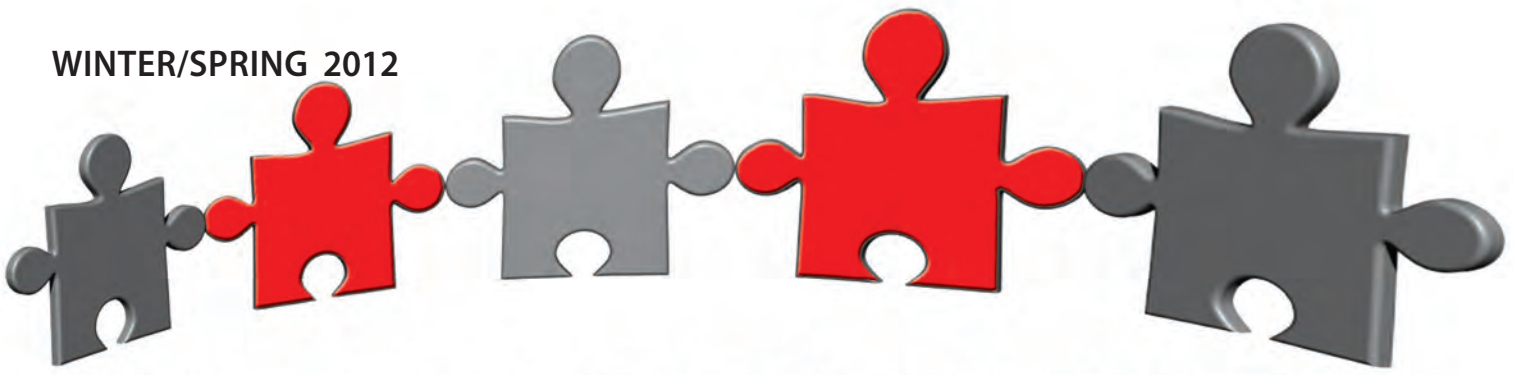


WINTER/SPRING 2012



**MSD of Boone Township**  
*Helping Students Succeed*

# **BRIDGES**

**Connecting the Pieces of Life**



**2011-2012 BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM**

**South County Tournament Champions**

**Porter County Conference Tournament Champions**

**Class 2A IHSAA Sectional Champions**

# Superintendent's Message



Welcome:

I hope you will enjoy reading this issue of Bridges which includes articles and pictures about our staff and students.

**George Letz** – Superintendent

## ISTEP+ and The Growth Model for Grades 3-8:

**Q.** What is a growth model?

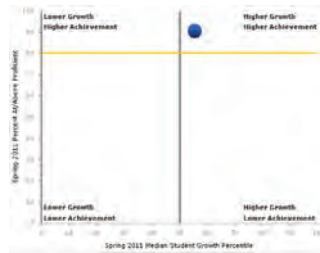
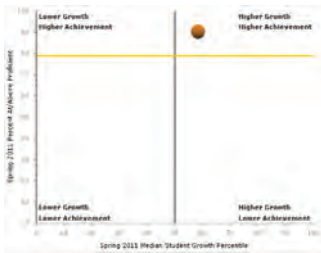
**A.** A growth model is a statistical way to determine how much change in ISTEP+ scores is equal to one year of student learning. It answers the question “how much did a student learn in a school year?”

**Q.** How does Indiana's growth model work?

**A.** Growth and achievement are combined for each content area to determine which “Quadrant” that a group or school falls into based on the students who are enrolled.

### English/Language Arts

### Math



Growth adds a second dimension to student test scores. For decades we have assessed student and school success on a single vertical axis (% pass, mean score). The growth model doubles the information we have by adding a horizontal dimension.

The Indiana Growth Model takes a student's ISTEP+ score in “year 1” and finds all other students in the state who received that same score in math or English. Then the state looks at all of the “year 2” math or English scores for the same group of students and sees how our students at MSD Boone Twp scored compared to the other students in that group. Growth is reported in percentiles.

**Q.** When Indiana is comparing students to whom does the model compare “our” student?”

**A.** The comparison group or “academic peer group” consists of all students with that same “year 1” scaled score in that grade level and that subject.

### Student Growth Percentile

The “student growth percentile” compares a student's growth to the rest of their academic peer group.

If the student growth percentile is 60, that student performed better than 60% of his academic peers.

## A-F SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING SCALE:

The Indiana State Legislature passed the following method to assess schools and school districts. This is a summary of that process. We will report our classification results after the two sessions of ISTEP+ exams are finished this spring and the state informs us of each school's grade. We use a variety of assessments at MSD Boone Township which assists us to measure the progress of our students K-12: NWEA, Acuity, ACT, Explore, Plan, Engage, WorkKeys, and Terra Nova are just some of the exams our students take to demonstrate growth. At the same time we give our students the state mandated ISTEP+ exams, (two times per year) state required “End of Course Assessments” (Algebra 1, English 10) and the new State required I-Read 3 exam which demonstrates a student's reading comprehension level and plays a role in his promotion to fourth grade.

### Which Schools Are Assessed:

- 1) Public schools (traditional and charter)
- 2) Accredited non-public schools

### Models:

- 1) Elementary and Middle Schools: performance and growth
- 2) High Schools: performance and improvement

### Bases and Bonuses:

- 1) For each model the preliminary grade is BASED on student PERFORMANCE
- 2) For each model the preliminary grade may go up or down due to student GROWTH or IMPROVEMENT

The BASES are aligned with the following State goals:

- \* 90% of students pass math and E/LA ISTEP+
- \* 25% of students pass an AP exam or earn college credits during High School
- \* 90% of students graduate with a diploma

The “Indiana Growth Model” places students in one of three growth categories:

- HIGH – At or above 66th percentile
- TYPICAL – At or between the 35th and 65th percentile
- LOW – Up to and including the 34th percentile

(See adjoining article on how student growth is determined in this issue of Bridges)

### HIGH SCHOOL MODEL:

- 1) High Schools are assessed in four weighted areas:
  - \*English 10 ECA (end of course assessment) 30%
  - \*Algebra 1 ECA (end of course assessment) 30%
  - \*Graduation Rate 30%
  - \*College and Career Readiness 10%

College and career readiness includes the percentage of students who pass an AP exam, earn college credits in high school (dual credit) and/or earn an industry certification: WorkKeys certificate(s) for example could fulfill the college and career readiness requirements.

This entire process is based on the need to not only score well (80% to 90%) as a grade level or student on the ISTEP+ tests but to also show individual student growth in grades 3-8 in English and mathematics and to demonstrate overall grade level improvement in math and English from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade and 10<sup>th</sup> grade to graduation.

We will continue to inform you on this process in the months ahead.



# WINTER SPORTS



6th Grade Girls Basketball



7th Grade Boys Basketball



8th Grade Girls Basketball



Middle School Wrestling



High School Cheer



C Team Boys Basketball



6th Grade Boys Basketball



7th Grade Girls Basketball



8th Grade Boys Basketball



High School Wrestling



JV Girls Basketball



JV Boys Basketball



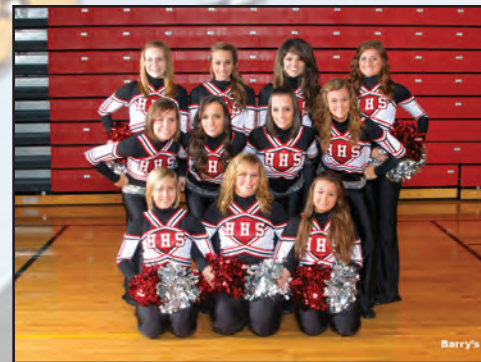
6th Grade Cheer



Middle School Cheer



Middle School Volleyball



High School Dance



Varsity Girls Basketball  
Cancer Awareness Game



Varsity Boys Basketball  
Cancer Awareness Game



## Elementary School News

March has been an extremely busy and productive month! Congratulations to Mrs. Sterk, first grade teacher, for being selected as "Educator of the Year" by her colleagues for the American Legion Contest. Congratulations to Miss Clark and the Elementary Math Bowl team for placing first in Class 3 at Boone Grove and for placing ninth in the state for Class 3. Hebron recently hosted the "Circle the State with Song" choral festival sponsored by the Indiana Music Educators Association. We had several Elementary and Middle School students participate and I would like to thank Mrs. Vawter and Mrs. Roy for all their work in hosting this wonderful event. We have several Elementary students who have their Art on display locally. Several pieces of Art are on display at the Hebron Public Library for the Month of March. We also have a select group of students who have their artwork on display for the "Arts-a-Budding" exhibit at the Chapel of Resurrection on the campus of Valparaiso University. Our hats go off to Art teachers Mrs. Drazer and Mrs. Hale for getting the most out of their students. Recently, we had a group of teachers who attended a conference and became excited about starting an Elementary Book Club. The response has been tremendous and an article from Mrs. Sterk explaining more about the club is included in this issue.

**James Martin** – Principal



Brenda Sterk



## Educator of the Year Awards



Nancy Anders

Congratulations to Brenda Sterk and Nancy Anders for being selected by their colleagues for the American Legion "Educator of the Year" Award. Ms. Anders has taught business at Hebron High School since 1976 and Mrs. Sterk has taught at the elementary level since 1990. Both teachers have distinguished themselves for their commitment to students and excellence in instruction. In the next month members of the staff will be compiling portfolios of their many accomplishments. These portfolios will be used as a basis for judgment as their nominations are considered at the district and state level. Members of the community are invited to submit letters or testimonials to the school.



## Middle School News

***Should the Explorers be honored for their finds or tried for their crimes?***

When the early explorers discovered new lands, they also encountered native people. They were sent by their home countries to gain new lands for their kings. This usually meant they had to conquer the native people to claim control of the new land. With the Native Americans, conflicts with the Europeans were frequent; however, there was some cooperation between the two. For each great discovery made, there were often many atrocities that were overlooked.

*What did the explorers do that was positive?*

*What did the explorer do that was negative?*

*What was the purpose of the voyage?*

*Who funded/sent the explorer on the voyage?*

*Who was affected by the explorer/voyage?*

*Could violence have been avoided?*

*How did the Native Americans respond?*

*Was there any cooperation between the groups?*

*What did the Native Americans gain from this voyage?*

*What did the Native Americans lose from this voyage?*

*What did the explorer/country gain?*

*What did the explorer/country lose?*

*Did the explorer act according to commands from the king or of his own ideas?*

Imagine if you were to put one of these men on trial for their crimes. Could you defend their actions? Or could you prove their guilt beyond a shadow of doubt?

Walk into a Project-based classroom (PBL), and you will see students investigating this type of question. PBL begins with a driving question like, "How do civilizations develop?" or "How do trade and economy affect culture?" or "Should the explorers be honored for their finds or tried for their crimes?" PBL is designed to engage students and give them the responsibility for their own education in ways unheard of in traditional classrooms.

- ✓ **You will see students working in collaborative teams.** In a PBL classroom, student learning happens through collaboration, not in isolation. Students don't sit desks in neatly aligned rows, but rather sit around a table making decisions, problem solving, communicating, designing, researching, and reflecting.
- ✓ **You will see students constructing their own education.** The answers are not found in a textbook, or by repeating facts on a test, the answers are discovered by the students through research, contact with real world experts and design. Students must gather information from many sources, synthesize, analyze, and derive knowledge from it.



### Middle School News

*Continued on from page 6*

- ✓ **You will see students solving real life problems.** PBL incorporates many “core subjects”. Real life problems require us to use math skills to figure out possible solutions; our social studies skills to determine if the solution is plausible based on historical data. We then use our science skills for trial and error analysis of our possible solutions, and our English skills to communicate our findings. Real world problems are not isolated to one skill area; PBL makes students incorporate more than one discipline in to solving problems.
- ✓ **You will see students communicating what they have learned in many ways.** Students are judged on how much they have learned and how well they are able to communicate that level of learning. Students write and publish digitally. They create web sites and use digital media presentation skills. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century has provided many new and exciting ways to communicate. Higher education requires students to have an understanding of these types of media and expects students to be able to cope with technology as it changes.

**Lori Pavell** – *Principal*

### Congratulations!!!

**Mollie Lindeman**, a Hebron senior, signed her National Letter of Intent to play softball for Purdue North Central. Mollie has been a dominating pitcher for the Hawks over her high school career. PNC coach Jeff Boardman asserted, “Not only do we look for great athletes, we also look for great kids, and that’s what we have been able to get from Hebron.” Mollie will graduate with a Technical Honors Diploma and will already have earned six credits while in high school before she begins taking classes at PNC in the fall of 2012.



### Welcome to our new staff member

**Michael Witzel** is the new Hebron High School Social Studies Teacher.

Michael is originally from St. Joseph, MI and is currently living in Valparaiso, IN. He attended Newbold College, in Berkshire, England. He received a bachelor’s degree in Combined Humanities (English Literature and English History) and received his teaching certification while working on a master’s degree at Andrews University. Michael decided to become a teacher while working at a career training college in Charlottesville, Virginia.



### High School News



### Four Star and Beyond

Recently Hebron High School was recognized as a Four Star School by the Indiana Department of Education. Based on students’ performance on end of course assessments, Hebron was one of thirteen high schools in the state and was the only high school in Porter County to earn the honor for student performance in the 2011 school year. The end of course assessments measure student learning in algebra I and English 10. Strong performance on those measures indicates that the sophomores are well on their way to meeting the requirements of graduation.

Hebron High School not only wants to be sure that students are qualified to graduate, but also the high school staff wants to be sure students are prepared for college and careers. Although the state does not mandate that any further assessment is completed, starting this year, all students at Hebron High School will be taking grade-appropriate versions of the ACT in April. This test, which gives scales in English, reading, writing, math, and science, will indicate if our students are on track to leave high school with the high level skills demanded for advanced training for the workforce or for college. The test focuses on the application of knowledge rather than the memorization of facts and vocabulary, and the results will help to focus classroom instruction toward real world application.

Results from the ACT tests can also serve to predict student performance on the WorkKeys assessment that will be available for seniors in their senior year. Based on the results of the WorkKeys assessment students can earn a National Career Readiness Certificate. This certificate is being recognized by an ever growing number of employers in Northwest Indiana as they consider applicants for employment.

Whether a student wants to pursue a four year degree or vocational training after high school, the Hebron High School staff is determined to ensure that each student is ready.

**Mark Lutze** – *Principal*



Corey Duck, Principal Lori Pavell and many other students and parents helping to pack all the items.



Students are helping unload the items at the Scott County Disaster Relief Fund headquarters.

## Southern Indiana Tornado Relief

After the outbreak of tornadoes in Southern Indiana many students and community members wanted to assist people in those communities who were struck by the storms. With the assistance of students, teachers, parents, local business leaders, community members and many individuals outside of town we began gathering money and supplies to distribute to residents in those towns.

Within three days the students had gathered nearly \$1,500.00 and thousands of items for these communities. Many people helped to inventory the many items that were eventually delivered to Henryville. These items were distributed one week after the series of tornadoes occurred in Henryville to Scottsburg, Indiana where the middle and high school students from the West Clark Community Schools will be conducting classes in the near future. Students and staff members as well as parents assisted in delivering all the items by using a MSD of Boone Township Corporation bus, a horse trailer, a U-haul truck and three additional vehicles from our community.

Thank you to everyone that was able to help bring in money, supplies, assist in packing the items and delivering them to the town in Southern Indiana.

**Middle School Staff**

## MARCHING BAND AT THE MAGIC KINGDOM

The Hebron Marching Band led the "Celebrate A Dream Come True Parade" down Main Street USA in Walt Disney World. Our group experienced a professional recording session as they worked with one of Walt Disney's top Director's, Mr. Allen Grey, and recorded with the video selections from the animated feature "Aladdin." Our students worked hard making an audition tape to get the invitation to perform, practicing to prepare, and fund-raising. They represented our school, community and the State of Indiana with pride. Congratulations on an excellent trip.

A special thanks to our chaperones Mr. Chris Stalbaum and Mrs. Lori Martin for all of your time and energy in making this a fantastic trip!

We would like to thank our family, friends, and the great community of Hebron, who all helped support our efforts in making this possible and for their continued support of our Music Programs.

**Rick Cheek, Band Director**



## WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

Over President's weekend, several 8th graders and a few freshmen had the opportunity to travel to our nation's capitol. While there the students had the privilege to visit most of the museums, memorials, and monuments that can be found there.

One of the highlights of the trip included a visit to Arlington National Cemetery where 2 students, Nikki Fieser and Daniel Wallace, participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Other highlights included a tour of the Holocaust Museum, attending the play Shear Madness at the Kennedy Center, a group photo at the Capitol building followed by a tour of it, and much more.

If you are a 6th or 7th grader and are interested in this trip, please feel free to contact Mr. Pastrick for more information, or see his website and the link to the Washington DC trip. ([www.pastrickscience8.weebly.com](http://www.pastrickscience8.weebly.com)).

**Dan Pastrick, 8th Grade Science Teacher**



### HAWK HIGH FLYING READERS CLUB

The children at Hebron Elementary are soaring into books! Back in October five other teachers and I attended a workshop at Valparaiso University entitled "Igniting a Passion for Reading" by Dr. Steven Layne. After listening to the presenter we were fired up and excited to get a book club started at our school. When we returned we presented the ideas to Mr. Martin and the other teachers. We worked hard to get our "Hawk High Flying Readers Club" started for K-5<sup>th</sup> grade! The club meets once a month at 7:30.

We held our first book club meeting in January with 89 children that attended. Mrs. Witt came dressed in Egyptian attire and presented a book by Graeme Base, "The Jewel Fish of Karnak" and Mrs. Moser presented one of Bill Peet's books "Hubert's Hair-Raising Adventure". On February 10<sup>th</sup> we had over 100 children in attendance!!! Mrs. Gearhart presented a book by Christopher Furfur, "Rebecca and the Great Goat Get Away". She also brought in her baby goats for the children to pet and feed! Our next book club meeting is scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Bricker will be presenting a book by Janet Stevens, "Tops and Bottoms". It is so exciting to see children interested and anxiously waiting for the next club meeting. We hope to continue seeing the enthusiasm in our children and keep our attendance growing with well over 100!

We have had great presenters. Every month is something new. We have our book presentation, along with a snack, and some kind of activity to go along with the book. Our number one hope for the club is to get students excited about reading and engage the reluctant reader. We have huge ideas on expanding our book club and ways to keep the children engaged, but we need help from our community and local businesses. We need people to be presenters, books donated or funds to buy multiple copies of books that have been presented, and the cost of refreshments, and activities. If you would be interested in presenting or making a donation for our club we would greatly appreciate it. If you would like to learn more about the book club please feel free to contact myself or the school. I would like to thank the parents, teachers, community members and students for making reading a priority in our school!

**Brenda Sterk, 1st Grade Teacher**



Students listen attentively as Mrs. Witt reads "The Jewel Fish of Karnak" (above) and Mrs. Moser reads "Hubert's Hair-Raising Adventure" (below)



Team members are: Allison Hano, Grant Giacomini, Allison Betts, Rebecca Calvert, Sara Keys, Michael Briggs, Connor Nuest, Isabel Reynolds, Josh Clemens, Riley McCullough, and Madeline Ream.

### MATH BOWL

Months of early morning practices and hard work paid off on Thursday, March 1st when the Math Bowl team went to Boone Grove Elementary School to compete in the area Math Bowl Competition. Hebron's team placed 1st in our class out of 5 teams with a score of 22 out of 28 questions correct. The team also had the highest score out of all 11 teams that were present at the competition. Groups of 3 students each competed during 4 rounds. Each round had seven questions to answer and each question had a time limit of 30 seconds, 45 seconds, or 60 seconds. Allison Hano, Grant Giacomini, Allison Betts, Rebecca Calvert, Sara Keys, Michael Briggs, Connor Nuest, and Isabel Reynolds got 5 out of 7 questions correct during their rounds. The team of Josh Clemens, Riley McCullough, and Madeline Ream got a perfect score when they answered all 7 questions correct. The students worked really hard and their effort paid off. The team placed 9th out of over 90 class 3 schools in the state! Thank you to all of the parents who brought their students to the many early morning practices, donated food, and provided support and encouragement.

**Lydia Clark, Math Bowl Coach**





**MSD of Boone Township**  
 Administration Office  
 307 S. Main Street  
 Hebron, IN 46341

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**Feedback is Welcome!**

Boone Bridges welcomes its readers' letters, comments and critique. Write to us at Editor, **BRIDGES**, MSD of Boone Township, 307 S. Main St., Hebron, IN 46341, or call (219) 996-4771.

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 Hebron Middle School ..... 996-4771  
 Fax ..... 996-5777  
 Hebron Elementary School..... 996-4771  
 Fax ..... 996-5777

**Our Web Address**

[www.hebronschools.k12.in.us](http://www.hebronschools.k12.in.us)

**2011-2012 School Calendar**

3/26 - 3/30 ..... Spring Break - No School  
 4/6 ..... Make-Up Day #2 or Vacation Day  
 4/30 - 5/9 ..... ISTEP Test Dates (Multiple Choice)  
 5/28 ..... Memorial Day - No School  
 6/4 ..... Last Student Day  
 2nd Semester Ends (92 days)  
 6/5 ..... Last Teacher Day  
 6/7 ..... Graduation

**MAKE-UP DATES:**

February 17, April 6, June 5 and on, if needed.

**GRADING PERIODS:**

1st Quarter ..... 8/24 - 10/21 (42 days)  
 2nd Quarter ..... 10/24 - 1/13 (46 days)  
 3rd Quarter ..... 1/16 - 3/23 (48 days)  
 4th Quarter ..... 4/2 - 6/4 (44 days) *Approved by the Board of School Trustees*

**2011 - 2012 Guidance Calendar**

**ACT Test Dates Juniors & Seniors** ..... 4/24  
*Register online: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)*  
**SAT Registration Dates Juniors & Seniors** ..... 12/30, 2/10, 4/6, 5/8  
**SAT Test Dates Juniors & Seniors** ..... 1/28, 3/10, 5/5, 6/2  
*Register online: [www.collegeboard.com/mysat](http://www.collegeboard.com/mysat)*  
**SAT Subject Test Dates Seniors** ..... 1/28, 5/5, 6/2  
*Register online: [www.collegeboard.com/mysat](http://www.collegeboard.com/mysat)*



**MSD of Boone Township has a NEW revised web site!**

Please take the time to view timely and informative school district information about various activities being conducted in each school and overall news about the school corporation. Each building has its own web site so you can concentrate on the school your child is attending. There are also links to outside organizations such as the Indiana Department of Education. A directory of school personnel is available for you to view as well as schedules for all the teams and organizations in each building. Other areas of interest are links to building newsletters, lunch menus, daily announcements and scholarship information. We hope you will make viewing our web site a daily activity in your household. Enjoy this online networking journey!

**Our web address will remain the same: [www.hebronschools.k12.in.us](http://www.hebronschools.k12.in.us)**