



Success

Timely tips to improve student achievement

October 2021

Teacher scuba dives into diversity in marine biology

Veronica Wylie, a high school science teacher in Mississippi, earned her scuba diving certification and is developing a culturally relevant marine biology curriculum with the help of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers. Wylie says she wants students to see themselves in the sciences. The curriculum will include participation in Youth Diving With a Purpose – scuba training to educate the public on and preserve submerged heritage sites important to the African Diaspora. For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU734>.

School districts get creative to fill vacancies

School districts across the country are working to fill teacher and staff vacancies with strategies such as recruiting former military personnel and adjunct professors, offering four-day weeks or signing bonuses and encouraging high school students to pursue teaching careers. In Massachusetts, the National Guard has been enlisted to help drive school buses, while a Nevada district is recruiting retired employees to work in special education. For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU735>.

How to make outdoor teaching work

Seventeen outdoor math stations with garden-tending in between have helped improve engagement and comprehension and reduced stress among fifth-grade students at Centreville Elementary School in Virginia, teacher **Angela Ninde** says. Teachers and other education experts explain why some schools haven't embraced outdoor classes and offer solutions to perceived hurdles. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU736>.

National Blue Ribbon schools announced for 2021

The U.S. Department of Education announced the 325 schools earning the National Blue Ribbon distinction for 2021. Among the schools recognized were 16 schools in Ohio. The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing gaps among student subgroups. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU737>.

Student achievement in-depth

Each month, **Success** brings you a research brief or in-depth article to discuss with board members and administrators.

The rising importance of library leaders in K-12 schools

Few roles in school districts have become more dynamic, more hands-on and more vital than that of the librarian since the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March 2020. These leaders have shown unmatched flexibility in support of teachers and administrators, whether it's planning, providing digital solutions, assisting with technology or helping with instruction.

Their innovative approaches have lifted the spirits of educators and families during the crisis, keeping students engaged while providing the spaces and tools, in person and online, to help them achieve their goals.

Shannon McClintock Miller has been at the forefront of the librarian power shift as both the innovation director of instructional technology and library media at Van Meter Community School District in Iowa and as an advocate for others through her work with Future Ready Librarians. She is the author of 12 books, including one with former ISTE president **Bill Bass** called "Lead from the Library."

"In so many schools, the librarians were the heroes. They were the ones who found ways to be those leaders in the digital space, the community space, that connection to parents and building communities, whether we were at school or online. That was so inspiring to see.

"We have this huge opportunity. Librarians are going to be seen in that leadership role – and not just being a leader within your library around literacy and a love of reading but also integrating innovative ways through technology, through different ways of learning and through things we give our kids, like virtual field trips or connecting with an author or reading online."

Her overarching message is one of continued empowerment for librarians from serving as resources on everyday tasks to being collaborative forces that can bring together a school community. For more information about district librarians and leadership in K-12 schools, please visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU738>.

Success

October 2021

Success is published monthly as a member service by the Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 North High Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43235-6481, (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA. Kim Miller-Smith, senior student achievement consultant, editor; Jeff Chambers, director of communication services, assistant editor. To download a PDF of this eNewsletter, go to <http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/Success>.