

Tomcat Today

Ashland Independent School District Newsletter





Greetings,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday! It is my hope that this break provided you an opportunity to focus on family and make memories that will last. As we embark upon the 3rd nine weeks of school, we will undoubtedly be confronted with inclement weather and all of the challenges that come as a result. I continue to challenge our students, our administrators, and staff to remain focused on our day-to-day responsibilities. For many students, this grading period can be the most dreadful of all but recognizing the “big picture” should help in pushing ourselves to the very end. For sure, once spring has introduced itself in March, the remainder of the school year seems to come and go rather quickly. Again, I appreciate our building level administrators, their respective staffs, central office personnel, our auxiliary staff, and community for their efforts in working together to make the Ashland school experience truly exceptional.

Sincerely,

D. Sean Howard
Superintendent

January

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January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

February 17 - Flexible Professional Development Day - No School

March 10 - End of 3rd 9-Weeks Grading Period

The Ashland Blazer Youth Services Center capped off this semester with Thanksgiving basket donations and our annual Cash & Coins program. Our staff and students donated 30 Thanksgiving baskets to Blazer families and the Cash & Coins program set a record high this year with \$6,095.35 in donations. I cannot begin to thank the staff and students at Blazer enough for their kindness and generosity. Through these programs, we were able to provide food baskets and Christmas gifts to families right here at Blazer. Thank you to each person that has assisted the YSC this semester. I look forward to continuing to work with each of you to make a difference in the lives of our students.

Pictured Right: Thanksgiving Baskets and the Cash and Coins trophy awarded to Mr. Lambert.



PAUL G. BLAZER HIGH SCHOOL



HAPPY NEW YEAR! With the holidays behind us, now we spend our cold mornings looking to new beginnings and the hope of spring. Our students are coming back to campus with a renewed energy and an excitement to see their friends again. Of course, our students are starting to realize that we are coming down the home stretch, and that before too long we will be at the stadium practicing for graduation. Time moves too fast! No matter what the grade...time moves too fast.

With this 2020 year beginning, it is time to renew our focus on what we are doing in the classroom and all around campus. Each one of our teachers is looking for ways to engage our students to be the best that they can be. Our job is to provide an education that ensures our children have a successful transition. Sometimes that means we need to do new and innovative things to prepare your child for our ever evolving world. In other instances, we need to do the same things, the same

ways, as those methods have proven to be successful time and time again.

No matter what is needed, the backbone of that process is the teacher in the classroom. Each year I encourage our teachers to reach out to students, engage with them, and provide positive feedback and encouragement as they progress through the school year. You don't need research to tell you that lifting someone up, giving them a pat on the back, or letting them know you appreciate them helps to foster success and a positive culture. With that, I ask if you see a teacher, thank them for what they do in the classroom- Thank them for working late, supporting your kids, and refining their craft to ensure they are able to create a positive and supportive culture for your child. After all, WE ARE ASHLAND!

Jamie Campbell

Tri-State Talent

Some of #BlazersBest students have recently been auditioning and performing on main stages within our Tri-State. (L to R) Olivia Connolly, Mackenzie Clere, Adrianna Riggs, Calvin Riggs and Matthew Boyles have all auditioned and were selected to be a part of the Marshall Orchestra. They have now performed twice at Marshall University's Smith Hall. This is just another example of the hard work and determination that these students have put into a flagship program here at Blazer. Molly Page leads these talented students each day. Her determination to see this program thrive is unmatched. Congratulations to these students who are continuing to show that world that the best students perform at Blazer!



Upcoming Events

January 23-24

"You Can't Beat the House"
School Drama Production

January 25

Academic Team
District Competition

February 1

Strings "Coffee House" Night

February 1

Father/Daughter Dance



Mark McDowell
Safety and Security

From a decorated Ashland Police officer, to a trusted face on the Safety Patrol trip, to now a vital member to the safety and security of your children on campus, Mark McDowell is a man of many talents. Mark came to us last year after retiring from APD to be a member of our security and safety team here at Blazer. Each morning Mark

continues to ensure that our students and staff are in a safe and secure location. He is constantly moving around campus looking for safety issues that need to be corrected and is often found in the hallways or on the sidewalks smiling and talking with students. His presence on campus makes our campus not only a safe location but an inviting one also. This is vital to the culture and well-being of our campus as a whole.

Mr. McDowell also teaches an elective class for us focusing on law enforcement. This elective is designed to serve as an introduction for those students that are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement or a law enforcement field. Students love his class and it is a class many students seek to fit into their schedule. His utilization of field trips and community stakeholders have provided his students with a fascinating insight into the world of law enforcement.

If that wasn't enough, Mark is a self-proclaimed "barista," solely in charge of the coffee in the office. He loves to mix coffee, grind beans, and ensure that everyone is satisfied with today's blend. He is, without doubt, a man of many talents.

ASHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL



So far, the 2019-2020 school year has been exceptional. I am so proud of all we've accomplished during the first semester, and there is so much potential for the second half of the year. As we continue to set goals and pursue a growth mindset, I know that every student and every staff member will finish the year better than we started.

I am so proud of the many opportunities our students are given at AMS. Our award-winning music department is second to none. If you did not have the opportunity to take in our winter concerts, make sure you are on the lookout for the concerts coming up this spring.

Go Cats!
David Greene



Ashland Youth Service Center (AYSC)

The Family Resource Youth Service Center mission is to enhance student's ability to succeed in school by developing and sustaining partnerships that promote early learning and successful transition to school, academic achievement and well-being, and graduation and transition into adult life. The goal of the Ashland Youth Service Center is to remove as many barriers as possible from a student's life in order to give them the best chance to succeed – whatever it takes!

At 539 student contacts per month, we are up over 50% from last year. Those contacts cover a wide range of services from providing school supplies and clothing, to making counseling referrals, transporting parents to school appointments, taking part in parent teacher conferences, and doing home visits to see how we can help with attendance issues.

The AYSC Coordinator attends community meetings monthly to maintain partnerships that help AYSC help our students and their families. These partnerships include *Friends Of the Children* and *Shoes That Fit*. We receive clothing donations from many individuals in our community to take care of emergency clothing and shoe needs for students every day.

We bring in programs for our students, such as Unite's *On The Move* that use many novel ways to educate students on the dangers of drug and alcohol use. Dr. Ehrie's Vaping Program teaches them the emerging dangers of vaping and juuling. *COSI On Wheels* shows students how the math and science they are learning in class relates to the real world in hopes of sparking their interests in careers. We also work with 4-H and the Boyd County Extension office to present *Reality Store* to our 8th grade students. It demonstrates how GPA can affect their job choices, which affects their income, and watch as they attempt to use that income to cover all of the expenses that life will throw at them.

Each weekend we send Backpack Blessings home with students. These bags contain extra food to help them get through the weekend. Food is provided by South Ashland United Methodist Church and Ashland First Church of the Nazarene.

AYSC works to be involved in all aspects of AMS in order to support our students in every way that we can. As much as is listed above there is so much more. The AYSC staff feels blessed to work with administrators, teachers, and especially our students.

Upcoming Events

January

- 15 - Club Day
- 18 - District Governor's Cup Competition
- 31 - Superhero Pep Rally

February

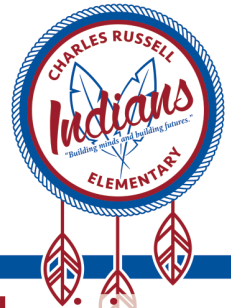
- 1 - Regional Governor's Cup Competition
- 15 - MathCounts Chapter Competition at ACTC
- 28 - Superhero Pep Rally



Front Office Staff

The unsung heroes of AMS. Barbie Scites, Missy Miller, Nikie Clark, and Linda Stewart. Thank you for everything! We couldn't do it without you!

CHARLES RUSSELL ELEMENTARY



As the second semester begins to get underway, I wanted to share how proud I am of the academic growth our students demonstrated over the first half of the year. It takes a great deal of support from everyone involved in our students' lives for this to happen, but none more than the dedicated instruction that our teachers

provide at Charles Russell on a daily basis. I am very proud to work with the incredible faculty and staff of this school and look forward to an exciting second semester! Be on the lookout for information regarding our Family Dinner Nights Out and a Family Reading Night sometime in January-February, as well as our Kindness Fundraiser which should occur sometime before March.

Shawn Thornbury, Ed.D.
Principal



Dwight Walters
Teacher

This month, we are excited to introduce

another one of our new teachers, Mr. Dwight Walters. Mr. Walters is already having a big impact on student learning in the short time that he has been with us. Mr. Walters has also created "Morning Math Boot Camp" (MMBC), a program where students can come to the computer lab before school starts to improve their individual math skills. Students have the opportunity to earn military style ranks through their hard work, which they proudly demonstrate on their "dog tags." A student's performance can also give them a chance to earn prizes as he masters math skills. Classroom teachers have been very quick to notice the improvements the students are making. Second grade teacher, Mrs. Kerry Bocook, noted that her students look forward to working with him each day. First grade teacher, Lisa Schirtzinger, shared that her MMBC students are becoming "independent problem solvers." Mr. Walters has been the perfect addition our Charles Russell family!



An Evening for Thanksgiving and Celebration:

On November 21st, the entire Charles Russell Elementary School community came together for a night of Thanksgiving and Celebration. Over 215 students, parents, faculty and staff (along with their families) came together and had a traditional Thanksgiving dinner provided by the school and served by our outstanding cafeteria staff. It was not only a great time for the entire community to come together and give thanks for the amazing staff and family support that our students receive at Charles Russell, but also a time to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students and faculty. Parent and teacher, Jennifer Foster, noted that "the wonderful turnout for our first community Thanksgiving is a reflection on the relationships we have been able to establish. It was a great evening to be able to share the successes that have been made inside and outside of the classroom." Midway through the dinner, current students were awarded medals for their Distinguished and Proficient scores on last year's state accountability testing. Our entire school community has much to be proud of and for which to be thankful, and as teacher Mike Brown shared, "it was incredible to see the Tribe Pride on the faces of everyone as we gathered to have a meal and celebrate the advancement of our school!"



Robotics

The Charles Russell Techno Wizards (Ryan Brogdon, Eli Foster, Mason Hamilton, Logan Kincer, Ben Lynch and Jude Triplett; coached by Mike Brown and Dawn Geyer) competed in their first Robotics Competition of the year at ACTC's First Lego League (FLL) Regional Tournament on December 6th. The problem that our team decided to solve was: "Students do not get outside recess when there is bad weather." The team researched and found that students are more attentive in class, healthier, socially and emotionally stable, and develop coping and leadership skills during free play at recess. Great Job, Techno Wizards and coaches!



Upcoming Events

January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School
February 8 - Professional Development - No School

CRABBE ELEMENTARY



It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the 2019-2020 school year. Here at Crabbe, our staff and scholars continue to work hard and are performing at higher levels. This growth is evident in our MAP and STAR assessments in both reading and math. This month

we are beginning the process of creating curriculum maps to use each year, continuing with Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and implementing other exciting ideas. With all of these strategies in place, we will continue striving to reach our goals toward proficiency. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!

#Itsatigerthing

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

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

Scholar Damian Sammons



Damian entered the KFC Kids Design an AD contest. His creativity earned him the winning entry. He brought home some cool prizes for himself and scored lunch for the entire class!

Great Job, Damian!

4th and 5th Grade Basketball

For the first time in the twenty- six year history of the Holy Family Pre-Season Tournament, Crabbe Elementary boys went undefeated and took home the trophy. We are not only a team, but a family. The skills we teach will prepare them both on the court and in everyday life. We are extremely proud of the hardwork our "scholar ballers" are putting forth. Congratulations, Ballers!



Tiffany Looney
Library Media Specialist

We welcome Mrs. Looney to the Crabbe

Family. This is her 19th year in education; she has taught all grade levels from K-12. Mrs. Looney has held a variety of positions in the classroom before becoming Library Media Specialist. She has served as Literacy and RTI Consultant in twenty one Kentucky school districts and is certified in School Administration. Mrs. Looney loves all of her scholars at Crabbe and is excited to watch them grow as readers! When she's not in the library, Mrs. Looney enjoys shopping, church activities, and watching baseball! Most of all, she enjoys spending time with her husband, her daughter who's in college, and watching her two teenage boys play baseball and tennis.

Upcoming Events

January

24 - ACTC Science Fair
27 - SBDM Meeting
27 - PBIS Assembly

March

Literacy Night/
Dr. Seuss Celebration
*Date to be determined

February

Black History Night
*Date to be determined

Kona Ice Days

January 28
February 25

HAGER ELEMENTARY



As we begin a new calendar year, I'd like to reflect on how grateful and blessed we are at Hager Elementary School. Many of our parents, guardians, and community members have supported all that we have attempted to do for the benefit of our

students. Several of you have given time and money in order to support the various activities and needs of our students. Whether it be coaching, donating money for Thanksgiving baskets, contributing to the Giving Tree, helping raise money for the water bottle filler project, or providing non-perishable items for our Food Feud. As Hager's principal, I am truly indebted to all of our staff, faculty, parents/guardians, and community members for continually giving us the opportunity to ensure that students get the best education we can provide. I look forward to another year of being able to change lives and make a difference.

Phillip Caudill



Library Spotlight With Mrs. Price

Reading is a priority for the

students at Hager Elementary. As the library media specialist, I believe it is my responsibility to promote reading as a foundational skill for learning, personal growth, and enjoyment. I began a variety of reading challenges this past year to make reading a fun adventure for the students. As a result, the students were able to earn over 35,000 AR points setting big goals and completing these challenges. They were thrilled to tape Mr. Caudill to the wall, slime their teachers, and cover their principal in ice cream sundae toppings as a reward for achieving their goals. I have enjoyed getting to know my students as readers and motivating them to read. My ultimate goal, however, is that I will cultivate a love of reading that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. I look forward to what this year will bring for my favorite wildcat Readers.

Missing School = Missing Out

Students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve at higher levels than those who do not have regular attendance. This relationship between attendance and achievement is evident early in a child's school career. Research shows that attendance is an important factor in student achievement. Hager Elementary School won the district attendance banner for the 2018-2019 school year with an attendance rate of 95.79%. This year, Hager has won the attendance banner for the months of August, October, and November. Hager's overall attendance rate for this school year is 96.88%. We continue to strive to have the best attendance in the district.



Wax Museum...TAKE 2

If you've never been to The Wax Museum, you're in for a treat! Mrs. Lewis hosted Hager's 2nd annual wax museum in December. All of the kids are in costumes portraying well-known historical figures as they stand in front of their display boards still as can be. Wax Museum visitors, parents and the other kids from our school, walk around visiting the famous people. At each station, they listen to the child actor tell them a little bit about his/her life and why he/she is important. Students first choose a famous person, conduct research and take notes. They gather pictures, make their display board, memorize a speech, gather a costume, and present on Wax Museum Day. This is a creative and memorable way to integrate social studies with reading and writing. Our Wax Museum Day was December 18th. Please check out our Facebook page for a video of all students portraying a famous person.

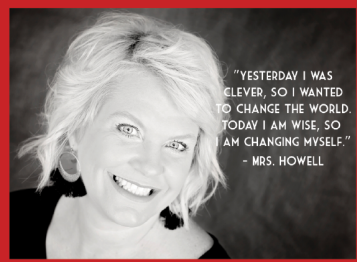


Upcoming Events

1/9 - Character Cat Reward
1/13 - Academic Meet at Poage
1/15 - Science Fair (4th Grade)

1/16 - Character Cat Reward
1/27 - Academic Meet at Fairview

OAKVIEW ELEMENTARY



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

Happy New Year everyone and welcome back to school. I hope everyone had a relaxing Christmas break and spent much time with loved ones. It's hard

to believe that half of this school year is over. Your kids have been working very hard. At Oakview we are continuously looking for ways to improve. We have put much time and effort into new ways to engage our students in learning. Hopefully your kiddos have told you about some really cool things happening at school. We are committed to making sure EVERY child reaches their fullest potential. We remain focused on our goal of becoming a 5 Star School. As always, we believe Ashland's Future Starts Here!

#HouseofComets
#FourHousesOneFamily

Rebecca Howell, Ed.S
Principal

Student Spotlight: Kylie and Jace

We have some amazing students at Oakview Elementary. We'd like to give a special shout-out to 4th graders Kylie and Jace. They scored 1st place in **both** of their Academic Team testing areas for the whole Ashland Independent School District!



Boys in the Good Club

Oakview's *Boys in the Good Club* is off to a fantastic start! They meet once a week and discuss traits of being an outstanding man. The boys recently helped organize the Thanksgiving food drive at Oakview.



A Trip to Candy Land

Mrs. Sammons' and Mrs. Fletcher's kindergarten classes were excited to learn about letters and sounds while taking a trip to Candy Land. The teachers did a room transformation for the lesson. This is one of many creative strategies used to increase student engagement in learning.



Kerri Thornburg
Assistant Principal

Oakview would like for you to meet Ms. Kerri. She is transitioning into her new role as our Assistant Principal this year. We are so happy she is a part of our team!

Upcoming Events

January 6 - SBDM

January 30 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

POAGE ELEMENTARY



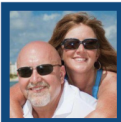
We have completed half a year already! That is hard to believe. We are so blessed at Poage with great students, staffs, and families. We will be hitting the ground running this January to prepare for our upcoming round of MAP testing as well as our

KPREP testing this spring. Our students and their education are always our first priority, so we are looking forward to this next half of the year!

Please remember, your child's attendance at school is so important. Please make sure your child arrives on time to school and attempt to make routine doctor appointments after school hours. Of course we understand if your child is running a fever or they are sick, we want them to stay home and get better. You are allowed to use 5 parent notes a year to excuse absences/tardies. Any occurrence after that requires a doctor's note.

#pioneerpride

Katie Holbrook
Principal



Mrs. Moore
Kindergarten Teacher

Betsy Moore is a Kindergarten teacher at

Poage. This is her 27th year teaching. She is also the site manager for our 21st Century program. Betsy works extremely hard for our students during and after the school day!! Betsy is married to Larry Moore and has 2 daughters, Amanda and Lara.

Upcoming Events

January 8 - Kona Day
January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School
February 5 - Kona Day

Student Shout-Out

In October, KFC hosted a contest at Poage to design an ad. Eli Adams won the contest and was treated to many prizes, including chicken for his whole class! Congratulations, Eli!



Student Solutions

Poage's Lego Team presented to Mayor Gilmore and to the Ashland City Commissioners about their solution to protect the Port of Ashland. Their suggestion is to use funds from the new volunteer recycling program to put safety measures around the new statues at the river. The Mayor presented each Lego Team member with the new Ashland City Christmas Ornament as a token of appreciation.



ASHLAND EARLY EXCEPTIONAL CHILDHOOD CENTER



It so hard to believe that we are already halfway through our school year here at Ashland Exceptional Early Childhood Center. We have just completed our Fall Baseline Assessment, allowing us to analyze our school readiness and set our program's goals in the areas of Social-Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy, and Mathematics. Our staff will continue to encourage school readiness skills for all of our students. We are looking forward to seeing all of their gains by the end of the school year.

We are very fortunate to have an IECE certified teacher in every classroom at our center. In addition, we have amazing support staff that enable us to do the things that are imperative for the success of our children and their families.

We have been quite busy so far this year with several different family fun activities. We had a very successful Fall Festival with 18 of our community partners and lots of activities that our students and their families enjoyed. We also celebrated our wonderful grandparents and made sure we showed them how important of a role they play in our lives.

We capped off the first part of our school year with our annual Christmas Program. Our ever increasing preschool family has led us to move our program to a new location at Blazer. This ever increasing preschool community is a good problem to have. We would like to thank AHS for allowing us to use their gym to host this year's program.

We are looking forward to some exciting things yet to come at AEECC. In January we will be introducing our new Parent Curriculum which has been funded by our PNC *Grow Up Great Grant*. We have some fun family activities planned for the upcoming year. Please continue to follow us on Facebook to stay in the know.



Bernice Henry
Community Coordinator

Bernice Henry has worked for the Ashland School

District for the past 31 years. The wealth of knowledge that she has provided regarding the Ashland Community and the resources that our community is able to offer families is irreplaceable. We would like to thank Mrs. Henry for her years of dedication to our early childhood program and for the abundance of knowledge that she has shared with all of us both professionally and personally. We love you Bernice Henry.



Rachel Braham
Education/Disabilities Coordinator

Rachel Braham is retiring this January after 29

years of teaching. Rachel has contributed a great deal to our Early Childhood program and we will greatly miss her knowledge of special education and her love for all our children here at AEECC. She plans to enjoy her two grandchildren and her wonderful family during her retirement. We wish Rachel the best of luck in her new adventure.



Upcoming Events

January 6 - SBDM

January 30 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

C.A.T.S. ACADEMY



The students in the C.A.T.S. Program have had a busy fall. Our 3rd graders have been creating Geometry Notebooks. These notebooks have activities having to do with lines, points, rays, and angles. Students have learned to measure and identify angles with a protractor. They have made "Geometry Cootie Catchers" to drill their friends on the definitions they have learned. In science, students have learned how to collect data in the Inclined Marble Investigation. They have also learned to graph their data with a Smarties graphing activity. Students have begun a study of the universe with a Solar System Scavenger Hunt. In addition, they are improving in logic and Sudoku puzzles.



Our 4th through 7th graders have begun their national and international challenges. Each grade participates in the Wordmaster Challenge. This is a vocabulary test in which students look up and learn twenty-five complex terms. They are then challenged on these terms in the form of an analogy quiz. This examination will be taken three times this year. Also, students have taken the first of five Math Olympiads. These thirty-minute tests are made up of five logical reasoning math questions. Students' scores will be entered on both tests. At the end of the year, we will find out how our students placed.

4th grade C.A.T.S. students have been investigating water displacement and the density of water. We have also learned the relationship between mass and volume. In math, students have done several activities involving multiplying and dividing with powers of ten. We made a foldable, played "I Have Who Has" and made a Thanksgiving Mystery Picture. Students created a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast three stories. Of course, we continue to work on more difficult logic and sudoku puzzles.



5th graders have mastered Central Tendency-mean, median, mode and range. We used a Skittles activity along with Kangaroo Data Analysis and a Maze to learn about Central Tendency. The students enjoyed an Escape Room on central tendency. Students learned about graphing in the four quadrants and made a mystery picture. In science, students learned about experimental design and set up their own experiments. They learned about acids and bases and used litmus paper to test several liquids to determine their acidity. We are studying about the states of matter and are acting out properties of each. Students continue to do logic puzzles and read classic stories such as "Charles," by Shirley Jackson.

The 6th and 7th graders enjoyed learning about opportunities at both ACTC campuses. We observed labs from the nursing program, surgical tech, computer networking, and several vocational and technical programs in addition to learning about opportunities to earn dual credits as students at Paul Blazer. These classes have learned about the slope of a line and how to determine slope. They have used molecular kits to make models for other students to identify. We have had lessons on functions and used this knowledge to successfully Escape the Classroom. They have learned about falling objects and put this to use by designing a container to protect a raw egg dropped from the second story. Students know how to manipulate literal equations and they discovered the formulas for interior angles of polygons.



JROTC TOMCAT BATTALION



There are many opportunities in Ashland JROTC. If you are a part of our program you get to experience some things that other people don't! Even if the military career isn't the path you intend to take, there is still much benefit to be gained by taking part in the exciting military based events in which we participate. One of many exciting activities in which our battalion participates is the Cadet Leadership Challenge. The cadets spend one week at the Bluegrass Army Depot participating in activities that challenge them. While there, they have the opportunity to rappel off of a tower and do teamwork activities with our school and other Army districts around the state. Our Color Guard team performs not only at our local football and basketball games, but has also represented Ashland at Great American Ballpark, where they presented the colors for the Cincinnati Reds baseball games.

Another event we proudly host is the Military Ball. This is a formal event where we invite other local JROTC programs for dinner, dancing, and fun at no cost to the cadets. For the civic minded, this program offers many opportunities to serve your community such as the ringing of the Salvation Army bells and firing the cannon at Putnam Stadium on Friday nights.



Ladycats Finish Best Season In School History

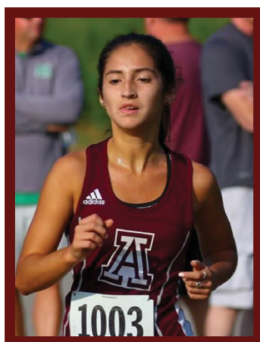
The Ashland Ladycats started the season strong and never looked back. Under the leadership of first-year Head Coach John Cook, the Ladycats won a program record 20 games, earning them a final Top 10 ranking in the state. They were the only school in the state to finish with one loss, which came in the State Final Four to Greenwood, the eventual state champion. Led by six seniors, all with college offers to continue their soccer careers, the Ladycats put together win streaks of 7, 8, and 5, only broken up by two draws. Prior to this season, their most recent district championship, region championship and state tournament appearance had been 2012.

Along with the records set by the team as a whole, multiple individual players were recognized as well. All eleven starters were named to the All 16th Region Team as First Team, Second Team, or Honorable Mention. The 16th Region All-Tournament team included MVP Abby Huff, Morgan Bradley, Mimi Moore and Mikayla Martin. Abby Huff was named All Area Player of the Year, with nine more of her teammates also being named to the All Area Team. Abby also received All State First Team honors, with Kaitlin and Reilley McLain earning Honorable Mention. Abby and Clare Huff were also named to the State All-Tournament Team.

Abby Huff also broke the Ashland girl's record for goals in a season (66) and goals in a career (164). She finished second in the state for top scorers. Sophomore and first-year goalkeeper Mikayla Martin finished 14th in the state with nine shut-outs. The defense finished in the top 20 in the state for goals allowed, averaging just over one per game. Additionally, Coach John Cook was named Small Public School Coach of the Year.



No Finish Line In Sight



Rebekah Howard transferred to Blazer from Glasgow HS her freshman year already having won two Regional Cross-Country titles. Under the guidance of Ashland Coaches Philip Caudill and Chris Bruner, she added two more titles. Bekah has been named an All-State Cross-Country performer for the last six years. Ending her senior year on a high note, she finished as the Class AA State Runner-Up.

Although running is her passion, she is also very involved in other extra-curricular activities. Bekah was a Governor's Scholar as well as a participant in Morehead States' Space Camp. She also competed on Blazer's Mock Trial team and is a member of the National Honor Society and the Blazer cheerleading squad.

Bekah was recruited by thirteen Division 1 schools. After meeting with many coaches and teams, she has decided to join the Buccaneers at East Tennessee State University.

Congratulations, Rebekah! Thank you for representing Paul G. Blazer as one of the state's top distance runners.

Plenty of Drive

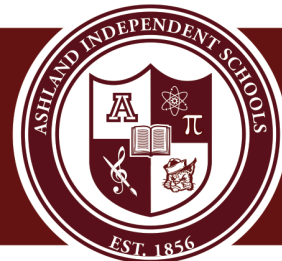
Junior, Kate Hanni, turned in another solid high school golf season. For the second straight year, she earned 1st-Team All-State Honors, based on points. She was Ashland's first Regional Medalist since 1999, and the first Ashland golfer to earn multiple All-State Honors and to record a State Tournament Top-10 (8th in 2018 & 2019). In addition, this was Kate's 4th State Tournament appearance, making the 2-day cut each year, her 1st as an 8th-grader.



For the High School season, Kate played 16 tournament rounds with a scoring average of 74.6. She had 4 rounds at even par, and 2 rounds under par. Her low score of the season was a -2, 70, at the Lexington Catholic Invitational. Kate qualified for the first ever KGCA All-State Tournament at the University Club in Lexington, finishing with a two-day total of +2, 2 strokes behind the leaders. Prior to the high school season, she played in three AJGA events (winning the Justin Thomas Qualifier), the Golfweek Tour Championship, the Women's Western Junior, the USGA Girls Am Qualifier, and The Miley.

In addition, Kate raised \$3,817 for the Giving Tree, and the Ashland and Russell Backpack Programs, through her fundraiser, Birdies "Fore" Bucks. She has raised over \$10,000 for these charities over the past three years.

Once a Tomcat...



Officer **William D. Hensley ('87)** is another alumni we can be proud to call a Tomcat. Mr. Hensley was an Oakview Comet before attending Coles Jr. High. It changed to Putnam Junior High School before he moved up to Blazer, where he graduated in 1987. He received his Post-Secondary training at Georgia Southern University, earning his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. Hensley followed that up with a Graduate Certificate in Criminal Justice Education from the University of Virginia, then completed his Master of Science in Legal Studies at California University of Pennsylvania, all in preparation to become our Boyd County Jailer.

Officer Hensley's fondest memories are of times spent with classmates building friendships that exist still today. Another remnant of his schooling that has stood the test of time is his fascination with history. His interest was peaked by Mr. Trabant's History class, "My strong love for history started because of his ability to make history interactive."

Mr. Hensley feels he went into his collegiate career well prepared to tackle the challenges he faced, "AISD gave me the fundamental tools I needed to succeed, and it was up to me to put in the work and effort to achieve my goals." He is grateful that AISD was able to provide the highest level of academic education while maintaining a tight knit, community focused environment.

He would like to advise students on the importance of courage and compassion, "To be a true success you need to have the moral courage to do the right thing. Doing the right thing is seldom the easiest and often not the popular choice, that is why it takes courage. It seems that our society puts a lot of stock in physical courage, which is an important and valiant trait; however, when you ask people who their personal hero is, it is not someone who was their hero because of some physical feat, but the father, mother, grandparent, teacher, or coach who displayed integrity, or moral courage. Everyone wants to be a superhero these days and change the world. No one had a greater impact on this world than Jesus Christ. He is the example of moral courage, an example we can all strive to emulate. Along with courage, you need compassion. The compassion to understand we all have, and will, make mistakes. Compassion does not mean you have to accept evil or wrong doing; however, when someone is in a vulnerable state, true compassion is offering as much kindness and empathy as you can."

Officer Hensley is proud to serve the community. Following in his father's footsteps, he has also dedicated over twenty years serving in the Ashland Police Department. What means most to him, however, was being entrusted by his community with his election as Boyd County Jailer; "To have your fellow community members validate you in such a way and say, "We trust you," is the highlight of my career."

Officer Hensley appreciates that "Tomcat is community;all facets of the community work hand in hand with AISD." He values that this partnership between the schools and their surrounding community has allowed for many unique opportunities for our students, such as the yearly 5th grade School Patrol trip to Washington, DC, the middle school's national recognition for their invention in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow challenge, and the proud and excited roar heard of the Putnam Stadium crowd that can be heard from miles away. "I am proud to be a Tomcat because I am proud of the legacy of the Tomcat!"



Chief Todd Kelly ('81) earned his Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Ashland Community College and his Bachelor's Degree at Marshall University. He continued his preparation for his career in law enforcement at the Department of Criminal Justice Training at Eastern Kentucky University.

Chief Kelley believes that one of the biggest assets to Ashland is our supportive community. He says that growing up in Ashland, the kids played together, the families were close, and the education received from the teachers extended beyond the classroom. He attributes his success to these relationships, "There are those (teachers), today, that have been a very close part of our lives through the years. They made school fun and that allowed us to learn. They became mentors and friends...and that made the difference. It was the true example of the neighborhood school."

Chief Kelley credits his success to his teachers, principals and advisors. "Throughout my education I was influenced not only by my friends and family but by the leadership in the school system. It made an impact when the sponsors of School Safety Patrol identified leadership within me, and as early as grade school I was one of the leaders of the troops."

Always a Tomcat

In junior high school, I was part of the Builders Club, which was part of the Kiwanis, that developed leadership and educated me on being a pillar in the community.” Sports also played a role in growing him into a leader, “my teammates influenced me into understanding that you cannot do it alone; teamwork is important. I instill that concept in the members of my organization today.” Chief claims, “those years in school had an amazing influence on my life and how I lead today; it was a great foundation.”

Chief Kelley wants the students to know that to be successful they should adhere to the advice of their teachers, principals, counselors and family. He also stresses the importance of working with others to influence positive change in the community. He urges students to be confident and find the leader within themselves.

Chief Kelley is proud to be the Chief of Police for the Tomcat Community that helped raise him. “I started from the bottom of the ranks as a patrolman, progressed through the many positions in the department, and have been blessed to attain the ultimate leadership position in the police department.” Having been a police officer his whole career, he has been part of a special relationship with our community and school system, “I consider the relationship with schools and law enforcement in Ashland one of the strongest anywhere; we have been engaged with the system for many years interacting with students, teaching children safety initiatives in School Patrol, promoting D.A.R.E. education and working with the School Resource Officers to maintain safety in our schools.” Chief Kelley is committed to building that relationship and working with our schools daily. He attributes to this partnership his appointment by the Governor to the board of directors of the Kentucky Center for School Safety.

Chief is proud to be a Tomcat because Tomcats make a difference in our communities both in Ashland and abroad. “Many Tomcats are teachers, leaders, owners and just good community-oriented citizens connected by friends, family and tradition. We have been influenced by our tradition to take the right direction in life. We make a difference.” Chief enjoys every opportunity to cheer on the Tomcats. “When we come together to support programs, we end up talking about our history ...it seems that we remember similar things. We take the tradition of our educational experience and spread them to our own families. We display the “A” or the Tomcat name in many ways. We do it for our lifetime. Why? ...because we are Tomcats!”



Ashland's Fire Chief, **Greg Ray ('77)** met the goal of a school system to produce successful people who will benefit their community. As safety and security is a concern for all, AISD is proud to have played a role in the formative years of a very special person who serves as a first responder.

Chief Ray started school at Wade Clay Elementary and attended Coles Junior High. In 1977 he graduated from Paul Blazer High School and went on to Ashland Community College where he received his Associate's degree in Applied Science. He followed that college experience with the earning of his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Marshall University. The Chief then returned to Ashland Community Technical College where he finished up with his Associate's degree in Fire Science.

Chief Ray says he has wonderful memories of his time in school, his involvement in ROTC, and his experiences on the ball field. He remembers the instructors that cared and wanted everyone to succeed. Chief most fondly remembers the lifelong friendships made. Chief Ray believes his experiences in school enabled him to be successful in college and in the jobs he has worked over the years.

Chief Ray advises, “Whatever life throws at you, take it and make the best of it.

Although life will not always lead you down the path where you thought you would go, whatever path you take, make it a success.” He also encourages that the key to a good life is to keep a good attitude. “Letting the low moments control your thoughts will only cloud your mind and make it difficult to see the good things that are out there. Think of the low moments as challenges that will only make you stronger and prepare you for things later in life that will be difficult to handle.”

Chief Ray is proud to have a career in the Fire Service; “I can't think of another way to spend my life than in a profession where every day I can make a difference. Being able to show up when someone is experiencing their toughest day, and help them make it better, has been more rewarding than receiving any award or recognition. Seeing the comforted look in peoples' eyes when you show up is all the motivation I need. With the help of my fellow firemen, I can say that I have been a part of the greatest profession around.”

Chief is proud to be a Tomcat alumnus. “There's just something about saying that I am an Ashland Tomcat that you can't always explain. The tradition that goes with the name is unmatched...always striving to be the best. Being able to say that you are a Tomcat means you have achieved something already. I can't think of another school that would have prepared me as well for the life I have lived.

Across the District

Academic Teams from Elementary to High School in Full Swing

Ashland Blazer

Shout-out to Eric Lambert and Shelby Lyon at Blazer High School. Mr. Lambert has been coaching Blazer's Academic Team for many years. This year we are welcoming Mrs. Lyon on board as the assistant coach. These two coaches are a dynamic duo. They spend hours after school and on weekends practicing and competing with students. This year is going to be an exciting year for our high school academic team!

Good luck, Tomcats!

If you would like for your child to participate in our academic teams, please call Mrs. Christine Scott, Ashland Academic Teams Coordinator, at 606-327-2706.



Coaches:

Head Coach - Eliza Lee
Allison Avsar
Bryce Barnes
Elizabeth Grant
Rebekah Hall
Carrie Harmon
Angie Heyerly
Mary Faye Nibert

FPS - Jeff Kennard
Erin Reynolds

Middle School

On December 7th, AMS students came together with other area schools to compete in the 6th Grade Showcase. These students have spent countless hours before and after school learning and practicing for this competition. We are proud to recognize the following students who had exceptional performance in written assessment:

Math: Noah Wurts - 1st, Scarlett Adkins tied for 3rd

Science: Noah Wurts - 4th

Social Studies: Rilee Bohannon - 4th

Language Arts: Caroline Yates - 1st, Reagan Hayes - 4th

Arts & Humanities: Caroline Yates - 1st, Sarah Hicks - 3rd

Written Composition: Reagan Hayes - 1st, Zack Dillon - 5th

Quick Recall: Overall 2nd place out of 7 teams.

Caroline Yates' scores for Language Arts and Arts & Humanities put her in the top 10 highest scores across the state of Kentucky. For the second year in a row, our 6th grade team was the 1st place overall winner of the 6th Grade Showcase.



Coaches:

Charles Russell - Whitney Blackburn
FPS - Cristen Pulliam
Crabbe - Kristy Minton
FPS - Kristy Minton
Hager - Kelsie King
FPS - Ashley Cole
Oakview - Braun Ream
FPS - Whitney Martin
Shannon Maddix
Poage - Tina Chapman
FPS - Jeff Kennard

Elementary Schools

The Ashland Tomcat Academic League is off to a great start! Each elementary school competes every Friday afternoon at one of the elementary schools. We take practice tests and play rounds of quick recall. Students are learning so much, working together as a team, and preparing for the Governor's Cup matches at other schools in our area. In January, we will have a Tomcat League Tournament of Champions at Ashland Middle School. Students are working hard in order to earn an invitation to compete in this tournament.

