

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2023 • Volume 14 // Issue 1



## Message from the Superintendent

### Greetings from Wooster City Schools,

With our spring semester well underway, our students and staff have hit the ground running, ready to tackle 2023. Read on to learn more about the exciting initiatives, projects, and opportunities ahead.

These are inspiring times for the Wooster City School District. I look forward to the new semester and 2023 as we strive for excellence while preparing our students with 21st-century skills to thrive in our schools and beyond.

### Gabe Tudor

*Superintendent, Wooster City Schools*



## One-to-One Initiative Brings Chromebooks to WHS Students

### Each Student in Grades 8-12 Received a Chromebook in January 2023

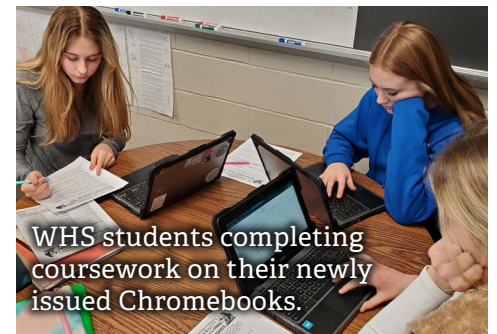
In January 2023, all high school students in grades 8-12 were assigned a Chromebook to use while in school and to take home. Students will keep and use these Chromebooks until graduation. The Wooster High School One-to-One Chromebook Initiative was approved at the December 20, 2022, Board of Education meeting.

The intent of the Chromebook Initiative is not to increase students' screen time, as curriculum and assignments will remain the same. Each Chromebook is loaded with an internet filter that works both at school

and home, limiting students' online activity to age-appropriate educational sites only. Parents may want to monitor students' time online while at home and add restrictions if necessary.

Students will be required, for safety reasons, to use the school-issued Chromebook while at school - personal devices cannot be used. Students will be responsible for the care of their Chromebook. An optional device coverage fee of \$30 per year (\$15 for this half-year) will be offered to families to cover the cost of repairs due to accidental damage.

For more information regarding the Chromebook initiative, please review the [Student One](#)



to [One Student Chromebook Handbook](#), which is an excellent resource for both parents and students.

For families who don't have home internet access, visit [www.ohio-k12.help/connectivity-champions](http://www.ohio-k12.help/connectivity-champions) for information on the Ohio Connectivity Champions program, which helps bring internet access to families across the state.



# Curriculum Review Process Creates Cohesive K-12 Experience

## ELA Curriculum Under Review for 2023-24 School Year

Wooster City Schools welcomed Sara Crooks as the Curriculum Coordinator in January 2022. Her duties include determining the curriculum needs of the district, overseeing meetings with department heads and teachers and connecting with vendors to determine the best possible resources. As part of her role, she has been tasked with establishing a plan for curriculum review, proposal and adoption in collaboration with the Assistant Superintendent.

The curriculum review process is still in development, but the aim is to have a system to review all departments on a routine basis. For now, course subject areas are the primary focus. Curriculum review helps teachers plan instruction more intentionally and ensures that necessary resources are accessible. The model for this process follows a five-year cycle that looks deeply into topics every three years and

then readjusts as needed every two years. The five-year curriculum process follows the following framework:

**Step 1:** Mapping standards and unpacking data

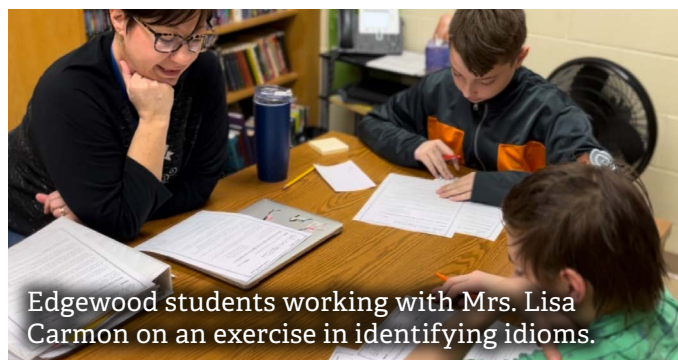
**Step 2:** Resource Evaluation and Recommendation

**Step 3:** Implementation and Professional Development

**Step 4:** Ongoing Curriculum Mapping and Refinement through Teacher-Based Teams

Currently, the English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum is under review. The goal is to create a deep reading and writing experience for students that builds on the skills they are developing in each grade level. The ELA curriculum review process started last spring. It will end with a recommendation for implementation during the 2023-2024 school year.

This curriculum review process is fundamental, and its success can



Edgewood students working with Mrs. Lisa Carmon on an exercise in identifying idioms.

be credited to teachers district-wide. They have dedicated their time and energy to this initiative, and their input helps determine what resources are needed for high-quality instruction. It is through thoughtful reflection, dialogue, and collaboration that this is made possible.

We look forward to sharing more information with our community as we continue this process. For additional information, contact Curriculum Coordinator Sara Crooks at [wstr\\_scrooks@woostercityschools.org](mailto:wstr_scrooks@woostercityschools.org) or 330-988-1111, ext. 1228 or Director of Elementary Education Molly Richard at [wstr\\_mrichard@woostercityschools.org](mailto:wstr_mrichard@woostercityschools.org) or 330-988-1111, ext. 1240.

## Facilities Master Plan and Bond Issue Information

A 6.7 mill bond issue will appear on the May 2, 2023, ballot for Wooster City Schools. If passed, the \$102,086,000.00 bond will be used to fund the construction of a new middle school and elementary school as outlined in Phase 1 of the Wooster City School District Facilities Master Plan. Visit <https://t.ly/qSwjz> to learn more about the Facilities Master Plan and the upcoming bond issue.

## 2023-2026 Strategic Plan



During the 2022-2023 School Year, the Board of Education and District Administration participated in Strategic Planning. Goals and objectives were developed based on feedback from a variety of opportunities, both virtual and face-to-face. Visit <https://t.ly/JxwM> or scan the QR code to view the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.

# Safety and Security Assessments Planned for 2023

Creating and maintaining a safe learning environment is essential for students' success. To ensure the safety and security of all students and staff, Wooster City Schools regularly assesses safety and security needs and implements necessary updates on an ongoing basis.

In the year ahead, the district plans to make important safety and security updates based on the needs of our school buildings. The number of radios for building administrators and central office staff will be increased to allow for better communication during an emergency. Existing barricades will be evaluated in all school buildings and updated as needed to secure doorways in the event of an intruder. Speakers will also be added to external PA systems at Edgewood Middle School and Wooster High School to improve outdoor communication.

Additional safety measures include adopting an emergency response plan which out-

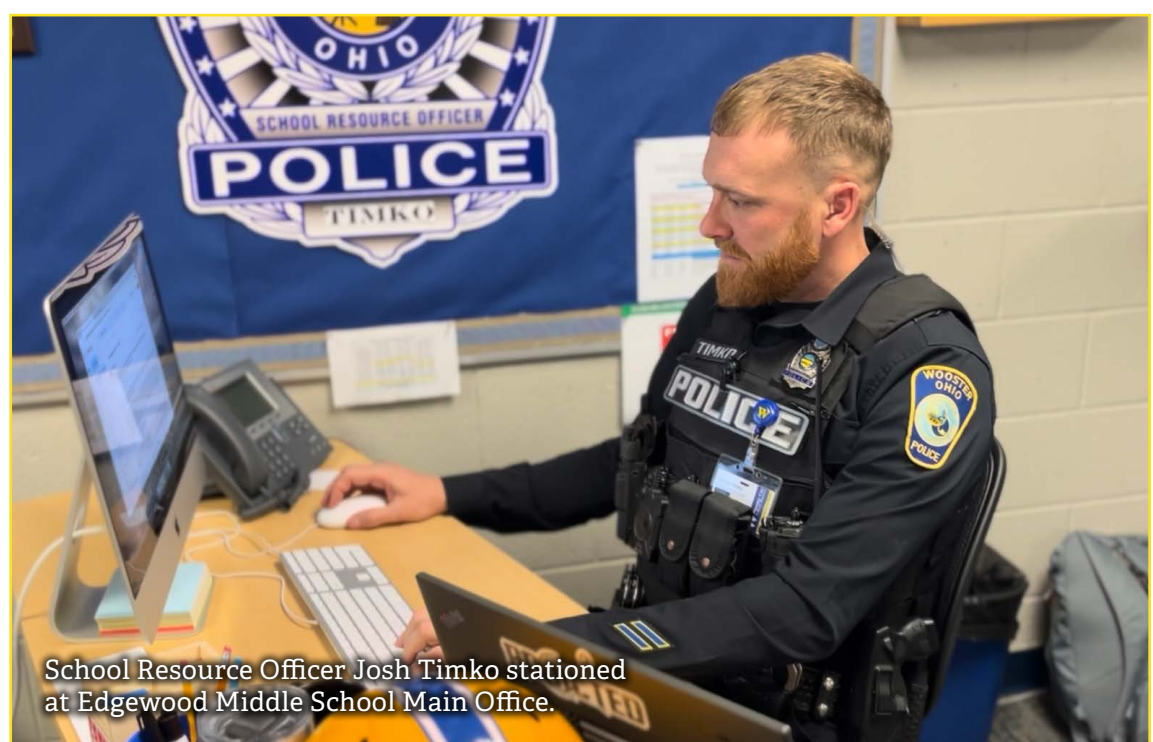
lines specific procedures in an emergency or crisis. All staff and students train to follow these protocols as part of our ongoing efforts. Throughout the school year, each building also participates in safety drills, including fire and lockdown drills, in line with state-required standards.

In addition to meeting state safety standards, WCSD also has a strong relationship with the Wooster Police Department. Each building has met with the police department and established an effective response plan in case of an emergency. School Resource Officers are also present daily in the Middle

School and High School. Additional programming, like the bus safety training professional development day hosted by the Wooster Police Department this fall, further supports the security of students and staff.

The district consistently seeks grant opportunities that provide financial support to enhance safety and security measures for our school system.

For more information regarding safety initiatives, please contact Assistant Superintendent Brian Madigan at [wstr\\_bmadigan@woostercityschools.org](mailto:wstr_bmadigan@woostercityschools.org) or 330-988-1111, ext. 1235.



School Resource Officer Josh Timko stationed at Edgewood Middle School Main Office.

# New Age Requirements for Kindergarten and Preschool Students

New age requirements to enter Kindergarten and the Wooster Littlest Generals Preschool will be effective at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. The new kindergarten age requires a student to be five years old by August 1 (previously five years old by September 30). To enter preschool, students must be three years old by August 1.

The district researched past years' retention data and determined that many students retained had a birthday that fell between August 1 and September 30. Research on child development and the high expectations placed on our kindergarten students was also conducted. To best meet the needs of our youngest learners and align with districts in the county, the district opted to make the change.

For more information, contact Director of Elementary Education Molly Richard at [wstr\\_mrichard@woostercityschools.org](mailto:wstr_mrichard@woostercityschools.org) or 330-988-1111, ext. 1240.

## Important Dates

<b>April 3-7</b>	Spring Break
<b>March 3</b>	No School
<b>March 25</b>	Fine Arts Festival
<b>May 25</b>	Last Day for Students
<b>June 4</b>	Graduation Day

## Board of Education

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**Cody Austin**  
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*Vice President*

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**Gabe Tudor**  
*Superintendent*

**Amy Welty**  
*Treasurer*



Littlest Generals Preschool students practicing their painting skills.