



# INSIGHT ONLINE

November 29, 2011

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### Notes from the CEO Bill Sims



At the Alliance this week we are focused on the upcoming State Charter School Conference. The stage is set for another great conference, next week – December 6-7 - A 40% increase in registrations for this conference promises not only the biggest conference yet but a great networking opportunity for the charter school community of Ohio. Keynote speakers this year include State Superintendent Stan Heffner, Director of the Governor's Office of 21st Century Education Dr.

Robert Sommers, and President of the International Association for K-12 Online Learning, Susan Patrick. There's still time to [register here](#). We look forward to seeing all of you next week!

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### Putting 'Zombie' Schools to Rest

#### The Columbus Dispatch

*Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper*

**Dead schools must be put out of misery**

Letter to the Editor

Saturday November 19,

2011 6:05 AM

Charter-school zombies were an occurrence well before the current movie-cult craze. Nevertheless, like the hoped-for fate of their Hollywood counterparts, charter-school zombies need to be put to rest sooner rather than later.

What are charter-school zombies? Scholastically speaking, they are walking-dead schools. If a charter school has chronically underperformed, meeting the state's statutory closure criteria, the school must be shut down. But unfortunately, such a school doesn't die at the end of the school year; instead, it comes back to a semblance of life for one more year.

Schools that have consecutively missed the state's performance expectations

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are put on notice if they are up against their last-chance year to turn things around. Spring test results are the basis for making the final determination on closure.

The problem is the state doesn't get the spring test results back until late summer, too late to turn the tables on students and parents who have fully committed to the at-risk school for the next year.

The solution to this problem of giving new life to zombie schools is simple.

The number of schools each year that are on the at-risk list is relatively small: two dozen at the most. All the state Department of Education needs to do is have the testing company provide special handling of these schools' scores so that their final status can be determined by the end of June — plenty of time for students, parents and teachers to make alternative plans.

Zombie schools are scary, indeed. Imagine being a student, parent or teacher in a school for a whole year when you know the school is essentially dead. A teacher's motivation for promoting student growth and achievement rapidly can become secondary to the need to find a new job. Students are stuck in a moribund environment and parents are desperately trying to move their children to other schools, resulting in diminishing enrollment and a hollowed-out school.

The fix doesn't require politics or complicated legislative action. By working with the state's testing partners to accelerate the scoring of these schools' spring tests, we can end the quirky nightmare that these students, parents and teachers have had to face in schools that have nothing left to offer but a semblance of life.

WILLIAM J. SIMS

President  
Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools  
Columbus

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## Performance Management Team Joins OAPCS

OAPCS is excited to introduce its new Performance Management Team. A group of dedicated professionals developing a comprehensive portfolio of programs and services to increase student achievement in Ohio's charter schools.

Funded by the Walton Family Foundation, the Performance Management Team is equipped to offer a variety of services including data management, technology services, quality workshops, and professional development.

### Data Management

Allow OAPCS to help you meet your Instructional Improvement System (IIS) requirements with Illuminate Education TM, a web-based tool customized for Ohio's charter schools and designed to put clear and comprehensive student

achievement data at your fingertips. Our team provides customized technical and implementation support and in-person and web-based professional development through our certified Data Teams instructor. ***For more information, visit our conference session titled *Illuminate the Effectiveness of Your School* (12/6 at 2:30pm or 12/7 at 10:30am) at the 5th Annual OAPCS Conference.***

#### Technology Services

OAPCS is now offering IT consulting and services to your school. Our team can provide e-rate guidance to save you 20-90% on your telecommunications or Internet bills, assistance in writing technology plans and acceptable use policies, access to discounts for software and hardware purchases, and needs assessments and recommendations. Our IT services are offered at a fraction of the cost of most other IT consulting services.

#### Quality Workshops

Stay tuned for details on our 2012-13 high-quality workshop series containing topics such as grant writing, finance, human resource management, new school development, governance, Common Core, legal issues, and a school leader symposium.

#### Professional Development

Count on OAPCS for your professional development needs. We offer programs and trainings on a variety of topics centered on research-based best practices in education.

For additional information on our Performance Management programs and services, please see any member of the Performance Management Team at the 5th Annual OAPCS Conference on December 6-7, or contact Jesse Truett at (614) 744-2266, ext. 212 or [jtruett@oapcs.org](mailto:jtruett@oapcs.org).

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## **OAPCS Files Amici Brief in Facilities Case**



On November 18, OAPCS filed an amici brief in the Ohio Supreme Court in a case involving the Cincinnati Public School (CPS) district's attempt to prevent Roger Connors from opening a charter school in a building that he had purchased from the district. Joining OAPCS in the brief were the Black Alliance for Educational Opportunities, School Choice Ohio, the Ohio Coalition for Quality Education, and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. Mr. Connors had purchased the unused building from CPS in 2009 and opened the Theodore Roosevelt charter school. CPS filed suit against Mr. Connors to enforce a deed restriction included in the sale that would prohibit the use of previously-taxpayer-owned school buildings for use by a charter or private school. Mr. Connors and amici, including OAPCS, argue that the deed restriction is void. Both lower courts agreed, holding that CPS' attempt to block Connors from using the school building that he purchased as a charter school violates Ohio public policy. CPS then appealed the case to the Ohio Supreme Court. Oral arguments will be in early 2012, with a decision expected later in the year.

## Ohio Council of Community School gives "the future" to Columbus Preparatory Academy

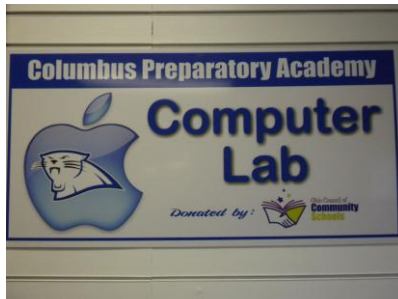


Ohio Council of  
**Community  
Schools**



**COLUMBUS PREPARATORY  
ACADEMY**

Columbus Preparatory Academy (CPA) has already received the highest report card ranking the Ohio Department of Education can offer. Based on their 2011 local Report Card, CPA was rated "Excellent with Distinction". To help continue their already strong support, the Ohio Council of Community Schools (OCCS) funded an "Apple Lab" for CPA. The Apple Lab was an idea and creation of both Mr. Chad Carr, CPA School Leader, and Mr. Jason Wall, Director of Advocacy at OCCS. Together, yesterday the hard work of CPA and the generosity of OCCS came to light at CPA. With an invitation extended by OCCS, OAPCS was there to watch as Dr. Darlene Chambers, Executive Director of OCCS and Mr. Patrick Kriner, VP of OCCS Board of Trustees, handed over the scissors to make way for CPA's new Apple Lab. As Dr. Darlene Chambers stated, "the Apple Lab is the future for the students at CPA". The Apple Lab will help students continue the already hard work that they do, but now they will have the tools to continue working on the many different movies the school creates throughout the school year. Students that have the highest scores in each of their classes were there to help unveil the new Apple Lab and got a hands on approach to the new computers. Congratulations to CPA on continuously doing great work and thank you to OCCS for your constant support of charter schools in Ohio.



## New Associate Member-Granville Studio of Visual Arts



At GSVA, we believe that all leaders, teachers and students can be creative thinkers and doers with sustained creative education and professional development. We also believe that creativity is a prerequisite for innovation in teaching and learning.

Let us help you be successful in your commitment to improving K-12 education with our innovative creative education models for students, teachers and leadership teams.

If you answer “no”, but wish you could answer “yes” to any of the following questions, please contact GSVA via [acacciato@gsvaonline.org](mailto:acacciato@gsvaonline.org) to discuss the curriculum and professional development options that will benefit you.

- Does your school have an in-depth art program that focuses on the creative development of every child?
- Did you know that a local professional artist trained in teaching the GSVA Journey Program could teach in your school? Did you know that the GSVA Journey Program meets national fine arts content standards?
- Do all or any of your teachers have training and expertise in using meaningful art experiences as a tool for teaching lessons in science, math, social studies, language arts, foreign language and school culture?
- Have you, your leadership team and teachers had quality professional development that was designed and successfully implemented to inspire and develop, both individual growth and team collaborative growth?

We collaborate with school leadership, school transformers and teachers of all grades and subject areas in developing curricula based on an intriguing premise: that creativity and art can bolster kids' abilities to learn in other subject areas. GSVA is deeply committed to engaging students, building their interest in learning, fostering their creative courage and teaching for meaningful learning and deep understandings. We aim to captivate students, parents, teachers and administrators alike with innovative approaches to fusing arts-based learning with other disciplines.

A glance at GSVA’s educational consulting and partnerships ...

- K-12 curriculum design and professional development training in Ohio schools including Cincinnati Public Schools, Columbus City Schools, Newark City Schools, Youngstown/Liberty Charter Schools, Lancaster City Schools, Granville Exempted Village Schools.
- GSVA fine arts curriculum programs designed for licensing to quality

private and charter schools or after-school creative education organizations.

- School and curriculum design of “Innovation High” for KnowledgeWorks-EdWorks-Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Participated in the 2-year design of Reynoldsburg City Schools eSTEM Academy, where the GSVa Journey Program will be implemented as an after school credit flex option.
- Five year partnership with The Ohio State University Project Aspire, which includes collaborative arts-integration curriculum design with Columbus City Schools high school teachers.

For more information visit us at [gsvaonline.org](http://gsvaonline.org) and [facebook.com/gsvaartbuildsminds](https://facebook.com/gsvaartbuildsminds)

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## **OAPCS Announces 2011 State Conference School Award Winners**



Several charter schools will be recognized at the Fifth Annual State Conference to be held in Columbus on December 6-7, 2011. Schools are recognized in three separate categories. The first category, the Excellence Awards, goes to schools that have achieved an

EXCELLENT rating for at least two consecutive years. The second category, Constant Quality Awards, recognizes schools that have achieved an EXCELLENT or EFFECTIVE rating for at least three consecutive years. The third and largest awards category, School Improvement, honors schools that have increased at least two designations in the past two years. We look forward to celebrating with these schools in December. If you have not yet registered for the conference, please do so today. [www.oapcs.org](http://www.oapcs.org).

### **2011 Excellence Awards**

1. Citizens' Academy (Cleveland)
2. Columbus Preparatory Academy (Columbus)
3. Constellation: Old Brooklyn Community Elementary (Cleveland)
4. Constellation: Old Brooklyn Middle School (Cleveland)
5. Constellation: Outreach Academy for Students with Disabilities (Cleveland)
6. Horizon Science Academy Columbus High School (Columbus)
7. Menlo Park Academy (Cleveland)
8. Noble Academy Cleveland (Cleveland)
9. Oakstone Community School (Columbus)
10. T.C.P. (Technical College Preparatory) World Academy (Cincinnati)
11. The Autism Model School (Toledo)
12. The Intergenerational School (Cleveland)
13. Toledo School for the Arts (Toledo)
14. Wickliffe Progressive Community School (Upper Arlington)

### **2011 Constant Quality Awards**

1. Arts and College Preparatory Academy (Columbus)
2. Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy (Cincinnati)

3. Citizens' Academy (Cleveland)
4. Cleveland Entrepreneurship Preparatory School (Cleveland)
5. Constellation: Lorain Community Elementary (Lorain)
6. Constellation: Old Brooklyn Community Elementary (Cleveland)
7. Constellation: Old Brooklyn Middle School (Cleveland)
8. Constellation: Puritas Community Elementary (Cleveland)
9. Constellation: Westpark Community Elementary (Cleveland)
10. Constellation: Westside Community School for the Arts (Cleveland)
11. Dayton Early College Academy (Dayton)
12. Horizon Science Academy Cleveland High School (Cleveland)
13. Horizon Science Academy Columbus High School (Columbus)
14. Menlo Park Academy (Cleveland)
15. Noble Academy Cleveland (Cleveland)
16. Noble Academy Columbus (Columbus)
17. Oakstone Community School (Columbus)
18. Pathway School of Discovery (Dayton)
19. Phoenix Village Academy Primary 2 (Cleveland)
20. Schnee Learning Center (Cuyahoga Falls)
21. T.C.P (Technical College Preparatory) World Academy (Cincinnati)
22. The Charles School at Ohio Dominican University (Columbus)
23. The Intergenerational School (Cleveland)
24. Toledo School for the Arts (Toledo)
25. Washington Park Community School (Newburgh Heights)
26. Wickliffe Progressive Community School (Upper Arlington)

### **2011 School Improvement Awards**

1. A+ Arts Academy (Columbus)
2. Alliance Academy of Cincinnati (Cincinnati)
3. Apex Academy (Cleveland)
4. Aurora Academy (Toledo)
5. Bella Academy of Excellence (Cleveland)
6. Center for Student Achievement (Jackson)
7. Columbus Arts and Technology Academy (Columbus)
8. Columbus Bilingual Academy (Columbus)
9. Columbus Preparatory Academy (Columbus)
10. Constellation: Mansfield Community Middle (Cleveland)
11. Constellation: Stockyard Community School (Cleveland)
12. Dayton Early College Academy (Dayton)
13. Dayton Leadership Academies – Dayton Liberty Campus (Dayton)
14. Franklin Local Community School (Roseville)
15. Great Western Academy (Columbus)
16. Hamilton County Math and Science Academy (Cincinnati)
17. Hope Academy Chapelside Campus (Cleveland)
18. Horizon Science Academy Cincinnati (Cincinnati)
19. Horizon Science Cleveland Middle (Cleveland)
20. Horizon Science Elementary, Northeast Columbus (Columbus)
21. Horizon Science Academy Lorain (Lorain)
22. Klepinger Community School (Dayton)
23. Life Skills Center of Columbus North (Columbus)
24. Life Skills Center of Summit County (Akron)
25. Life Skills Center Middletown (Middletown)
26. Mansfield Preparatory Academy (Mansfield)
27. Millennium Community School (Columbus)

28. Mt. Healthy Preparatory & Fitness (Cincinnati)
29. New Day Academy Boarding & Day School (Euclid)
30. North Dayton School of Science & Discovery (Dayton)
31. Northland Preparatory and Fitness Academy (Columbus)
32. Phoenix Community Learning Center (Cincinnati)
33. Project Rebuild (Canton)
34. Promise Academy (Cleveland)
35. Riverside Academy (Cincinnati)
36. Summit Academy Akron Elementary (Akron)
37. Summit Academy Transition High School Cincinnati (Cincinnati)
38. Springfield Preparatory & Fitness Academy (Springfield)
39. Stambaugh Charter Academy (Youngstown)
40. Star Academy of Toledo (Toledo)
41. Sullivant Avenue Community School (Columbus)
42. The ISUS Institute of Construction Technology (Dayton)
43. The ISUS Institute of Health Care (Dayton)
44. The ISUS Institute of Manufacturing (Dayton)
45. Toledo Preparatory and Fitness Academy (Toledo)
46. VLT Academy (Cincinnati)
47. Westside Academy (Columbus)
48. Youngstown Community School (Youngstown)
49. Youthbuild Community School (Columbus)

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