Volume 57, No. 7

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

September 11, 2019



TPS Makes Gains on State Report Card

The Ohio Department of Education has released its annual report card for public schools and Toledo Public Schools has good news to share with the community. The district moved up one grade level on the report card and is no longer considered to be in Academic Distress as described by the State of Ohio. The good news is that while there is still more work to be done, the students, teachers and staff at the Toledo Public Schools continue to make tremendous strides, a few of which are now being reflected on the state's report card.

To begin with, TPS improved on the overall Report Card from an F to a D, which means the state of Ohio will no longer list the district as being in Academic Distress.

In reviewing the results, the district emphasized that it welcomes transparency about its performance but believes the State Report Card continues to give a woefully incomplete picture of public education in this and other urban districts.

Dr. Durant, CEO/Superintendent for Toledo Public Schools, and the members of the Board of Education released a joint statement to amplify this point. "Even with these results, the State Report Card remains overly broad and continues to fail to accurately capture our progress. That is why we feel compelled to tell a more complete story," they said, directing the public to the district's website for a comprehensive overview of the results. In addition to moving up in the overall rankings, TPS saw continuing growth in more specific areas.

Students are graduating at an increased rate.. When looking at all students, the graduation rate reached 79.2 percent, up from 71.4 percent the year before. Over the last five years, graduation rates have increased 15.2 percent.

Among African-American students, the graduation rate exceeded 80 percent, which represents which represents a 15.2 percent increase over the last five years and a 7.7 percent increase over last year alone. Scott High School had the biggest increase in graduation rate in the entire district, netting a 28 percent improvement.

Data also shows that TPS students are increasingly well prepared for their life after high school. Over 91

Authentic Leadership

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, PhD
The Truth Contributor

The reason so many people in our community are asleep is because you get pissed off when somebody wakes you up

- Boyce Watkins



General elections for the City of Toledo now kick into high gear, with the primary having been completed. At stake are the six district city council seats, two municipal judges, and clerk of the municipal court.

The election comes at a time when the relationship between the African-American community and City Hall can be described as tense following a councilmember referring to members of the African-American community as cockroaches, alleged racial bias in the Toledo Fire Department, and accusations of excessive and unnecessary force inflicted upon blacks by the Toledo Police Department.

Given these critical times, the challenge for voters is to be able to identify authentic leaders and those who are leaders-in-name-only (LINO).

Here are a few distinctions:

- 1. Authentic leaders are able to provide a list of tangible mass-scale benefits they have provided to the community in return for their votes. LINOs, on the other hand, get angry and resort to name-calling when the community holds them accountable for their actions in the public arena and/or their lack of return on the voters' investment in them.
- 2. Authentic leaders are not apologists for the racist behavior of others.

When people of color are dehumanized and their dignity has been assaulted, the perpetrator needs to be called out on it so that the entire community can see that offensive, racist behavior will not be tolerated.

I'm glad to know that when Councilman Waniewski referred to black people as roaches, it was "privately communicated" to him that his behavior was considered offensive on its face and more offensive when one knows the history behind it.

However, to just talk privately about racist behavior or injustice is insufficient. The community at large needs to be sure that we are not giving our votes to those who "run back to meet with ole Massa' in private to provide intel on the happenings on the plantation" instead of those leaders who are

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's *Truthful* African American Owned and Operated Newspaper

Fletcher Word - Publisher and Editor

Becky McQueen - Business Manager

Tricia Hall – Reporter Rev. D.L. Perryman – Columnist Megan Davis – Columnist

Jennifer Retholtz – Webmaster Jessica Crans - Layout

A Certified MBE

The Sojourner's Truth, 1811 Adams Street, Toledo, OH 43604 Phone 419-243-0007 thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com www.thetruthtoledo.com strategizing on ways to empower the people who elected them.

3. Authentic leaders overcome mental chains.

All who lead and strive to help oppressed groups eventually find out that many of those you serve are carrying shackles around their minds rather than around their arms and legs. Because of these mental chains we are sometimes more likely to fight each other rather than unifying to fight an injustice.

Back in the day, when we would resort to fistfights rather than guns to settle disputes, there was always someone who stood on the sidelines to hold the combatants' coats. Although they were not at risk of getting hit themselves, the coat holders would talk trash, hyping the conflict to attract a crowd and inciting others to beat each other up.

The truth is that we have some very good incumbent elected officials. There also are some high-quality candidates who are attempting to become new officeholders on November 5.

Rather than talk trash to or about each other, authentic leaders talk about how we can solve the critical problems that affect our community.

Rather than fighting each other, authentic leaders fight fiercely for truth, accountability and dignity and respect for all people.

Only then, is it possible to liberate minds and free the city and our community to move to a new level of understanding.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdlperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org

Community Calendar

September 14

Eleanor Kahle Senior Center 2019 Fall Bazaar: 9 am to 3 pm; Crafts, gifts, bake sale; Hosted by the Happy Hookers Crochet/Knitting Club: 419-476-2745 Braden UMC Total Wellness Health Fair: 9 am to 4 pm; Screenings for diabetes, blood pressure, prostate cancer; Education about nutrition, insurance, CPR, cyber and fire safety

St. Mark's MBC Pre-Women's Day Workshop: 9 am; "Praying with Faith and Hope Makes All Things Possible;" Featuring discussion of "Fen" by Priscilla Shirer: 419-350-8150 or 419-266-1291

September 14-15

St. Paul MBC Women's Day Weekend: "We Are Women of Faith, Value and Vision;" Saturday – lunch at 11, guest speaker Sis El'Freda Agboka of Rochester Hills, MI; Sunday – 10:45 am service – speaker Elder Teresa McBee of Family Baptist: 419-246-2886

September 15

The Indiana Avenue MBC Annual Women's Day on Sunday: Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Morning worship 10:45 am; Women's Day Speaker Tammy Harris; Afternoon Musical of Women Soloists and Groups 3:30 pm; "Christian Women Growing Together in Grace and the Knowledge of God"

October 23

UT's "Tricks Treats & Dunks:" 6 to 8 pm; Savage Arena; Trick or treat for kids from 6 to 7 pm; Costume contest at 7; Rockets players at various games

May I Say This...?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq Guest Column

Ok. This is where I put on my legal wig and pontificate about the "system" and the people, wittingly or unwittingly, who are caught up in it, for good or for bad.

Doing this legal thing for more than four decades (how time flies when you are having fun!), I have had endless opportunities to watch both other attorneys' clients being sentenced and my own clients being sentenced.

The following ruminations are not client specific but are a general observation of what people do or should not do when they enter the legal system and stand before a judge.

I want to limit my remarks to the bizarro world of traffic sentencing including Toledo, Maumee, Sylvania and other municipal courts that are engaged in processing people who have broken the law.

I use the word, "bizarro" to capture the flavor of what people say to their attorneys or to the magistrates or to the judges when they are asked to either make statements before the gavel is lowered on them in the hopes that their statements will shed some light on their conduct and thus result in a lighter sentence.

First, the law states the maximums and minimums that a judge has discretion to impose on a miscreant. Their deviations from those sentencing possibilities mean that they can be flexible but only if you warrant a break.

Now, to be clear, in traffic court, the judge can consider the facts that got you before him or her and the judge can take human nature into account because some traffic violations are clearly explainable and were not intended to offend.

Once you have discussed the facts with your legal counsel, it is his or her job to package what you have said in terms that indicate you were either not intentionally violating the law or that what you did was harmless and no one was injured. Turning right on red without a full stop first is a good example.

Judges do not like people being hurt or injured by people who drive in a careless fashion or do stupid things under the influence of drugs or alcohol or speed through school zones.

One of the fastest ways to incur the ire or wrath of a traffic judge is to: (1) have a long traffic record that shows that you are thumbing your nose at the system or (2) that your attitude is one of, "So what, what is the fuss all about!"



Both are "No-no's" that will have you getting a max fine and sentence because you are showing no contrition or remorse over the infractions.

Judges are supposed to be the conscience of the community and if your conduct violates that conscience with an attitude of indifference, you are in trouble, my friend.

Judges can go Darth Vader real fast if, when you appear with a lengthy record that bespeaks a person who does not want to get his act together. The judge will accommodate you with a sentence that shows that his "conscience" has been assaulted by your inexcusable careless behavior.

Now, with the ability of hidden cameras and stealth-like patrol cars, your driving habits can be captured for viewing if you try to "lie it out" with the court. Bad move, really bad move!

You would be surprised at the alarming number of people who are driving on the streets without either insurance or a valid license and have repeatedly done so before they are caught.

And when they are caught, invariably they may have a rap sheet so long that even the judge whistles out loud at all of the prior charges that demonstrate this person before him or her is still not complying with the law about getting and keeping a valid license with insurance.

Some courts are not in the mood to reduce traffic violations of driving while impaired to a lesser sentence because you were a danger to yourself and others by such driving and also upon the belief that you have done it many times before and only now you are being held accountable. Karma will catch you!

There is something footloose and fancy free about driving a car without insurance and no license. After all, it means no responsibilities and you are always thinking that you are too smart to get caught like that other sucker who just got pulled over.

... continued on page 4



HUD Awards More than \$970,000 to LMHA to Clean up Lead Hazards in Toledo

Funding to identify and control potentially dangerous lead in homes with young children

Special to The Truth

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) last week awarded \$970,225 to Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority to identify and reduce lead-based paint hazards in two of its public housing developments. This award is part of the \$27.8 million that HUD issued to 38 Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) in 25 states provided through HUD's Public Housing Capital Fund. These grants will be targeted to approximately 2,800 public housing units, most of which are currently occupied by families with young children.

"We have no higher calling than to make certain the public housing that taxpayers support is healthy for our vulnerable families to live in," said HUD Secretary Ben Carson. "As a doctor who treated many young children, I witnessed the close connection between health and housing. Today we make another critical investment in the futures of young children growing up in public housing."

"HUD is taking pro-active measures in protecting families and their children by identifying and addressing housing hazards that have an impact on potential health issues," said HUD Midwest Regional Administrator Joseph P. Galvan.

"We are very excited and grateful to be awarded this grant and it couldn't have come at a better time," said Demetria Simpson, Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority president and CEO. "We are working to keep our children and families safe from lead with the Healthy Homes Initiative. We have tested over 500 units in recent months, and now plan to test 1,000 more."

Although lead-based paint was banned for residential use in 1978, HUD estimates that about 24 million older homes still have significant lead-based paint hazards today. However, homes receiving rental assistance, including public housing, tend to have a lower prevalence

of lead-based paint hazards compared to private housing. While most public housing has already undergone abatement, there are still some properties where lead-based paint remains and hazards have redeveloped.

Lead-contaminated dust is the primary cause of lead exposure and can lead to a variety of health problems in young children, including reduced IQ, learning disabilities, developmental delays, reduced height, and impaired hearing. At higher levels, lead can damage a child's kidneys and central nervous system and can even be deadly.

In addition to the funding announced, HUD will award a record \$330 million later this year to clean up lead-based paint and other housing-related health and safety hazards in privately owned low-income housing.

In 2017, HUD published a new rule lowering the Department's threshold of lead in the child's blood to match the more protective guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This important change to HUD's Lead Safe Housing Rule allows for a faster response if a young child is exposed to lead-based paint hazards in their HUD-assisted homes.

Since 1993, HUD has awarded more than \$2 billion in grants to communities for identification and control of lead-based paint hazards in over 200,000 low-income privately owned housing units. In addition, HUD supports research on best practices for identifying and controlling lead-based paint hazards and conducts an outreach program to get out the message.

Tolliver... continued from page 3

The fees and court costs and fines are deliberately high to serve as a possible deterrent from that person trying that foolish conduct again but it happens...all the time.

One can easily catch a traffic offense, or two... but when the courts have a full docket that is full of repeat offenders, mercy goes out the window and the judge steps up to cool your heels with a heavy fine or a license suspension.

So, a final tip before your traffic sentencing: minimize any damages by appearing on time, dressing appropriately, minimizing the use of, "Yeah's" and "Naw's"; and take responsibility for your acts and let the judge know that you have learned a costly lesson and the judge won't be seeing you again.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com





TPS Defies the Odds; Good News in State Report Card

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

The Ohio State Report Card is being released this week and Toledo Public Schools, notes the report, can boast a graduation rate of about 80 percent and student enrollment numbers that are on the upswing. There is a lot of good news in this year's report card for a district that has been buffeted over the last several decades by a diminishing population base and persistent financial difficulties.

By any economic measurement, Toledo is one of the most forlorn cities in the U.S. The city has a persistent high rate of poverty, a high rate of homelessness and a human trafficking dilemma.

A recent study prepared by the University of Toledo Jack Ford Urban Affairs Center notes that "Toledo reflects a trend seen in many urban centers that were previously reliant on manufacturing; structural change in the economy leading to job loss, as well as other factors such as suburbanization and white flight' led to dramatic population loss over several decades, which in turn led to abandoned housing and disinvestment in certain sections of the City." (Poverty Study, Executive Summary).

Such difficulties over the decades inevitably led to a decimation of the public-school system – lack of operating funds, decreasing school enrollment, an impoverished student population and, of course, failing district grades on the state generated report cards that have become commonplace around the nation.

Toledo Public Schools started to feel the impact of this trend as the 1900's came to an end and then began to bottom out during a period after the Great Recession. In the five years from 2010 to 2014, the student graduation rate was at an all-time low of 62 to 64 percent – lower for African-American and Hispanic students; lower for students from poor households and much lower for the disabled students. The district's enrollment rate bottomed out in the 2012-2013 academic year at 21,333 from a high of over 30,000 several decades previously.

However, five years ago, the current TPS administrators, under the leadership of Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD; Deputy Superintendents James Gault and Jim Gant, set about to change the landscape, to bring opportunities to the students that matched what the world, and particularly the Toledo area workplace, had to offer after graduation.

Career tech became not only a buzz word but also an attainable opportunity for students all over the city. There are now more than 40 career tech offerings spread out over the school system. Students pursuing the traditional path to a higher education have also been presented with more opportunities. Advanced placement offerings have increased in half a decade from four to 23; students can take seven different foreign language courses – even Russian; 12 associate degrees are available before a student completes his or her high school diploma requirements.

Durant notes that there are students enrolled in district high schools who rarely attend their schools in their senior years because they are spending all their time attending college courses. A goal, he says, for the district is to



Bowsher High School with superintendent Romules Durant, PhD



increase the value of city taxpayer funds by allowing as many students as possible to attain college degrees as debt-free as possible.

Graduation is only one of the two key measurables of a school system's success or failure, adds Deputy Superintendent Gault. The other key aspect is the achievement of third graders. That's the level at which the foundations of brain architecture are virtually complete and the lack of adequate early childhood education – preschool, kindergarten – is virtually impossible to overcome.

On this year's Third Grade Guarantee – the Percent of Students Meeting

... continued on page 6



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Leader Sykes Announces Sickle Cell Anemia **Awareness Month**

House Democratic Leader Emilia Strong Sykes (D-Akron) last week recognized the month of September as Ohio Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Month.

"This annual observance provides an opportunity to increase awareness and understanding about this major health issue," said Leader Sykes. "Nearly one in every 365 African-American babies in the U.S. are born with Sickle Cell Disease. That's why it is so important to know fact from fiction, and to learn more about the risk factors, signs and symptoms, and treatment options available for Ohioans."

Sickle cell anemia is a serious inherited condition in which red blood cells can become sickle-shaped, similar to the letter "C". According to the American Heart Association, people afflicted with the disease have a higher risk of stroke, and attacks can prompt long hospital stays for

People with sickle cell anemia may have bouts of severe pain in the chest, stomach, arms, legs, or other parts of the body. This is caused by sickle cells blocking blood flow through the blood vessels in those areas.

"Lifesaving blood donations are vital to help fight sickle cell disease," Sykes added. "Please reach out to the American Red Cross if you are considering how you can help."

The Summit, Portage, and Medina Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross can be reached at 330-535-6131 or https://www.redcross.org/ local/ohio/northeast/about-us/contact-us.html.

If you or someone you know would like more information on Sickle Cell Diseases you can find resources at the Ohio Department of Health at https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/sicklecell-services/publications/.

TPS Defies The Odds.. continued from page 5

Promotion threshold - the TPS District reached an achievement rate of 85 percent, an increase of 13.1 percent over four years (from 71.9 percent).

An improvement in kindergarten readiness, increased opportunities for preschool-aged students, early identification of at-risk students are among the number of programs the district has adopted to prepare students for the third grad and the Promotion Threshold.

For Durant and Gault, the current report card, showing such positive trends in graduation, enrollment and third grade testing results, is the result of the efforts of many. They commend the community for approving an uninterrupted string of levy requests – a 100 percent approval rate over the last five

They also are grateful for a board of education whose members have been

progress the district has made.

"The board is very pleased," says Stephanie Eichenberg, the board chairman. "But we will challenge parts of the report card as it relates to large urban districts."

The negative aspect of this year's report card is that TPS is mired in a below average grade - the district improved from and "F" to a "D." That's a huge improvement from the standpoint of being out of the academic emergency category, but is not reflective of what has been accomplished, says Durant and Gault.

"We're building an institution," says Durant. "We want to educate our kids to work here." The plan is to keep local businesses involved and to make sure that there is a pipeline from school to college or career so that students have a place to call home in this area after graduation.

An improvement of graduating six out of 10 students over the past five years to graduating eight out of 10 is astonishing in a town mired in poverty. But it's not enough yet, say the town's educators.

"There's more work to do," says Gault.

about their programs and services!

MERCYHEALTH



Cherry Legacy Neighbors Fall Fest Tuesday, September 17 4:00PM to 7:00PM Mercy Health - Franklin Avenue Medical Center 2213 Franklin Avenue FOOD, FUN, GAMES and MUSIC There's something for Everyone! September is Infant Mortality Awareness Month At 6:30 pm there will be the "Gettina · Screenings for blood pressure, bone density to One Baby Buggy Walk" (1 block) Vision and lead testing by Lucas County to promote healthy moms, babies and families and reduce Infant mortality in Lucas County. Talk to city officials about neighborhood · Learn about job opportunities at Mercy Health For YOU, Learn how to repair your credit with First our community neighbors! Federal Bank Support services for Entrepreneurs with Vendors & Community Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, Kent Partners have come together to address Free food and drink by community needs! Cherry Legacy Neighbors of Toled Old Towne and Seaway Marketplace Hope to see you there! Representatives from 30+ programs will be on site to share information



The Ability Center's Next Steps Summer Program Prepares Youth for Adulthood

Special to The Truth

The Next Steps Summer Program is a component of The Ability Center's Life Skills Program that prepares young adults for life after high school. This unique program offers students the opportunity to stay on the campus of the University of Toledo for five weeks where they master everyday tasks such as cooking, cleaning, and laundry in a dorm setting.

Students are employed at local businesses and organizations where they build on professional skills. Participants also get paid for their work in the program. Program participants are typically juniors, seniors, or recently graduated students with any disability.

Students must have goals of attending post-secondary education, obtaining competitive employment, or living independently in the community. Not only do students get an inside look at college and the working world, they connect with other peers and create lasting friendships.

Socialization and recreation are also parts of the program. Activities are planned throughout the summer including go carts, bowling, and attending a Toledo Mud Hens game. There is a fee to participate in the program, although scholarship money and a sliding scale fee may apply.

During the first week of the program, students participate in classes including job readiness, soft skills for the workplace, interview preparation, and independent living skills. Guest speakers provide information on various topics including transition to college or career, personal financial management, self-confidence, and tips for accessibility in the community and college settings. Recreational activities are planned by the students for every night of the Next Steps Summer Program.

Students also have paid work experiences at local companies and organizations in the community. Program participants will reside in a residence hall Sunday through Thursday on the campus of the University of Toledo. There is a \$500 fee for the housing component of the program. Scholarship money is available. Con-

tact The Ability Center for more information.

Trevon Sanford was one such student this summer. Trevon, a student at the Summit Academy during the academic year, spent his summer at the Sylvania Area Family Services Program where Dottie Segur is the executive director and Brianna Geer the job coach. Trevon's duties included assisting camp directors with various activities including reading, games and outdoor projects.

"I want to go to college and military and own my own business someday," says Trevon of his future plans.

Desmond Burkhalter was also a student in the Next Steps Summer Program this season. Desmond, a student at Scott High School spent his time working at the Toledo Museum of Art under job coach Leah Whitacre. His duties included assisting with drop-in art classes as well as grant-funded preschool programs. He says his favorite part of his duties was working with the kids.

Next Steps Summer Program is a five-week independent living and employment program helping students with disabilities achieve goals of attending post-secondary education or training leading to competitive employment. Participants must be a junior or senior in high school.

The Ability Center is a non-profit Center for Independent Living (CIL) serving northwest Ohio. The Ability Center believes in and supports equitable and inclusive communities for people living with disabilities. The mission is to assist people with disabilities to live, work, and socialize within a fully accessible community.

The Ability Center serves the seven counties of Lucas, Ottawa, Wood, Fulton, Henry, Defiance, and Williams. The Center offers seven unique programs that support people with disabilities. The Ability Center 5605 Monroe Street, Sylvania, OH 43560 • 419.885.5733 ability center.org $^{\rm TM}$



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The Labor Day Parade Introduces a Change of Seasons

As usual Toledoans celebrated the arrival of autumn and lamented the end of summer with the annual Labor Day Parade in the downtown area. This year's parade's route was altered slightly to accommodate the hundreds of orange barrels and miles of tape that has cordoned off city streets for repairs.

Usually the route takes marchers and onlookers north on Summit Street, then onto Adams and south on Huron. This year, the parade made a left run onto Jackson from Summit and ended at Jackson and Huron near One Government Center.

The 2019 parade Grand Marshall was Ray Wood, president of the Toledo NAACP chapter and longtime former president of the UAW Local 14.



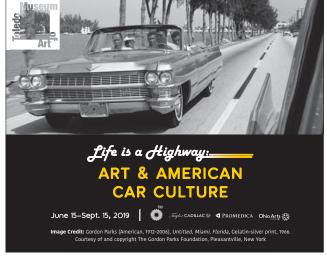
Ray Wood (yellow shirt) waves to onlookers











The Arts Commission announces July 2019 Accelerator Grant Recipien

By Megan Davis

The Truth Contributor

The Arts Commission announced the third group of recipients of the 2019 Accelerator Grants. This program offers financial support with quick turn-around for local individual artists or artist collectives advancing creative projects and their careers.

A committee comprised of members of the visual, performing and literary arts communities meets each grant cycle to review applications and make recommendations for funding to the Arts Commission staff and board. The remaining 2019 deadline is September 23. Application details and full guidelines can be found at www.theartscommission.org/forartists.

The July grantees are Jennifer Bak, El Corazon de Mexico, Emilio José González, and Loraine Lynn.

Growing up as a shy, biracial, artistic bookworm in small-town Ohio helped shape Jennifer Bak's rather quirky and unconventional worldview, informing her work as a photographer, bellydancer, and fire performer. Bak's next portrait series will highlight the history of people of color, who are often regulated to secondary character status and erroneously portrayed as needing guidance and policing, instead of being the heroes of their own stories.

Accelerator Grant funds will be used to purchase a studio strobe that will allow for precise control over color temperature and consistency in diverse studio and on-location situations ideal for this portrait series.

In 1996, El Corazon de Mexico, which translates as "The Heart of Mexico", was founded by director Elaina Hernandez. Hernandez is a 33-year veteran of Mexican Folkloric Dance. She has studied under Maestro Carlos Vega of Mexico, Director Sam Cortez of Chicago, Instructor Rene Cardoza



of Chicago, Instructor Placido Lopez Guerrero of Colima, Mexico, Director Bladimir Bravo of San Antonio and Maestra Karina Estrella of California.

Hernandez has been directing and choreographing for over 20 years. She is recognized as a Master Artist by the Ohio Arts Council. In 2010, she re-

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Education Section • Education Section

Art & Soul joins Sarnies Café on the first floor of Main Library

The reopening for Main Library is 22 days away! The Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) is proud to welcome Lynda Kuehn and Stephanie Scigliano to the TLCPL family as the owners of the newly renovated gift shop at Main Library.

Kuehn is the former co-owner of the popular Art & Soul Gallery in West Toledo that recently closed due to the retirement of her business partner. The store curated works from local artists throughout the Toledo and surrounding areas, making it a popular destination for customers that desired a unique, one-of-a-kind item while supporting local business.

Scigliano is a working and teaching artist, whose studio Olive M'lou was located at Art & Soul, where she taught community creative workshops. She is well known in the area for her teaching, especially in the medium of alcohol inks. She is also a former store owner and brings 25 plus years of retail experience to this new venture.

Kuehn and Scigliano will bring the same vision to the new Art & Soul at the Library. The focus will remain on showcasing local and regional artists of handmade jewelry, pottery, glass, paper, wood, children's items and much more. There will be something for everyone.

Kuehn says, "I am so excited to have been given the opportunity by the Library to resurrect the vision of the original Art & Soul and to continue to bring to my previous and new customers the high quality, yet affordable, work of local artists that they have come to expect."

"Toledo has so much creative talent, and the community is wonderfully supportive of the arts," says Scigliano. "I am thrilled and excited to be partnering with Lynda to continue Art & Soul's vision, and this opportunity to have a store at Main is very special. It's an exciting time at Main, and we are lucky to be a part of it all."

Library leaders and staff are excited to welcome Kuehn and Scigliano to Main Library and part of the TLCPL team. The passion Stephanie and Lynda have for the community reflects the Library's values of being welcoming, innovative, collaborative, objective and accountable.

XI TAU CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY INC. DR. JOSEPH SOMMERVILLE FALL CLASSIC AMATEUR **GOLF TOURNAMENT** (BENEFITING THOSE ABLE, QUALIFIED AND IN NEED OF FUNDING TO COMPETE A
FOUR-YEAR ACCREDITED COLLEGE DEGREE, SEPTEMBER 16TH HIGHLAND MEADOWS TEE TIME: 12PM SCRAMBLE OR STROKE PLAY (LUNCH & DINNER PROVIDED) SPONSORSHIP LEVELS PLATINUM (INCLUDES 8 GOLFERS)- \$2000 GOLD (INCLUDES 4 GOLFERS)- \$1000 SILVER (INCLUDES 2 GOLFERS)- \$500 HOLE- \$150 PATRON-\$100 **GOLFER FEE- \$175/PLAYER** DINNER ONLY- \$65/PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: VINCE DAVIS (419.509.0326) | JEFF ROLLINS (419.344.5261) AVE MENEFEE (419.297.6478) | ALAN BANNISTER (419.329.0300) ELDON PAYNE (419.260.1450) | KEITH JORDAN (419.699.2393)

TLCPL's Main Library employs 186 staff members and serves an estimated 12,000 customers per week in the current building. The Library's other new buildings have seen an average 25 - 30% increase in customer visits when compared to the old building.

Friends of the Library (FOL) has been and will continue to be a very important part of the Library and will allow FOL to focus on membership and Book Sales will continue at the Book Center located at 1301 N. Reynolds Rd.

"The Friends of the Library organization has monitored our Classics Gift Shop at the Main Library for many years. Unfortunately, it has always struggled to make a profit. We have decided to focus our fundraising endeavors elsewhere. This will create more opportunities for successful support and funding of programs for the Toledo Lucas County Public Library," says Margi Levi, Friends of the Library Manager.

Join the Toledo Lucas County Public Library for the grand opening celebration on September 28 at Main Library

Notre Dame Academy Offers Free Financial Meeting for Parents

Families invited to learn how to afford private education

Notre Dame Academy (NDA) will offer an informational meeting called, "Where Do I Start? Three Ways to Afford the Best Education for your Daughter" on the NDA Campus (3535 W. Sylvania, Toledo) on Monday, September 16 from 6-7:00 pm.

NDA invites parents of girls in grades 5-8 to learn financial opportunities to help with tuition costs and ask professionals your questions. Topics and information include: 529 Savings and prepaid education plans, private school scholarships and financial aid, ways to earn college credit. Contact *admissions@nda.org or visit http://bit.ly/3waystoafford to register.



Education Section • Education Section

TPS... continued from page 1

percent of students who followed a career tech pathway students in high school either entered employment, enrolled in higher education or enlisted in the military after graduation. The district's "Prepared for Success" score increased for the second straight year, as did dual- enrollment-/college credits, which is nearly double what it was two years ago.

Early childhood education also saw significant improvement over the previous year. The percentage of students passing the Kkindergarten to third grade literacy test nearly doubled. Over 87 percent of students passed the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, nearly a 14 percent improvement over three years before.

These results are a reflection in the investment in early childhood education at the Toledo Public Schools. Data consistently shows that students from TPS early childhood education are readier for kindergarten than students who are not from TPS early childhood education. District leaders feel there is two academic hurdles a student must overcome. One is the third grade reading proficiency tests and successfully navigating through the guidelines surrounding high school graduation.

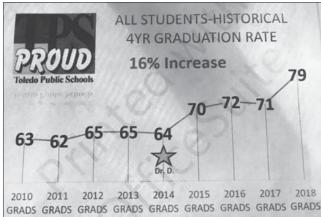
Overall Enrollment increased for the fifth straight year. In fact, TPS has added 1,801 students over the last five years, or the equivalent of 72 new classrooms of students. The district continues to serve a diverse and sometimes challenged population. Enrollment among economicallyamong economically disadvantaged students has increased more than 6,000 students in the last five years, for example.

Moving forward, the district remains committed to improving educational outcomes for students. That commitment starts with the very youngest children in early childhood education and continues throughout their academic career, all with the goal of having every student be "college or career" ready.

Toledo Public Schools is the most comprehensive school district in northwest Ohio offering more than 35 career technology options, advanced placement courses, seven different foreign languages and 12 associate degrees. The investment the district is making in preparing students for the future is paying off and the success show this year's report card results.

In reviewing the results, the district emphasized that it welcomes transparency about its performance but believes the State Report Card continues to give a woefully incomplete picture of public education in this and other urban districts.





Great Reading Ideas to Inspire Young Students

Special to The Truth

A new school year means new classes, new teachers and new schedules. At home, you can riff on this theme with new books to be enjoyed outside the classroom, that spark interest in different subjects. To open doors for young minds, consider the following titles:

• Crafty coding: For kids with a potential interest in computers and coding, consider "How to Be a Coder." Breaking down the principles of coding into bite-sized chunks, it will get them thinking like computer scientists in no time. Learn about loops by making a friendship bracelet,

find out about programming by planning a scavenger hunt, and discover how functions work with paper fortune tellers. Children can then use their new knowledge to code by following instructions to build programs in Scratch 3.0.

• Inspiring true stories: In "DK Life Stories: Jane Goodall" kids can

... continued on page 12







Dear Readers

Dear Readers,

Please join Center of Hope in congratulating our CEO, Tracee Perryman, PhD, who was recently selected to begin the **Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Fellowship Program**. The Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Fellowship program provides \$50,000 in education, capital and business support services to help entrepreneurs/CEOs increase revenues, create jobs and economic opportunity by providing greater access to education, capital and business support services. Program results show that 67% of Goldman Sachs Fellows grow revenues after six months, with 73 percent after 18

months, and 77 percent after 30 months.

We at Center of Hope are excited for this opportunity, and look forward to Dr. Perryman implementing the strategies she will learn over the next four months. Please take 90 seconds to watch prominent leaders in government, philanthropy and business offer their well wishes and encouragement.

Best regards, Center of Hope Staff

Reading Ideas... continued from page 11

discover the inspiring story of Jane Goodall, a pioneer of primatology whose groundbreaking work changed the way we understand animals and ourselves. When she embarked on her career, women were discouraged from conducting scientific research, especially when that work meant living side by side with wild animals. A self-taught scientist, Goodall bravely ventured into the bush of Tanzania to discover the secret world of chimpanzees. This new biography series for kids from DK goes beyond basic facts to tell true-life stories of history's most interesting people.

- Edible science: Cooking is chemistry, and all 20 science experiments inside "Science You Can Eat," are edible and fun. Young minds can find out why popcorn go "pop," explore how taste is affected by smell, then discover the secret to making the perfect cookie. Examining interesting ingredients and exciting eating, as well as peeking into the future of food, kids will get a better understanding of what's happening with food and why.
- A global celebration: Young readers of "Celebrations Around the World" will embark on an exciting journey through the most interesting and important festivals, celebrations and holidays enjoyed by people all over the globe. From why skeletons dance at the Day of the Dead in Mexico to how the world's biggest tomato fight -- La Tomatina in Spain -- gets cleaned up, stunning original illustrations and fascinating facts will inspire

and inform children about cultures and religions from all over the world.

• Medieval mania: Spark an interest in history and architecture with "DK findout! Castles," which includes lots to learn about medieval castles, including knights, jousting, sieges, drawbridges and forts. Kids can learn about castle design, from the earliest motte and bailey styles to stone fortresses and beautiful castles in Japan and India, as well as view some of the most impressive castles in the world. Packed with information and color, this book is part of a series introducing children to a range of topics in a fun, engaging way.

After school is the perfect time to explore topics of interest, and a treasure trove of books can make learning new things fun.

Courtesy StatePoint

The Arts Commission... continued from page 9

ceived the Diamente Award for Adult Leadership and in 2016, she received the Ohio Heritage Fellowship. In 2018 and 2019, Master Elaina Hernandez received the Ohio Traditional Apprenticeship grant to train assistant Vanessa Hernandez in the art of Mexican Folkloric Dance.

Accelerator Grant funding will be used for the company to study under Maestro Jose Tena of New Mexico, a renowned Folkloric Dance Instructor with over 40 years of experience.

Emilio José González is a composer, percussionist, and educator. His music is influenced by classical and pop genres as much as it is from nature and the (super)natural world, and it explores rhythmic complexity to create vivid imagery, as his primary goal has always been to tell a story— especially stories that might not be commonly known.

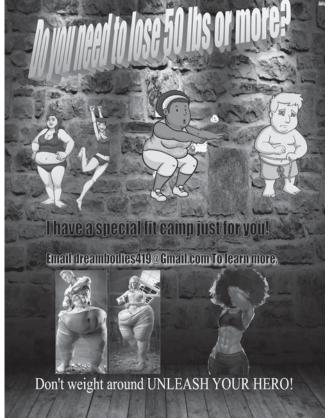
In 2019, he received a Master of Music in Composition from Bowling Green State University, and he also holds a Bachelor of Music in Composition from Pacific Lutheran University. His primary teachers have included Elainie Lillios, Mikel Kuehn, and Gregory Youtz.

González will use Accelerator Grant funding to purchase an iPad as a music composition tool. Loraine Lynn is an interdisciplinary artist interested in recontextualizing the familiar in order to challenge notions of identity, labor and the scripts they follow.

Lynn completed her MFA at Bowling Green State University and earned her BFA from the Cleveland Institute of Art. Her work has been exhibited widely in locations including South Korea, Italy, and Ireland. She has had solo shows at River House Arts and the Greenly Gallery in Bloomsburg, PA

Lynn's Accelerator Grant funding will be used to purchase yarn to complete projects started during a recent residency at the Vermont Studio Center.

The Arts Commission Artist Services programming is supported by Pro-Medica, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Ohio Arts Council.



More to Life by ReShonda Tate Billingsley

By Dr. Anita Lewis- Sewell, MD Special to The Truth

"Keep this to yourself!"

That's the way big dreams start: don't tell anyone, because telling makes them more delicate. Sharing makes it hurt more when what you want doesn't happen. As in the new book More to Life by ReShonda Tate Billingsley, it's even worse when your dreams are ignored.

c.2019 Dafina Books \$15.95 / \$21.95 Canada 272 pages

Even by her own admission, Aja James had everything a woman could want: a handsome husband, Charles, who loved giving gifts. Two wonderful children. A beautiful home, fine furnishings, a full closet, a new car.

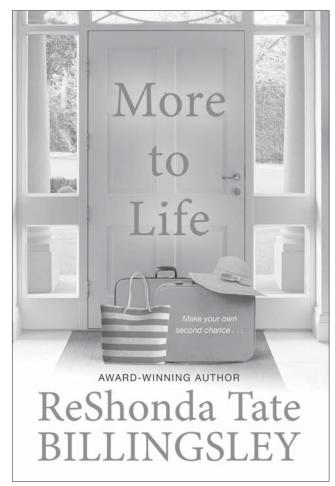
And yet, during an Islands birthday vacation with her three best friends – paid for by Charles, of course – 45-year-old Aja realized that she never had what her soul needed.

Once, she'd showed promise as a painter and it was her passion. She was good at it but, as she realized at the island resort, nobody listened when she said she wanted to paint forever. Her high school guidance counselor and her parents shooed her away from it. Her husband and children called it "a hobby." When Aja said she wanted to open an art gallery, her friends didn't take her seriously, either.

So, like the good wife she was expected to be, she put her own needs aside to take care of Charles and the children. She painted when she could, which was rare because her time was spent looking for lost socks and lost golf clubs and doing what her family demanded of her.

And then Aja met a strange Island woman who told her that she needed to walk her own purpose, words that struck her to the core. Finally, Aja knew what made her feel so unsettled, and she went home to face her future.

But was it with – or without – Charles? Aja's best friends thought she was crazy to give up a good man for the unknown. And the house and the lifestyle, too? Insane! Ah, but just thinking about a quiet art gallery and an easel made Aja smile.





ReShonda Tate Billingsley

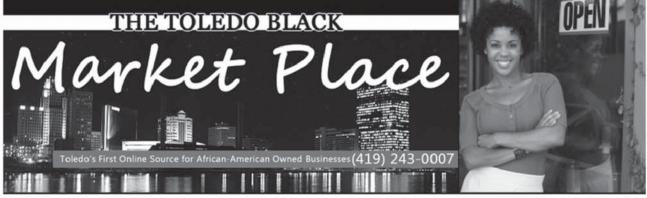
Could she really do it?

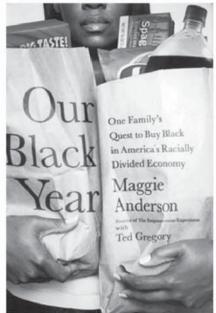
Dreams deferred. Is that the story of your very existence? If so, then you'll love having More to Life... more or less.

More, because author ReShonda Tate Billingsley offers fans another novel that reads as though she's spent a month spying on their lives and calendars, and anyone who's ever lost a dream or shelved one indefinitely will feel a kinship with Aja. That character, as well as the rest of Billingsley's cast, feels familiar, almost personal, and mostly likeable, although the situations they're placed in (here's the "less") are really too over-the-top. Suffice it to say that there's a Big Event inside this tale that abruptly alters the entire course of the story, adding unnecessary drama to a situation that was arguably better and more relatable without embellishment.

Still, if a dream is like a butterfly in your hands, or if you've ever moved to seize a what-if, then this book will read like a diary for you. Start More to Life and you won't be able to keep it to yourself.













ADS POSTED ONLINE AT:

www.TheTruthToledo.com and www. ToledoBlackMarketplace.com



THE GATHERING PLACE"

Nothing but PURE FUNI 5235 Hill & Reynolds @ Meadowbrook Plaza, Toledo, OH 43615 419.320.8571 or 419.322.4462 Hours Open Thursday - Sunday @ 7 PM

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Annual Membership available and receive complimentary Bookings Church and Organizational Bookings welcomed Free Wi-Fi

BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!

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PROJECT DIRECTOR

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHRSB) seeks to contract with a Project Director for the ENGAGE 2.0 grant in the northwest region of Ohio. The ENGAGE 2.0 is intended to 'scale up' Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS), high-fidelity wraparound, and intensive service coordination for children and youth ages 0 to 21 with behavioral health needs and their families. The Project Director will take responsibility for the implementation and coordination in a way that creates sustainable change in the behavioral health system as well as local partner child-serving organizations. The total amount of funds available is up to \$200,000 for a 24-month period (grant end-date: September 30, 2021). Total is inclusive of regional travel and travel to Columbus, OH. Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. ET on September 20, 2019. For additional details, please see the Request for Proposals (RFP) located on the MHRSB's website: http://www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD

The City of Toledo and Toledo Lucas County Port Authority (Port Authority) are conducting a public meeting and accepting public comments on the removal of hazardous materials from 761 Berdan Avenue, Toledo, Ohio. The Port Authority is announcing plans to remediate asbestos materials within the structure of the former Lucas County Facilities Services building property with support from a U.S. EPA Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Grant from the City of Toledo. The remediation is necessary to allow for building demolition in a manner which protects public health and the environment in compliance with local, state and federal regulations. The public is invited to attend a Public Meeting to provide information about the remediation action. The Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at the West Toledo Branch Library, 1320 W. Sylvania Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43612 from 6:00-6:30 p.m. The Meeting will be a formal open house format allowing the public to stop by anytime between 6:00-6:30 pm. Representatives from the City of Toledo and Port Authority will be on hand to answer questions. Public comments can be made in writing and submitted by mail through October 4, 2019 to: City of Toledo Attn: Marc Gerdeman

City of Toledo Attn: Marc Gerdeman 348 S. Erie St. Toledo, Ohio 43604 Or via e-mail to: Marc.Gerdeman@toledo. oh.gov

The Administrative Record, which contains the information upon which the final decision will be based, including copies of the Draft Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives, reports on hazardous materials survey and other related documents, will be available during regular business hours for review at: Toledo-Lucas County Public Library West Toledo Branch Reference Desk 1320 W. Sylvania Ave.

Toledo, Ohio 43612

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY Equal Housing Opportunity/Equal Opportunity Employer



APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR 16TH TOLEDO POLICE CITI-ZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Toledo Police Department is now accepting applications for the next Citizens Police Academy. The 10 week session program will be conducted on consecutive Wednesday evenings beginning October 23, 2019 through January 22, 2020. Each session will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:00 p.m. Upon successful completion of the Citizens Police Academy, participants will be honored with a graduation ceremony.

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY20-11, (Project # 0113-19-207) for University of Toledo/Ohio State Highway Patrol Public Safety Facility-Civil Package for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 24, 2019. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$45.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Allan L. Renzi of Richard L. Bowen & Associates. Inc at 216-491-9300. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 15%. Project Estimate: \$675,000.00: Breakdown: Site Work: \$675,000.00.

NORTHGATE APARTMENTS

610 Stickney Avenue Toledo, Ohio43604

Now accepting applications for One and Two bedroom Apartment Homes

Senior Community for persons 55 years and older. Rent is based on income. Our Activity and Service Coordinators are on site. Heat included. Chauffeured transportation to nearby shopping and banks available. 419-729-7118

cial Programs (Emerging Young Ladies and Padua Potters Garden Club) and co-leader of the After School tutoring program. The successful candidate will be skilled at designing programs

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL

PROGRAMS

The Padua Center is seeking a Director of Spe-

candidate will be skilled at designing programs and engaging young women and men in active involvement. A degree in education or social work is required. The position will be hourly, some Saturdays, with benefits. Please submit your resume to thepaduacenter@gmail.com by September 20. Job description is available upon request.

INVITATION FOR BIDS MAINTENANCE & RENOVATION SERVICES IFB#19-LHSC007

Lucas Housing Service Corporation (LHSC) will receive sealed bids for Maintenance & Renovation Services. Received in accordance with law until October 4,2019 at 3:00 PM ET. See submit al requirements pursuant to the documents: www.lucasmha.org; 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or call 419-259-9446 for documents (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.

TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART RECRUITING NEW DOCENTS

Informational open house scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 19

TOLEDO, Ohio – If you have a passion for teaching and sharing the arts with school-aged audiences, consider becoming a Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) docent. There will be an informational session Thursday, Sept. 19 from 10:30 a.m. until noon in the GlasSalon.

"Docents are trained Museum volunteers who engage with visitors to facilitate enriched experiences with works of art and create a warm and welcoming Museum environment," explained Kate Blake, TMA's assistant director of education. "Docents encourage inquiry and enjoyment of the arts."

Applications are being accepted through Oct. 7 and interviews will take place mid-October, with classes scheduled to begin in February 2020. As part of the year-long training process, participants will attend convenient weekday classroom and gallery training sessions where they will meet with experienced docents and Museum curators.

In addition to the overall docent training, this 2020 class will gain specific skills to connect K-8 students with the works of art in the TMA collection, as well as specific training for the school tour program.

"We are often asked what makes a good docent," Blake said. "We look for volunteers who are enthusiastic, patient and flexible with an interest in interacting with the public as part of an energetic team."

For more information, please visit toledomuseum. org or plan on attending the informational session Thursday, Sept. 19, from 10:30 a.m. until noon in TMA's GlasSalon.

A LETTER TO THE

Today, the Ohio Department of Education releases its report card for public schools - and Toledo Public Schools has good news to share with

The district has improved on the overall State Report Card, which means TPS has moved out of Academic Distress. Our progress is credited to the work of our students, teachers and staff, all of whom are making tremendous strides

Our graduation rates continue to improve and our Early Childhood program has shown growth. We are pleased that the improvements in our internal data are beginning to show in the report card.

Toledo Public Schools welcomes transparency about its performance, but believes the State Report Card gives a woefully incomplete picture of public education in this and other urban districts.

Even with these results, the State Report Card remains overly broad and continues to fail to accurately capture our progress. That is why we feel compelled to tell a more complete story. The summary below is supported by a full set of performance data which can be found at www.tps.org.

Dr. Romules Durant CEO/SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Stephanie Eichenberg PRESIDENT, BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Bob Vasquez

Mr. Perry Lefevre

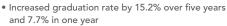
Mrs. Polly Taylor-Gerken

Mrs. Christine Varwig



TPS SHOWS PROGRESS

GRADUATION RATES





- African-American graduation rate is up 20.9% in five years
- Hispanic graduation rates increased 14.7% over five years
- Economically disadvantaged students' graduation rate increased 17% over five years



TPS STUDENTS PREPARED **FOR SUCCESS**



6.57%

5.02%

- Career Tech students are placed in jobs, education or the military 91% of the time after graduation
- The overall "Prepared For Success" score increased 4.2%
- Dual Enrollment/College Credits earned increased 5.4%

SCHOOLS WITH THE HIGHEST **PROFICIENCY INCREASES**

Toledo Early College High School

Woodward High School



KINDERGARTEN TO 3RD GRADE LITERACY



- Student proficiency from Kindergarten to Third grade nearly doubled over the previous year
- 87% of Third graders met the Third Grade Reading Guarantee

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

- Data continued to show that TPS Early Childhood Education students were more prepared for Kindergarten than non-TPS students
- TPS Early Childhood Education students scored higher on all facets of Kindergarten readiness than non-TPS students

ENROLLMENT

- Increased enrollment five years in a row
- In those five years, TPS has 1,801 new students, or 72 new classrooms
- · Preschool population has almost tripled
- TPS is becoming more diverse over time

2018-19	23,160
2017-18	23,082
2016-17	22,807
2015-16	21,983
2014-15	21,359

