



April 2014

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# Wooster City School District

Inspiring World-Class Academic Achievement

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## Speech and Debate Team Places 3rd in State Competition, Sends Four Students to Nationals

Wooster High School’s Speech and Debate team recently placed third in the Ohio High School Speech League State Tournament, which was held on Feb. 28 and March 1. Joseph Gorman was the top speaker in Policy Debate, while Hannah Doan took third in Prose and Taylor Bennington took third in Congressional Debate.

Between the state tournament and the March 22 Congressional Debate Tournament, four students qualified for nationals, which will be held in June. The qualifying students are Gorman and his Policy Debate partner Ben Snoddy, Bennington for Congressional Debate and David Burnett for Congressional

Debate. This is the 64th time Wooster has been to the national tournament.

In addition to taking third place at the state competition, the team also took first place in the Congressional Debate Tournament. It also completed the 2013-14 regular season with a first place

finish in the Sharen B. Althoff Rotary Invitational on Jan. 17-18.

The team has also achieved membership in the National Forensic League’s Societe de 300 for the second year in a row, which means the team obtained more than 300 degrees during the season.

*Congratulations to our Speech and Debate team!*





## Three Capital Improvement Projects Scheduled for Summer 2014

BY: MIKE FOORE, MANAGER OF BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Three capital improvement projects are being developed for the Wooster City School District Board of Education by the Balog Steins Hendricks & Manchester (BSHM) architectural firm. The projects are being funded from the Permanent Improvement (PI) levy that was approved by voters in May, 1999 and includes:

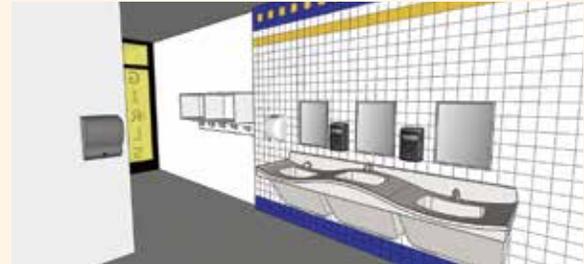
### **Wooster High School HVAC**

There are 13 systems on the roof of the high school that are all at or approaching end of life. Three systems will be replaced this summer which cool approximately 70% of the academic wing.



### **Edgewood Middle School**

The old industrial arts portion of the middle school will be converted into new state-of-the-art academic space. New larger student lockers will be installed and two restrooms will be renovated. In total, approximately 6,400 sq. ft. will receive enhancements and updates.



### **Wooster High School Stadium: Follis Field/Track**

The Board of Education have been planning and budgeting the replacement of the track around Follis Field. Private funds are being raised in an attempt to replace the actual Follis Field playing surface with artificial turf.

The goal is to have all of these projects completed for the start of the 2014 – 15 school year. For more information on our capital improvements, please call 330.988.1111 or email [info@woostercityschools.org](mailto:info@woostercityschools.org).

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## Wooster's Reach Out And Dance(r) Program to Perform "Music of Gershwin"

Fourth graders from Wooster's Reach Out And Dance(r) program will perform at the Wooster High School Performing Arts Center on Monday, May 12 at 12:30 p.m. Titled Music of Gershwin, the students will perform to some of the famous, all-American songs of brothers George and Ira Gershwin, including *Strike Up The Band*, *They All Laughed* and *Can't Be Bothered Now*.

Created at Wooster more than

15 years ago by Lori Klinger and Thecla Harris, Reach Out And Dance(r) is an in-school educational dance outreach program. In 2012, Reach Out and Dance(r) added a musical theater curriculum, allowing Wooster students to learn songs from both Broadway musicals and classic songs composed by renowned composers. The program is fully funded through the support of the Noble Foundation.



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# Wooster City School District

## Spring 2014 Calendar of Events

### April 21 - April 30, 2014

**OAA Testing** - See Website for Details

### April 26, 2014

**Big Band Dance** - WHS Commons - 8:30 - 11 pm

### May 3, 2014

**WHS** - SAT Test

### May 5-6, 2014

**Edgewood** - Ronald McDonald Mobile Dentist

### May 6, 2013

**All-City Spring Orchestra Concert** - WHS PAC - 7:30 pm

### May 7, 2014

**WHS** - Gr. 8-12 - Bands Spring Concert - PAC - 7:30 pm

### May 7-8, 2014

**Melrose** - Ronald McDonald Mobile Dentist

### May 8, 2014

**WHS** - Gr. 5-12 Choir Concert - PAC - 7:30 pm

### May 10, 2014

**WHS** - Prom

### May 12-13, 2014

**Kean** - Ronald McDonald Mobile Dentist

### May 12-16, 2014

**Parkview** - Spring Book Fair

### May 15, 2014

**Edgewood** - Gr. 6-7 - Orchestra Concert, Gr. 7 - Band Concert - Edgewood Gym - 7:30 pm

### May 19, 2014

**WHS** - Music Awards - PAC - 7 pm

### May 26, 2014

**NO SCHOOL** - Memorial Day  
**WHS Marching Band** - Memorial Day Parade - 9 am

### May 28, 2014

**WHS** - Senior Give Back Day

### May 29, 2014

**Cornerstone** - 4th Grade Awards Assembly - 10 am  
**Kean** - Awards Assembly

### June 3, 2014

Last Day of School for Students

### June 4, 2014

Last Day of School for Teachers

### June 7, 2014

**WHS** - SAT Test

### June 8, 2014

**Graduation** - Follis Field - 2 pm

### June 14, 2014

**WHS** - ACT Test

# Shelmar Tennis & Fitness Club

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### Saturday

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## Two Wooster Teachers Named Ohio Lottery Teachers of the Month

Suzi Parker, a second-grade teacher at Kean Elementary was named the Ohio Lottery Teacher of the Month for March, while Cassandra Gordyan, a fifth-grade teacher at Edgewood, received the honor for February.

Parker is on the district's report card committee and is as a leader among her peers, even presenting to the Ohio Leadership Advisory Council. She is recognized for her success

with student achievement and her ability to meet each student where he/she is academically.

Gordyan is a math and science teacher, as well as a member of the faculty advisory committee. She also provides intervention to students after school, participates in the after-school tutoring club and works for the Boys and Girls Club of Wooster.



*Congratulations, Suzi and Cassandra, on this outstanding achievement!*

## Four Wooster High School Students Named National Merit Finalists



Wooster High School seniors Joseph Gorman, Hans L. Qu, Seokhyeon Ryu and Rachel C. Loder have been named finalists in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program. As finalists, the students will now compete for some 8,000 National Merit Scholarships.

The nationwide pool of finalists represents less than one percent

of U.S. high school seniors and includes the highest scoring entrants on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Qualifying Test.

To be considered for a National Merit Scholarship, finalists are required to have an excellent academic record, be active in school and community activities and demonstrate leadership.

The goal of the program is to honor students who exhibit excellent academic ability and to encourage the pursuit of academic excellence.

The 2014 National Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in April.

*Congratulations to this year's finalists!*

## Wooster Transitioning to Next Generation of Assessments

Like many districts across the country, the Wooster City School District is in the midst of a transition to the next generation of student assessments. This transition is based on research that shows using high-impact formative instructional practices (FIP) in the classroom translates to greater gains in student achievement. Using FIP, teachers are able to identify what students know, where there is room for improvement, and whether instructional changes need to take place.

As part of this transition, the Partnership for Assessment and Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a group of states that have come together to develop high-quality student assessments that are linked to new, more rigorous English language arts (ELA)/literacy and math standards.

The assessments will be ready for the spring of the 2014-15 school

year for students in third through 11th grades and will replace the statewide tests such as OAs. The new, more comprehensive assessments will ask students to answer a variety of questions, show their work, and explain their reasoning.

Taken completely online, these assessments will be innovative and engaging, asking students to write essays and answer questions that resemble high-quality coursework from the best classrooms at all grade levels and colleges. Ultimately, the assessment will connect to the Common Core State Standards, providing comparability among states and equity among students.

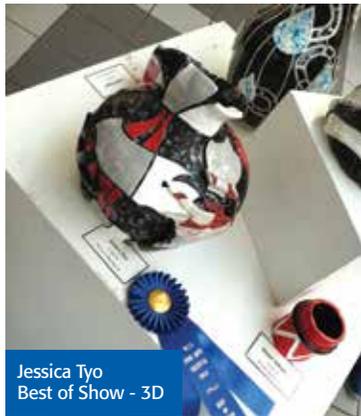
To explore sample questions, tutorials and the technical skills required, visit the PARCC website at [www.PARCCOnline.org](http://www.PARCCOnline.org), or the Ohio Department of Education's website at [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov).



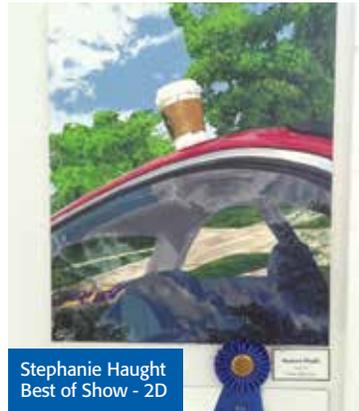
# Wooster City School District

## Wooster Hosts 16th Annual Fine Arts Festival

The Wooster City School District recently held its 16th Annual Fine Arts Festival on Saturday, March 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event, which was free to the public, in-



Jessica Tyo  
Best of Show - 3D



Stephanie Haught  
Best of Show - 2D

cluded visual, instrumental, and vocal arts performances by students from all of Wooster's elementary schools, Edgewood Middle School, and the Wooster High School.

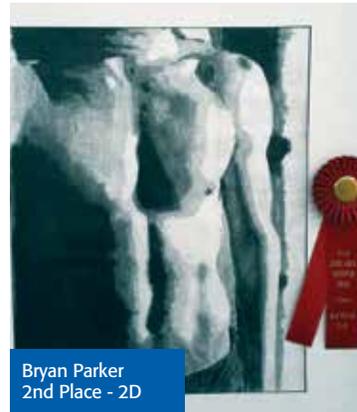
Visitors were treated to a wide array of fine art, including an art gallery of selected student pieces, vocal and instrumental music performances, and even a performance by speech and debate team members. Students also held stage makeup demonstrations and did face painting.

Each year, guests at the event vote for a People's Choice Award winner. This year, student Margi Haiss



Margi Haiss  
People's Choice

was awarded the honor. In addition to the People's Choice Award, two judges awarded best of show, second and third place prizes to students for their artwork. In the 2nd category, Stephanie Haught



Bryan Parker  
2nd Place - 2D

was awarded best of show, while Bryan Parker received second place and Anna Qu received third place. In the 3D category, Jessica Tyo was named best of show, while Brett Lepley received second place and Grayson Blythe received third place.



Brett Lepley  
2nd Place - 3D

### Student Artwork for Governor's Art Exhibit

Stephanie Haught's artwork was chosen for this year's prestigious Ohio Governor's Art Exhibit in Columbus. The piece will be on display from April 13 through May 15. **Congratulations, Stephanie!**



Anna Qu  
3rd Place - 2D



Grayson Blythe  
3rd Place - 3D

*Have Coffee with the Superintendent!*

**Join Dr. Michael Tefs for an update on the Wooster City School District:**

- Student achievement
- Finances
- Enrollment
- Student Assessment System
- Capital Improvement Projects

**April 25 • 9:30 a.m.  
Wooster Inn  
(801 E Wayne Ave.)**

# Wooster Swim Program Enjoys Record-Breaking Season



The girls team finished their second consecutive undefeated regular season with a 13-0 record.

This year, the Wooster varsity boys and girls swim teams each enjoyed record-breaking seasons.

The girls team finished their second consecutive undefeated regular season with a 13-0 record on their



way to winning the NEAC Championship and placing 10th overall in the state competition. The boys team continued its amazing streak of being undefeated in all OCC competitions since the conference began in 2003, while finishing as runners-up in the NEAC Championship and placing 13th overall at the state competition.

At the state tournament, the girls team of Gabrielle Sibia, Sophia Davis, Jessica Bonezzi, Sydney Wenger and Madison Whitman received numerous honors and set several school records. This included a seventh overall finish in the 200 medley relay, which set a new school record and received All-American considerations. Sibia

*Congratulations!*



The boys team continued its amazing streak of being undefeated in all OCC competitions.

also placed sixth overall in the 50 free for a new school record. Additionally, the 400 free relay team set a new school record on their way to receiving All-Ohio honors.

The boys team competed in six total events to set a new school record. Five of the events earned All-Ohio honors – another school record. Dan Ackerman headlined

the competition for Wooster, setting a school record for the most points at the state meet with 28. In doing so, he became the second four-time All-Ohioan from Wooster. Finally, the 200 medley team of Matthew Dyer, Dan Ackerman, David Goodrich and BJ Graham became the first boys relay team to ever become medalists.

## Wooster Rotary Parade of Flags

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# Wooster City School District

## Wooster Participates in National Heart Health Month

Students and staff got in on the fun and raised money for a good cause during the month of February.

The American Heart Association designated February as National Heart Health Month, and each year the Wooster City School



District participates in fun, heart-healthy activities while raising money and awareness for heart health.

Highlights of the month included the All-District Spirit Week, which began Feb. 3. Each day had a theme in which students and staff could participate, such as "Sock it to Heart Disease"

crazy sock day. The week ended with "White Out Heart Disease" day, and attendees were asked to wear white shirts to the boys varsity basketball game that evening.

Elementary school students participated in Hot Shot Performances and Jump Rope for Heart activities, while the middle school students participated in Hoops for Heart.

"Heart Health Month is always a fun time here at Wooster," said Karen Arbogast, director of elementary education. "Our students learn about heart health while participating in fun, healthy activities that support a great cause. This year, we exceeded our fundraising goals. I'm so proud of all our students and staff!"

## After-School Dinner Program

The Wooster City School District recently began offering dinner to students participating in after-school enrichment programs at four of its six school sites. The meal is funded through a program offered by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Eligibility for the dinner program is not awarded on a district-wide basis, but depends on whether a school building has more than 50 percent of its students receiving free or reduced lunches. For this reason, the program will be available to students at Edgewood Middle School and Cornerstone, Parkview and Melrose Elementary.

The meal includes a sandwich, fruit, vegetable and a drink.

Wooster has used the USDA program funding to offer a breakfast, lunch, snack and summer lunch program to eligible students for the past five years. Additionally, the district has offered a summer weekend backpack program provided by funding from the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. Last year, the program gave, on average, more than 160 backpacks full of packed lunches to students each week during the summer.

"It is difficult for children to concentrate when they're hungry," said Superintendent Dr. Michael Tefs. "We are pleased to be able to offer another nutritious meal that will enable students to fully participate and focus on their after-school enrichment activities."

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