

To my staff, students, parents, and so many grandparents and other caregivers who are sharing the journey together to ensure the highest levels of instruction and educational resources are provided for our "sacred treasures" ...our school children. Yes Seniors, from K to 12 you all are our educational children.

You are given to us each day of the year and we commit to provide a safe environment, an educational environment that will enhance our total program's efforts in providing student successes and student achievements.

This 2015-2016 school year has provided outstanding achievements across our curriculum, across all grade levels, and so much hard work and dedication has been concentrated on implementing the state mandates of preparing each in our charge for college and career readiness.

Our administrators and our classroom teachers (Counselors, Assistants, Clerical Staff, Cafeteria Staff, Custodians/Maintenance, Transportation Staff)...all involved in the daily educational operation, are working harder than ever before, the expectations are higher than ever before, the accountability factor is greater than ever before, and the evaluation of the efforts of everyone involved is a mandate. Our staff throughout the district have risen to the challenges in every instance, of that I am so very Proud!

To our student's families that support, assist, and enhance each child's daily opportunities as we receive them...our Sincerest Thanks and Appreciation to you... truly are in this together and we must continue to cooperatively partner to do "Whatever It Takes" to ensure their successes and achievements.

Nothing less is acceptable.



Stephen E. Gilmore

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District News

Governor's Cup

Across the district our Governor's Cup teams brought home a number of wins this season.

At the elementary level Poage Elementary had a banner year in District and Regional play by snatching the first place win at district competition and then placing second overall at the regional event. Ashland Middle and Paul Blazer followed suit with domination at the district level and followed-up with a slew of wins at the regional and state events.

Elementary Regional Competition

Final Standings

- 2nd Place—Poage Elementary
- Quick Recall
- 2nd Place—Poage Elementary
- Future Problem Solving
- 1st Place—Poage Elementary
- 4th Place—Charles Russell Elementary
- Mathematics
- 2nd Place—Hannah Laney—Poage Elementary
- Science
- 5th Place—Hannah Laney—Poage Elementary
- Social Studies
- 2nd Place—Ace Farris—Hager Elementary
- Language Arts
- 3rd Place—Sydney Clark—Hager Elementary
- Arts and Humanities
- 2nd Place—Sam Hicks—Oakview Elementary
- Composition
- 2nd Place—Gracen Layman—Poage Elementary
- 4th Place—Macie Bevins—Oakview Elementary



Middle School Regional Competition

Overall Final Standings

- 2nd Place—Ashland Middle
- Quick Recall
- 2nd Place—Ashland Middle
- Future Problem Solving
- 1st Place—Ashland Middle
- Social Studies
- 3rd Place—Logan Coover—Ashland Middle
- 5th Place—Hunter Musser—Ashland Middle
- Arts and Humanities
- 5th Place—Mackenzie Clere—Ashland Middle
- Composition
- 2nd Place—Hayleigh Buckler—Ashland Middle



Middle School State Competition

Future Problem Solving

9th Place—Ashland Middle School

High School Regional Competition

Final Standings

- 2nd Place—Paul G. Blazer High School
- Quick Recall
- 2nd Place—Paul G. Blazer High School
- Future Problem Solving
- 5th Place—Paul G. Blazer High School
- Mathematics
- 1st Place—Jason Zheng—Paul G. Blazer High School
- 3rd Place—Zach Stafford—Paul G. Blazer High School
- 5th Place—Isaac Vinson—Paul G. Blazer High School
- Science
- 4th Place—Nate Rickman—Paul G. Blazer High School
- 5th Place—Jason Zheng—Paul G. Blazer High School
- Social Studies
- 1st Place—Dawson Coover—Paul G. Blazer High School
- 3rd Place—Shelby Street—Paul G. Blazer High School
- Language Arts
- 4th Place—Wren Jenkins—Paul G. Blazer High School
- Arts and Humanities
- 2nd Place—Dawson Coover—Paul G. Blazer High School
- 4th Place—Wren Jenkins—Paul G. Blazer High School
- 5th Place—Hannah Wade—Paul G. Blazer High School
- Composition
- 4th Place—Myrna Hill—Paul G. Blazer High School

High School State Competition

Final Standings

- 9th Place—Paul G. Blazer High School
- Quick Recall
- 5th Place—Paul Blazer High School
- Social Studies
- 5th Place—Dawson Coover—Paul Blazer High School
- Language Arts
- 9th Place—Wren Jenkins—Paul Blazer High School
- Arts and Humanities
- 5th Place—Hannah Wade—Paul Blazer High School
- 10th Place—Wren Jenkins—Paul Blazer High School



Head Start

Kindergarten Registration is here again.

This is a reminder that all children registering for kindergarten need to have current and up-to-date health records. Please call Ashland Head Start if you have questions about whether or not your child has all the documents needed to enroll for Kindergarten.

Kindergarten Health Requirements

- Current immunizations (on a KY immunization certificate)
- Physical (dated within 6 months of school start date)
Dental Exam (dated within 12 months of school start date)
- Vision Exam (by ophthalmologist or optometrist)
- Birth Certificate

Mrs. Cox's class has been celebrating Dr. Seuss this month in honor of his birthday on March 2nd. We have cooked and taste tested green eggs and ham, experimented with Oobleck, designed and graphed crazy socks, measured with turtles and truffella trees, and of course, practiced our rhyming. We are looking forward now to starting our study on animals. The children have been excited to discuss what pets they have at home and what animals they have seen at the zoo or in books.

Mrs. Alger's class has been having a wonderful time learning about buildings for the past several weeks! We have learned about buildings in our community and around the world. We will also learn who builds buildings and what tools they use. We are hopeful that we might take a special trip to see up close some machines that are used for building!



Mrs. McDowell's class has been studying the author Dr. Seuss during the month of March. The students have learned that he made over 40 children's books. He is not a real doctor but wanted to feel

important so he placed the doctor in front of his name. They voted for their favorite book which was Green Eggs and Ham. This might have been due to enjoying green eggs and ham. During our study we made oobleck after reading the book Bartholomew and the Oobleck. The children learned about the study of liquids and solids.



Dramatic Play in Mrs. Dee's Class...

Dramatic play is important to early childhood learning. Children playing in this vital area are learning social skills, how to communicate, practicing fine and gross motor skills, increasing attention span, and developing cognitive skills. When children work together to set a table, plan a shopping trip to the grocery

store, or pretend to take a baby to the doctor, they are learning skills in every learning area important to school and life.

Mrs. Whitehead's Class—We made several rainbow crafts in the art area and read stories about leprechauns. Legend says that leprechauns spend all their time making shoes. They store their coins in a hidden pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. If a leprechaun is caught by a human, they have special powers to grant that human three wishes. Once those wishes are granted, the human has to let the leprechaun go. I asked the children, "What wish would you have the leprechaun grant for you and why?" Some children said a new toy; others only wanted a new home for their family. They tried their hand at catching a leprechaun. They made a leprechaun trap to catch him using gold coins to lure him. They danced a leprechaun jig for luck. During the children's outside time, a leprechaun entered the room leaving a big mess of stacked chairs, green footprints, and a gold glitter trail. He had taken their coins and exchanged them for gold covered treats. The children were elated! They had a Fun St. Patrick's Day!

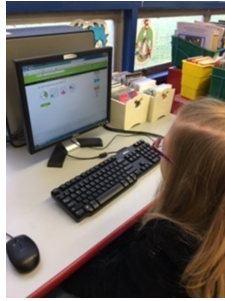


Mrs. Steele's class enjoyed a visit from the Ashland Middle School Builders Club students. The students came and had an Easter egg hunt and a special Easter activity for us.

The Middle School students were very involved with our students and participated in playing games and helping with the activity. This was a great way for us to kick off the Spring season. After Spring Break we will be learning about our earth and how to take care of it. This will help us prepare for our Science Day in April.

Crabbe Elementary

Ms. Clemons' Third Grade Class has been busy working on math. The students have worked over 300 hours and over 50,000 math problems on IXL. We also have three students who are fluent in addition and subtraction facts on Reflex. Jacob Rowe, Payton Hensley, and Austin Pack have mastered their addition and subtraction and have moved up to multiplication and division. Way to go!!



Our Lego Robotics Team will advance to the state!

Competition In April!

On Saturday, March 12, the Crabbe Lego Robotics Team competed at the RCX Regional competition. Our team came in second. #PROUDTIGERS!



Congrats to the Crabbe Basketball Team! They were the City Champs!

Mrs. Bryant's 3rd grade students have been practicing their typing skills with typing 20-47 WPM. Wow! Keep up the hard work!



On Thursday, March 3rd, Crabbe held a Family Literacy Night and celebrated Read Across America. Students and their families played games, made crafts, participated in a shoe box float parade, and many other Dr. Seuss themed activities. We also had our First Book distribution. Every enrolled Crabbe student received books, thanks to donations from the community.



A Record Setting Fundraiser at Crabbe!!!

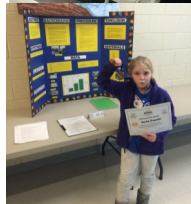


This year marks the 3rd consecutive year that Crabbe Elementary has participated in the Jump Rope for Heart program, which is a fundraiser for the American Heart Association. This year, under the direction of our PE teacher Mr. Davis, our students raised a new Crabbe Elementary record of \$2,014 for the American Heart Association, beating our highest total back in 2013-2014 by over \$500! Over the last 3 years our school has managed to raise over \$4,500!

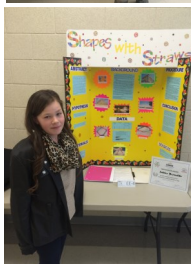
These students have always been proud Tigers, but this year they've really shown just how strong their hearts are as well. Some of Crabbe's talented singers participated in the 6th Annual District 8 Elementary Honors Choir. Students were selected to work with Sandra Thorton from The Cincinnati Children's Choir. Our students joined students from other schools.



Josh Daniels was presented the award for winning the district Grandparent of the Year Essay Contest sponsored by the Boyd County Retired Teachers Association.



Aslyn won second place in Engineering in the Regional Science Fair on Saturday, February 20th, at Northern Kentucky University!



At the ACTC Science fair, Ashlee Reynolds won second place in engineering.



Crabbe Elementary Future Problem Solving Team won first place in the Governor's Cup district competition.



Hager Elementary

Hager's LEGO Robotics Team competed at the RCX Tournament in Morehead on March 12, 2016. They have been designing and programming their robot to complete the missions as fast as possible. They were very excited to compete and had a wonderful time at the tournament!



Hager STLP members are continue to make a difference in our school. They are helping out by tutoring primary students in need. Study buddies work on behavior, academics, and social skills. Both the members and their study buddies are benefitting from this program. These students are building strong, positive relationships and are truly making a difference at our school!



During the months of January and February, Hager students learned about jumping rope! They practiced individual skills, partner skills, long rope jumping, and turning, as well as jumping games. Students were given the opportunity to collect donations for Jump Rope for Heart, and the entire school celebrated on February 18th at our Jump Rope for Heart event. Hager students raised just over \$5,000 for the American Heart Association and learned the importance of keeping our hearts healthy!

On Saturday March 12, 2016, some of Hager's talented singers participated in the 6th Annual District 8 Elementary Honors Choir. Students were selected to work with Sandra Thorton, guest conductor from The Cincinnati Children's Choir. Our students, with students from other schools, gave a beautiful choral performance for their teachers and families at Mason County Intermediate School.

We are still collecting box tops for our technology program. So far this year, Hager students and supporters have helped raise over \$1,200! Our next friendly classroom competition will begin after we return from Spring Break. Start clipping and saving those box tops !



Kindergarten classes worked with Blazer art students in Mrs. Spade's class this year. The students drew special monsters and sent them to Mrs. Spade's class, who then turned their drawings into Clay Creatures that each student was presented during our special visit to Blazer. Both groups loved the interaction and opportunity to really use their imaginations! A HUGE thank you to Area Education Grants and Donors Choose for bringing this project to life.

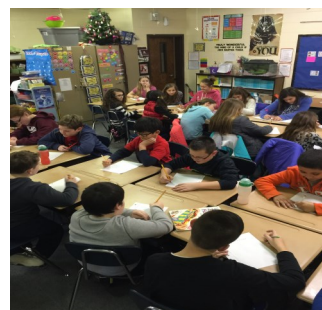
Second graders are participating in "The Great American Mail Race" this nine weeks. Each student in second grade chose an elementary school from a given state to write a letter about their classroom. Along with the letter was a survey asking the student to provide information about their own classroom. The goal is to receive a letter back from all 50 states. We are displaying our letters on our bulletin board, along with a map to show where each elementary school is located. Students will compare our classroom and resources to the other schools whose students have responded.



Third grade students used their knowledge of Abraham Lincoln to determine the REAL 16th President, as students played the game show "To Tell the Truth." Contestants tried to convince the audience they were the real Lincoln by

presenting facts about his life. Each audience member had to keep a recording sheet to jot down facts as they were given. At the end of the game, students collaborated to determine which contestant was telling the truth. When contestant number two revealed the truth, we were all winners!

Nurse Jesse visited the fourth grade classes to discuss the importance of being healthy and having good hygiene habits. The students appreciated the presentation and each received sample products to take home. Fourth grade classes also attended the show "Super Scientific Circus" at the PAC in February. The students enjoyed the educational and entertaining program!



Hager's fifth grade is working on writing letters to their pen pals in Botswana, Africa. We found our pen pals through a Peace Corps worker who is helping educate children in Africa! Students are learning more about different cultures and how children their own age are educated and how they learn in a different country.

Oakview Elementary



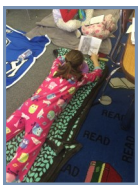
Kindergarten: February was about being healthy. We learned about our hearts and how to keep them healthy. We learned about our wonderful teeth and how to take care of them for life! We discovered how good food helps our

bodies grow healthy and strong. We also celebrated President' Day with a virtual field trip to Washington D.C. where we discovered many different American symbols. We ended the month with a bonus day and celebrated Leap Day! Mrs. Evans was so proud of their hard work and dedication! Reading is definitely SWEET in first grade! 50 Point Club Members: Caden Morris, Brooklyn Russell, and Jaden Hall; 75 Point Club Members: Lena Dalton, Brian Hutchison, Cami Messer, Brandon Mefford, and Braden Stewart; 100 Point Club Members: Katie Roberson and Wyatt VanHoose; 150 Point Club Member: Leah Pleasant; 200 Point Club Member: Ben Ream. Mrs. Johnson's first grade is reading up a storm. At the end of February, we surpassed our class goal of 800 AR points for the year. On St. Patrick's Day, we hit 1000 AR points. The students will be rewarded with a pizza party for their hard work. Jenna Broughton, Noah Daniels, Emma Hall, Kamryn Henry, Lyric McKeand, and Arianna Thornton are in the 50 point club. Ayden Layne is in the 100 point club.

Students in second grade are learning how to save a melting ice pop! Students began investigating and classifying different kinds of materials by their observable properties—including color, texture, and heat conduction—after listening to a story about a little girl who forgot to put her ice pops in a cooler for the end of the soccer game. Students soon learned that not all materials are the same. Some are better insulators while others are better conductors. They also learned that the melting point for water is 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Engineers and designers select materials which have properties that are best suited for an intended purpose. Ask your child if their group was able to save the ice pop!



4th graders participated in Read Across America Day by reading and taking AR tests all day. The students enjoyed the day of reading in their pajamas.



4th grade students practiced a KPrep-like assessment. This assessment gave students the practice and feedback for their upcoming spring test. The students worked hard and we were pleased with their effort.



The following students had the most AR points above their goal and the highest percent correct on AR quizzes for the 3rd nine weeks and will be attending a special AR Luncheon with Ms. Mann to celebrate their hard work and success. Congratulations to Jarod Brown, Justin Goodwin, England Huizar, and Khali Kouns

4H Demonstrations were AWESOME! We had 10 students that were recognized as the 4H School Champions. Congratulations to Leaidan Blake, Landyn Bocook, December Boggs, Jarod Brown, Rachael Fritz, England Huizar, Vivica Langham, Amelia Lucas, Shyeann Menefee, and Katy Raybourn. They all will be advancing to the next 4H Demonstrations to be held at ACTC on April 23.



The following students are the newest members of Oakview's Triple A Club. Students must have all A's on their report cards, 100% attendance for the nine weeks, and exhibit a great attitude. Congratulations to Layne Brammer, Jarod Brown, Tucker Conway, Rachael Fritz, England Huizar, Khali Kouns, Amelia Lucas, Katy Raybourn, and Lucas Trent.

5th grade students participated in the Dollars and Sense program focusing on economics, and students went to see Peter Pan at the Paramount Arts Center. The play featured two of our 5th grade students: Liam Ferguson as John Darling, and Abby Street as one of the Lost Boys. It was a great performance! The picture is of students attending AR luncheon

Our Oakview students recently participated in the American Heart Associations Jump Rope for Heart. They raised almost \$2,000.00. They were physically active at exercise stations and participated in jump rope activities. Our PTO also provided students with healthy snacks. Thanks to all who helped make it a success. We are now into March Madness! We are working on our basketball skills and also comparing the starting 5 to the 5 major food groups and healthy eating habits, as well as the benefits of exercising at least 60 minutes a day.



Counseling class had Tobacco Free Academy presentation for the students.

All District Choir – 15 members of Oakview's Comet Chorus were selected by audition to attend this year's All- District Elementary Honors Choir in Maysville. The group consisted of over 200 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students from 14 different school districts. This is the first year that Ashland has participated, sending over 50 students in all from all five elementary schools. The students learned several pieces before attending the day of rehearsal, designed to fine tune the music and present a performance that evening.



Reading can carry a person away to another place. This is especially true at Oakview's Library Media Center. Students can go to one of the three new reading centers: the forest sitting on the toad stools, inside an igloo at the North Pole, or relaxing under a palm tree at the beach.

Poage Elementary

Academic Team



After taking first place in district competition, Poage's Academic Team went on to compete against 17 other teams in Regionals at Greysbranch Elementary. Following are the results: Overall 2nd place —Poage Elementary, Future

Problem Solving, 1st place— Gracen Layman, Lexie Fannin, Grace Browning, and Olivia Richmond; Quick Recall, 2nd place—Lexie Fannin, Hannah Laney, Grace Browning, Olivia Richmond, Halli Smith; Math, 2nd place—Hannah Laney; Science, 5th place—Hannah Laney; Arts & Humanities, 4th place—Halli Smith; Written Composition, 2nd place—Gracen Layman.

Kindergarten

On February 8th we celebrated Chinese New Year in kindergarten. We have been fortunate to have a Chinese classmate this year and have been learning all about his culture. We are learning many Chinese phrases, as well as how to count to ten. As a part of this ongoing study we have learned many cultural and geographical elements about China. On Chinese New Year we celebrated by playing traditional Chinese games, exchanging cards, making dragons, and of course, eating Chinese food. A special thank you goes out to our interpreter, Laura Keenan, for helping us develop so many wonderful lessons.



Poage kindergarteners spent a week celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday. We read several books and enjoyed the many different characters. Each day we dressed up for particular books. One of our favorite days was Green Eggs and Ham. The students wore green and actually ate green eggs with ham. We all tried them and most of us thought they were delicious! We loved reading Dr. Seuss books!

1st Grade

Last month, the first graders spent the day in space! After completing their in-class mission of studying space systems, the students traveled by *spacebus* to the Shawnee State Planetarium. Once there they viewed a stars and planets presentation up close and personal! The day was topped off with a stop at McDonald's for an *astronomical* meal. The students deemed this mission one of "the best days ever!"



Our first graders have become quite the researchers! For this project the students were divided into groups based on animals that they had chosen. The groups worked together to find facts about what their animal eats, where it lives, the babies, and other interesting facts. They have not only been using books but also, they have used QR codes on iPads to watch YouTube videos and look at websites about their animals. This project has shown the students how fun writing and research can be!

5th Grade

The 5th graders at Poage Elementary created billboards and commercials as part of their Colonial America Unit. They were asked to advertise the colony they were assigned, focusing on specific areas that would attract people to the colony, such as natural resources and available jobs. After creating a billboard, they began working on a commercial that had to include either a jingle or a sales gimmick. They presented their billboards and commercials to the class. They had fun and created wonderful advertisements!



PE

K-2nd students are working on throwing and catching. They are learning to be more accurate with their throwing, whether it is an underhand toss or overhand throw. Students are learning to be more aggressive with catching a ball and not expecting it to land in the perfect spot. Students have



been working on these skills with various types of balls and objects.

3rd – 5th students are learning about the FITT principle. They are learning about various exercises that improve aerobic capacity, muscular strength, endurance, and flexibility. Students understand why it is so important to continue to work on their fitness throughout their entire life in order to maintain good health and a higher quality of life.

Pokemon Club

The newest club at Poage is the Pokemon Club! This club allows 4th and 5th grade Pokemon enthusiasts to get together and do all things Pokemon, from trading to "battling" to seeing what sorts of cards their buddies have. The club meets on Wednesday's from 3:00 to 3:30.



Charles Russell Elementary



Thank you to our very own Mr. Thornbury, who came in to read Green Eggs and Ham to Mrs. Bonner's kindergarten class to help kick off Read Across America Month.

This classroom goal is to read 50 books for the month!



Students are taking the "Construction Challenge" in the library, using only small plastic cups, colored craft sticks, and blocks, students build different structures. Some balance on only one block or cup, some are several "stories" high, and some are just interesting designs.



This past week we had several students compete in several areas at the 2016 Regional Academic Meet. Fourteen total students advanced. We had students move on from Districts in all testing areas, as well as our Quick Recall Team and Future Problem Solving Team.

The students represented Charles Russell well and walked away with 4th place in Future Problem Solving. This team includes Marissa Morrison, Abby Leeper,

Makena Francis, and Lily Sargent.



On March 12, 2016, students from Charles Russell Elementary participated in the 6th annual District 8 Elementary Honor's Choir. The students traveled to Mason County

Intermediate School where they joined with two hundred and eighty 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students from across the northeastern portion of Kentucky. This is the first year that Ashland Independent schools participated in the event, and it is an honor to have had 8 Charles Russell students attend the event.

Congratulations to the following students:

- Asher Adkins
- Tori Brown
- Alexis Kennedy
- Tilly Martin
- Arianna Mullins
- Holly Shelton
- Rachel Tackett
- Reyce Vanover



Ashland Middle School



Ashland Middle School brought home the KAAC Governor's Cup District 70 Championship trophy! The FPS team placed 2nd and the Quick

Recall team placed 1st. Individual students winning medals for their efforts were: Noah Carey (6th) - tied for 2nd Place Math, Alexis Rollins (8th) - 5th Place Language Arts, Kyle McComis (8th) - 4th Place Language Arts, Mackenzie Clere (8th) - 3rd Place Arts & Humanities, Eli Campbell (6th) - 2nd Place Arts & Humanities, Olivia Connolly (8th) - 5th Place English Composition, Haleigh Buckler (8th) - 1st Place English Composition, Logan Coovert (8th) - tied for 1st Place Social Studies, Hunter Musser (8th) - 3rd Place Social Studies, Will Spade (8th) - tied for 2nd Place Science and 3rd Place Language Arts, E.J. Harrison (8th) - tied for 2nd Place Science and tied for 1st Place Social Studies, Jessica Miller - 2nd Place English Composition and 1st Place Science.



The Ashland Middle School Savage Narwhals Lego Robotics Team competed Saturday, March 22nd at Morehead University as part of the Morehead State Regional RCX Robotics competition. Caleb, Isaac, and Eli Campbell, Noah Carey, Connor Calhoun, Noah Kelley, Cade Parlato, Locklan Fannin, Eric Billips, and Alex E! They took home first place in the competition and will now advance to the State RCX Robotics competition at Rupp Arena on April 22nd.



AMS Student Council visited the Capitol in Frankfort on March 1, 2016. Students toured the Capitol building and served as pages in the House of Representatives during the legislative session.

The Discovery Team theater class recently performed The Hysterical History of Troy, a play based on the Trojan War.



The 8th grade boys' basketball team finished the season 21-1, were OVC champions, and finished 3rd in the state championships.



The Ashland Middle School MathCounts team competed in the Chapter competition Saturday, February 20, at ACTC. AMS was represented by Gavin Eckard, Aaron Hill, Melanie Grimm, Noah Carey, Faith Nivens, Alex Boyle, Jessica Miller, Calvin Riggs, Cade Parlato,

and Chrissy Brown.

In celebration of Read Across America—the birthday of Dr. Seuss—87 students were nominated for reading honors by their teachers. They were invited to participate in a special Read Across America dessert of brownies with whipped cream and fresh berries. A special thank you to Ms. Sherry and the cafeteria staff!

Congratulations to the newest members of The Twenty Book Challenge Club: Mrs. Lovins, Mrs. Hall, Adrianna Riggs, Alexis Watkins, Brady Preston, Cameron Menefee, Chrissy Brown, Connor Howard, Travis Stephens, Emily Vanhoose, Gavin Couture, Georgia Greene, Gwen Akers, Hannah Kohatsu, Jackson Sparks, Joel Katterheinrich, Leah Knotts, Luquer Skaggs, Jack Alley, Shenoa Campbell, Haylen Dyer, Melanie Grimm, Natalie Belville, Reese Couture, Thomas Skaggs, UriYaH Hall Clark, Dean Swiney, Audra Spellman, and Xavier Collins Brown.

The 8th Grade students at AMS were invited to participate in the Marathon Career Day earlier this month. This annual event is used to introduce the students to the many careers that are available in our area and focus their minds on the schooling that is required for such positions. The students were exposed to many professional positions that help Marathon continue as a successful business such as Security, Engineering, Chemistry, Accounting and even the Fire Fighting staff. The 8th grade students truly enjoyed their experiences at Marathon, and we would like to thank the company for their continued outreach to the community.



Ashland Middle School String Orchestras had an outstanding day at the KMEA District 8 Solo & Ensemble Assessment Event. Congratulations to the following students: Natalie Belville - Distinguished Ensemble, Emily Bradley - Distinguished Ensemble (2), Hayleigh Buckler - Distinguished Ensemble (2), Mackenzie Clere - Distinguished Solo, Distinguished Ensemble, Pola Delaney - Distinguished Solo, Hailie Gullett - Distinguished Solo, Proficient Ensemble, Zach Lee - Distinguished Ensemble, Calvin Riggs - Distinguished Solo, Will Spade - Distinguished Solo, and Hailee Stidham - Distinguished Ensemble, Ashleigh Taylor - Distinguished Ensemble, Rosey Ware - Distinguished Solo (2), and Joslin Wireman - Proficient Ensemble.

Paul G. Blazer High School

The 2016 Blazer Hi-Life yearbook *Stand Out* has been selected by the Balfour publishing company as a national sample to be distributed to representatives across the country for the 2016-2017 school year. The 2015 Hi-Life *Selfie* was highly regarded and prompted the decision. Adviser Kevin Stepp said, "The selection is a tribute to the staff of *Selfie*. The Hi-Life tradition at Blazer is a proud one, and that staff produced a book that carries the banner well. It has pushed the staff of *Stand Out* to raise its game."

The 2016 yearbook is currently in production and available for order. Business and student ad spaces are also still available. Contact Kevin Stepp at Blazer (606-327-6040 x 3606) or go to Balfour.com for more information.

Blazer's String Orchestra had an outstanding day at the KMEA District 8 Solo & Ensemble Assessment Event on Saturday. Out of the 27 individual and small group performances from Blazer, 20 received a rating of Distinguished. The other 7 received a rating of Proficient. Congratulations to the following students who participated and contributed to a VERY successful day:

- Aireanna Barber – Distinguished Solo, Proficient Ensemble
- Kaitlyn Bellew - Distinguished Ensemble
- Nya Blake – Proficient Solo
- Dawson Covert - Distinguished Solo
- Hayley Deal - Distinguished Solo, Distinguished Ensemble (2)
- Nikki Doss – Proficient Ensemble
- Jamie Downey – Proficient Ensemble
- Ben Fazenbaker - Distinguished Ensemble
- Lauren Fazenbaker - Distinguished Ensemble (2)
- Caleb Geyer – Proficient Solo, Distinguished Ensemble
- Carlie Geyer - Distinguished Solo, Distinguished Ensemble (2)
- Caroline Geyer - Distinguished Solo, Distinguished Ensemble (2)
- Britany Guerrero - Distinguished Ensemble
- Autumn Hoffman - Distinguished Ensemble
- Bella Kesling - Distinguished Ensemble
- Wyatt McCarty - Distinguished Solo, Distinguished Ensemble
- Mikala Menshouse – Proficient Ensemble
- Amy Moore - Distinguished Solo, Distinguished Ensemble and accompanied 2 Distinguished Solo Performances on Piano
- Lydia O'Nan - Distinguished Solo
- Kenzie Pennington - Distinguished Solo
- Lindsay Riffe - Distinguished Solo, Proficient Ensemble
- Lexi Smyser – Proficient Solo
- Zach Stafford – Proficient Solo
- John Thomas - Distinguished Solo
- Casey Walters – Proficient Ensemble
- Amber Williamson - Distinguished Solo, Distinguished Ensemble
- Spencer Wills – Proficient Solo, Distinguished Ensemble (2)
- William Zheng - Distinguished Solo

The Paul G. Blazer High School Chapter of The National Beta Club held its annual induction ceremony on Wednesday, March 23, 2016. The motto of the National Beta Club is "Let us lead by serving others." Students must maintain a 3.2 or higher grade point average to remain a member of Beta Club. They must also complete 15 hours of community service each year. The 2016 inductees were Megan Atkins, Kaitlyn Bellew, Evan Billups,

Sarah Jo Brake, Hannah Carroll, Blaine Collins, Dawson Covert, Alexa Craft, Kaitlyn Creech, Abigail Crites, Blake Day, Lakin Delaney, Hailey Edmondson, Ben Fazenbaker, Katelyn Ferguson, William Fisher, Carlie Geyer, Caroline Geyer, Brittany Guerrero, Hannah Hickman, Wren Jenkins, Matthew Jividen, Blake Johnson, Robert Krick, TJ Love, Sarah McCloud, Layne Meek, Cam Miler, Julia Minigh, Hannah O'Bryan, Lydia O'Nan, Baylei Park, Sydni Pierce, Whitney Porter, Sydney Runyon, Sarah Rymer, Alexis Smyser, Samantha Taylor, Kierra Toppings, Chloe Whitlock, and William Zheng.

Paul Blazer JROTC Team to Compete in National Academic Bowl Championship in Washington, DC

Ashland, KY –March 3, 2016 -- After advancing through two phases of online competition, the Paul Blazer JROTC Academic Team composed of Keeston Clark, Bryan Lucas, Abby Caines, Mallory Martin, Heaven Wallace, and Trey Caines will compete in person at the Championship event in Washington, DC. The 2016 Army JROTC Academic Bowl Championship will be held on the campus of The Catholic University of America, June 24-28, 2016. This event is sponsored by the Army JROTC and is conducted by College Options Foundation.

Paul Blazer High School JROTC team earned top scores out of the 1,498 Army JROTC teams that competed from around the world. Only three teams from Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee, and Michigan will be attending the competition. The team is one of only twenty-four Army JROTC Academic Bowl teams in the nation to advance to the National Academic Bowl competition, which includes an all-expense paid trip to the Championship event in DC. During the two fast-paced preliminary rounds, students were tested on their knowledge of JROTC curriculum, English, Math and Science. One of the main goals of the JROTC Academic Bowl is to prepare students for state exit/graduation exams as well as college entrance exams, such as the SAT and ACT.

The winner of the Army JROTC Academic Championship will compete against the winners of the Air Force, Marine Corps, and Navy JROTC Academic Bowls in the JROTC Joint Service Academic Bowl Championship.

The JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl (JLAB) is a nationally recognized academic competition created exclusively for JROTC students. By participating, cadets learn the values of citizenship, academic competition, and college opportunity. The competition creates tremendous opportunities for JROTC cadets by allowing them to demonstrate leadership and academic abilities.

College Options Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the academic development of high school students and assisting them with their preparation for higher education. Using academic competitions, college exam study guides, college admissions tutorials and personalized counseling, College Options Foundation has assisted the nation's JROTC cadets worldwide for over a decade.



District News

Ashland Independent Schools Registration Set

Registration for Head Start, Preschool, and Primary School (formerly kindergarten and first grade students) will be held in the Ashland Independent School District during the week of March 28-April 1, 2016. Registration hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. Evening hours are available on Tuesday, March 29, 2016, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

All students will register at the school in their attendance area for both kindergarten and first grade. Students wishing to attend schools not in their attendance area should request a transfer form from the school of their attendance area when registering.

Students registering for the 3 & 4 year old Head Start/Preschool program should apply at the Head Start office at 1820 Hickman Street, Head Start entrance. Age, residency, and income guidelines apply. For more information, call (606) 327-2715.

Students who plan to transfer from outside the Ashland Independent School District (K-12) should register this spring at the school the child is requesting to attend.

According to Kentucky State Law, a child must be three or four years of age by August 1, 2016 to enter preschool. Students must be five years of age by October 1, 2016, to enter kindergarten. Students must be six years of age by October 1, 2016, and have successfully completed a recognized kindergarten program in order to enter the first grade.

An official copy of the child's birth certificate from the registrar's office in the state the child was born is required for registration. Hospital certificates and billfold size cards are not acceptable. Parents will be provided information regarding physical examination, vision examination, immunization records, and kindergarten screening by the principal or secretary of each school.

For further information, please call the principal of your attendance area school or

Lisa Henson at (606) 327-2706 ext. 2728 or email lisa.henson@ashland.kyschools.us

Spring Testing

Richard Oppenheimer

State mandated testing is just around the corner for students in Kentucky's public schools. K-PREP assessments for students in grades 3 through 8 and for high school sophomores and juniors must be administered in the last 14 instructional days of the district calendar. As of now, tests are scheduled to begin Monday May 9, 2016 and conclude Friday May 13, with make-up tests to be administered in the days following.

Each school will set the schedule of testing, following closely to state requirements.

All students enrolled in the high school courses of Algebra II, Biology, English 10 and US History must also complete end-of-course exams. Currently, these assessments are schedule to begin Wednesday May 11, 2016. Remember that the results of these specific tests account for 10% of the students' overall score in these classes.

Additionally, students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses at the high school have the opportunity to take AP tests, which, depending on their scores, may provide college credit.

Gr	Reading	Math	Science	Social Studies	Writing	College Readiness
3	Yes	Yes				
4	Yes	Yes	Yes		Editing/ Mechanics Test	
5	Yes	Yes		Yes	On-Demand Writing	
6	Yes	Yes			Editing/ Mechanics & On-Demand Writing	
7	Yes	Yes	Yes			
8	Yes	Yes		Yes	On-Demand Writing	
9					On-Demand Writing	
10	End of Course Assessment in English 2	End of Course Assessment in Algebra 2	End of Course Assessment in Biology	End of Course Assessment in US History	On-Demand Writing	
11					On-Demand Writing	ACT
12						



RCX Regional Robotics Competition

Cary Williams

On March 12th, eight teams representing our five elementary schools and Ashland Middle competed in the Regional RCX Robo Challenge Xtreme competition. In the "Avalanche Rescue Challenge" teams worked together to overcome 15 tasks which included the removal of road barriers, movement of medical supplies, and the rescue of a stranded ski-lift worker. The Savage Narwhals (aka 6th grade team) at Ashland Middle School won first place in their division with a score of 175 points. The Crabbe Tigers placed second with a score of 125 points on the elementary division. Both teams will compete in the state RCX competition at Rupp Arena in April.



Ashland Independent Schools
1820 Hickman Street
Ashland, KY 41101

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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

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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



Dawson Coovert poses with Governor Bevin after his win at the state Governor's Cup competition.

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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.