



TOM Talks

A Message from Superintendent Tom Evans



With the start of a new year, it's time for another edition of **TOM Talks**, one of the many ways the Cuyahoga Heights Schools keeps you, the community, informed about important district news and accomplishments. Our students and staff have entered 2016 with a renewed emphasis on learning and achievement, both inside and outside the classroom. Featured below are some important highlights from our proud district.

To ensure that our students meet rigorous state learning standards, the district has implemented ongoing testing throughout the current semester. These assessments not only provide our students a snapshot of their current academic progress, but help our teachers adjust instruction to meet the learning needs of all students. The district has also begun preparing class scheduling for the 2016-2017 school year.

In addition to academics, our students' hard work and dedication has been displayed by our various winter sports teams. Congratulations to our boys basketball team for winning the Joe LaBella Holiday Tournament in late December 2015, which included Kevin Jezerinac and tournament MVP Brett Lowther being named to the All-Tournament Team. Winning the tournament in front of a cheering home crowd made this achievement even more special. Our girls varsity basketball team is also off to a successful start, currently holding a 13-3 overall record as they pursue a Chagrin Valley Conference championship. Best of luck to the district's gymnastics team, as they recently began their season on January 24th. The district's award winning music department will be presenting a production of *High School Musical 2* on Friday, March 18th at 7:00 PM, and on Saturday, March 19th at 2:00 PM in the Paul Baumgartner Auditorium. All community members are encouraged to attend our upcoming winter sports and music events, which showcase the amazing talents of our students, as well as the dedication of our teachers and staff.

Finally, I want to share a heartwarming email from a parent of a student enrolled in the Berkshire School District, praising the actions by one of our high school basketball players after a recent game.

"A few weeks ago your team played at Berkshire High School, the game went into overtime and Berkshire won. I was sitting with my son and as your defeated team was going to the locker room, one of your players stopped and thanked my son for his service (he was wearing his army jacket). I cannot tell you how impressed I was with this young man. He knew we were from the Berkshire side. To me this was a class act. You should be very proud to have him as part of your team...that simple thank you made me happier than the win. My son came back with PTSD and has had a rough time, but that player's kind gesture overwhelmed me. I don't know what his number is, but he is number 1 in my book...maybe you could pass this on to his coach... good luck with the rest of your season!" Simply, a kind and sincere gesture from a parent.

This strong display of personal character is one of many reasons to be extremely proud of our students. As always, thank you for your continued support of our schools. To learn more, please visit the links featured below. I look forward to continuing to update the community on future news and accomplishments of the Cuyahoga Heights Schools. Until next time, Go Redskins!

Sincerely,

Tom Evans
Superintendent
Cuyahoga Heights Schools

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