

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
QUARTERLY NEWS  
OCTOBER 2017



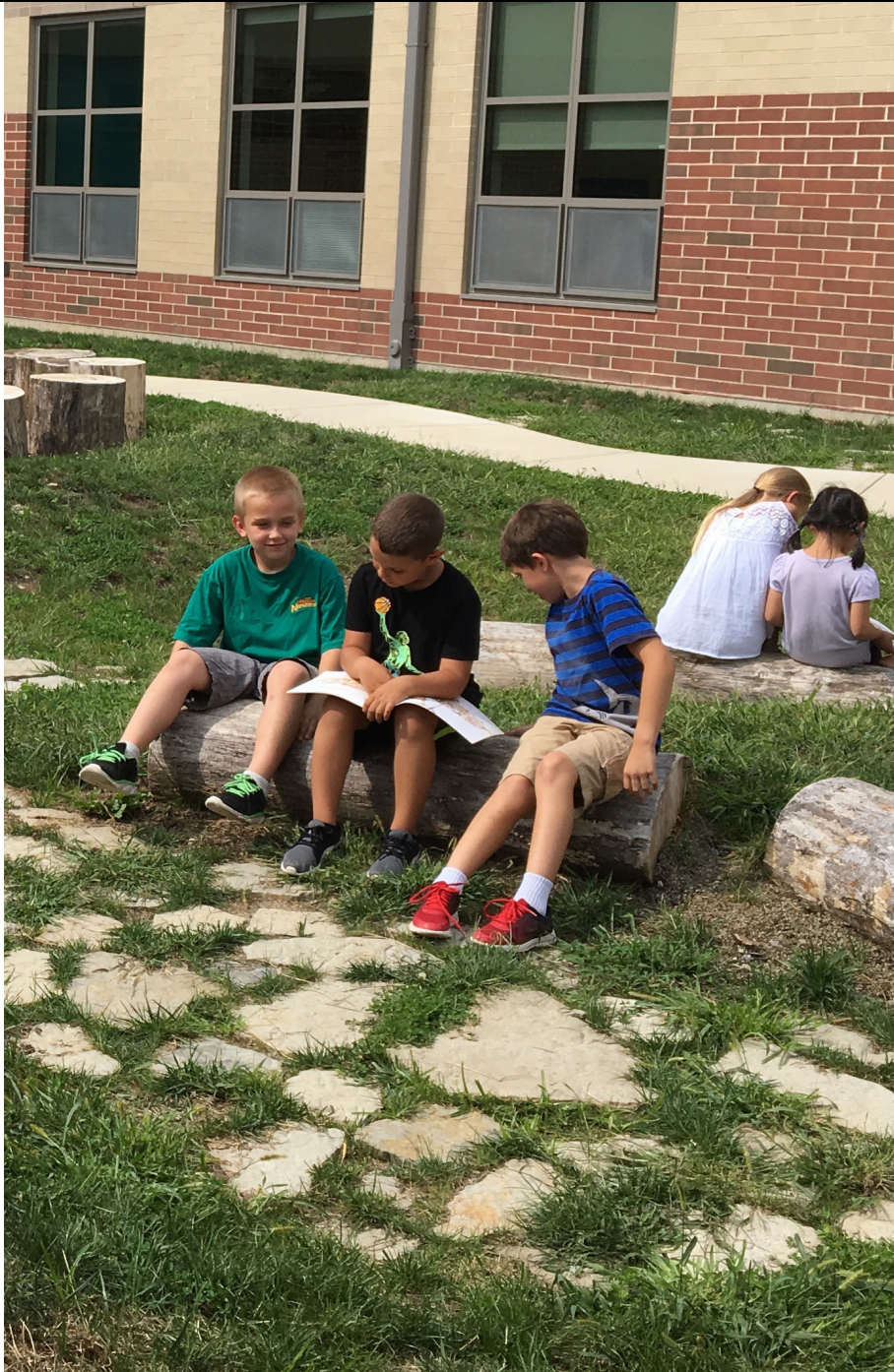
## A Letter From Mrs. Spivey:

As a parent, have you ever heard the old saying that when children are little they step on our toes, but when they become a teenager they can step on our hearts? Middle and high school years are a time of big changes for children and families. New opportunities, new relationships, new challenges, and new worries are part of growing up and getting ready for the adult years.

During these times, it is easy for families to become disconnected and allow outside demands to pull families apart. Families are so important, and the Talawanda School District has been involved in several researched-based programs to help students and families. The Search Institute's 40 Developmental Asset Framework is utilized throughout the district. The more assets students have, the more likely they are to be happy, healthy, and successful. Please feel free to visit <https://www.parentfurther.com/> for helpful tips and strategies on important topics for families.

Over the past several years, the Talawanda School District has also offered a ten-week program (one evening per week) for families wanting to learn how to stay connected with their kids. Promoting strong and healthy families has multiple benefits and serves as a protective factor in helping young people develop. Sessions are offered for parents and for middle/high school students at the same time. Dinner and childcare is provided.

If you're interested in learning more about this program, please contact Amy Macechko (macheckoa@talawanda.org) or myself (spiveyk@talawanda.org). The next session will begin on February 26, 2018.



# TALAWANDA HOSTED SPARK DAY IN OCTOBER

A student's spark is what he or she is really passionate about, an activity that unleashes his or her energy and joy. Discovering that spark can help a student express his or her personality and make a contribution to the world.

When young people know and develop a spark, with the support of adults, they present a strong picture of health and well-being.

Research shows that students who have opportunities to identify and nurture their sparks are more successful academically, socially, emotionally and physically.

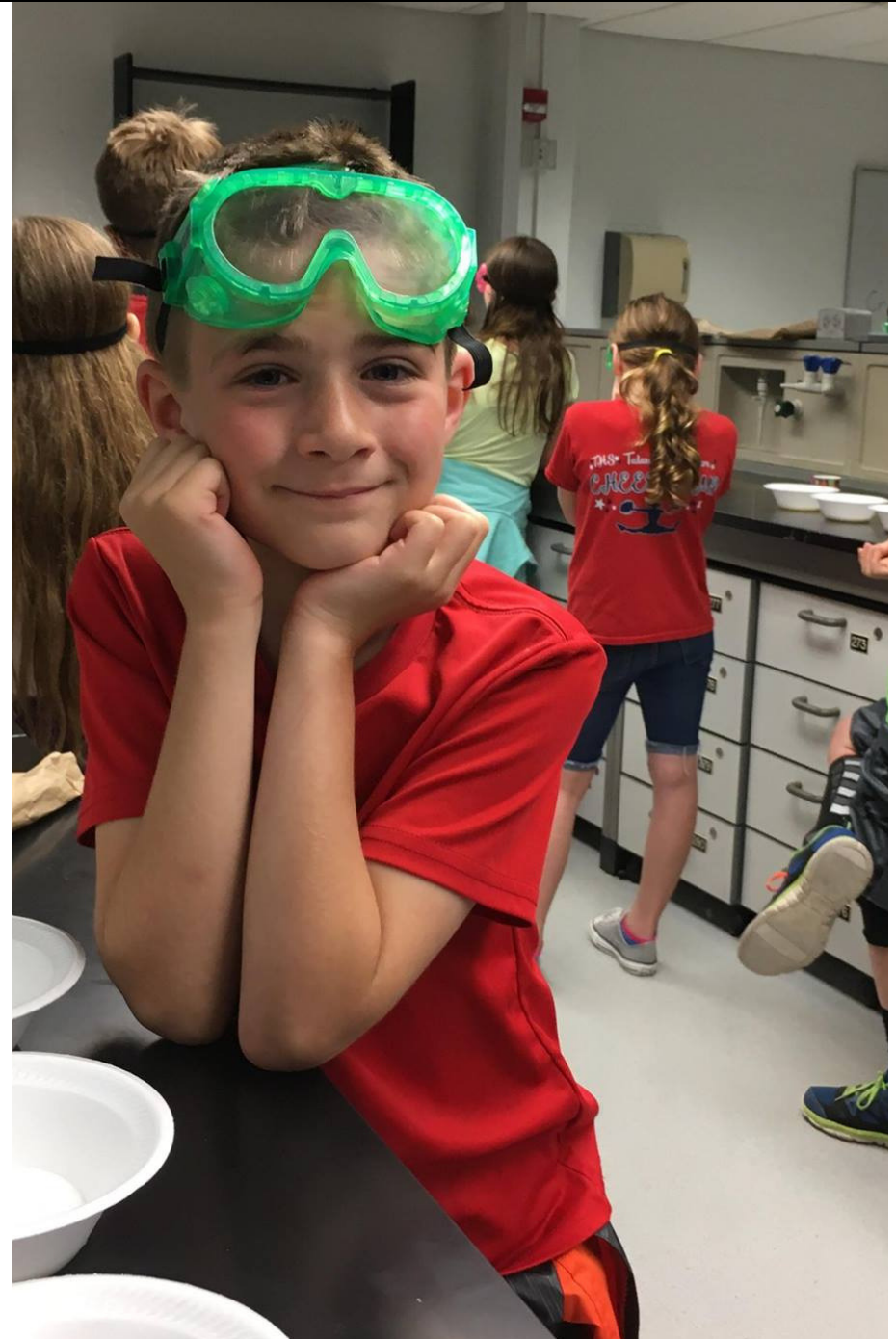
## Teaching and Learning

Talawanda is happy to announce a new partnership with University of Cincinnati's Informational Technology (IT) Department. The goal of the partnership is to increase the number of high school students in the pipeline on the way to careers in IT. High paying jobs are not being filled in IT in the state of Ohio and this program allows students to begin taking courses, some online and some with our own instructor, that will lead to Associate's, Bachelor's or Master's degrees in IT. Some students may even leave Talawanda with their first year of UC's IT program completed. This year the groundwork is being laid, including a new introductory course being offered at TMS to develop interest. Beginning in 2018-19, the course pathway will be put into motion. If you want to hear more, contact Joan Stidham ([stidhamj@talawanda.org](mailto:stidhamj@talawanda.org)), Ryan Barter ([barterr@talawanda.org](mailto:barterr@talawanda.org)), or Andy Zimmerman ([zimmermana@talawanda.org](mailto:zimmermana@talawanda.org)).

## Community Engagement

There are 24 community and staff members that currently participate in the quarterly meeting of the Talawanda Community Advisory Committee. This group focuses on issues impacting public education and follows legislation and how new laws effect Talawanda students. Please feel free to join us at the next meeting which will take place at the Talawanda High School Media Center at 8:30 a.m. on November 28th.

A community volunteer has created a Facebook page called Talawanda Community Advocacy for Public Education or T-CAPE in order to share information with a wider audience regarding issues facing public education. By utilizing social media, the group can broaden their reach and network with more interested people regarding educational matters. The hope is to raise awareness to important issues and legislation impacting K-12 learning and students. To join this group, please email [kknightabowitz@gmail.com](mailto:kknightabowitz@gmail.com).



The background of the page is a photograph of Talawanda High School. The building is a large, multi-story brick structure with a prominent entrance featuring a portico supported by columns. The words "TALAWANDA HIGH SCHOOL" are visible on the facade above the entrance. The sky is blue with some light clouds. The foreground shows a paved walkway and a grassy area.

## School Climate

Talawanda School District strongly believes that building relationships is at the center of instruction, and those positive relationships are an essential component for students to achieve their full potential. The Talawanda School Climate Committee (and sub-committees) meets regularly to discuss current concerns and plan for students needs. Each school implements programming which includes anti-bullying strategies, programs that cultivate and support respect.

The district equity plan utilizes short-term and long-term strategies as a blueprint for shaping the future diversity actions as it focuses on the following five main steps: 1.) develop a diversity leadership team to administer and implement the plans and evaluations; 2.) recruit, hire, and maintain quality staff that represent the diverse needs of the student population; 3.) increase cultural proficiency of staff; 4.) increase outreach for the purpose of engaging community members; and 5.) increase student engagement.

This year the high school has launched “Project Civility”. This program was introduced by Miami University Hamilton, and the focus is on recognizing random acts of kindness, and commemorating those moments with the exchange of a wooden token. The design for the token was made by a 2017 THS graduate, and was sponsored by a grant from the Talawanda-Miami Partnership. Students have helped to create a facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Talawanda-Project-Civility-159399707972708/>) where these moments can be captured and shared with the community.



## Legislative Update - HB 410

New legislation was introduced on October 10th called the “Deregulation Bill.” This bill was created by Senator Huffman along with superintendents from across the state in an effort to address student needs around licensure, teacher evaluations, student testing, student attendance, and safety management. This bill is widely supported by educators across the state of Ohio due to the support it will provide to students and teachers in our public schools.



THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
TIME.

*We hope you enjoyed  
our update.*