

# FOCUS

Ashland Independent Schools

October 2016

Greetings,

I am elated to serve as your superintendent. I began my tenure with Ashland Independent on July 1, 2016. I'm still in the process of learning my way around our district and continuing to meet and learn more about our district. During my first 100 days, I have witnessed a multitude of opportunities that we offer the families and students we serve.

I'm pleased to announce that three of our schools, Paul Blazer High School, Oakview Elementary, and Hager Elementary earned a "Distinguished" label based on state assessment results from last year. Each of our schools are quality institutions that offer a warm and secure environment as well as a challenging curriculum that serves our students well. I have been quite impressed with the staff in each building who create a nurturing environment and truly desire to reach and surpass every goal that has been set for each child.

From our athletic programs to our academic teams, our students are afforded many opportunities for growth and success. We ask that you continue to entrust us with your children and we are working tirelessly to improve in areas that will only benefit your child. We desire to partner with our community in bringing the absolute best public education to the Ashland Independent School District.

If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 327-2726.

D. Sean Howard  
Superintendent  
Ashland Independent Schools



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# District News

## Three Schools Receive Top Ranking

*Richard Oppenheimer, Director of Student Achievement*



Paul G. Blazer High School, Hager Elementary School and Oakview Elementary School all received Distinguished ratings on the state's 2016 Accountability Report. Blazer experienced good improvement in overall achievement and student growth while great strides in reducing Novice scores contributed to the rise in the overall rating for both Hager and Oakview. Congratulations to the students and staff at each of these schools as well as to all of the students and staff of the Ashland Independent Schools for helping the district in its Proficient rating.

## High Attendance Day

*Christine Scott, Director of Pupil Personnel*

Ashland Independent School District participated in Kentucky High Attendance Day on Sept. 20, 2016. A big congratulations goes to Charles Russell Elementary for having the highest attendance in the district on this day! Charles Russell came in 1<sup>st</sup> place with 99.18% attendance! Hager Elementary came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 98.52% attendance. Oakview Elementary finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 97.59% attendance. Thank you to parents, students, and all school staff for encouraging great attendance on High Attendance Day and EVERY Day!

Parents, please continue to encourage and promote good attendance. Besides the obvious benefit of your child receiving an excellent education, you are also instilling in your child a lifelong learning habit that will benefit them throughout adulthood. Please let me know how I can help you make sure your children have great attendance and a wonderful school year.

## Health Education Teacher of the Year

D'Artagnon Coots was selected by the KAPHERD awards committee as the 2016 Teacher of the Year in Health Education. Mr. Coots will receive official recognition on Sunday November, 13, 2016 in Lexington, KY.



## Veterans Day

Crabbe's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Ceremony will be facilitated by fifth and fourth grade students on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 P.M. in Crabbe's gym. We invite veterans in our community to attend so that we may honor you. Please join us!

## Infinite Campus Parent / Student Portal



The Infinite Campus Parent Portal allows you to track your child's academic progress and develop a partnership with your child's teachers. Infinite Campus is a secure and convenient way to monitor your child's attendance, assignments, daily grades, and class schedule as well as bus and health information.

The portal is accessible via the district web site or as a smart phone application. If you are experiencing problems with your current account or need to create a new account, please contact Brittany Brown at Central Office at 606-327-2706 x 2719.

## What's for Lunch?

Monthly menus for each school can be found online through Nutrislice using the following link <http://ashland.nutrislice.com/>. The Nutrislice menu system is also available through a convenient app that you can download directly to your mobile device.



# Ashland Head Start



## The Importance of Grandparents...

Tuesday, September 27th was Grandparents' Day at Ashland Head Start. The children shared a science experiment (sink or float) and snack (healthy teeth) with their loved one. They learned that young or old, we must take care of our teeth. Mrs. Whitehead knows that when someone shows up to support a child in her classroom it can make a big difference in the life of that child. The grandparents were amazed to see the new technology in the classroom and how the children respond to the smartboard.

Grandparents play an enormous role in children's cognitive, behavioral, and social development. The relationship between grandparents and their grandchildren is second in emotional importance only to the relationship between parent and child.

Grandparents Love their Role: they think being a grandparent is the single most important and satisfying thing in their life. "The reason grandparents and grandchildren get along so well is that

they have a common enemy." Everything in life can be laughed at, but it also must be acknowledged that grandparents are crucially important figures, both to their grandchildren and adult children, but also to society as a whole.



In Mrs. Foltz's classroom we celebrated Grandparents' Day.

We had a great turn out of grandparents of students in our classroom.

The students worked together with their grandparents to create their own picture frame out of different classroom materials. The students' pictures were

taken with their grandparents and then placed inside the picture frames.



Mrs. Steele's class has been adjusting well to the new school year. We have been busy learning our rules and routines at school. We have also enjoyed using our new Feeling Buddies Self-Regulation Curriculum. We have been discussing different feelings and things you can do when you

have those feelings. We also celebrated Grandparents' Day by having grandparents visit the classroom for a special song, activity, and refreshments. We are excited to talk about the changes that take place in the fall and are looking forward to our field trip to Imel's Greenhouse in October.



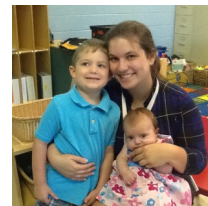
We had a great start to school this year. Our students came in so full of energy and ready to learn. We have been studying about rules, who works at a school, and our feelings. The students love to learn ways to comfort

themselves and others when their emotions arise. We also had Grandparents' Day on September 28th. The children made handprints for their grandparents, we read a book Llama, llama, Gram, and Grandpa, and made picture frames.



## Mrs. Dee's Class

We know that families are the first and most important teacher in a child's life. We support families in this important role using fun learning activities to support this relationship at home. Learning Games by Creative Curriculum supports social/emotional,



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

Ms. Carr's class just finished up our beginning of the year study. Our class enjoyed learning about our school and making new friends! We finished up last week with a visit from our grandparents and other special friends. We love when our families and friends come to celebrate with us and look forward to many more fun opportunities!



# Crabbe Elementary

Happy Fall from Kindergarten! We are off to a great start this year! We have been working on our letters, numbers and 2D shapes. Our Kinders are learning how to be the best students they can be by using their manners, listening ears, and learning how to be a good friend and classmate to others. These are characteristics of a P.R.O.U.D. Tiger. This past week, we learned the letter T. We read the book Corduroy, and our Kinders brought in their favorite teddy bears. We did many in-class activities involving our bears and then went outside for a Teddy Bear Picnic. At our picnic we ate: gummy bears, honeycomb cereal, goldfish and teddy grahams. Our teddy bears got to join in all of the Kindergarten fun! Here is to a "t"errific, Kindergarten year!



Story elements such as plot, setting, and character, in addition to fluency and comprehension have been the primary focus of reading instruction this nine weeks.

In Math, second graders have been using multiple strategies to explore place value with three-digit numbers. Students have learned how to create models, compare, and write numbers in various forms. Number talks are offering insight into a variety of mental math strategies.

We have been learning ways to practice mindful behaviors and problem solving skills. Second grade classrooms offer logical consequences for poor choices and give students the opportunity to reconcile differences through supportive problem solving. In addition, positive behavioral supports such as brag tags are utilized.

Recently, after reading *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* Second graders chose to join in a yearlong effort to be bucket fillers rather than bucket dippers. Through this project they are demonstrating kindness to others and learning how simple acts of kindness can make a difference in people's lives including their own.

Ms. Clemons's third graders have been at work practicing their math skills in the classroom and at home. They have mastered 200 third grade skills and worked over 100 hours on IXL.



In their STEM class, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders designed and flew gliders across the room!

In STEM class, 5<sup>th</sup> graders built robots that drive!



Mrs. Murray's 5<sup>th</sup> graders worked hard to perfect their multi-digit multiplication skills in September. Johnathen D., Veronica B., and Tristan S. are using playing cards to create their own multi-digit multiplication problems for independent practice.



This year the Library Media Center at Crabbe is operating on a flexible schedule. Each week classes can be scheduled with Mrs. Cole, the Library Media Specialist, for story times, whole class check-out, and any time they need to do research projects and other collaborative activities. Students can also come in to check out books or use the computers on their own throughout the day. Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade are doing a terrific job of checking out their own books using the self-check-out station.





# Hager Elementary

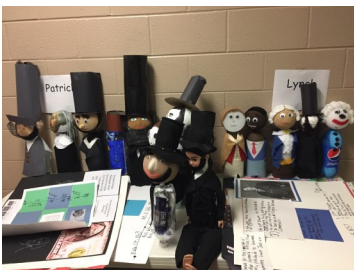
Exciting things are happening at Hager during the start of our 2016-2017 School year!!

Hager Elementary School was identified by the Kentucky Department of Education as a "High Performing Elementary School" based on the most recent K-PREP tests (2015-16). Hager has been recognized as a "Distinguished School" as a result of the students' outstanding performance. Schools, teachers and parents must work together to push each child to their full potential. On behalf of the Hager staff, we would like to thank you for sharing the responsibility of educating your child and being part of this great achievement!

Hager's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Ceremony will be facilitated by fifth and fourth grade students on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M. in Hager's gym. We want to invite veterans from our community to attend so that we may honor you through ceremony and by serving you lunch. Please join us!

Hager kindergarten classes have had a busy fall! We have transitioned quickly into kindergarten and have already completed "ABC Bootcamp." We have also studied both apples and pumpkins. In addition, we have studied Fire Safety. We went to the fire station for our very first field trip! A shout out to the Ashland Firemen who made this not only a fun-filled day but also a great learning opportunity!

Hager's First Grade went on a field trip to Furhmann's Apple Orchard. While there, we were able to explore the orchard, observe how apples grow in groups of five on the trees, and walk through the packaging area. We also ventured into a corn maze. It was a great day and perfect way to wrap up our apple unit. Thank you Furhmann's for a wonderful experience.



Second grade students at Hager Elementary have been learning about the election. They took a virtual field trip to the White House. They have looked at multiple presidents and their hobbies. Students were asked to research a

president and make either a bottle doll or poster representing the president's life. They did an amazing job!

It's ALL about the Science of Flight in third grade during their first module of STEM classes. Students are enjoying learning the forces working on an airplane in flight and Newton's Laws of Motion. Students have designed, built, and tested experimental model gliders to find out how air and other forces affect its flight. They've applied a design process to a real world problem of delivering aid to an area where supplies must be airlifted in and dropped to the ground from an aircraft.



Hager's Fourth Grade classes have also been very busy during the first 9 weeks of school! In Mrs. Cole's classes, students have been busy working on grammar skills and language mechanics using mentor texts. In writing, students wrote an informative piece about poison ivy! Students have been focusing on text structure in informational texts in reading. Mrs. King's class has been working on multiplication and are busy learning how to do long division. In science, students learned how animals have structures and senses that react to changes in their environment. The most memorable science experiment this quarter was when students compared the reactions of worms to light and dark, and wet and dry conditions. They loved writing about their discoveries in their science journal. Both classes were rewarded with a treat day at the end of the first 9 weeks if they met their AR goal!! Students worked SO hard to reach those goals!!

Hager's 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have been researching and learning all about Native Americans. They finished reading The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare, a Newbery Honor book. They highly recommend reading it; it's a great book! They have also learned about various Native American regions in Social Studies, and they are preparing to present their research projects to the class. In Science, they have been learning all about water conservation. The students were so excited to share their water conservation strategies with their peers.





# Oakview Elementary



Oakview is tickled pink we're **DISTINGUISHED**!

**Kindergarten:** Great things are happening in kindergarten! We have been learning about the four seasons and are looking forward to fall. We had a full week with lots of apple math and apple science. We even made our own applesauce! We learned about living and non-living things, and what living things need to survive. We read and researched some interesting facts about bears. We had a great day for our teddy bear picnic. Our bears loved spending the day with us and seeing how wonderful kindergarten can be!

**1st Grade:** First graders are "fall"ing into good habits. Students are reading daily and earning a ton of Accelerated Reader points. Currently, Kylie Trent has the most points in Mrs. Roberts' class with 27.5 points and Delaney Crump has the most in Mrs. Johnson's class with 31 points! In math, students have made the switch from learning about addition concepts to discovering subtraction concepts. We will soon finish our focus on animals and are excited to start our next unit learning about our community.



**2nd Grade:** During literacy time in our second grade classrooms, we follow a structure called The Daily 5. Students will be engaged each day in these research-based meaningful tasks: read to self, work on writing, word work, listen

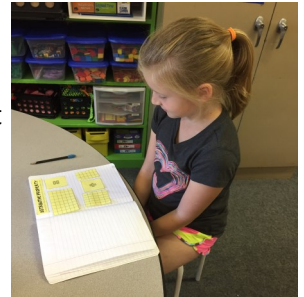
to reading, read to someone. While the students are engaged in their literacy choices, Mrs. Gilbert & Ms. Lewis teach small groups, so everyone can get the instruction they need to reach their full literacy potential.

**3rd Grade:** Our students have been busy at work this nine weeks! In math, we have been putting the "magic" to work on learning how to add and subtract with regrouping. Students are starting to learn all things multiplication and will start their weekly timed tests in the next couple of weeks. Students are learning how to restate and answer questions by pulling information from the text to cite their



evidence. We have loved the first module of STEM and cannot wait for the second! In writing, students have started to tell their stories by creating their personal narratives. We have loved celebrating our distinguished school and working hard to reach proficiency this year!

**4th Grade:** Our amazing fourth graders are learning about the distributive property and modeling it in their interactive student notebooks.



**5th Grade:** Fifth grade classes visited Wolfpen Woods. The students learned about early pioneer life by walking through an actual pioneer village and visiting different areas that taught them about candle making, the life of indentured servants, quilt making, making bread, and a blacksmith's shop just to name a few. The students had a great day!



Fifth grade students were officially inducted into Beta Club. Congratulations to our Beta Club members: Eli, Brayden, Milei Baker, Kiley Barada, Macie Bevins, Jacob Bowling, Ryan Bowling, Ryan Brown, Raegan Carter, Walker Conley, Addie Conway, Caden Dixon, Aleeyah Donta, Rachel Fetty, Caitlyn Fraley, Brooklyn Gehringer, Sam Hicks, Arianna Hill, Izaiah Jude, Ben Katterheinrich, Brock Kouns, Peyton Layne, Damon McCoy, Landon Mefford, Aris Pittman, Ella Sellars, Gavin Stutler, Ava Vinson, Kaylee Williams, and Nathaniel Wollery.



All three fifth grade classes had perfect attendance for Kentucky's High Attendance Day! We celebrated with a trip to Foodfair and enjoyed popsicles at the gazebo!



Payshence Caines threw a pie in Mrs. Howell's face on High Attendance Day



# Poage Elementary

## Kindergarten

Poage Kindergarteners have completed the ABC Boot Camp! This is something new we tried this year. The students loved making the letter hats and participating in the activities that go along with this program. Each kindergartener was given a paper bag to design with a letter. We were very impressed with the effort that went into making these vests. We also had a letter parade to display the wonderful vests. Thank you to our parents for working with your child and assisting them with these vests.



## PE

All grades have completed the first round of Fitness Gram testing!

K-2nd: Students have been participating in parachute activities. We are using our imaginations and turning the parachute into different forms such as an ocean, dome, merry-go-round, clubhouse, mountain, sling shot, and a frying pan. As we do different activities with the parachute, students are learning about cooperation and following directions in order to achieve our goals.

3rd-5th: Currently students are doing different disc activities. They have learned the backhand, forehand, and overhand throw. Students have participated in the 3 Disc Catch game and have just started learning about Disc Golf. Students played a nine hole course in the gym to test their skills against their classmates. They are also learning about the FITT principle and the 5 components of fitness.

## Junior Beta Club

Poage National Junior Beta Club teamed up with Blazer's Pep Club to put together Comfy Chemo bags. The bags are distributed to cancer patients at local hospitals in honor of Gina Runyon. Gina was the aunt of Poage Beta member Ryan Runyon. Poage families provided 32 Comfy Chemo Bags, fulfilling their first big service project of the 2016-17 school year.



The Vital Club: The Vital Club began a couple weeks ago and we can proudly say that all of the club members are working hard and having fun. Our step challenge began last week. Students are not only competing against each other but against some of the staff members as well. The step winner will receive a prize for being the step champion. Winners will be determined every 4 weeks.

## 2nd Grade

Second graders have been busy learning about place value. They enjoyed using jumbo playing cards to determine place value through the hundreds. The children like using the hands on manipulatives while learning new skills. They have also enjoyed using games they are familiar with as math games. Connect Four and Battleship continue to be two of their favorites.



## 4th & 5th Grades

Fourth and Fifth grade students visited Wolfpen Woods Pioneer Village this past September. Students were transported back in time to a pioneer village in the early 1800's. Students were awed by demonstrations with pioneer tools, music, toys, bread-making, and quilting. Actors dressed in period costumes made history come alive by narrating the historical events in first-person. Native Americans, Chingwe and Chief Cornstalk, related the encroachment of pioneers to their way of life. This allowed students to view history from their perspective as well. Daniel Boone taught us about survival in the wilderness, using all the natural resources available, and tanning leather. It was a great opportunity for students to enjoy looking back into history and being able to appreciate our modern conveniences.



## 5th Grade

Mrs. Stanfield's fifth grade class has been studying Earth Systems and created their own terrariums. Students worked in pairs using their metric measuring skills to add just the right amount of rock, soil and water to create a contained system similar to our earth. Students brought in plastic 2-liter bottles to create these wonderful terrariums. Golden Pothos was our durable plant of choice in case you want to try this with your students.



Another science activity we did this month was using Moon Pies to represent the moon's phases. Student groups were assigned a moon phase and cut their Moon Pie into the shape of that phase. Then students had to line up their moon phase in order beginning with the New Moon and ending with the Waning Crescent.





# Charles Russell Elementary

Welcome to STEM Lab!

While STEM is not new to Charles Russell, having a full time STEM teacher is new this year. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, as I am blessed and excited to take on this new teaching adventure.



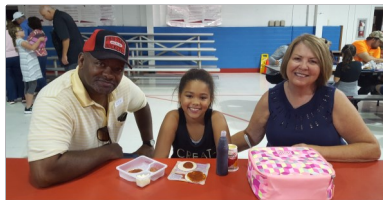
If you haven't heard by now, my name is Amber Martin. I am new to Ashland Independent Schools. However, I have taught for the past 18 years in Huntington, WV as an elementary classroom teacher. I have been a resident of Ashland for 16 years, with my husband Trent. I am originally from Huntington, but now consider myself a Kentucky girl!

In STEM the students work with many aspects from the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. All students will complete three modules during the school year. Two are engineering based modules, and one is a biomedical module. Fifth grade classes will work a lot with Robotics and Automation. Fourth grade will focus on Energy: Collisions and Conversions and Input/Output: Human Brain. Third grade will learn about Stability and Motion: Science of Flight and Forces and Interactions, as well as Variation of Traits.



I am excited to be part of Charles Russell Elementary and to get to know all of the students throughout the year. If you would have any questions or concerns about STEM Lab, please feel free to email me

[amber.martin@ashland.kyschools.us](mailto:amber.martin@ashland.kyschools.us).



We had a record turnout of 239 grandparents who came to eat lunch with their little Indians. Kiddos loved having their families walk through the lunch line and enjoy a delicious and healthy lunch prepared by our hard working cafeteria staff. Students were all smiles for the rest of the day after sharing their school day with their grandparents.. We are so grateful for you all!

## National High Attendance Day 2016

With 99.18% attendance for the day, Charles Russell had the highest attendance percentage for the day. We were so proud of our kiddos and to show it, Mr. Thornbury had told students that if we won, he would kiss a pig...and....let every single student hit him with a water balloon.

Our guest of honor arrived shortly after 10:00 am and that is when the fun began. Here are some pictures of the wonderful award day!

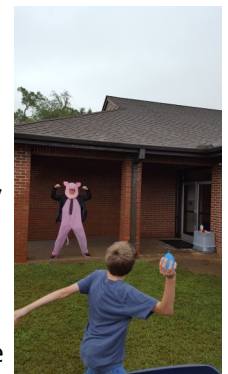
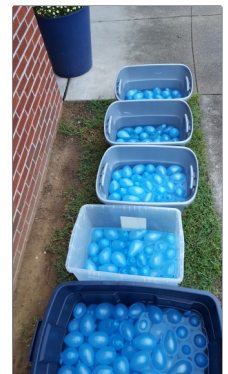


Students and staff thoroughly enjoyed our fearless leader keeping his word. We were live on Facebook and our video of the pig pucker had over 3,500 views.

Then during student recess, each and every student had the opportunity to hit Mr. Thornbury with a water balloon.

We have some kiddos with great pitch, and by the time we got to fourth and fifth grade they were hitting pretty hard. "The smiles on our kids' faces were worth every hit," said Mr. Thornbury.

What an amazingly good sport he was! We would love to see our school have the highest attendance for the entire year. Please have your students here before the last bell at 7:55am. We look forward to the reward day for that!



*Grandparents*  
are a delightful blend of  
laughter, caring  
wonderful stories,  
and Love.



# Ashland Middle

Mr. Polley's Video Broadcast Class had a visit from former AMS student Chad Hedrick. Chad is now a reporter for the WSAZ News Team. He appeared as a guest anchor on AMS's afternoon news broadcast and spoke with the students about the journey he took to become a television news reporter. The students were very excited to see and hear a former "Tomcat" share his story.



Chad Rogers and his nursing students from Morehead visited the STEM class, Medical Detectives, to instruct them in taking blood pressures and vital signs.

Lost & Found On Line. Students and parents can now search for lost items on AMS's website.

All items turned in to Lost & Found are photographed and the pictures placed online. Students can claim an item by going to room 225, Mr. Leistner's office. To search for an item, go to [www.ashland.kyschools.us](http://www.ashland.kyschools.us). On the Ashland Middle School page in the left hand column of Quick Links, choose Lost & Found. This service is provided by STLP.

The Media Center's "20 Book Challenge" encourages students and staff to read at least 20 books during the school year. Requirements: 2 Historical Fiction books, 2 Biography/Autobiography/Memoir, 2 Informational books, 2 Realistic Fiction, 1 Poetry book, 1 Special Collection book, and 8 personal choice books to complete the challenge. Books must be at least 100 pages. There is an end of year reward party for the winners.

Mrs. Adams's math class is making their own data to study mean, median, and mode.

Students in Mr. Whelan's Science Class are using mathematical formulas to mix primary colored water in graduated cylinders. A successful experiment results in equal amounts of liquids in a rainbow colored order.



There are several new faces at Ashland Middle School this year. The Adventurer Team welcomes Angela Heyerly in Language Arts. The Dream Team welcomes Alyssa Miller in Science. The Discovery Team welcomes Chris Haney in Science, and the Explorers welcome Robin Irvine in Math. The Inspire Team welcomes Michael Johnston in Social Studies and Anita Smith in Math. AMS welcomes Susan Kitchen and Mary Faye Nibert in Special Education. AMS has two new Assistant Principals: Abby Laber and William Ferguson. We are happy to have these new additions to the AMS faculty.

Mrs. Howard's Science class dissected owl pellets as part of their study on Ecosystems. The students discovered that owls regurgitate items that they cannot digest, such as fur and bones.



AMS collected 8,762 pounds of food during Spirit Week for the Food Feud. The eighth grade was named Food Feud Champions. They earned bragging rights, the golden trophy, and a banner to hang in the 8th grade hallway.

The Wonder team's ELA Rotate Class has been doing living biography projects. The students chose their subject and brought them back to life. They make a presentation highlighting their lifetime accomplishments. The historical individuals have ranged from Abraham Lincoln to Anne Frank.



The Academic Team is off to a great start. Coaches are especially proud of the 6<sup>th</sup> graders that have joined and the whole team is really working hard to be the best team possible this year to continue the AMS Academic Team's tradition of excellence.



"We Cry Out" was this year's theme to SYATP 2016. Youth for Christ, sponsored by Anna Rogers and student led by Hannah Greene, was thrilled to see so many who participated. Those who attended heard singing by Stephanie Scragg and the AMS choir, along with special speaker Tom Richter.



# Paul Blazer High

**Cadet Keeston Clark** from Ashland Paul Blazer has been awarded legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement. This is the highest award given in Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. The Legion of Valor Bronze Cross is authorized for only one JROTC cadet out of every 4,000 cadets. There were only 41 awards given this year throughout the nation. Cadet Clark was selected on the basis of academic excellence, leadership potential, service to school, and community. To be eligible for the award, students must be in their third year of JROTC, be in top 10 percent in their JROTC class, top 50 percent in the academic class and receive a recommendation from the school's military cadre. Cadet Clark's name will now be entered into the Congressional Record which is stored permanently at the Library of Congress. It is believed that this is the first time that the Bronze Cross for Achievement has ever been awarded at Paul Blazer High School in its 80 year history.

State Senator Wells will be presenting the Award on Thursday October 20 at 2:45



**Each year Blazer** chooses a football game to serve as a platform for supporting those who are affected by cancer. This year, on September 23 against Rowan County, the Ashland Tomcats honored the life and fight of Gina Runyon. Gina is the sister-in-law of our very own Derek Runyon who lost her battle with breast cancer last year on Sept 28, 2015. While spending time receiving chemotherapy,

Gina met a

number of people who spent hours on end at treatment alone. Seeing others without support gave Gina the idea to put together Chemo Comfy Bags for patients in need of comfort. These bags provide patients with a number of items that help to ease the discomfort of receiving chemotherapy often



alone. For this game, the Pep Club along with FCCLA sold shirts, baked goods and a number of other items to raise money to donate to Path to the Cure and the Fabulous Flock of Flamingos (a group comprised of Gina's family members and friends who are continuing to carry on Gina's legacy that she began while undergoing chemotherapy). The Pep Club also flocked yards in the community with pink flamingos to spread breast cancer awareness and give additional funds to

Gina's legacy. With the help of multiple clubs and organizations on Blazer's campus as well as the Beta Club at Poage Elementary, the Ashland Tomcats were able to donate 88 Chemo Comfy Bags and \$1,500 to Gina's legacy.



**River Cities Harvest** is a local non-profit agency that distributes more than 550,000 pounds of food each year to various agencies throughout our community. The Ashland Tomcats have partnered with River Cities Harvest on a mission to combat hunger in our community by collecting canned food and other non-perishable items. The students at Ashland Blazer are competing in an inner school food feud competition to see which grade can donate the largest number of items for River Cities Harvest. The winning grade will win a trophy sponsored by River Cities Harvest and an afternoon movie and popcorn. The food feud will take place from October 3 – 21, 2016.

During the first week of the food feud, over 3,750 pounds of food had been donated.



**As part of their unit on stage makeup,** Theatre IV-V students worked with wax to create prosthetic character noses. They also created realistic scars, burns, and other wounds. Theatre II and III created old-age and other character makeup, as well as working with scars and wounds.





# District News

## Ashland Schools Promotes Heart Health

*Lydia Pruitt, Youth Market Director*

Did you know that congenital heart defects affect more babies born today than any other condition? And childhood obesity is on the rise, with more than 37% of children in the state of Kentucky considered overweight or obese. Our children are at risk.

But just last school year, right here in Ashland, six of our local schools participated in a program to help do something to change the future for our children. By participating in the American Heart Association's Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart, our children raised nearly \$13,000, learned about the importance of physical activity to their own heart health and about saving lives of other children just like them.

Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart are national education and fundraising events created by the American Heart Association and SHAPE America-Society of Health and Physical Educators. Students participating in these programs nationwide have fun jumping rope and playing basketball, all while becoming empowered to improve their health and raise funds for research and programs to fight heart disease and stroke.

These important funds, raised in schools across the nation, just like those here in Ashland, help children and communities through the American Heart Association's work:

- Ongoing discovery of new treatments through scientific research
- Advocating at the state and federal levels for nutrition wellness and physical education in schools
- CPR training courses for middle and high school students to create a new generation of lifesavers

Millions of children across the nation have participated in these programs over the years and Ashland schools have joined them in fighting the no. 1 and no. 5 killers of all Americans, heart disease and stroke.

During the 2015-2016 school year, the following Ashland Independent Schools participated in Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart: Hager Elementary School, Poage Elementary School, Crabbe Elementary School, Oakview Elementary School, Charles Russell Elementary

School, and Ashland Middle School.

All of the events were held during the months of February and March with Hager Elementary School coming in first with \$5,065 collected and Poage Elementary second with \$2,215. The third place school was Crabbe Elementary with \$2,014.

"We'd like to thank all students and schools who participated in Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart last school year in Ashland," said Lydia Pruitt, Youth Market Director for the American Heart Association. "Each of these children is a true heart hero."

For more information about Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart, log on to [heart.org/jump](http://heart.org/jump) or [heart.org/hoops](http://heart.org/hoops) to get your school involved.

## Ashland Twitter Handles

A number of individuals and groups affiliated with the Ashland Independent Schools are on Twitter. A free twitter account can be created on the web or through an application on your smart phone.

- Ashland Independent Schools: @AISD\_Tomcats
- AMS Beta Club: @amsjrbetaclub
- AMS Library: @Library\_AMS
- AMS PTO: pto\_ams
- AMS Yearbook: @AMS\_Yearbook
- AMS/Blazer Bands: @ashlandbands
- Ashland Middle School: @the\_ams
- Ashland Academic Team: @ashlandA\_team
- Ashland Baseball: @Batcats\_AHS
- Ashland Basketball: @AshlandTomcatBB
- Ashland Pep Club: @ashlandpep
- Ashland Soccer: @SoccerAshland
- Ashland Softball: @KittensSoftball
- Ashland Track: @TomcatTrack
- Ashland Volleycats: @AshlandVBall
- Ashland Yearbook: @AHSyearbook01
- Blazer Counselors: @blazercounselor
- Crabbe Library: @CrabbeLMC
- Hager Library: @hagerlibrary
- Paul Blazer High: @AshlandBlazer



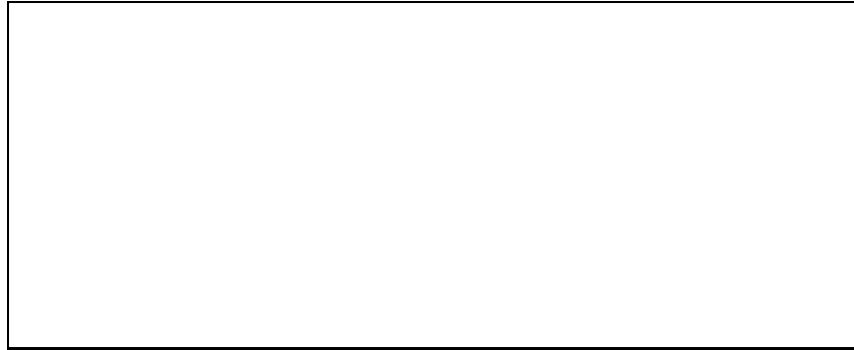




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# FOCUS

## School Principals

Teresa Conway, Head Start Director  
Jamie Campbell, Crabbe Elementary School  
Phillip Caudill, Hager Elementary School  
Rebecca Howell, Oakview Elementary School  
Katie Holbrook, Poage Elementary School  
Shawn Thornbury, Charles Russell Elementary School  
David Greene, Ashland Middle School  
Derek Runyon, Blazer High School

## Central Office Personnel

Sean Howard, Superintendent  
Linda Calhoun, Instructional Supervisor  
Lisa Henson, Director of Student Services  
Kristen Martin, Director of Finance  
Richard Oppenheimer, Director of Student Achievement  
Christine Scott, Director of Pupil Personnel  
Cary Williams, Director of Instructional Technology



*Head Start students enjoy learning how to carve a pumpkin.*

## Board of Education

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Mark McCarty

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