

High AIMS December Update

December 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 embrace the festive spirit of December, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the accomplishments and experiences of the year gone by while eagerly looking forward to the promise of the new year.

We are incredibly grateful for the enthusiastic participation in our recent Leadership Retreat. Your engagement and insights were invaluable, contributing to its success and further strengthening our collaborative spirit.



A key theme echoed throughout the retreat was the significance of data in education. Data's role in shaping informed decision-making, refining teaching methods, and enhancing student outcomes is indispensable. It empowers us to tailor our strategies by providing concrete evidence of what works in education.

Now is a perfect time to highlight the great work of John Hattie. His transformative work on factors influencing student achievement has provided us with deep insights. Hattie's focus on visible learning and the critical importance of feedback encourages us to view learning through the eyes of our students. His research reaffirms the necessity of utilizing data to enhance and validate our educational practices.

As the year draws to a close, our heartfelt gratitude goes out to every educator, student, and parent in our community. Your dedication and passion are the essence of our shared success and growth.

With the new year on the horizon, we look forward to continuing our journey together, filled with new opportunities for collaboration and innovation. Wishing each of you a joyous holiday season and a prosperous and Happy New Year!

Warmest regards,
Tom Burton
High AIMS Executive Director



Upcoming Middle-Level Symposium, February 6, 2025 - Call for Presenters and Register Now for the Event

The High Aims Middle Level Symposium—Creating Magical Moments in the Middle—is being held on February 6 at the Delta Hotel in Sharonville. We are looking for motivated educators to present for their fellow middle level colleagues on a variety of topics ranging from effective teaching strategies, leadership, culture, collaboration and so much more. If you are interested in submitting a presentation for this symposium please complete the Google Form below. [Click Here](#) to see engaging and relevant topics that could resonate with attendees that focus on practical, research-based approaches tailored to the middle level educator and the unique middle-level student population. **The deadline for proposal submission is Wednesday, January 8, 2025. Click [HERE](#) to submit yours.**

This event is designed to spark ideas, energize your practice, and provide practical tools you can implement immediately in your classroom or school. Network with passionate educators, exchange best practices, and leave with a wealth of knowledge to take your teaching and leadership to the next level.

📍 **Location:** The Delta Hotel, Sharonville, Ohio

📅 **Date:** Thursday, February 6, 2025

🕒 **Registration:** 8:30 a.m.- 9:00 a.m.

🕒 **Event Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Lunch is included.

Cost Details:

- **Member Districts:** Free for up to 5 participants. Additional attendees are \$49.00 per person.
- **Nonmember Districts:** \$99.00 per person

Don't miss this opportunity to create magical moments in the middle! **Reserve your spot today and be part of this transformative day! Registration deadline is Tuesday, 1/21/25. Register [HERE](#) for the event.**

Reflections on the Leadership Retreat, November 20-21

Thank you for attending the Leadership Retreat on November 20-21, where we explored the theme, The Unfinished Leader. This powerful theme reminded us that leadership is an ongoing journey of growth, self-reflection, and a continuous pursuit of self-improvement. Key takeaways from the retreat included strategies for navigating change, fostering a culture of continuous improvement, and enhancing collaboration. On the second day, the afternoon sessions provided valuable time for teams to come together to strategically align their efforts toward improving their schools and their leadership skills to support staff, students, and communities effectively. We greatly appreciate your thoughtful feedback on your evaluations, which will guide us as we plan for the future.

We look forward to next school year, where we'll have another opportunity to learn, grow, and lead together.

A Special Thank You to the Leadership Cohorts - Dr. Mari Phillips

Dear High AIMS Leadership Cohorts,

As we wrap up the first half of the school year, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your dedication, collaboration, and commitment to educational excellence. Your efforts to lead with purpose and innovation have undoubtedly made a positive impact on your students, staff, and communities.

This midpoint is a great time to reflect on your successes, assess areas for growth, and recharge for the second half of the year. I encourage you to continue leveraging the strength of this network to share ideas, solve challenges, and inspire one another. Together, we are building a stronger future for education.



I thank you for your vulnerability when discussing challenges that are making the job of educating our youth more difficult. Your openness and willingness to share not only strengthen our collective resolve but also remind us of the power of collaboration in finding solutions. Never underestimate the profound impact your leadership has on the lives of students, teachers, and families. Each conversation you lead, decision you make, and challenge you overcome creates ripples of positive change. You have the ability to inspire others, ignite hope, and make a difference—not just today, but for years to come.

Thank you for being an integral part of the High AIMS Leadership Cohort. I look forward to seeing how we continue to grow and support each other in the months ahead. Wishing you and your school communities a season of celebration and rejuvenation.

Happy Holidays,
Mari



Secondary Counselor Cohort listen to the PBL Coach at Indian Hill discuss PBL.



Elementary Counselor Cohort Visit Indian Hill Primary School.



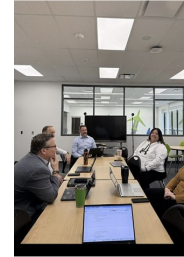
Instructional Coaches Cohort engage in discussion about reading interventions.



Curriculum Leader Cohort learn about cooperative learning and student engagement.



Elementary Principal Cohort engage in discussion about student behavior and get strategies from HCESC behavior and wellness directors.



Middle Level Principal Cohort in deep discussion about the Middle-Level Symposium.

New Indian Hill MS - Grades 6-8 - [Click here to see pictures of the building.](#)

Secondary counselors toured the new Indian Hill Middle School, which serves grades 6-8. The school showcases transformative and collaborative learning spaces that accommodate student engagement and foster cooperative learning.

Play Studio Classroom at Indian Hill Primary School - [Click HERE to see pictures](#)

Play-based learning and studio teaching are both teaching methods used in classrooms to help students learn and develop. Elementary counselors observed students engaging in play while learning math, science, and reading skills.



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