

FOCUS

Ashland Independent Schools

And the Program of Excellence Award Goes to...

In October, Ashland Middle School received The Program of Excellence Award from Project Lead Way Kentucky. One elementary, middle, and high school was recognized at the state PTLW conference in Somerset on October 2, 2015. Selected schools demonstrated excellence in two primary areas: Student Engagement and Community Engagement.

The first criteria these programs had to exceed was student engagement. Selected programs honored exhibited leadership in engaging students in project-based hands-on curriculum allowing students to lead their journey through the educational system. These programs are offering PLTW in different environments and with completely different demographics, but they all have one commonality: students 1st.

Secondly, these programs had to show great initiative in engaging their local community. This looks different at each program level from kindergarten through senior year of high school, but it is clear that these programs are preparing students for high-skilled high-wage careers within their own community. These programs are engaging their local community leaders, economic development professionals, and industry to fully understand the importance of creating a future workforce for their community.

Ashland Middle School implemented the Gateway program in the 2014-15 school year by training five teachers in the areas of Design and Modeling, Automation and Robotics, Science of Technology, Magic of Electronics, and Medical Detectives. With the award of an Energy Grant this past spring a sixth course, Energy and the Environment was added to the 2015-16 schedule. Rather than hire a single “stem” teacher the principal along with support from the faculty opted to train multiple teachers to offer elective classes throughout the building and the school day. Over the course of three years every 6th, 7th and 8th grader will spend at least nine weeks in all six Gateway units. The response from both students and teachers has been overwhelming.



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District News

Ready to Launch

Third, Fourth, and Fifth grade students have enjoyed the new Project Lead the Way (STEM) classes at all of our Elementary schools. Project Launch is a project-based program and gives students a chance to apply what they know, identify a problem, find unique solutions, and lead their own learning.



Third grade students have explored the forces involved in flight, Newton's Laws of Motion, by experimenting with the creation and modification of a model glider. Fourth graders have explored how mechanisms change energy by transferring direction, speed,



type of movement and force and developed a vehicle restraint system. Fifth graders have delved into how robots are used in today's world and the impact of their use on society and the environment while building and testing mobile robots. They participated in a project related to environmental disaster cleanup. Students are having fun learning and can't wait to come to class.



Local Native America enthusiast talks to Crabbe Elementary students.

PEP TALK...

"Getting Kids Active 10 Minutes at a Time!"

The day before school started this year, all elementary teachers were trained by John Smith, national Take 10! consultant. Part of the PEP grant is for regular classroom teachers to incorporate ten minutes of physical activity twice a day. Mr. Smith demonstrated many ways to utilize the Take 10 curriculum in the classroom. He used scarf tricks, front/back/right/left while walking in place, Chinese jump ropes, timer tops, and "can do" bands.

Mr. Smith stressed that physical activity makes students ready to learn. Physical activity creates a better learning environment in the brain by enriching and optimizing the brain area. Additionally, physical activity promotes growth of new brain cells and decreases aggressiveness.

Walk to School Day Involved Schools and Community

Pep Grant staff helped plan and organize the annual "Walk to School" in Ashland.

The Mayor, firemen, policemen, City

Commissioners, Tomcat mascots, cheerleaders, parents, teachers, principals, and students all joined in to walk to school. This is another effort to stress the importance of being physically active.



"Fuel Up to Play 360"



Ashland Independent Schools Physical Education teachers were invited by the Southeast United Dairy Industry Association, Inc. and the American Association of Midwestern Dairy Producers to attend the Fuel Up To Play 60 program Advisor Training Camp at Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati, Ohio. The training camp provided information and resources for implementing the Fuel Up To Play 60 program at school and in the community.

Fuel Up to Play 60 is an in-school nutrition and physical activity program launched by National Dairy Council and NFL, in collaboration with the USDA, to help encourage today's youth to lead healthier lives.

Cincinnati Bengals running back, Giovanni Bernard, gave a speech about eating right and getting 60 minutes of exercise. Then the group took the field for a physical activity break led by the Cincinnati Bengal cheerleaders and mascot.

The Ashland Independent Schools Physical Educators listened to some inspiring stories from other schools on how to implement the program. Go to fueluptoplay60.com and sign up to be a part of the program at your school.

Head Start

Mrs. Cox's class celebrated Grandparents Day this week. We had a special snack in the cafeteria with our families. The families had the chance to decorate a picture frame with their children. The children also passed out gifts they had made for their grandparents.



Mrs. Alger's class has been having a wonderful time getting to know each other over the past few weeks with All About Me activities. We have shared and learned about our names, ages, and what makes each and every child in our class special! Next, we are looking forward to beginning to learn about the changes in nature and the trees as the season of fall begins!



Mrs. McDowell's class has started off with a blast. We have had so much fun meeting all the new faces and seeing the students from last year. We have been learning the classroom rules and getting to know one another. We had our Parent Guide to Preschool night to let all the parents understand our curriculum and why preschool is so important. Our school year will be wonderful.

Mrs. Steele's class has been busy learning our rules and routines at school and in the classroom. This is some of our students' first time away from home, and we are all adjusting wonderfully! We are really enjoying our new Smart Board and incorporating it into our daily activities. Now that we have entered our Fall season, we are going to begin a study about trees. We will observe all of the changes that take place on our trees during this time of the year and learn about things that grow on trees and what can be made from trees. We are excited about all of the new things we will learn!

One of the common questions that parents ask their child is, "What did you do in school today?"



Mrs. Whitehead's Class The next few weeks the children will be exposed to concepts in pairs, sets, halves, and wholes. They will also be participating in activities that include the language concepts of heavy and light, bigger/smaller, more/less.

During choice time some related activities will include: measuring with scales and rules in the science area, charting our height and weight, using number cookie cutters with play dough, and bowling with numbered pins.

At home you can recite the nursery rhyme "Hickory Dickory Dock". Remember that cooking provides a concrete foundation for mathematical concepts. It involves amounts, fractions, and measurements. Try rice crispy treats. While you are cooking, have your child help make this simple no bake recipe. Count how many spoonful it takes to fill a one cup measurer.

Enjoy cooking with your Child

Head Start wants to be your partner in your child's education and preschool experience. I am excited to be working with our families this year and encourage you to contact me anytime. I want to know how you and your family are feeling about your Head Start experience, so please let me know. You can call me at the school or send me an e-mail. I am looking forward to learning about your child and family. Important reminders:

1. Each child needs to bring in a complete change of clothing. (Shirt, pants, underwear and socks). These clothes should be in a clear Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name and sent in his/or her backpack. A backpack has been provided by the school.
2. Please check your child's backpack daily for important information from Head Start and return any requested information.

Did you know?

If your family has any immediate needs CARES-Boyd County has many services available. All services provided at CARES are free. Available are rent and utility assistance, also food, clothing, and other family services as available. To apply for services at CARES, You will need a photo I.D., a current utility bill, social security cards for everyone in your household, and proof of income. Care is located at 2516 Carter Avenue. There hours are 10 am to 3pm. There number is 606-327-2715. I look forward to a great year with your family.

Jhonda Crider-Page, Parent Family and Community Engagement Coordinator

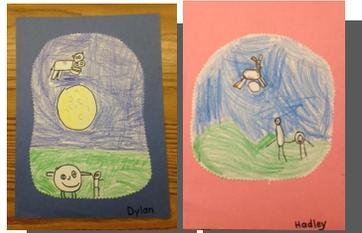
Crabbe Elementary



Thursday, September 24, 2015 was High Attendance Day in the district. At Crabbe Mr. Campbell & Staff celebrated this event by wearing bow-ties, singing and dancing to greet the children as they arrived at school.



The kindergarten art students at Crabbe have really been working hard on their shapes. We combined circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles to create the nursery rhyme "Hey Diddle Diddle." We paid attention to the horizon line and good craftsmanship. We had so much fun making these in Mrs. Debord's Class.



Happy Fall, Y'all! In Kindergarten science, we are learning about the changing seasons, just in time for autumn. We discussed the characteristics of fall and the appropriate clothing to wear as the cool, crisp, autumn air falls upon us. Also, we talked about all of the beautiful leaves fall brings to us and how fun they are to jump in! Pictured is a writing piece created by Mrs. Ream's Class telling the Kinders favorite things about fall. Here's to Tomcat football, bonfires, sweaters and the beautiful scenery of autumn. Kindergarten is "falling" for fall!

Second grade has been studying place value. We've been building numbers with base ten blocks and learning how to represent numbers in different forms. We are also learning and practicing good citizenship skills as well as discovering how to create interesting sentences.

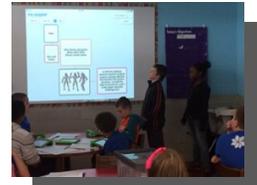
Before the 2015-2016 school year began, our elementary teachers attended a professional training known as the "Take 10." This training helped to give teachers new and exciting ways for incorporating 10 minutes of physical activity in their classrooms twice a day while still focusing on teaching specific subjects. Each teacher was given Chinese jump ropes, scarves, and stretchy bands to use with the students so that both the teachers and students can stay active and motivated while learning.

Taking from the school theme "Crabbe Students Have Character", the 4th graders at Crabbe have begun their year delving into a book full of interesting, kind-hearted, and humorous characters. Bob, the pessimistic stray dog, Stella, the nurturing elephant, and Ivan, the surprising heroic silverback gorilla, are some of the students' favorites in the book The One and Only Ivan. The students went on a roller-coaster of emotions while reading this story as explained by 4th grader, Josh "This book made me angry, happy, and sad. I think everyone should read it!"



STEM classes are also in full swing for the 4th graders. "I like it because we get to build," says Destiny. "We are building a cart that will hold an egg and will roll down a metal ramp into a wall and the egg won't break," adds Trenton.

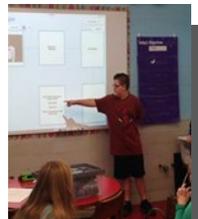
Mrs. Withrow's 4th grade students are working together cooperatively learning about the school rules.



Mrs. Minton's students, Andru Brown and Sha Foster-McDonald, presenting their Popplet presentation during their STEM class. They were presenting their research on the different types of robots.

In science, 5th graders worked cooperatively to solve the problem of how to save Fred, a gummy worm, whose boat capsized. Students used problem-solving skills and two paperclips to return Fred to safety. Jada Maynard and Issaiah Fitchpatrick were the first pair to save Fred!

Mrs. Murray's students are really enjoying researching and building robots in STEM. Austin Whitmore presents his research findings on Robonaut 2, using the popplet application for iPad.



5th grade is off to an exciting start! We received a PetSmart Grant that allowed us to purchase a Leopard Gecko. Prior to our purchase, we researched leopard geckos to learn how to care for our new classroom pet.



Ms. Clemons Class has been learning about Long Vowel sounds and brainstorming word lists from watching "Between the Lions". The students have also been working hard on reaching their AR goals and working on their reading fluency.

Hager Elementary

Hager held its annual student council election in September. Candidates running for office created original and unique campaign posters and gave speeches to the students, staff and parents. The class representatives for the 2015-2016 school year are: Caylee Tackett, Sophie Stevens, Bailey Jones, Mason Hinkle, Reagan Slone and Emma Remy. The officers for the school year are: Sergeant-At-Arms: Gavin Carter., Treasurer: Moe Tun, Secretary: Karli McCarty, Vice President: Sydney Clark and President: Parker Williams.

Congratulations to all!



First Grade Art students are channeling their inner Vincent van Gogh and made some pretty sweet sunflowers!

Hager students have been having lots of fun in physical education classes during the first 9 weeks! Grades K-2 are using the parachute to learn about teamwork. Students are enjoying making shapes, playing



games, and even learning a choreographed routine with the parachute. All 3rd-5th graders have been studying flying disc (frisbee) skills and related games. They have practiced different ways to throw and catch a frisbee, as well as how to improve their aim towards a target. Students can use these skills in activities such as ultimate frisbee, frisbee golf, or recreational throwing and catching!



Miss Moore and Mrs. Keener's Kindergarten Classes have been busy little bees so far this year! We started our year off learning all about one another and recognizing each other's names. We even had our first field trip to visit the library to learn about the different services available that will help us practice our reading skills. For September, we've been talking about the fall season and learning all about apples. We've made applesauce, apple pies, used apples to measure each other, and even tasted the different types of apples to graph out our favorites! The kids have definitely decided that fall is a delicious season so far!

The first grade classes at Hager began autumn by taking a Fall Nature Walk. Students were asked to think about what they saw, smelled, felt, heard, and tasted during their walk. During the walk several boys and girls from Ms. Wheeler's



and Mrs. Zornes' class found leaves, sticks, and seeds. When students got back in their classroom, they wrote about all they found on their walk.

2nd grade students at Hager recently explored life at Heritage Farms. Students were able to ride in a covered wagon and were excited to feed hay to various farm animals. They fed mules, horses, pigs, and goats, and even made friends with the farms pet cat! Students learned about life without electricity or electronics and even one room school houses. It was a great trip and learning experience outside the classroom walls!



Mrs. Vance and Mrs. Plummer's third grade students have been studying physical science as a component in their science curriculum. Our big idea has been FORCE. The students put on their engineering hats and worked together to construct an obstacle course that used balanced and unbalanced forces to move a cotton ball through their course. Their cotton ball had to move through three different forces in order for their course to be complete.



Fourth grade students were excited to participate in the STEM program with a focus on energy. They worked in groups and designed a vehicle where they could observe potential energy changing into kinetic energy. The students released their vehicles down a ramp to test the construction upon impact while carrying an egg. Several groups were successful with their experiment.

Students in the 5th grade enjoyed a trip to Wolfpen Woods in Rush, Kentucky, for a wilderness experience day. They were able to watch pottery being made, meet Daniel Boone, a Native American, taste fresh honey, and learn about the relationships between early settlers and the natives!

Oakview Elementary

5th Grade : Recently visited Wolfpen Woods Pioneer Village. The students were able to learn about pioneer tools used to build houses, hear stories from Daniel Boone, his brother and wife, tasted honey from a beehive, learned about instruments that pioneers used for entertainment, and learned about Native American tools. Despite the rainy weather, we really "soaked" up the fun!



5th Grade: Places everyone! Action! That's a wrap! The 5th grade news team has been broadcasting live and keeping all Oakview students and staff in the know! The Oakview News Team is made up of: Anchors-December Boggs and Justin Goodwin, Roving Reporters-Tucker Conway and Liam Ferguson, Camera Operators- James Eckard and DJ Shelton, High Five Gals- Elizabeth Kilgore and Shyeann

Menefee Substitute Anchor- Kaitlyn Harr. For all the news you need to know...turn us on!

4th Grade: 4th Grade is "egg-cited" to be working through science processes with eggs. It's not "egg-actly" easy because we don't know who came first; the chicken or 4th graders?



Physical Education : Students have completed their first round of fitness testing. We had great attendance for our open house. Students received nutrition information from our health department. On Oct. 7 we are walking together to school to promote good health.

Counseling: Students in counseling class have been learning about the food groups and nutrients like Fat, Protein, and Carbohydrates. They are learning about the importance of eating a well-balanced diet and how it relates to overall health. In October, students will begin the Too Good For Drugs program which teaches kids about the importance of setting goals as well as the dangers of drugs like alcohol and tobacco. The Too Good For Drugs program will last approximately 8-9 weeks.



OAKVIEW Computer Lab: is now in use. In our own room, with 30 tower computers connected to the web, each class can test, learn, and research on the world wide web. With a main emphasis on keyboarding skills, students have the space and well being to refine their abilities. With an occasional tangential instruction on other applicable computer programs, vocations, current research, and technical advancement, students develop a sense of how the simple skills taught in the classroom can manifest into years of occupational success. In a word .. FUN!



Music: Oakview is the proud owner of a new portable sound system! The system includes two main speakers, two monitor speakers, a new sound board, six wired microphones, and a set of four wireless microphones. The

equipment was purchased to update a dated system in our gymnasium for the future vocal and instrumental performances that our students participate in several times throughout the year. This purchase would not be possible without the efforts of our parents and students in Mr. Ream's music department fundraiser. Thank you to those individuals that helped out, our students will benefit greatly from your efforts!

3rd Grade: The beginning of our year has definitely been sweet in third grade! We started the year by reviewing second grade concepts and getting to know one another with fun engaging games. In math, students are currently working on addition and subtraction with regrouping! We have started working on multiplication facts and are excited to learn about the different types of graphs. In reading, students have been learning all about character traits, inferencing, and story elements. Chrysanthemum, Lulu and the Brontosaurus, and Pancakes for Breakfast have been some of our favorite books thus far to help us learn these important skills. In social studies, students are learning all about the different types of communities, community helpers, and map skills. Science has been one of our favorite parts of the day; we have been learning all about forces and motion! Days of pulling/pushing on the playground have been a highlight so far! We are looking forward to the rest of the year, full of fun and learning!

2nd Grade: Yo ho, you ho! it's a pirates life for second grade! Oakview 2nd graders celebrate "International Talk Like a Pirate Day" by becoming pirates for a day, reading pirate books, eating pirate food, learning pirate language, and using map skills to find treasures!



1st Grade: is full of Smarties. We've been busy getting to know our new friends; reading books and earning AR points; adding and subtracting numbers; learning about sound; and earning High Fives for good behavior! It's been a SWEET start to school in first grade!

Kindergarten: We are off to a great start in Kindergarten! We got into the "shape" of things learning about 2D shapes. Then we became meteorologists and predicted the weather and looked for weather patterns. We said "Goodbye!" to summer and welcomed fall as we learned about the four seasons. We just went on our Annual Kindergarten Teddy Bear Picnic after completing our study on bears. We are now anticipating our first Field Trip to Imel's Pumpkin Farm!

Student Interest: Landon Gordon showing what he knows. Landon learned a new way of doing math and has taken time out of his busy day to teach the OAKVIEW faculty how to work with numbers. Good Job.



Poage Elementary

Kindergarten

Kindergarten classes at Poage have been busy learning about numbers and the letter people. We also are studying apples and autumn. During a unit on Johnny Appleseed we made applesauce and apple pies. It was educational and yummy as well!!!

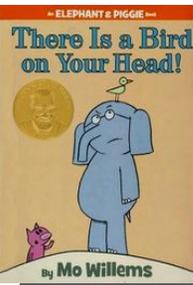


because the *Cambium* makes new layers for the tree. The process continued until the children became the *bark*. It was a fun and interesting way to learn about the internal structures of a tree.



PE

I'm proud to say that it only took two weeks to finish our Fitness Gram testing this year! All students worked hard and stayed focused in order to get the tests completed as quickly as possible. Also, we completed our pedometer week requirement and very few pedometers were lost so once again great job pioneers! Currently 3rd through 5th grade students are learning the skills that it takes to play ultimate disc and about the FITT principle, while K-2nd are learning about various activities you can do with a giant parachute and the importance of team work. Furthermore, 5th grade is almost finished with health class. They have learned the importance of eating healthier foods, how to read food labels, setting realistic goals, and proper hand washing.



1st Grade

Ms. Lowe's first grade class has been doing an author study on three-time Caldecott winner Mo Willems. He is the author of many fantastic picture books including *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*, *Knuffle Bunny*, and the Elephant and Piggie series. One of our favorite activities was based around the Elephant and Piggie book

There is a Bird on Your Head. After reading the story, students filled out a story map on the plot of the book then made birds nest hats to be just like the characters in the story. The first graders now love Mo Willems and are enjoying reading all of his books!



Ms. Goodwin's first grade students love their Science Fridays! Our first unit was all about sound. They did experiments on how vibrations cause sound using "rubber band guitars" and how sound causes vibrations by talking through paper towel tubes against balloons to feel it shake. Another "eggperiment" these new

scientists performed was shaking plastic eggs filled with different items. Students guessed what was inside each egg based on the sound it made. They did "eggceptional"! We are looking forward to our next Science unit, all about light.



4th Grade

The students in the 4th grade classroom at Poage have been learning about the Structures of Plants and Animals. During one lesson they pretended to be the various parts of a tree. One student stood in the middle and pretended to be the *Heartwood* of a tree. They made motions with their arms and said, "I support," since the *Heartwood* supports the tree. Next, they learned about the *Cambium*. The children made motions with their hands

2nd Grade

To help with the "first day jitters," second grade learned that everyone has the jitters, even the teachers. To help us all feel at ease we drank jitter juice and read *First Day Jitters* by Julie Danneberg. Also, we just finished our first author book study with books written by Kevin Henkes. While reading his stories we learned what "good readers" do. This is a skill that will help us all year. We look forward to our next author book study.



5th Grade



The 5th graders at Poage Elementary built robots during their S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) class. They worked for two weeks learning about robots, creating their own robots, and putting together a robot that responds to the colors

red and green. Finally, students built a remote-control robot that they steered through a path of red rectangular shapes. If the robot rolled over a red shape, it stopped immediately. The students learned so much and had a great time!

Charles Russell Elementary

EVERYDAY SUPERHEROES



Our year started with a **KAPOW!** **WHAM! KRUNCH!** Charles Russell continues with tradition of a year long theme for all classrooms and staff. Superman aka new principal Shawn Thornbury welcomed students and parents back to school on day one.



"We can all be heroes; we just have to find our individual superpower and use it for good everyday," said Christy Collins, new school secretary.

SUMDOG! SUMDOG! SUMDOG.com!

What is SUMDOG? Sumdog.com is free mathematic games that are designed to improve mental math fluency at grades

1-8. Most of the games are multiplayer, letting students around the world practice against one another. Students earn coins they spend on and in their virtual house. Sumdog also allows schools to compete against each other. CRES Indians entered their first Sumdog Eastern Kentucky Math Contest.

Grades 2 through 5 competed in the week long event. Our 4th grade students placed 2nd overall, and we held 6 of the top 10 individual rankings!



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM READY Girl scout troop 983 has spent months planning, raising funds, and gathering donations for an outdoor classroom for all students here at CRES. Planning began in August of 2014. Once benches arrive, the project will be complete. The troop hosted a ribbon cutting on Friday the 18th. Parents, students and staff enjoyed refreshments during the ceremony. Thank you to all those who made contributions...



BLK Construction (concrete, labor and equipment) Big Run Landfill (50 ton of gravel). Rigg's Machine Shop, Bethany and Preston Ledford (donated monetarily).

INSPIRING READERS

Donorschoose.org is a free nonprofit website where teachers at your school can receive funding for student resources. Teachers are asked to simply send a thank you package to their donors. Pam Hall, 5th grade teacher recently earned sixty-six books worth over \$300.00! Books should be delivered within the next few weeks. High five Mrs. Hall! We appreciate you going above and beyond for our students.



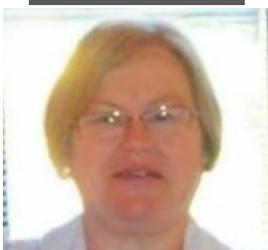
FITT FOR LIFE The F.I.T.T. Principle is one of the foundations of exercise, a set of guidelines that help you set up a workout routine to fit your goals and [fitness level](#) while helping you get the most out of your [exercise program](#). F.I.T.T. stands for:

F requency	Frequency, How often you exercise
I ntensity	Intensity, How hard you work during exercise
T ime	Time, How long you exercise
T ype	Type, The type of activity you're doing

Fifth graders have taken a pretest in regard to the FITT principle. They recorded activities in a packet for three consecutive days. This will enable the students to implement physical activity goals here and at home. All students have also been introduced to Project Fit American equipment and have been instructed on how to properly use it. "Establishing these principals early will benefit our students for the rest of their lives," added coach David Arthur.



THANK YOU We would like to say thank you to teachers and staff that retired from Charles Russell this year. Principal Steve Salyers, Secretary Barb Green, Teacher Cheri Rowlett and School Technician Cynde Elkins. We appreciate all you have done for our students, school and community. Best wishes...



Ashland Middle School

Two Years (But Really More)...

I have been asked many times over the last two years, "How are things going at Verity, I mean AMS?" The spotlight has definitely been on the middle school. Becoming Ashland Middle School has been a huge endeavor which has included new flooring, new lights, new signage, and even a new gym. As if that wasn't enough, we even changed our name, school colors, and mascot. If you really want to know about the change process at the middle school, ask any freshman at Blazer! Between having their classrooms moved at least three times over two years and trying to figure out which restrooms they were allowed to use, they truly pioneered the whole process.

However, the most profound change has been the addition of the 6th grade. Seemingly overnight, our student population increased from 465 students to 750 students. And our staff increases have been just as amazing. Of course we all know that this has been a much longer process than just the past two years. Many years of planning preceded the new school configuration.

So to answer the question, "How's it going at AMS?" Things are incredible. The building is impressive and the students even more so! The 6th graders have acclimated quickly while the 8th graders have led just the way I knew they could. New teachers are collaborating with veterans while veterans continue to learn everyday. But the cherry on top... we now even have our very own Twitter Account! Now that's a change!

Go Cats! David Greene, Principal

Students learn about internet safety.



AMS students with guest speaker, Tom Richter, gather for See You At The Pole.

Mrs. Parker's 8th Grade Language Arts students had a hands-on learning experience while reading "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes. Students created their own Rorschach tests, competed in various mazes, and wrote about their experience compared with that of Charlie Gordon, the main character in the story.



The Food Feud kicks off on Friday!!! This is a HUGE campaign for area food banks and ensures that the shelves are full during the winter months. Our school-wide goal is 3,000 lbs of food. That means each grade level goal is 1,000 lbs. Collection bins will be setup by the back doors each morning. Find your grade bin and donate!!! The winning grade will earn electronics during lunch on Thursday, Oct. 1st and the Spirit Week trophy. We'll also be selecting BEST DRESSED winners each day and you'll be entered to win a drawing for a pass to all AMS sporting events this school year. Finally, we'd love to see AMS bring home the Food Feud trophy from the Boyd Co/Ashland game on Oct. 2nd. Teachers, we'd love for you to participate also

Congratulations to the following students for being elected by their peers to serve on Student Council: sixth Grade - Kaythan Baer, Eli Campbell, Katie Crouch, Hannah Greene, Spencer Greene, Bethany Ledford, Lexi Perkins, Mikayla Martin, Abby McGuire, and Lillian Sebastian; seventh grade - Josie Bevins, Katie Hutchison, Emma Latherow, Mimi Moore, Camryn Patrick, Kaya Ross, Caleb Tackett, Lauren Spears, Taylor York; eighth grade - Merrick Clinger, Andrea Conley, Ethan Harrison, Emma Hill, Grant Kelley, Luke Maze, Langley Sebastian, Ethan Slone, Maggie Thompson, and Jessie Williams

AMS students have spirit! Over 100 students showed up dressed in camo at the girls' basketball fill the stands on September 22nd. Students enjoyed tailgating before the game. The pep band contributed to an electric atmosphere. Congratulations to Ethan Sellars (6th) for winning the half-court shot contest and to Emma Latherow (7th) for winning the dizzy free-throw contest.

AMS students celebrated National Punctuation Day on Sept. 24 by wearing punctuation on their clothes. The discovery team held a contest for the most creative use of punctuation on their clothes and students in Mrs. Lovins classes learned about unusual but real punctuation marks. They also wrote a "Top 10" list for the writing contest for nationalpunctuationday.com.

AMS is participating in The Twenty Book Challenge again this year. Our goal is for each student and staff member to read a minimum of 20 books from a variety of genres: science fiction, historical fiction, traditional fiction, biographies, information/nonfiction texts, mystery, romance, thriller, fantasy, and realistic fiction. To reach the goal, students will need to read 5 books each nine weeks. The winning team will have bragging rights for an entire year. In 2014-15, the Explorers won the challenge. This year, two new teams have joined. Two students have already met their goal: Melanie Grimm, from the Explorers, and Leah Knotts, from the Discovery Team. Congratulations to these great readers! AMS challenges all Central Office personnel to join the challenge!

Inspire Team / Social Studies – Students have been learning about Primary and Secondary Sources with the help of iPads and Nearpod. Nearpod is an interactive presentation and assessment tool used on the iPads.

Paul G. Blazer High School

On September 12, Ashland Paul Blazer High School helped host the Kidney Cancer Benefit for Allison McKnight. Through the volunteer efforts of faculty, students, and Allison's friends and families, the evening was a huge success. The event included a dinner, music, a silent auction, door prizes, and other various items for sale. Over ninety local business and individuals donated either money, food, door prizes or raffle items. Through donations at the door and over one hundred silent auction items, we were able to raise over nine thousand dollars that evening that will go to help the McKnight family as they continue their cancer fight. Thank you again to all who attended and those who helped to make the occasion happen. Please come out to the October 16th football game against Greenup as there will be more ways to support Allison, and please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers.



Mr. Sellars' Brew Crew

Mr. Sellars' class is trying something different this year. They have decided to sell coffee to the faculty and staff at Blazer High School. They are calling it Coffee on a Cart. In the past, Mr. Sellars' class would clean the cafeteria for their job training class, but it was time for a change. The class is traveling from building to building offering coffee, hot chocolate and hot tea. If you would like for Mr. Sellars' class to stop by your room, please just send him an email.

Blazer art club students got to show off their talents painting the football locker room to kick off the new season.



JROTC

Since the first day of school, the JROTC cadets have been working extremely hard to accomplish our goals in school and volunteer in our community. Even though our program's effort goes unnoticed and some may look down upon us, doesn't mean that our resolve to help our school and community is wavering. Our cadets not only focus on school work, but also volunteering for our community, working for our football games, raider competitions, and color guard events.

Our program participates in many events, both in and out of school. So far this year we have done color guard for all of our home football games, our teams have gone to various competitions around the state, and our cadets have volunteered for the Poage's Landing Days 5K Race. These events are only a glimpse of what is to come this year.

Our color guard is one of the best in the region, and they take pride in what they do. It's not just carrying a flag and presenting it to our audience, it's showing pride in our country and honoring our national anthem and our flags as well as our JROTC program. Our color guard goes above and beyond their call of duty. They go to different elementary schools, high schools, colleges, , parades, graduations, and competitions to show their skills and provide a service for our community.

One of the most exciting events we have planned this year is our 2nd Annual Army v. Navy Football Game. This year Boyd Co. Navy will be playing us in our house at Putnam Stadium. It will be on November 19th and everyone is encouraged to attend.



District News

Child Find for Children with Disabilities in Need of Special Education or 504 Services

The Ashland Independent School District is conducting an ongoing CHILD FIND System. The purpose of the CHILD FIND System is to find any child or youth who resides in the Ashland Independent School District and may have a disability and need special education or 504 services. AISD is looking for those children and youth, age birth up to 21 years, who are not in school or those who are in school but not receiving the special education or 504 services they need to have an appropriate public education.

The district's Child Find system includes children with disabilities attending private or home schools within the school boundaries who may need special education services.

The Ashland Independent School District will make sure any child or youth who has a disability, regardless of how severe the disability, is provided an appropriate public education. This education will be at no cost to the parents of the child or youth.

Children and youth, with disabilities means those who have hearing impairments, vision impairments, severe emotional disturbance, both deafness and blindness, health impairments, specific learning disabilities, mental disabilities, multiple disabilities, speech and language impairments, physical disabilities, multiple disabilities, speech and language impairments, physical disabilities, autism, or traumatic brain injuries.

Children eligible for 504 services include those children who have a current physical or mental impairment that currently substantially limits some major life activity which causes the student's ability to access the school environment or school activities to be substantially limited.

Parents, relatives, public and private agency employees, and concerned citizens are urged to help the Ashland Independent Schools find any infant, toddler, child, or youth who may have a disability and need special education and related services. The school district needs to know the name and age or date of birth of the child or youth; the name, address, and phone number of his or her parents or guardian; the possible disability, and other information to determine if special education is needed.

Letters and phone calls are some of the ways schools collect the information needed. The information the school districts collect will be used to contact the parents of the child or youth and find out if the child or youth needs to be evaluated or referred for special education services.

If you know of a child or youth who resides in the Ashland Independent School District who may have a disability and is not receiving needed services or a child who attends a private or home school within the boundaries of the Ashland Independent School District who may have a disability and may need services, bring, telephone, or send information to Lisa Henson, Director Student Services, 1820 Hickman Street, Ashland, Kentucky or phone 327-2706 ext. 2728.

CHILD FIND activities will continue throughout the school year. As part of these efforts, the Ashland Independent Schools will use screening information, student records, and basic assessment information it collects on all children and youth in the district to help locate those children and youth who have a disability and need special education.

Any information the district collects through CHILD FIND about children and youth who may have disabilities is maintained confidentially. Parents and eligible students have the right to inspect and review their education records, as well as ask for changes in the records if they disagree with the information in the records. The Ashland Independent School District has policies and procedures for keeping information confidential. These policies and procedures are based on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The Ashland Independent School District keeps child and youth records in a secure computer system and/or locked files in each school and the central office. Records are kept for at least seven years after they are no longer needed for educational purposes. They are kept longer if there is an outstanding request to review them.

Copies of the district's policies and procedures as well as information about disabilities and special education are available from the Director Student Services, Director of Pupil Personnel or 504 Coordinator. If you know of someone who may need this notice translated to another language, given orally, or delivered in some other manner, please contact Lisa Henson, Director Student Services, 1820 Hickman Street, Ashland, Kentucky 41101 or phone 327-2706 ext. 2728. The Ashland Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

The 2016 Blazer *Hi-Life* yearbook is in production and taking orders daily at Blazer High School. The 2016 yearbook theme is **STAND OUT**, and the staff is working to show how Blazer *stands out* academically, athletically, and in the community.

If you would like to order a 2016 yearbook, the cost is \$70 and may be ordered through the yearbook staff at the high school or via Balfour.com.

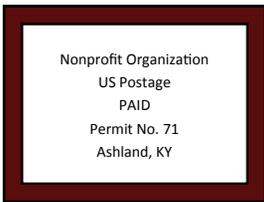
Local businesses and organizations that would like to support the yearbook with advertising should call adviser Kevin Stepp at 327-6040 x3606 for rates and details.

Parents of seniors should consider a senior page. The senior page features up to 12 photos along with a sentiment. The page is lasting memento of the years at Blazer High. Please call the high school for more information or visit the yearbook link on the school webpage.

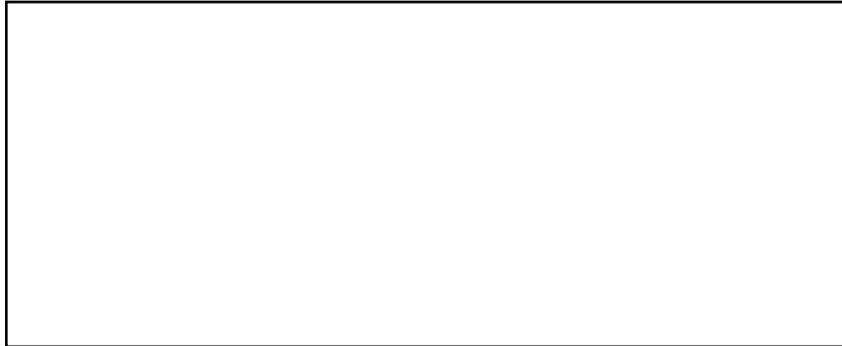


Ashland Independent Schools
1820 Hickman Street
Ashland, Ky 41101

Whatever it Takes!



Return Service Requested



FOCUS

School Principals

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

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



A student in Mrs. Bocook's 2nd grade class explains to his classmates how lava and erosion changed his landform.

Board of Education

Charlie Chatfield
Chris Clark
Frank DeMartino
Carol Jackson
David Latherow

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