

# Tomcat Today

Ashland Independent School District Newsletter



March 2020 - Volume 4





Greetings!

Well, we have made it to March after a sickness ridden February. In my 31 years of public education, I cannot recall a period when I observed such wide-spread illness over such an extended time and in so many districts across the state. Our attendance is now reflective of an upward trend back to normalcy. However, we do recognize that another flu outbreak is possible. I would be remiss if I did not recognize the concern in the world for the coronavirus. We will continue to work closely with our local health department and utilize resources from the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Kentucky Department for Public Health. Safety is indeed our top priority.

Sincerely,

D. Sean Howard  
Superintendent  
Secretary, Board of Education

# Ashland Board of Education



**Bruce Morrison,**  
Board Chair

I have been on the Ashland School Board for three years. I have enjoyed being a part of students reaching their goals and dreams. In following in the footsteps of my Dad, Robert

Morrison, who also served on the AISD School Board, I learned that our students are our future. I am in my 22nd year with Lamar Advertising currently serving as Sales Manager. The billboard industry has been an exciting and challenging profession that is ever changing. I appreciate the opportunity that I have been given to serve our students, faculty, and staff, and look forward to a great second half of the year!



**David Latherow,**  
Vice Chair

I was initially appointed to the Board in January, 2015. Our district is blessed with great staff and administrators who are focused on meeting the needs of our students. We

desire for our students to excel inside and outside of the classroom. I am blessed to be married to my best friend, Leigh G. Latherow, who is also an attorney practicing in Ashland. We have three wonderful children; Luke Johnson, (Ashland Alumni, '14), is at the University of Louisville. Our twins, Emma and Jack Latherow, are currently juniors at Ashland. Thank you for allowing me to serve.



**Kristen Martin,**  
Treasurer

In October 2016 I became Board Treasurer and Finance Director of the Ashland Independent School District. In 2018 I received a Kentucky State Certification from the

Kentucky Dept. of Education as a Certified School Finance Officer. I supervise Payroll, Benefits, and Accounts Receivable and Payable for the district. I am most humbled that I can be a part of the financial decisions as they have a direct impact on student achievement, improvement, and progress. I am appreciative of the opportunity to serve. I reside in Ironton, Ohio with my husband, Chianti, and children Kiandra, Khamil, and Chianti, Jr.



**Dr. Patsy Lindsey,**  
Board Member

I am a proud product of the Ashland Schools. I attended Crabbe, Coles Jr High, and Blazer. My two daughters, Stephanie Gilmore and Katy Sebastian, along with my four

granddaughters. Carlyle, Annabelle, Langley and Lillian are also products of the Ashland Schools and fierce Tomcats! I am married to Ron Lindsey, a retired educator. I am also a retired educator and I am proud to have been a teacher, principal, and district administrator all in the Ashland Schools. "Upon the subject of education...I can only say I view it as the most important subject we as people may be engaged in."

- Abraham Lincoln

I concur!



**Don Ashby,**  
Board Member

I want to serve and do my part to help make our community a better place. The youth and their education is very important to me. I try to make every

decision based on what is best for all students. We have an awesome district and it has been an honor to serve.

My wife Jill and I have 4 boys that attend school in the Ashland Independent School district. I am President of the Ashland Jr. Football League and also President of Ashland Little League. Youth Sports are an important part of my service to the community.



**Mark McCarty,**  
Board Member

I was appointed to the Ashland Board of Education in July 2016 and then elected in November 2016. I have enjoyed serving on the board for the last four

years and having a part in the decision making to promote what is best for the staff and students of our district. We have an amazing group of administrators at Central Office as well as incredible principals overseeing our schools, making our district the best in the area. It is truly an honor to serve our community, the teachers and staff, and most importantly the students of our district! My wife Melissa and I have two sons, both graduates of Ashland Blazer. Alex ('18) and Wyatt ('19).



# PAUL G. BLAZER HIGH SCHOOL



Spring is in the air! We are primed and ready for warm weather and opportunities to enjoy everything beautiful about our campus. While you hear lots of complaints about the walks outside during the winter days, the stroll across campus during the warm days make for a renewed excitement. Birds are chirping, students are laughing, and the days are filled with an energy that motivates everyone to push toward spring sports, prom, and eventually graduation.

That unmistakable energy has been vibrant all year long. The success of our fall and winter sports, coupled with the successes in our classrooms, have made our campus a buzz all year. Our pride in our school and the recognized pride in our school from the community has been more than evident on every corner this year. Blazer High School is the standard by

which all are measured in our area, both academically and athletically. That has been very evident this year.

Regardless of whether you are an alum from years gone by, or a ninth grader just beginning your journey at Blazer, we have much to feel proud of as Tomcats!

Go Tomcats!  
Jamie Campbell

## Upcoming Dates:

**April 1**

Blood Drive

**April 3**

Truth or Consequences (9th grade)

**April 17**

Special Olympics (Blazer Track)

**April 25**

Prom

**May 25**

Graduation (Date subject to change.)

## District Academics

What a great day! The Ashland Academic Team hosted Governor's Cup District on Saturday, January 25th. The team's hard work and dedication led to a great showing for this young team. Ashland took 1st overall with 70.5 points (a score accumulated from all tests, FPS, Written Composition, Written Assessments, and Quick Recall), beating Boyd's 32.5 handily. The **Future Problem Solving** team of Hayleigh Buckler, Kaya Ross, Bri Nivens, and Gwen Akers, coached by Jeff Kennard and Erin Reynolds, took 1st place. **Quick Recall** won 1st for the 10th consecutive year! Their Finals opponent, Boyd County, has been a formidable opponent this season. Ashland caught fire and played a perfect match, defeating Boyd 47-23. Congrats to the District Quick Recall Team of Logan Coovert, Ace Farris, Hannah Laney, Chrissy Brown, Joslin Wireman, and Myintmo Tun.

**Math Testing** - 1st Hannah Laney, 2nd Moe Tun, 5th England Huizar.

**Science Testing** - 1st Hannah Laney, 2nd Leanna Badger, 4th Luke Geyer.

**Social Studies Testing** - 1st Ace Farris, 2nd Logan Coovert, 4th Ethan Goodrich.

**Language Arts** - Tied for 1st Logan Coovert, 3rd Joslin Wireman, 5th Melanie Grimm.

**Arts & Humanities** - 2nd Chrissy Brown, 3rd Joslin Wireman, 4th Melanie Grimm.

**Writing Composition** - 2nd Hayleigh Buckler, 5th Mackenzie Clere

The academic team continued on to Regionals, qualifying for State in Quick Recall, Future Problem Solving, Writing Comp, and all subject tests. Hannah Laney placed 4th in Math and 4th in science. Ace Farris placed 2nd in Social Studies. Joslin Wireman placed 4th in Language Arts and 4th in Arts. Chrissy Brown placed 3rd in Arts. Hayleigh Buckler placed 2nd in writing. Logan Coovert placed 1st in Language Arts with a Perfect 50, the highest score in the State!



## Criminal Justice with Mark McDowell

As I walked across the platform in 1984 to receive my diploma from Blazer High School, I would have never imagined I would be teaching a course here 35 years later...I would have called you crazy! Well, here I am, 35 years later, instructing students on one of Blazer's newest courses: *Intro to Criminal Justice*.

Ask any of my students about the components of the Criminal Justice system and they will quickly tell you law enforcement, courts and corrections. This fall, 30 students sat down in the classroom with me and we began to explore the Criminal Justice system. As we wrapped up the first half of this year, the students were exposed to issues related to law enforcement and the courts. We've had many guests this semester including representatives from the Ashland PD, Boyd Co. Sheriff's Office, and the Kentucky State Police. Boyd County Commonwealth Attorney Rhonda Copley has also come out to speak to our class about functions of her office in the court system.

Boyd Circuit Judge John Vincent accommodated us on an awesome field trip to observe arraignments in his courtroom on November 20th. The students were able to see an array of felony cases come before him in this non-scripted insight into the workings of our court system. My hope is that students in this course will prepare today for a rewarding career in the Criminal Justice system.

## Blazer Custodians Staff Spotlight

With a campus as large as Blazer, combined with activities going on

nearly every night, the job of the custodian is a vital piece to safety and appearance of our facilities. With custodial services happening around the clock, there is never a moment that our custodians are not working on something. John Litteral, Jonathon Litteral, Bruce Barker, Rich Church, Sarah Kouns, James Kouns, Jacob Young, and Danny Terry all work diligently to ensure our facilities on campus and adjacent sports facilities are in the best shape possible for our students and community. Thanks to these fine men and women, we are able to enjoy our campus and our facilities each and every time we have an event.



# ASHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL



What are we learning at AMS this year? We are learning to embrace struggle. We are learning that work ethic matters. We are learning to discover our passions. And possibly most importantly, we are learning the value of "yet." *"I don't know how to do that"* versus *"I don't know how to do that yet"* are two profoundly different statements. As we continue this journey towards a school-wide Growth Mindset, we are learning to understand how big such a small word like "yet" can be.

I am proud that our staff and students are pressing forward in reaching our goals. The shared ownership from all involved is having a huge impact on everyone who walks through our doors daily.

Go Cats!  
David Greene

## Building a Rhythm

Two elective teachers teamed up to create a unique learning opportunity for our students with special needs. Cory Brown (Visual Arts) and Molly Page (Strings) collaborated with Resource Teachers Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. Molen's students to build drums and learn to play them. The drums were constructed using concrete form tubes and duct tape. After completion, Mrs. Page taught exercises using the students' names as a way to create a rhythm. Students were able to take home the drums they made during class.

*"It was a pleasure working with Mr. Brown and Mrs. Page, and a great learning experience for everyone involved."*



-Campbell, AMS Resource Teacher

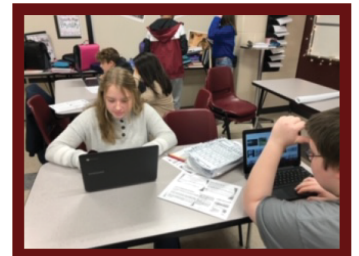
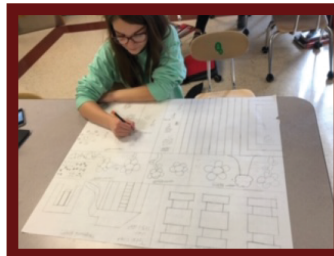
## Project Based Learning

Real World students at Ashland Middle School are participating in a project based experience after speaking about community issues with City Commissioner Matt Perkins. Students are in the beginning stages of developing a mobile application that citizens of our city would be able to download that would serve as a direct line of communication to city leaders. By opening these lines of communication, we can help build a better city for everyone.



## Building Ashland's Future

Adventurers have been immersed in the "Building Ashland's Future" project in Mrs. Heyerly's (Language Arts) and Mrs. Coburn's (Math) classes. The project began with a visit from Ashland City Commissioner Amanda Clark, who shared the city's plans for downtown revitalization. The goal of each group was to present an idea to revitalize the downtown area or riverfront area of Ashland. Groups worked on scale drawings and presentations for the project.



## Library Staff

In her 26th year at Ashland Middle School (Verity), Lisa Wallin is enjoying her third year as library media specialist. As Library Media Specialist, Mrs. Wallin tries to ignite the love of reading in even her most reluctant students whether it be graphic novels, non-fiction, or any of the other nearly 10,000 titles available at AMS! In her third year as library clerk, Tami Cook enjoys the relationships she builds with students. As a voracious reader, Mrs. Cook always has just the right recommendation for students! As a team, Mrs. Wallin and Mrs. Cook have all bases covered from computers, to research, to AR tests, book suggestions, and beyond!

## Upcoming Events

**May 14**  
Talent Show  
Back Yard Bash  
**May 18**  
Field Day  
**May 20**  
Awards Day



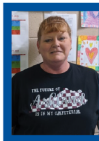
# CHARLES RUSSELL ELEMENTARY



As we begin to close out the 2019-2020 school year, I want to say how proud I am of the dedication and commitment to our school community that the Charles Russell faculty and staff have demonstrated all year. This is an incredibly special place to get to work and serve others, as well as being an amazing place for learning and personal

growth. This has been evident in the academic successes and extra-curricular achievements of our students. Although we will be sad to see our group of 5th graders leave, I am encouraged to know that they are moving on to a fantastic middle school where these former CHIEFS will continue to be pushed toward further excellence. Likewise, we are excited to know that a whole new group of little Indians will be joining us in the fall!

Shawn Thornbury, Ed.D.  
Principal



**Tracey Bradley**  
Kitchen Manager

Our staff spotlight is of our new Kitchen

Manager, Tracey Bradley. Tracey has a wide range of experience working in School Food Service; she has worked at Boyd County High School, Fairview High School, and subbed at Hager Elementary for a year before being hired full time at Charles Russell. Since that time, she has been at Charles Russell for 7 years working with our former Kitchen Manager, Linda Handloser, who retired in December. Tracey has incredible leadership skills and has already brought about a fun and welcoming environment to the Food Service program at Charles Russell. One of the things that really motivates Tracey is her "love for the staff, students and her kitchen girls." In just a short time, Tracey has added a few items to the options that everyone can choose from that have become very popular among students and staff! She also noted her vision for the kitchen is to make it a happy and fun place for everyone to visit. Most importantly, Tracey wanted to make sure that everyone knows how rewarding it is to take care of so many children on a daily basis.

Welcome to your new role at Charles Russell, Tracey! Your leadership is greatly appreciated!

## Valentine's Day Love for Others

The 5th grade students of Mrs. Foster and Mrs. Hall recently completed a community service project. Each student created and decorated Valentine cards to be sent to the veterans at the VA hospital in Huntington, WV and to the residents of Woodland Oaks in Ashland. Both teachers expressed to the students the importance of giving back to the people who have given so much to our community. Mrs. Foster remarked, "They were more than willing to be a part of this project after our discussion in class." The Valentine cards were given out on Valentine's Day.



## Academic Team Shines at District Competition

On February 5th and 8th, our academic team members participated in the Kentucky Association for Academic Competition's (KAAC) 125th District Governor's Cup Competition, which was hosted at Charles Russell. Our Indians performed incredibly well, and coaches and team members have a tremendous amount of which to be proud. Below are the results from this year's District Competition. On February 29th, these students competed at the Regional Competition.

**Quick Recall** – 2nd Place  
**Future Problem Solving** – 2nd Place  
**Mathematics:**

2nd Place – Dylan Rymer (Tie)  
5th Place – Eli Foster

**Science:**  
5th Place – Dylan Rymer

**Social Studies:**  
1st Place – Ben Lynch  
3rd Place – Carson Sizemore  
5th Place- Cameron Burnside

**Language Arts:**  
2nd Place - Abby Madden  
5th Place - Willow Rice

### Arts and Humanities:

4th Place - Sophia Stambaugh  
5th Place - Eden Mantle  
5th Place - Mason Hamilton (Tie)

### Composition:

4th Place - Gracie Cole



## Upcoming Events

March 30th – April 3rd - Early Kindergarten Registration  
April 6th – 10th - Spring Break  
April 22nd – 25th - Safety Patrol Trip  
May 4th – May 21st - K- Prep Testing Window  
May 21st – Student's Last Day of School (subject to change)



# CRABBE ELEMENTARY



WOW! It is hard to believe we are at the end of another year. This year has truly gone by fast and we are looking forward to a bright future with our scholars. This year we have been able to showcase great accomplishments both academically and athletically. We have implement-

ed new instructional ideas and practices that have shown how much the scholars have truly improved. It has been a pleasure serving staff, scholars, and families for the 2019-2020 school year and I look forward to continuing to serve you all in 2020-2021.

#Itsatigerthing

Educationally Yours,  
Uriah A. Tolbert, Ed.S  
Principal

Twitter - @ces\_ashland  
Instagram - @CESashlandind  
Facebook - CrabbeElem  
Class Dojo - Crabbe Elementary School

## KONA ICE Super Scholars

As a part of our Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) initiative we began the month of January with the KONA ICE Super Scholar. The scholar who has earned the most Class Dojo points by following our "CHAMP" expectations is named the "Super Scholar of the Month."



*Pictured here are our first scholars to receive the award.*

## Upcoming Events

March 23 - SBDM Meeting (3:15)  
April 6 -10 - Spring Break  
April 25 - Spring Carnival  
April 27 - SBDM Meeting (3:15)  
May 18 - SBDM Meeting (3:15)

## Buddy Readers

We have begun buddy reading within our school. Pictured here are our 5th grade scholars working with our 2nd grade scholars on their Accelerated Reader logins and assessment strategies.



## Undefeated!

Crabbe's 4th and 5th grade Boy's Basketball team finished the season UNDEFEATED and won the Dirk Payne City Championship Trophy.

- Way to go Ballers, Coach Tolbert, and Coach Parsley!



Our combined Crabbe, Hager, and Holy Family Girl's basketball team, #CragerFamily, also took home the Championship Trophy.

- Congratulations to the girls, Coach A. Hill, Coach G. Hill, and Coach Smith!



### Bridget Lemon-Justice School Nurse

Nurse Bridget Lemon-Justice has been at Crabbe

Elementary since August 2012. She has two sons; the eldest is a Major in the US Army, and the youngest is a history teacher at Holy Family. She also has four grandchildren with whom she enjoys spending time. When she is not taking care of the students and staff at Crabbe Elementary, she is enjoying her hobbies. Nurse Bridget plays the piano, works out and plays any sport you can name, and has been singing in her church choir for over 30 years! It is a pleasure having Nurse Bridget at Crabbe Elementary to serve our scholars and families.



# HAGER ELEMENTARY



● Kindergarten Registration will be March 30th-April 3rd (7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) and also March 31st (3:30-6 p.m.) Spring Registration allows us to better plan for the fall and solidifies staffing numbers (how many kindergarten teacher positions we can sustain). Questions regarding kindergarten registration can be directed

to the school office (606-327-2731).

● Spring Break is April 6 -10. Here's wishing everyone a wonderful and safe break.

● State testing (K-PREP) for grades 3rd, 4th, and 5th will be during the last 14 days of school, May 1-21. Within this window the elementary principals will agree on a five consecutive day time period to conduct state testing. As the window approaches, be on the lookout for the Good Faith Effort Pledge.

● Please make sure to mark your calendars for the last three days of the school year. We plan to celebrate all of our students' many successes. Activities include: Character Cat Cookout, Field Day, Awards Day, and end of the year class parties.

Phillip Caudill

## Ashland Family Resource Center

Since 1991, the Ashland Family Resource Center has aimed to alleviate barriers that may be contributing to a student's inability to focus while trying to obtain their education. Services provided by AFRC are available for students and families year-round. AFRC serves Crabbe and Hager Elementary Schools as well as the Ashland Head Start and KERA Preschool Programs. Beth Martin, MSSW, CSW is the Coordinator of the Center.

During the 2019-2020 fiscal school year, AFRC has already provided emergency clothing assistance on 342 occasions, and purchased new outfits and shoes for more than 100 students through a partnership with Friends of the Children. Other services provided by AFRC include, but are not limited to, the following: school and personal care items, holiday assistance, school-based mental health services/referrals, emergency transportation, glasses, hygiene, attendance, food, furniture, and summer camps. In collaboration with local churches, weekend food bags are provided to an average of 157 students.

AFRC strives to make sure no student or family struggles to have their needs met, whether from direct assistance or community referrals. AFRC will continue to do whatever it takes!

### Gracie Taylor

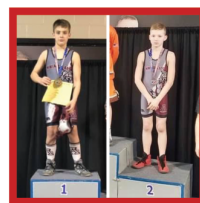
ACTC Science  
Fair-1st Place  
Biomedical &  
Behavioral Health  
Sciences



### Elementary Wrestling State Championships

**Nathaniel Williams**  
1st Place 105 lb. Class

**Carson Gillum**  
2nd place 82 lb. Class



### Susan Vance Math Intervention Teacher

Susan Vance has been part of the Ashland Independent School District since she moved to Kentucky in 2001. Her experience at Hager Elementary has been teaching Math and Science to 6th graders until the 6th graders became part of Ashland Middle School and elementary schools were reconfigured to house K-5 students. She then slid into the role of a 3rd grade teacher teaching Math and Science. Most recently, she has served as the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Math Intervention Teacher as well as a 6th grade Math teacher to advanced 5th graders throughout the district. Susan plays an important role in our school by working with students who struggle in mathematics. She challenges her students to learn their facts and show positive growth at every opportunity when progress is checked. Susan works hard in establishing positive relationships with students, never settling for less than the best effort from each. In her spare time...(LOL), Susan is the site manager of Wildcat Jungle. She runs the daily operations of this program-you name it, she does it! Susan continues to make Wildcat Jungle an awesome experience for our students with a variety of enrichment activities. We appreciate all her efforts in providing and assisting the students of Hager Elementary.

Hager Academic  
Team-District  
Runner-up!  
L to R: Gavin Slone,  
Tate Kneisley,  
Harper Robinson,  
Gracie Taylor,  
Olivia Davis,  
Caroline Lowman, and Carter Hayes.



## Upcoming Events

**March 31**

Spring/Class Pictures

**April 21**

Grade Graduation Pictures

**April 6-10**

Spring Break

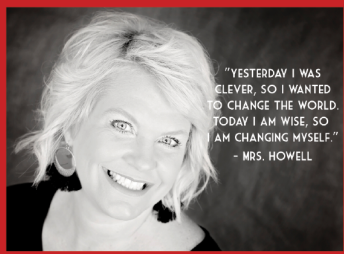
**May 6, 7, 8, 11 & 12**

K-PREP for 3rd, 4th, 5th grades

\*be on the lookout for the Good Faith Effort Pledge



# OAKVIEW ELEMENTARY



"YESTERDAY I WAS  
CLEVER, SO I WANTED  
TO CHANGE THE WORLD.  
TODAY I AM WISE, SO  
AM CHANGING MYSELF."  
- MRS. HOWELL

It is almost Spring, which means KPREP testing time is near. I am amazed at how hard our kiddos have been working in preparation. Our staff is dedicated to providing a highly engaging and rigorous

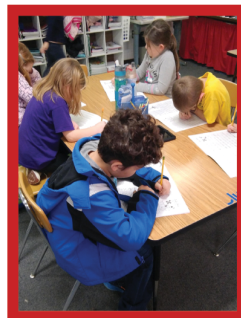
education for all of our students. I wish you, as parents, could see our school through my eyes; I know you would be both amazed and appreciative. There is an incredible amount of love and work poured into your child by our wonderful staff at Oakview. With programs from Math in Motion to Reading Buddies, wax museums, science fairs, STEM class, rigorous daily instruction, teacher preparation and everything in between, we are going to crush the individual and school goals we set for testing! I cannot wait to celebrate success with my students and staff. Now, let's all dig in together and finish this year STRONG!!!!

#HouseofComets  
#FourHousesOneFamily

Rebecca Howell, Ed.S  
Principal

## *Learning Cursive*

Students in Ms. Mann's class are excited to begin practicing and learning how to write in cursive. They practice several times a week in their cursive hand-writing books. Currently, students are learning to form lowercase letters. Once they have mastered lowercase letters, they will progress to writing uppercase letters, and then, finally, they will write words in cursive.



## Studying Text Structures

After studying nonfiction text structures, the students in Mrs. Barber's class were challenged with an assignment; student pairs were given two passages to compare and contrast based on how they were organized. The students had to then give evidence to support their claims.



## All Things Fractions

Miss Royalty's third grade class has been working on all things fractions: identifying, drawing, comparing and creating number lines. We have been playing hands-on games like Fraction Bingo and War to help us learn these important math foundations. Our favorite, so far, has been Fraction Musical Stops, where we compare the fraction we land on with the fraction our friend has.



**Chad Tackett**  
School Counselor

We are so incredibly blessed to have Coach Chad Tackett as a part of our #OakviewComets staff. He serves as such a great example of character and compassion to our students. Thank you, Coach Tackett, for all you do for our school!!! #StaffShoutout

## Upcoming Events

March 21 - Regional Robotics  
March 24 - Spring Pictures  
April 6-10 - No School - Spring Break  
April 16 - Cap and Gown Pictures



# POAGE ELEMENTARY



Wow! I can't believe we are in our last 9 weeks! This has been an amazing year so far for our Pioneers. I am excited to see what this fourth 9 weeks holds. We are truly blessed here with our students, staff, families, and community. As AISD,

we are a part of the Kentucky Valley Educational Co-Op. Because of this affiliation, we were able to host their film team for a day while they shot a Fire Cast video about the ins and outs of Poage Elementary! Check it out here:

<https://vimeo.com/386258086/f17160da6c>  
#pioneerpride

Katie Holbrook  
Principal

## District Academics

Poage Academic Team had a strong showing in our District Competition and placed 1st overall with a total of 49.3 points!

**Quick Recall:** 1st place

**FPS:** 1st Place

**Math:** Aiden Conley- 1st, Josh Sutton- 4th

**Science:** Tanner Christian- 2nd, Aiden Conley- 3rd

**Composition:** Avery Caudill-1st, Alyssa Adkins- 5th

**Language Arts:** Coltyn West- 1st, Josh Sutton- 4th

**Arts and Humanities:** Aidan McLain- 5th

**Social Studies:** Coltyn West- 2nd, Tanner Christian- 4th

We are so proud of all our Pioneers and Coaches!



## Kitchen Crew Staff Spotlight

This staff spotlight is dedicated to

our awesome kitchen staff! They take care of our staff and students daily. We are grateful for their hard work and the delicious food they prepare. Our kitchen manager is Vickie Kight. Our amazing cooks are Juanita Teague, Angel Camp, Alissa Ball, and Cassandra Rolston. Thank you, ladies, for taking care of us every day!

## Upcoming Events

**March 23**

3rd 9 week report cards

**April 6 - 10**

Spring Break

**April 15**

Mock K-Prep for testing grades

**May 4**

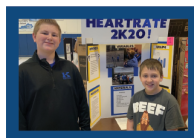
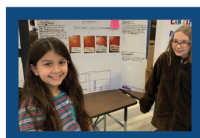
4th 9 week midterms

**Last 12 days of school: K-Prep Testing**

## School Science Fair

On January 16th, we hosted our school science fair. Our students worked so hard on their projects, and it showed in their presentations! Aidan McLain and Nolin Russell advanced to the ACTC fair with their project focused on determining which brand of microwave popcorn had the least amount of kernels remaining after popping. Izzy Adkins and Aniah Moore also advanced to the ACTC fair with their project set out to prove whether or not worms make plants grow faster!

Thank you to Mrs. Silesia Damron for coordinating this event, and to Mr. Sean Howard, Mr. Brad Dunlap, and Miss Hollie Hedrick for being our judges.



# ASHLAND EARLY EXCEPTIONAL CHILDHOOD CENTER



So far, we have had an awesome school year here at Ashland Exceptional Early Childhood Center. Our teachers continue to provide our preschoolers with so many hands on, fun filled, developmentally appropriate activities within their day to day routines; we encourage our preschoolers to stay creative and curious in their kindergarten readiness activities. As we approach the end of the year, we have started to prepare for our kindergarten transition and are looking forward to our kindergarten visit and our graduation.

Our Family Game night was a success. We provided each family with a booklet full of fun game ideas that could be made with everyday household items. We have really strived to encourage our families to participate in these family activities. We want them to always remember the important role they play in the success of their child. We have several family activities left this year: Family Art Night, Dr. Seuss Night and Pastries with Parents.

I would like to take the time to thank the parents, grandparents, guardians and caregivers that have helped us make our school year so successful. Your hard work and participation in their school experience makes a world of difference in your child's success.



**Kristen Steele**  
Preschool Teacher

Kristen Steele has been with our preschool program

since 2008 and brings so much knowledge and experience to share with other teachers. Kristen strives each day to make a difference in the lives of her preschoolers through her own nurturing ways. She works hard to make sure that they are ready to tackle kindergarten and be successful. Kristen, along with a team of teachers, will attend the Conscious Discipline conference with Becky Bailey this spring. After her visit, she will come back and share her knowledge and experiences with all our staff. AEECC appreciates you, Mrs. Steele, and all you do for our program.



**Ashley Bowman**  
Preschool Teacher

Ashley Bowman came to our program in 2017

and hit the ground running. She is always working towards growing as a teacher and encouraging her support staff. Ashley brings some great ideas that she enjoys sharing with others. She is also a great motivator and encourages her co-workers. Every child in her classroom has a meaningful relationship with her because of the effort she makes to make each student feel valued. Ashley is looking forward to the conference she will attend with her coworkers this Spring where she will build her knowledge of Conscious Discipline in order to sharpen her skills and make these very important connections with our preschoolers.



## Upcoming Events

**March 20**  
Dr Seuss March

**April 17**  
Science Day

**Dates to Be Announced:**  
Kindergarten Visits  
Preschool Graduation



## C.A.T.S. CHRONICLES

We have many exciting plans for the rest of the year. Our 6th and 7th grade students are playing *The Stock Market Game*. We have had a special Investment Advisor speak with our students. They are now learning more about how the Stock Market works by researching companies, “investing” \$100,000 and watching their portfolio to see if they will have a profit or loss over the next few months. The students have planned a service project to help the local Ashland Animal Rescue Fund. They are having a C.A.T.S Walkathon on March 4th from 10:00-11:30 at Oakview’s gym to raise donations for AARF. We also have two field trips planned. Our 4th and 5th graders will be going to Frankfort to tour the Old and New Capitol Buildings as well as a tour the Kentucky History Museum. The 6th and 7th graders are studying about aeronautics and will travel to Dayton to explore the Wright Patterson Airforce Museum.

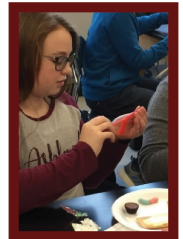


For this installment, we thought we would let our students tell about their experience in C.A.T.S.

“My favorite part about C.A.T.S. is all the experiments and games we do. We have learned many things. Things like density, mass, percentages, etc. Another one of my favorite things is the end of the year fieldtrip. We have been to the Georgetown Toyota Plant, the movies, and even to the home of Henry Clay. Occasionally we will do computer coding; we always have a really fun time when we code! My classmates and I have really fun memories of C.A.T.S.!” **Aubrey Brislin, 6th grade**



“C.A.T.S. is something I will always cherish in my heart, even after I graduate from the program this year. C.A.T.S. is a place where you know you are cared for because you are with people who think like you. Sometimes, gifted kids experience things that some people find strange or odd, but when you’re at C.A.T.S, you find you are not alone. Occasionally, I see one of my C.A.T.S. friends crying at a movie or on a field trip and you know what, I understand them. At C.A.T.S. you make friendships you will make nowhere else.” **Emma Laney, 7th grade**



“C.A.T.S. is really fun. We do a bunch of hands on learning. Even though it’s only once a week, we learn a lot. We do really fun field trips. That’s what I like about C.AT.S.” **Abby Lynch, 6th grade**

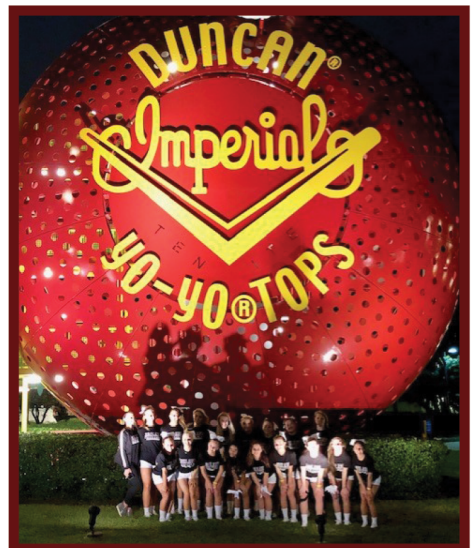


“For me, C.A.T.S has meant making new friends and learning what it means to be gifted. In fourth grade, when Mrs. Laney taught the lesson about being gifted, I realized I was able to relate to the things she talked about significantly. When I came to middle school, it made things easier because I recognized kids from other elementary schools because we spent time together at C.A.T.S. I knew almost everybody in my class because we had seen each other in C.A.T.S. My favorite memory from C.A.T.S. is when we went to COSI on the end of the year field trip last year. Some of my favorite activities in C.A.T.S have been the escape rooms and the short stories we have read. It has helped me because in my middle school classes, when we study stuff that we’ve gone over in C.A.T.S. it makes things so much easier and it also helps me with Academic Team.” **Anna Bocook, 7th grade**

# Cheerleaders Take on Disney World



On February 6th, the Ashland Varsity Cheerleaders traveled to Orlando, Florida to attend the UCA's 40th Annual National High School Cheerleading Championships at Disney and vie for National Championship honors in the Medium Varsity Game Day Division II. The girls were judged on their crowd leading abilities, stunting and tumbling skills. Despite the many hours invested in preparing and practicing their routines, the performance did not garner the Tomcat Cheerleaders an opportunity to advance beyond the preliminary qualifying round of the competition. As stated by one of the girls, "In cheerleading you have one shot and no do-overs. You are expected to be perfect... You have to be full of energy while executing your skills, and there is no room for errors." Though they did not progress, the experience was an eye-opener for the team and will serve to better prepare them for next year, as they set the goal to once again make it to Nationals. The girls will continue to develop their skills as they cheer on our Ashland Tomcats! The team is thankful for the experience, "Nationals brought a lot of great memories and a lot of new goals for our future. We can't thank our school and community enough for all the support they have shown us on this journey!"





# State Bound

March 13-16, Louisville, KY

High School and Middle School Students Prepare for State Competition

## Representing Ashland Blazer:

### Future Problem Solving Team

Gwen Akers  
Hayleigh Buckler  
Faith Nivens  
and Kaya Ross

### Quick Recall Team

Logan Coover  
Chrissy Brown  
Ace Farris  
Hannah Laney  
Joslin Wireman  
Moe Tun  
Faith Nivens

### Written Assessment

Hannah Laney (*Math and Science*)  
Logan Coover (*Language Arts*)  
Ace Farris (*Social Studies*)  
Joslin Wireman (*Language Arts and Arts and Humanities*)  
Chrissy Brown (*Arts and Humanities*)  
Hayleigh Buckler (*Writer's Composition*)

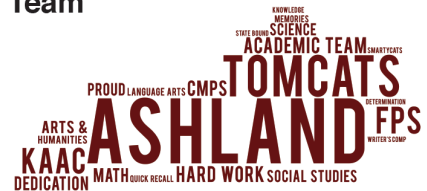
## Representing Ashland Middle School:

### Future Problem Solving Team

Emma Laney  
Miriam Howard  
Laynee Stanley  
Isabella Laudenbach

### Written Assessment

Ali Ellison (*Math*)  
Drake Caudill (*Science and Writer's Composition*)  
Anna Bocook (*Language Arts and Arts and Humanities*)  
Caroline Yates (*Language Arts and Arts and Humanities*)



FPS - Future Problem Solving  
QR - Quick Recall  
WC - Written Composition  
A/H - Arts and Humanities  
LA - Language Arts  
M - Math  
SS - Social Studies  
SCI - Science

## Elementary Competitors at Regionals

### Charles Russell

Eli Foster (FPS, QR, M)  
Sophia Stambaugh (FPS and A/H)  
Eden Mantle (FPS and A/H)  
Darby Gracie Cole (FPS and WC)  
Haydan Webb (FPS)  
Jenna Delaney (QR)  
Abby Madden (QR and LA)  
Ben Lynch (QR and SS)  
Mason Hamilton (QR and A/H)  
Carson Sizemore (QR and SS)  
Jace Deskins (QR)  
Ryan Brogdon (QR)  
Willow Rice (LA)  
Dylan Rymer (M and SCI)

### Crabbe

Hadley Moore (FPS)  
Anna Musser (FPS)  
Ky Mahan (FPS)  
Shelby Miller (FPS and SS)  
Aiden Ethel (FPS)  
Kinden Kleinman (A/H)

### Hager

Olivia Davis (QR and SCI)  
Harper Robinson (QR and WC)  
Gavin Slone (QR and LA)  
Carter Hayes (QR and LA)  
Caroline Lowman (QR)  
Gracie Taylor (WC)  
Tate Kneisley (A/H and LA)

### Oakview

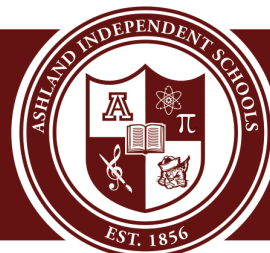
Mia Adkins (WC)  
Leah Pleasant (WC)  
Ben Ream (A/H and M)  
Chloe Roberson (A/H)  
Kylie Trent (A/H)  
Katie Roberson (LA and M)  
Jett Layne (SCI)  
Sean Bradley (SCI)  
Katie Roberson (LA and M)  
Jett Layne (SCI)  
Sean Bradley (SCI)

### Poage

Samantha Elkins (FPS)  
Brooklyn Smyser (FPS)  
Avery Caudill (FPS and WC)  
Joelle Workman (FPS)  
Zoey Sutton (FPS)  
Coltyn West (QR, LA, and SS)  
Nolin Russell (QR)  
Aiden Conley (QR and SCI)  
Tanner Christian (QR, SS and SCI)  
Braidon Artrip (QR)  
Aidan McClain (QR and A/H)  
Rhett Riggs (QR)  
Hagen Samuel (QR)  
Josh Sutton (QR, LA, and M)  
Holden Pack (QR)  
Alyssa Adkins (WC)



# Once a Tomcat...



**Andrew Greene ('86)** grew up in the Ashland schools attending Charles Russell Elementary, Coles/Putnam Junior High and then graduating from Paul G. Blazer High School in 1986. He received his degrees in Business Administration from Marshall University and Kentucky School of Banking (KBA). He is now serving our community as the Vice President/Loan Officer of Kentucky Farmers Bank.

When asked about his fondest memory of his time as a Tomcat, Mr. Greene said he could not narrow it down, "I loved my high school years. My closest friends came from that time in my life, not just the people in my class, but classes ahead of me and behind me. My wife and kids probably get tired of hearing me tell the same stories over and over. Tomcats are a very close knit bunch. I still stay in touch with many and when I run into others, we still enjoy going down memory lane!"

Mr. Greene says that AISD helped prepare him well for life after graduation. "As important as curriculum is, the relationship you have with teachers is so pivotal. I had teachers that believed in me and wanted me to succeed. I remember, to this day, a lot of their examples and the way they interacted with us to teach us to think for ourselves, or simply to make a point. I still see some of those teachers today and enjoy reminiscing."

He would advise the Tomcats of today, "Keep your priorities straight- Jesus, family, career. Stay humble, and always remember where you came from." As the connections and relationships with people seem to be what he most values, it is no surprise that serving his community is important to him, "serving as Vice President at a locally owned bank that is all about community makes me very proud. I go to a lot of the high school ballgames. When we get behind I will sometimes say, 'It's about time to remember we are Ashland.' I don't know if I really know what that means, but I know it's the way I feel. We are Ashland!"



**Judge George W. Davis, III ('85)** Ashland schools are proud to have been an early influence in the preparation of the honorable Judge George W. Davis, III. Judge Davis, Circuit Judge of the 32nd Circuit of the Commonwealth of Kentucky is a proud 1985 graduate of Paul G. Blazer High School. Upon graduation, he pursued his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at the University of Kentucky, and followed that up with his Juris Doctor from the University of Louisville.

Judge Davis states, "Because of the Ashland Public Schools System, I was extremely well prepared for college. Blazer is like a college campus and I recall using my high school notes to help study for several college classes. Also, the discipline, organizational skills and mentoring I received from participating in the school music program continue to influence me to this day. I can still hear Band Director David Miller saying, 'Don't be on time, be early.' Great advice!" The experiences he recalls most fondly are from his time with the band, "I will always cherish my time playing saxophone in the Paul G. Blazer Band. I made lifelong friends and, working together, we put together an award-winning band that rivaled some college programs in sound."

Judge Davis encourages students, "Always seek God's guidance for your life. Also, there will always be something or someone attempting to pull you away from your goals in life or take them from you once achieved; stay focused on what you want in life and keep pushing toward your goals despite the obstacles life throws at you. You may not get to where you want, when you want, but you will have a much better chance if you have a plan."

He is very proud of working in the Kentucky Legislature and Attorney Generals Offices. His long list of accolades include being elected as both District and Circuit Judge, representing the United States in diplomatic exchanges through the National Association of Young Political leaders, being named "Kentucky Judge of the Year" by CASA and being elected by his peers as Vice President / President Elect of the Kentucky District Judges Association. It was also an honor for him to give the 2002 Commencement Address at Paul G. Blazer High School.

He is proud to be a Tomcat. "The 'Tomcat Nation' is a family, and once you are part of that tradition, it never leaves you. The Ashland Schools have produced so many talented, successful and influential people who have gone on to be movers and shakers far and wide in entertainment, business and government. I was truly blessed to be afforded such a quality education. My daughter is a third generation Tomcat and attends Hager elementary. It makes me extremely proud to see her wearing the Maroon and White!"



# Always a Tomcat



**Sam R. Little ('85)** began as an Oakview comet and continued on through Coles-Putnam Junior High until he graduated from Paul G. Blazer H.S. in 1985. Mr. Little received his Associate's Degree from Ashland Community College and a B.S. Degree in Police Administration from Eastern Kentucky University. After serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve as a Military Police Officer, he attended the Kentucky State Police Academy and worked 23 years with the Kentucky State Police. Although Mr. Little retired as a State Trooper, he continues serving as a Compliance Officer with the Department of Criminal Justice Training in the Office of the State School Security Marshal.

Mr. Little has many fond memories of his time in school. He is especially grateful to have been a part of the High School Rifle Team. "We won several matches as a team and I qualified and was awarded the opportunity to shoot in the US Junior Olympics Small Bore Division in 1983." He feels that this unique opportunity, along with the wonderful teachers and guidance counselors, helped prepare him for life after school; "They would always help me make informed decisions based on what I was looking to go into. Being the first person in my family to go to college, I couldn't have done it without the help and advice of these educators. When I left AISD, I was prepared for every career task I took on, from the military

to college and law enforcement." He is proud to have received his degree in Police Administration from Eastern Kentucky University and of his wonderful and successful career in law enforcement. "I started as a young trooper at the Ashland post and worked my way up to being the Assistant Commander of the Governor's Security Detail in Frankfort for both Governor Ernie Fletcher and Governor Steve Beshear. Now, as a Compliance Officer with the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT), I hope I can give back and help ensure all our schools continue to become an even safer place to be and learn.

He advises students: "Set goals for yourself and reach to achieve them. Hard work always pays off; maybe not immediately, but eventually. Give 110% in whatever you're doing as you work your way toward your goal. Immediate gratification does not help or prepare you for the long haul. If you do what's right and work hard as you move through life, you'll be rewarded and experience success. God has blessed us with the tools we need to get through this life. It's up to us to use them to help ourselves and others, and to give Him the praise for those abilities and opportunities.

He is proud to be an alumni. "Everything that I have done in life and in my career started right here as an Ashland Tomcat. There is a lot of deep, rich tradition and excellence in being a Tomcat. Not to mention, it's like one big family. I feel fortunate to be a small part of it all along the way."



**LaTasha Henry ('04)** is a proud Ashland Tomcat. She attended Oakview Elementary, Verity Middle School and Paul G Blazer High School, graduating in 2004. Upon graduation, she went on to study at Kentucky Wesleyan College and the University of Louisville Medical School. She completed her residency with the University of Louisville Internal Medicine and followed up with the University of Louisville Gastroenterology Fellowship. After much hard work and dedication to her studies, Dr. Henry serves her community in Mobile, Alabama as a Gastroenterologist, MD.

When asked about her fondest memory, she recalls her trip to Disney World during middle school; "We all had separate teams and did different end of the year trips that we worked hard to earn. We competed academically all year to earn this opportunity. We had a blast!" Along with the social activities, she also remembers all the hard work that was expected; "I had tough classes, tough teachers, and a system that cared. I was taught discipline and time management early on by staying involved on campus in the multiple clubs and activities that were offered including basketball."

In order for students to be successful, Dr. Henry would advise, "Life is busy; that is a fact that doesn't change for many of us. The goals and struggles will change on all levels, but

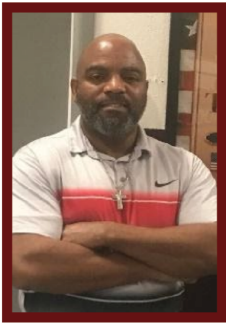
never give up!"

Dr. Henry followed her own advice. "I am proud to be where I am today. I struggled and often doubted that I could achieve my dream of being a physician. I am here now, and doing what I love. Also, I got to kick butt playing ball during the ride!" She is proud of her Tomcat roots, "I got a great start in Ashland, a running start. I know that hands down I have had some of the best and most caring, teachers, principals, mentors and coaches."



# On the Move...

## Getting to Know AISD's Transportation Department



Mac McDonald started as Transportation Director for the Ashland Independent School District in 2017. His experience and specialties are derived from his career in the United States Air Force. He holds a B.S. in Business, a M.A. in Pastoral Counseling, and an M. Div of Homiletics. He is married and has six adult children, three of whom are currently attending the University of Louisville. His motto is, "Do the right things for the right reasons. Anything worth doing is worth doing right the first time." Mr. McDonald is very active in his community. He serves as the Pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Volunteer Chaplain for the APD, President of the Ashland Area Ministerial Association, Board Member for the Shelter of Hope and member of the NAACP. He was also selected as Student Transportation Association of Kentucky (S.T.A.K.) Region10 Director.

## Our Garage

- 20 full-time bus drivers
- 13 bus monitors
- 2 full-time mechanics
- 1 part-time mechanic

## By the Numbers:

over  
**2,300**

Number of miles our buses travel a week (not including extra-curriculars)

**1,200**

Number of students that use buses weekly (assigned riders)

**100**

Average number of extra-curricular trips taken per month

The Transportation Department's number one priority is the safety of all of our student riders. Our drivers and monitors understand that the school bus is an extension of the classroom and our goal is to ensure that every student has a safe and positive experience each day while being transported.

As safety is our number one priority, we can certainly use your help. If you are a motorist, please be mindful of the school buses when they are stopped to load and unload students; this is made evident by flashing lights and stop signs deployed. We see this type of violation daily, which is an issue of great concern. We are very fortunate that none of our children have been hurt. Please help us by obeying the law.

We, at the Transportation Department, are proud and honored to have the privilege to play a small role in the education of Ashland's youth and, ultimately, the future of our community. Let's work together to ensure our future is safe.

## Our Team

Jaye Atrip  
Barbara Calhoun  
Gary Calhoun  
Larry Camp  
Alva Clevenger  
Brandon Conley  
Sarabeth Cordial  
Diana Cosby  
Matt Fraley  
Joann Fugett  
James Groves  
Amaury Guerrero

Nancy Hall  
Carla Hensley  
Deborah Johnson  
Paul Leake  
Donald (Frog) Loudin  
Barry Lyon  
Teri Mahoney  
Amanda Messer  
Irvin Morris  
Michael Quade  
Jimmy Riggs

Rosa Sanchez  
Charlie Scott  
Louise Scott  
Joshua Shelley  
Patricia Sloas  
Wendy Spears  
Angie Stambaugh  
Celia Stambough  
Jasmine Stambough  
Jeremiah Stambough  
Shawna Withrow  
Bill Yates



If you are interested in joining our team, contact Amy Wessel at Central Office ( 606-327-2705) or Mac McDonald at (606-327-2717).

You can also apply online at:  
<https://www.ashland.k12.ky.us>

