

IN THIS ISSUE: ELYRIA SCHOOLS SPECIAL REPORT

Elyria Board of Education
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THE ELYRIA SCHOOLS **Pioneer** **Press**

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Presenting the state of the schools

In this special issue of the Pioneer Press we present the state of the Elyria Schools.

The State of the Schools is an annual discussion we often host face-to-face at Elyria school board meetings or in another "open session" venue but often, it's to a limited crowd.

The Pioneer Press, with its reach of nearly 25,000 homes, offers a great way to share important updates about Elyria Schools with parents and the community as a whole.

In these pages you'll read about some of the hot buttons in education: Common Core, the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and PARCC testing, to name a few.

You'll have some of your questions



PAUL RIGDA

answered about levies, what they are and why we need them.

You'll get a glimpse of what it means to be a teacher today and the impact of high-stakes testing.

You'll learn about the innovative ways we approach school nutrition and some of the fun facts of our behind-the-scenes operation.

You'll read about school technology, school

lessons for all abilities and school safety.

To offer a story on every aspect of school business would extend well beyond the eight pages of news you are about to read, but we hope it does well addressing some of the most relevant topics of education today and leaves you with a better understanding of your Elyria Schools.

If you should have any questions after reading this special issue, we invite you to attend the Elyria school board meeting on Aug. 6, where we will offer a question-and-answer session based on this issue.

Thank you for reading and thank you for a great school year. See you in August!

Paul Rigda is superintendent of Elyria Schools.

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Wellness of the mind, body and soul

Scott Teaman
Foodservice director

When asked what he liked best about lunch, a Franklin elementary student said, "I like the tomatoes that taste like grapes!"

This is where it all begins: Wellness.

New health laws enacted in 2012 and bolstered in 2013 have transformed food offerings in schools to meet and even exceed expectations.

Elyria Schools foodservice has transformed, by all appearances, into a mini-produce section at the supermarket. Selections include many different types of fruits, vegetables and lettuces, along with salad bars in the secondary locations. The goal is to put the good stuff in front of kids and let them make healthy choices.

The scope of wellness far

exceeds healthy food choices. It includes being active, getting outside, using energy and moving your body, which in turn improves emotional health. A simple walk around the block is a good place to begin for parents and their children.

And since wellness is driven by innovation, we've put new things into place in Elyria Schools to spark students' interest in healthful options.

We began a fine-dining experience at McKinley Elementary school that now takes place in sixth grade at Northwood, Westwood and Eastern Heights middle schools. Students learned there are rules, even beauty, to eating through etiquette lessons. To test and refine table manners, they were treated to a formal meal with white tablecloths,

See **WELLNESS**, 7

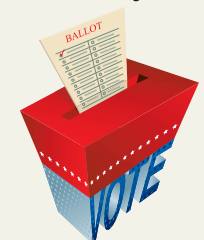


AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Oakwood Elementary students learn how to plant beans at the Sodexo wellness fair.

THANK YOU ELYRIA

For protecting education with your vote on May 6!



Common Core standardizes teaching in Ohio

Amy Keir
Content area specialist

Common Core state standards are Ohio's adopted set of standards for English language arts and mathematics in kindergarten through grade 12.

The standards give uniformity to the skills and knowledge we teach to prepare students for college and careers after high school. Organized in a stair-step fashion, these standards assure that at each grade level, teachers teach and students build their skills for their future.

In Elyria, we have restructured our curriculum maps to include Common Core. These serve as roadmaps for teachers to plan units of instruction and daily lessons that support student learning. Curriculum maps keep individual teachers — and our district as a whole — on track at each grade level.

Careful selection of materials and instructional strategies are parts of this redesign and, according to Common Core, are a local decision. We continue to train and retool teachers to be skillful instructors to Elyria students.

More information about Common Core state standards expectations at each grade level can be found at www.elyriaschools.org/announcements/596.



HEATHER DURDIL / ELYRIA SCHOOLS
The new Common Core standardizes content in Ohio schools.

Taking the write steps



HEATHER DURDIL / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Common Core state standards amp up writing requirements in the classroom.

Common Core standards drive intensive writing practices in the classroom

Amy Keir
Content area specialist

It's the new age of Common Core state standards but the three R's of Reading, Writing, and 'Rithmetic still rule school.

The need for communication through writing has only increased in amount and frequency in which students are expected to express themselves. Whether it's functional, on-demand writing, such as a written

response to literature, or sustained-guided writing such as research, our students must be armed with tools and techniques for the writing process to be successful communicators.

In requiring students to be proficient with writing, we must examine how we can best instruct writing. The Elyria Schools will retool its approach to writing during the 2014-15 school year. Writing expectations for each grade level will be articulated to students and writing will be integrated into quarterly units in English Language Arts, grades K-12, working in tandem with the selected texts students are already assigned to read.

Writing units will focus around three genres

of writing required by the Common Core state standards: Narrative, expository and argumentative. We will arm students with understanding of how writing is applied in the context of a subject area. Cursive writing will continue to be taught in third grade as a component of Wilson Foundations, a phonics and spelling program. Technology will be embedded in the curriculum and a necessary component of students' written work. Teachers will receive training and coaching support throughout the year so they can equip each student with the writing skills they will need for the future, building their skills step-by-step toward graduation.

Bolstering school safety is large focus

Kelly Luter
School climate specialist

Next to academics, there is no greater focus in schools than securing buildings and keeping students safe. Students and school staff participate in fire, tornado, evacuation and lockdown drills throughout the year to prepare for emergencies and keep them from becoming catastrophes. In all drills, building administrators and staff

work directly with Elyria police, fire and the Lorain County Sheriff's Office to ensure staff and students are responding quickly and appropriately.

Today's security concerns are changing the way schools respond in lockdown situations. It's no longer acceptable by logic or law to simply lock the doors, pull the shades and wait for help to arrive when an intruder is in the building. Next year, Elyria Schools will add ALICE, an acronym for

Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate, to its crisis training. ALICE doesn't replace lockdown procedures but it teaches students and staff alternate ways to react to active threats in a school building.

Students, parents and community members can expect to hear more updates on this program as it progresses. It is an important and necessary element of school safety.

Township sidewalks: Perfect paths to school

Richard Nielson

Business services director

Get those bicycles and running shoes ready: Sidewalks are set for students in Elyria Township!

Last year, Elyria Township installed sidewalks on Lake Avenue and Adelbert Street with \$400,000 in funds granted by the Ohio Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Program. Elyria Schools installed new paved paths between Crestwood and Westwood schools.

Elyria Schools, a partner in the project, also hired school crossing guards to work morning and afternoon shifts at Lake and Warden avenues and Lake Avenue and Adelbert Street. For added safety, Elyria Township installed paved approaches to crosswalks, painted crosswalks, added signage and installed reflective posts. The township is working closely with the Lorain County sheriff to boost patrols of these neighborhoods and the sheriff is keeping a wary eye for fast-moving vehicles or those driving in an unsafe manner.

Parents are reminded that students in these neighborhoods who attend Crestwood Elementary School or Westwood Middle School no longer will ride a bus to school in the 2014-15 school year. The new sidewalks and paths provide straightforward access for walkers and bike riders to get to school. Added incentives for walking or biking such as new bike racks and giveaways of bicycle locks and chains and helmets are being promoted at school.



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Westwood Middle students walk to school on new township sidewalks in the early morning hours.

Crestwood and Westwood parents are encouraged to set their transportation plans now, be it walking, biking or car-riding, before their child's return to

school in the fall. Things like "walking school buses," or groups of neighborhood children and adults walking together, are a great way to encourage children to

be active with their friends while giving parents peace of mind when it comes to safety. Summer is also a great time to walk or bike these paths together as a family to

promote togetherness and fitness, but also importantly, to instill confidence and familiarity with new routes to school before school is back in session.

Elyria University is schooling Elyria district teachers

Charlie Rudd and Lisa Getty
Implementation specialists

When Elyria teachers aren't teaching, they're learning best practices for teaching through Elyria University. And they're earning college credit without ever stepping foot on a college campus.

Elyria University is an internal professional-development program for Elyria teachers, taught by Elyria teachers, offering cutting-edge educational seminars and hands-on training. The EU curriculum delves into topics that go beyond the routine. Topics like educating gifted students, understanding autism, implement-

ing Common Core standards, perfecting research-based phonics study and numerous technology courses that give teachers the skills they need to embrace state-of-the-art education technology like SMART boards, wireless devices and accompanying software.

Research shows that an inspiring and informed teacher is the most important school-related factor influencing student achievement, so it is critical to pay close attention to how we train our teachers. Our ongoing professional development keeps teachers up to date on new research on how children learn, emerging

tech tools for the classroom, new curriculum resources and much more. Great teachers create great students.

Most teachers are required to take graduate credit courses to renew their teaching certification — a requirement that can be financially taxing. College courses are offered nationwide, but most of these courses aren't necessarily going to follow the long-term plans, policies and expertise of Elyria Schools. Courses offered through Elyria University are taught or supervised by Elyria staff members who are also Ashland University adjunct faculty, and teachers who participate receive

Ashland University credit. These courses speak to specific needs of Elyria teachers and students as the best professional development is ongoing, collaborative, connected to and derived from working with students and understanding their culture.

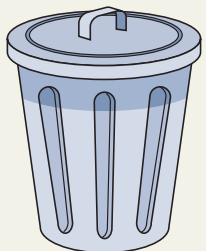
The Elyria University course catalog offers as many as 12 college-level courses that keep Elyria teachers at the forefront of their field. Some courses are offered online and others are offered in a traditional, face-to-face classroom setting. We've served hundreds of teachers with this one-of-a-kind program.

CUSTODIAL FUN FACTS

■ Every evening, 1 million square feet of school buildings are cleaned by the custodial staff districtwide.

■ More than 150 restrooms are cleaned each night by the custodial staff.

■ 60 cubic yards of trash is removed every day by the custodial staff.



■ The district used about 1,200 miles of toilet paper this year — the distance from here to Tampa, Fla.

■ The district has used approximately 475 miles of roll towels over the past year, which is 1,725 times the height of the Empire State Building.

■ The district used approximately 430 gallons of hand soap, enough to fill almost 4,600 soda cans.

■ Over the eleven weeks of summer, the custodial staff will move 25,000 pieces of furniture out of the classrooms, clean them and return them to the classrooms.

■ Over the eleven weeks of summer, the custodial staff will clean and refinish nearly 1 million square feet of floors in the district.



Straight talk on school finances

Katie Henes
Assistant treasurer

Ohio school funding is a controversial matter that rears its head anytime school districts seek renewal or new operating levies. Understandably so, since the Ohio Supreme Court ruled Ohio's method of funding public education unconstitutional with the *DeRolph v. State* decision in 1997. Ohio's school funding issues remain a hot topic that taxpayers and school districts continually address. Until something changes with the public school funding structure, levies are a necessary discussion when it comes to keeping buildings safe, warm and dry, equipping classrooms with materials and technology, transporting students to and from school and keeping highly qualified employees on the job.



Katie Henes

Read on for some of the most frequently asked school finance questions.

Q: Why are levies so important?

A: The funds derived from levies are critical to the operation of the school district. Funds pay for utilities, supplies, salary, benefits, maintenance of building and grounds, transportation of students and more.

Q: What does it mean when a school levy says it's a renewal?

A: Voters have approved the levy in the past. This levy was approved for collection for a certain number of years. That collection period has ended (expired). Upon expiration, voters are asked to approve the same levy for another time period. Nothing related in the terms of the levy changes in a renewal — rate, time period, usage, etc., all stay the same.

Q: What are the types of school levies available to Elyria Schools?

A: Levies come in many shapes and sizes



METRO CREATIVE

but school district levies are most commonly presented as current expense, emergency, bond (construction levy) or permanent improvement issues.

Q: Can we use proceeds from bond issues or the permanent improvement levies for operating expenses?

A: By law, the funds approved in a bond issue are only able to be used for construction purposes. In 2007, the bond issue to rebuild Elyria High School was approved and the funds for that project were spent on construction only. The permanent improvement levy that was a component of the bond issue is a requirement of the bond. Revenue from funds that were received because of the permanent improvement levy can be used only for maintenance related to the high school.

Q: How much was the most recent renewal levy worth?

A: The renewal accounts for \$12.6 million of the district's general operating budget.

Q: Now that it has been approved, what will

it cost taxpayers in Elyria?

A: Unless the assessed value of your property has changed, which is determined by the county auditor, taxpayers should not see a change in taxes caused by the recent passage of the levy renewal.

Q: It seems like these renewals come up often. Why?

A: Each levy has a set term before it expires. The levy that was renewed in May has a term of 10 years so every 10 years it will come up for renewal.

Q: I don't have kids in the school system. Why should levies matter to me?

A: The school district is vital to the community and good schools are at the top of the list for homebuyers because schools help drive property values. All children are entitled to free, public education, and the Elyria school district provides quality education and a well-rounded extracurricular experience for every learner, regardless of age or ability.

Instructional technology needs solid footing to thrive at Elyria Schools

Brian Kokai
Information technology director

Much of the attention given to education technology focuses on computers, tablets and SMART boards, and deservedly so because they are the teacher tools used in the classroom.

But these devices need a solid infrastructure before they can support the activities and data-network traffic that is



Brian Kokai

demanding of them for day-to-day classroom work. The Elyria Schools IT department spends considerable time rebuilding and upgrading its core technology support systems to keep up with the district's network needs.

In 2013-14, we added more than 20 new network switches at the elementary and middle schools, giving us 10 times the bandwidth. We installed nearly 150 wireless access points to give every building Wi-Fi coverage and upgraded the district's Internet connection for four times the speed to give teachers and staff faster, more effective access to instructional technology.



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

New wireless access points give every building Wi-Fi coverage for instructional technology needs.

SYMBIOSIS IN SCHOOLS

Teacher success, student growth paired for new evaluations

Gary Taylor

Director of human resources

State leaders aren't just measuring student performance in the classroom — they're measuring teacher success, too.

Ohio's new approach to evaluating teachers, dubbed the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System, or OTES, now involves a bit of a twist. It relies on a familiar method of tracking teaching methods and instructional content, but it also relies on student data, tracking students at two points during their studies to provide a comparative snapshot of their academic growth.

This new method will replace the evaluation model Elyria Schools currently uses, which only reviews teachers' instructional methods and overall effectiveness.

The school district is in the process of transitioning its current teacher performance evaluation system to the OTES model, conforming to recently established state legislative regulations. The procedures governing its use were developed in a joint effort of the district's administration and the Elyria teachers association.

Teacher performance will be evaluated annually through both formal and informal classroom observations, as well as an established professional growth plan.

The evaluation instrument consists of two main components — the teacher's classroom instructional effectiveness, and the student's educational growth as measured over two points in time. The teacher's performance and the student's growth measures are equally weighted. While Elyria Schools has always evaluated teachers' instructional perform-



Gary Taylor



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

New teacher evaluation system measures teacher instructional practices and student achievement.

ance, the student educational growth measure is a completely new addition to evaluating teacher effectiveness.

In 2013-14, Elyria Schools "piloted" OTES in each of its buildings with teacher volunteers. It will go live in the upcoming 2014-15 school year, with all teachers participating.

Similar to providing students with instructional feedback, OTES will provide a framework and basis for assessing and providing feedback to instructional leaders with the purpose of:

- Assessing a teacher's instructional performance.
- Assisting the teacher to achieve greater effectiveness.
- Providing tools to advance the teacher's professional development.
- Identifying observed teacher

competencies.

- Facilitate communication.
- Identify any areas of improvement and to assist the teacher in any identified areas.

The district's leaders maintain a high degree of confidence in the expertise, effectiveness and professionalism of its teaching staff and believe the new OTES

evaluation model will only enhance these competencies while increasing overall student performance.

It's a Little Pioneer

ROUNDUP

Elyria Schools NOW
Enrolling Kindergarten

440 284-8220



MAINTENANCE FUN FACTS

■ Last year, 860 gallons of field paint were used to prepare the various sports fields for use.

■ There are 284 acres in the district that get mowed on average every week and a half from mid-March through mid-November.

FOOD SERVICE FUN FACTS

■ In the 2013-14 school year, 1.86 million cartons of milk were served to Elyria Schools students and staff.

■ In the 2013-14 school year, 1.68 million meals were served to Elyria Schools students and staff.

■ The Elyria Food Service Department used 27,852 pounds of cheese — that's a lot of cheese!

GREEN CLEANING FUN FACTS

■ Green Cleaning began as a pilot program at Elyria High School in 2010, with Westwood Middle School being added as a "green" school in 2011.

■ EHS uses two automatic floor scrubbing machines powered by electrically energized water to clean the hallway floors.

■ A school becomes "green" when all of the different chemicals are removed from the building and replaced with three or four "green" products.

Here's the 411 on the Third Grade Reading Guarantee

Ann Schloss

Director of academic services

There are many questions swirling around the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and for good reason. The notion that children will be held back if they don't pass a reading test in third grade is too unsettling to ignore for most parents. Retention is not a solution that most educators support but we are bound by law to comply with state requirements. We have many intervention programs in place in Elyria to assist students who may not be on track for grade-level reading and we are working hard to help students get where they need to go and to assist parents with ways to help at home.

Here are some of the nuts and bolts of the third grade guarantee: how it came to be, what it is and what to do if it impacts your child.

We are here to help. If you have questions or concerns, please call the Elyria Schools Academic Services Department at 284-8271.

Q: What is the Third Grade Reading Guarantee?

A: In 2012, Ohio passed the Third Grade Reading Guarantee (Senate Bill 316) into law. All Ohio school districts must follow the requirements that are outlined in the law. The requirements say all students in kindergarten through third grade must complete a reading



Ann Schloss

diagnostic to identify students who are struggling (not on-track) academically with reading concepts. These diagnostics must be given by Sept. 30.

Q: Are there any students exempt from this law?

A: Some students may be exempt from the requirements of this law.

■ Special education students with an individualized education program that exempts them from retention requirements.

■ English Language Learner students that have been enrolled in schools in the United States for less than two full years.

■ Students who have received intensive remediation for two years and previously were retained in kindergarten through third grade.

Q: What happens if my child is identified not-on-track?

A: Once the September diagnostics are finalized and the designations have been made, a student who is identified as "not on-track" will receive reading interventions in relation to their specific area of need. Each student identified "not on-track" will receive a Reading Improvement Monitoring Plan that will outline the interventions that we will use to help the student succeed.

Q: What assessments will be given to my

child to show progress?

A: Each third grader will be given the fall and spring Ohio Achievement Assessment. If the student earns above the state-required minimum score, the child will no longer be deemed as being not on-track. The district will also give an alternative assessment several times during the year to all students who don't meet the state-required minimum scores on the Ohio Achievement Assessment. The district continually tracks growth and every two weeks teachers are able to see what progress students are making, helping them determine if students are receiving appropriate interventions.

Q: Will my child be retained?

A: If your third-grade child doesn't meet the requirements of the law as stated, your child will be retained under the third grade guarantee.

Q: What can I do at home to help make sure my child is developing strong literacy skills?

A: Parents are an important part of each child's learning process and it's vital that all students develop an interest in reading. Any time a parent can encourage a child to read and model that behavior, it will help the child build comprehension and vocabulary skills. The partnership between school and home is important in each child's educational journey and it's important to work together to help Elyria students be successful.

Elyria Schools calendar for 2014-15

AUGUST

- 11 — Schools offices open
- 26 — First day of school
- 29 — Professional Day — No school for students

SEPTEMBER

- 1 — Labor Day — Schools closed

OCTOBER

- 17 — NEOEA Day — Schools closed
- 24 — End of first grading period
- 27 — In-service/Records Day — No school for students

NOVEMBER

- 4 — Professional Day — No school for students
- 26 — Conference Make-Up Day — No school for students
- 27 — Thanksgiving vacation — Schools closed
- 28 — Thanksgiving vacation — Schools closed

DECEMBER

- 22 — Winter Break begins — Schools closed

JANUARY

- 5 — School resumes
- 16 — End of second grading period
- 19 — Martin Luther King Day — Schools closed
- 26 — Professional Day — No school for students

FEBRUARY

- 16 — President's Day — Schools closed
- 17 — Annual Elyria Schools Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday Fundraiser

MARCH

- 27 — End of third grading period
- 30 — Records Day — No school for students

APRIL

- 2 — Conference Make-Up Day — No school for students
- 3 — Spring Break begins — Schools closed
- 13 — School resumes

MAY

- 25 — Memorial Day — Schools closed

JUNE

- 8 — End of fourth grading period; last day for students

Students are testing out new tests

Elyria Students pilot online assessments for high-stakes testing

Ramona Mendak

Assistant academic services director

Education acronyms are a veritable alphabet soup. But one you've probably heard a lot about in recent months is PARCC, which stands for Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers.

PARCC is developing a common set of assessments in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics based on the Common Core state standards. These new tests are online and are called Next Generation Assessments. They begin next school year, replacing the third- through eighth-grade Ohio Achievement Assessment.

This spring, Elyria students gave new PARCC assessments a try. In March, a pilot group of students in grades three through eight participated in a Performance-Based Assessment, and in May, an additional group of same-aged students took End-of-Year Assessments. The pilots gave administrators, teachers and students a look at what to expect next year with the Next Generation online assessments. Because the new tests are computer based, it also let us know what technology was needed to carry out the tests, what technology skills needed to be reinforced in the classroom, what testing procedures needed to be in place and how



HEATHER DURDIL / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

New online assessments were piloted successfully in Elyria earlier this year.

this all would impact classroom instruction in preparing students for the new tests.

Elyria Schools has been preparing to implement online assessments for several years, which set the stage for a successful pilot program. We were able to ready our

technology infrastructure, train administrators and staff on PARCC procedures and administering guidelines, carry out a mock trial to work out any errors, provide tutorials for students and assist students and building-level test coordinators on the pilot-testing days.

Teachers, students and administrators who participated in the pilot provided feedback on the system's strengths and weaknesses, and their input is being used to work out system bugs this summer before the assessments ever reach the classrooms next school year.

WELLNESS

From 1

glassware and silver utensils. They learned how to initiate table conversation, which utensil to use when and to pass shared items from left to right. School administrators and board members dined with them as they practiced their newly acquired skills.

In May, Sodexo piloted a wellness fair at Oakwood Elementary. The high-energy event showed students how to sow a bean plant, how to identify fruits and vegetables, how to turn fruits and vegetables into delicious smoothies, how nutrition impacts your body's organs, how hand-washing and personal hygiene matters in good health and how police and firefighters are here to help. The pilot was successful, so watch for its expansion next year into additional schools throughout the district.

SUMMER SMOOTHIES

Carrot, Orange and Apple Juice

Ingredients

- ½ cup cold water
- 1 orange, including white part of peel, quartered
- ½ apple, seeded, halved
- ½ inch slice of pineapple, core included
- 1 medium carrot, halved or about 1/3 cup chopped
- 1 cup ice cubes

Directions

1. Place all ingredients into the blender in order listed and secure lid.
2. Turn machine on Low and slowly increase speed to High.
3. Blend for one minute or until smooth. Serve immediately.

Everything Smoothie

Ingredients

- ½ cup skim milk
- ½ cup red or green grapes
- 1 medium orange, peeled, halved, seeded
- ½ cup frozen peach slices, thawed
- ½ cup fresh pineapple chunks, core incl.
- ½ medium carrot
- ½ cup fresh broccoli, chopped
- ½ cup fresh spinach, washed
- 1 cup strawberries, fresh or frozen
- ¼ banana, peeled, frozen
- 1 cup ice cubes

Directions

1. Place all ingredients into the blender in the order listed and secure the lid.
2. Turn machine on Low and slowly increase to High.
3. Blend for one minute, or until desired consistency is reached.

Triple Berry Smoothie

Ingredients

- ½ cup water
- ½ cup vanilla low-fat yogurt
- ½ cup red grapes
- ½ cup frozen unsweetened strawberries
- ½ cup frozen blueberries
- ½ cup frozen raspberries

Directions

1. Place all ingredients into the blender in order listed and secure lid.
2. Select Variable 1.
3. Turn machine on and slowly increase speed to low, then high.
4. Blend for one minute or until desired consistency is reached.

Recipes are courtesy of Sodexo.

AT A GLANCE

Special education

Kristen Metz
Autism specialist



HEATHER DURDIL / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Students compete in Special Olympics at Ely Stadium.



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Students at Windsor Elementary School use voice output devices to speak their lines in a play.

Technology aids students with disabilities

Technology has become an integral part of learning in schools and for students with disabilities. It can mean voice-output devices for communication, adapted equipment for gaining access to the curriculum and daily school activities and so

much more. Students with disabilities have access to assistive technology within the classroom and an Elyria Schools assistive-technology team is ready to help you and your child through the assistive-technology process.

Modified curriculum tailors content to student needs

Students with moderate-to-intensive disabilities are given the same opportunities as their typical peers in Elyria with the adoption of the Ohio Academic Content Standards — Extended Version. Students at all grade levels receive instruction in subjects that are similar to their peers who are

typically developing. Grade levels are broken into bands such as K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Units are created and designed around themes with a focus on science, social studies, math and language arts. Daily living skills also are incorporated into the units.

Adapted physical education in the schools

Greg Burgund has joined Elyria Schools this year as the new adapted physical education teacher. He works with students, individually and in small and large groups, on a

variety of motor activities to support their gross motor needs. He also works with the staff on modifying and including students in the general physical education courses.



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER! SEE YOU IN AUGUST!