



# Our Voice

## Tri-Village Local Schools

We're on our way to building for tomorrow

**A School of Excellence**



October 2012

# District's New Employees

### Please Welcome the District's New Employees to our Community

Tri-Village Local Schools would like to welcome Mr. Gentis as the new 7-12 Building Principal. Mr. Gentis served Brookville City Schools throughout his 17 years in education. Leaving the district was a difficult decision based on the excellent work he accomplished there, but he is excited to join Tri-Village and offer leadership to the JH/HS building. The small school atmosphere and excellent reputation of Tri-Village is what attracted him.



Mrs. Meginness joins Tri-Village Local Schools as a half time teacher this year after teaching at Versailles the past two years.

Mrs. Meginness will join the High School teaching staff in the English Department. Her primary responsibility is 10<sup>th</sup> grade English. Please welcome Mrs. Meginness to Tri-Village.

Mrs. Rother will also join the English Department in a full time capacity. She will teach the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade level English courses. Mrs. Rother has three years of experience teaching at Seton Catholic Schools in Richmond, IN. She is familiar with Tri-Village, because she graduated from a fellow Cross County Conference school, Tri-County North. She will also coach junior varsity volleyball. We welcome her to the community.

Olivia Aikman, Tri-Village graduate, is the new school nurse at Tri-Village. She currently is an emergency room nurse at Wayne Health Care. The district is excited to have one of our former students return in a professional capacity.



Allen Howell served the district for many years as a substitute bus driver, and now he will take over as a full time bus driver in August. Mr. Howell has lived in the community for several years and is involved in various community organizations. His three children graduated from Tri-Village and we welcome him to the staff.

Kevin Denlinger will also join the district as a bus driver. Mr. Denlinger served as a long term substitute for the district last year. He has many years of driving experience and is a welcomed addition to the district. He also lives in the district and looks forward to driving on a full time basis.

EuDet Crawford and Mallory Gray will be new Title I Coaches for the elementary building. This is both their first year in their profession.



**Upcoming Events:**

- PTC—November 6th & 8th
- 1 Hour Delay—11/14/2012
- Thanksgiving Vacation—11/21-11/23
- Early Release—12/19 & 12/21

# Tri-Village Prepares for New State Requirements

Tri-Village Local Schools continues to work toward aligning its methods with the Common Core Curriculum that is to be in place for the 2014-15 school year. The most recent requirement is the Third Grade Reading Guarantee that strives for all students to be proficient readers. As part of Ohio Senate Bill 316, which was signed into law in June, all students who enter the third grade in must score at a certain level on Ohio's third-grade reading achievement assessment to be advanced to the fourth grade.

Beginning this school year, each district must administer a language arts diagnostic assessment to students in kindergarten through third grade to identify those who are reading below grade level. Tri-Village completed this task, and notified parents.

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has also listed a sequence of actions that must be taken for students who perform below their grade level, including specialized teachers, 90 minutes of reading per day and an improvement plan to bring them up to speed. Mr. Sagester and the elementary teaching staff have fully implemented a plan and a method to report the student intervention to the Ohio Department of Education.

The plan Tri-Village is using is not fundamentally different than past practices. The district had already implemented Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing prior to the new law taking effect this year. Alongside the testing Tri-Village had already developed intervention plans to assure that students struggling with reading were receiving extra help. The district did develop a plan on how to document the interventions the teachers are providing so that reports can be submitted to ODE.

Students may be held back in only reading but may advance to fourth-grade level coursework in other subjects. Most school districts do have some type of monitoring program in place to keep an eye on students who may be falling behind. For Tri-Village, the district currently gives all students in kindergarten through twelfth grade a diagnostic screening assessment three times per year.

"The third grade reading guarantee will only make our current practices stronger," Superintendent, Tony Thomas said. "We are always looking for ways to improve the achievement of our students. This year we are working with individual grade levels on rolling out the common core standards and implementing effective teaching practices."

"Funding may be a concern of the requirement," Thomas added. "Many of the provisions in the third grade guarantee are still being developed by ODE. Therefore, we are not certain of the cost implications, or whether this will become another unfunded mandate from ODE," he said.

In addition to the Third Grade Guarantee, Tri-Village will also continue work toward online assessments for students, another requirement of the Common Core. According to ODE's website, the online assessments will use multiple measures including multiple choice, constructed response, technology-enhanced items and tasks, take measures of student progress at intervals during the school year, and use automated scoring processes that provide real-time results. Data and field testing will continue in Ohio schools through the 2012-13 school year, with implementation of online assessments expected for 2014-15.

The district will also look to align their teacher evaluations with Common Core requirements. Tri-Village Schools will begin a test round of new teacher evaluations that will measure a teacher's performance on two tiers. Half of the evaluation will be based on student academic growth, and the other half will be directly related to the instructor's performance. This style of evaluation is what will be required by ODE as part of the Common Core. Thomas added, "This is a very rigorous evaluation process, and we think that's a good thing, that it's rigorous, and we think teachers will think it will be a good thing that it's rigorous," he said. "We believe in our staff and we know they will meet the challenge."

Check out our new website [www.tri-village.k12.oh.us](http://www.tri-village.k12.oh.us)