

FOCUS

Ashland Independent Schools

Superintendent's Report

EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM BECOMES A REALITY

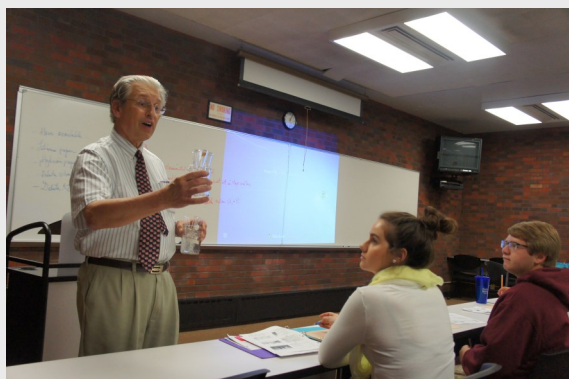
For several years, the Ashland Independent Schools and Ashland Community and Technical College have persevered to develop an Early College Program for Blazer High School Seniors. The 2013 – 2014 school year is now our initial “pilot program” year to provide formal college class work in the college setting. This exciting and productive venture will be the very first of its kind throughout Eastern Kentucky and one of a small number of similar programs in the entire state of Kentucky.



provide this valuable educational benefit to students from Blazer. Many students at Blazer are currently enrolled in dual credit classes from both ACTC and Morehead State University and are able to receive college credits on the Blazer campus. These programs provide a rewarding experience for the students

Qualified senior students from Blazer High School have the opportunity to attend college classes, two periods per day, during their final year of high school in one of two streams, specific to careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Eighteen students have met the rigid qualifiers to become college students in Pre-Nursing and Pre-

Engineering. Dr. Kay Adkins, President of ACTC, and Steve Gilmore, Superintendent, Ashland Schools, have worked collaboratively to



by both allowing them to earn college credits and receiving a seamless transition to higher education while in high school. This program provides for both college and career readiness preparation.

It is an ambitious undertaking, but leadership both from our district and ACTC is committed to making it a great success and ensuring that it provides the very best for these dedicated students. The Ashland Independent Schools continue to strive to provide the highest levels of instruction while committing to our best efforts towards student achievements and student successes...the Ashland Independent Schools does “Whatever It Takes”...it really is all about our students!

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District News

Assessment and School Accountability

Kentucky's public schools and districts are held to high standards for educating our children. Accountability is the way their effectiveness is measured – how well are the schools doing? Accountability changed in 2012, and this past year gave us important information on the progress that our schools are making in reaching goals.

Accountability is determined by looking at multiple measures of effectiveness. For the first two years, the state is concentrating on measurements focusing on learners – our students. School and district accountability is calculated using from three to five different measures:

Achievement – Elementary and middle school student scores on content-area assessments (reading, math, science, social studies, and writing) are labeled as novice, apprentice, proficient, or distinguished. The goal is proficiency for 100 percent of students. At high schools, achievement is based on student scores on end-of-course exams and an on-demand writing test.

Gap – Scores for students in demographic groups of African-American, Hispanic, Native American, special education, low income, and limited English proficient are combined into one 'Gap Group' and are compared against the 100% proficiency goal.

Growth – A statistical program measures how much students' scores improve from one year to the next in reading and mathematics only.

College/Career Readiness – Seniors and eighth-grade students are expected to reach levels of preparedness for college and/or careers from test results and earned career certificates.

Graduation Rate – Schools and districts report the percentage of students graduating within four years of high school.

Components of Accountability and Weights for Each Level

Level	Achievement	Gap	Growth	Readiness	Graduation
Elementary	30%	30%	40%	N/A	N/A
Middle	28%	28%	28%	16%	N/A
High	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%

For 2013, five of our seven schools were rated as Proficient, meaning that their accountability placed them in at least the top 30% of all schools in the state. In addition, the district is also rated as Proficient with a score higher than 84% of all school districts!

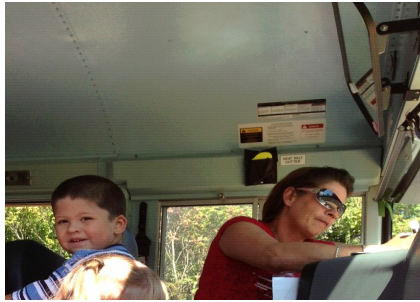
For parents, aside from how well your child's school scored, the most important part of the accountability system is probably the assessment scores for your child. Student-specific score reports will be sent home with your child or presented to you during parent-teacher conferences. If your child did not test at an Ashland school last year but did test at a Kentucky public school, ask your child's school counselor to request the report from the previous school.

A performance rating (novice, apprentice, proficient, or distinguished) will be reported for your child for each content area he/she was tested. A brief description of the performance level is given, along with a comparison of your child's scores to school, district and state averages. Information about growth is provided with your child's growth scores, and finally, scores for your child on questions from the test that came from nationally normed sources.

It is the goal of the Ashland Independent Schools for each child to reach proficiency, demonstrate annual growth, graduate on time, and to be prepared for college or career when he/she does graduate. If you have any questions on the scores for your school or your child's assessment report, please contact the school counselor. You may also call Richard Oppenheimer, District Assessment Coordinator, at 327-2706.

Ashland Head Start

Mrs. Whitt's Class had a great first week at Head Start! The children met their teachers and new friends, explored their classrooms and playground and their favorite part...riding the bus!!

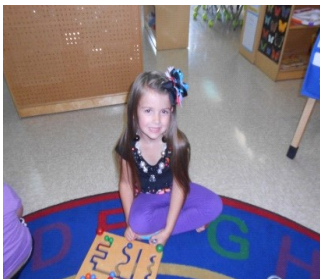


Mrs. Whitehead's Class
How can you help your student adjust? Prepare them in advance. Talk about the new teacher or school.

Take a picture or soft toy. A familiar object can provide a sense of security after you leave. Never sneak out without telling them you are leaving.

Walk them through what will happen, step by step, (be sure to get a copy of the teacher's schedule for yourself.)

"We're going to school." First we will get your backpack and then you will get in the car or bus. Then we'll buckle up. Your teacher will be there to greet you; you will wash your hands and meet the rest of your friends there to play. After your day is finished, you will return home and I will be here to greet you. "You'll have a great time!"



Mrs. Steele's class has been spending the first two weeks of school establishing rules and routines. We stay on the same schedule to establish predictability for our students. Our daily schedule is posted in the classroom with pictures of each thing that we do throughout

the day. We also have a rule chart with pictures posted in the classroom and we discuss our rules numerous times throughout our day to get the children familiar with them. The children have also enjoyed exploring all of our interest areas. Our interest areas consist of blocks, dramatic play, art, sand/water, science/discovery, table toys/fine motor, computers, music, and library. We are looking forward to a great year!



Mrs. Abbott's class: On Thursday, September 5th, we had a special evening for families called "A Parent's Guide to Preschool." Families came for a special slideshow presentation in the gym followed by activities in the individual classrooms. The focus was on sharing simple engaging activities that family members can do with their children every day at home. We especially encouraged families to read to their children daily. Each child received a bag of brand new books to take home. In Mrs. Abbott's class, we read the story, "Chicka Chicka 1-2-3" together and the children and family members worked together to create a "Number Tree."

Mrs. Dee's Class

Knowing that families are the first and most important teacher in a child's life, we use fun activities to support this relationship at home. A supplement to the classroom curriculum is a home/family component called Learning Games.

Learning Games support social/emotional, cognitive, physical, and language and literacy development through a series of weekly activities families can do with their children. We are excited about the learning as well as the positive relationships these activities build between children and their caregivers.



Mrs. Rutman's Class is enjoying eating "family style" at our cafeteria tables. The children have been learning about the importance of eating healthy foods and interacting with our peers as we get to know each other.

Crabbe Elementary School



Crabbe Kindergarten students have a lot to roar about! We have started the school year ready to learn! We have jumped right in to learning our alphabet, numbers, colors and shapes! We are also getting into the swing of learning school rules and how to work and play with others! We are definitely *wild about learning!* We are Crabbe Tigers!



Over the summer, Belk department stores selected Crabbe Elementary for a community service project.

Employees from the store volunteered 6 hours of their time to landscape, paint, and clean around the school building. Aundrea McAdams, the store manager, coordinated the event and provided all the materials. Some \$4,000 was donated through the purchase of mulch, paint, wall murals and picnic tables for students to access. We appreciate this investment in our school.

Mrs. Suman's class celebrated International Dot Day on September 13, 2013. The Dot book, written by Peter H. Reynolds, encourages children to make their mark in this world and be brave. We celebrated our uniqueness by having them create their own dots and then write about the experience.



"Boom, Snap, Clap!" Students at Crabbe began their year working on keeping rhythm using body percussion in music class. Students are reviewing or learning why music is created, about the elements of music and how they change through singing various types of songs such as work, patriotic, modern, folk, etc. Fifth and fourth grade students are also being introduced to a program about westward expansion in America they will perform while the sixth graders are beginning activities to help them create their own program to perform later in the year.

During Summer Camp, the Ashland Tennis Center gave free tennis lessons to the students. Also, on the last day they had a pizza party for the students. A special thank you goes out to Jerry Gross!



Crabbe's 4th graders were honored to be one of the 15,000+ people who got to tour the USS LST-325. While docked at the Port of Ashland, this historic battleship became a floating museum to all who boarded. Students toured all three levels of LST



-325, listening to veterans explain various workings of the ship and of the military memorabilia. The students were amazed at the history and the patriotism associated with this vessel.

At Crabbe Elementary, Mr. Purtee's 5th grade classes have been busy studying the lives of different Native American tribes. To better help understand the Native Americans, each 5th grade student was assigned different tribes and asked to make a project. Every student went above and beyond what was expected of them! Way to go 5th grade!



Students Excited about Gym Dandy

The arrival of new P.E. teacher Mr. Davis has brought some new and exciting changes to P.E. classes at Crabbe Elementary. Each week a student is picked from each class as the weekly "Gym Dandy" winner. These students are chosen based on their effort in gym as well as their ability to promote good sportsmanship among their fellow classmates. This is going to be an exciting year of P.E., that's for sure!



By

Ben Davis

Ed Price from Ashland came and helped the students learn to play softball. Thank you so much to Ed and his helpers for their time. During summer camp the students also went to the public library and did crafts with Natalie Church. They made some neat stuff. Thank you, Natalie, for your help.



Hager Elementary School

Mrs. Keener's kindergarten class is off to a great start! We visited the library on August 30, 2013, and got to learn all about the different areas throughout the library. We especially liked the reading garden! The garden was very unique and reminded us of how we are looking at our unique characteristics with our "I am Special" unit. For our unit, we have talked about our similarities and differences. We've also practiced writing and recognizing our names, as well as our friends' names.

(Right) First graders at Hager Elementary are reading, writing, and 'rithmaticing with rhythm!! Off to a great start!!

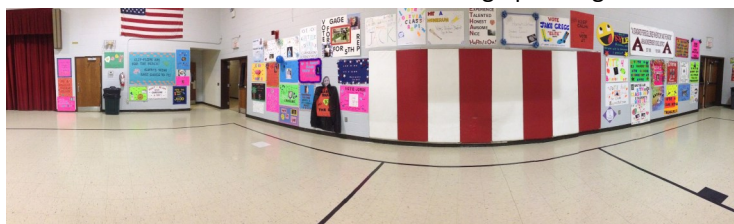


Third grade students created different styles of



hats as a culminating activity for the story *The Lost and Found* by Mark Teague. The central theme of the story was the search for a lost hat that resulted in the discovery of many different styles of hats. Third grade teachers collaborated with the art teacher for this activity to connect literary elements with elements of art. Students studied form by using origami and three-dimensional shapes and incorporated these elements into the designs of their hats. (Above)

"Student Council elections are heating up at Hager!"



"Former Hager student, Lura Frye, visited the fourth grade students for a dental hygiene demonstration. Students learned about the amount of sugar in food and drinks. They discussed the necessity of having good oral health. Each student received a toothbrush and booklet explaining the benefits of healthy eating and regular brushing. Ms. Frye is currently a student of University of Louisville and is associated with Smile Kentucky.



Fifth grade started the year off right! In order to get ready for open house, Hager's 5th grade students created "clones" of themselves to sit in their chairs on Open House night. Students took characteristics of themselves and transferred them to paper plate replicas. The goal was to have their parents guess which seat had the clone of their child the night of open house! (Right)



Sixth grade students at Hager Elementary School have been studying the Irish Potato Famine in social studies. They have also started reading the book *Nory Ryan's Song*. At the end of this unit, students will complete a hands-on project based on the Potato Famine and the book.

Oakview Elementary School

Welcome Back, Oakview Comets!!!

Oakview teachers and staff eagerly welcomed back their students and greeted them in a variety of water-themed costumes. As displayed on our front entrance bulletin board, "We may all be different fish, but in this school we swim together!"



First and Second Grade

The first and second grade students at Oakview are involved in the Mutt-i-grees Curriculum. Students will be working on lessons once a week that teach empathy and related social and emotional skills. These skills will help students with the ability to make ethical decisions benefiting people, animals, and the environment. The program utilizes dogs, animal shelters, pet adoption, and responsible pet partnership to teach the skills. In the first lesson all of the students made their own puppet to use when sharing with others about what they have learned. By the end of the program, students will have become more understanding and accepting of the uniqueness of all types of individuals—no matter how many legs they have!!!



Third Grade

The third graders at Oakview started out the year studying the life cycle of seed plants and environmental conditions that determine how well plants survive and grow. We discovered that even grass grows indoors as long as conditions are right. We read the book Tops and Bottoms and then classified many different types of vegetables.



While learning about character traits, the students listened to the story The Bad Case of the Stripes and brainstormed how the character, Camilla, developed throughout the story. Because Camilla was too timid to admit that she liked lima beans, she developed a bad case of "striped." Our students were pleasantly surprised when they tasted cooked lima beans in the classroom

Fifth Grade

Fifth grade had a blast learning about pioneers at Wolf Pen Woods! Students observed life as it was before modern conveniences. They witnessed candle making, basket weaving, bread making, and got to meet "Daniel Boone" and his wife. We also got to take a tour of the World War II LST 325. Back in the classroom, students are learning about different types of landforms, map skills, powers of ten, and place value. Our first month is off to a great start; we look forward to the months to come!

Sixth Grade



Sixth grade students at Oakview observed September 11 by making pop-up books. Students paid tribute to all the fallen Americans on the day.

Poage Elementary School

Kindergarten

students at Poage have been busy learning!! After learning many rules and procedures, we began meeting the Letter People.



During our time with Ms. Ee, we read the story Elmer the Elephant and learned that being different is a not a bad thing. Each of us has special gifts that make us who we are. We are also learning numbers as well as 2D and 3D shapes. We are looking for these shapes in our environment and finding that they are all around us.

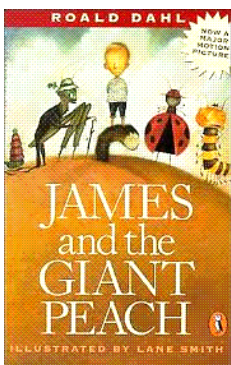
Poage's **first graders** are diving into the Next Generation Science



standards with a unit on apples! They are learning the parts of an apple and their purpose. They are also studying the life cycle of an apple and the patterns of apple trees through the seasons.

Mrs. McLain and Mrs. Hill's

second graders planted sunflower seeds over the summer and watched them grow! Wow! Some of the sunflowers grew over 8 feet tall. The students have been learning all about plant parts and the purpose of each part. The students enjoyed looking at the plant parts under microscopes and taste testing each part of the plant. We read Mrs. Spitzer's Garden and made text to self connections. Students learned that they are similar to their sunflowers. All of our second graders are different and unique in their own special way.



Students in Kim Harding's **third grade** class are busy becoming accustomed to 3rd grade. New skills which lead to taking responsibility for independent learning are being addressed each day. The class has also just finished working on their listening comprehension skills with Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach. They enjoyed the story and have utilized their compare and contrast skills seeing the differences between written word and the cinematic version.

Poage fourth grade visited Wolf Pen Woods Pioneer Village, where they were able to observe life during the pioneer



period in our region. Historical reenactors demonstrated pioneer skills such as baking, candle making, blacksmithing, and basket weaving. Students also learned about ways the pioneers and Native Americans of the region interacted with one another, including trade and conflict.

Fifth grade students at Poage gathered leaves for science class. Students enjoyed collecting leaves and being out in nature with their families. Many students took a trip to a relative's house to get the leaf of a particular tree they wanted for their collection.



Recognizing trees as they walk by is a new found talent of these students. Most importantly, the students recognized the pivotal importance of trees in our lives. Many trees give them the delicious fruit they love and need to survive! Also, building upon their prior knowledge of cells, students were able to relate the color change in the leaves of fall with the lack of chlorophyll production in the cells. According to the students this was a fun project and they felt an important connection to nature and life.

P.E. classes at Poage Elementary have a different look this year. New P.E. teacher Mr. Davis has created a class sportsmanship award, focusing on each class's ability to demonstrate and promote good sportsmanship-like behavior. Each class will be competing against one another during the 9 weeks. The winning class wins the coveted sportsmanship trophy and bragging rights as the top sportsmanship class for that 9 week period!!! Good luck to all!!!



Parents, if you would like to receive information about happenings at Poage, you may send your email address to be included in a distribution list to Mr. Lester. His email address is jamie.lester@ashland.kyschools.us.

Charles Russell Elementary School

Letter to Mrs. Obama-Last spring two 4th grade students (now 5th grade), wrote a letter to First Lady, Michelle Obama. Here's how it happened. We were sitting at lunch one day and Mimi said she was very hungry but the food was horrible. We told a teacher how we felt about the food and she suggested we talk to Michelle Obama. Mrs. Obama is the one who started the healthy food program and we think she took it too far. So at recess, we made a petition and we got over 50 kids to sign it. The next day we wrote and typed a letter to mail with the petition to Mrs. Obama. Over the summer she wrote back; we were so excited, happy, and a little bit in shock! She sent us a letter, a picture of her dog, family, and 2 pictures of herself. She said they started a healthy food program and other kids from different schools mentioned to her that they didn't like it either. So she said we would still have healthy food but with a lot more flavor this year. -Taylor York



WatchDOGS-Under the leadership of Mike Schirtzinger, husband of 1st grade teacher, Lisa, and father of 2nd grader, Bryson, and 3rd grader, Bailee, CRS has begun the Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) program, a safe schools initiative of the National Center for Fathering. Fathers or father figures volunteer to assist at school in a variety of activities such as: monitoring doors and hallways, helping in the classroom, eating lunch with the students, playing at recess, and many others. Notes were sent home with sign-up forms. A free pizza dinner and informational meeting just for dads and their kids was held on September 3rd in the school gym. Each dad received a special shirt to wear and have a picture on the WatchDogs bulletin board. STLP is working on a school web page and the dads official duties begin October 1. For more info, about the program go to: www.fathers.com.

Bus Safety-Each year schools are required to educate the students on school bus safety. On August 16, a special program came to CRS to teach our young kindergartners about bus safety. The program included a remote controlled mini-bus for demonstrations. The demonstrations took place in the CRS gym. District bus driver, Nancy Blevins, used the bus to show students how to be safe around school buses. She would walk in front of the bus, Buster, and he would make a loud honking noise so the kids know not to walk in front of a bus without the bus driver's approval. The kids enjoyed the program and had fun learning about bus safety! -Maggie Thompson & Grace Sluss



Robotics-Thanks to a \$1,000 grant provided by ACTC, Charles Russell and Verity STLP students will have the opportunity to compete in Robotics. There are two different leagues: FLL and RCX. FLL has one division for 9-14 year olds, while RCX is divided into elementary, middle, and high schools. Each league allows only 10 students on a team. The students and coaches, Mrs. Cynde Elkins, CRS STLP Coordinator, and Mr. John Leistner, Verity STLP Coordinator, are excited to be able to participate in the program.

WWII Ship-CRS 5th grade students went to see a WWII ship named the LST 325 on September 6, when the ship was docked at the Ashland River Port. Some of the things the students learned about the ship included how and where the ship was used in the war, how it was saved from demolition and restored, how the ship



operates, and about a resident ghost named Johnathon. Johnathon has been sited sleeping on the sailors' beds. The guide said Johnathon is a nice ghost. The 5th graders were very interested in learning and had a lot of fun. -Hailey

Cabell & Dalton Gray

Grandparent Lunch-On September 9th, CRS Kindergarten classes were given the chance to have lunch with their grandparents. There were over 80 grandparents who came to eat that day. CRS had Grandparents Lunch Week to celebrate our loving and caring grandparents. One grandmother said, "I have not seen my grandson in over a month. I am thankful for this opportunity to eat lunch with him." Each day of the week, grandparents came to eat with students in the other grades.



Approximately 280 grandparents ate lunch through the week. We were blessed to see so many amazing grandparents come and eat with our students. -Grant Kelley & Cameron Cook

Desert Lesson-On September 10, Mary Kate Hudson, Tucker

Rogers' grandmother, visited Mrs. Bocook's second grade class to talk about the desert. She taught about cacti, animals that live in the desert, and how deserts are cold at night and very hot during the day. Mrs. Hudson provided Play-doh and helped the kids to make cacti. She also brought supplies to make spider cookies. They used crackers, oreos, raisins, licorice, and pretzels. After they made their spiders, they ate them along with orange CapriSun. The kids were very happy that Mrs. Hudson was able to be in their class, especially Tucker. They had fun learning about the desert! -Danielle Spears & UriYah Hall-Clark



Verity Middle School

Verity students filled the stands on Tuesday, September 17, as the boys' football teams played rival Boyd County. Festivities included the singing of The National Anthem by eighth grader Alannah Molenda and half-time contests. Students donated non-perishable food items at the gates that will be donated to the River Cities Food Harvest.



It's not too late to join the Academic Team at Verity. Practices are Tuesday and Thursday until 5:00. Subject area study groups meet on Wednesdays and Future Problem Solving meets on Fridays. All practices meet in the library at 3:35.

MATHCOUNTS starts Oct 7th and will practice on Mondays after school until 5:00 in Mrs. Peterman's Room #100.

Students in Mrs. Wallin's seventh grade language arts classes at Verity were challenged to write their life story in six words and here are just a few:

Keep calm because life is hard.
The smoke is killing me inside.
Only a sister knows your story.
Happiness will always be my fuel!
A bat and a ball; perfect.
Teachers opened doors; I entered them.
Serve Him and He'll serve you.
Life was great until siblings came!
Just a flower waiting to bloom.
Secretly a ninja in the shadows.
Pencil and paper give me creativity.
I think hearts should beat forever.
GOT LONG HAIR AND DON'T CARE
I'm too interesting for six words.
I Hear, But I Don't Listen.
Cowgirl boots, plaid shirts, county fairs.
Aging does not equal growing up.
Born; Named; Learning; Playing; Growing; Living.

Madison Jervis
Bailey Taylor
Lexi Jarrett
Mary Thornburg
Maddy Greene
Alex Kessler
Jake Damron
J. J. Holmes
Brianna Lambert
Hannah Rollins
Payton Scott
Constance Jones
Jacob Baldock
Ashley Hudson
Olivia Allen
Emma Dowdy
Grace Burgess
Kimmy Boyd



Eighth grade students visited the Catlettsburg Refinery for the Career Day Fair. Students participated in about 15 different stations that explained in detail the processes of various departments at the refinery.

The Verity Library Media Center is giving away bound Smithsonian Magazines. If you are interested in any of the following editions, please contact Karen Van Kirk at 606-327-2795 or karen.vankirk@ashland.kyschools.us

1971-72, 1972-73, 1973-74, 1975-76, 1976-77, 1977-78,
1978-79, 1980-81, 1981-82, 1985 (Jan-Jun), 1985 (July-Dec),
1986 (Jan-Jun), 1986 (July-Dec), 1987 (Jan-Jun), 1987 (July-Dec),
1988 (July-Dec), 1990 (Jan-June), 1990 (July-Dec),
1991 (Jan-June), 1991 (July-Dec)



The boys' soccer team had a fund raiser selling yard signs. Honk to show your support if you drive by a house with one of these signs in the yard.

More than one hundred Verity students gathered around the flagpole on Wednesday, September 25, to participate in See You at the Pole (SYATP). SYAPT is a student-organized and student-led event. Guest speaker, Tom Richter, encouraged students to be bold and courageous in their faith.

*You are invited:
to come hear an incredible story
of courage and hope.*



Rachel Scott was the first person killed in the Columbine High School Tragedy on April 20, 1999. She left behind an amazing legacy and a simple challenge to anyone who will accept it—treat others with kindness and compassion and you just may change the world you live in.

WHERE/WHEN:

Verity Middle School
Thursday, Oct. 24, 2013
6:30 pm

Safe Schools
Healthy Students

RACHEL'S
Challenge
A TIME TO REMEMBER
A TIME TO HOPE

Paul Blazer High School

This month more than 11,000 GEAR UP Kentucky seventh, eighth and ninth-graders kick off the school year in 49 middle and high schools across the state. A new class of seventh graders will join the program and the first class enters high school. To prepare for the 2013-2014 school- year, more than 50 GEAR-UP college and career advisors completed boot camp training. GUK students in 9th grade will take the Gear-Up to college and career course, which builds on the skills learned in Gear-Up 2 and includes college knowledge information about college and career options and the process of searching and applying for college and financial aid. All students will be offered personalized advising through-out the year, which includes the use of the on-line individualized learning plan. (ILP)

Other Gear-Up activities include visits to college campuses, career-focused field trips and work-shops about financial aid. Gear-Up is a state-wide grant program funded by the U.S. Department of Education that helps students and their families understand how to plan, apply, and pay for college. Gear-Up stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. Our College/Career Advisor at Ashland Blazer this year is Janice W. Christian. Mrs. Christian has a BA in Education from the University of Kentucky and an Associate Degree in Dental Hygiene from LCC.

Mrs. Hieneman received a \$500 Area Education Grant for her Biology II class. The goal of the project is to acquaint students with the cellular world and provide them with opportunities to participate in a number of activities that will further their understanding of cellular processes. Students need to understand the workings of cells and the tissues and organisms that are comprised of cells. Taking a look on a cellular level will provide students with the skills needed to use a microscope and improve their way of thinking. Participating in labs and activities of this nature will allow them to think critically and scientifically and ultimately better prepare them for the science experience in college.

Students in Mrs. Spade's art classes are participating in a collaborative narrative photography project, "Pictures in Place" with the Kentucky Folk Art Center.

Students are producing a written narrative reflecting on their lives and making creative digital images about their place in their community creating a cohesive visual story.

The photos and narratives will be uploaded to the pictures in place website as part of the exhibition. Check out the website www.picturesinplace.com to learn more about the project and look for their work later in the fall.

Congratulations to the Blazer Tri-M Music Honor Society officers for 2013-2014! President: Jessalyn Huff, Vice-President: Savannah Blevins, Secretary: Emily Cassity, Historian: Lindsay Shumate.

Blazer's Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Active Christian Teens are sponsoring "See You At the Pole" on September 25, 2013. Amy Compston will be speaking at 7:30am about her Mega Marathon. We will meet at the flagpole in front of Blazer.

Congratulations to the Paul Blazer Orchestra Program for achieving the level of "Gold" status in KMEA's "Program of Excellence" awards. The level is the highest attainable and Blazer has been recognized as such for the first four years of the programs existence.

The letter announcing the award from Dr. John Stroube, Executive Director of KMEA, states in part that Blazer's String Orchestra students "achieve excellence as musicians within their school program and the community. It is only through commitment, teamwork, and perseverance that such an honor is attainable. The school is to be commended for the outstanding musical dedication of its students, teachers and administration."

FCCLA News Gabby Ingram and Lesley Phillips received Silver Awards at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Gabby Ingram is serving as the 1st Vice President for Region 10 FCCLA in Kentucky.

The sports medicine club will be holding a bake sale on Wednesday September 18th afterschool in front of Anderson Gym. Our sale in August was a huge success and we plan to make this sale bigger and better than ever.

The Blazer Sports Medicine Club will also be holding a car wash at Premier Physical Therapy on Saturday September 21st starting at 11:00 AM.

Since the first day of school, the JROTC cadets have been working like busy bees. The school as a whole doesn't see much of our hard work and our *esprit de corps*, but that doesn't mean it's not there. Our cadets not only focus on school work, but also volunteering for our community, working for our football games, Raider competitions, and color guard events. On August 24th, 2013 at 7:00 am, twelve of our cadets directed traffic and volunteered for the United Way 3K. At

our famous Tomcat Friday night football games, JROTC's color guard presents the American and Kentucky state flag. Our color guard takes pride in what they do. It's not just carrying a flag and presenting it to our audience, its showing pride in our country and honoring our national anthem and our flags as well as our JROTC Program. Our color guard doesn't just do football games. They go to different elementary schools, high schools, colleges, head starts, restaurants, parades, graduations, The Relay for Life, and competitions. We also have a Raider team. It's the physical team. Any one of our cadets is welcome to join the team, but be prepared to work hard and run. The practices have been in full swing for almost 3 weeks now. Their first competition is on October 29, at Montgomery County. They will have many more competitions this year. Our program is not just about discipline and becoming a better citizen, it's so much more than that. We are a family of our own, and we take pride in what we do. We support each other and help make our program run, not just for us to enjoy, but the school as whole.



District News

Kudos to Two Top 2013 Grads

Two 2013 seniors were awarded scholarships after graduation. Dana Palmer received both a Hope Scholarship and a Lyons Scholarship. She is currently attending Berea College. Alex Hamlin also received a Lyons Scholarship. He is attending the University of Kentucky.



Bullying Hotline

The administration of the Ashland Independent Schools does not tolerate the harassment, discrimination or bullying of any our faculty, staff or students. Do you have information regarding an event? Please utilize our bullying hotline, accessible on the AISD web page, to report the situation or event that needs to be addressed by district administration.

Public Notice Nondiscrimination Policy

Students, their parents, and employees of the Ashland Independent Schools are hereby notified this school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, marital status, sex, or handicap in employment, education programs, or activities as set forth in Title IX, Title VI, and Section 504. This district will not refuse to hire a disabled applicant who is capable of performing the essential requirements of the job with reasonable accommodations. Any person having inquiries concerning Ashland Independent School District's compliance with Title IX, Title VI, and Section 504 is directed to contact Steve Gilmore, Ashland Independent School District, 1820 Hickman Street, Ashland, Kentucky 41105-3000, phone number 606-327-2706, who has been designated by Ashland Independent School District to coordinate the district's efforts to comply with Title IX, Title VI, and Section 504.

Transportation

The AISD is now hiring full-time bus drivers, benefits included. Please contact Jamie Carrico at (606) 327-2717 for more information.

Professional Growth and Effectiveness System

With the passage of Senate Bill 1 in 2009, Kentucky embarked on a comprehensive system of education reform, integrating rigorous standards, implementing aligned assessments, and using data to inform instruction, all in an effort to improve schools across the state. The Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES) is part of this education reform initiative. The intent of the new system is to create a statewide system that will tell teachers more about the skills that make them most effective and help districts identify great teaching. The foundation of the new model is built on a common language and understanding of effective teaching using the work of Charlotte Danielson. This includes clear standards and expectations, specific feedback, tools and resources, support for professional growth and continuous growth for teachers and school administrators. The Kentucky Department of Education's vision for the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System "is to have every student taught by an effective teacher and every school led by an effective principal."

The Ashland Independent School District is taking steps to ensure all our teachers are informed about the new effectiveness system and prepared for full implementation in the 2014 – 2015 school-year. Each school in the district has a core team of teachers participating in the statewide pilot program this school year. The PGES team is working through the process step-by-step and will play an integral role in scaling-up the work in their building. The district administration team is also working in collaboration with building level principals to provide activities for all teachers to experience throughout the school year. Teachers will be using various documents and videos created by the Kentucky Department of Education to walk them through the new effectiveness system. This is an exciting time for teachers and administrators as we all embark on an adventure of learning and growing professionally. All the elements embedded in the PGES are critical to student success. Effective teaching, supported by great leadership will ensure all Ashland students are successful in the classroom!

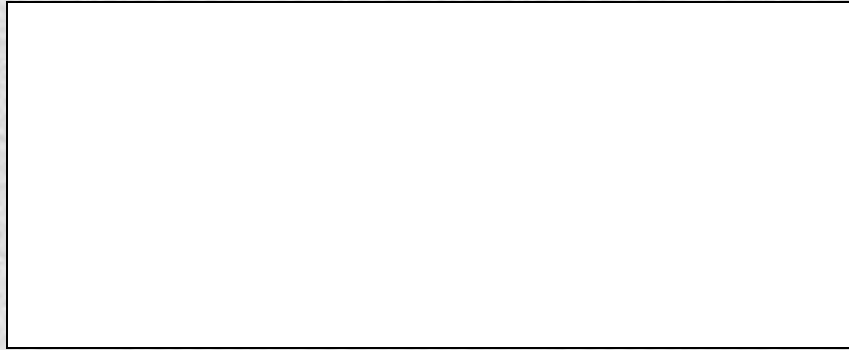


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School Principals

Derek Runyon, Blazer High School
David Greene, Verity Middle School
Brad Greene, Crabbe Elementary School
Phillip Caudill, Hager Elementary School
Debbie Diamond, Oakview Elementary School
Jamie Lester, Poage Elementary School
Steve Salyers, Charles Russell Elementary School
Jacqui Thornburg, Head Start Director

Central Office Personnel

Steve Gilmore, Superintendent
Joe Fraley, Director of Transportation/Maintenance
Lisa Henson, Director of Student Services
Janice Ledford, District Consultant
Patsy Lindsey, Director of Pupil Personnel
Richard Oppenheimer, Director of Student Achievement
Tim Walters, Director of Finance
Cary Williams, Director of Instructional Technology



Verity student council representatives prepare to load the canned and non-perishable food items collected during Spirit Week.

Board of Education

Carol Jackson, Chairperson
Patricia Hall, Vice-Chairperson
Charlie Chatfield
Frank DeMartino
Molly Webb

The Ashland Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, marital status, sex or disability in employment or the provision of service, as set forth in the Title IX and VI and in Section 504.