

# The CEA Voice

[www.ceaohio.org](http://www.ceaohio.org)

Volume XXXVIII, No. 19

Columbus Education Association

January 14, 2008

## Eliminating middle schools

Starting in 2009, a portion of the district's middle-school students could move directly to high school.

This is the recommendation of the Linden Task Force, a community group that has been studying ways to improve student and resource distribution in the area.

Under the plan, unveiled Dec. 18 before the school board, seventh- and eighth-graders would move directly to high school. Linden-area students would be first, moving directly into Linden-McKinley. Meanwhile, sixth-graders from the neighborhood, as early as this fall, would be moved to Hamilton, Linden, South Mifflin and Windsor elementary schools.

If the model is proved viable, it could be extended to the entire district.

Superintendent Gene Harris said the proposal would allow for more even distribution of staff to classrooms where they are needed most. It also would reduce the district's operating costs.

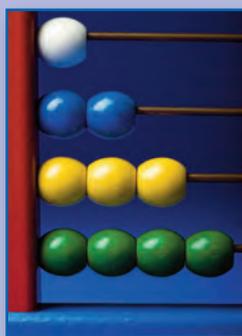
Linden parents have spoken in the past about their concerns over this plan, especially regarding the safety of seventh- and eighth-grade students in contact with older teenagers.

The task force also recommends the formation of committees to distribute information about changes, to plan activities to unite the schools and community, study ways to offer more support services for students and to implement the practices of high-performing urban schools in other areas.

## We can count our successes

As we step into 2008, we have many things to celebrate. For instance during 2007:

- ➊ The DeVry Advantage Academy opened its doors to 46 Columbus students. They are studying network administration while completing high school work.
- ➋ The Columbus Africentric Early College program opened at Columbus State Community College. More than 230 students took enrichment courses for college credit at Columbus State. Eleven juniors are on target to graduate with associate degrees.
- ➌ The class of 2007 earned a district record of \$45.8 million in scholarships and grants.
- ➍ Columbus teachers earned Ohio Teacher of the Year for two of the past five years.
- ➎ Columbus leads the state with more than 100 National Board Certified Teachers.
- ➏ More than 13,600 students in our district were identified as gifted and talented.



- ➐ Project Mentor is in full swing. Many of the 1,000 middle school students identified already have adult mentors.

We know we're headed down the right path. A recent survey by Partnership for the 21st Century shows the public realizes that students need a variety of experiences to be successful. Students need problem-solving skills, oral communication training, technical skills (such as computers) and a chance to be creative. They also need exposure to leadership opportunities.

The programs we've begun are a good start. Let's keep a *can-do* attitude during 2008. Progress will take time, but we're showing it's possible.

## Credit Recovery needs help

More than 100 teachers in Columbus City Schools give high school students a second chance at graduating through their active involvement in the district-wide Credit Recovery program (CR). The 5-year-old program allows students to earn high school credits by retaking previously failed core academic courses through mastery-based computer software.



While CR has helped to increase high school graduation rates across the district, serious questions have been raised and remain unanswered about the day-to-day operations of the program.

Faculty Representatives framed the concerns and questions of their fellow teachers at a recent discussion on CR.

- ➔ Should students who cut class during the day be admitted to CR during or after school?
- ➔ Is training available for teachers who want to increase their proficiency with the software?
- ➔ What is the policy regarding students who cheat during CR?
- ➔ Should a student stop attending a regular class in order to spend more time participating in CR?
- ➔ What is the policy on removing disruptive students enrolled in CR?
- ➔ Should students be allowed to take CR simply to get a higher letter grade?
- ➔ Should a *lead teacher* be designated and paid to do the administrative work required to manage CR?
- ➔ Should additional staff be provided for the after-school program in order to better serve students enrolled in CR?

CEA calls on the administration of CCS to assist teachers in their efforts to increase the graduation rate through CR by solving these problems in partnership with CEA. Our teachers are stepping up and making it happen for students— it is only fair that the administration do the same.

To share your experiences about Credit Recovery, surf to the CEA Blog at [blog.ceaohio.org](http://blog.ceaohio.org).

## King dinner tickets available

Tickets for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner are available from CEA (253-4731) until Monday, Jan. 14.

The event will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 16, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus beginning with a social hour at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m.

Rev. Leon Troy, Sr. is the recipient of the King Humanitarian Award and Cathy Nelson is the recipient of the Helen Jenkins Davis Award. The keynote speaker is Thomas N. Todd, a nationally recognized civil rights attorney.

## CEA member survey

Selected CEA members will be asked to complete an on-line survey to give your union more information about members' needs. The survey will be launched on Friday, Jan. 18.

Information from the survey will help the Association:

- Shape priorities to fit member needs
- Gain member endorsement and participation in strategy execution
- Increase member engagement and activism
- Refine strategy for charter schools
- Understand members' knowledge and perceptions
- Target participation and communication efforts
- Engage specific groups, such as newer members

If you receive notification that you have been selected, please take time to fill out the survey. We believe the results will benefit all of us.

## Join Teachers for Better Schools

Investing in TBS makes certain teachers' voices heard by schools board members, legislators and other elected officials. The following is a list of payroll deduction contributors to TBS who work in buildings/units in CEA District 1:

Carrie Apthorpe, Elisabeth Belkin, Marsha Botomogno, Mackoline Brooks, Krista Buckley, Maggie Burnes, Jane Butler, Isabelle Cadenel-Newkirk, Kathleen Camerucci, John Coneglio, Kriston Crombie, Kathleen Durkin, Tamara Fisher, Marty Flood, Gregory Goodlander, Leslie Haas, Susan Hall, Deborah Harris, Carla Harris-Springer, Nicole Hernandez, Jessica Hill, Alison Hursey, Jennifer Jackson Sangare, Donna Jarrett, Rebecca Jezerinac, Rachelle King, Kelly Kirk, Greta Langston, Amy Leek, Jacqueline Levakis, Becky Lewis, Nicole McDougall, Rebecca Meske, Catherine Miller, Michael Mitchell, Karen Mughan, Kari Pietrangelo, Carla Robinson, Dale Rucker, Sara Ryder, Jai Scott, Deborah Smith, Micheolle Smith, Traci Sprague-Halterman, Nancy Startz, Gail Steele, Rene Steiner, Mary Truelove, Vincent Tubuo, Diana Welsh, Rochelle Wilkerson, Carolyn Williams, Carlene Wymer and Susan Zeppernick.

We will continue to recognize members who contribute by payroll deduction in future issues of *The Voice*. You can add your name to the list by joining TBS. A form can be found at <http://www.ceaohio.org/docs/content/4TBS%20Membership%20Form.pdf>.

## Teachers needed for curriculum development

The Department of Curriculum Leadership Development is seeking teachers to help write curriculum in all subject areas, draft assessment items and help present various curriculum training sessions to their peers.

Interested teachers will receive a \$10 per hour training stipend and CEUs. For their work, they will receive the supplemental hourly rate of \$27.78 per hour.

For more information, visit the Staff Development page of the Columbus City Schools Web site. The deadline for registration is Jan. 25.

We encourage participation in this valuable work. Teachers have rated this type of professional development highly among selections offered by the district.

## The Reform Panel needs your input

The Reform Panel wants to collect information about your building's All School Improvement Plan (ASIP) and the All School Improvement Team (ASIT) in order to assist and support student achievement at all levels.

The Reform Panel is seeking your input in two ways. Everyone can participate by taking a short, 11-question on-line survey. The survey will be available on the CCS Web site under the *For Staff* section from Jan. 14–21. Some teachers will be randomly chosen to participate in a focus group.

CEA strongly urges you to take time to complete the survey and to participate in the the focus group if you are selected.

## Congratulations to our new NBCTs

Columbus teachers should be proud. At a total of 105 National Board Certified Teachers, we continue to lead the state with the most NBCTs working in our district. Each of these teachers has met rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self assessment and peer review. Our new National Board Certified Teachers are:

- **Traci Arway**, Livingston @Beck ES, Exceptional Needs Specialist/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood
- **Elizabeth Keller**, Starling MS, School Counseling/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood
- **Olivia Siegfried**, Salem ES, Exceptional Needs Specialist/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood
- **Pamela Snyder**, East HS on Arcadia, Science/Early Adolescence
- **Kathleen Welton**, Maize ES, Generalist/Early Childhood

Congratulations also goes to CEA member Thomas Trang, one of the newest members of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). The former Centennial High School teacher is currently teaching science at the Metro School. As recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, a 2003 Fulbright Scholar, a recipient of the Ohio Governor Award for Excellence in Teaching, and a Disney's Excellence in Teaching nominee, Thomas exemplifies the outstanding educators in Columbus and will be a powerful voice on the board.

## Special notes

- Sister's Network, Inc.** ([www.sistersnetworkinc.org](http://www.sistersnetworkinc.org)) is starting a chapter in Columbus for **African-American breast cancer survivors**. Attend the welcome reception on **Jan. 15** at the King Arts Complex at 6 p.m. For questions, call Bertie Ford at 581-2177.
- CEA Spring Elections:** Members may declare candidacy for open positions now through Feb. 8. The following positions are open: President, Vice President and Governors for Districts 5, 8 and 11. Delegates will also be elected for the 2008–2009 OEA Representative Assemblies and the 2008 NEA Representative Assembly. Campaigning will take place from Feb. 11–Feb. 25. Voting will be conducted from Feb. 26–Mar. 10. The CEA Elections Committee will tabulate the ballots on Mar. 11. Declaration forms are available from the CEA office.
- Barnes & Noble Educator Appreciation Week** is **Jan. 19–27 at the Lennox location only**. PreK–12 teachers and librarians with a Barnes & Noble Educator Discount Card get 25 percent off all books and 10 percent off CDs and DVDs. Visit on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 4–7 p.m. for free café drinks and drawings.
- Blue Jacket Tickets** are available for **Jan. 15** for Vancouver (2). Call CEA at 253-4731 to purchase tickets.

