

# The <sup>CCPS</sup> BOARD REPORT

October 22, 2024

## → Preschool opening delayed

Opening of the new Clark County Preschool is delayed to at least mid-February. Lead architect Brian Buckner said the project is more than 80% complete with about 70 weather days affecting the schedule. Lead contractor Codell Construction and architect Ross-Tarrant have set Feb. 14 as a realistic target for completion. An update will be provided at the Nov. 12 meeting.

## → KSA shows success, areas for growth

The [CCPS Kentucky State Assessment Data](#) showed significant areas of growth, and pointed out areas that need continued improvement. Instructional Specialist Dr. Lindsay Hale reviewed the most recent KSA results. [See Page 2.](#)

## → Academic Foundations

CAO Kelly Fithen reviewed the Academic Team's five foundations for high quality instruction, which were intentionally introduced last year and have since been a major focus across the district. "As with all systems and structures, it takes time for each of these foundations to grow and progress into the overall vision that we would like," she said. [See Page 2.](#)

## → Equity Coalition boosts students

In an update on the Equity Coalition, a vital CCPS partner, Vaché King reported on the group's three main programs, which continue to provide elevated opportunities for students.

[See Page 4.](#)

## → Routine items

- In routine items, the Board approved the monthly Financial Report, and numerous consent agenda items.

[View Agenda](#)

## → NEXT REGULAR MEETING: NOVEMBER 12

## NOTABLE & QUOTABLE

Our Academic Team bases our work on this quote: 'If you want to experience significant progress toward your goal, you need to be intentional about the work you're doing every day.' That is exactly what we're doing – making sure we're very intentional on everything we do across the district. And we're hoping we are growing greatness in both our students and our staff.

-Kelly Fithen, Assistant Superintendent/  
Chief Academic Officer

## Board donates \$10,000 to Memorial project



The Board voted to contribute \$10,000 toward the World War II/Korean War Memorial being built downtown. After presentations by Chuck Witt, Vice President of the Clark County Veterans Council, and Council member Greg Yates, the Board decided unanimously to contribute to the project as it will become an important educational opportunity for CCPS students.



Clark County Board of Education - The Board Report - October 22, 2024

Ashley Ritchie, Board Chair (District 5)  
Dora Hall, Vice Chair (District 2)

Billy Bennett (District 3)  
Ben Dorsey (District 4)  
Jennifer Simpkins (District 1)

CCPS  
Supt. Dustin Howard  
CAO/Asst. Supt. Kelly Fithen  
COO Brandon Watkins  
Full Admin Team

## → KSA Celebrations...

- English language learner progress increased by 104.6 points (not a typo) on the English language proficiency test that assesses how English learners navigate the English language through writing and speaking.
- Post-secondary readiness, which includes students who are either academic or career-ready, increased at GRC and Phoenix by 11.1 points with 88 high demand bonuses (industry cert earned in a high-demand field).
- In reading and math, 39 of our 58 subgroups (different demographic groups) either maintained their scores from last year, increased, or significantly increased.
- In science, social studies, and writing, 32 of 53 subgroups maintained, increased, or significantly increased.
- In graduation rates, all 12 subgroups either maintained, increased, or significantly increased.
- CCPS has no schools in targeted school improvement (TSI) status, an improvement over last year.

## → KSA Areas of Concentration...

- -In the school climate and safety survey, every school either decreased or significantly decreased. District officials are addressing the results specifically with administrators from each school.
- Our overall change, or the sum of the points for novice, apprentice, proficient, distinguished, and so on, was negative 3.12 points.
- In reading and math, 19 of our 58 subgroups either declined or significantly declined.
- In science, social studies, and writing, 21 of the 53 subgroups either declined or significantly declined.
- In special populations, we had a negative 20.3 African American, average overall points across all schools, and a negative 10.4 Hispanic average overall points decline, across all schools.
- -Ten of our 52 subgroups are considered pre-TSI, and those are being closely monitored.

## → Academic Foundations

To address KSA deficits, CCPS continues its intentional focus on our five Academic Foundations.

### • Continuous development

The district's Cardinal Connections Academy offers personalized professional development. Individual coaching continues in all academic areas, providing immediate feedback. New Teacher Cohorts allow the district to tailor information specifically for new teachers. All K-5 math teachers have been trained as part of the district's math focus. STEM teachers are providing a new dimension of learning in our science classrooms.

### • Congruence

Ongoing review of learning targets, lessons, and assessments ensures they support standards and align from grade to grade.

### • Student Engagement

Kagan Cooperative Learning across the district has significantly boosted student engagement, therefore increasing students' enthusiasm toward learning as well as content retention.

### • Differentiation

Specific, intentional professional development and mentoring are in place for teachers of English Language Learners, gifted and talented students, and exceptional learners. Supporting teachers of specific student populations has proven to increase achievement.

### • Monitoring

Administrators and instructional leaders in the district monitor each of these foundations and the initiatives within them to ensure academic gains, and address KSA focus areas.



## → Instructional Spotlights...

**SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL SPOTLIGHT**



**SHEARER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**




**Small Group Instruction Key Benefits at Shearer**


- Provides targeted, individualized support
- Promotes focused instruction and peer collaboration
- Enhances learning with manipulatives and multisensory tools
- Delivers differentiated content tailored to student needs



**SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL SPOTLIGHT**



**SHEARER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



**BIG ROCKS**

**Strengthening Communication**

- **Commitment to transparency:** Weekly updates for staff, timely updates for families
- **Survey in November:** Gather feedback on communication effectiveness

**Internal Communication:**

- Collaborative decision-making
- Team Reach APP
- Weekly updates with live calendar

**External Communication:**

- Messenger 2.0 (via Infinite Campus)
- Regular parent-teacher conferences
- Frequent social media updates

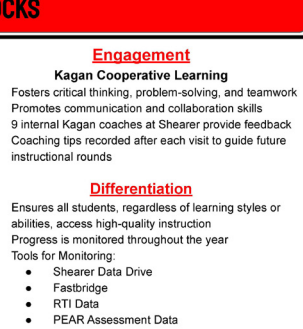
**Engagement**

**Kagan Cooperative Learning**

- Fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork
- Promotes communication and collaboration skills
- 9 internal Kagan coaches at Shearer provide feedback
- Coaching tips recorded after each visit to guide future instructional rounds

**Differentiation**

- Ensures all students, regardless of learning styles or abilities, access high-quality instruction
- Progress is monitored throughout the year
- Tools for Monitoring:
  - Shearer Data Drive
  - Fastbridge
  - RTI Data
  - PEAR Assessment Data



**DISTRICT INSTRUCTIONAL SPOTLIGHT**



**PHONICS ORTON GILLINGHAM**  
CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



**IMSE ORTON GILLINGHAM COACHING**

- First round of OG Coaching: October 7-8
- Professional Learning
- Intentional feedback to support teachers
- Fidelity checks to ensure congruence and cohesiveness across the district



## Quotable highlights...

**Shearer Principal Diana Jackson:**

“The key to success at Shearer Elementary at the moment is small groups instruction and that is occurring across the building whether it be on phonics, math, reading, or with our Portrait of a Learner competencies. Providing small group instruction enables teachers to focus on specific concepts and provides an environment conducive to re-teaching concepts and enriching our students.”

**Shearer Asst. Principal Lindsey Campbell:**

“Kagan Cooperative Learning is an opportunity for us as adults to grow, but even more important, it’s teaching our students how those structures become a natural part of your learning and your life. It’s making a big difference in our education of the whole child.”

**Melissa Turner, District Elementary Instructional Specialist:**

“After implementing Orton-Gillingham last year in kindergarten through 4th grade, we began OG coaching this year to better support our teachers. Our first round of OG coaching was wonderful and very productive. A professional OG coach visits classrooms, observes the OG procedures, and then gives immediate feedback to the teachers. The coach makes sure every teacher has the support they need so they can help our students be better readers, writers, and spellers.”





## → Equity Coalition Update...

### Courageous Conversations

With a Greater Clark Foundation grant of \$20,000, the Coalition sponsored a Courageous Conversations series to build trust and belonging. “Transparency, relationship building and understanding are vital elements in establishing equity of access within Clark County Schools,” Coalition representative Vaché King said. Courageous Conversations were held in four sessions with parents, students, teachers and staff, and school administrators/Board of Education.

### Spanish interpreter program

The first and only of its kind in the nation, this program provides bilingual high school seniors with a skill that can lead to national accreditation as an interpreter and multiple career opportunities. The co-op provides the following:

- Training as a medical interpreter that meets national standards
- Observation experience in the University of Kentucky Language Services Department within the UK Healthcare system

Seven students have completed all program requirements, and one is working to finish. A Spring Cohort is being planned.

### Black and Hispanic Achievers

This active group has approximately 30 student participants who began the year with a Be the Best You event. Professional counselors of color provided practical tools to help students navigate life.

The students participated in a community project initiative with the mayor and city fire and police departments, visited Leeds Theater to learn about creative opportunities, and attended sessions on budgeting and communicating.

Participants have visited Kentucky State University and plan to visit other colleges in the future. A Spring Break trip to Nashville will give students the opportunity to visit colleges and historic sites. A partnership with ECU will give black and brown girls an opportunity to express themselves through poetry. The year ends with a celebration in May.

## → Superintendent’s Report...

In his report, Superintendent Howard discussed the Portrait of a Clark County Learner and how it affects all aspects of our work.

KSA testing data: I want to reiterate that this is a ONE day snapshot of students in our district. I don’t want to define our kids on a calculus equation, but what I am comfortable with is defining our students through the Portrait of a Learner competencies which will give our kids skill sets that prepare them not only to compete in a global society, but to win in the game of life.

Hall’s on the River: We want to give out a special shoutout to Hall’s on the River for helping us recognize and celebrate students and staff who are displaying the Portrait of a Learner competencies. We are going to be spotlighting each competency with Hall’s gift certificates.

Accountability: The state of Kentucky is working on a new accountability system that is going to encompass a local assessment portion. We’re ahead of the game because our Portrait of a Clark County Learner is how we’re going to measure how we’re doing.

Vision/Mission: Our revised Vision and Mission ties directly into the Portrait of a Learner. I want to thank the folks who came to our Community Connection event where we broke down our Portrait and brainstormed ways the community is already and can further support it.

(See our Connect with the Community newsletter attached to The Board Report.)





## Your Greatness Shows...

The importance of our collaboration with Clark Regional Medical Center cannot be overstated.

The Board honored CEO Matt Smith: "Since Matt Smith has been in Clark County, our students have been able to use the hospital facility for clinical hours in their pursuit to receive their pathway certificates. Students previously had to travel out of county to earn these hours. In addition, the hospital has teamed with CCPS to make it possible for students to attend any athletic event free. This collaboration helps to make that connection outside of the school walls for students to take part and show school spirit."

Thank you, CRMC and Mr. Smith, for your generosity and Clark County spirit.



GRC student Megan Robinson was recognized for winning the state title for 4-H Demonstration in which she described the art of a fishing technique called "flipping." The Demonstration category challenges students to communicate an idea by showing and telling.

A member of the GRC's varsity Bass Fishing Team, Megan won the Clark County 4-H Division, advanced and won the local area competition, and then brought home the 4-H state title. She also competed for GRC's FFA and won the state title.

In addition, Megan had the amazing opportunity to present her demonstration in Carter County to a group of Moroccan delegates through 4-H this fall.

Thank you, Megan, for representing Clark County Public Schools with distinction.



Former Bass Fishing Coach Billy Damron was recognized for building a nationally recognized program at RDC and GRC.

The recognition read: "Over a ten-year span, Billy has grown the program and successfully established it on the map in the fishing world. His anglers have won countless trophies, been awarded won numerous college scholarships, and gotten

opportunities through fishing that they may never have had."

Mr. Damron retired from the position after this past season.

Thank you for your service, Coach Damron!





**CONNECTED IN GROWTH. CONNECTED IN GOALS. CONNECTED IN GREATNESS.**

# CONNECT

*with the Community*

The Oct. 10 event at GRC brought together parents, stakeholders, partners, business leaders, and district staff to share insights and ideas in small group discussions.

We enjoyed dinner and fellowship, reviewed our district's revamped Vision/Mission, and discussed our Portrait of a Clark County Learner.

Attendees delved into each of the Portrait's six competencies, sharing ways we are winning in each, and brainstorming how to strengthen our school-community partnerships related to each competency.

We achieved our goal of continuing an open dialogue aimed at heightening our students' school experience to better prepare them for a productive future.



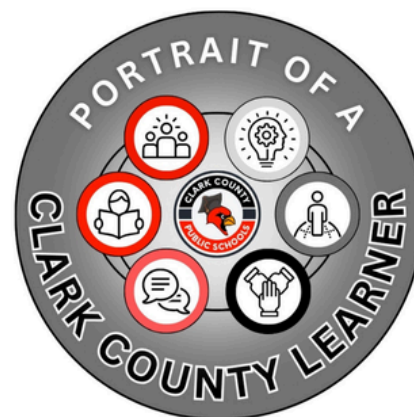
## GROWING GREATNESS

### Vision

*Connecting the district and community as ONE to grow greatness in all students.*

### Path to Greatness / Mission

*On the journey to greatness, we partner with our community to grow students as leaders, learners, communicators, innovators, citizens, and collaborators – the Portrait of a Clark County Learner. With these foundations guiding what we do every day, we prepare students to be **life-ready.***







# PORTRAIT OF A **CLARK COUNTY LEARNER**

**DEFINING THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND DISPOSITIONS  
EVERY LEARNER WILL POSSESS IN CLARK COUNTY**

## **EMPOWERED LEADER**

*Empowered Leaders will brainstorm solutions, cultivate vision, and inspire others to do the same.*



## **RESILIENT LEARNER**

*Resilient Learners will persist through setbacks, adapt to change, and nourish an eager mindset.*



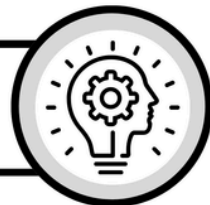
## **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR**

*Effective Communicators will understand diverse perspectives, build connections, and convey an authentic message.*



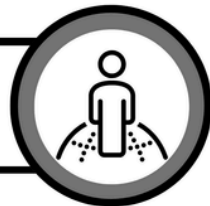
## **REFLECTIVE INNOVATOR**

*Reflective Innovators will think creatively, challenge existing norms, and find novel solutions.*



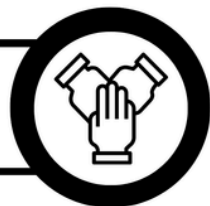
## **ENGAGED CITIZEN**

*Engaged Citizens will make informed decisions, initiate positive change, and invest in the community.*



## **COMMITTED COLLABORATOR**

*Committed Collaborators will contribute with integrity, navigate compromise, and promote teamwork.*



Attendees signed up for one of the six competencies they wished to discuss in more detail. District facilitators and note takers were assigned for each group. We have noted below some of the feedback and ideas the group members shared related to how parents and stakeholders are already and can to a greater extent support our Portrait of a Clark County Learner.



- Students need abundant opportunities to mentor younger students and be leader role models.
- Staff must model leadership by taking the initiative to seek out collaboration opportunities.

## EMPOWERED LEADER

- We must find ways to increase opportunities for student leadership roles through school groups, clubs, pathways, and community agencies and groups such as the Public Library and 4-H.



## RESILIENT LEARNER

- Sports and extracurriculars teach students to persevere through struggles by relying on others.
- Community involvement gives students a chance to pursue and inspire individual interests.

- The cooperative learning strategies used across the district push students outside their comfort zones to help them master concepts they didn't think they could. This encourages them not to give up when things aren't easy.





- Ensure parents have access to tools to work on communication skills at home.
- Proactively create opportunities for high schoolers to interact and communicate with younger students.

## EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR

- Adult role models from outside of the classroom setting are needed.
- The district must continue to host events that bring parents, organizations, and businesses into the school setting.



## REFLECTIVE INNOVATOR

- We offer many courses and programs in which students explore different ways to a solution and work together to achieve success.
- Our classrooms are no longer teacher focused.

- Several community groups have partnered with schools to expose students to new experiences outside the school walls, and we have numerous programs that expose students to new perspectives.



- Focus on creating more direct partnerships between students and businesses, local groups and organizations.
- Grant service hours for students, and establish a job shadowing program.

## ENGAGED CITIZEN

- School should be the center of the community.
- Students learn through exposure and experiences such as field trips locally and beyond.



## COMMITTED COLLABORATOR

- Create opportunities for students to volunteer in the community.
- The community and schools already do a great job of helping one another and working together for the benefit of others.

- If we make our parents and community partners aware that we are searching for opportunities to collaborate with the school system, they will rise to the occasion even more than they already are.

