



Community Connection

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Former PRCTC teacher now Circleville super

Jonathan Davis is looking forward to the first day of school. Especially kindergarten.

"The first day of school is always one of my favorite days," said Jonathan, who took the helm as Circleville City Schools' superintendent in July.

The former assistant to long-time Superintendent Kirk McMahon, Jonathan said he spent the summer getting ready for the school year and helping other staff members in new positions get ready for those jobs.

Many people in the district were promoted in the recent months: Kyle Uhrig is now assistant superintendent after serving as assistant high school principal for three years and Vicki Scott assumed the assistant principal position. The district also has a new athletic director in Chad Spradlin and Tim Harris is the new assistant principal at the elementary.

While there are many people in new positions, Jonathan said he is lucky to have been able to tap such a deep well of



talent already in the district.

"We have a great group of people that I have a lot of trust in," Jonathan said.

Jonathan himself has been with Circleville City Schools for many years. With a bachelor's degree in education from Shawnee State University, he started his education career teaching at Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center.

But after only a few years in the classroom, Jonathan left education to work for Edward Jones Investments. He stayed in the financial services field for four years before deciding to return to education.

"I loved helping people learn about investments but I realized I wasn't very good at sales and bringing in clients."

He applied for a teaching position at



Jonathan Davis, center, addresses staff members during a new-teacher welcome breakfast last week.

Circleville but instead was offered a job running all of the district's after-school programs.

From there he moved up in the district, becoming the assistant principal at the high school and then being named the assistant superintendent in the 2013-14 school year.

Now superintendent, Jonathan is ea-

ger to continue the district's growth and share its successes with the community.

"We need to reshape the perception of this district," Jonathan said. "Our community has changed but it hasn't changed for the worse. We have a new campus and great academics.

"We can be the best educational choice for kids."

Librarian certified as "ICoach"

By Jennifer Bahney

Circleville Herald

Circleville Elementary School teacher Tammera Laughlin has spent the summer earning her certification as a District/Building ICoach from INFOhio, the state's PreK-12 digital library. To attain the designation, Laughlin was required to participate in more than 15 hours of group training and individual study.

"Laughlin is definitely a building leader," said Jonathan Davis, superintendent of Circleville City Schools. "Taking personal time to learn more about these digital tools will directly and positively affect the quality of instruction our students receive."

Laughlin is a librarian with Circleville Elementary's Media Center Services.

ICoach is short for *integration coach* and some 370 educators across Ohio have received the District/Building ICoach certification. With her new credentials, Laughlin will work with Circleville teachers to incorporate digital technology and research tools in their classrooms.

"District/Building ICoaches are a linchpin in promoting INFOhio's free resources and services to educators across the state," said



Tammera Laughlin works with a student at Circleville Elementary's media center.

INFOhio's Executive Director Theresa M. Fredericka.

"An ICoach has first-hand experience with the demands classroom educators face along with boundless curiosity about the newest educational technologies," she said.

INFOhio is one of the country's largest library and information networks, and has provided online digital resources to Ohio's PreK-12 schools for more than 20 years. In addition to library software group licensing and support, INFOhio provides online academic research databases to students and their families, as well as classroom support to educators.

This article originally appeared in the Circleville Herald and was reprinted with permission.

Student bound for Chile



Emma Johnson, right, is the Sunrise Rotary outbound exchange student. Emma, a Westfall High School graduate and a member of Pickaway-Ross' ag program, will spend a year in Chile, leaving this month. Last month, she addressed the Rotary club about her upcoming trip. Emma is the daughter of Steve Johnson and Terry McKie-Johnson.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER: Vacation about more than taking time off work

Every summer, I take a vacation at the beach with my family.

These two weeks in July are a welcome break from working and one I savor.

But while my body is at the beach, enjoying the time with my wife, our children, their spouses and our grandchildren, my brain often takes a vacation from vacation.

We've all done it: A quick thought about that report that needs to be finished; a form that will be due upon return; or a meeting that has to be scheduled.

Various studies have found two things: Americans are failing to take vacation time they've earned and taking a vacation



Ty Ankrom

promote creativity and overall well-being, prevent burnout, reduce and relieve stress, and enrich relationships through time spent together.

"The bottom line is that taking a good

amount of time away from the stresses of daily life can give us the break we need so that we can return to our lives refreshed and better equipped to handle whatever comes," Scott wrote.

For Pickaway County educators, I hope your summer has been just that: an opportunity to recharge yourself, renew some skills and return to your school ready for the 2016-17 school year.

Have a great year!

Ty Ankrom is superintendent of the Pickaway County Educational Service Center. He can be reached at ty.ankrom@pickawayesc.org.

Coming up

First days of school

Aug. 17:	Logan Elm
	Teays Valley
Aug. 18:	Circleville
Aug. 22:	Westfall
Aug. 23:	Pickaway-Ross juniors
Aug. 24:	Pickaway-Ross seniors

Important dates

Sept. 5:	Labor Day
Oct. 19-21	Pumpkin Show

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