
The Greyhound



A publication of the New Lebanon Local School District

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www.newlebanon.k12.oh.us

District Wide Efforts Successfully Increase Student Achievement

The Ohio Department of Education annually rates each school district in the state and every building within the districts using 26 "indicators." At the district level, New Lebanon Local Schools earned an *Effective* rating for the 2009-2010 school year by meeting, and scoring higher than the state average on, 22 of the 26 indicators. The district earned a 96.5 Performance Index Score and earned "above expected growth" in the value-added measure.

At the individual building level, both Dixie Elementary and Dixie High School earned ratings of *Excellent* for the 2009-2010 school year. Both schools met all of their indicators; the elementary school scored higher than the state average in every category, and the high school outperformed the state average in 11 of 12 indicators. Dixie Middle School met and scored higher than the state average on 7 of 11 indicators, earning an *Effective* designation for the past school year. **Find more information about the school district's Local Report Card at <http://ilrc.ode.state.oh.us>.**

These substantial gains are the direct result of the efforts of teachers, administrators, and other staff, and they deserve to be commended. The district's Ohio Improvement Planning Process was guided by the District Leadership Team made up of teacher representatives from different grade levels and/or subject areas. Their plans and the implementation of them have paid off for students in the classroom.

In order to continue improving student achievement, the District Leadership Team and the Building Leadership Teams have updated their plans, based on data collected over the last school year. One of this year's initiatives is to implement positive behavior supports throughout the district. The underlying core belief in our students' ability to improve both their academic achievement and their behavior is expressed in the district equation "Respect + Responsibility + Achievement = Success."

Dixie schools continue to make the achievement of *all* students a priority, and closing the achievement gaps among subgroups of our student population is an important component of that goal. We are grateful for the fantastic support from parents and the entire New Lebanon community for the schools' efforts. Clearly those efforts are successful; New Lebanon can be very proud of its schools and of the young people who attend them!

Dixie Elementary School Declared a "School of Promise"

Based on the results of the school's 2009-2010 state report card, the Ohio Department of Education has recognized Dixie Elementary School as a "School of Promise." This designation, awarded to only 161 schools in the state, acknowledges the commitment by teachers and staff to closing the achievement gaps among student populations by helping *all* students to succeed academically. Schools of Promise must demonstrate high overall achievement in reading or mathematics while serving students from low-income environments. The students and staff of Dixie Elementary, in spite of the hardships that many students face, have demonstrated "high achievement" in *both* reading and mathematics, a remarkable accomplishment.

"Receiving this award is a great honor and a tribute to a dedicated, hardworking staff, whose purpose is to provide a quality education for *every* child," said Dixie Elementary principal, Dr. Charles Wilkins. "It acknowledges the teachers' commitment to the school motto: "Educating the youth of today to meet the challenges of tomorrow."

In her letter announcing the award to Dr. Wilkins, Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction Deborah Delisle wrote, "I thank you for your leadership and the commitment of your staff to help all students achieve at high levels. By supporting students and believing in them, you and your staff continue to demonstrate a truly collaborative spirit." She added, "Students, staff, parents and community should all be proud of this honor."

Indeed, they should be.

Dixie Schools Honor 2009-2010 Employees of the Year

The teachers and staff at Dixie Schools bring considerable talent and unwavering dedication to their work every day. It is indeed an honor to be recognized as exceptional among such standout peers. The New Lebanon Local Schools recently recognized two employees with just such honors, naming Mrs. Nancy Powers as the Employee of the Year and Mrs. Amanda Ruble as the Teacher of the Year for the last school term.



Mrs. Powers has had a number of positions during her 26 years of service to Dixie Middle School, including clerk/aide, librarian, and substitute teacher coordinator. She has been the middle school attendance secretary for 15 years, and has performed countless hours of bus, recess, and cafeteria duty.

Perhaps most importantly, she's done all of it with great patience and good humor. Students, teachers, and visitors alike know Mrs. Powers as the friendly face who always brings a smile to school.

Mrs. Ruble, a 1994 graduate of Dixie High School, is now in her thirteenth year of teaching at Dixie Elementary. She received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a major in mathematics from Wright State University. She also has her master's degree in Education and Allied Professions with a major in educational leadership from the University of Dayton.



Mrs. Ruble is widely known for encouraging her students to succeed in the classroom and for always providing a positive learning environment. Her colleagues describe her as a "go getter" who does whatever it takes for her third graders and their school to be their very best. She never, ever, gives less than 100% to her kids, and it shows. Her students thrive academically, and they love Mrs. Ruble every bit as much as she loves them!

Mrs. Powers and Mrs. Ruble and honorees from other local businesses were recognized on November 4th at the 27th annual New Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Employee Recognition Dinner.

Mrs. Broughton Recognized as Outstanding Educator

Last August, the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) honored Mrs. Tammy Broughton, a special education teacher at Dixie Middle School, with the Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award. She was one of just 16 individuals in the state to receive this award.

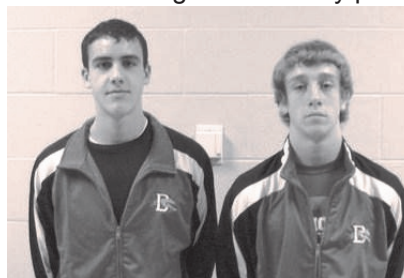


Mrs. Broughton was chosen for initiating a mentoring program that pairs each student with disabilities with a teacher or administrator. As Mrs. Broughton explains, "I felt that many of our students could benefit from more individualized intervention, and from knowing that an adult school member sincerely cared about his or her success."

The students in Mrs. Broughton's program made significant gains on the 2010 Ohio Achievement Assessments. She explained "Academically, they actually exceeded their goal for the percentage testing proficient in reading. Equally important, however, supportive relationships were established between the mentors and their mentees, which has done wonders for building the overall self-confidence of these students!"

Runners Compete Post-Season

Dixie High School was well represented in cross country post-season meets. Two runners, **William Stapleton** and **Corey Hawk**, qualified for the regional meet by placing in the top 16



at the district meet. William placed 4th in the district and Corey placed 14th.

Corey Hawk, one of eleven freshmen from four

different districts to qualify, placed 59th at the regional meet. **William Stapleton** placed 8th, earning a trip to Scioto Downs to the Ohio Division III State meet. At the state meet William traversed the 5k course in 16:21, placing 33rd.

Congratulations!

Dixie Welcomes New Employees

The New Lebanon Board of Education and the Dixie administrators, teachers, staff, and students welcomed several new members to the school community this year.

Jessica Bennett, the district's new Director of Special Education and school psychologist, received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the American University in Washington, D.C., where she majored in communications/journalism. She received a Master of Science in applied educational psychology and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in school psychology from Northeastern University in Boston. Ms. Bennett came to New Lebanon from the Philadelphia area, where she was working as a school psychologist in Pennsylvania's third largest school district. She says she "loves the small community feel of New Lebanon and is grateful for how welcoming everyone has been." She has found her work in Dixie schools to be professionally rewarding so far, and she "looks forward to continuing her work with the special education department in order to help all Dixie students succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally."

New Employees, cont.

Dixie's new athletic director and head basketball coach, Mr. Kregg Creamer, attended Miami University and earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in social studies. He taught 6th-grade social studies and served as athletic director in other Ohio school districts before joining Dixie's athletic staff. Mr. Creamer says that because of his experience as a player and as a coach, as well as his "knowledge of the basketball tradition at Dixie High School," he is "extremely excited about the opportunity to take over this rich basketball program." He also looks forward to "the challenges and rewards involved with directing the athletic department," adding that his goal is "to challenge our athletes, coaches, and parents to raise the bar of expectation."

Kathleen Walker, a first-year special education teacher at Dixie High School, received her Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana's Taylor University. The first year of teaching can be challenging, but Ms. Walker says she has enjoyed the experience so far. She says her students are "great," and her colleagues "are always helpful."

Rebecca Shafer and MeLeah Perry are not entirely new to Dixie Schools, but both of them have new titles this school year. Ms. Shafer, who previously served as a Title I tutor at the elementary school, is now a full-time Title I teacher. She graduated with her Bachelor of Science degree from Bowling Green State University.

Mrs. Perry, who served as interim counselor last year at the elementary school, is a full-time counselor this year. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Wright State University. She received her Masters in Education and Allied Professions with a major in school counseling from the University of Dayton.

Welcome to all from all of us at New Lebanon Schools!

Directory of Administrators

Superintendent

Dr. Barbara L. Curry
(937) 687-1301

Treasurer

Kimberly DeWeese
(937) 687-1301

Dixie High School Principal

Doug Dunham
(937) 687-1366

Dixie Middle School Principal

Dr. Gary Schomburg
(937) 687-3508

Dixie Elementary School Principal

Dr. Charles Wilkins
(937) 687-3511

Transportation Department

Director of Support Personnel
Ronald Moore
(937) 687-2095





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New Lebanon Local Schools District Calendar

December 20 - January 2
December 27
January 7
January 10
January 14
January 17
January 24
January 26

Winter Vacation
Board of Education Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
End of First Semester
Special Board of Education Meeting – 4:30 p.m.
Report Cards Distributed
No School (MLK Observance)
Board of Education Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
2-Hr Delay Start – Teacher Inservice

BOARD of EDUCATION:

President, David Woodgeard; Vice-President, David Falldorf;
Members: Eric Patterson, Adam Pietrzak, and Michael Roberts

Happy Holidays!

