

# FOCUS

## Ashland Independent Schools

### Congratulations Class of 2015



Christopher Daniel Ables  
Cody Levi Adkins \*  
Kesewaah Amo-Mensah \*\*\*  
Christopher Michael Anderson  
Samantha Hope Arnett \*\*  
Holli Jo Arthur  
Justin Lee Artrip \*\*\*  
Larry Kenner Ray Bailey \*\*\*  
Ethan Scott Barker \*  
Laura Elisabeth Barker \*\*\*  
Michael Jeffery Barker  
Susan Lynn Barnett  
Billie Nicole Barry  
Miranda Lynn Berry-Jones  
Olivia Grace Black \*\*\*  
Aaron Christopher Blankenship \*  
Chelsey Marie Blinn  
Aaron Joseph Bloomer \*  
Bailey Ann Bolner \*\*  
Claudia Madeline Boyd \*  
Katharyn Renee Brake \*  
Erica Renae Broughton \*\*  
Daniel Lavar Brown  
Taylor Paige Brown \*\*\*  
Sarah Anne Busch \*\*\*  
Laren Bryana Cagle

Jestin Chaz Cantrell \*\*  
Derek Dupri Carlisle \*\*  
Jordan Tierra Carlisle \*\*\*  
Lauren Elisabeth Carroll \*\*\*  
Taylor Blake Cassidy  
Courtney Dale Castle \*\*  
Kaleigh Danielle Chappel  
Brandon Casey Clark \*\*  
Madison Brooke Cochran  
Breanna Marie Cole \*\*\*  
Blake Andrew Collins  
Charity Faith Collins \*\*\*  
Curtis Alan Comer \*  
Joshua Alexander Conley \*\*  
Shannon Marie Conley  
Gregory Austin Craft \*\*\*  
Angela Faye Craig \*\*\*  
William Hunter Crump \*\*\*  
Brandon Scott Curry  
Tyler Austin Day \*\*  
Stacie Jo Dean \*\*  
Jonathan Mark Dingess \*\*\*  
Alexander Stuart Donalson \*\*\*  
Corey Jeanette Dutton \*\*\*  
Noah Andrew Eidson  
Rachel Elizabeth England \*

John Tyler Epperson  
David Raymond Evans, Jr.  
William Lucas Ferguson  
Connor Christopher Fields \*\*  
Cameron Andrew Fisher  
Alexander Trinten Skyler Fitch, Sr.  
Faith Ann Flaming \*\*  
Emily Katherine Ford \*\*\*  
Haley-Sue Ryan Foutch \*\*\*  
Christopher Andrew Fraley  
Cameron Ryan Garner \*\*\*  
Shawn Russell Gilliam \*\*\*  
Kamaryn Mackenzie Gose \*\*\*  
Shelby Lynn Gransbery \*\*  
William Luke Grayson \*\*\*  
Megan Elizabeth Griffith \*\*\*  
Timothy Jordan Griffith  
Luke Cogan Groves  
Charles Fredrick Gussler, IV  
Brooke Amber Hale \*\*  
Shannon David Lee Hale \*\*  
Anthony Scott Hall \*\*  
Zachary Dean Hall \*\*\*  
Kaitlin MacKenzie Hammond \*\*  
Kaitlinn Tiara Hardesty \*\*\*  
Abigail Elizabeth Hart \*\*\*  
Taylor Jean Harvey  
Alanna Erin Hatfield \*\*  
Megan Elizabeth Hensley \*\*\*  
Sarah Elizabeth Hester  
Austin Ryan Hicks \*\*  
Ashley Nicole Highley  
Tristan Scott Hill \*\*  
Alyssa Dawn Himes  
Kaela Leigh Hinson  
Krista Nicole Holcomb \*\*  
Dustin Lee Jackson  
James Harold Jagielo, Jr.  
Corey Owens Jarred  
Peter David Jenkins \*\*\*  
Jessica Renee Johnson \*\*  
Lois Raelynn Johnson  
Nicole Andrea Johnson \*  
Logan Stewart Jones \*\*\*  
Kevin Mitchell Jude \*  
Kaylen Marie Jupin  
Conor O'Brien Justice \*  
Amber Nicole Kent  
Courtney Michelle Kinder \*\*\*  
Cassie Elizabeth Kinner \*  
Makala Nicole Kirk \*\*\*  
Adam Bryce Kiser  
JoAnna Elizabeth Kountz \*  
Noah Lee Kramer \*\*\*  
Alex Benjamin Lebrun \*  
Aaron Jeffrey Lewis \*\*  
Michaela Ann Lewis \*\*\*  
Keith Michael Limings  
Joshua Corey Lumpkins \*\*\*  
Mackenzie Nicole Lyons  
Katlyn Renee Mahoney \*\*  
Chase Timothy Mantle \*  
Kyle Anthony Mason  
Karina Anne McBride  
Charles Jacob McCloud \*  
Molly Grace McCullough \*\*\*  
MaKayla Page McDavid \*  
Ciera Jade McDowell \*\*  
Maya Olivia McKenzie \*\*\*  
James Dillon McKinney  
Jordan Renae Meade \*\*\*  
Daniel Lee Miller  
Nicholas David Miller \*\*  
Douglas Robert Mollett \*\*\*  
David Alan Moore  
Bailey Ryan Morris  
Ragan Elizabeth Neill \*\*\*

*Graduation with Honors: Summa Cum Laude \*\*\*, Magna Cum Laude \*\*, Cum Laude \**

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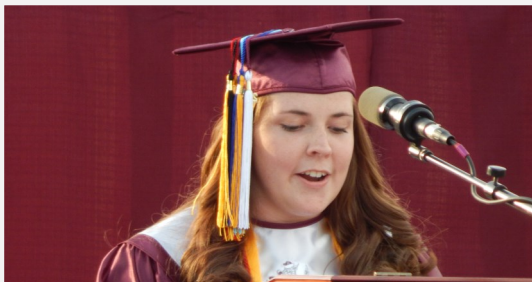
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# District News

## 2015 Graduates



Jessica Hope Nelson	Brittany Michelle Shepard
Jocelyn Nicole Newhouse **	Jeremy Michael Short
Travis Mitchell Newsome	Korrina Marie Shortt
Annabel Kippi Noe ***	Brett Alexander Simpson
Christian Rome Nolan	Kyle Blake Sloas
Mason Gregory Nolan ***	Hope Elizabeth Smith
Brandon Porter Norrod *	Elshadai Bethel Smith-Mensah ***
Bhavya Nirvangbhai Patel *	Carman Lynn Staeb
Christina Nicole Patterson **	Rachelle Lynn Stamper **
Marley Jai Cochran Phillips	Diane Nicole Stapleton *
Haley Alexandra Pierce ***	Tyler Edward Sutton **
John Desiderio Pina ***	Michaela Danielle Swenson
Hunter Shane Prince ***	Alexis Danielle Tackett **
Quenton Alexander Radford	Micah Anne Talbert
Dylan Curtis Rankin ***	Car-Leigh Michelle Taylor ***
Carlie Brooke Remy ***	Chase Allen Thielke
Parker Jude Reynolds	Brittany Nicole Thompson **
Shannon Leigh Rice ***	Jessica Kaitlyn Marie Triplett
Alexis Rae Richendollar **	Christian Taylor Turner **
Alexis Deziraye Robinson **	Kyle Ray Braxton Tussey *
Sydney Sherdian Robinson	Brandy Nichole Dawn Twinam *
Lindsay Preston Rothenstine **	Audrey Jo Vance
Whitney Lauryn Rudie ***	Kaleb Aaron Lee Varney *
Megan Nicole Runyon **	Joshua Michael Vaughn
Derek James Rust	Reyna Michelle Vera Chavira *
William Craig Salyers	Brandace Jordan Walker **
Alexis Katherine Sammons **	Layne Tyler Wellman **
Brant Eugene Sammons ***	Albert Lee Wheeler
Hunter Dylan Sansom **	Heaven Leigh Wheeler
Justin David Schipmann	Alfred Leo White ***
Christine Barrett Schlessler ***	Hailey Michelle Whitehead **
Tucker Hairston Schweickart ***	Margaret Clare Wonn ***
Meredith Elise Sergent ***	Trenton Michael Woods ***
Austin Cody Ray Sexton	Darion Eugene Worsley
Emily Alice Shay ***	Aidan Michelle Young ***



## PEP TALK....

Through the PEP Grant that Ashland Independent Elementary Schools were awarded, we have provided each elementary school with the TAKE 10! curriculum. TAKE 10! is a classroom-based curriculum tool that provides teachers with engaging academic lessons combined with fun physical activity. The goal of TAKE 10! is to get the teacher's class moving while learning. One of the provisions of the grant is for each classroom to have 20 minutes of physical activity per day, 10 in the morning and 10 in the afternoon.

TAKE 10! can serve a variety of purposes and be a valuable resource for teachers by:

- Adding much needed physical activity breaks to the school day to help keep students energized and mentally alert.
- Integrating curriculum objectives in language arts, math, science, social studies, nutrition, and character education.
- Reinforcing a variety of health and nutrition concepts.
- Offering a creative method for addressing multiple learning styles and introducing a variety of academic concepts and skills.

In order to assist our elementary teachers in implementing The TAKE 10! curriculum, a national trainer will provide professional development to every elementary teacher on August 10.

For further information about the grant, contact Janice Ledford, grant coordinator, or Krisi Figley, assistant coordinator, at 327-2706, ext. 2738.

## District STEM Initiative wins a Financial Boost

In April the Ashland Independent School District was notified that they won not only one but two STEM Initiative Grants from the Kentucky Department of Education. The district won a \$50,000 Biomedical grant to support the secondary program put in place this past school year. In addition, the district was awarded a \$15,000 Energy and the Environment grant that will be used to add an additional Gateway to Technology elective at Ashland Middle School. Money from both grants will be used to send teachers to Project Lead the Way training this summer, build a PTLW Elementary Launch program, purchase equipment and supplies for new courses being added this fall, and outfit STEM classrooms with the latest technology.

The district firmly believes that available jobs in the Tristate area will continue to be in the STEM fields. We are thrilled to have this opportunity to expand the STEM program and provide quality educational experiences that will prepare students for the local workforce upon graduation.



# Ashland Head Start



Mrs. McDowell's class has had so much fun. The students will be missed and best wishes for next year. Those students that are returning we cannot wait to see you next year. This year we are lucky to have received Smart Boards for the classrooms. With our smart board the students do lessons as well as calendar. Each morning they come in and use the Smart Board to do their attendance for the day.



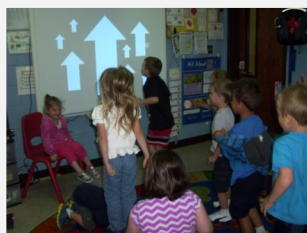
Mrs. Rutman's class has been studying things that grow. We've spent time learning about different life cycles and exploring plants, people, and insects such as butterflies. This week they learned about and made the different stages of the butterfly life cycle.

It is hard to believe how quickly the school year has passed and come to an end. Mrs. Whitehead would like to thank you for your trust, and commitment to the mission of Ashland Head Start. It is your belief in your child's need for a good educational start that helps us to sustain our school. We respect the sacrifices each family makes to send their child to our program, and we will continue to put your child first in everything we do! This was a very busy year and you, as partners in education, played a great role in making it a success!

We wish our kindergarten students all the best as they journey on to new places. Preschool graduation is a time for celebration and reflection. Enjoy Your Child!



Mrs. Cox's Class enjoyed a Mother's Day program. The children made their mothers or special grown up a bracelet, and poem along with a plant. They also put on a performance for them. The children loved giving out their gifts that they worked so hard on. After our activities they got to enjoy cookies and strawberries with each other.



## FAMILIES THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR

With the end of the school year quickly upon us, this has been another wonderful year in the Head Start and Kentucky Preschool program. I would like to thank all of you for allowing us to become part of your family and serve you through our Head Start and Kentucky Preschool services. We count it a privilege and a joy to work with you and your children each and every day. We wish all of the families and children who will be transitioning to Kindergarten success and hope to see you in the future. For those families and children who will be returning next year, we look forward to more fun-filled learning experiences next year and hope you will prepare and make plans to participate in all of next year's activities.

As you make plans for your child's summer activities. It is a welcome opportunity for fun and relaxation; however, the break from school activities often causes students to experience a lag in learning upon returning to school in the fall. Read to your children over the summer and encourage your child to read. Play easy counting games, you and your child can count fruit loops cereal and then, sort them by color. Look for shapes around your house and name them and have your child guess. Explore your outside environment. Children love the hot summer months, because they provide the perfect opportunity to spend lots of time outside. Be safe and have a wonderful summer.



- Remember Sun Protection (according to the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Association of Dermatology).
- Avoid sun exposure during peak sun hours (12 PM – 4 PM).
- Sunscreen is a must (on sunny and cloudy days)! Look for products with UVA and UVB protection and an SPF of at least 15
- Sunscreen should be applied liberally 30 minutes before going out in the sun and reapplied every two hours or sooner if swimming, sweating, or toweling off.
- Look for shade whenever possible.
- Children of all shades need sunscreen.



# Crabbe Elementary School

The students in Ms. Clemons Third Grade Class spent a lot of time reading this year. We had ten students reach over 100 AR points. Way to go!



Mrs. Minton's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class enjoying the one-room school house at the Highland's Museum.



The fastest typing students are Madison Hutchinson, 5th grader in 2nd place with 79 WPM, Devoyne Montgomery, a 4th grader in 1st place typing 80 WPM, and Eduardo Torres, a 3rd grader typing 53 WPM. Way to go!

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students completed their Young Banker's Club program sponsored by Fifth Third Bank. They took them on tour of Marshall University to celebrate their completion of the program.



This school year, Crabbe 4th graders have worked more than 90,489 math problems and 58,320 language questions on IXL! A round of applause goes out to these hard working students.



Mrs. Minton's 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, Michael Slone, Sariah Roberts, and Jacklyn Caudill, enjoying their tour of Ashland Middle School.

It is so hard to believe that the 2014-2015 school year is coming to an end. We wanted to know what memories these great 4th graders are going to take with them, so we asked. Here are a few of their comments: "I met the bestest friends this year!" (Kassedy); "I became a Safety Patrol. It is one of the greatest honors I have ever had." (Nate); "I learned more and more each day. I kept my work done and ready to be graded. I had fun...fourth grade was pretty cool" (Ambrelle); "...4th grade helped me be prepared so that I'll be ready for what the world throws at me..." (Phenix); "I like math and science..." (Enrique); "I danced on the blue lagoon and met wonderful teachers..." (Aslyn); "I don't want 4th grade to end..." (Aaron); and we think that Will sums it up beautifully, "I came to the best school ever - Crabbe Elementary."



A group of 4th grade girls calling themselves the "Sharon Creech Club" were thrilled to receive mail from this award-winning author. After reading Mrs. Creech's book Walk Two Moons, Ambrelle Amburgey, Brianna Coleman, Raelyn Evans,

Aslyn Fannin, and Jada Maynard wrote letters to their favorite author to let her know how very much they loved this book and to inquire as to how she comes up with her writing ideas. Mrs. Creech not only answered their questions but sent the girls autographed bookmarks and a study guide for their teacher, Mrs. Withrow.

Mrs. Minton's 5<sup>th</sup> grade student, Michael Slone, received his plaque for winning the state competition for the Grandparent of the Year Essay Contest. He received his awards and read his essay at the AARP/KRTA'S state convention in Louisville, KY.



In March, the 5th grade visited the Paramount Arts Center to watch Cirque Ziva. The show kept students and teachers on the edge of their seats. Marco A. and Andrew E. pose for a picture on the ride back to school.



The fifth grade students visited the Dollars & Sense Store at the Boyd County Fair Grounds. Students in Mrs. Murray's and Mrs. Minton's classes opened bank accounts and had to manage their money as they navigated throughout the store. Students were rewarded if they managed to save some funds. The

students really enjoyed this real-world learning experience.

Mrs. Murrey class went on a grade-level walking field trip to visit the Kentucky History Mobile Civil War display at the Highlands Museum. Ronnie K., Tre T., and Landen W., pose with a soldier inside the exhibit. Students were able to interact with the exhibit as if they were making the decisions of key Kentuckians who lived during the Civil War time period.



# Hager Elementary School



On Wednesday, May 13, 2015, Hager recognized our top 5 AR readers in primary grades and our top 5 readers in intermediate grades. The students were rewarded for their reading accomplishments with a special lunch from Moe's and a little extra recess

time. Our top 5 readers in primary are Caylee Tackett, Sophia Remy, Evan Jobe, Aiden Deborde, and Alina Geary. Our top 5 readers in intermediate are Nafi Byrams, Thomas Skaggs, Sydney Clark, CJ Nunley and Luke Skaggs. Keep reading all Summer!

The Hager Track Team had a wonderful season with over 75 participants in grades K-6. Our students enjoyed our meets with district and Ashland area schools and coaches. Highlights from our season included the top combined score at the YMCA meet and girls primary champions at our city championship meet. Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are looking forward to track at AMS and our K-4 students can't wait to start again next Spring. We would like to extend a very special thank you to our dedicated staff and family volunteers: Gina Holmes, Amber Patrick, Alicia Zornes, Kerri Keener, Selena Miller, Alex Marinich and to our Principal Mr. Caudill and the Blazer track team for making sure our meets were organized and 'ran' smoothly.

During the 4<sup>th</sup> 9 weeks at Hager, students in PE classes learned all about Gymnastics. Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders practiced basic balance, creative movement, and weight transferring skills, while 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders learned three varieties of stunts and used their knowledge to choreograph a routine with a small group. Groups chose music to perform to and had a chance to show their peers what they created as the assessment for this unit.

The kindergarten classes at Hager have been busy bees wrapping up our year! Both did an amazing job at their Spring Sing and End of the Year Performance! To celebrate such a wonderful year, they'll be going to Carter Caves for a special field trip full of exploring adventures!

Mrs. Keener's Class planted special gardens for Mother's Day to wrap up our unit all about Plants. We also got the opportunity to watch our ladybug larvae and caterpillars go through the metamorphosis process! They loved watching them fly out of their homes when it was time to release them!



Mrs. Keener's Class are published authors with their book titled *When We Grow Up*. They loved writing pieces about what they wanted to be when they grew up and then took pictures dressed up as what they wanted to be. They're very proud of how well they wrote and can't wait to share it with their families! We also wrapped up our quilting study throughout the year with a Quilting Evening where they sewed together all of their

quilt squares that we've made all year to create one big quilt. A huge thank you to Area Education Grants for helping us make our special evening happen

Mrs. Zornes and Ms. Fraley's first graders have been working very hard on their last big writing assignment for the year! We have learned about lots of different animals like cheetahs and roadrunners!! The whole process took several steps, but it was worth it! We have really learned how to find information and turn it to an interesting paper for everyone to read. The microphone comes in handy when we want to share our papers to the class! We are so excited to be second graders in a few months!

Second grade students recently went on a field trip to Savage Branch. Students were able to go on a nature hike and explore different animal habitats. They saw 4 different species of bird eggs and learned the different materials birds use to create their nests. Students can now decipher between various animal tracks and trees. After students went on their hike they were invited to use nets to "fish out" various pond species. We caught over 75 tadpoles!! Students had a blast using the magnifying glasses to look at the various tadpole stages and nymphs. It was a great learning experience outside of the classroom walls!



Third grade students participated in a book study of *Because of Winn-Dixie*. As a culminating activity, students wrote an opinion piece encouraging others to read the book. The students enjoyed the book and found interesting ways to encourage others to read it as well.



The 4th grade class will be taking a field trip to the Star Theater located at the Space Science Center at MSU. The students will be viewing the programs: Forces of Nature and Earth, Moon, and Sun. Also presented is the Tour of the Night Sky which will display the stars and planets visible in the sky for that evening. The program will conclude using music with laser generated imagery. We are looking forward to this fun and very educational experience.

Hager 5th grade students spent a day at the Highland's Museum touring the History Mobile. This large semi-truck was full of interactive activities about the Civil War and the important part that Kentucky played. Students were excited to learn about Kentucky's history and to tour the museum after they finished exploring the History Mobile. 5th grade students are also preparing for their Kings Island trip on May 18th. Students have worked extremely hard at fundraising and hosting events to pay for the trip. They can't wait to participate in the math and science activities on the 18th!

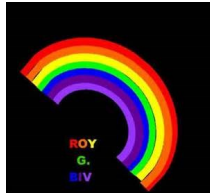


# Oakview Elementary School

**Kindergarten:** During the month of April, Kindergarten made it rain in the classroom and sang "Rain, Rain, Go Away!" We met ROY G. BIV and used prisms to make rainbows.



In the month of May, we celebrated Earth Day by discovering all the resources our wonderful Earth gives us. We learned about life on a farm and the animals that live there. We even hatched our very own baby chicks!



**First Grade Mrs. Evan:** "It's been a great year in first grade! The class is truly WILD about reading. This year our class took 3,478 tests and earned 1,610 points in Accelerated Reader. Seven students earned over 100 points. They are Kaylee, Riley, Casey, Aiden, Nicco, Maxx, and Jackson. Our class is awesome! Look out, second grade! Here we come!"



**First Grade Mrs. Baker:** This year the students at Oakview Elementary School chose to take on two very special projects for the sixteenth year in a row. The children collected items for the animals at our local animal shelters. The first round of collections took place in December as a traditional Oakview Christmas project. The second round of collections took place in May in honor of National Pet Month. The items collected included virtually anything that the shelters might be able to use new and loved! The children hope that their efforts helped to make life a little brighter for all of the animals at the shelter and reminded everyone of the importance of being a responsible pet partner. You can help the animals at the shelters as well with donations of your own. Even better, have you considered adding to your family? There are lots of "little (and big!) someone's" at the shelters just waiting for a loving home!!



**Oakview's principal:** Mrs. Howell, adopted Pepper, the newest member of her family.

**First Grade Mrs. Johnson:** We adopted Ms. Wells' third grade class for KPREP testing. We made test survival kits and wrote them a letter of encouragement. These items were given to the third graders on the Friday before testing started. Each morning during testing week, the first graders cheered the third graders on and passed out a treat with a note of encouragement.

## Second Grade

Teachers treated perfect attendance students with a special attendance party on Friday afternoons. Treats included extra recess, technology day, popsicles, and movies.



**Ms. Mann:** The class "adopted" Mrs. Clayton's 5th grade. During "SPIRIT WEEK" the students made signs with positive messages and sent down daily incentive treats to help get the 5th graders pumped up for KPREP testing! Examples of treats were donuts- "DONUT Stress About the Test" and cookies- "You are One Smart COOKIE". We wanted them to know we are behind them 100% and we are all in this together!

Top AR winners for the 4th Nine Weeks were Faith Fletcher and Michael Blair. They got to enjoy a special AR luncheon with Ms. Mann in their honor! Then students enjoyed a special Behavior Luncheon in their honor for outstanding behavior in the last month! The class wrote notes and made cards for Nurse Appreciation Week to help show our awesome school Nurse, Jennifer, because they appreciate all she does to help us stay healthy and well! The class wrote loving letters and made cards for Mother's Day. They also each took home a beautiful flower to help show Mom how much they appreciate and love her!

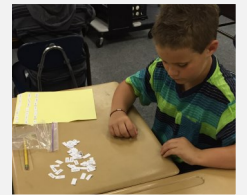


## Third Grade Mrs. Dyer, Mrs. Ross, and

**Ms. Wells:** Teachers are so proud of their third graders. They worked very hard and all gave their best faith effort on the KPREP test. The third graders will be going on their annual trip to Carter Caves on May

18<sup>th</sup>. The students have learned about caves and bats. While at Carter Caves, we will take a guided tour of the X cave, learn about eco location, and take a walking tour of many rock formations. This has always been a fun- filled day.

**Fourth Grade Mrs. Price:** Students celebrated National Poetry Month in April. In order to review the elements of poetry in May, the students worked on a personal poetry puzzle. Using words from Shel Silverstein's poem, "One Inch Tall," they had to compose the lines of a personal poem. The students tried different combinations until they found the most interesting ones, such as phrases that make you laugh. Each student was given the opportunity to compare his/her poem with a friend's poem to see how the same words were used in different ways. With the help of Shel Silverstein's poems and related activities, the fourth graders have learned to love poetry.



## Oakview Team: AND THEY'RE OFF!!

Oakview's second grade classes have been spending time studying one of Kentucky's oldest traditions: The Kentucky Derby!

Students have been learning all about Kentucky, the Derby, horses, Derby hats, and more. Each second grader was invited to make his/her very own racehorse out of the "stick horse" breed and bring it to school to join in on the "Second Grade Run for the Roses".

# Poage Elementary School

## Kindergarten

Poage kindergarteners have been busy learning about farms. We planted beans and watched them grow, learned about animals and farm equipment. We ended our unit of study with a field trip to Heritage Farm. There we learned about coal mining and walked through a mine. We also went on a wagon ride where we saw and fed several different farm animals. Lastly, we went to a petting zoo where we got to pet a miniature horse, sheep, chicken and many other animals.



## First Grade

Poage Elementary's first grade has been learning all about how animals use their parts to survive (one of the new Next Generation Science Standards). For one lesson we explored how animals find and catch their food. Students got a chance to see what it is like for frogs to catch their food. Using party blower "tongues", they tried to catch Velcro ants, spiders, and flies. They were surprised

at how difficult it was!

Then we learned about how lots of other animals find and catch their food, including earthworms, butterflies, elephants, and sperm whales. They concluded the lesson by writing what they learned in their science journals.



## Second Grade

The second grade students at Poage Elementary went to Savage Branch Wildlife Reserve. They had fun learning about pond life and went on a nature hike. They learned about different plants and animals, as well as unusual animal habitats.



## Fourth Grade

The Poage 4th Grade class visited COSI in Columbus to learn more about science. They left early and spent the day exploring and learning. Some of the highlights of the trip included a hunt for treasure, watching rats play basketball, and lifting a car using a simple machine. The children greatly enjoyed riding the charter bus to and from, as well as the trip itself.



## Sixth Grade

The Sixth graders are finishing the school year with a bang! We just completed testing and everyone feels so much better about how much they have really learned this year! They all did very well. Everyone is excited about our end of the year trip to King's Island and our awards ceremony, all coming up the last week of school. Next week, we will be taking a trip to Grayson Lake to release the trout we have been raising and taking care of all year.



The month of April was very busy for the sixth grade class. We adopted chicken eggs, and we got to watch them hatch after a few weeks in the incubator. All of the students did research projects about chickens, and we all learned a lot through this project. More than half of our class was involved with Safety Patrol and had the opportunity to visit our nation's capital. They all made wonderful memories on this trip and have had fun all year serving our school as leaders. We concluded our conservation classes and our DARE classes this month. To celebrate the fun we have had in DARE, we had a DARE day of activities at Gatti Land.

I would like to thank all of the extra people that have made this year a great year! We loved having Ms. Goble and Ms. Plank to help with our RTI program. Mr. Mark Hanni maintained our fish and fish tank project. Officer Simpson taught us the importance of making good choices in DARE. Mr. Kenny Skaggs deepened our conservation knowledge. Thank you to my wonderful aide who has been my right hand man, Mrs. Nikie Clark and our janitors, Mr. Brian and Mr. John for putting up with our messes from learning all day. And Last but not least, a huge thanks to the parents this year who have been there for help any time they have been needed! What a great year to be in the 6th grade!

## PE

As we finish up this school year in P.E., students just completed the dance unit. Not only did they learn some new dances but had the opportunity to create their own and perform it. I was pleased to see that all students seemed to enjoy and have fun with this unit.



Currently K-2nd is participating in Tower Power where they are put into teams and must perform different exercises to earn cups. They use the cups to build towers. 3rd -6th are participating in volleyball where they are learning how to properly rotate and keep score. Also, we are prepping for the upcoming Field Day!



# Charles Russell Elementary School



**Regional Governor's Cup**—The Regional Governor's Cup competition was held Saturday, March 21, at Wurtland Elementary. CRS results were: Noah Carey, 3rd in Math; Elia Campbell, 4th in Language Arts; Hannah Greene, 5th in Arts/

Humanities; Future Problem Solving Team (Gwen Akers, Hannah Greene, Spencer Greene, Taylor Hamilton), 3rd place, and the Quick Recall team (Gwen Akers, Caleb Campbell, Eli Campbell, Isaac Campbell, Noah Carey, Luke Geyer, Hannah Greene, Spencer Greene, Hope Harris, Jackson Lawson, Mikayla Martin), 2nd place. Overall the team placed 2nd out of 18 schools that competed. Great job, CRS! -Ms. Hood

**Photography Club**—The CRS Photography Club is an afterschool program for 4th & 5th grade students.

Students are given an opportunity to engage in new learning experiences using digital technology where they become the directors, photo journalists, models, and designers! Every picture that a person takes captures a moment in time forever. They can serve as natural bridges for accessing, exploring, and communicating feelings and emotions. Our after school club consisted of lessons, including: Composition and Points of Interest, The Rule of Thirds, & Balance & Light. Their images portray the world as they see it while enabling them to develop skills that enhance their educational experience. Check out this photo taken by Jackson Lawson. It was a great year! -Mrs. Thacker



**Hot Diggity Dog Night**—On Thursday, May 7th, Mrs. Reinhard's harmonica classes sponsored a fund raiser to raise money for harmonicas next school year. The students from this year's classes played four songs: *Oh Susanna*, *Two Timin' Blues*, *Barbara Allen*, and *Wildwood Flower*. The Huntington Harmonica Club Band of which Mrs. Reinhard is a member also played. Everyone enjoyed a hot dog dinner and the music was awesome! -Mrs. Reinhard

**Derby Day**—On Friday, May 1, students in kindergarten through the 2nd grade studied and celebrated the Kentucky Derby in a variety of ways.

They read the book *The Mystery of the Kentucky Derby* by Carole Marsh which discussed the history and facts of the Kentucky Derby. Mrs. Amy Ledford brought in some real silks, the jacket and hat that the jockey wears. The students studied events leading up to the derby called Thunder Over Louisville which included hot air balloon and steamboat races. They learned all about horses and the layered goggles that the jockeys wear during the race. The students dressed up as if they were attending the derby by wearing fancy hats, dresses and bowties. They watched the movie *Secretariat*, one of the most famous Kentucky Derby winners, and they ate apples and carrots like the horses do and celebrated with horse cake. What a great day to celebrate and learn! -Mrs. King



**KPREP Kickoff**—Since KPREP testing was set to begin on May 4<sup>th</sup> this year's theme for testing was "May the 4<sup>th</sup> be with you!" (a Star Wars Theme). During the kickoff third grade students performed commercials for testing students reminding

them of good test taking practices. Mrs. Brillhart addressed the students to remind them of all they had accomplished this year and how it was so important for them to let their hard work pay off and really show what they know on the KPREP test. We then welcomed 4 Star Wars staff members to challenge 4 of our CRS students in a quiz bowl challenge. Trivia questions were read and answered by both sides



(however, only students answered correctly). Even with the great coaching skills of Ms. Hood, the Star Wars staff still lost the trivia challenge to the students 9-0. It was another successful kickoff, and we are very proud of our students. They worked hard to prepare for testing, and testing week was a success. It was evident that the "Force" was certainly with them. -Mrs. Brillhart

**PE & PEP**—It's been a great year in physical education at Charles Russell with all the new activities and fitness instruction that has taken place over the year with our PEP grant. Students have really enjoyed competing against each other in the fitness gram test.

-Coach Wilcox





# Ashland Middle School

The 8th grade band, under the direction of Roger Doss, received a proficient rating at KMEA Concert Band Assessment. Congratulations to Mr. Doss and the 8th grade band on an outstanding job.



A student from Mrs. Hall's science class searches through a soil sample to try to figure out the type of life forms that inhabit an unknown location. Mrs. Hall's class visited the Highland's Museum for this research project.

Ashland Middle School's Girls Volleyball team won its regional tournament. The Girls' Soccer team finished 2nd in its district tournament. The golf team placed 2nd in its Regional tournament. Cheerleading won second place in KAPOS Regional Competition. All the sports teams at AMS had very successful years. Congratulations to all of the students who participated in these efforts.

Payton Scott placed second in the Original Photo Category at the STLP State Competition at Rupp Arena. This is the second consecutive year that Payton has placed in this category. AMS' robotics team placed 12th out of 40 teams at the state level in its first attempt to compete at this level. Congratulations to Katelyn Lee, Dakota Forth, Zach Lee, Kaitlyn McLain, and Reilly McLain.

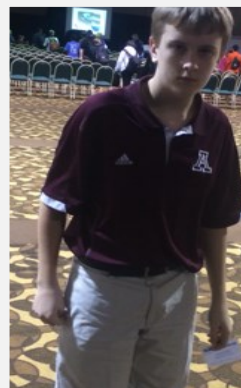
The AMS Future Problem Solving team won the district and regional competitions and advanced to state where they won 4th place. This garnered them an invitation to International competition June 10 - 14. They will compete against teams from states as far away as Alaska and multiple teams from other countries, including Canada, New Zealand, Turkey, Spain, and Singapore. Payton Scott has been nominated as Kentucky's flag bearer for the opening ceremonies. The team members are Payton Scott, Spencer Wills, Courtney Jones, Madison Graham, Kaitlyn Harvey, and Hayleigh Buckler. Good luck FPS Team and congratulations for being the first middle school team from Ashland to advance to IC! Congratulations to Mrs. Parker for your great coaching.

Mr. Bailey and Abby Campbell gathered 4256 reasons why Pete Rose should be in the hall of fame. The project has been featured in several newspapers. Mr. Bailey and Abby have been interviewed on several TV programs and radio programs.



Ashland Middle School students competed to see which team could read the most books. The Explorer's won by reading 1,888 books. The students have read 8680 books this school year.

The following students and staff have met the 20 Book Challenge for the year: Trevor Adkins, Olivia Allen, Brandon Bowman, Justin Bradley, Amaya Brewer, Logan Brown, Lindsey Caines, Abby Campbell, Christine Clarke, Julie Clere, Mackenzie Clere, Kiara Chapman, Sydney Church, Trey Coburn, Logan Coovert, Deion Cory, Gavin Couture, Rachel Craft, Alex Crisp, Nick Endicott, Abby Evans, Ben Fisher, Shelby Foutch, Austin Fowler, Georgia Greene, Mrs. Gregory, Mara Haney, Caitlyn Harvey, Casie Henry, Blake Hester, Aaron Hill, Emma Hill, J.J. Holmes, Kailin Hunter, Star Hurn, Constance Jones, Courtney Jones, Grant Kelley, Stephen Kennard, Courtney Lewis, Makiah Martinez, Kyle McComis, Tyler D. McKnight, Kaitlyn McLain, Reilly McLain, Daimon McCormack, Cameron Menefee, Ashton Menshouse, Brandon Moore, Serena Miller, Felicity Morin, Maranda Morin, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Carper, Hannah Porter, Duvaunte Robinson, Alexis Rollins, Jarrett Sanders, Payton Scott, Langley Sebastian, Callie Sexton, Olivia Short, Makayla Skeans, Will Spade, Ella Stephens, BreAnn Stevens, Reece Stevenson, Jonathan Thompson, Mrs. Van Kirk, Chloe Vanhorn, Mrs. Wallin, Alexis Watkins, Woody Watson, Shae Wells, Annie Whelan, and Spencer Wills.



Left: AMS competed at MATHCOUNTS in Louisville March 21. Photo credit: Gretchen Hill



Right: Students competed in the annual talent show at AMS.

Hannah Porter, Cayden Bennett, Payton Scott, and Emma Spade all have work displayed at the Huntington Museum of Art as part of Portfolio 2015. Their artwork was chosen as part of a 200+ piece exhibit, all from middle school and high school students from across the tri-state area. Of the over 200 pieces, Payton Scott received an Award of Recognition for her drawing.

Mare Haney and Will Spade won the bookshelves provided by the Jesse Stuart Foundation that were painted by Mr. Cory Brown and his advanced art students. Mare set the goal of reading 100 books and surpassed his goal. Will won for being the best advocate for reading at AMS. Keep up the great reading!

When the 2014-2015 school year ends, this will signal a new day at Ashland Middle School. The construction will be completed this summer, and the 6th graders will join the middle school student body. AMS will also be welcoming several new staff members. Everyone is excited to start the new school year at AMS.

# Paul Blazer High School



Family Career and Community Leaders of America member Lesley Phillips ran for 1 of 10 offices on the state level. She and 13 other FCCLA members from across the state participated in a 3 day process of interviews, on-stage speeches, an etiquette luncheon, and a FCCLA knowledge test to be named to an office. The process took place during the Kentucky FCCLA state meeting held in

Louisville March 29-April 1, 2015. Lesley Phillips was elected the 2015-2016 Kentucky FCCLA VP of Finance. Gabby Ingram is the outgoing VP of Finance.

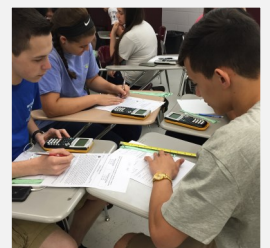
21 March 2015, 55 cadets from Paul Blazer High School JROTC along with 350 cadets from other local high schools, Boyd County, Lawrence County, Greenup County, and Russell High School, attended the annual Joint Service Military Ball at the National Guard Armory here in Ashland. Each year a different school hosts the military ball with locations varying from the National Guard Armory to the sponsoring school's location. The ball consists of a formal walk, Prisoner of War ceremony, and the regular military customs and courtesies conducted at an active duty Military Ball. All cadets enjoy the activities immensely and comment that it is their favorite high school dance.

The Blazer Band received a Superior( Distinguished) rating at the National Adjudicators Invitational in St. Louis, MO, on April 18. The Blazer Band received a Distinguished rating at the KMEA Concert Band Assessment in Morehead on April 24. The Blazer Jazz Band received a Distinguished rating at the KMEA State Jazz Assessment in Lexington on May 9. 8 of the Blazer Band's 19 seniors will be majoring in music education or music performance this fall at various universities throughout the state.

The HRC Talent Show returned to the Blazer landscape after being cancelled in 2014 due to lost weather days. The auditions were held the week before the show, and a roster of very talented performers was named to perform. Most of the acts were singers, but there were unique performers, too. Wren Jenkins played piano, Hunter Maynard performed a harmonica solo, and Grace Wilson danced an original choreography. Crowd favorites included well-known Blazer bass singer Danny McGraw and the debut solo performance of Savion Bacon. Micah Menshouse, Courtney Rodman, Sierra Stanley, Grace Wilson and the Blazer Choir also sang. The winners were—3rd place-Grace Wilson, 2nd place-Danny McGraw, 1st place-Sierra Stanley.

Blazer's Concert Choir received straight Distinguished ratings from all judges at today's KMEA's Large Ensemble Assessment Festival in Mt. Sterling, KY. In addition, they received a PERFECT score on its sight singing assessment.

Algebra 3 students used measurement and algebraic equations to find the most likely missing person by using fictitious bones from a crime scene, a measuring tape, and equations to predict possible "victim" heights from the tibia, humerus, and radius bones found at the crime scene. This was the culminating activity for the students' measurement unit.



In culinary class tiki treats and coffee treats photos were part of our Cupcake Wars Competition. Tiki treats won first place – Michaela Lewis and Gabby Ingram. Coffee treats won second place – Whitney Rudie and Kaylee Robinson.



The cakes were decorated as part of Culinary 2. Each student designed and made his/her own cake. Baseball cake was made by Casey Clark. Pink Bow cake was made by Bailey Bolner.

The following students were inducted into Blazer High School's chapter of the International Thespian Society. ITS is an international honor society that requires both academic achievement and commitment to excellence in theatre. Courtney Castle, Breanna Cole, Ashby Lee Foutch, Courtney Gamble, Landon Hale, Aaron Lewis, Haven Scaff, Emily Shay, Brandace Walker, Hailey Whitehead, Raegan Williams



These eleven join current members: Elizabeth Ellison, Marshall Heath, Maya McKenzie, Elshadai Smith -Mensah. Also, current member and secretary ElShadai Smith-Mensah was voted Outstanding Theatre Arts Society member and Brandace Walker received the Brittany Nicole Nunley Memorial Theatre Scholarship.



Congratulations to the winners of the Marshall SCORES Academic Festival.

**Comm. Disorders Essay** Halley Gamble – 2<sup>nd</sup> place

**Dietetics Obesity Essay** Morgan Scherer - 3<sup>rd</sup> place

**School of Nursing Essay** Megan Evans – 2<sup>nd</sup> place Molly Whaley – 3<sup>rd</sup> place

**Social Work Exam** Chayse Roar - 3<sup>rd</sup> place

**Music – Strings** Olivia Black - 2<sup>nd</sup> place Amy Moore – 3<sup>rd</sup> place

**Music – Piano** Amy Moore – 3<sup>rd</sup> place

**Military Map Reading** Team of Jessica Triplett & Keeston Clark – 3<sup>rd</sup> place

**Cell Biology & Genetics** Britta Dalton – 1<sup>st</sup> place Nikki Doss – 2<sup>nd</sup> place Shelby Conley – 3<sup>rd</sup> place

**Chemistry** Hannah DePriest – 2<sup>nd</sup> place

**General Biology** Wren Jenkins – 3<sup>rd</sup> place

**Math A** Zach Stafford – 1<sup>st</sup> place

**Math B** Cameron Garner – 1<sup>st</sup> place Jonathon Dingess – 3<sup>rd</sup> place

**Web Programming** Jonathon Dingess – 2<sup>nd</sup> place

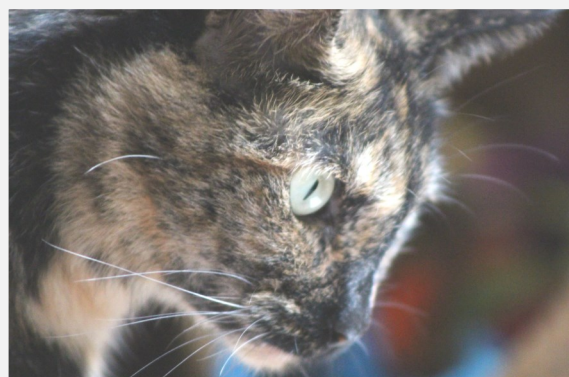


The Paul G. Blazer High School Chapter of The National Beta Club held its annual induction ceremony on Wednesday, April 15, 2015. The motto of the National Beta Club is “Let us lead by serving others.” Students must maintain a 3.2 or higher grade point average to remain a member of Beta Club. They must also complete 15 hours of community service each year. The 2015 inductees were Derrek Baer, Quinton Baker, Molly Baldock, Rachel Barber, Reilly Barker, Bryce Bentley, Danielle Boggs, Dan Busch, Trey Caines, Sidney Campbell, Will Carroll, Zhonna Carter, Samantha Cleary, Tori Cole, Shelby Conley, Tanner Conley, Hunter Copley, Britta Dalton, Hannah DePriest, Nicole Doss, Tate Dowdy, Jamie Downey, Rebekah England, Emily Evans, Ashlby Fouthch, Will Frye, Madeline Garner, Casey Goldey, Harrison Hall, Kaitlyn Hall, Savannah Hammond, Myrna Hill, Emily Hollingsworth, Annie Huff, Jessica Hunley, Makayla Hush, Evan Jones, Tiffany Kiwabonga, Nikki Kumar, Hannah Layne, Sydney Little, Dillon Lucas, Bethany McDowell, Koriah McIntyre, Cassandra Menshouse, Mycah Miller, Selena Miller, Emilee Mitchell, Cameron Moore, Megan Murphey, Riley Neill, Kenzie Pennington, Laken Prince, Madison Ratliff, Hannah Reese, McKenzie Blake Rogers, Ally Sparks, Katlyn Spinda, Jacob Tackett, Haley Thompson, Alaina Thornburg, Madeline Tipton, Wes Whelan, Raegan Williams, and Sierra Williams.



### Fitness Testing at Crabbe a Success!

In compliance with the PEP Grant this year, we have included the use of the Fitness Gram program to test our students' physical abilities. These tests were conducted 3 times throughout the school year, both to show growth and to continually assess their current performance levels. Crabbe Elementary students were eager to improve their physical abilities and the results showed. Out of our 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, we had 49 students that completed the Presidential Youth Fitness Award, which is given to any student that performs within the Healthy Fitness Zone in either 5 or 6 of the 6 total areas of fitness that were tested. These tests included aerobic capacity, strength and endurance, flexibility, and body mass index. All parents will receive a report of their child's fitness testing scores which will be sent home with the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report cards. We are proud to know that our students are beginning to take the initiative to improve their overall health and now many of them will be awarded for their efforts! Congratulations!



Award winning original photo taken by Payton Scott, and 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Ashland Middle School.

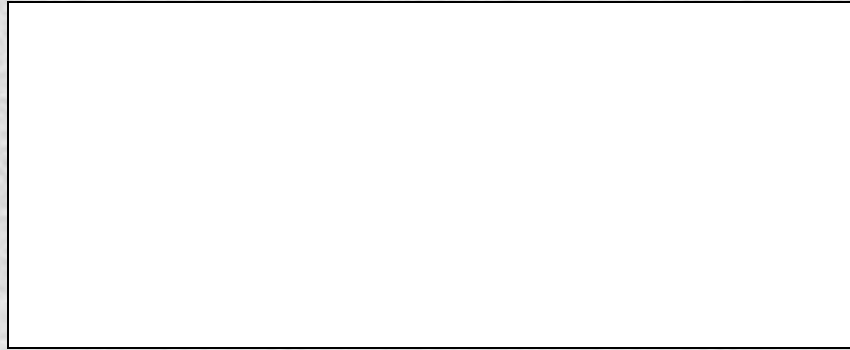


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Derek Runyon, Blazer High School  
David Greene, Verity Middle School  
Brad Greene, Crabbe Elementary School  
Phillip Caudill, Hager Elementary School  
Rebecca Howell, Oakview Elementary School  
Jamie Lester, Poage Elementary School  
Steve Salyers,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

## **Central Office Personnel**

Steve Gilmore, Superintendent  
Linda Calhoun, Instructional Supervisor  
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



*Congratulations class of 2015!*

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