Hundreds of people, including East High School’s JROTC, marched last weekend in the seventh Nonviolence Parade to kick off Nonviolence Week. In 2013, YCSD students lobbied for the first week in October to be declared Nonviolence Week statewide.

**KEEPING IN TOUCH**

**MONDAYS WITH MOHIP**
5 P.M. MONDAYS. FACEBOOK/KRISH.MOHIP

**5 MO’ MINUTES**
BOTTOM OF THE 8 A.M. HOUR, MONDAYS, ON STAR 94.7 FM

**COFFEE WITH THE CEO**
OCT. 11, 9 A.M. AT WILSON AND OCT. 16, 9 A.M. AT WILLIAMSON

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**Want to know how your child is doing in school?**

**BAG it**

To keep parents informed about how their students are doing in school, the Youngstown City School District sends home a weekly BAG -- Behavior, Attendance and Grades -- report.

It’s the same report that YCSD teachers and administrators use to address problems such as poor grades, low attendance or misbehavior early to quickly implement interventions.

“I’m proud to say we offer this information weekly rather than waiting for report cards and interim reports to be released,” said CEO Krish Mohip.
REPORT CARD SHOWS IMPROVEMENT

For the first time since the Ohio Department of Education started assigning letter grades on the state report card, the Youngstown City School District earned a “B” for one of its components.

ODE released the 2016–17 state report card last month and YCSD earned a “B” on the Kindergarten to Third-Grade Literacy component, the measure that evaluates a school’s or district’s success at getting struggling readers on track.

“Another improvement is in our five-year graduation rate,” said CEO Krish Mohip. “We improved from 74.2 percent on the 2015-16 report card to 79.8 percent for 2016-17. That’s significant and we’re proud of that progress, but we also recognize that we have a lot more work to do.”

This school year brings an even sharper focus on instruction. The district is implementing a new instructional method that uses structured teaching and allows students to gradually assume more responsibility for their learning.

Reading is Fundamental

If a child’s reading skills are lacking, it hampers his or her ability to study and to learn in all subject areas. That’s why Youngstown City Schools is bolstering the amount of time during the school day that students spend reading.

CEO Krish Mohip has instituted daily intervention -- 60 minutes for kindergarten–through fourth-graders and 80 minutes for fifth–through eighth-graders -- that focuses on reading. That’s in addition to the 170 minutes of regular classroom reading instruction for kindergarten through-fourth-graders and 120 minutes for students in grades five through eight.

“Reading provides the foundation for everything else,” Mohip said. “If a child cannot read well he or she will struggle with all of the other core subject areas too.”

The intervention blocks blend small-group instruction with the use of adaptive software, allowing students to progress from their individual skill level. That means the intervention isn’t just remedial. Children at all levels will benefit.
Help for Puerto Rico

Youngstown City Schools is joining in the effort to help victims of Hurricanes Maria and Irma that devastated much of Puerto Rico. "We understand that many of our families have loved ones living in Puerto Rico whose homes and businesses were destroyed," said CEO Krish Mohip. "We want to try to do our part to help in whatever way we can."

The week of Oct. 16, donation drop-offs will be set up in each of the district’s schools for people to bring in bottled water, powdered baby formula, baby wipes, canned goods, diapers, non-perishable food items and solar lights. We ask that items be dropped off during school hours the week of Oct. 16. The school district is partnering with The Linc Lincoln Knolls Community Center, 128 Jacobs Road, across from the Four Seasons, which is also a donation drop-off location between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays. The Linc is working with the Convoy of Hope, OCCHA, New Life Church, Second Harvest Food Bank, Phantom Fireworks, Victory Christian Center, Papa's Puerto Rican Cuisine and the Outreach Center.

The Washington Post
Afterschool blends academics with enrichment

About 1,200 YCSD K–8th graders are enrolled in the afterschool program. It stretches the school day to offer students more math and reading work, provides dinner and a snack and includes fun, enrichment activities. Several community organizations are working with the city schools to provide enrichment opportunities.
A first step toward college

East and Chaney seniors’ school day will start 2 ½ hours late Wednesday, Oct. 11, to minimize distractions to younger students who will spend that morning taking the PSAT.

The PSAT, or Preliminary SAT, is a standardized test sponsored by both the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. It measures student performance in reading, writing and math.

The later start translates to a later bus pick-up time for the East and Chaney seniors too. If the bus normally picks a student up at 8 a.m., for example, that student will be picked up Oct. 11 at 10:30 a.m. Bus pick-up and school start times for all other students are unchanged.

The later pick-up time will mean that seniors will arrive at school close to the time that many of them are transported to Choffin Career and Technical Center for the afternoon. Seniors staying at East or Chaney will get off of the school buses and the others will be taken to Choffin.

Seniors’ later arrival will allow more classroom space to be used for testing as well as enable additional staff to be available to assist with the testing and limit possible distractions for those who are testing.

“The PSAT isn’t a factor in college admissions like the SAT or the ACT, but it is significant,” said CEO Krish Mohip.

A student’s PSAT score can inform him or her in which areas his or her skills are the weakest, allowing them to focus accordingly. Eighth-graders will also take the PSAT that same day, but it won’t affect the start time for any elementary school grade.

“We want to make every effort to ensure that our students have every opportunity to perform on the PSAT to the best of their abilities,” the CEO said.