Positive Path Pays Off

Taft Elementary School is using Y-Bucks not only to reward students’ good behavior but to teach some financial literacy as well.

School officials throughout YCSD distribute Y-Bucks to students when they witness positive behavior: helping another student with a task, follow positive behavior in class or maintaining healthy attendance. Y-Bucks can be used in school stores to “buy” anything from pencils or granola bars to larger items like school apparel or sports equipment. The more Y-Bucks a student earns, the larger the item he or she can buy.

But Taft officials have found a way to impart even more lessons with the district currency. Rather than spending Y-Bucks right away, students can choose instead to deposit them in either a checking or savings account. Checking accounts earn 3 percent interest and savings accounts earn 10 percent interest.

Fifth-grader Danielle DiRando has garnered more than $50 by being on her best behavior and being a good student. A scarf and snacks are among the things she’s already bought, but she recognizes the importance of saving her Y-Bucks too.

Rick Gurski, a Taft principal, believes the Y-Bucks program teaches students the importance of positive behavior and the way that Taft has added onto the concept enables children to learn about financial literacy too.

School officials hope to add an aspect to the program through which students can learn about the stock market too, the principal said.

Another feature Taft officials have added is a Y-Bucks booth.

A Student of the Week is selected based on his or her good behavior.

That student gets a minute in a Y-Bucks booth to grab as many of the bills as he or she can to then deposit into checking or savings accounts.
This is the first year YCSD has offered Indoor Track and the East High School Golden Bears girls’ team dominated. In the inaugural year, five team members, Janiya Bowers, Kyndia Matlock, Deshante Allen, Johnae Coleman and Ayanna Dixon, were invited to participate in the state indoor meet last weekend in Geneva, Ohio. The five are among only 24 indoor-track athletes across Ohio invited to the state meet.

That made East the only school with three girls in the top ten in their respective events and the only school with five girls in the Top 15.

At the tournament, Janiya placed fifth and sixth in the 60-meter and 200-meter events, respectively.
Kyndia earned ninth-place in both the 60-meter and the 200-meter races.
Ayanna, Johnae, Kyndia and Janiya also competed in the 4x200-meter relay and finished sixth.
The Golden Bears were the only team to place two athletes in the Top 10 in Ohio and the only Ohio team to finish in the Top 10 in three events this year.
The girls are let by Coaches LaTalia Jones, Kevin Cylar, Anthony Floyd, Robert Greet and Pastor Kenneth Donaldson. Congratulations ladies!

Kings Crowned City Series Champs

The Martin Luther King Elementary School Kings reign over the City Series.
The seventh and eighth-grade boys’ basketball team was crowned 2017-18 City Series Champions. This marked the first year for the series which is expected to expand to include more sports.
The City Series restarted this year through a partnership with several community organizations including the Volney Rogers Recreation League and the Boys & Girls Club of Youngstown. Each of the district’s nine elementary schools as well as Rayen Early College Intermediate School Games played on Saturdays, drawing hundreds to YCSD elementary to cheer on the teams.
Plans are in the works to bring other sports to the City Series for seventh and eighth-graders too.