A Special Thank You to our Partners in Education... Formica and General Electric

No student in Reading will go without school supplies thanks to the generosity of Formica employees. Pictured are Karen Woodward, Janet Magness, and Megan Lange, the Formica employees who dropped off backpacks, bags of classroom supplies, and other school supplies donated from a fundraising drive held by Formica employees.

"It was like Christmas in August," said Connie Holtmeier, Central Elementary Principal. "I can assure you that every school supply that was donated will be used and appreciated by our students. Thank you."

General Electric shared its employees’ time and hard work to get our buildings and grounds in top shape before school started. On August 9, several dozen General Electric employees spent the morning in Reading Schools as a kick-off to a partner in education. Employees spent time painting, cleaning, moving furniture, and landscaping in an effort to help us prepare for this year.

iPad Program Kicks Off

Reading Community City School District has launched a one-to-one iPad program for grades 6-12. Each student at the Middle School and High School has received an iPad for the 2013-14 school year. Students are leasing the device for $50 per year for three years. At the end of the three-year lease, students can buy their iPad at a reduced price.

“Teachers have put them to use right away. The level of student engagement, instruction, and activities I have observed already would never have been possible on this level without the technology we now have,” shared Reading Middle School Principal, Bob Longworth.

Future plans include mentorship, professional development collaboration, cultural awareness programs for our students, and technical support. A big thanks to GE for working with us to help Reading students this year and beyond!
State Report Card Released
Ohio is changing the way it measures and rates the performance of schools and districts. The 2012-2013 school and district report cards are grading schools and districts on a mix of new and previously used items with an A-F letter-grade system. Schools and districts will no longer receive labels like “Excellent” or “Continuous Improvement.” In its place, they will receive letter grades the same way a student receives grades for his or her classes.

On the report card released on August 23, the district once again met 24 of the 24 performance indicators measured and received letter grades in nine different areas. There will be no overall letter grade issued for school districts until August 2015. This will give schools time to adjust to the new system and focus their efforts on being successful in all areas that are being measured.

“We clearly have areas where we are excelling and areas in need of improvement. We will look at the data and have a plan in place to address those areas where we can do better. I am proud of the hard work of our teachers and students in continuing to progress and achieve at a high level,” said Reading Superintendent, Scott Inskeep.

The report card is posted on the Ohio Department of Education website at: reportcard.education.ohio.gov.

Reading Grad Completes Basic Training
Cadet Adam Michael Childs, 2013 Reading graduate, completed Cadet Basic Training at the U.S. Military Academy. Childs entered West Point on July 1, and has successfully completed his basic training, one of the most challenging events a cadet will encounter over the course of their four years at the academy. Adam plans to graduate from West Point in 2017 and be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

Welcome New Reading Teachers!
John McClellan is a new math teacher at Reading High School, but a familiar face to staff and students. This past spring, he was a student teacher in Reading. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics from Xavier University, where he was a University Scholar.

“I have dreamed of being a teacher for the past eight years and I am so excited to be able teach a subject I love to students of this wonderful district,” Mr. McClellan said. “After working with the current staff this past spring, I can honestly say I am truly blessed to join a great team.”

Cody Reardon is the new Social Studies teacher at Reading High School. He attended Western Illinois University where he played football and earned several academic and athletic honors. Mr. Reardon is a first-year teacher.

“I am excited to be in Reading because of the reputation as a hardworking and proud community,” he said.

Reading High School welcomes Sandy Ruschell as a Chemistry and Physics teacher. Mrs. Ruschell has been an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Chemistry at University of Cincinnati Clermont, and taught Chemistry and Physics at both Indian Hill and Loveland High Schools. She has her Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Master of Arts in Education from Northern Kentucky University.

Kelsey DeMange is the new music teacher for both Hilltop and Central. She studied music education and voice at Wright State University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree.

Her love of music shows through her work as a church musician, show choir camp coordinator, and vocal/piano lessons teacher. She also enjoys choreographing for various community theaters and co-founded a children’s summer show camp for grades 1-8.

Did You Get Your District Calendar?
Our annual printed district calendar is available in the main offices of all of our buildings and in the Reading Board Office at 1301 Bonnell Avenue.

Hope to see you at one of our many events this school year!
Anita Clark joins Central’s team as a fourth grade teacher. Prior to coming to Cincinnati, she taught 5th grade language arts and social studies in Athens County. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Middle Childhood Education and Masters in Education in a one-year accelerated program from Ohio University.

“I was welcomed with open arms my very first day in the district,” she said. “I am eager to be part of the Reading team to make learning exciting and challenging. I’m thrilled to be in a district where students are the top priority.”

Chris Kamerer is a new face to both Central and Hilltop as the new elementary physical education teacher. He also coaches junior high school football at Reading Middle School. Mr. Kamerer earned his Bachelor’s degree in education from Ohio University.

“Reading is an exceptional school district with great tradition and community support. I have heard nothing but great things about the administration, staff, students, and the family atmosphere that makes Reading a great place to teach,” he said.

Kelly Welling joins the Central teaching team as the K-1st grade Intervention Specialist. Prior to Reading, she was an Intervention Specialist at Five Points Elementary. The University of Dayton graduate earned her Bachelor of Science as an Intervention Specialist.

“I am excited to work in Reading because of the small, close-knit community! I look forward to a great year with the students, staff, and families,” she said.

Central Elementary welcomes Jen McNeil as its new fourth grade reading teacher. Ms. McNeil was previously a second grade teacher at Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of Dayton and her Masters in Elementary Education from Xavier University.

Jessica Beverly will be teaching Kindergarten at Central. The first-year teacher is a graduate of Bowling Green University where she earned her Bachelor’s degree in elementary education. She loves working with children and has worked at Kings Kids before and after school program and summer camp.

“I am so excited to be at Reading Central because it is such a great place to learn! I look forward to working with the students, parents, staff, and community,” she shared.

Kelley Ramsey is the new fifth grade Language Arts teacher at Central, but she is not new to Central and Reading Schools. The Reading native and graduate is happy to be back at Central where she taught both third and fifth grades. Mrs. Ramsey has her Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Northern Kentucky University.

“I am looking forward to teaching at Central again, and being part of the district where I grew up and went to school. I also look forward to working in the district where my children go to school,” she said.

Kaitin Ruby is the new 7th grade science teacher at Reading Middle School. She is a recent graduate of the University of Cincinnati with her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science and her Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. Ms. Ruby is a first-year teacher and did her student teaching at Taft High School. She also worked for the United States Army Corps of Engineers as a Park Ranger.

“I am honored to join Reading Schools. The reputation of the district is excellent, the support is strong and the technology is cutting edge. I am very excited to work with the 7th grade as we explore science and technology (iPads!),” she said.

Alison Burns is the new art teacher at both Hilltop and Central Elementary. Most recently, she was the Pre-K-8th grade art teacher at St. Francis Seraph School where she
also facilitated a fresh fruits and vegetable program. She is graduate of the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning and has her Bachelor of Fine Arts as well as Horticulture certification.

“I am thankful to be in Reading Schools because it is a community with a lot of spirit and positive energy. I am excited to collaborate with staff to facilitate meaningful learning experiences for the students,” she shared.

Ms. Burns received the Catholic Inner-City Schools Education Fund Teacher Excellence Award 2010-2011 for “outstanding leadership and dedication to engaging children through excellent educational delivery.”

Sara Toney is the new Intervention Specialist at Reading Hilltop. She is a recent graduate of Miami University where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Special Education. While at Miami, she was on the Dean's list for all eight semesters. She is a familiar face at Hilltop because she was a student teacher in the building.

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to teach in a district that receives so much support from the wonderful community. Reading is truly a very special place,” Ms. Toney said.

Reading Middle School welcomes Jessica Brown as a new eighth grade math teacher. The first-year teacher was a student teacher at Mt. Washington School, where she taught 7th and 8th grade math. She attended the University of Cincinnati and earned her Bachelor's degree in Middle Childhood Education in Math and Natural Sciences. While at UC, she earned the CECH Community Spirit Award and the UC Student Employee of the Year Award. She was also chosen as Ohio First STEM Fellow and African American Initiative for Math and Science Fellow.

She said, “I am excited to be in Reading because the teaching staff is amazing and I am excited to be starting what I have dreamed of doing. Go Blue Devils!”

Holly Steinkoening will join Hilltop staff as the new Kindergarten teacher. She is familiar with the Reading Schools and has been an educational aide for one year. The Reading native is a graduate of Reading High School and received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati. She received her Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from the College of Mt. St. Joseph. She was in Kappa Delta Pi which is an honors sorority.

“I am a Reading graduate and have worked within the school district for the past three years. I've had positive experiences here and can't wait to create more,” Ms. Steinkoening said.

Welcome to Laurre Kaiser, the new building secretary at Reading Central. Mrs. Kaiser lives in Reading and she is married to Kevin Kaiser, Reading Fire Department Chief. They have two daughters and their first grandchild on the way.

Stay Connected to Reading Schools through Facebook. Each of our four schools now has their own Facebook page. These official Facebook pages are designed to give timely updates on school news, activities, and events.

Help us spread the word—tell your friends to “Like” us too!

Central
http://www.facebook.com/pages/Reading-Central/414414358620429

Hilltop

Reading Middle School
http://www.facebook.com/pages/Reading-Middle-School/310436262397168

Reading High School

Follow Reading High School Athletics on Twitter!
@ReadingAthletic
**September**

2  No School-Labor Day

4  Board of Education Work Session 5:30 p.m.  
Hilltop Camp Kern Mtg-7 p.m.

10  Hilltop PTO Mtg.-6:30 p.m.

12  Central/RMS Market Day 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Central Parent Information Night  
Grades 3-5  
5:30-6:30 p.m.

13  Hilltop Hike

16-20  Central PTO Fitness Week

18  RMS PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Central Picture Day  
Board of Education meeting-5:30 p.m.

19  Central Parents at Lunch

20  Interim Reports Sent Home  
Central Blue Devil Dash 12:45 p.m.  
Central Parents at Lunch  
Hilltop Fall Picture Day

25  10th Grade PLAN Test

26  Central K-2 Parent Information Night  
5:30-6:30 p.m.

30  RHS Fall Homecoming Week