

POINTS OF PRIDE

Ontario Local Schools

457 SHILBY-ONTARIO RD

ONTARIO, OHIO 44906

LISA CARMICHAEL, SUPERINTENDENT

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WHAT IS YET TO COME

DEAR ONTARIO FAMILIES,

On behalf of the Board of Education, faculty, staff, and students, we want to sincerely thank the voters who supported us on November 5, 2019. We successfully passed our five (5) year, 6.9 Mill Emergency Levy by 52.7% due to the tremendous amount of work and countless hours spent by so many resident voters. Our school levy passed by 183 votes. It will generate \$1,935,000 for us annually. The passage of our school levy will allow us to maintain all of our current educational programs and services. In short, Ontario Schools will continue to provide a well-rounded experience that empowers our students to be responsible decision-makers and effective problem-solvers who persevere in the achievement of life goals, contribute to communities locally and beyond, and embrace learning as a lifelong process.



While we are extremely grateful that our school levy passed, **the single most important issue facing our schools right now is Ohio's Fair School Funding Plan**, House Bill 305. The residents of Ontario stepped up to the plate on November 5, 2019 to do their part; however, now it's time for the State to step up and do their part. We simply cannot overlook the fact that the State has underfunded us for a number of years.

Based on fiscal year 2019 data, **Ontario Schools is now the POOREST school district in the State of Ohio** (based upon total revenue available to spend on each student). Our revenue per pupil is \$9,424, which places us as the **LOWEST FUNDED** school district in the State out of 607 school districts!

Ohio's system for funding schools has been a series of ever-changing patches, band-aids, and budgeting quirks. We're appreciative of the efforts and leadership of Representative Cupp and Representative Patterson and their assembled workgroup, who are working for a fair solution to the funding issues facing our schools. Additionally, we're truly encouraged by the support of House Bill 305, the Fair School Funding Plan, which has sixty-six (66) co-sponsors, over 2/3 of the House of Representatives. Please know that the Ontario Board of Education and the Administration are continuing to actively engage with our elected representatives in both the Ohio House and Senate to urge their support of HB 305, the Fair School Funding Plan.

To assist in our efforts, our Board of Education recently created a Community Engagement Committee and a Key Communicator Group, whose goals are to create awareness and advocacy for fair funding for Ontario Schools. In addition, Treasurer Randy Harvey will be requesting to testify at the State House, to urge our legislators to support the Fair School Funding Plan and to explain the uniqueness of our district. The next eighteen (18) months are critical, as the next State budget cycle will come to fruition in July 2021. Stay tuned, as we'll soon be requesting your assistance in urging our legislators to support Ohio's Fair School Funding Plan.

Our school belongs to our community, and your input and involvement is critical to our success. As I'm approaching my tenth year at Ontario, I am honored to serve as your superintendent, and I'm excited to see what the future has in store for us.

Respectfully,

Lisa Carmichael

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