

## Superintendent's Message

April/May 2015

As our seniors are preparing to take on new endeavors and as the end of the school year is quickly approaching, I am so proud of our staff and students. It has been another outstanding year academically and also with our co-curricular and extra-curricular activities! We the People won the state competition and are competing in nationals, Findlay First Edition just competed at the national show choir competition in Nashville, Tennessee finishing 4<sup>th</sup> overall and Pantasia just completed a trip to Disney World where they performed numerous times! Our spring athletics are in full swing and it is a very busy time of year. Once again, I feel extremely fortunate to be the Superintendent of Findlay City Schools and I am very proud of this district and the quality of education that is provided to our students and unbelievable extra-curricular opportunities that are offered.

This has been a challenging year with the demands of testing. This year we have also experienced a growth in the primary grades. Currently our largest class in the district is our 1<sup>st</sup> grade class at 485 students, with the kindergarten classes having 474 students. The Strategic Planning Committee, which is comprised of parents, staff, administrators and community members are looking to develop a long-term plan to gain capacity in our primary grades (K-3) to be certain classroom size is manageable and optimum for student achievement. The Strategic Planning Committee and the administration had numerous meetings to address the immediate need. Modular classrooms will be used at Jefferson Primary and Chamberlin Hill Intermediate to increase capacity for the 2015-16 school year. The district has made an attendance area change with Hunter's Creek and Hunter's Ridge moving from Whittier/Wilson Vance to Jefferson/Chamberlin Hill. In doing this, the district can address the capacity issues in Whittier/Wilson Vance, and Jefferson/Chamberlin Hill; we are also moving some special needs classes in our northern elementary attendance area to relieve capacity issues there. This is an exciting time of growth in the Findlay community and a great time to be a Trojan!

We are proud to announce growth in our preschool program due to a partnership with the United Way of Hancock County and The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation. The preschool program is currently taking applications for the 2015-16 school year. Visit our Welcome Center at 1100 Broad Ave. or call 419-425-8275 for more information. Kindergarten registration is also underway. If your child will turn five (5) by August 1, 2015, visit your neighborhood primary school to enroll. For a list of what you need to bring, visit <http://www.findlaycityschools.org/forms/kindergartenFlyer.pdf>. To ensure proper class size, please enroll your child soon.

With the city of Findlay receiving the recognition as #1 Mircopolitan Community for New and Expanding facilities in the United States, with the addition at Cooper Tire & Rubber Company, the expansion of Marathon Petroleum and the establishment of McLane Company, this community and Findlay City Schools are certainly in a position to continue to grow. With the exciting future of our community, we will continue with our strategic planning to address long-term solutions to meet the needs of this growing community. I invite anyone interested in being a part of this strategic planning to contact my office at 419-425-8212.

***Go Trojans!***

Sincerely,

Edward Kurt  
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