



Memorandum | Department of Community School

Date: May 25, 2022
To: GOAL Digital Academy Administrators and Governing Board Members
From: Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison and Mid-Ohio ESC Sponsoring Staff
Subject: May Monthly Updates

General Update

Hello Everyone,

GOAL Digital Academy honored its graduating class of 2022 on Friday, May 20 at 6:30 pm., with 85 students receiving diplomas. There were four student commencement speakers each of whom offered a different perspective on their experiences at GOAL Digital Academy. Cameo guest appearances included Scott Innes, an American voice actor and Tom Felton, an American actor. Scott is known for his voice over work in various animated films, television shows, video games and commercials, most notably Scooby-Doo, Shaggy Rogers, and Scrappy-Doo. Tom is best known for playing Draco Malfoy in the film adaptations of the Harry Potter fantasy novels.

Once again, this year, GOAL Digital Academy live streamed its graduation so those who were unable to attend could take part. The video was made available to families and students after graduation. The live stream captured speakers, videos, and all students who walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. The live stream of graduation is available on the school's website at <https://www.goaldigital.org/>.

A number of students were recognized during the ceremony for their achievements. Students wore cords recognizing those who were entering the armed services, belonged to a service club, had exemplary attendance, earned honor roll status, achieved a top ten grade point average, were part of a two-year career tech program, and/or earned the mindfulness and courage award.

Several students also earned the following graduation seals: Military Enlistment (enlisted in the armed services), Industry-Recognized Credential (earned 12 points in an industry-recognized credential program aligned to a job considered in demand), Citizenship (achieved a proficient score on the American history and government end-of-course exams), Science (earned a proficient score on the biology end-of-course exam), Fine and Performing Arts (demonstrated skill in the fine or performing arts according to an evaluation aligned to guidelines developed by the school board), Ohio MeansJobs – Readiness (demonstrated work readiness and professional competencies), Honors (demonstrated high-level academic coursework), and/or College Ready (achieved a certain score on the ACT).

GOAL Digital Academy will be participating in an Extended Learning Program by offering multiple options for students this summer. For all grade levels, the school will be conducting book clubs. Students will be given a bag of books as well as journaling materials. All virtual book clubs will meet once a week from June 13 to July 13 for each grade level and prizes will be given as students progress through the book club.

The school will offer students in grades 1-8 an individualized reading and math course that provides every student with enrichment and intervention in their identified areas of strength and weakness. This is an extension of the AIM course taken during the school year. GOAL Digital Academy will also offer a new Credit Recovery Program (Accelerate Education) to students in grades 8-12 who need to retake classes they did not pass this past school year. This program will be taught by experienced Credit Recovery teachers as well as intervention specialists and math teachers who will be able to help students earn academic credit upon successful completion.

GOAL Digital Academy will offer students in grades 2-12 two art enrichment activities, one taking place at the Mansfield Art Center on June 7 and 8 in the areas of ceramics and mosaics. The second one, being held at the Mansfield lab on June 9, where students will focus on exploring the works of famous glass master, Chihuly, by creating a Chihuly Facsimile Hanging Lamp.

GOAL Digital Academy will offer its first annual Summer Theater Workshop for students in grades 7-12. Several diversified theater games and activities will be held at each individual lab on a given day, with each session lasting from 12:00 to 4:00.

And finally, the school will be asking students to join with Student Service Club instructors from GOAL Digital Academy in a Clean-Up Project to take place at a designated lab's park location.

If you have any questions, please contact me. As always, thank you for all you do to support the students and staff at GOAL Digital Academy.

Policy Update

The **State Board of Education** has named Steve Dackin to be Ohio's next State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Superintendent-designee Dackin brings to the position many years of experience as a building principal, central office administrator, and district superintendent. He was previously employed as an administrator at the Ohio Department of Education, and most recently served in an administrative capacity at Columbus State Community College. Earlier this year, Mr. Dackin resigned his position as Chair of the State Board's Superintendent Search Committee, as well as his position as a member of the State Board, in order to apply for the position. To learn more about Ohio's new State Superintendent visit: <https://education.ohio.gov/Media/Ed-Connection/May-16-2022/Stephen-Dackin-selected-as-Ohio%E2%80%99s-next-superintend>.

This month the **Ohio Department of Education** released its new Dyslexia Guidebook. You can view ODE's guidance document online at: <https://education.ohio.gov/Media/Ed-Connection/May-16-2022/Now-available-Ohio-s-Dyslexia-Guidebook>.

The **Biden Administration** has delivered its proposed FY '23 federal budget to Congress for consideration. Funding at the federal level is a two-step process. The first step is the approval of a budget, then using the approved budget for guidance, the appropriators approve specific funding bills for each federal department/agency. The big "winner" in the administration's proposed budget for K-12 education is Title 1, which if sustained through the budget/appropriations process, would double Title 1 funding. The long-term goal of the administration is to triple Title 1 funding. Another winner, Special Education, is proposed to receive a funding increase of more than \$3 billion. Within the proposed funding for Special Education is a set aside to help increase staff serving special needs children. Staffing seems to be a theme in the budget proposal with the inclusion of a \$1 billion line item for counselors and over \$350 million to assist with the recruitment and retention of staff in general.

The **Ohio General Assembly** is rushing towards its scheduled summer recess with the last scheduled session day for both the House and Senate being June 8. Being an election year, the summer recess may be a bit longer than in a non-election year, and the fall session will be shorter. Currently there are no session days or committee meetings scheduled during the months of July and August. Both chambers are planning to return to Columbus during the week of September 12. The month of October and early November (through election week) will find legislators working in their districts, with a planned return to Columbus in mid-November. Recently introduced legislation, but with few remaining legislative days for consideration before the end of the term, includes:

- **HB-633** seeks to require parental permission for the release of Directory Information. Although federal law (FERPA) and Ohio law protect much personally identifiable information about a student from being released without a parent's permission, Directory Information now is public information.
- **HB-663** seeks to ease the burden of student loans for a select group of teachers. The legislation proposes the creation of a fund to reimburse/forgive up to \$40,000 in student loans. Licensed teachers in grades 7-12 working in low performing schools that also have a high need for science and math teachers would be eligible.
- **HB-643** would create an excused absence from school when students are participating in 4-H activities.
- **HB-639** seeks to require that self-defense instruction be incorporated into high school health classes.

Information regarding these legislative proposals, and any bill currently being considered by the Ohio General Assembly, may be found on the Legislative Service Commissions website at: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/search>



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