



NEWS!

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SUPERINTENDENT NOTES

Thank you for reading our first E-News addition. At the beginning of each month, we will be sharing important information for all stakeholders in our school district. We hope you will find this information informative and useful. Our goal is an attempt to keep everyone up-to-date with the most recent information available concerning each school system department and every school. Please feel free to provide us with feedback and if there is a topic you feel would be beneficial to our school district or community, feel free to reach out and let us know. I hope everyone has had a fantastic first month of school and we are excited about the progress our school system is making. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at any time. Go Engineers!

ADULT EDUCATION

Do you know someone who needs their GED? The next official GED test date in Estill County is September 14th. Do you know someone who needs help getting into college classes? A counselor will be on hand August 27th. Call Mary or Rebecca for an appointment. 606-723-7323. Estill County Adult Education Skills U

AREA TECHNOLOGY CENTER

The Estill County School District received exciting news last month with a federal grant award of \$4 Million from EDA. This grant along with the \$5.7 Million Work Ready Skills Initiative Grant will fund 70% of the total cost of the Estill County Area Technology Center. We are currently in the bidding phase of the project, with a projected bid date of October 1, 2019. If all goes well, construction will begin sometime after October 15th. We have an aggressive construction schedule and if weather cooperates, we hope to have substantial completion by the end of December of 2020. This facility will provide the students of Estill and Powell County with first class educational opportunities in advanced manufacturing, construction, diesel mechanics, health services, informational technology and pre-engineering.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that Kentucky continues to have the highest rate in the nation of children in the care of grandparents and/or relatives. In 2016-2018, nine percent of Kentucky children were being raised by a grandparent or relative, which is more than double the national rate of four percent. The latest data shows the number of children being raised by a grandparent or relative nearly doubled from 53,000 children in 2013-2015 to 96,000 children in 2016-2018. While the data doesn't say what brought these children into the care of relatives, we know that most are in informal situations that did not involve the Department for Community Based Services' (DCBS) child protection staff.

Approximately 15,000 children are placed in formal kinship care by DCBS due to suspected abuse or neglect. Excluded from these numbers are an additional 1,500 children in relative foster care, in which children removed from their homes by DCBS are placed with relatives or close family friends who are licensed foster parents.

By helping grandparents or relatives recognize changes in parenting from the time when they were raising their own children, schools can assist in better understanding the needs of their grandchildren and new parenting techniques. Grandparents and other relative caregivers also can begin to understand the issues facing children today and develop relationships with other adults who have children the same age as their grandchildren.

Additional information for grandparents or relative caregivers on community resources, support groups and child development information can contact Teresa Dawes at Central Office.



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COUNSELING SERVICES

The district School Counselors and School Psychologists meet monthly with their supervisor to discuss a variety of topics, such as mental health needs, special education, response to intervention, school culture, etc. These professionals get together to gain knowledge, awareness, and support each other in helping to better the mental health and educational needs of the students in Estill County. This group of individuals met in August to discuss the mental health needs of Estill County students as we move forward into the new school year. Each school counselor shared things that were going on in each of their buildings to address mental health needs. For example, the Estill County High School and Estill County Middle School both will be implementing the Sources of Strength program this school year. Sources of Strength is a best practice youth suicide prevention project designed to harness the power of peer social networks to change unhealthy norms and culture, ultimately preventing suicide, bullying, and substance abuse. Estill Springs Elementary and West Irvine Intermediate will be implementing the Too Good for Drugs program in the transitional grades of second and fifth grades. Too Good for Drugs is a prevention education program designed to mitigate the risk factors and enhance protective factors related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) use. The lessons introduce and develop social and emotional skills for making healthy choices, building positive friendships, developing self-efficacy, communicating effectively, and resisting peer pressure and influence. Other topics that were touched on and will be discussed in future meetings include, Mental Health First Aid, Trauma-Informed Care, and Universal Screenings.

Currently Estill County schools Psychological Services is assisting School Counselors and FRYSC Coordinators across the district in implementing Suicide Prevention and other Social Emotional Learning curriculum. These are evidence-based programs that are being offered through a grant from New Vista (formerly Bluegrass comprehensive care). There will be more information throughout the year regarding these initiatives.

And always, if you or someone you know is contemplating suicide, please contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1.800.273.8255 (TALK) or The Trevor Lifeline- 1.866.488.7386. Currently Estill County schools Psychological Services is assisting School Counselors and FRYSC Coordinators across the district in implementing Suicide Prevention and other Social Emotional Learning curriculum. These are evidence-based programs that are being offered through a grant from New Vista (formerly Bluegrass comprehensive care).

EMPLOYEE NEWS

As we ended the 2018-2019 school year, we wished 17 employees a Happy Retirement. As we begin the 2019-2020 school year we are welcoming 37 new full-time employees to our district!! Along with those 37 new faces, we have transferred 26 to new positions! We have employed 23 in extra-curricular positions and 9 as new substitutes! It is our hope that ALL employees, whether new or with additional/different duties, have a successful year with the students of Estill County!



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FINANCE

The Estill County Board of Education voted at the August meeting to give employees a 1% raise for the 2019-2020 school year. This is in addition to step increases. Employees can expect to see this raise on their September paycheck. It is retro-active to July 1. That means that you may see an adjustment to "catch up" for your July and August paychecks, if you work more than 187 days. September is also when you see the insurance or annuity changes that you made when you met with the representatives from American Fidelity in June. Please don't hesitate to call LaDonna or Angie, if you have any questions.

Tax rates were also set at the August meeting for the 2019-2020 school year at 51.1 for both real estate and personal property. This is .2 less than the 2018-2019 school year. This tax rate will generate the same amount of revenue as last year. The decrease in rates is attributed to an increase in property assessments.

FOOD SERVICE

Despite the boil water advisory, we had a good start to the school year. We are trying some new items on our menu this school year so if you hear any feedback let the cooks know, good or bad. We strive to serve good nutritious meals to our students and staff. Coming up in October 14-18 is National School Lunch Week. The theme this year is "School Lunch: What's on your playlist". We would like for staff to encourage the students to eat school lunch everyday not just during this week.

HEALTH SERVICES

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! I would like to take the opportunity to review the basic health information needed to help us keep your children healthy. All forms providing health history, medication needs or health care plans must be completed for each school year. Also, it is very important to provide the required school physicals, vision and dental exams and updated current immunization records. This information is required by the Kentucky Department of Education. Please feel free to contact any of our health services team for any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to serving your child in the upcoming school year! "Healthy Kids Learn Better"! Call Erika Adams if you have any questions.

MAINTENANCE

We are in full swing of repairs and routine maintenance in the middle of the second week of school going. As usual there are many requests coming in as staff and students arrive in their classroom/office settings finding some things that need addressed. The men are working very hard and we are staying busy every day with a full load. We are also continuing to work on painting of gates and other areas that need a little touch up that we haven't gotten to over the summer as well as trying to get the football field house list accomplished before the start of the season.

PUPIL PERSONNEL

Attendance got off to a great start but strep and a stomach bug quickly set in! We are battling through it and thanks to parents and guardians for being diligent. Remember, good attendance is a lifelong lesson that promotes successful adults. I am here to help and encourage good attendance among our students. Please don't hesitate to contact Dickie Arthur with issues/concerns.



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SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY

The Kentucky Center for School Safety will be conducting school safety audits at the middle and high schools and this fall. The safety of our students and employees is paramount! We will communicate the results of the audit when we receive the report and remember communication plays a critical role in school safety. We should always follow these three important steps to prevent school violence. Somebody...

1. Saw or Heard Something. Be on the lookout for suspicious behavior.
2. Said Something. Report suspicious behavior to someone.
3. Did Something. All reports should be fully investigated and appropriate action taken.

If you do not want to make a report in person, use the tip hotline or contact a school official.

Engineer Athletics introduces new spectator policies aimed at promoting good sportsmanship as well as increasing safety at athletic events. Spectators should look for signs and reminders in the gyms and around the fields. We want to provide a great venue to enjoy High School Athletics in a safe supportive environment. Thanks to all our community partners who work hard to help our school system be a success. GO ENGINEERS!!

TEACHING & LEARNING

The mission of the Estill County Teaching and Learning Department is to support, promote, and enhance effective teaching for student learning and success. For information and support of student learning, contact Lisa Reece, Charlotte O'Bryan, Margaret Snowden or Tonya Isaacs at Central Office.

Hats off to all teachers who have worked diligently on the district curriculum during the summer. In the next few weeks, the Teaching and Learning Department will be working with Principals at each school to review the work and provide feedback.

MAP testing for grades 2-9 is just around the corner. The window will open on September 3rd through September 18th.

Gifted and Talented students learn more quickly and independently than most students their own age. Supporting gifted and talented students usually involves a combination of acceleration and enrichment. For a teacher with a student who is gifted or talented, however, the real challenge is not simply to choose between acceleration and enrichment, but to observe the student, get to know him or her as a unique individual, and offer activities and supports.

Special Education students all have specific accommodations and modifications listed on their IEPs that must be implemented across settings. The SED teachers will be reaching out to school staff regarding students with Individual Education Plans and the accommodations they will be required to receive. Look for a "snapshot" of the IEP and signature page to be provided. Also, if you know of a student who may need Special Education and related services, be sure to let your school's administrator know so they can help you begin the referral process.



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TECHNOLOGY

The technology department continues the beginning of the year mad-dash to get everyone up and running. Thankfully, our issues this year have been less than last year, due to everyone's help in getting things hooked back up on their own, after floor waxing was completed.

The district has implemented a new social media platform that allows us the ability to post to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, simultaneously.

We are in the process of dispersing chromebooks to 8th & 9th graders, which we hope to complete very soon. We have also rolled out a new chrome device monitoring software, which has the added perk of teachers being able to remotely view & control their students screens on their chromebooks, while at school.

Finally, our google level 1 training was a success, training 50 new teachers on Google related apps and services. We plan to host a level 2 training next summer. Special congratulations goes out to the following teachers for getting their Google Level 1 Teacher Certifications: Katie Parker, Alyssa Wysong, Dess Kerby, and Tonya Miller.

TRANSPORTATION

We are currently operating 30 bus routes in the county as we are moving along in the 2019-2020 school year. Some final adjustments have been made to our existing routes to make things run more efficiently. The office phone number for the bus garage is 606-723-2484. Personnel will be available to help answer questions you may have as it relates to pupil transportation.

ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

At ECHS, we have had a lot of changes over the summer. From our new administration to nine new teachers to a new guidance counselor, we have a lot of new faces this year. We are excited about some new programs we are offering this year, including our choir program with Mr. Fletcher and welcoming Colonel Chris Wicker on board as our new JROTC Instructor. We are also offering an ACT Prep class for nearly 60 juniors and seniors, and based on positive feedback from students, we look to expand that in the future. We are fortunate to be a 1:1 school with our students having the ability to learn using their Chromebooks. Our freshmen should begin receiving their Chromebooks early in September. Finally, we will begin our work with Sources of Strength, a program to help with the mental well-being of our students, in September. We are looking forward to this program and developing our school mentoring program to better meet all of the needs of our students.

ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

We have wonderful things going on at Estill County Middle School and are very excited for the 2019-2020 school year. Our eighth graders will be receiving one to one devices within the next few weeks. This will allow for Google Classroom and more interactive learning to be incorporated into the classroom. Under the direction of Mr. Fletcher, we will begin a new choir program. If your student is interested in participating please email Mr. Fletcher for more information (matt.fletcher@estill.kyschools.us). Our Renaissance Rally for the first day of school was fantastic!!! Our seventh grade won the spirit stick but our eighth graders controlled the games. ECMS is a wonderful place to be, we have a lot of exciting events planned for this year. Please come and be a part of our Engineer family!



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WEST IRVINE INTERMEDIATE

Learning Comes to Life at West Irvine!

How would you answer these questions: "In what ways can you describe changes over time?", "How have changes over time affected our world?" and "What do we know about the world we live in and the people who live there?"

Well, be prepared because teachers at West are using questions like these on a daily basis with all students to help students become more critical thinkers. Teachers are asking students to use reading skills and strategies to understand science and social studies, rather than random stories. It's very exciting to see students engaged in conversations and meaningful work!!

We have many exciting stories, but one of my favorites is from Ms. Brooke Young's fourth grade class. She had already worked with students to learn prepositional phrases to describe change in position. The next day students developed the idea that things change by asking students to think about 'relative change' for science. As students shouted out words to describe relative change, "behind, beside, above, etc.". A student said, "Hey, this is sounding a lot like the preposition list we worked on yesterday!" Ms. Young realized the unit instruction that she had designed was beginning to help students make connections!! Learning is coming to life for our students!

ESTILL SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

It's been a wonderful start to the 2019-2020 school year! Estill Springs has its biggest enrollment in our history of being a K-2 Primary School and we are so excited to build relationships with our Students, Families, Staff, and Community! We have had wonderful attendance to start the school year! Our Staff is working diligently to keep our attendance high and our instruction going strong. Our monthly 'On TRACK' Behavior Reward will be on Friday, August 30th.

On TRACK Pledge:

- I will always TRY my best.
- I'll RESPECT myself and all the rest.
- I will ALWAYS make good choices each day.
- I'll keep a CAN-DO attitude along the way.
- I will KEEP on track and never look back.

SOUTH IRVINE ELC

The school year is off to a wonderful start at the South Irvine Early Learning Center. The students are doing a great job learning how to share, walk quietly down the hall, carry a lunch tray, and writing their names. I am honored to have your child in our building. These years in preschool will create a solid foundation upon which your child may build their formal education. Thank you for being part of this journey.

SUCCESS ACADEMY

Success Academy News Success Academy is off to great start with 10 high school students doing credit recovery. One student has already gained credits needed to transition back to Estill County High School. We expect a few more will be able to as well after the first trimester.

We have 4 middle school students working in a 6-period day that includes English, reading, math, science, social studies and PE. They are making progress and enjoying a multi content project through a fantasy football league. Students will track data, make inferences and report on the cultures found in cities across America.