

# **PIQUA CITY SCHOOLS**

## **Backpack Express**

**A Message from Superintendent, Rick Hanes**

**September 9, 2011**

### **A Great Start!**

Welcome back to 3,704 students in grades K-12 at Piqua City Schools! We are off to a great start and the first three weeks of school have come and gone and we are now well into the first quarter of the 2011-2012 school year. Thank you to all students, parents, staff and community members who helped our schools with such a quality beginning!

### **District Success!**

Our district academic profile just released from the Ohio Department of Education continues to show sustainable gains in student achievement. Congratulations to Washington Intermediate School for obtaining the "Excellent with Distinction" rating which marks the first time in our district history for a building to obtain this high rating! Congratulations to Piqua High School, Favorite Hill Primary School, High Street Primary School and Springcreek Primary School for obtaining "Excellent" ratings. Our attendance rate, graduation rate and performance index were all the highest in district history!

Our district financial profile also continues to operate with good stewardship with emphasis on efficiency to continue offering "Good Schools at a Good Value" for our community. The district strategic plan along with "The Piqua Taxpayer Bill of Rights" was recently updated by the Piqua City Schools Board of Education and will guide our financial operations.

### **Upcoming Events**

Several exciting events are happening in the next few weeks and we encourage your participation.

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| September 11 <sup>th</sup> | 9/11 A Day of Honor will be held at 2:00 p.m. at Hance Pavilion at Fountain Park. The remembrance ceremony will include concerts, various speakers and presentations including PCS fourth grade students and a performance by the PHS Concert Choir. |
| October 1 <sup>st</sup>    | Pride of Piqua Band Invitational at Alexander Stadium  |
| October 20 <sup>th</sup>   | A Night of Discovery in Piqua City Schools with Discovery Education from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Piqua High School.  |

### **School Closings and Delays**

In the event of closure or the modification of the school day for emergency reasons, announcements are made through television channels 2, 7, 22 and on local radio station WPTW or on the district website.

If a one or two hour delay of the start of the school day is called, the start of school services and the school day is delayed for one or two hours.

For kindergarten students, if there is a two-hour delay, morning students attend school from 11:00 a.m. to 12:35 p.m., with bus pick up times running two hours later and bus drop off running one hour later. Afternoon kindergarten students attend school from 1:30 to 3:05 p.m. Bus pick up times run one hour later than usual but drop off time is the same. Preschool students follow the same schedule as kindergarten classes. In the event of a one-hour delay, morning kindergarten students arrive one hour later than the usual start time; dismissal is at the usual time. Afternoon sessions are not affected.

In the event of a three-hour delay, the start of school services and the school day is delayed by three hours. With a three hour delay, elementary and secondary students will have their dismissal time extended by one hour.

For kindergarten students, if there is a three hour delay, morning students attend school from 12:00 p.m. to 1:35 p.m. with bus pick up times running three hours later and bus drop off running two hours later. Afternoon kindergarten students will attend school from 2:30 p.m. to 4:05 p.m. Bus pick up times for those students run two hours later than usual, while drop off time is one hour later than usual. Preschool students follow the same bus schedule as the kindergarten classes.

Make-up days in Piqua City School District may take place in 2011-2012 on May 31, June 1, 4, 5, & 6.

### **Our Future**

After waiting over a decade, the residents of Piqua have an opportunity of a lifetime through a partnership with the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission for new elementary buildings. Additional information on the November Bond Issue and scheduled events will be announced in upcoming weeks.

Thank you for being a part of the Piqua City Schools family and for your continued commitment, dedication and support in providing "Good Schools at a Good Value" for Piqua students! Please continue to visit our website at [www.piqua.org](http://www.piqua.org) for up-to-date photos, building activities and events, as well as other valuable news items.

