

FOCUS

Ashland Independent Schools

ASHLAND STUDENTS RECEIVE ACCOLADES....



All State Choir-Taylor DeHart, Wesley Whelan, Aaron Lewis, Tiera Carlisle, Ashby Foutch, and Kelsey Gute

All State Orchestra-Olivia Black, Hayley Deal, and Carlie Geyer

All State Symphonic Band-Jessica Johnson

All State Jazz Ensemble 2-Josh Lumpkins

FIVCO/ACTC Science and Engineering Fair-1st place in Engineering Category and 1st place overall for which they won \$1000-Hannah Wade, Marshall Heath, and Megan Conley. They also took 1st place at Northern University. Crabbe Elementary took 2nd place in the engineering category-Cristian Mervilus, Emma Akers, and Haylen Dyer. From Poage Lexie Fannin won 1st place in Life Science and Braden Rucker won 1st place in Engineering and 2nd Place overall for which he received \$50.



High School Governor's Cup-Quick Recall-1st District, 2nd Regional, Top 16 at state-Overall-1st District, 2nd Regional-FPS Team:Aidan Young, Haley Pierce, Hannah Reece, and Hannah Gilette-1st at District and 4th at Regionals-Members of the Governor's Cup Team-Cameron Garner(6th place State in Math), Jonathan Dingess, Jason Zheng, Nate Rickman, Hannah Wade, Shelby Street, Dawson Covert, Shelby Conley, Wren Jenkins (3rd place State in Arts and Humanities), Lesley Phillips, and Meredith Sergeant



JV Challenge-Quick Recall-1st Place and Team 1st Place overall-Team members:Wren Jenkins, Shelby Conley, Zach Stafford, Isaac Vinson, William Zheng, Nate Rickman, Harris Hall, Derrek Baer, Dawson Covert, Hannah Depriest, and Will Fisher

Winners at OUS Art Show-1st place-Selena Miller, 2nd place-Morgan Scherer, 3rd place-Morgan Caldwell, Honorable Mention-Tori Williams and Alex Donalson

Charles Russell FLL Robotics Team-Placed 2nd at Regionals and qualified to go to State. Members of the Techno Wizards are Caleb Campbell, Bethany Ledford, Eli Campbell, Noah Carey, Isaac Campbell, Luke Geyer, Richard Runyon, Tyler Miller, Noah Crites, and Melanie Grimm.



AMS Math Counts-1st Place-Julie Clere, 2nd Place-Gavin Eckard and Aaron Hill, 3rd Place -Aris Mitropoulos. Winner of the Math Counts school countdown was Aaron Hill.

Middle School Regional Governor's Cup-Ashland Middle School placed 1st in FPS. Team members are Hayleigh Buckler, Courtney Jones, Payton Scott, and Spencer Wills. Olivia Allen placed 2nd in written composition.

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District News

Elementary District Governor's Cup—Charles Russell

Elementary won the District Governor's Cup held at Oakview Elementary. Members who medaled were Eli Campbell, Hannah Greene, Noah Carey, Isaac Campbell, Luke Geyer, Jackson Lawson, Taylor Hamilton, Gwen Akers, Hope Harris, Spencer Greene, and Mikayla Martin. Oakview placed 2nd in the competition. Students who medaled were Amelia Lucas, Tucker Kouns, Cooper Elam, Abby McGuire, December Boggs, Missy Leach, Isabella Menshouse, and Sara Shytle. Quick Recall placed 2nd and FPS placed 3rd.

RCX ROBOTICS Regional Winners—Poage Elementary—4th, Ashland Middle School—3rd.



STLP State Championship—Top 10 Finalist—"Study Buddies", Hager Elementary; Finalist—"Parent University", Oakview Elementary; STLP Reporter 1st Place—Emily Moore, Charles Russell; Graphic Design 1st Place—Bailee Schirtzinger, Charles Russell; Website Design 2nd Place—Drew Kiser, Charles Russell; UK Engineering Minds On 2nd Place -Eli Miller & Kaleb Kohut, Charles Russell; EPublishing 2nd Place – Fall 2014 Smoke Signal, Charles Russell; Photography 2nd Place—Payton Scott, Ashland Middle School.



6th Annual Boyd County Celebration of Children

The Community Collaboration for Children, Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Ashland Independent, Boyd County and Fairview Independent Family Resource/Youth Service Centers and The Northeastern Alliance Community Early Childhood Counsel cordially invite you to join them at the 6th Annual Boyd County Celebration of Children. The event will take place on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at the KYOVA Mall in the food court area. Free food, resources, door prizes, crafts, and family pictures will be provided.

PEP TALK

ACTIVE EDUCATION BENEFITS ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE....

The Carol M. White PEP Grant that Ashland Independent Schools received last May targets an increase in physical activity for every elementary student. Each school has doubled the amount of physical education provided for their students as well as having two ten-minute periods of physical activity in every classroom each day. Not only will the student's health benefit from the increased physical activity, there is growing evidence indicating that increased physical activity and fitness can benefit academic performance for children. The following are some key findings:

- Physical activity can have both immediate and long-term benefits on academic performance. Almost immediately after physical activity, children are better able to concentrate on classroom tasks which can enhance learning.
- The greatest effects of physical activity were seen when students engaged in aerobic physical activity, like jogging, push ups, and sit ups.
- After just one session of physical activity, students can increase their attention and memory, and reduce inappropriate behavior, such as being unfocused and causing others to be distracted.

ELEMENTARY P.E. TEACHERS ESTABLISH WEBSITES....

Ben Davis at Crabbe, Nick Wilburn at Poage, Rebekah Salyer at Oakview, Alison Hawker at Hager, and Jeff Wilcox at Charles Russell all have established websites. They will post PEP grant information and have links for parents to access. Go to <http://www.ashland.kyschools.us/Content/pep> to find the individual websites.

FEBRUARY WAS NATIONAL HEART MONTH....

All of the elementary schools participated in Jump Rope for Heart. Activities included guest speakers from KDMC and the American Heart Association, jump rope activities, and fundraising for the American Heart Association. Schools raised from \$3000 to \$1000 for this worthy cause.

Ashland 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.

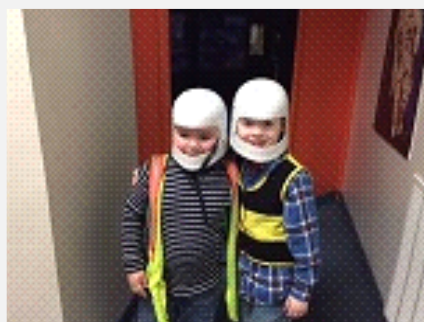
Kindergarten Health Requirements

- 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



Children enjoyed a visit from the Pottery Place. Each child was able to work on a piece of pottery which will be fired and returned for a beautiful keepsake.

Mrs. Steele's class and the rest of the Head Start classes went on a field trip to the Kentucky Highlands Museum. This is an annual event for our school. The students got to explore the Discovery Center and interact with the music quilt. They enjoyed playing in the treehouse, visiting the front porch area, and interacting in the dramatic play areas. We look forward to visiting again!



HEAD START PARENT FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT—THANK YOU!

Ashland Head Start / Preschool children and families would like to thank area individuals, churches and businesses for your generosity through the holidays. We are all so grateful for your heartfelt contributions. A large number of the children and families of Ashland Head Start and Preschool received food, coats, clothing, shoes, socks, games, toys, pictures with Santa, a visit from the Grinch, Ice-cream and movie viewing of Frozen, lunch with Santa and a gift, ornament and cookie decorating. Ashland Head Start/ Preschool is always looking for community partners to support the growth and development of our children and families. Our partners make many contributions and volunteer in the program.

Ashland Breakfast Kiwanis Club, First Presbyterian Church, Ashland Credit Union, Ashland Elks, Ashland Fire Department, Giving Tree, Jim Reynolds, Kroger, Direct T.V., Second Freewill Baptist Church, New Hope Baptist Church Angel Tree, Shop with A Cop, Salvation Army, The Dressing Room, Nicole Whitt, Wurtland Church of God, Ashland Independent Schools Central Office Staff

Friendly reminder to families. You must make sure that anyone who may be picking up your child off the bus or from the school is listed on their emergency card. Your child will not be released to anyone who is not listed. All changes to your emergency card must be made in person. I.D. required!



During the week of March 2nd through March 5th Mrs. McDowell's class participated in a cultural celebration. We chose Native American culture.

During this week we

learned that the Native Americans' used symbols to make stories. The students made head dresses with symbols on them to show a story. We also made rain makers to use in a rain dance. It so happened that we did the rain dance on March 3rd and it rained that night. This excited the students very much. We also learned about clothing, houses, and foods they use. The students enjoyed the study.

Crabbe Elementary School

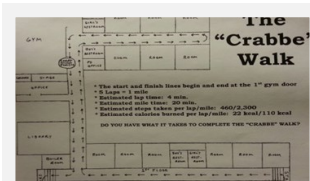
March 2nd began Read Across America Week and the celebration of Dr. Seuss. Mrs. Jones' kindergarten class read many Dr. Seuss books and created their own Lorax!



Fourth and fifth grade students at Crabbe Elementary have been learning to read music on the treble staff and play the recorder. Students worked to play several songs with proficiency in order to acquire belts as they progressed to new levels. In culmination of this unit, students performed these songs for other classes and wrote their own songs for the recorder. The following students achieved Black Belt status, the top level, by learning four extra songs.

Fourth Grade Black Belts: Kassedy Baier, Kennedy Baier, Joshua Bryant, William Cable, Tyree Clutters, Aslyn Fannin, Ava Kesling, Selina Limings, Isaiah Lockett (first black belt), Jada Maynard, Devoyne Montgomery, Phoenix Odne, Aaron Rice, Mackenzie Rodabaugh, and Alexis West.

Fifth Grade Black Belts-Marco Aguilar, Emma Akers, Olivia Boyd, Raven Clay, Haylen Dyer, Pola Delaney, Craig Gunter, Matthew Hall, Madison Hutchinson, Makayla Kage, Laykin Kouns, Zach Mckenzie, Cristian Mervilus, Gage Odne, Carl Sheldon, Michael Slone, and Blake Stephens.



As a physical education teacher, Mr. Davis is always trying to find new and exciting ways to promote the importance of physical activity. This is not only with the students, but with the staff at Crabbe Elementary as well.

About 6 weeks ago, Mr. Davis created the "Crabbe" Walk. This is a marked path throughout the hallways at Crabbe Elementary that measures 1 mile by walking 5 laps inside the entire distance of the school. Since the beginning of the "Crabbe" Walk program, teachers have already walked a total of 222 miles and averaged about 38 miles a week. There are also weekly prizes, such as gift cards, pedometers, and free healthy food coupons, that can be won based upon the amount of laps each staff member completes. During these cold winter days at Crabbe, teachers are finding ways to stay active and further showing students the importance of physical activity through example.

Mr. Withrow's class performing for third grade students and teachers.



Mrs. Suman's class is working hard with fractions using Smarties.



Crabbe's Future Problem Solving Team, coached by Mrs. Norrod and Mr. Clay Wills placed second in District Competition and will advance to Regional Competition on March 17. The team members are Aslyn Fannin, Lenzy Martin, McKenzie Rodabaugh and Brianna Coleman. They have worked

very hard!

Dinosaurs have excited the imagination of all of us at one time or another and



Crabbe 4th graders are no exception! Students not only unearthed a facsimile of a dino fossil but also learned about the various types of fossils and the process of fossilization. The student modeled the excavation process and will use the fossils to make inferences about past environments.

"Congratulations" to both 4th grade classes for their strong participation in the National Read Across America. Mrs. Withrow's class took top honors for the intermediate, having taken **206** Accelerated Reader tests!!! Mrs. Cole announced that the winning grades may wear pajamas to school.

Mrs. Murray hosted a medieval Crabbe Family Math "Knight", a school-wide Title 1 program. Families came out to enjoy a fun-filled night including dinner from Texas Roadhouse, math stations, games, and a medieval photo booth. We even had a special appearance from some special medieval characters from Jane Modlin's theater class from Blazer.



Crabbe Elementary competed in the FIVCO Area Science & Engineering Fair and won 2nd place in the category of Engineering. The group members were Cristian Mervilus, Emma Akers, and Haylen Dyer.

In Mrs. Minton's 5th grade class, Michael Slone, was honored for writing the winning "Why my Grandparent should be the AARP Kentucky Grandparent of the Year" essay. This contest is sponsored by AARP Kentucky & Kentucky Retired Teachers Association (KRTA).



Hager Elementary School

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Students in Mrs. Hawker's PE classes celebrated Read Across America Week by reading the Dr. Seuss book "*I Can Read with My Eyes Shut*". Following the reading, students participated in a cooperative learning activity where they had to lead a partner through a series of challenges while their partner's eyes were shut. Students learned the value of giving clear directions and relying on other senses to navigate safely through the challenges.



The fourth grade math classes have been studying fractions. The skills taught have included finding fraction equivalence, ordering, addition, subtraction, and multiplication of fractions. The students have worked in class and RTI with visual fraction models, IXL and Study Island computer assignments. The students also participated in the many Dr. Seuss activities implemented at school. The bulletin board was creatively decorated by the students with titles for new Dr. Seuss books

5th grade students are putting together care packages for Chief Wall, who is on deployment on the USS Theodore Roosevelt. 5th grade also participated in a dance-a-thon on Friday March 13 in order to raise funds for their end-of-the-year trip to Math and Science day at Kings Island.



Mrs. Keener's kindergarten class was full of clowns, zoo animals, and even a bunch of cats in hats during Dr. Seuss Week! Throughout the week we celebrated Dr. Seuss by reading several of his books, eating green eggs and ham, and even creating several rhymes of our own! Before our Seuss week, we studied about penguins and bears focusing on their habitats, food they eat and

their size. We even found that some of the penguins were even smaller than most of the students in our class! We wrapped up our bear unit with our annual Teddy Bear Picnic complete with a sorting activity with Gummy Bears!

First graders at Hager have enjoyed reading many Dr. Seuss books to celebrate Read Across America Week. Students have been writing about places they would like to go and what they would do if Thing 1 or Thing 2 came to their house. We have also been showing our Dr. Seuss style by showing what we would look like if we ran the zoo or circus. We all agree--We love Dr. Seuss!

What an exciting time for Hager's 2nd Grade! They had a visitor from Huntington Museum of Arts. Second grade also looked at the 100th day of school through different eyes! We celebrated our 100th day of school as 100 year old people.



Hager sixth grade students integrate integers and learning with playing cards. The student who scores closest to zero wins in this activity called, "HIT". The students had fun learning math!



Hager's Beta Club has a new project called "Choose Kind". The idea and inspiration for the project comes from the book *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio. *Wonder* is about a 10 year old boy named Auggie Pullman, who was born with serious face deformities. After being home schooled, he begins fifth grade in public schools. As you can imagine, he is taunted and bullied

because of the way he looks. This story tells about Auggie's struggles to be seen as just another student in the school instead of a freak. The goals for Hager's Beta Club



project are to make Hager a "Kindness" school and to increase our library's collection of books about being kind and accepting others. They are holding a kindness book drive throughout the month of March. All 4th, 5th, and 6th grades have signed a pledge to always "Choose Kind" in any situation.

Oakview Elementary School

Jump Rope for heart will be April 6th—10th. Our P.E. classes are taking Fitness tests through Presidential Youth "Fitness Gram" program. Students are also participating in the Let's Move active schools. Students take two 10 minute fitness breaks every day in their classrooms. Students also enjoy P. E. classes two times a week for 40 minutes.



Approximately 20 Oakview staff members are participating in a "Biggest Loser" program. Staff members are focusing on a healthy diet and exercise for school wellness. Good Luck to all!!

On Tuesday, February 24th and Saturday, February 28th, Oakview hosted the 2015 KAAC Governor's Cup District Competition.

We welcomed Poage, Charles Russell, and Rose Hill into our building to compete for placement to Regionals (held on March 17th & 21st). Oakview came in second place overall, 2nd in Quick Recall, and 3rd in FPS. In Written Assessments and Written Composition, we took home several medals as well. Amelia Lucas received 4th place in Written Composition, Tucker Kouns placed 5th in Social Studies, Cooper Elam placed 5th in Science, Abby McGuire placed 2nd, December Boggs placed 5th, and Missy Leach placed 3rd in Language Arts, Isabella Menshouse placed 5th and Sara Shytle placed 3rd in Arts & Humanities. These students will advance to the 2015 KAAC Governor's Cup Regional Competition at Wurtland Elementary School on March 17th & 21st. We are so proud of all of our students that competed! Thanks to Justin Imel who served as chief official.

Kindergarten

February was all about being healthy kids! 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 ended our month learning how good food helps our bodies grow healthy and strong.

Mr. Oppenheimer reading to Kindergarten on Read Across America Day!



Second Grade

Students in Mrs. Gilbert's, Mrs. Lewis's, and Ms. Mann's second grade classes that had perfect attendance were treated to an Attendance Party. The theme for this party was "Game Time". Students were allowed to bring board games and card games to school. More perfect attendance parties are coming so be here at school every day!

Fifth Grade

It's a busy time in 5th grade! In social studies, students researched famous African Americans, using the iPads. They took this information and



developed a poster with key facts about their assigned person. Students also had the opportunity to sign their own Declaration of Independence, while studying the Revolutionary War. Mrs. Clayton has introduced the students to NearPod, which is an interactive presentation app on the iPad, to learn more about important events that happened during this time period. In math, students are using the SmartBoard and interactive fraction pieces to add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators. Tracing paper has become a fun way for students to see the representation of two fractions being multiplied together. After we placed the fractions in the window, one paper on top of the other, students were able to see the products come to life! In reading class, we used paragraphs to learn about the text structures: description, comparing and contrasting, order and sequencing. In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, we read "The Lorax" and students were asked to pick out the story elements and tell the sequence of events. We watched the movie

version of "The Lorax" to compare and contrast the text with the movie. Dr. Seuss became a theme across the curriculum when students researched his life using iPads and computers, found prepositional phrases in *Hop on Pop*, and learned about figurative language in many of his books. In science, students are studying matter.

To enhance learning, they will do activities with everyday items to find the properties of matter. We will be visiting Ashland Middle School before spring break and finishing the spring cycle of MAP testing. This test will be used for class placement at the middle school. We are working hard to make the last nine weeks of fifth grade memorable, productive, and fun!

Poage Elementary School

3rd Grade

Mrs. Anderson's 3rd grade class participated in Accelerated Reader's Read the Most Coast to Coast on Friday, February 27. The class of 17 students spent the entire day reading and taking AR tests. 379 AR tests were passed in one day. Clayton Barker passed the most tests - 35! The following students passed every test they took: Penelope Cox, Laney Fannin, Isabella Hill, Austin Hogsten, Shaylee Howard, Jacob Shytte, Laura Beth Stanfield, and Laynee Stanley. The class was even featured in The Daily Independent. It was a great day to be a 3rd grader!



6th Grade

The new year has been very busy for the sixth graders. One of our highlights would have been the fun we had with the science fair projects. Three students from our class went on to compete at Ashland Community and Technical College. Everyone did a fantastic job and a special congratulations to Kate Hanni, Kaya Ross and Braden Rucker, for moving on to the next level.



Math has been a whole new world of exploration. Algebra is the name of the game. Students have been working in a student-centered learning environment to explore algebra, and they have grown tremendously in their independence with their education.

The class has enjoyed, for the first time for many, learning and creating poetry. We focused more on learning about poets, their life stories and the types of poetry they created. This helped students better relate to other successful people and how many of them came from nothing and made such great things of themselves.

Throughout the year, we have been raising money for our end-of-the-year trip. We will soon be going to visit our state's capital. Thank you to everyone that has supported our fundraising efforts. I am sure this will be an unforgettable and very educational trip.

1st Grade

To go along with their fairy tale unit, the first graders performed reader's theaters of their favorite stories. Reader's theaters are like plays except students can read their lines. This exercise allows them to practice expression and fluency while they read. Students were able to highlight and practice their lines and make masks for their parts before performing it for their classmates. They are looking forward to finishing up the unit by seeing a performance of Cinderella at the Paramount!



PE

We are in our third and final round of the PEP grant requirements! We just finished up a successful week of Jump Rope for Heart where students participated in specialty games related to the heart. Currently students are in the middle of FitnessGram testing, they will once again be wearing pedometers for a week, all students will complete an online survey regarding nutrition, and 5th - 6th graders will be completing the Three Day Physical Activity Recall survey. We will have these grant requirements completed before spring break!



Health classes have been a big success this year. I would like to thank the ladies from the A.P.P.L.E. program for being such great guest speakers for all of the classes. Students are learning about the importance of eating balanced meals in order to maintain good health. The first graders just finished up with health, and I will be moving on to kindergarten for the next four weeks.

Physical Education/Health Instructor—Nicklas S. Wilburn



Regional Science Fair

Students at Poage had a great time at the ACTC Science and Engineering Fair. Top winners from Poage that advanced were: Kaya Ross, Kate Hanni, Braden Rucker, and Lexie Fannin. ACTC winners included Lexie Fannin and Braden Rucker. Congratulations!

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students in Mrs. Moore's and Mrs. Woods' classes participated in "Read Across America" on Dr. Suess' birthday, March 2nd. We spent the day reading his wonderful books as well as completing many fun and educational Dr. Suess activities. We ended our day by reading Green Eggs and Ham followed by a snack to decide if we liked green eggs and ham or not.



Mrs. Akers' class served lunch to the Central office staff. They cooked and served our special friends lunch. They served taco soup, grilled cheese, and strawberry cake.

Charles Russell Elementary School



Choose My Plate—

On February 4, KDMC came to CRS to help kindergarten through 2nd grade kids learn about nutrition and choosing healthy snacks to eat. They demonstrated healthy food choices by using lunch plates from the school. Students

need to make sure that half of their plate has fruit and vegetables while the other half has grains, protein, and at least one cup of dairy. If students don't eat healthy, they can become obese. The students had a good time learning about eating healthy.

-Layla Brown and Elizabeth Davis

FLL State Robotics—

On Saturday, February 7, the CRS Robotics Team attended the First Lego League State Championship at Northern Kentucky University. The students left CRS at 6:30 am and arrived at NKU around 9 am. There were four events:

Project, Robot Design, Core Values, and Robot Performance. Out of 47 teams in attendance, CRS placed 27th in Robot Performance with 130 points; the highest score for a team was 485! The CRS team called Techno Wizards, had a super experience competing. They received the Judges Award "Force for Good" because the team was willing to help anyone without expecting anything in return. The team stopped at Frisch's in Maysville for dinner on the way back, arriving in Ashland around 7:30 pm. It was a long but rewarding day. Great job, Techno Wizards!



Jump Rope for Heart—

On February 9, Lydia Pruitt from the American Heart Association visited CRS to kick-off Jump Rope for Heart (JRH) activities. She was accompanied by Quacky the Duck and they showed the students a video. The purpose of JRH is to raise awareness and funds for the American Heart Association



to help people improve their health and prevent heart disease. The activities continued for the weeks of February 9-27 during gym classes. The students got sponsors who made donations. Students were able to earn awards based on the amount of donations collected.

-Jadyn Mintz

Academic Team—

On February 28, CRS participated in the District Governor's Cup at Oakview Elementary and the results were fantastic! In Arts/Humanities Eli Campbell placed 1st and Hannah Green 2nd. In Math, Noah Carey got 1st, Isaac Campbell was 2nd and Luke Geyer 4th.

For Science, Isaac

Campbell had 2nd and Noah Carey was 3rd. In Language Arts Eli Campbell got 1st and Jackson Lawson received 3rd. For English Composition CRS took the top 3 spots; Taylor Hamilton got 1st, Gwen Akers 2nd, and Hope Harris was 3rd. The Future Problem Solving Team (Taylor Hamilton, Gwen Akers, Hannah Greene, and Spencer Greene) placed 1st; this makes five years in a row that CRS took first in this event! The Quick Recall Team (Gwen Akers, Caleb, Eli, & Isaac Campbell, Noah Carey, Luke Geyer, Hannah & Spencer Green, Hope Harris, Jackson Lawson, and Mikayla Martin) placed first as well. With an overall score of 70 points, the CRS Academic Team is the 2015 District Governor's Cup Champs! All these students will compete in the Regional Governor's Cup on March 21. Way to go team!



Coach Calipari and Vault—

CRS students in 5th and 6th grades have been using a free online software program called Vault, made by Everfi, that teaches financial literacy. The Calipari Family Foundation pays, allowing all Kentucky 5th and 6th grade students the opportunity to learn about choosing careers, saving and investing money, making good financial decisions,



understanding cash vs. credit, budgeting, insurance, and giving to charities. In addition, Kentucky Basketball Coach, John Calipari, made a video for the students to watch. Schools across Kentucky could submit a question for him to answer and Charles Russell's was one of the questions chosen. He told the students to "instead of just working for money, let your money work for you." He talked about servant leadership and how much time and effort it takes to be a Kentucky Wildcat basketball player. Academics are important! An educated man is difficult to fool. Don't just buy stuff; save and invest! You can watch the video by going to our school's home page. Under Quick Links on left, click Student Links, then at the bottom of the page under Others click on the pencil by Coach Cal. Go Big Blue!

Ashland Middle School



AMS' FPS team placed 1st at the regional governor's cup match. Team members were Hayleigh Buckler, Courtney Jones, Payton Scott, and Spencer Wills. Also, Olivia Allen placed 2nd in written composition at the regional governor's cup match.

Students in #technology have been learning about the history and uses of quick response (QR) codes. As a culminating activity, students worked in groups to write clues, linked the clues to QR codes, and displayed them around the school. Each group completed another group's QR code challenge. They scanned the codes with their mobile devices and took pictures of each location to show they had found the correct answer to each clue.

Results of the AMS MathCounts competition: 1st place: Julie Clere, 2nd place: tie between Gavin Eckard & Aaron Hill 3rd place: Aris Mitropoulos. The winner of the MathCounts school Countdown Round was Aaron Hill. Congratulations students!

Congratulations to the following AMS String Orchestra students for their exceptional performances at the KMEA Solo and Ensemble Assessment Event held at Montgomery County High School on Saturday afternoon. Wyatt McCarty and Spencer Wills received a rating of Distinguished for a Solo Performance and the following students received Distinguished ratings for Ensemble Performance: Jacob Dylewski, Jacob Holcombe, Wyatt McCarty, and Ryan Porter. Bella Kesling and Spencer Wills received Distinguished ratings for TWO Ensemble Performances. Additionally, the following students received ratings of Proficient for Ensemble Performance: Julie Clere, Jacob Dylewski, Brittany Highley, Courtney Lewis, Nick Lieving, Dylan Wamsley, Jonah Yates, and Logan Yates. Outstanding job String Orchestra Students!

Coach Barry Forbes and Coach Misha Bennett - Our Archery Team has had a great tournament and season. Our team shot a 3098, we were just two points shy of qualifying for the national tournament. Some of our archers shot their highest scores at the State Competition. We are so proud of our team!

The following students are participated in All District Chorus on Friday, March 13th. This is an all day and evening event where students from District 8 Middle and High Schools come together under the direction of a guest conductor to prepare and present music for a public concert: Hannah Burgess, Shanelle Caines, Breanna Callahan, Betty Conley, Destinie Hayward, Mckayla Haywood, Brittany Highley, Brianna Lambert, Allison Litteral, Amelia Miles, Katie Myers, Abigail Ralston, Savannah Rodabaugh, Autumn Stambaugh, and Bailey Taylor.



Students and staff celebrated reading with "The Read Across America Day". Students and staff who had read 20 books or more this school year and anyone who had made a significant contribution to reading participated on March 2nd, Dr. Suess' birthday.

On February 27th, the Discovery Team students concluded their studies of Ancient China. Cary Williams discussed her travels to China with students and shared information on Chinese culture. Students attended Cirque Ziva, a performance by the Golden Dragon Acrobats of China. Students also learned about and used tangrams, as well as demonstrated their skills using chopsticks.



AMS Student Council visit the Capitol in February. The representatives took a guided tour of the building and served as pages in the House of Representatives for Majority Leader Rocky Adkins.



Paul Blazer High School



Blazer All State Choir students headed for Louisville. From left to right... Taylor DeHart, Wesley Whelan, Aaron Lewis, Tierra Carlisle, Ashby Foutch, Kelsey Gute

A group of theatre students performed an anti-bullying skit for the Making A Difference Leadership Summit. The script was written by Blazer senior Emily Shay and deals with both cyberbullying and types of verbal abuse that students deal with on a day-to-day basis, sometimes with tragic results. Cast members included: Reilly Barker, Shannon Card, Courtney Castle, Breanna Cole, Tori Cole, Landon Hale, Marshall Heath, Maya McKenzie, Emilee Mitchell, Ragan Neill, Emily Shay, El-Shadai Smith-Mensay, Ally Sparks.



Blazer art students had artwork juried into the 5th Annual Tri-State High School Juried Art Exhibition at Ohio University Southern. Out of 357 entries, 71 pieces were selected to be part of the show. Blazer is representing 19 pieces of art of the 71 from the region.



The following students were selected to be part of the show:

Abbie Caines, Morgan Caldwell, Stacie Dean, Alex Donalson, Emily Ford, Rae Johnson, Selena Miller, Jerett Morrison, Morgan Scherer, Monica Skaggs, Brittany Thompson, Heaven Wheeler, Erynn Weatherford, Tori Williams, and Aidan Young.

Winners at OUS art show:

1st place: Selena Miller, 2nd place: Morgan Scherer, 3rd place: Morgan Caldwell Honorable mentions: Tori Williams & Alex Donalson.

Congratulations to the Blazer Academic Team for a great showing at Regional Governor's Cup Competition. The Quick Recall team placed second after a close battle against Russell and the Future Problem Solving team placed 4th.

The following students placed in their respective competitions and will move on to the state competition:

Cameron Garner 2nd in Math, Jason Zheng 3rd in Math, Jonathan Dingess 4th in Math, Nate Rickman 4th in Science, Dawson Coovert 1st in Social Studies, Shelby Street 4th in Social Studies, Shelby Conley 5th in Language Arts and 2nd in Writing Composition, Hannah Wade 2nd in Arts and Humanities, and Wren Jenkins 3rd in Arts and Humanities.

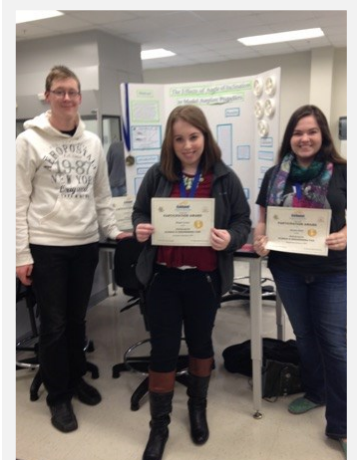
The 2015 Blazer Hi-Life Yearbook is now on sale. The 2015 theme is "Selfie" and will be a self-portrait of life on the campus of Ashland Blazer High School. The memories of high school will not last on a cell phone or a Facebook page. No matter how technology changes, the laughter and the happenings on the campus of Ashland Blazer High School will live on in the pages of the yearbook. The book is currently selling for **\$65** and will move up to \$75 in early April. Yearbooks may be purchased at Blazer during lunch or in room 214 before or after school. They may also be purchased through the online portal at Smart-Pay.com. Several options, such as name imprinting and icons, are available for purchase as well. Through March 10th, any senior purchasing a full page senior ad (personal memory page) for the regular rate of \$300 will receive a free yearbook. Senior ads are available in 1/8, 1/4, 1/2, and full page orientations. Each page will feature a number of photographs and a space for a message for the graduating senior. During the month of March, the yearbook will be sponsoring a 'March Madness' sale. For the first time, underclassmen may purchase student pride space of 1/8 or 1/4 page sizes. During the sale, anyone who purchases a yearbook for \$65 will be entered in a drawing for a free student pride space or senior ad, depending on grade level.

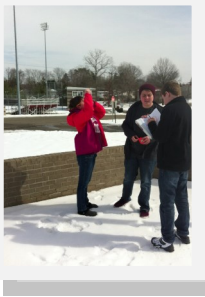
The years at Blazer High School will fly by all too quickly. Preserve your memories by reserving your yearbook today. For more information, contact Kevin Stepp at kevin.stepp@ashland.kyschools.us or call 606.327.6040 x-3214

Science Fair

Mrs. Hieneman took 5 groups of students to the FIVCO/ACTC Science and Engineering Fair on February 6, 2015. David Hale, Luke Groves, and Tyler Day presented "Mummy Dogs". Alexis Robinson, Kaleigh Chappel and Bre Cole presented "You are what you eat". Kaleb Varney, Taylor Harvey and Chase Mantle presented "The Big Dig". Jason Zheng, Zach Hall, Haley Pierce presented "Electromagnetism". Hannah Wade, Marshall Heath and Megan Conley presented

"The Effects of Angle Inclination of Airplane Propellers", which was awarded 1st Place in the Engineering Category and 1st Place Overall, with a price of \$1000 to share between the 3 of them. They advanced to the State Science Fair on March 1st at Northern Kentucky University and won 1st place in Engineering: Electrical and Mechanical for the High School Division. The group will now be moving on to compete at the state level on March 28, 2015. If you see these students, congratulate them and wish them luck! This is a very big accomplishment!



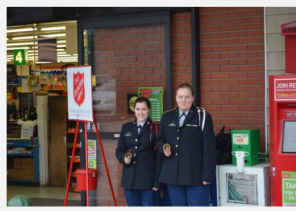


It is not feasible to measure the height of a tall object by running a tape measure along its length. In order to measure the flagpole at Blazer, students in Mrs. Stout's Accelerated Geometry class measured their eye level height and the distance between them and the flagpole with a tape measurer. Then they used a clinometer (made from a protractor, string, weight and straw) and looked through the straw to the top of the pole to measure the

angle of elevation. By knowing these three measures (height, distance to pole and angle of elevation) they were able to determine the height of the flag pole. Once all groups finished, they calculated the average height of the pole which was 31.2 feet.

JROTC - Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army

On Dec. 16 and 17 we had a total of 16 students from the program volunteer their time to bell ringers for the Salvation Army at the nearby Food Fair. The cadets rang the bells and attended to the Salvation Army donation bucket to make sure it's was not stolen, and let people know that we were accepting donations for the Salvation Army. The students that came along absolutely loved the experience and got a kick out of helping whoever whenever for whatever reason whether they get something in return or not. The JROTC Rifle Team has started practice at the National Guard Armory and are scheduled to compete in 3 competitions throughout the rest of the school year.



Congratulations to the following String Orchestra students for representing Blazer well at the KMEA Solo and Ensemble Assessment Event held at Montgomery County High School on Saturday afternoon.

The following students received Distinguished ratings for Solo Performance: Evan Billips, Nya Blake, Will Carroll, Hayley Deal, Nikki Doss, Ben Fazenbaker, Lauren Fazenbaker, Will Frye, Caleb Geyer, Caroline Geyer, Hannah Hickman, Kaela Hinson, Autumn Hoffman, Lydia O'Nan, Lindsay Riffe, Zach Stafford, Sami Taylor, Casey Walter and Amber Williamson.

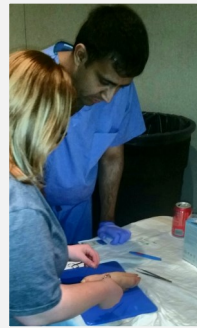
Receiving ratings of Distinguished "Plus" for Solo Performance were Olivia Black, Carlie Geyer, Amy Moore and Raegan Williams.

Small Ensemble members receiving Distinguished ratings were Evan Billips, Hayley Deal, Nikki Doss, Caleb Geyer, Carlie Geyer, Caroline Geyer, Kaela Hinson, Amy Moore, Zach Stafford, Casey Walter, Amber Williamson and William Zheng.

Additionally, receiving recommendations from the judges for performance at the State Solo and Ensemble Assessment Event at Eastern Kentucky University for Solo Performance were Olivia Black, Hayley Deal, Kaela Hinson and Sami Taylor; and for Small Ensemble Performance were Caleb Geyer, Carlie Geyer, Caroline Geyer and Kaela Hinson.

Outstanding job String Orchestra Students!

On Saturday February 28, four of Blazer's top math students participated alongside more than 1500 teams in a nationwide competition called the Mega Moody Math Challenge. Cameron Garner, Jonathan Dingess, Hannah Wade and Jason Zheng spent 12 straight hours solving an open-ended real world mathematics problem using a variety of advanced mathematics techniques. The purpose of the challenge is to enhance the thinking of those students who are interested in fields such as applied mathematics, economics, finance as well as various other subjects.



Five Blazer students were chosen for the AHEC Rural Health Scholar program. Geoffrey Bennett, Loren Fazenbaker, Hannah Gillette, Jennah Baier, and Nikki Kumar were selected based on grades, ACT scores, written essay, club and volunteer hours, etc. These students have worked hard and deserve a pat on the back for representing us well! This is a huge accomplishment for these future health care providers and will serve as an amazing learning experience for them.

Fourth and fifth grade students at Hager Elementary have been learning to read music on the treble staff and play the recorder. Students worked to play several songs with proficiency in order to acquire belts as they progressed to new levels. In culmination of this unit, students performed these songs for other classes and wrote their own songs for the recorder. The following students achieved Black Belt status, the top level, by learning four extra songs.

Fourth Grade Black Belts: Sydney Clark, Reece Pennington, Max Robinette, and Mo Tun

Fifth Grade Black Belts: Nafi Byrams, Carmen Cirar, Abigail Dent, Reece Couture, Levi Edmonds,, Ethan Jobe, Briana Melvin, Emma Nunley, Cade Parlato, Sophie Pierzala, Phillip Richmond



Mrs. Withrow and Mrs. Barber's 4th grade had their Monday, March 16 **made better** by a charitable visit from representatives of Office Depot. On that day, the Office Depot Foundation's "A Day Made Better" Program donated school supplies, books and other teaching essentials to Crabbe Elementary teachers

and students in 4th grade. This program is designed to recognize teacher's commitment and support them in their efforts to make a difference. The donation was greatly appreciated by all of the teachers and students at Crabbe. Every staff member wishes a big THANK YOU to the Office Depot Foundation for their generosity and support of the teachers and students at Crabbe Elementary.

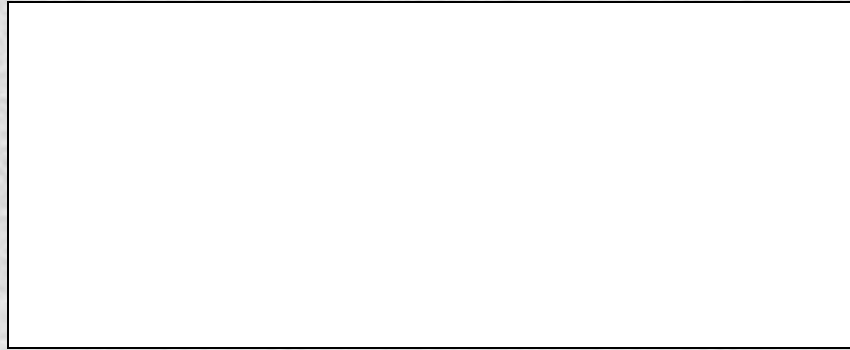


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David Greene, Verity Middle School
Brad Greene, Crabbe Elementary School
Phillip Caudill, Hager Elementary School
Rebecca Howell, Oakview Elementary School
Jamie Lester, Poage Elementary School
Steve Salyers, Charles Russell Elementary School
Jacqui 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



Blazer MNA students compound medications at the Health Opportunities Workshop.

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