

# SUPPORTING ACADEMIC TRANSFORMATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE

BLUE STREAK  
PARENT UNIVERSITY

| SANDUSKY CITY SCHOOLS  
| DR. EUGENE T. W. SANDERS  
| CEO & SUPERINTENDENT



CREATING OUR VISION IN DIGITAL TIMES  
FOR ACADEMIC TRANSFORMATION

| DR. VILICIA CADE  
| CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER  
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FROM THE  
DESK OF THE

# CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER



“It’s my belief that parents are their children’s first teacher and that parents must play an essential role in ensuring that their children realize their goals and dreams.”

—Dr. Vilicia Cade, Chief Academic Officer

As the Chief Academic Officer of Sandusky City Schools, I am honored to serve this community in the spirit of pride, tradition, and excellence. It’s my belief that parents are their children’s first teacher and that parents must play an essential role in ensuring that their children realize their goals and dreams. With this in mind, the new “Blue Streak Parent University — Supporting Academic Transformation in the Digital Age” was created.

The Blue Streak Parent University offers parents and caregivers an opportunity to learn more about what their children will experience as education continues to change. It is not the expectation of Sandusky City Schools that parents will teach their children at home, however; it is important that parents understand that they must effectively partner with teachers, principals and other educators and to create an environment at home that fosters academic success.

The pandemic created a global health crisis with economic fallout that has impacted the instruction in schools. First, I want to commend our teachers, principals and other employees of Sandusky City Schools for their tireless efforts to re-learn and refine their skills in the new educational landscape. More importantly, I want to encourage parents to be patient as we continue to strive to educate your children. What we know for sure is that we must strengthen our partnership with parents; we extend the opportunity to provide transparency while we increase our communication as we evolve in this new digital age together!

In closing, welcome to the Blue Streak Parent University— Supporting Academic Transformation In the Digital Age, we are hopeful that you will take away tips and new tools to enhance your child’s academic success!

Parents play an important role in their children’s academic success. As the world continues to change, Sandusky City Schools would like to deepen our partnership with parents to help our students meet success in the new educational landscape created by COVID-19. School must adapt and will continue to change. The Blue Streak Parent University will provide access to trainings that are designed to help parents support academic improvement as their children navigate in the new digital landscape.

# INTRODUCTION

## — — — — — TABLE OF CONTENTS



School Improvement.....	3
What is Collective Efficacy?	
What is the Academic 5K?	
District Goals.....	4
Training Opportunities.....	6



“**EDUCATION**  
takes place in  
**COMBINATION**  
of **home**, school  
**COMMUNITY**  
& **RECEPTIVE**  
in mind.”

- Harry Edwards

## OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT)

### What is Collective Efficacy?

Sandusky City Schools is working to improve our programming by supporting teacher capacity, administrator capacity, and the capacity of all those who would like to help our students increase academic achievement.

This requires all stakeholders, including our parents and our community partners, join us in believing that our students can achieve their goals, dreams, and aspirations. Our collective efforts to do what we can to aid our students in learning is “Collective Efficacy”. Parents can help by establishing routines at home, by asking questions of their children and educators, and accepting community partnerships that have resources to address non-academic needs. Community partners can help with resources and volunteerism focused on advancing our children’s holistic needs.

### BENEFITS OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT FOR STUDENTS

Maintain good attendance

Feel better about themselves and school

Behave at school and at home

Exhibit good social skills

### BENEFITS OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT FOR STUDENTS

Perform better on standardized tests

Get better grades

Take more challenging courses

Continue their education  
after high school

# DISTRICT'S ACADEMIC GOALS



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1. Earn a “C” or above in Achievement  
on ODE Report Card

2. Increase Academic Growth by 10 percentage  
points in English Language Arts, Math,  
and Science on the ODE Report Card

3. Increase the Graduation Rate by 5-10  
percentage points

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# OVERVIEW OF OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

## COLLECTIVE EFFICACY: THE ACADEMIC 5K

Sandusky City Schools' community should be aware that all employees in our district work in concert to ensure that "Schools are the Center of Our Organization". This means that all SCS Staff understand that our efforts are to support the work that takes place in the classrooms in our schools.

The district's continuous improvement efforts center on using collaborative data-driven decision making to help our students realize their dreams and meet their goals.

In our vision, we help our students understand what they do in school connects to future dreams, goals, and aspirations. Goal setting is a critical part of growth - not just for students - but teachers and administrators.

The Collective Efficacy Project is affectionately known as the "Academic 5K". Our work focuses on paralleling 'academic fitness' with 'physical fitness'.

Our understanding of physical fitness focuses on a set of behaviors that informs lifestyle.

Those deemed 'physically fit' use food and exercise to develop their muscles. Academic fitness entails a commitment to continuous learning, re-learning, and deeper learning to develop one's 'cognitive muscles' (the brain). This is demonstrated when students successfully understand grade-level content and skills. Academic fitness entails a growth mindset and the tenacity to improve one's knowledge.

### COLLECTIVE EFFICACY

A shared belief that all members of the school community (Parents, Community Members, and all School Staff) can have a positive impact on students despite other influences in students' lives

COLLECTIVE  
TEACHER  
EFFICACY  
HAS A  
1.57  
EFFECT SIZE

- JOHN HATTIE

# SUPPORTING LEARNING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

## PARENT UNIVERSITY

These training opportunities are designed to aid parents in understanding what their children are expected to do to become academically fit. We define academic fitness as ensuring that students demonstrate grade-level abilities in core subjects. More importantly, academic fitness is the desire to re-learn and problem solve using higher order thinking skills.

**REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 11, 2021**  
**CALL 419.984.1022 FOR DETAILS.**

WORKSHOP TITLE	TARGET AUDIENCE	DATE & TIME	OVERVIEW OF WORKSHOP
<b>TechmeMom</b> two-generational technology-driven early education training for Pre K- K parents only. There are six sessions designed to help parents learn how to build a stronger foundation for reading using technology and other traditional learning resources.			
Print Awareness Take A Look at a Book	Pre K - K Only	January 27, 2021 8 - 9:30 am: In Person 11:30 - 1 pm: Virtual	Learn how to read with your child and create a love of learning. Parents receive tips on how to use books and other resources with their child.
Letter Recognition Letters and Little Ones		February 23, 2021 8 - 9:30 am: In Person 11:30 - 1 pm: Virtual	Learn activities that help reinforce the mastery of letter recognition required to read words.
Vocabulary Building Little Ones, Big Words		March 9, 2021 8 - 9:30 am: In Person 11:30 - 1 pm: Virtual	Learn how to increase your child's vocabulary through academic activities at home.
Early Language Awareness Talk It Up		April 8, 2021 8 - 9:30 am: In Person 11:30 - 1 pm: Virtual	Learn how to engage your child in talking more to improve listening and speaking skills.
Phoneme Awareness What's that Sound?		April 15, 2021 8 - 9:30 am: In Person 11:30 - 1 pm: Virtual	Learn how to help your child understand the relationship between letters and sounds.
Letter Sounds A is for Apple		May 5, 2021 8 - 9:30 am: In Person 11:30 - 1 pm: Virtual	Learn how to help your child understand the relationship between letters and sounds to create words.

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**REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 11, 2021  
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WORKSHOP TITLE	TARGET AUDIENCE	DATE & TIME	OVERVIEW OF WORKSHOP
<b>Self-Care, Parenting Tips for Academic Success</b>			
Quick Tips for Powerful Parenting During COVID	PreK - 12th Grades	January 21, 2021 6 pm: Virtual	Learn self-care tips and how to establish routines at home to create a positive learning environment. Explore resources to aid your efforts.
Building the Bridge to High School Success	6th - 8th Grades Only	February 24, 2021 6 pm: Virtual	Learn how to help your child prepare for high school success. What classes should my child take to realize their dreams?
COVID Times for Academic Transformation	PreK - 12th Grades	March 3, 2021 TBD	Learn how the digital age is changing the knowledge, disposition, and skills needed to be a graduate of 2030.
Understanding the New High School Graduation Requirements	9th - 12th Grades Only	March 9, 2021 TBD	Learn how to keep your child on track to graduate by understanding the new high school graduation requirements
<b>Navigating the Digital or Virtual Learning Environment</b>			
Understanding Google Classroom	PreK - 12th Grades	January 26, 2021 - 6 pm: Virtual February 17, 2021 - 6 pm: Virtual March 24, 2021 - 6 pm: Virtual	Learn how to access your child's assignment in the Google Classroom. Understand how to access video conferencing through the Google Meets platform.
<b>What is Digital Citizenship? How do I keep my child safe in the virtual world?</b>			
Media Balance & Wellbeing	PreK - 12th Grades	January 28, 2021 6 pm: Virtual	Learn how we are working to ensure that we keep your child safe in the digital age.
Online Privacy & Safety		February 18, 2021 6 pm: Virtual	
Social Media & Devices		March 23, 2021 6 pm: Virtual	