



# TOM Talks

## A Message from Superintendent Tom Evans



This latest edition of **TOM Talks** includes many exciting and important news regarding the Cuyahoga Heights Schools. First and foremost, the district achieved another noteworthy accomplishment recently by being awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Education's Innovative Strategies for Improving College and Career Readiness for Students with Disabilities, through the Office for Exceptional Children. A special thank-you to Administrative Services Director Dr. Ted Caleris for helping the district secure the competitive grant, which will help the district enhance the level of educational programming available for students with special needs.

At the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, the district introduced Google Classroom, an exciting and innovative online learning platform at every grade level. Accessible through Wi-Fi on Chromebooks and other mobile devices, Google Classroom integrates technology while creating an interactive classroom learning environment. Students can now engage in class discussions and submit assignments to name a few examples, using the online platform. Moving forward, the district plans on expanding the program to provide a Gateway to Technology Program and a Journalism/Writing lab for middle and high school students.

To help ensure that our students are prepared for the state standardized tests in April, all middle and high school students are currently participating in a comprehensive intervention program. Designed by High School and Middle School Principal Matt Young, the intervention program is designed to meet the unique learning needs of each student.

High School teachers Jonathan Roy and Megan Neville were recently selected to serve as AP Readers for the upcoming 2016 College Board Advanced Placement Program exams. Mr. Roy will be assigned to the Social Studies category, while Mrs. Neville has been approved to be an AP Reader for English Literature and Composition. Both teachers will join a select group of college faculty and AP teachers from around the globe to evaluate free response answers submitted by AP Exam students from the United States and beyond. Congratulations to Mr. Roy and Mrs. Neville for their significant achievement!

A primary focus of the district has been the development of community partnerships with local businesses and industries. Those efforts are bringing visible results that will directly benefit our students. The district would like to thank ArcelorMittal for their sponsorship of a Project Lead the Way Grant for \$20,000. Representatives from the Sigma Aldrich Corporation, a top 10 global specialty chemicals and biologics supplier, recently conducted a chemiluminescence lab experiment for our third graders. The demonstration showed how certain chemicals interact to give off light, and provided our students an opportunity to apply classroom learning to real-world examples.

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the recent production of *High School Musical 2* for a tremendous performance! Our winter sports participants recently completed an outstanding season, which included several individual state qualifiers. Congratulations to Mary Voytek, All-State Swimming; Kendra Lindway and Jasmine Adkins, both All-State Gymnastics; Samantha Attewell, State Qualifier and Charlie Pelfrey, All-State Indoor Track; and Luke Hopkins and Trey Combs, State Qualifiers in Wrestling.

Finally, our district will begin spring break on Friday, March 25th and resume classes on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. I wish all students and staff an enjoyable time away with family and friends. To members of the community, thank you for your continued support of the Cuyahoga Heights Schools.

Sincerely,

**Tom Evans**  
Superintendent  
Cuyahoga Heights Schools

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