

GETTING TO THE “CORE” OF THE MATTER

Any fifth grader enrolled in public, private, or parochial school in the State of Ohio will be affected by the CORE educational standards. Having been recently approved by both the House and Senate, and ready to be signed into law by outgoing Governor Bob Taft, this rushed piece of legislation will surely provide many new hurdles on the road to earning a high school diploma. Everyone will be affected by the passage of this legislation, otherwise known as Senate Bill 311. This would include students, parents, educators, school districts, and taxpayers, in general.

This new CORE curriculum for high school will require more math and more lab-based science classes for future high school graduates. The changes begin in 2010, when this year's fifth grade students become freshmen in high school. These new curriculum standards will be fully in force beginning with the graduating class of 2014. The new CORE curriculum standards will make Ohio one of the toughest states from which to earn a high school diploma. The new standards will require the following:

- Four years/credits of math, including Algebra II for every student, not just college-bound students.
- Three years/credits of lab-based sciences from biology, chemistry, physical science, biomedical science, or engineering electives.
- Five electives/credits from the following: foreign language, fine arts, business, technology, or career-technical courses.
- Four years/credits of English.

- Three years/credits of social studies, including .5 unit of American History and .5 unit of American Government, and at least one credit that includes economics and financial literacy.
- One-half credit of health.
- One-half credit of physical education.
- Create a study council to develop a plan for foreign language instruction throughout PreK-16 education.

Keep in mind these are the new minimum requirements for graduation, effective with the class of 2014. Local school districts may add additional graduation requirements at their discretion.

These new educational standards allow for a few exceptions. To opt-out of these curriculum requirements, students must meet certain criteria (not determined yet), seek permission from parents and school officials, and get special counseling. This provision would most likely help students not planning to attend college. Students cannot opt-out of the Ohio CORE Curriculum until the end of their sophomore year.

Ohio CORE, or SB311, requires that students attending a four-year state college complete this curriculum. Students who do not go this track, but who still plan to further their education in college, will be required to attend a two-year (junior college) to take remedial work before being eligible to enroll in a four-year institution in Ohio. In my next article, I will share with you my views on Ohio CORE.

SECOND ROUND OF STAFF & COMMUNITY
MEETINGS FOR BUILDING PROJECT

As a reminder, the second-round schematic design meetings for the new elementary schools in each of our attendance areas are:

- **NORTH ADAMS** – TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2007 – IN HIGH SCHOOL ROUND ROOM – Staff Meeting at 3:20 p.m. – Community Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- **PEEBLES** – THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2007 – AT PEEBLES ELEMENTARY – Staff Meeting at 3:20 p.m. – Community Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- **WEST UNION** – TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2007 – AT WEST UNION ELEMENTARY – Staff Meeting at 3:20 p.m. – Community Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

As always, should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 544-5586. Again, I encourage you to stay on top of the latest developments in our building program by visiting either of these websites: www.ovsd.us or www.superschools.org.

Charles P. Kimble
Superintendent