

FOCUS

Ashland Independent Schools

Superintendent's Letter

We have much to celebrate relative to our successes, our improvements, and our continued efforts and dedication to the students we serve. I want to again emphasize to all staff that our commitment must be in evidence each school day for the benefit of those we are charged to care for, to strive for excellence for, and to continually provide the planning and effort to ensure student achievement and student successes!



Academic Rigor: True academic rigor means that the school curriculum is based upon high academic standards for all students. Teachers design, evaluate, and refine classroom instruction to assure active use of this core knowledge and high thinking demand for all students. Academic rigor exists where commitment to the knowledge core intersects the high thinking demand of the instructions. Every student in the school has access to and is expected to complete this rigorous core curriculum.

Relevance: Schools can help students experience their school work as important, interesting, and relevant. Students believe what they are learning is important when they can connect it to an area of personal interest, personal aptitude, and/or a career goal. Students and parents understand the importance of taking rigorous courses in high school and see the benefit of this beyond the high school experience. Students also see the interrelatedness and the connectivity of what they are learning in different content areas.

Relationship: Strong, meaningful relationships enhance the teaching and learning mission of the school. These relationships include teachers and students, administration and teachers, school and parent, parent and student, and the school and the community. The culture of the school is such that every adult in the school cares about each student's success. Strong relationships sustain people in time of challenge and change. A fundamental measure of the strength of the relationships within a school is how students would respond to the question: "Is there an adult in your school that knows you well, celebrates your successes, notices when you are struggling, and to whom you would go for help?" All other relationships within the school community exist to strengthen this foundational relationship between students and the adults within the school.

In the Ashland Independent Schools, it really is "all about our students"! Their achievement and successes... Whatever It Takes!

Stephen E. Gilman

Superintendent's Letter.....	1
District News.....	2, 11
Ashland Head Start	3
Crabbe Elementary School	4
Hager Elementary School	5

Oakview Elementary School	6
Poage Elementary School	7
Charles Russell Elementary School	8
Ashland Middle School.....	9
Blazer High School.....	10

District News

Assessment Results are in

Each year, public schools in Kentucky administer state-required tests to students in grades three through eight as well as for students enrolled in certain high school courses. If your child took part in these assessments in the 2014 school year, and have not received a report of their scores, you should be getting it shortly.

The results of these assessments are a large part of school and district accountability. For last year, the Ashland district along with six of seven of its schools met their annual goal for improvement. In the chart below, you can see the score from 2013, the goal for improvement and the actual score from 2014.

2014 Accountability Results				
School	2013 Score	Goal	2014 Score	Classification
Charles Russell Elementary School	68.4	69.4	69.4	Proficient
Crabbe Elementary School	57.4	58.4	63.8	Needs Improvement
Hager Elementary School	75.8	76.3	76.4	Distinguished
Oakview Elementary School	65.9	66.9	64.5	Needs Improvement
Poage Elementary School	64.8	65.8	70.7	Proficient
Ashland Middle School (prev Verity)	67.9	68.4	68.5	Proficient
Paul G. Blazer High School	68.2	69.2	73.9	Proficient
Ashland Independent Combined Score	67.0	68.0	70.3	Proficient

The accountability score is a combination of several elements (Achievement, Gap, Growth, College/Career Readiness, Graduation Rate and Program Reviews). This score is based on a 100 point scale. The classification is determined by where school and district scores fall in relation to others in the state.

Graduation Rate and College/Career Readiness are two areas that are ultimate measures of a district's effectiveness. Each of these scores continues to increase for the Ashland schools. The readiness measure was especially improved with an increase of nearly 30%!

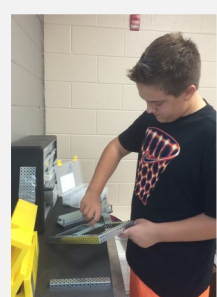
We applaud our students and our staff for attaining these results. Our goal remains – for all schools and students to achieve proficiency or higher and for our district to be distinguished!

PAC Arts and Humanities Grant

Crabbe Elementary has been awarded an Arts and Humanities grant through the Paramount Arts Center by an anonymous donor. The grant allows each grade to attend two artist performances throughout the school year at no cost. It also pays for 20 students to attend a semester-long arts workshop in dance, drama, or art. The staff at Crabbe can also attend any professional opportunity offered by the Paramount at no charge. An artist in residence will come to the school and provide an on site camp for students in dance and drama. This is a huge opportunity for the students at Crabbe.

S.T.E.M. in the Ashland Schools

District-wide students are being exposed to more experiences in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (S.T.E.M.) than ever before. With the district-wide formation of First Lego League Robotics competition teams in grades 4 through 8 to the offering of S.T.E.M. courses at Ashland Middle and Blazer, students are actively engaged in real-world college and career experiences.



Traditional electives at Ashland Middle School have been replaced with the Gateway to Technology curriculum provided by Project Lead the Way, a nationally recognized S.T.E.M. program. Students may now choose to take courses entitled Design and Modeling, Automation and Robotics, Magic of Electrons, Medical Detectives, and Science of Technology.

Three new programs are also in full swing at Paul G. Blazer High School. In addition to the current Health Science and Engineering programs offered at ACTC, students may now stay on campus and participate in the Medicaid Nursing Assistant, Construction Management, and Biomedical Science programs.



4th graders at Crabbe Elementary are practicing their recorders. They are learning how to play them in music class.

Ashland Head Start



ASHLAND HEAD START AND PRESCHOOL CELEBRATES GRANDPARENTS

Grandparents' Day is an officially-recognized national holiday. But increasingly, schools and community groups are also organizing Grandparents' Day at any time during

the year as a way to bring together families and build community. Ashland Head Start hosted 78 grandparents and other special adults. Our children had an opportunity to show their appreciation and love toward their grandparents (and other special older adult friends), and grandparents feel valued as their role is validated. These events are also a steppingstone for creating long-term intergenerational programs and connections and in the building of parent family and community partnerships. Jhonda Page Family Service Coordinator



Mrs. Whitehead's classroom had a visit from the Hager BETA club last week. The purpose of BETA club is to promote the ideals of academic achievement, character, leadership, and service among elementary and secondary school students. The Hager BETA club comes to Ashland Head Start several times a year.

They always bring fun activities for the children to do. The children in Mrs. Whitehead's class love the fact that these children are always willing to "play". Play is a child's work. Play is important for children's development and for children to bond. Play is needed for healthy development. Play offers a chance to connect with other students. As children grow, play helps them learn how to act in society. Play is enjoyable and spontaneous. Play helps children learn social and motor skills and cognitive thinking. The Hager Beta Club always finds a way to boost the children's self-confidence and what better way to make lasting friendships than through "play".



Mrs. McDowell's class had a wonderful Grandparents Day. We read a book with our Grandparents and had juice and cookies. The students enjoyed having them there to show off their classroom and activities. We have been working hard since the beginning of this

school year learning our shapes and colors. The firemen visited our school and taught the students how to be safe in case of a fire.



Mrs. Cox's class is studying fall currently. During the beginning of the school year, we were studying colors and shapes and have since moved on to writing our names. We enjoyed Grandparent's Day making Family Trees out of our handprints. The students enjoyed talking to the firefighters and looking at the fire truck. We are looking forward to giving thanks during the upcoming holiday season.

In Ms. Dee's class the students have been discussing & practicing fire safety and prevention. We even had a visit from the Ashland Fire Department. While it is clear what we practice at school, sometimes children are unprepared at home. We have been exploring major safety themes that all children need to know for home and school. It is easy to take these safety practices for granted, but our children need to rehearse and talk about preparedness to understand these safety rules and drills.



- Get out and Stay Out!!! Never go back inside a burning building even for a beloved pet or toy.
- Meet at a designated place outside your house and make sure you practice fire drills at home. Children need to understand and practice what to do in case of an emergency.
- Stop, Drop, and Roll (and cover your eyes)!!! Practice makes perfect. Never play with Fire!!! Talk about matches, lighters, and cigarettes.
- Get Low and Stay Low!!! Smoke rises and fresh air can save your life. Teach your children how to crawl to safety when a room fills with smoke.

Crabbe Elementary School

Library Mrs. Cole

This year Crabbe will be participating in the First Lego League. First Lego League is a worldwide Lego education program that focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Our Lego Robotics team is off to a great start. Students have already begun building their robots. After the robots are complete, we will start planning the best strategies for competing in the Learning Unleashed World Class Challenge in December. The challenge includes a research project as well as the robot competition. Students must also demonstrate teamwork and good sportsmanship.



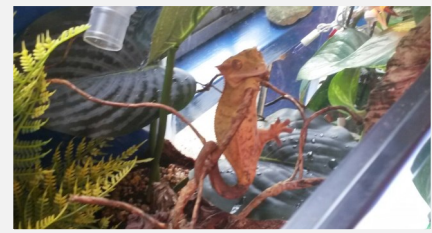
Computer Lab Mrs. Bowling

Students in typing class have been practicing their typing skill and improving their speed & accuracy with keyboard cover on. Each student that reach his/her keyboarding goal will be rewarded at the end of the school year with a BIG ice cream party.



Mrs. Hill Special Ed

The students in Room 8 are the recipients of an Area Education Grant through the Foundation for the Tri-State Community. Through this grant, Mrs. Hill has been able to implement



a yearlong classroom project "Classy Crested Critters". With this grant funding, the students went on a community-based field trip to Bert's Pet Center and acquired their new classroom pet "Katie". She is a Dalmatian-colored Crested Gecko. During this field trip, the students participated in an interactive experience, teaching them to care for their new pet, what her nutritional requirements are, and how to maintain her habitat. Students will also develop an interactive journal which will enable them to record their experience with her as the school year progresses.

Clemons 3rd Grade

As a reward, 13 students went on a geocache around the park. With help from an app, students were able to locate two geocaches. The students used a map, descriptions, and attributes when searching for the geocache. They were extremely excited when they found two area geocaches. We can't wait to go on more geocache hunts!



Barber 4th Grade

Students are showing their Picasso artwork after ACTC students visited and taught them a little about Pablo Picasso and his artwork. This month's artist is Frida Kahlo.



Withrow 4th Grade

Crabbe 4th graders love Noodles!!! "Go Noodles", that is! Go Noodles is a science based brain-break activity proven to improve mood and cognition. The activities have the kids running, jumping, stretching, and dancing. There are also

tasks to help calm down using deep breathing exercises. It is amazing that these ten minute activities enable the body to release endorphins and get the blood flowing. The 4th graders that used the first ten minutes "Go Noodling" prior to their last math test feel that some of their success was due to this energizing program. These breaks are part of the Ashland PEP Grant.

Mrs. Murray 5th Grade

Fifth grade students created informative buffalo hide posters after learning all about the Great Plains Indians use of the buffalo. Students are currently studying Native Americans. Ronnie Keeton proudly poses with his group's poster.



Crabbe 5th graders are currently studying the Eastern Woodland Indians in Social Studies.

Our most recent projects include making longhouses. Students utilized math, social studies, and cooking skills as they made beef jerky after studying about foods the Eastern Woodland Indians ate in their daily lives. We have been studying multi-digit multiplication in math using both the turtlehead and lattice methods for the standard algorithm. In English and language arts students have been working on text structure and point of view. Fifth grade problem solving skills were put to the test in science when students were challenged to save Fred. In the activity students worked in pairs to save Fred after his boat capsized using only 4 paper clips. However, they were not allowed to touch Fred, the life preserver, or boat directly with their hands.



Mrs. Norrod 6th Grade

On October 10, the 6th grade students attended the San Jose Taiko Drummers show at the Paramount Arts Center. Taiko is the Japanese word for drum. The students learned

this and many other Japanese words and drumming techniques during the show. A few of the students even had the privilege to go on stage and play the drums.

Hager Elementary School



Hager was designated as a high performing “Distinguished” school as a result of student performance on the 13-14 K-PREP test. Our teachers and staff worked tirelessly to provide the best instruction at the appropriate level for every student. Parents made sure students were at school each day and worked with us to reinforce concepts at home. We are excited about our results and look forward to seeing each child develop and grow even more to become successful Tomcats in the near future.

Hager Elementary inducted 41 students into the Junior Beta Club at a ceremony on Thursday, September 25, 2014. Candidates must have outstanding academic achievement, exemplify worthy character, maintain good attendance and have a commendable attitude and be willing to serve their community.

On Thursday, October 9th, Hager’s 5th grade Junior Beta Club visited Ashland Head Start to assist in the classroom as part of their community service requirement. Our students made lots of new friends and are excited to return in the spring.



Hager students also participated in the Annual Walk to School Day. We had 125 students, teachers, and volunteers participate. Students met at the Ashland YMCA and then walked with supervision to Hager. We would like to extend our appreciation to the parents, staff, and community members who volunteered as chaperones to ensure our student’s safety during our walk to school!

Hager STLP members are continuing 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!

Hager students are also looking forward to the fall festival that will be held at the end of the month. The Fall Festival will be on October 25 from 3-6pm and students are encouraged to dress in their Halloween costumes. There will be games, concessions, and community vendors at the festival this year. Also they will continue the annual “Teacher Chili-Fest.” All PTO profits are used to support our teachers and students.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOM

Mrs. Plummer’s kindergarten students are enjoying reading with their 6th grade buddies. Every Friday Mrs. Vance’s 6th graders join them for thirty minutes of reading fun! Kindergartners enjoy working with older students and the 6th graders do an awesome job of not only modeling reading but also positive behavior. Both classes look forward to this time together. The great thing is that soon the kindergartners will begin reading to the BIG KIDS! Everyone looks forward to that!



We’ve been really busy in first grade! Mrs. Zornes’ and Ms. Fraley’s classes have been working hard to write personal narratives. We also got to take a class field trip to Imel’s pumpkin farm. There the students learned all about pumpkins, they fed the animals, and even picked out their own pumpkin to take home.

Second graders at Hager Elementary took their first field trip to the Huntington Art Museum. The students took a tour of the museum and did hands-on activities involving the elements of art. Students were even able to visit an atrium and see poisonous frogs and banana trees! The student’s had a memorable and joyful learning experience outside of the classroom walls!



As part of their social studies unit on communities, third grade students are researching their community and creating a variety of projects to display what they have learned. Students will also present a written description of their projects to the class. The projects will include characteristics of the community, including types of buildings, landforms, people, and history.

Hager’s 5th grade students visited Wolfpen Woods in September. They spent the day learning about pioneers and the way they lived. Students got to sample different foods, hear music, make soap, and even write with colonial ink! It was a great hands-on experience for students to learn about Kentucky heritage.



Mrs. Hodge’s and Mrs. Vance’s 6th grade classes recently finished reading the *Giver* by Lois Lowry. The students created their own Utopia brochures in groups and presented them to the class. They also dressed up as “The Giver” after reading the book.

We are still collecting Box Tops, so remember to keep clipping!

Oakview Elementary School

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students are observing the changes from summer to fall. Apples have been harvested, and we have had a bushel of fun! Our homemade applesauce was delicious. To celebrate the beginning of fall, we read Barn Dance by Bill Martin and had a hoedown! We also took our annual fall field trip to Imel's pumpkin farm.

First Grade

First Grade received new "Go Math" books and will be reviewing addition to ten and starting subtraction this month. We will also start writing personal narratives. Students will be able to wear their Halloween



costumes on Friday, October 31. Also, the last week of October is "Red Ribbon Week" and "Just Say No to Drugs".

Second Grade

Ms. Mann's class theme for reading for October is Nature Walk. The class is learning about plants and animals in science class. Students are adding up to 1,000 in math. Mapping skills are really developing with the students. Personal narratives are being developed in writing. Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Gilbert's classes are excited about October. They have several fun things planned to learn— Fire Safety, Columbus Day, the BIG pumpkin unit, and Halloween fun!

Third Grade

Third graders will be taking a field trip to Savage Branch (a conservation reserve owned by Marathon) in October. While there, the students will catch tadpoles in the pond and be able to observe other pond habitat life. We will go on a nature walk where we will see different bird sanctuaries and will meet a beekeeper and his active beehives. In math, we will concentrate on different strategies to add and subtract fluently and solve word problems. We are excited to use our new "Go Math" textbooks and workbooks.

Fourth Grade

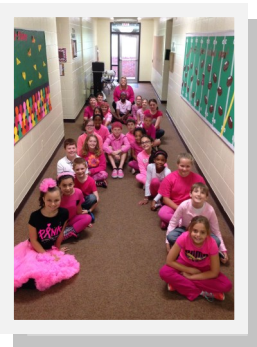
The fourth grade students are learning how to determine the theme of a story. We have been reading books such as *The School is Not White* and *This Is the Dream* to discuss the importance of accepting others' differences.

Fifth Grade

Congratulations to the fifth grade for having all students present on High Attendance Day! We were the only intermediate grade to reach this goal! The students celebrated by watching the movie Frozen while enjoying snow cones! Fifth graders have finished working with multi-digit multiplication and have started on long division! We are learning a "Long Division Style" song to help us remember how to solve these problems. Students have begun the study of Native Americans and their cultural regions. The students are focusing on leads and organization as they finish their fiction pieces. This month we are focusing on prepositions, synonyms, antonyms, similes, and metaphors!! We are continuing main idea for information text and working towards theme for literature.

Sixth Grade

Sixth grade students were introduced to a lesson feet per second from APD. Major Kelly and Officer Church talked to students about speeding and the distance a car travels in seconds. Students watched many cars speed by our 25 mph zone and had a chance to calculate the cars feet per second distance. This gave students an opportunity to see how math is used in everyday life. The students had a great time and are excited for the next lesson from the APD.



The students at Oakview got a chance to see two presentations about having good character. The first presentation, "The NED Show", was a yo-yo performance that stressed three things: 1. Never Give Up, 2. Encourage Others, and 3. Do the Right Thing. The students really enjoyed the show and were able to purchase yo-yos the week after as part of the NED

shows Pay It Forward initiative. Our next presenter, Gary Booth, brought his magic show to Oakview and talked to students about having good character. As we move through October and November our emphasis will turn toward our Too Good For Drugs program, and we will be talking to students about the danger of drugs.



Miss Kentucky at Oakview!!

Poage Elementary School

Kindergarten

Kindergarteners have been learning many exciting things this year. We just finished our unit of study on fire safety. Students learned what to do in case of a fire. We learned about escape routes, signs of a fire, and fire equipment. We visited the fire station where we learned about fire trucks and equipment fireman use to put out fires.



1st Grade

To accommodate the new science standards, the first grade at Poage now has science experiment Fridays. The students have been having fun learning about forming hypotheses and then testing them. For our first unit on light, we did experiments to see if light was needed to see an object and how different



materials block light. For our next unit on sound, we did several listening activities to guess sounds and then looked at how vibrations make sound and how sound makes materials vibrate. Students love being scientists and look forward to science experiment Fridays!

3rd Grade

On Friday, October 17, 2014, PFC Dylan Kramer visited Mrs. Anderson's 3rd grade class. PFC Kramer is a former Poage student who is currently serving in the United States Army. He trained in Georgia and Louisiana. His family is stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. During the visit he spoke to students and answered their questions in regard to his service, training, uniforms, and his travels with the Army. In the upcoming months PFC Kramer will be deployed overseas. Mrs. Anderson's class will stay in contact with PFC Kramer as much as possible throughout his journey across the globe – the trip could take up to a week. He and his fellow servicemen and women will make several stops before arriving at their destination, where they will be stationed for approximately 9 months, during which time the class hopes to be able to send care packages and stay in communication via email.



Poage's Library Media Specialist, Cindy Cooper, has become a published author this year. She has published a series of three healthy recipe books to help anyone who is trying to lose weight or just eat healthier. The first two books, "Into Your Skinny Jeans", and "Into Your Skinny Jeans, Vol. 2", contain recipes from appetizers to desserts and even a grocery list to stock your new healthy kitchen. Book 3 of the series, "Into Your Skinny Jeans, Vol. 3", consists of healthy slow cooker recipes for main courses, sides, and desserts. All of these e-books can be found at your favorite e-book retailer. You can also visit Cindy Cooper's author page at <http://www.smashwords.com/profile/view/cindy4unc>

4th Grade

The 4th grade students at Poage enjoyed the day on the frontier at Wolfpen Village. They listened to various re-enactors present life skills that were needed for survival in the early years on the Kentucky frontier. They learned about basket weaving, pioneer foods and herbal remedies, starting a fire with flint and steel, spinning wool, and cooking. They saw an Indian, touched a real bear hide, and heard stories about Daniel Boone.



6th Grade

The 6th grade at Poage has been working hard setting goals and learning to be good role models. Our 6th grade class led this year's "See You at the Pole", and they also won the food feud by bringing in the most canned goods, to help with our food pantry. The



6th grade class is improving their vocabulary skills by integrating college and career readiness vocab into daily language. In reading, they finished Tuck Everlasting and learned to think about life from a different perspective. In math, they are growing by leaps and bounds with fractions, decimals, and percentages...oh my! Off to a great start in school for their last year as Poage Pioneers!

PE by Mr. Wilburn

I am pleased with the progress being made in order to meet the PEP grant requirements. Thus far I have completed fitness gram testing. I am confident that all of the classroom teachers here at Poage Elementary are completing the Take 10 activity breaks daily. Also, both 5th and 6th grade have received health classes that focus on the importance of healthy eating and nutrition, and I am currently teaching 4th grade those same concepts. So far in PE K-2 students have learned and executed moving in different pathways and tempos, tagging properly and safely, forming a group quickly and respectfully, fitness gram tests, various fitness exercises, and several parachute activities that focus on teamwork. The students in grades 3-6 have worked cooperatively within groups to accomplish different tasks, learned how to use the Project Fit America equipment properly, validated knowledge of components of fitness, and are currently learning about the skills that are required to play soccer.



Poage students took their learning outside the classroom. They went on a field trip to Wendy's and Kroger. They spent the day using their community safety signs, manners, and money skills making purchases at Kroger.



Charles Russell Elementary School

Free Fundraising

CRS participates in a variety of easy and free fundraising programs. Collecting Campbell's Labels for Education earns points for free stuff for the school. Tyson Project A+, Funding Factory printer cartridge and small electronics recycling, and GoodSearch.com search engine raises funds for STLP. Pillsbury's BoxTops collection and aluminum can recycling provides extra money to purchase AR books for the library. The PTO collects bottle caps and box labels from Coke products for the Coke Rewards program. Pop can tabs can be donated to help raise funds for the Ronald McDonald house in Huntington. Finally, new this year, CRS is participating in the Shoparoo receipt program that will provide extra money for the school's general fund. Anyone wanting to know more about how to help with these programs, please call the school at 327-2735.

Grandparents Lunch Week

The week of September 8-12, grandparents of CRS students were invited to have lunch in honor of Grandparents Day on September 7. The grandparents enjoyed eating with their grandchildren which allowed them to see their school and meet their friends. Monday was kindergarten day, Tuesday-1st grade, Wednesday-2nd grade, Thursday 3rd/4th grades, and Friday was for 5th/6th grades. Approximately 275 grandparents visited with their grandchildren. Some even drove down from several hours away. There were a lot of happy faces! -Taylor York & Mimi Moore



3rd Grade Fairy Tales

On September 11, Mrs. Ledford's 3rd grade class had a special visitor. Mrs. Mary Kay Hudson, Tucker Roger's grandmother, visited the class to teach a lesson about Fairy Tales with a focus on Jack and the



Beanstalk. After hearing and learning about the tale, the students created mosaic art using Play-doh and real beans. They finished the lesson by decorating a cupcake with crushed oreos as dirt, jelly beans, and a Twizzler as the stalk. The kids had a whole lot of fun!

-Hailey Cabell & Holly Shelton



Watch D.O.G.S.

For the 2nd year, CRS is participating in the Watch DOGS program. Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students) is a national program to encourage Dads to get involved in the

children's education by volunteering at their schools. Mike Schirtzinger, whose wife is a first grade teacher, and has children in 3rd and 4th grades, is the organizer. A well-attended pizza dinner was held on September 18 as a kick-off to get Dads to sign up. Any male father figure can participate, like grandfathers, stepfathers, and uncles. Some of the jobs they do for the school includes, bus, lunch, and recess duties; helping teachers and students in class; and helping other staff around the school. It provides another male role model as most teachers are women.

Elizabeth Davis & Bailee Schirtzinger

Dental Clinic

Have you ever had your teeth cleaned at school before? Big Smiles Kentucky, a free traveling dental clinic, came to CRS on September 22. Some government and private funding paid for it. It was for kids who didn't have a dentist. There was a dentist, a dental assistant, and a dental hygienist. Some things they did were: take x-rays, clean teeth, add sealants to prevent cavities, new fillings, fix old fillings, and fluoride treatments. It's great way to help all kids keep their smiles!

-Elizabeth Davis & Abby Leeper



Kindergarten Farm Trip

On October 2, Mrs. Bonner and Mrs. Geyer's kindergarten classes visited Imel's Farm and Greenhouse in Greenup County for some fall learning fun. The students got to feed goats and chickens, ride on a train pulled by a tractor, play in a hay bale maze, sing songs, and choose a pumpkin to keep. It was bright, sunny day for learning!

-Taylor York



Ashland Middle School

Page 9

AMS's String Orchestra program has again been designated as "Gold Level" in the Kentucky Music Educators Association "Orchestra Program of Excellence." This is the fifth consecutive year that the A.M.S. (Verity) Orchestra has been recognized among the top String Orchestra programs in the state.

What Are You Reading? The English Language Arts teachers presented a reading challenge for every student and adult at AMS to read a minimum of 20 books this school year. This research-base project was inspired by The Book Whisperer by Donalynn Miller, who had 100% of her students meet their testing benchmarks by increasing opportunities to read.

The Automation & Robotics class enjoyed a lesson on the importance of communication when writing algorithms. An algorithm is a procedure or formula for solving a problem. During the lesson, students were challenged to write the steps for how to make the perfect peanut butter and jelly sandwich to a person who has never made a sandwich. Once they completed the writing, students read the steps to the teacher who followed the directions exactly! The students enjoyed their sandwich while reflecting on why good communication skills are important for an engineer.



The school's on-line newspaper, The Paw Print is up and running and available to view on AMS's website. Spencer Wills and Courtney Jones are the editors.

Lisa Wallin, seventh grade ELA teacher at AMS, was awarded a \$1,000.00 travel grant from the Kentucky Book Fair. Explorer Team students will travel to Frankfort, Friday, November 14, to attend the 33rd Annual KY Book Fair. There will be approximately 150 authors autographing works that have been published within the last year, including more than 40 children's and young adult authors, as well as special guest presentations and readings by a wide variety of authors.



AMS students cheering at "Fill The Stands Night, Aloha Edition."



AMS students campaign for student government

Congratulations to the following students for being elected to AMS Student Council: eighth grade - Chloe Vanhorn, Emma Dowdy, Emma Johnson, Jake Damron, Landon Howell, Luke Alley, Maddy Greene, Maddie Reihs, Mary Thornburg, Michael Sammons, Miranda Martin, Mykayla Akers, Olivia Allen, Parker Clarke, Preston Ledford, Trey Coburn, Tori Barber, and Zoe Ingram; seventh grade - Anna Heineman, Abby Huff, Brayden Kelley, Calvin Riggs, Emma Hill, Emma Rice, Gavin Eckart, Grant Kelley, Langley Sebastian, Jessie Williams, Julia Parker, Kaitlin McLain, Laney Kouns, Lexi Jones, Luke Maze, Maggie Thompson, Maya Blankenship, Merrick Clinger, Reilly McLain, and Zach Lee. The mission of the student council is to develop leadership skills, foster community awareness and participation, and promote school spirit.



The Adventurers Team at Wolf Pen Woods.



AMS students loading non-perishable food items for the annual Food Feud. AMS collected over 2,500 lbs. of food items. The Adventurers won the team competition by collecting over 700 lbs. What a great effort for a great cause!

Paul Blazer High School



See you at the Pole!

Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Active Christian Teens is a student led club that meets every Friday, September through April. The group commits to pray weekly for their peers, school, and community. Officers lead in prayer, a weekly devotion, and music. "See You at the Pole" is our

major project of the year which allows teachers, coaches, staff, community members, and students to work together! We are currently designing club t-shirts for the first time and would welcome new members all throughout the year. If students have questions, feel free to contact Madison Davis and Haley Pierce our captain of FCA and our president of ACTS.

Food Feud

This was a record breaking year for the Food Feud between the Ashland Independent Schools and Boyd County Schools. The districts collected a combined 40,745 pounds of non-perishable food (11,234 pounds more than last year)

for River Cities Harvest. Paul G. Blazer topped the charts and won the High School Challenge by collecting 10,030 pounds. The Ashland Independent Schools was the award winning district donating 23,132 total pounds.



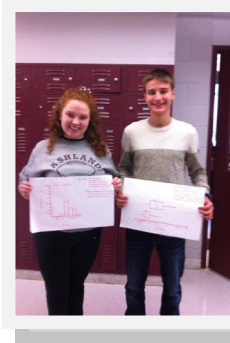
FBLA

The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Region 5 Fall Leadership Conference (RFLC) was held

September 30, 2014, at Morehead State University. RFLC brings together Local Chapter FBLA Officers and Members from throughout Region 5 to learn about their responsibilities for holding office plus ways to help their chapter have a successful year. Region 5 officers teach members how to fulfill the duties of their office, then conduct roundtables over fundraising, recruiting, community service, ice breakers, competition & awards, and much more. During lunch Julie Hawkins from Morehead State conducted a lesson in business etiquette. Conducting the conference from Ashland Blazer were: Lindsay Rothenstine, Region 5 President and Ashley Carpenter, Region 5 Treasurer; attending were Cameron Moore, Blazer Vice President; Kaitlyn Bellew, Blazer Reporter; Lauren Fazenbaker and Sydni Pierce Blazer members.

Blazer Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP)

Mrs. Payne is the new Coordinator of the Blazer Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP). She is actively seeking student volunteers who are interested in participating in the program. STLP uses project learning to enable students to learn and achieve by utilizing and creating technology based solutions to school and community needs. The group will be producing a student showcase project which will be entered in the STLP Fall Showcase on December 9, 2014. All participating students will travel to Morehead State University for the day. Also needed are students to perform as reporters and engineers in the showcase. There are digital art and other categories in the competition. So, if you are interested in computers, technology, or digital art, please contact Mrs. Payne in the library. An organizational meeting will be scheduled the week of November 3, 2014.



Who is the faster texter?

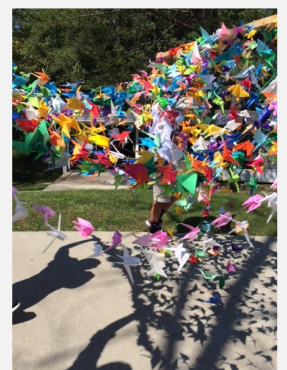
Blazer's AP Statistics students completed an observational study to compare text times between men and women. The class was divided into two groups and each group received a sentence in which they would text to their partner. Both group's sentences were pangrams, which are sentences that contain each letter of the alphabet at least once. Times were recorded for the messages to be received

and the students analyzed the results. Based on the students in AP Stats, males text faster than females since their center of 25 seconds was faster than the female center of 37.5 seconds.

1000 Paper Cranes Art Sculpture

The story of Sadako Sasaki and the 1,000 paper cranes is about the Japanese girl who developed Leukemia after the bombing of Hiroshima. While she was hospitalized, her father told her that if she folded 1,000 paper cranes her wish would come true. The Japanese crane is symbolic of peace and longevity. What many people may not know is that in 2007, Sadako Sasaki's brother, Masahiro Sasaki gave 5 of her original paper cranes to each continent of the world as a symbol of his hope for peace. He chose the World Trade Center Memorial Museum as the location in North America to receive one of Sadako's original cranes.

Beginning on September 11 and working through an entire week, Mrs. Spade's students folded 1,000 paper cranes and assembled them on fishing line to create a beautiful sculpture which is hanging in Blazer's cafeteria. It was a tremendous effort to not only fold 1,000 paper cranes, but to also assemble the sculpture, and to transport it from the classroom to the cafeteria.



District News

ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS HAVE "PEP" IN THEIR STEPS....

Ashland Independent Schools received a PEP (Carol M. White Physical Education Program) Grant from the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of \$589,950 over a three-year period. This grant has enabled Ashland to have a PE teacher at each elementary and to increase the amount of physical education for each student. The PEP teachers are Jeff Wilcox-Charles Russell, Rebekah Salyer-Oakview, Nick Wilburn-Poage, Alison Hawker-Hager, and Ben Davis-Crabbe. The PEP director for Ashland is Janice Ledford, and Krisi Kramer is assistant director.

Not only is increasing physical activity for elementary students a goal of the grant but also improved nutritional well-being. In 2013, more than 42% of Ashland's students were defined as overweight; therefore, students need to know the role of nutrients in the development of healthy bodies. The *Healthy Kids Challenge* nutrition curriculum was purchased through the grant and will be used in health classes.

All the elementary PE teachers are using the SPARK PE curriculum which is designed to assist children to be more active, incorporate social skills, and emphasize both health-related fitness and skill development. Each school has received new equipment in order to implement the program.

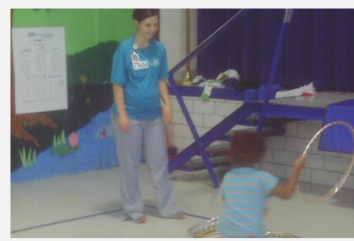
Research indicates that fit students pay more attention in class, comprehend better, and score better on test. The goal of the PEP Grant is at the end of the three years to ensure that our elementaries are centers for wellness where students are physically active and gaining knowledge and skills about fitness and nutrition that will lead to our children living longer, more productive lives.



Oakview students, parents, & staff getting ready to walk.

WALKING WITH "PEP"...

Oct. 9 was International Walk to School Day, and over a thousand Ashland students joined in the celebration by walking to school. The walk was organized the PEP Grant personnel to encourage more physical activity among students. Superintendent Steve Gilmore, Mayor Chuck Charles, several city commissioners, community volunteers, Ashland policemen and firemen, all joined in the walk. The walk added fitness and fun to the journey to school.



Volunteers from Kings Daughter's Medical Center came to the Crabbe Elementary open house to help spread awareness of the importance of physical activity. An obstacle course was set up in the gymnasium for the students while other KDMC volunteers answered questions

that parents might have regarding physical activity. This concept of activity awareness in the Ashland community is not strictly for the students, but the parents as well. Getting the support needed outside of school to help promote physical activity should be a collaborative effort between students, parents, and the community. Active and healthy families throughout Ashland is our ultimate goal.

ENCOURAGE MORE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY...

- Children need an hour of physical activity per day.
- Children who spend much of their time in active, physical play are less likely to have a weight problem.
- Include physical activities when planning parties or play dates.
- Help children choose a sport to play or enroll in a class of dance, gymnastics, martial arts, etc.
- Take a walk after dinner instead of watching TV.
- Ride bicycles together.



Hager 2nd grade

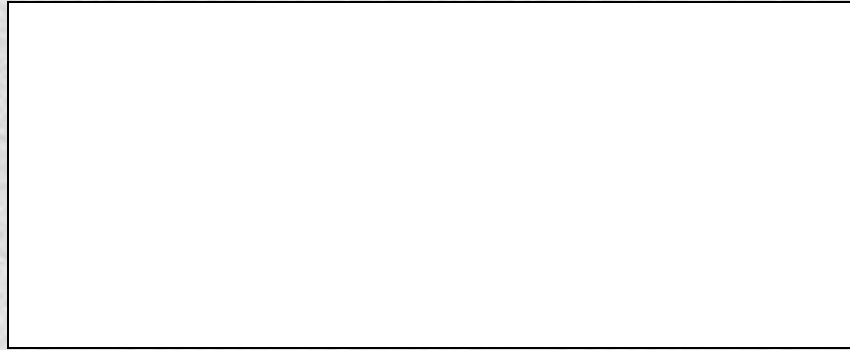


Ashland Independent Schools
1420 Central Avenue
Ashland, KY 41101

Whatever it Takes!

Nonprofit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 71
Ashland, KY

Return Service Requested



FOCUS

School Principals

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

Central Office Personnel

Steve Gilmore, Superintendent
Linda Calhoun, Instructional Supervisor
Lisa Henson, Director of Student Services
Janice Ledford, District Consultant
Patsy Lindsey, Director of Pupil Personnel
Richard Oppenheimer, Director of Student Achievement
Tim Walters, Director of Finance
Cary Williams, Director of Instructional Technology



Charles Russell Students on International Walk to School Day

Board of Education

Charlie Chatfield
Chris Clark
Carol Jackson
Frank DeMartino
Molly Webb

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.