



South Euclid
Lyndhurst Schools



A publication designed to build community pride and awareness in the South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools is working hard to make our district The Destination School Community.



Linda N. Reid
Superintendent of Schools

Spring time is upon the South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools, and a number of academic and co-curricular milestones have been achieved by our students at all levels of education. Elementary students have been focused on activities that expand their creative and academic pursuits while helping them to understand the importance of volunteerism and charity. Memorial students continue to prepare for high school with various speakers, field trips and activities. Brush High School students have been on a path toward preparing themselves for

the 'next steps' in their academic, technical or career paths.

Testing Season and the State Report Card

The SEL Schools are in the midst of test-taking season and students throughout the district will be engaged in some of the most rigorous work of the school year during this period. Although the district reviews the yearly scores derived from the state tests, we also utilize a "best practice approach" by measuring various data points related to student progress throughout the course of a school year. The district has analyzed the results from the state report card, celebrating its successes and addressing areas for improvement. Some notable highlights on the most recent state report card, which presents testing data from the 2014-2015 school year, is in the district's "Value Added" scores. The SEL Schools earned "A's" in several categories, and more specifically in the areas of serving Gifted Students and Students with Disabilities. Please note that Value Added reflects a student's overall growth in a defined, one-year period of time.

Technology in the SEL Schools

An important component of SEL's Teaching and Learning Goal is to equip students with 21st Century Skills that will produce students that are career-ready and college-prepared. Integrating technology in the classroom is more than just providing additional computers and other technology devices. Successful technology integration is the well-integrated use of technology resources by thoroughly trained teachers that make 21st Century learning possible for our students.

Successful technology integration is achieved when the use of technology is routine and transparent, accessible and readily available for the task at hand, supports curricular goals, and

helps our students effectively reach their goals. Students are often more actively engaged in projects when technology tools are a seamless part of the learning process.

The SEL Schools are currently in the middle of a two-year process of upgrading district classrooms with new projectors, white boards and sound system technologies. The innovative tech plan will also lead to more mobile devices for teaching and learning which reflects the standards provided by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). On page 2, readers will note the emphasis placed on such upgrades to enhance curriculum and to make instruction more interactive so the learning process for students can be improved and support the demands of the future. Since last summer when these upgrades began, all three elementary buildings' classroom upgrades have been completed and the district's technology team is currently working in Greenview Upper Elementary School. Memorial and Brush High School will be the focus of the technology team this summer and next school year. Performing these projects in-house has made the upgrades cost-effective for the district, saving approximately \$400,000 in installation and outside vendor charges. The district will continue upgrading when and where possible to prepare students for the future.

Linda N. Reid
Superintendent



Congratulations to this year's Charles F. Brush High School's Mock Trial Team, which had a very successful season.

BOARD BRIEF

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The Board of Education and district leadership continue to actively work toward the fulfillment of goals and initiatives from the district's Strategic Plan, and this newsletter should identify a number of the accomplishments that have been made since the Board adopted this plan nearly three years ago. The intent of the plan is most certainly being fulfilled, as it has given administrators a roadmap to follow for key areas of district operations. Despite inconsistencies and changing metrics from year to year, the SEL Schools continue to approach academic improvement with vigor and enthusiasm. The Board of Education would like to recognize the strides being made in the Gifted Program and the successes that are being made to "fine tune" it throughout the year. Overall, the students and staff of the SEL Schools continue to work hard and demonstrate visible achievement.

Communications is another continued area of focus for the SEL Schools. There are a variety of sources by which the community at large can learn about the 'good news' of our students. This newsletter, which is mailed on a quarterly basis to every household in the communities served by the district is just one way the SEL Schools shares updates with the community. The website is constantly updated with news and information on a daily basis. When the district's website is updated, so too are the social media platforms on which the SEL Schools exist, including Facebook. Information is available at the schools, so please take time to get plugged in so that you can know about the great things taking place in our school district. The Board of Education also thanks the PTA Parents who are

using social media to continue highlighting many of the positive stories with the community as well. Your positive energy and communications is a great help to the district.

Also, the district is implementing an OPEN DOOR policy, where people can visit and tour a building any time. Those interested can call any of the school buildings, drop by the office to chat with the principal and obtain a visitors' pass. So far, individuals who have taken tours are providing positive feedback and interaction with their experiences.

The Board of Education would also like to thank City of South Euclid Mayor Georgine Welo and City of Lyndhurst Mayor Pat Ward for taking so much deliberate time to spend in the schools throughout the district. Many students are proud to know both mayors so personally, and can identify these dignitaries by name and sight! Thank you goes out to both Mayors, who go above and beyond to be in the buildings on a monthly basis through their dedicated public service.

Lastly, each of the Board members are prepared to listen to your concerns, stories of pride and to answer any questions that you have with regard to teachers, students, staff and administration. The board is in service to the community, so please keep in mind that you can contact any member of the Board of Education at any time. Together, the district is working towards the fulfillment of our stated vision, which is to be The Destination School Community.

SEL Schools Making a Deliberate Step to Place Technology in Every Classroom

A deliberate effort by district leadership to provide the very best technology to students throughout the district has placed the SEL Schools in the midst of a major technological upgrade that is scheduled to improve technology in every classroom in the district. With the work that has been done to date, elementary students in the SEL Schools are already benefitting, and older students in the district will soon be benefitting as well. At present, the technology team for the SEL Schools is in year one of a two-year plan to install new projectors, white boards and sound enhancement systems in every classroom in the district. The team began installing the technology in the elementary buildings, so that the district's youngest students could become exposed to the upgrades at earlier ages. This team is ahead of schedule, however, beginning in the elementary schools this past summer and now proceeding to Greenview Upper Elementary School. Once completed here, they will move on to Memorial Junior High and Brush. From an academic standpoint, the technology upgrades expose students to multiple styles of practical learning including visual, hands-on and auditory. In addition, the technology permits teachers and students to further engage with the very technology that will be awaiting them in the real world. Teachers have instantaneous access to each other's lessons and materials at all grade levels, and the World Wide Web is available at the click of a button. White boards and projectors permit enhanced interest and engagement between instructors and students while the sound system enhancements make learning much easier. Furthermore, the district is aligning with current statewide standards when it comes to technology in the classroom. When completed, more than 360 projectors and white boards will have been installed throughout the district. Plus, these upgrades are being conducted by SEL's in-house team of experts, thereby saving the district approximately hundreds of thousands of dollars in costs. Stay tuned for more updates on the district's technology upgrades at the South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools.



Technology is a major focus for the SEL Schools at all levels of instruction



Adrian Elementary School students are pictured with upgraded technology as part of a district-wide initiative.

FEEL THE POWER!

This section is devoted to showing the community the "Power of Arc Pride," and how our students are shining in their academic and co-curricular endeavors.

➤ Greenview Hosts 2016 Invention Convention

Greenview Upper Elementary recently hosted the 2016 Invention Convention, an event which provides cognitively gifted students in the STEP UP program an opportunity to display their creativity and ingenuity by showcasing original inventions. Nearly sixty students in grades 3-6 participated in the project, which required them to utilize the five steps of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) thinking process to create their invention. The five steps are Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create and Improve. In addition to their invention, students created tri-fold presentation boards which described a real-world problem the invention was designed to solve, target sales market and a short advertisement or slogan. The SEL Schools would like to congratulate our students on their ingenuity and creativity. In addition, special thanks to our group of judges, including South Euclid Mayor Georgine Welo and Lyndhurst Mayor Patrick A. Ward, staff and students from Notre Dame and Ursuline College, as well as representatives from Rockwell Automation and Case Western Reserve University.



Special Thank You to our Celebrity Judges, Mayor Welo and Mayor Ward at this Year's Invention Convention

➤ Brush High School Robotics Team Finishes Strong in State Competition



Brush High School Robotics Team Had a Strong Season This Year

The Brush High School Robotics team recently finished 'runner up' in the state competition where more than 32 teams qualified for the tournament from a four-state region. In Robotics competition, students put their science, math, practical application and problem solving skills to good use and compete collaboratively with up to six additional teams. Brush High School has a tradition of success at such robotics competitions, and this year's team continued that tradition with success and fortitude. The members of this year's Brush Robotics team includes Dominic DelBalso, Jack Rhine, Mary McPheeters, Keegan Simmons, Hannah Ladaika, Gryffon Simmons, Rachel Imel and Jorden Windham. Congratulations on your accomplishments!

➤ Little Free Libraries Open at Elementary Buildings Throughout the District

Three new libraries have recently opened within the South Euclid Lyndhurst School District. While not of "traditional library style," these three Little Free Libraries provide an exceptional resource for our community and students by providing an opportunity for families to exchange books and expand their reading horizons. A ribbon cutting ceremony was recently held at Rowland Elementary school on behalf of the K-3 schools, which was attended by Superintendent Reid, Central Office Staff, K-3 principals, students and families.

➤ Memorial Eighth Grade Student Leaders Spend Quality Time with Senior Citizens

A handful of 8th grade students invested some "quality time" with community senior citizens in the last few weeks, engaging with them about their life, asking personal questions and getting to know members of this "Greatest Generation" a little better. Thanks to the help of the Community Partnership on Aging, Memorial Junior High students traveled to the South Euclid Community Center earlier this week to meet senior citizens. Once there, students had conversations with the seniors, asked them questions and even exercised together. Thank you to the Community Partnership on Aging for their help organizing the event.



Memorial Students Recently Visited with Community Senior Citizens

SEL SPOTLIGHT

JASON PRYOR: OLYMPIC BOUND BRUSH HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

Brush High School maintains a storied tradition of successful alumni in a variety of fields and industries, from business, politics, the arts and science and technology. However, Jason Pryor, a 2005 Brush High School graduate holds an exclusive distinction among his fellow alumni: Olympic Qualifier for the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Pryor is one of the most highly ranked fencing competitors in the entire world, and this interest that was furthered by his high school involvement in nearby club teams, will place on him on the grandest stages for international competition this coming summer. The South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools congratulates Jason, and expresses its "Arc Pride" for being able to point to him as a successful alumni of the district.

Jason Pryor is a 2005 graduate of Brush High School, where he practiced fencing as part of the Alcazar Fencing Club in a nearby community. He was also a clarinet and saxophone player in the Brush High School Marching band. He continued to gain notoriety in the world of competitive fencing, which ultimately led him to his participation at the collegiate level at The Ohio State University. While there, he earned a degree in English, and even considered a career in Hollywood upon graduation. However, his ability to thrive under pressure while competing in fencing and to perform in the clutch led him to an NCAA Championship in 2009, which gave him international exposure. Immediately upon graduation, Jason began competing in worldwide grand prix events, his performances at which piqued the interest of the Team USA coaching staff. He was soon invited to become a resident of the athlete program, which is a six-year



Jason Pryor of South Euclid, Ohio, competes in the Vancouver World Cup in February 2016. Pryor is the lone U.S. epee fencer qualified for the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics.

commitment to train and live with Olympic prospects in Colorado Springs, CO. That training has certainly paid off, where in 2015, Pryor finished with a Bronze Medal at the Pan American games, and established himself as one of the premier fencers in the Western Hemisphere. He is currently ranked Number 1 in the United States and Number 36 in the entire world.

Even though the US Team did not qualify for the Olympics, Jason will be one of two competitors representing the United States for the upcoming Summer Olympics games. The South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools, first and foremost, congratulates Jason Pryor, and his parents Eric and Brenda, on these significant milestones. Brush High School graduates, who have their foundations rooted in our communities, do go on to the most significant accomplishments of human achievement. Reaching the Olympics for this Class of '05 graduate is a perfect example. Thank you for being an inspiration to current and future classes in the South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools. The entire district will be watching and rooting for you in the 2016 Olympic Games.