

Tomcat Today

Ashland Independent School District Newsletter



October 2019 - Volume 2



After four years of development, Kentucky's new 5-star accountability system for public schools is now active. For the 2018-2019 school year, the Ashland Independent Schools were rated 3 stars for each level - elementary, middle and high school. The star ratings are determined by combining scores in five areas – Proficiency (reading and mathematics), Separate Academic (science, social studies and writing), Growth (reading and mathematics), Transition Readiness (preparedness for career after high school) and Graduation. Scores were obtained through state testing of students in grades 3-8 as well as juniors and seniors at the high school.

We are especially proud of our elementary school students who showed tremendous gains in reading, mathematics and writing. It is reassuring to know that the performance of our youngest students will lead to further improvements as they progress through the district.

While we celebrate the achievement of our students and our schools, we recognize that there is still much to improve. The district's scores surpass state averages in almost every content, the difference being quite large in some areas. Additionally, we are also determined to see a rise in our scores for science, social studies and transition readiness, as it would greatly increase our overall scores at each level.

I encourage you to visit the Kentucky Department of Education's website (education.ky.gov) and look for the "School Report Card" link in the "Communities" section of the quick links. There, you will find more information for our district and learn more about each of our schools – their performance on last year's assessments and star ratings.

Sincerely,

D. Sean Howard

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	PD	PD	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	E	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	H	29	30

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	H	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 5th - No School, Election Day

November 25th - 29th - No School, Thanksgiving Break

December 20th - End of 2nd 9-Weeks Grading Period

December 23rd - January 3rd - No School, Christmas and New Year's Break

PAUL G. BLAZER HIGH SCHOOL



There's something special about hometown traditions. The pride that is felt each time someone puts on their letterman jacket and the "A" is shown for all to see, the sound of a fight song as everyone stands to clap along, and the excitement on the faces of children as the homecoming parade passes through town.

All of these moments remind and connect us with our Tomcat community.

Though all of those things make me smile, nothing pleases me more than when I'm in the community and I see the people standing around our Senior Salute boards looking at the pictures and sharing stories about our students and families. All this year, as tradition holds, our Senior Salute boards will be making their way into businesses all around our community. These photos are snapshots into the lives of hard working young men and women who strive diligently to not only make good grades, but serve our community as well. These students are a model of the quality and characteristics we look to instill in our classrooms everyday.

If you see our board out in the community, take a moment to look at each picture. Look at the accomplishments that they have. Better yet, after looking at the picture, congratulate a student when you see them in the community. They have worked hard for this moment and should be commended.

Jamie Campbell

Two Blazer Students Named As National Merit Scholar Semifinalists

Approximately 16,000 students nationwide were announced as National Merit Scholarship semifinalists this month. Seniors Kyle McComis and Logan Coovert earned this distinguished honor. These academically talented seniors have an opportunity to continue competing for some of the 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. Over 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship earning the Merit Scholar title.

To become a Finalist, Kyle and Logan must submit a detailed scholarship application in which they provide information about their academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. They must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the principal, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

National Merit Scholarship winners of the 2020 class will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 345,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.



Logan Coovert and Kyle McComis



Pam Bowling
School Technician

Behind the scenes, Pam Bowling is always working to ensure that our students and staff are able to get access

through our computer systems. Her tireless dedication to making sure that all of our systems are up-to-date and that our school is running as efficiently and responsibly as it possibly can is a paramount concern for her. Her work ethic is unmatched, as is our appreciation of her!

Before coming to the I.T. department at Blazer, Mrs. Bowling worked in three elementary schools. While here, she has continually worked to make sure everything is up-to-date and that teachers have all of the resources needed to ensure our students are able to learn each day.

Without Mrs. Bowling, we would be in a difficult position. Her work and dedication is well appreciated.

Upcoming Events

October 25 - Senior Night Bonfire
October 26 - ACT
October 29 - Club Pictures
October 29 - Individual Picture Re-Takes

ASHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL



We are nine weeks into the school year and success is in the air. In this issue of *Tomcat Today*, you get a glimpse of the great things happening at AMS and in our district.

Follow us on social media to keep up with everything happening at AMS.

 Facebook: Ashland Middle School Tomcats

 Twitter: the_ams

Go Cats!
David Greene, Principal

Tomcat Trailblazers

Ashland Middle School is partnering with the University of Kentucky's Next Generation Leadership Academy this school year. This pilot group of students, the Tomcat Trailblazers, will work closely with participating teachers and administration to create an AMS Learner Profile. This document will inform others of the skillset students are expected to gain during their middle school years at Ashland. The Tomcat Trailblazers will defend their readiness for high school at the end of the 2019-2020 school year with a panel presentation including school staff and community members. Students are currently collecting evidence that supports the impact of **CATS**: **C**ommunicating effectively, **A**ctive citizenship, **T**eamwork and collaboration, and **S**olving for the future. We look forward to seeing what they accomplish this school year!

Library News

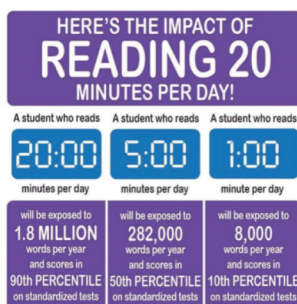
Our library team works to challenge students to reach their full potential while preparing them to become successful 21st Century scholars and life-long, self-directed learners. We will accomplish these goals throughout the year by preparing weekly classes specifically designed for each grade level, promoting children's literacy, and sponsoring special events like the Scholastic Book Fair, Battle of the Books, and the voting for the Kentucky Bluegrass Award.

We are especially excited about the Battle of the Books challenge this year. Battle of the Books is a new initiative at AMS in which students will compete in teams reading books nominated for the Kentucky Bluegrass Award. The top two teams will then be competing against a neighboring middle school. Additional information and titles are available on the library website along with information on a wide variety of topics.

We are off to a great start in the AMS library! We've checked out over 1,953 titles to 770 students in just five weeks! Over 62% of our students have averaged 85% or higher on their Accelerated Reader tests.

For daily updates, new releases, and upcoming events and contests, please follow the library on Instagram at AMSMediaCenter2017.

Remember, **#readersareleaders!**
Lisa Wallin



Celebrating Superheroes

Students and staff at AMS recently enjoyed the first pep rally of the year. Administration partnered with the AMS Student Ambassadors, cheerleaders, and school spirit team. They challenged everyone to use their **SUPERPOWERS** of accountability, ambition, kindness, responsibility and leadership to be an AMS leader. We look forward to this monthly celebration where we will honor our Tomcat Superheroes. Each month will be led by a different team of students and teachers so as to provide a leadership opportunity for all.



Upcoming Events

October 31 - October Pep Rally
November 11 - Veterans Day Program
November 16 - Academic Team Meet at AMS
November 22 - November Pep Rally



Tyler Withrow
Custodian

Tyler Withrow has worked in the Ashland School District for eleven years. He has spent his last two years as Head Custodian at Ashland Middle School. His favorite part of the job is interacting with students and teachers.

CHARLES RUSSELL ELEMENTARY



It's hard to believe we are already finished with a quarter of our school year, and what an exciting first 9-weeks it has been! We are so proud to share that Charles Russell has been rated as a 4-star school by the Kentucky Department of Education as a result of our performance on state accountability criteria! For more information on what

this star rating means about our school, you can visit:

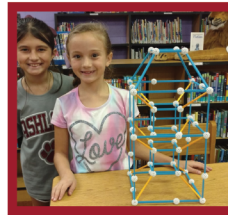
<https://www.kyschoolreportcard.com>

Shawn Thornbury, Ed.D.
Principal

C.R.I.S.P

The Charles Russell Indian Scholars Program is beginning its third year of providing academic enrichment opportunities for students in grades 3-5. Students meet several times a week during afternoon RTI sessions in the library where they engage in a variety of activities facilitated by the librarian, Sheila Meade.

Activities include logic games, building structures, coding, digital breakout games, creative writing, novel studies, video production, origami and learning how to play chess! Students also choose personal projects to research and organize using digital tools to create presentations for their classmates. This year, with the recent funding of a DonorsChoose project for the library, students will be given the opportunity to get creative with a new FlashForge Finder 3D printer!



"Gym Dandy" Award Winners

Mr. Ben Davis has developed an exciting way to recognize leadership in his Physical Education classes. Mr. Davis calls it the "Gym Dandy Award." Once a week, a student from each homeroom class will be chosen to receive the award. Mr. Davis will only select students that demonstrate the following criteria:

- Follows directions
- Gives best effort
- Embodies true sportsmanship



Once selected, students have their photo taken and have it prominently displayed on Mr. Davis' Gym Dandy Award Board. They will have the privilege of serving as Gym Leader the following week. Thank you, Mr. Davis for encouraging leadership in the classroom!



Linda Handloser
Kitchen Manager

This month we would like to highlight the 29 year career and dedication to Ashland Independent Schools of Charles Russell's Kitchen Manager, Linda Handloser, who will be retiring in December of this school year. During her 29 years in this district, Linda has served the students of Paul G. Blazer High School, Hatcher Elementary, Verity Middle School, and most recently, Charles Russell Elementary School. Linda shared that serving and interacting with the children is her favorite part of her job. In fact, she emphasizes how much she really LOVES all the people and is thankful for the connections that she has made over the years. A fond memory she shared was that of a student with whom she had built a strong rapport, who sought her out and asked for a hug. It means a great deal to Linda to have her students feel comfortable enough to seek her out for this emotional support. When asked what she will miss the most about her job and time with Ashland Independent Schools, she simply stated "I will miss getting to make sure my students always have nutritious meals and, of course, working with my girls everyday."

Upcoming Events

November 5 - No School (Election Day)
November 8 - Veteran's Day Program
November 12 - Family Night Out at Texas Roadhouse
November 25 - 29 - No School (Thanksgiving Break)

CRABBE ELEMENTARY



As we approach the end of the first nine weeks we are beginning to see the changes in the season as the leaves are beginning to turn. It's a beautiful sight to witness and gives me a feeling of moving forward to the end of this 2019 calendar year. It is

also a time for me, as the Principal, to reflect upon the many great happenings and learning opportunities our scholars are experiencing. Just as the tree leaves are beginning to change so are our scholars. It is remarkable to witness a kindergarten student, unsure on day one, blossom into a confident Crabbe Tiger. I am blessed to be the Principal of hard working scholars and staff at Crabbe Elementary School. If you haven't already, follow us on Class Dojo, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook - the information is below!

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

Twitter - @ces_ashland
Instagram - @CESashlandind
Facebook - CrabbeElem
Class Dojo - Crabbe Elementary School

Scholar Nathan Ethel



We would like to introduce you to one of our hard working first grade Tigers, Nathan Ethel. His teacher says he is a wonderful student to have in class because he always follows directions and does his best at whatever she asks him to do. Nathan loves watching Godzilla movies and spending time outside. He is currently playing tackle football for JFL. Most importantly, Nathan is kind to others and a good friend.

Upcoming Events

October 24th - Halloween Dance at 6:30
December 9th - 13th - Christmas Shoppe Week
December 17th - Christmas Concert

SBDM - 10/28, 11/18, 12/16 at 3:15

PBIS Assemblies

PBIS, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, is a program dedicated to rewarding positive behavior. This year we will continue to implement **PBIS** in the way of monthly assemblies. Every month we will celebrate scholars who have earned Class Dojo points. We will also recognize classes that have maintained 80% or greater Blue and Green behavior. The classes that have the most Class Dojo points will earn the "Spirit Paw" and a pizza party!!!!



Jacob Williams
Custodian

We are fortunate to have Mr. Williams as one of our custodians. He is in his 2nd year here at CES. Jacob and his wife Andrea are celebrating the birth of their son Noah.

For the last 23 years, Mrs. Hemphill has served as counselor for the

Nancy Hemphill
School Counselor



Crabbe Elementary students. She has a Bachelor's of Science in Education from Ohio State University, and a Master's and Rank I in Guidance and Counseling from Morehead State University. She has 2 adult children and 5 grandchildren.

HAGER ELEMENTARY



Hager performed very well on spring testing this past school year. We saw growth in 4 of 5 testing areas! Proficiency goals in reading and math of 70% continue to be the goal. This past year 72.1% of students were proficient in reading (3.5%

increase) and 67% of students were proficient in math (77.% increase). In addition to the 4 stars, Hager received high ratings from the state in proficiency, growth, and separate academic indicators (Social Studies, Science, and Writing). We look forward to continual growth in all areas, meeting each child at his individual levels and pushing each student to gain a minimum of a year's worth of knowledge. Please continue to work with us as we strive for 5 stars!

Where Everyone Counts!

Phillip Caudill

Experience Matters, Yes it Does.

Hager is fortunate to have veteran employee Jen Prater serving as kitchen manager. Jen is in her 23rd year at Hager Elementary and 4th year serving as manager. Jen leads a staff of four (Logan, Paula, Betty, and Amanda), preparing nearly 450 meals a day between breakfast and lunch.

Glen Thomas, a.k.a "Mr. Glen," is in his 19th year working for AISD, and his 18th year at Hager as head custodian. Glen arrives at work well before the students and staff to prepare the building each day. He takes pride in his work and is always willing to lend a helping hand. Glen will often cut-up and dance for the kids just to make them laugh and smile. Hager appreciates Jen and Glen!



Academic Team Looks to Continue Success

Hager's Academic Team had an outstanding 2018-2019 campaign as District and Regional Champions. Several Wildcats placed individually at regionals as did their Quick Recall and Future Problem Solving teams. Practice has begun in all content areas: math, language arts, arts and humanities, science, social studies, written composition, FPS, and Quick Recall. Hager's Academic Team is composed of 4th and 5th graders each year. We appreciate the following coaches for their time and dedication: Kelsie King, Ashley Cole, Amy Carpenter, Kelsey Price, Bethany Lewis, and Shelby Layne. The Academic Team will compete in the Tomcat League and four local matches before district and regional competitions in February and March. Good luck and let's repeat our many successes from last year!

Calling All Mystery Readers

First grade Wildcats are inviting parents, grandparents, friends and community members to surprise them. Mrs. Kennedy piloted a Mystery Reader program last year with much success. This program calls adults in the community to share their time by reading to a first grade class. The reader chooses a book or can ask the teacher to supply one. Each week, the students anticipate who will walk through their door as the "Mystery Reader." If you are interested in being a part of this and encouraging their love of reading, please contact the school or our first grade teachers: Kari Kennedy, Amanda Moore, or Bri Zimmerman.



Upcoming Events

October 28th - November 1st - Red Ribbon Week
November 7th - Veteran's Day Program

OAKVIEW ELEMENTARY



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

We are off to an amazing start this school year. I would like to thank the students, staff, parents and community partners for making this the smoothest opening

yet! Now that we are in the swing of things, I encourage you to get involved in our school. Working together, we can ensure that all student needs are met and that each student can reach their maximum potential. Also, take note of your child's Friday folder for information about the various clubs and activities that will be starting soon. We offer Academic Team, Robotics, STLP, BETA, and the Good News Club, to name a few. A particular club getting ready to start that I am super excited about is Boys in the Good. This will be a club for boys led by male faculty members that will focus on teaching our boys the qualities and traits that define a successful man of character and skill.

There are so many wonderful things happening in our school. As always, I am appreciative of your continued support. I am both blessed and honored to serve as the Principal of Oakview Elementary.

Rebecca Howell Ed.S, Principal
#HouseofComets #AshlandProud

Awake the Inner Reader

In addition to the many things we are doing to promote literacy, Mrs. Barber has completed a Donors-Choose Project. The program, "Awake the Inner Reader," aims to instill a love of reading in our students. Pictured here are the kiddos opening up the order! Thank you to anyone who made donations or shared our #AshlandProud



Creating a Plan

Oakview has teamed up with the Kentucky Valley Education Cooperative to be an **ACT** school this year. **Activating Catalytic Transformation** is an intensive professional development opportunity in which staff examine a problem of practice and develop a plan of action to systematically solve it. Through data analysis we have determined that student engagement is the area on which we would like to focus. We are constantly seeking ways to grow and improve at Oakview.



Student Spotlight: Brynlee Ramey

While visiting the library, Brynlee learned about the many ways books can be damaged and how to take care of them. She has become very impassioned toward the cause and has opened a "book care station" in her bedroom to repair damaged books!



Danny Fugett
Custodian

A new face our students will be getting to know this year is Mr. Danny Fugett. Mr. Fugett will bring his positive attitude and strong work ethic to our school as our day shift custodian. Please join me in welcoming him to the #OakviewComets family!

#OnceACometAlwaysAComet #StaffShoutout

Upcoming Events

November 11 - Veteran's Day Performance
November 14 - Fall Choir Performance

POAGE ELEMENTARY



Now that the school year is off to a great start, we have a lot of exciting things taking place at Poage Elementary. Our new RCA House Points App is up and running. We have our Book fair and Grand-

parent lunches scheduled for the week of October 14th. Our 4th and 5th grade students are working on an amazing Veteran's Day program! Mrs. McClain's class is working on an awesome project involving collecting supplies for our active duty military currently serving overseas! Our kindergarten students are almost finished with ABC bootcamp! They will have a parade of all the letters when they finish! Bring your parents to PE week is also coming up! Mrs. Rice has invited all parents to come take PE class with their students!

#pioneerpride

Katie Holbrook, Principal



Mr. Kennard
4th Grade Teacher

Mr. Kennard is a 4th grade teacher at

Poage Elementary! He also coaches the Future Problem Solving teams for Poage, Ashland Middle School, and Blazer High School. Mr. Kennard has had great success in his FPS coaching! Poage's FPS teams are 4 time regional champions! AMS and Blazer teams have placed at both State and the International competition! His service to Poage and our academic teams is invaluable!

Upcoming Events

October 31 - Dress Up Day
November 11 - Veterans Day Program
November 25-29 - Thanksgiving Break

21CCLC

Poage Elementary was fortunate to be awarded the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC) Grant last year. This grant allows for us to provide outside of school learning at no cost to our students. We provide before school reading and homework help known as "Books and Breakfast," Tuesday through Friday. After school learning is provided Monday through Thursday. During the after school portion of our grant we have a healthy snack followed by an hour of homework help and tutoring. The second hour of our program is devoted to remediation and enrichment activities, including cooking, sewing, crocheting, physical activities, STEM, Boyd County Public Library, Ashland Area YMCA, Paramount Arts Center Drama Class, Good News Club, Boy Scouts and Girl scouts to name a few.



Earning House Points

Fifth graders have been actively working on mysteries and challenges, and of course, earning House Points along the way! While learning about place value, students worked with a partner to complete six place value mysteries. Each team had to correctly answer each mystery before moving on to the next one. The winning team of Grant Slater and Aiden Conley earned 3 points for their respective Houses. Second and third place earned points for their houses as well.

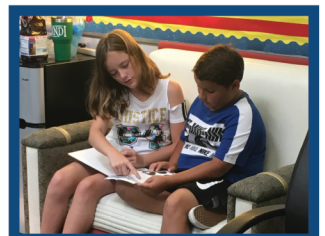
Students also worked in groups to complete the Geography Challenge identifying continents, oceans, landforms, bodies of water, as well as longitude and latitude lines. Each group received clues for the four challenges. Answers had to be checked and correct in order to move onto the next challenge. We take our houses very seriously and four 5th graders were chosen to serve as house leaders this year:

House Isibindi - Cianne Dorsey

House Altruismo - Joelle Workman

House Reveur - Colton Rader

House Amistad - Rhett Riggs



ASHLAND EARLY EXCEPTIONAL CHILDHOOD CENTER



Starter Cats are in the house! Students and staff of Ashland Head Start and Preschool showed off their classrooms to parents and families during Open House

on September 19th. Teachers and students shared work samples and discussed daily routines. Parents were provided information on the Creative Curriculum and GOLD assessment and given a copy of "The Parent's Guide to the Creative Curriculum." Students received their first of many books funded by a First Books grant. To finish off the evening, families enjoyed a pizza dinner. We love our Starter Cat family!

November 11th - 13th - Grandparent's Week
December 12th - Christmas Program at AHS



Jennifer May
Custodian

Jennifer has been a district employee for over 16 years. She started her career at AMS, then moved to Blazer before joining our Starter Cat Family where she has been for the last 10 years. Jennifer lives in Ashland with her 16 year-old daughter Savanna, a student at Blazer. We would like to brag on Jennifer for all of her hard work. She goes above and beyond to make sure that every inch of our school building is spotless. With great pride, she's constantly hanging shelves, shampooing area rugs, mopping the floors and cleaning our cafeteria and gym. Jennifer sees to it that the playground is set up, safe and ready for our kiddos each morning. We sure do appreciate Jennifer for all of her hard work throughout the years. We know how important it is to have a clean, safe environment for our students and Jennifer is a huge part of that. Thank you, Jennifer, for assuring that all is in working order so as to make our days run smoothly.

C.A.T.S. ACADEMY



Starting Off Strong

C.A.T.S Academy has had a great start to the new school year. After our Open House, we have delved into our classes. Here's a glance into the many activities going on:

3rd Grade

- Reading liquid measurements
- Measuring mass on a triple beam balance
- Learning to calibrate a balance
- Reviewing place value of large numbers
- Using logic to solve puzzles

4th Grade

- Observing and inferring
- Working on the study of decimals
- Reading of *Dear Mr. Henshaw*
- Logic Puzzles
- Analogies

5th Grade

- Scientific Classifications
- Dichotomous keys
- Tree/leaf identification
- Moon landing review of math
- Acting out of *The Speckled Band*

6th Grade

- Using graphic calculators
- Slope of a line
- Using motion detectors to make/interpret time graphs
- Compound probability activities
- Integer problems



7th Grade

- Newton's Laws of Motion
- The Golden Ratio in nature
- The Golden Ratio in our bodies
- Reading of "The Ransom of Red Chief"

Free ACT

This month 9-12 grade students at Blazer have been given the opportunity to take their ACT in December for FREE. Afterschool ACT tutoring is being offered for students wishing to see improvements to their current ACT score. Students will receive a voucher to take the ACT for free in December if they participate in at least seven of the nine sessions offered. Mr. Campbell believes that putting our students in small group study sessions with our outstanding teachers is a formula for success. He is providing the voucher to ensure that no obstacle stands in the way of ensuring our students have the best chance of success after high school.

These study sessions will be offered through November so that students can continue to work on the particular skills they need to sharpen. Depending on turnout and availability, Blazer may offer these study sessions to prepare for the spring ACT as well.

Build Ashland (Junior)

In the spirit of "Build Ashland," the Poage Pioneers will take the lead in displaying pride and ownership of our community through acts of service. The first projects will be devoted to our own school grounds.



We will begin recycling and landscaping soon. Plans are also in the works to help our elderly neighbors gather leaves this fall.

It is certainly an exciting time to be a Pioneer!

A message from the DPP about attendance:

Every Day Counts!

All parents care about their children's success in life. Unfortunately, they often fail to realize how quickly absences can add up to academic trouble. It is important that parents take note of the connection between attendance and graduation. There is a correlation between having strong school attendance in elementary and middle school and successfully graduating from high school. It is also important for students to realize the cost of absenteeism. Nearly half of the students surveyed by Get Schooled believe they could skip a day a week and still not suffer academically; this is not the case! Attendance matters at every grade level. Every day missed is a day of instruction lost and a day of classroom interaction with students and teachers that cannot be recovered. (www.attendance-works.org)

Christine Scott
Director of Pupil Personnel

Region 10 School Winners on KY High Attendance Day (Sept. 17)

Large Elementary

Poage Elementary 99.62% attendance

Large High School

Blazer High School 95.11% attendance



1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but...

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's....
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

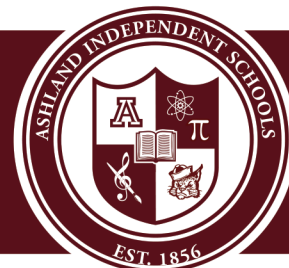
How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely that won't affect my child?

He/she is only missing just...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's....
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ year
20 mins per day	1 hr 40 mins per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years

EVERY DAY COUNTS

If you want your child to be successful then, YES, attendance does matter!

Once a Tomcat...



Donna Suttle began as an Oakview Comet and then moved on to Putnam Junior High. After graduating from Blazer High School in 1970, she attended Ashland Community and Technical College. Donna fondly remembers the time she spent with her friends during her years at AISD. She also credits those years as instrumental in developing the skills necessary to assist her in her family business. Donna went on to become the owner of South Ashland Greenhouse and Florist. As a successful business owner, Donna advises students to “get a good education, and make sure your career choice is one you truly love.” She feels the greatest sense of success when she is able to offer families comfort and support in their time of grieving.

Donna is an active supporter of AISD. She was a key-player in raising over \$250K for the Putnam Stadium renovation and was instrumental in the raising of funds for the new trophy cases in the Blazer gymnasium lobby. Donna is also responsible for securing the funding for two \$1K scholarships awarded annually: The Doug Childers Scholarship, which is awarded to one Blazer football player, and the Joe Franklin scholarship, which is awarded to one male basketball player. Donna is proud to be a Tomcat Alumnus. She says, “I’ve never grown apart from being a Tomcat! In my mind, I’m still a teenager!”



Austin Hammonds spent his elementary years at Crabbe and Poage, then moved on to Verity Middle School before graduating from Paul G. Blazer in 2013. His educational experiences at Morehead State University, the University of Miami, Florida and the University of Southern California have earned him numerous degrees in the field of music. Now in LA, he is living out his dreams of composing music for film and television. Austin credits his experiences at AISD as the catalyst for his success.

In 2009, Chris Whelan, the band director, invited him to start marching band a year early. He cherishes the memories and relationships made during his years with the band. Austin feels fortunate to have had wonderful teachers like Chris Whelan, Kevin Step, Eric Lambert, and Macel Braxton who encouraged him to reach for his goals; “It is easy to say the AISD gave me the tools and teachings necessary to step into higher education, but more than that they provided an incredible faculty and staff that support not only the learning of students, but also encourage their dreams and aspirations. I am so proud to say that I am a Tomcat because it means that I come from an incredible community of people who want nothing more than the success of their students.” Austin, in turn, advises students to: “follow your heart... truly and sincerely follow your passion and chase your wildest dreams.” He goes on to say:

- Be the Best You - Don’t compare yourself to others, just be the best version of you possible.
- Failure = Growth - It is how we grow as people, so embrace it, love it, and learn from it!
- Work Hard - There’s no such thing as luck, it’s merely the right amount of preparation at the right moment.



Kyle W. Wessel is proud to be a Tomcat. He feels that between his classes and extracurriculars in AISD he was provided a well rounded and challenging education. Kyle began his academic journey as an Oakview Comet, then attended Verity before graduating from Blazer in 2011. These years provided him with the push to consistently move forward in the classroom and on the field.

After completing his undergraduate studies at Morehead State University, Kyle moved on to earn his Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Marshall University. As Doctor of Physical Therapy, he credits Mr. Graham, his football coach and Biology/Anatomy teacher as an important influence.

Kyle would encourage our students to be responsible for their outcomes. “If you fail to perform optimally, do not give up! Do not beat yourself up over it. Push forward and learn from your shortcomings as well as your successes. Remember that through failure comes life lessons. The successful ones are not those who make large amounts of money or have a high status job, but are those who learn from their mistakes and better themselves every day.”