



Upcoming Tax Renewal Information

On March 15 of 2016, the Versailles School District will be on the ballot to renew the 1% income tax that was passed in March of 2012. The first question most people ask are “Well, how are the finances of the district?” My answer is the district’s financial outlook are in the best position ever. There are a few reasons for our great financial outlook:

- The State of Ohio has increased its contribution to the school district by about 40%, due to increased economic activity from the recession
- Cost management by the district, including the reductions from 2011 and 2012
- The earned income tax increase from $\frac{3}{4}\%$ to 1%

I had dialogue with many community members at various community and group meetings in November and December about the recommendation to renew the levy dialogue. There was concern about decreasing the income tax because of the instability of the economy and government direction.

After listening to community members inputs, the Board of Education elected in December to place on the ballot an income tax renewal at the 1% level.

What has the district done to lower taxes for the community? There are many parts to this answer since I have been part of the district. Below are some:

- Staying within our budget. The district has added to our fund balance every year.
- The oversight from former Superintendent and project manager, Tom Doseck and former Treasurer Alan Barga on the building of the new school produced great savings and returns. The closing of the building project placed about \$1.5 million dollars into debt retirement and about \$1.5 million into permanent improvements.
- Because of the strong financial outlook of the district, current Treasurer Jenna Meyer was able to pay off some of the bonds and get a bond rating increase. The ratings increase allowed the district to refinance our outstanding debt (currently around \$9.3 million down from originally \$13.9 million) which lowered the bond interest rates.
- The Board of Education elected to contribute an additional \$400,000 into debt retirement in December of 2015.

What is the cumulative effect of the above measures along with other factors happening in the district?

The original building levy passed in November of 2006 was estimated at 7.43 mills for 28 years for the building and 23 years of .5 mills for maintenance of the building. From 2008-2014, the actual collections were 7.60 mills. In 2015, the rate for collecting mills went down to 5.75 for the building. The rate has been further reduced to 3.86 mills for 2016. The Board of Education plans to transfer funds to the debt retirement that will further reduce collections needed to pay off the loan.

Who is responsible for this all this?

Everyone in the district from teachers, aides, secretaries, food service & transportation employees, principals, Treasurer, students, parents, families, community members, and local businesses. This includes the various active support groups that do great things to support our students and district such as the: Athletic Boosters, Music Boosters, PTO, Diamond Club and Friends of Hole Field.

E Days

Versailles Exempted Village Schools has the option to participate in EDays this school year. Electronic “Make Up” Days, EDays, are electronic lessons that students can access at home via the web on days when school is not in session due to bad weather. If students complete the assignments, the day can be counted as a day of attendance. We have three such days available for our use this school year. These days will be used ONLY after all five calamity days have been exhausted to avoid or limit days being added to the end of the school year.

A OneCall message will be sent out on the day that is declared an EDay. K-4 students will need to access their assignments from their building’s website. EDays are listed under the academic tab or at <http://es.versailles.k12.oh.us/academics/eday>. Students in grades 5-12 will need to access assignments from their individual Google Classroom accounts.

Students have two weeks from the day the EDay is declared to complete the electronic lessons. These lessons are not “optional”. Any student who does not complete the assignments within the two week time frame will be marked with an unexcused absence for this day.

Students who do not have internet access at home or are not able to access it through other means (friend, relative, public library) may complete the work during non-instructional times at school (i.e. study hall, specials, recess, lunch break, or if prior arrangements are made before/after school).

It would be advisable to check out the access you have to these lessons now and even view them with your child(ren) in advance of an eDay. These lessons may change from the time you view them in order for them to coincide better with the content being taught at the time of the EDay.

All teachers will be checking email throughout the EDay to answer questions.

Congratulations & Best of Luck

Congratulations to our Darke County Spelling Bee contestants seventh grader Cayla Batten and fourth grader Tori Tyo. Both represented Versailles Schools well, with Tori being Runner-Up at the contest. Fantastic job by a couple of our young students.

Best of luck to VHS and VMS athletic teams as they approach the ends of their seasons.

Good luck to HS Band, HS Choir groups, as well as, our individuals and small groups, who will performs at the OMEA District Competition this month.

Congratulations to Grace Francis, Hannah Grilliot, Emily Kramer, Brody Hyre, and Quincy Baltes on their performance at the OMEA District XI Honors Band on January 23rd.



Kindergarten Registration For 2016-17

The Versailles Elementary School office will begin scheduling appointments for Kindergarten registration/screening on Monday, February 1, 2016. The screenings will be held Tuesday, March 22 and Wednesday, March 23. Three sessions will be held each day: 8:00 - 10:00, 10:15 - 12:15, and 1:00 - 3:00. All sessions will begin in the Versailles K-6 Gym. Eligible students must live in the Versailles School District and currently must be five (5) years old by August 1, 2016 to attend Kindergarten this fall. You only need to attend one session.

Please call Mrs. Moore at the Versailles Elementary office, 937-526-4681, option 1, to make a screening appointment for your child. You may call weekdays beginning February 1 between 8:30 AM and 2:30 PM.

One parent must attend the two-hour session with the child. Parents will complete the registration process and attend a Jumpstart session while the child completes the screening process. This meeting is for parents and the kindergarten student(s) only. Arrangements should be made for other children.

Parents will receive a confirmation letter in early March. Included with that letter will be a registration form that needs to be completed and returned the day of JumpStart. Parents must also bring a certified birth certificate for the child (one issued by the state with raised seal), social security card, any custody papers involving the child, a record of any immunizations already given, proof of residency and transportation/babysitter information for fall.

Open enrollment openings will be decided by April 1st.

District Report Card

Recently, the Ohio Department of Education released 3 parts of the District Report Card: K-3 Literacy, Graduation Rate, and Prepared for Success.

What does K-3 Literacy measure? K-3 Literacy measures whether students who were identified on a diagnostic test as below grade level and the following year tested at grade level about a year later.

What score did Versailles achieve? Versailles achieved a "C" grade. The grade is based on the number of students identified as not on track and then getting on track. Forty-nine (49) students were identified as "off track", with 29 students improving to "on track" at the next testing point.

Is this important? Yes, Versailles Elementary strives to have all students on track with literacy. Is this the entire story of literacy at Versailles Elementary School? No. This measure does not show progress of the students, only on or off track. This grade does not provide for the other tests students are allowed to take to demonstrate

being "on track" for grade level and pass the third grade reading guarantee. All third grade students have successfully passed the requirements of the 3rd grade reading guarantee the past two years.

Graduation rate for 4 and 5 years are strong at 99% and 100%. An "A" grade was earned.

Prepared for Success does not offer a grade for the district, just information on ACT/SAT participation and results, industry credentials, advanced placement class participation and testing and dual enrollment number from last year.

Typically, our numbers are strong compared to similar districts. However, we continue to look at ways to improve our practices to improve student achievement.

The remaining parts of the report card: Achievement, Progress and Gap Closing will be released in late February.

Superintendent

Aaron Moran

Treasurer

Jenna Meyer

Board Members

Hope Batty

Ron Gehret

Tom Ording

Steve Ruhenkamp

VES Principal

Brenda Braun

VMS Principal

Jeanne Osterfeld

VHS Principal

Roger McEldowney



Versailles Exempted Village School District
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NO SCHOOL!

Friday, February 12 for Staff Development

Monday, February 15 for President's Day



GO TIGERS!