

High AIMS November Update

November 2024 Tom Burton & Dr. Mari Phillips

Message from Tom Burton, Executive Director

Welcome to Our High AIMS Community Newsletter!

Dear High AIMS Community,
As we dive into another season of growth, learning, and collaboration, I'm thrilled to connect with each of you! This community is a testament to the power of collective passion and commitment in education. Together, we're building not just a network but a movement dedicated to transforming lives and creating a brighter future for our students and communities.



One of the highlights of our year is fast approaching—the *Leadership Retreat*, set for November 20-21 at the Delta Hotel. This event promises to be a unique opportunity for us to recharge, engage deeply with innovative leadership strategies, and foster connections that will strengthen our schools. I'm looking forward to seeing familiar faces and welcoming new members as we come together to explore ways to lead with purpose and impact.

As we prepare for this exciting gathering, I'm reminded of a favorite quote from Vince Lombardi: *"The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have."* In the face of challenges, it's our resilience and commitment that define our path forward. My hope is that each of us arrives at the retreat ready to be inspired and to inspire others, carrying with us the conviction that we can and will make a difference.

To fuel our journey, I'd like to recommend a book that has deeply influenced me: *The Right Kind of Crazy* by Adam Steltzner. This captivating read offers insights into the relentless pursuit of a seemingly impossible goal: landing a rover on Mars. Steltzner's story is a powerful reminder of the courage, creativity, and tenacity required to achieve the extraordinary. His team's journey, with all its challenges and setbacks, mirrors the grit we foster in education, reminding us that no goal is out of reach when we work together and believe in our mission.

Thank you for being part of High AIMS. I'm honored to be on this journey with you, and I'm excited for what lies ahead. Together, let's make this year one of growth, connection, and purpose-driven leadership!

With gratitude and anticipation,
Tom Burton,
Executive Director, High AIMS

High AIMS Welcomes New Business Partners



Stages Learning focuses on creating personalized learning experiences for children with diverse needs, including preschool, early intervention, and students who fall on the autism spectrum.

Click the logo to read about Stages Learning.



Safety is the heart of everything First Student does. Thank you for transporting our students.

Click the logo to read about First Student.



Every child deserves an education that propels them forward, and every educator deserves the technology and tools to make that happen. Forward Edge makes it happen.

Click the logo to read about Forward Edge.



With Pocketalk, students, educators and parents can communicate seamlessly– no matter what language they speak.

Click the logo to read about Pocketalk.



Check-Mate Safety Solutions offers cutting edge technology with a laser focus on all aspects of safety and security

Click the logo to read about Check-Mate Safety Solutions.

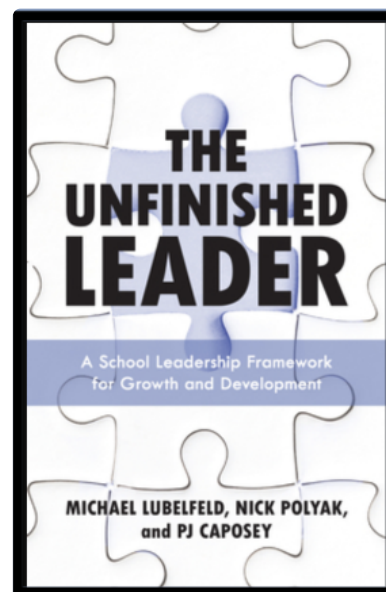


i-Ready online assessment and instruction helps teachers provide all students a path to proficiency and growth in reading and mathematics.

Click the logo to read about iReady.

High AIMS Leadership Retreat - November 20-21, 2024

Superintendents, District Leaders & Leadership Teams, we are excited about the upcoming **High AIMS Leadership Retreat on November 20-21, 2024**, at the Delta Marriott Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio. This two-day workshop, led by renowned consultants Dr. Mike Lubelfeld and Dr. Nick Polyak, will inspire and equip you and your leadership teams with effective growth and development strategies. Each participant will receive the book, ***The Unfinished Leader: A School Leadership Framework for Growth and Development*** authored by the consultants. Mike and Nick, will draw from decades of experience to present leadership as an ongoing journey. They highlight core qualities—humility, vulnerability, courage, open-mindedness, and inclusivity—as essential for leaders striving to support students and communities effectively. Reinforced in the book, they will share that leadership isn't a completed task but a continuous pursuit of self-improvement, serving as a guide for leaders to view themselves as ever-evolving and to create a vision for their growth. We look forward to your participation and empowering you and your team for success!



Leadership Cohort Update - Dr. Mari Phillips

Key Achievements and Strengths of Our Leadership Cohort Groups

As we reach the midpoint of the first semester, the High AIMS Leadership Cohorts are actively convening to foster collaboration and engagement among school leaders across the Consortium.

Through these regular meetings, cohort members share experiences and discuss best practices, creating a strong sense of community and collaboration across districts. Below are some key highlights of the ongoing work within these cohort meetings:



Focused Professional Growth: The cohorts are consistently addressing relevant, research-based topics that align with current educational trends and needs, promoting growth in areas such as instructional leadership, workforce development, counseling, high school redesign, and literacy.

Implementation of Best Practices: Members are not only learning effective strategies but are also actively applying discussed approaches within their schools and districts.

Supportive Network Building: The cohort meetings provide a supportive environment where leaders can openly discuss challenges and benefit from constructive feedback from peers facing similar issues.

Commitment to Continuous Improvement: Cohort leaders are dedicated to data sharing, including insights from State Report Card results and Early Warning Systems, High School Redesign, Online AI using these tools to inform decisions that positively impact student outcomes.

Addressing Diverse Needs: By addressing topics such as behavioral support, MTSS, attendance, college and career readiness, and differentiation, the cohorts address a wide range of student needs, enhancing the inclusivity and effectiveness of the learning environment.

Innovation in Professional Development: The cohorts are exploring creative professional development methods, including presentations from successful leaders within the High AIMS districts who share action research and best practices.

Thank you to members who authentically continue to engage in productive dialogue and contribute to a collective vision for educational excellence. Your willingness to invest your time and energy into these discussions is most appreciative. Your participation makes a significant difference. We look forward to continuing this journey with each of you as we strive to create successful learning environments that empower educators to refine their skills continually, and support students in learning, growing, and becoming productive, engaged individuals.

Click the [link](#) to review the meeting dates for each of the cohorts.

Teamwork, Collaboration, and Action Research

High AIMS curriculum leaders and high school principals recently engaged with impactful presentations from esteemed colleagues, showcasing transformative work in education. **Ladora Hill, Director of Teaching and Learning, and Lindsay Young, Instructional Coach from Princeton City Schools**, introduced [innovative strategies to](#)

[advance literacy](#) through personalized instruction, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), and artificial intelligence. **Corrine Hayes, Assistant Superintendent, and Joe Pollitt, High School Principal from Southwest Local Schools**, shared insights on reimagining traditional high school structures to better align with 21st-century skills and career pathways. ([High School Reimagination](#)). **Princeton High School Principal Ron Bollmer and his leadership team** presented their [“5 Big Rocks” initiative](#), which led to a 4.5-star Ohio State Test rating for two consecutive years.



Each district team believes that success can only be achieved through teamwork. This was very evident in their speeches.



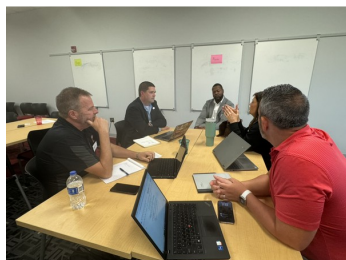
Elementary Counselor Cohort



Instructional Coaches Cohort



Secondary Counselor Cohort



Elementary Principal Cohort



Assistant Principal Cohort



Student Services/Special Education Leader Cohort

High AIMS Student Leadership Conference, October 4, 2024 - Debrief with Pictures

Student Leadership Conference (Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders) was a unique opportunity for students to connect, learn from each other, and develop leadership and team-building skills. Click the title to see the pictures.



High AIMS Team

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