

# IB Educating for Excellence.

## Welcome to Secondary School in the Corning-Painted Post Area School District

*Nowadays, businesses need employees who can think on their feet, work in teams, use resources to solve problems and communicate well.*

Whether attending middle school or high school in the Corning-Painted Post Area School District (C-PP), students in our four secondary facilities receive the highest quality teaching available. Our District is squarely focused on preparing students for success in college, work and life. We advance student achievement by striving for educational excellence at every level, in every school for every student.

### Education In A Changing World

C-PP has worked hard over the last several years to change our instructional approach to address a problem faced by schools across the country. Student performance on state achievement tests indicates that we need to do a better job of preparing some of our students to successfully demonstrate what they have learned. Plus, while our dropout rate is better than the national average, losing even one student is not acceptable. We need to do more to hold our

young people's interest so that they stay in school and graduate. U.S. public schools also have had to respond to the changing workforce needs in today's economy. Companies need workers to have a different set of skills than those needed thirty years ago. Nowadays, businesses need employees who can think on their feet, work in teams, use resources to solve problems and communicate well. School systems are beginning to understand how they must adapt their teaching models to better prepare students to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

C-PP is ahead of the curve on improving classroom practices to better serve students. In 2002, the District launched the *Quantum Leap* (QL) student achievement initiative because we saw troubling trends in our students' performance on standardized tests. We wanted and needed to do a better job of teaching all of our students what they must know and be able to do to

graduate and succeed after high school. C-PP District administrators and teachers believe that all children can learn and, through QL, they help each of them to reach their maximum potential. *Quantum Leap* also prepares students to meet all local, state and national learning standards.

The objective of QL is simple: to improve teaching and learning in our District. To meet it, the District consistently strives toward the three learning goals of Rigor, Relevance and Relationships, described below:

- **Rigor:** All students will demonstrate mastery of the fundamental skills and competencies needed for success in a rapidly changing world.
- **Relevance:** All students will demonstrate readiness for adult roles by applying fundamental academic skills and competencies to personal, community and workplace settings.
- **Relationships:** All students, parents and community will work together to create a positive, respectful environment that supports excellence in learning, teaching and leadership.

More and more, these new "Three Rs" are being adopted by other school districts across America, and they have been validated by educational experts including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

*(Continued on reverse)*

### Comparison of "Silent Epidemic" Findings and C-PP Facts

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's study called "The Silent Epidemic" highlighted the following findings about high-school drop-outs:

National Statistics	C-PP Reality & Solutions
Dropout rate is 30%	The most current C-PP data is based on the class of students who entered high school in 2001; 14% of them did not graduate.
Majority of students say they dropped out because school was boring	Under Quantum Leap and International Baccalaureate, teachers are trained to provide a more interesting school experience that appeals to students of varying learning styles.
Drop-outs said they would have been more engaged if school had related more to the "real world"	Under QL and IB, instruction is specifically designed to be more <b>Relevant</b> for students.
Drop-outs said they would have worked harder if expectations had been higher	Under QL and IB, students experience a <b>Rigorous</b> course of study that is appropriately challenging relative to each student's ability.
Drop-outs said they didn't have enough support from adults	C-PP emphasizes the importance of meaningful adult <b>Relationships</b> throughout the school experience, and encourages both parent engagement and in-school adult mentoring relationships.



Visit C-PP's IB site to learn more.

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*Driven by a strong commitment to improved student achievement, C-PP has revolutionized the way students in our schools are learning.*

### How We Teach in C-PP Secondary Schools

Corning-Painted Post Area School District leaders continue to have a great sense of urgency to improve student achievement. Activities are in progress on many fronts to bring about changes for the better in our classrooms. In the secondary grades, the most significant change the District has made under *Quantum Leap* has been the implementation of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program in 2004. IB is a critical component of *Quantum Leap* because it will help more students perform at higher levels faster. The IB Middle Years and Diploma Programs were chosen specifically because they focus on helping students develop critical thinking skills (Rigor), understand the connections between subjects and with the “real world” (Relevance) and collaborate with others (Relationships). It is often said that IB

makes average students above average and above average students exceptional.

The IB Middle Years Program is the model for the way we teach all C-PP students in grades 6 through 10. Hard-working, bright students may choose the IB Diploma Program as their course of study in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Each program operates from a distinct teaching model geared to the specific developmental and academic needs of the students in those respective age groups. These teaching models make sure that students are academically challenged, but also that they have the skills to meet these and other challenges with poise. Plus, classes in our District capture students’ interest by teaching them course material through a combination of classroom instruction and real-life, hands-on experiences. C-PP faculty and staff support the whole student by showing flexibility in

responding to their range of needs. Teaching “the IB way” is better for students because they understand the material more deeply and retain the knowledge better than if they had simply memorized facts. Plus, students learn how to use resources to find answers and to think through a problem or question on their own.

Corning-Painted Post Area School District maintains a strong focus on its vision to be a model of Educational Excellence. District leaders weigh all decisions about curriculum and instruction against the equation Rigor + Relevance + Relationships = Educational Excellence. Driven by a strong commitment to improved student achievement, C-PP has revolutionized the way students in our schools are learning. Though it is quite different than the education their parents and teachers experienced, this new approach to learning is ideal for C-PP students because it helps them build the skills they need to succeed in today’s world.

### C-PP Is Doing The Right Things To Improve Student Success

The April 17, 2006, Time magazine article “[Dropout Nation](#)” specified five things schools can do to prevent dropouts. *Quantum Leap* practices cover all of them.

Time Magazine Suggestion	How C-PP Compares
Teach Reading early	The District launched a comprehensive, consistent Elementary Reading curriculum beginning in September 2006.
Create alternative High Schools	C-PP has had great success with the High School Learning Center, which provides an alternative for students who struggled in or dropped out of the traditional school environment. HSLC graduation rate is 88% with Regents Diplomas.
Spot future drop-outs	C-PP’s Academic Intervention Services (AIS) and the Freshman Academy are two new QL initiatives that are helping “at risk” students stay on track for success.
Support vocational education	Solid partnership with BOCES gives students the power to choose the vocational education path if that suits their goals.
Get the grown-ups involved	PTAs, Building Leadership Teams, classroom volunteer opportunities and parent/ teacher conferences allow parents to participate in their child’s school. Also, community service projects connect C-PP students with adults in the outside world.



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