

May 7, 2012

Good Afternoon,

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week. In schools throughout our state, students, families, businesses and communities are showing their appreciation to teachers in many thoughtful ways. Ohio is blessed with an abundance of teachers who are truly committed to preparing our children for the demands of the future. I frequently have the pleasure of visiting classrooms with great teachers in action as I travel our state. These teachers not only inspire their students to learn, they continue to learn right along with their students. Ohio teachers show great commitment to preparing our children to succeed. Our great teachers have the courage to change as the world is changing for their students. On behalf of Ohio's children, thank you and every teacher in our state for tackling this hard, worthwhile work. Please share my appreciation with the teachers in your building. Make it a great week.

Sincerely,



Stan W. Heffner

**Note:** Below are news items of interest to all superintendents and principals. Please share these items as appropriate with other suggested educators who will benefit from the information.

**For School superintendents and treasurers –** Gifted funding FAQ and list of allowable expenditures available, ODE offers ways to learn about the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES), Podcast recognizes National Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, May 6-12, Students shine at 84<sup>th</sup> annual FFA State Convention, May 7-13 recognized as national *Wanna Play Music Week*

***For School superintendents and treasurers***

***Gifted funding FAQ and list of allowable expenditures available***

Please remember that for FY2012 and FY2013, each district must spend *no less than* their FY2009 gifted unit amount on services to students identified as gifted. Your district also must spend no less than their FY2009 supplemental identification amount on gifted identification.

In addition, if an ESC received gifted unit funding for services to your district in FY2009, and your district has not maintained these services, another step is necessary. If this is the case, you also must spend an amount equivalent to the funding received by the ESC in FY2009 for staff providing those services.

Please note that the FY2009 gifted unit, supplemental identification and ESC amounts are currently listed on your district's Bridge report under Disclosure Items. For more information, see Gifted Funding FAQ and Gifted Allowable Expenditures documents available [here](#) (see the *Final Enacted Version* heading).

***ODE offers ways to learn about the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES)***

This summer and fall will be a busy time for ODE, as it begins to provide extensive training and learning opportunities for OTES. There are several ways for principals, teachers and local building administrators to prepare for this new generation of teacher evaluations and see how the new evaluation system can help improve student learning, including:

### *Educator Evaluation Symposium – May 25*

Join more than 1,500 educators already registered for this all-day event about OTES at the Columbus Convention Center. Sessions will cover Student Growth Measures, Ohio pilots of district evaluation systems, PARCC and Common Core, other states' experience with evaluation systems, and using OTES to inform district decisions. Registration is required. For more information, click [here](#).

### *OTES Evaluator Training – Beginning June 2012*

Over the next two years, regional training for evaluators of teachers will provide a better understanding of OTES. Participants will practice valuable skills such as scripting, evidence analysis/categorizing and coaching. In addition, the training will provide resources and best practices in educator evaluation. Upon successful completion of the three-day training and an online assessment, the evaluator will be a credentialed OTES evaluator. To evaluate teachers in Ohio, individuals also must possess the proper licensure and/or be deemed and employed by an LEA as an evaluator of staff, including teachers. While there is no cost for the training, space is limited. Registration is required through [STARS](#).

### *Online Professional Development modules – Beginning October 2012*

ODE and The Ohio State University will offer online professional development programs as an additional avenue for teachers to learn more about OTES. Registration is not yet available.

### **Podcast recognizes National Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, May 6-12**

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week is dedicated to increasing public awareness about children's mental health and emphasizing how mental health is essential to overall health and well-being. Please join us in recognizing the strong foundation that families, schools and communities provide in caring for every child's mental health in Ohio.

A Children's Mental Health Awareness Week resource page is available by clicking [here](#). In addition to helpful resources, the webpage offers an Ohio Children's Mental Health Awareness Week podcast featuring four state leaders addressing the importance of mental health and what you can do to support Ohio's children and youth. [Click here](#) to listen to the podcast, which features Tracy Plouck, director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health; Dr. Ted Wymyslo, director of the Ohio Department of Health; Stan Heffner, superintendent of the Ohio Department of Education; and Orman Hall, director of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services.

### **Students shine at 84<sup>th</sup> annual FFA State Convention**

Last week, about 4,000 of Ohio's 21,000 FFA members attended the 84<sup>th</sup> annual State Convention in Columbus. The convention features competition in a number of areas, including Agri-Science and livestock.

On ODE's YouTube channel, Ohio FFA President Jessica Shanahan of Mechanicsburg interviews student competitor Taylor Kruse from Pettisville, Ohio. Taylor describes her project on a comparative analysis between rabbit meat and commercial meat products. Taylor, who plans to attend The Ohio State University, majoring in animal science, describes how this project has given her the technical skills and self-direction that will give her a jump start as she enters college in the fall and prepares for a career as a large-animal veterinarian. To view the video, click [here](#).

### **May 7-13 recognized as national Wanna Play Music Week**

The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation, along with nearly 600,000 students across the U.S. and Canada invite schools to take part in *Wanna Play Music Week*. Students will join together to sing and play instruments to show support for music education in school and to recognize the fun and benefits of making music.

In conjunction with the activities, NAMM has named 176 communities across the country, including 15 in Ohio for their commitment to, and support for, music education. For a list of the schools, click [here](#). For

more information about the NAMM Foundation and *Wanna Make Music Week* activities, click [here](#).

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