assessments that spanned a six-week period this spring. The results of these assessments will be shared out later this summer. Our year was, and is, defined by our mission “academic and social growth for ALL students, every day!” In terms of academic growth our goal is 1.5 years gain with just 9 months of instruction. Our teachers take this challenge on with each of their students, from day 1 of the school year. Both our annual MAP assessments and the state tests provide us with data to help support progress towards this goal. In terms of social growth, we look at both student participation rates in extra-curricular activities (both school and community sponsored) as well as student discipline data each quarter. We know that when students are involved, they learn to handle adversity, success and challenge in a different way than when they are not involved. Numerous clubs were created this school year, from the elementary schools up through the high school. Seeing our students participate in these endeavors was powerful! I appreciate our teachers stepping up to provide these extended learning opportunities for our students this school year, and ideas are already being generated for new clubs for next school year!

Now that summer 2019 is here, it's time to rest, recharge and reboot! On the last day of each school year, in my family, we celebrate with a great home cooked meal and talk with each of our kids on what they enjoyed most about the school year, what they disliked, and what they would do different if they could start over. We also talk about summer goals and eventually a Summer Bucket list is formed. We keep bucket lists of past summers as well, and reminisce on fond memories and travels. Several of the items we conjure up deal with travel, or Kings Island or Red's games. Others are more focused on building into the community – like serving at Matthew 25 Ministries once per week, or playing board games with senior citizens at a local nursing home. It's good to balance both giving back as well as enjoying family events on the recreation side!



Miamitown Students Take in a Red's game this spring

As of June 8, we will be finished with the 2nd of three design phases. As of now, we are tracking on time with key completion dates and on budget! The third phase of design gets in to heavy specifics with regards to construction drawings. We expect to wrap this phase up in late July / early August and then dirt starts moving mid-to late August!

The latest design drawings of the new school's exteriors can be found at the Coffee Peddler this summer, as well as on our school district webpage: Southwestschools.org (Facilities for the Future tab). Lastly, we plan to upload the most current information regarding this topic to a new Facebook page this summer. Updates will typically happen on a monthly basis and show the progress being made, once dirt starts moving and the design process is complete.

Our next big event, after construction drawings and the completion of the design process, is bid day or when we go to the market with our construction sub-contractor packages. The market, the impact of global politics and tariffs can play in to what our construction prices look like here in Harrison, Ohio. Bid day will likely take place in September. We are keeping a close eye on several similar projects locally and this will help shape our forecast / projections.



2019 Volunteer Recognition Picnic a Mammoth Success!

At the end of each school year, we look to honor those that help our school district offer what we do. This spring, we celebrated over 220 volunteers—from our different booster organizations to our PTA's, with a picnic at the park! Our schools are as strong as the community and parent support. When parents and community members step up to help our kids and teachers—the potential is great! For the 2019 / 20 school year—parental support and volunteering is going to be essential! Look for ways to get involved, as a parent, in the early school year literature! Step up / stand out! We need you!



What Will be New for the 2019 / 20 School Year!

Throughout the summer, the SLSD administration team and support staff will work to improve each area of our operation. We start with the data and themes that stem from student and parent surveys and then state testing and MAP trends. Both student and parent voices are extremely important as we focus on improving our day to day deliverables—from classroom instruction to front office / customer service. Curriculum and instruction is always an area of intense adjustment—as we look to both live our mission each day, as well as prepare our students to be both college and career ready upon graduation.

Student surveys and advisory groups took place in May. Parent surveys will go out in mid June. State testing results should be released by mid June as well. MAP data is in our hands currently. Another focus this summer involves the High School renovation project (Phase 1—roofing / masonry work) as well as adjusting our playground and traffic flow around our Crosby and Harrison Elementary—due to the se-

-the current school. Both the Crosby and Harrison Elementary parcels are extremely tight—so making sure the safety piece is front and center during construction is extremely important.

The last area of overhaul this summer will be our student mental health platform. More to come on this—later this summer! The Hope Squad will be part of this change!

Important dates coming up:

- JS / HS Summer School: June 10—28th
- New Facilities—Town Hall #3: June 26 @ 7PM (AC)
- First day of school: August 20 , 2019

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