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SUPERINTENDENT NOTES

As September comes to a close, so does the second month of school. During the next few weeks, each of our schools will be having teacher parent conferences. I hope that all parents and guardians will have time to drop by and meet with their children's teachers. As always, if you have question or concerns about any issue in one of our schools, make sure to give the principal a call and he/she will be glad to assist you. October will be a busy month, but perhaps the biggest event will be the Celebration of Safe Schools Week starting October 20 through October 26. This years' theme will be: Our Safety Story – Kindness*Unity*Empathy. During the next few weeks our schools will be participating in several different activities and all stakeholders are encouraged to take the pledge against bullying at: <https://www.kycss.org/pledge-new/index.php>. Finally, Fall Break begins on Saturday, October 5, and runs through Sunday, October 13. I hope everyone has a fantastic time with family and friends.

ADULT EDUCATION

The next official GED test in Estill County is October 19th, 2019. Call us for help and information 606-723-7323. "You never fail until you stop trying" ~Albert Einstein

AREA TECHNOLOGY CENTER

This past week, the Economic Development Authority gave us permission to bid the Estill County Area Technology Center project. Codell Construction has scheduled a pre-bid conference meeting on October 15, with a final bid date of October 24th. If all goes well, bids will be awarded and construction should begin sometime during the first full week of November. As part of this project, the Estill County Bus garage had to be relocated. That project has went to bid as well with a scheduled bid opening date of October 10th. The Bus Garage will be built on the newly acquired property across from Estill County High School and has a completion date of July 2020. We apologize for the delay in this project. From the very beginning this has been a TEAM effort and our students and adult learners will soon have new and exciting educational opportunities right here at home. This is a great time for Estill County!

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

What is Community Service? Community Service is work done by a person or group of people that benefits others. Why is Community Service important? Community Service has a number of important benefits! Engaging in community service provides students with the opportunity to become active members of their community and has a lasting, positive impact on society at large. Community Service or volunteerism enables students to acquire life skills and knowledge, as well as provide a service to those who need it most. These are some of the common benefits of participating in a community service project.

1. Psychological benefits: Volunteering increases overall life satisfaction and helps you feel good about yourself because you are helping others. It can also help to decrease stress and ease depression.
2. Social benefits: Volunteering engages students with the community, creates special bonds with the population being served, and increases social awareness and responsibility.
3. Cognitive benefits: Volunteering helps students enhance their personal knowledge, grow from new experiences, and develop better interpersonal communication skills.

Participating in community service not only makes a difference to the organization and people being served, but also makes a difference to every student's career prospects. Participating in community service activities helps to enhance student resumes by allowing students to obtain work-related skills prior to graduation,



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builds good references for employers in regards to community involvement, and provides a forum to network with future potential employers. It also helps students develop civic and social responsibility skills and become more aware of what their community needs. For additional information about community service opportunities for your student feel free to contact Teresa Dawes at 606-723-2181.



COUNSELING SERVICES

As School Mental Health is a focus for all schools in Estill County this year, our district has revised the school calendar to include additional training for all school staff on November 4th. November 4th will now be a staff training day, and students will not attend school that day. This training day is on Mental Health First Aid. Mental Health First Aid is a skills-based training course that teaches participants about mental health and substance-use issues. Mental Health First Aid is a 6-8-hour course that teaches educators how to help someone who may be experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge. The training helps participants identify, understand, and respond to signs of addictions and mental illnesses. Educators will now be more informed on signs and symptoms of a mental health or substance abuse problem as compared to a youth or child just "having a bad day."

EMPLOYEE NEWS

2020 Open Enrollment is MANDATORY for all full-time employees. Open Enrollment will be October 14-30, 2019.

There are changes to all health plans:

Premium increases will be no more than \$20/month and there will deductible and out-of-pocket maximum increases of \$250 for all plans. All plans include the Living Well Promise; meaning planholders must take the health assessment or complete a biometric screening between January 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020. This year you will receive a Mini Benefits Selection Guide at your work location. The regular Benefits Selection Guide can be accessed at personnel.ky.gov. Choosing the right coverage is vitally important. Please take the time to make an informed decision regarding health, dental, vision, FSA's and waivers!!

FINANCE

Did you know many of our vendors and community partners offer discounts, just for being a school system employee?

These are a few:

- **Snazzy Traveler** offers you the following:



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- Over 1,000,000 hotels and resorts worldwide, over 8000 car rental locations, all major cruise lines and thousands of travel option globally at saving of 10-70% below the pricing you'll find anywhere.
 - There is no cost to the program for public school employees (Normally \$99)
 - No Blackout Dates, No Travel Restrictions, No Hidden Fees
 - At 110% price guarantee on all hotel reservations
 - A rewards program that gives you rewards credits on all bookings made on Snazzy Traveler, that can be used for any future bookings for any type of travel.
- **Pizza Hut** offers 20% of regular menu priced items with your school staff ID and your VIP Pizza Hut card. Every employee should have received a VIP card.
 - **AT&T, Verizon, & Appalachian Wireless** offers discounts for school employees, also.
 - **Barnes & Noble Bookstores** offer 20% off of purchases with school staff ID.

Take advantage of these savings!

FOOD SERVICE

October 14-18 is National School Lunch Week. The theme is School Lunch: What's on your playlist. We ask staff to encourage all kids to eat lunch not just during this week but all year. October is Fire Prevention Month and we are working on something special for the elementary schools for Fire Prevention.

HEALTH SERVICES

I think most everyone is excited to see fall season upon us! Unfortunately, with fall, we begin to plan for flu season. The state of Kentucky has already had a few confirmed cases reported! Washing hands, eating well and getting adequate sleep are easy ways to try to avoid it; the flu vaccine is also a safe and effective way to prevent it. It is often difficult when to decide when to keep your student home with illnesses; here are some examples to help with that decisions:

- **Fever**: Please keep them at home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication.
- **Vomiting or Diarrhea**: Keep student home until the illness appears to be over and until it has been 24 hours since the last episode.
- **Cough, Runny Nose or Congestion**: If there is no fever and your student feels okay, school is fine.
- **Pink Eye**: This is highly contagious and may require an antibiotic. The student may return to school after being on an antibiotic for 24 hours. If you ever have any questions about any health care concerns and school, please feel free to contact any of our health care team!!

MAINTENANCE

The maintenance department is catching up finally to give us a bit of breathing room. We have been working on the new playground area at Estill Springs clearing tree lines, gutter drainage areas and assisting in whatever the certified playground equipment company needs for support. We are continuing with regular maintenance issues that arise daily as students and staff become aware of and pleased to say we are able to address these in a timely manner. Grass mowing is finally beginning to slow a bit allowing me to be able to utilize more of my men in other areas that are needing addressed. I am happy to say we have no major



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issues that has arose as of late requiring a large amount of time and money to repair. You may also notice that there are a few items that have been done by some outside contractors like the electric to the band tower which hopefully will soon be able to supply whatever electrical needs they will have in their new practice area. Lastly we will be hanging a few more "E"s in areas and "E" banners in areas so people can see the Engineer pride of our district.

PUPIL PERSONNEL

Improving attendance has to become a priority for our students at every level! Did you know that students who ride the bus attend at a significantly higher level than students who are dropped off. It is true! It takes more discipline and initiative to get up and get ready for the bus. It develops expectations that last lifelong. Better attendance is one of the most important early lessons we can teach our children. Students must be accountable and become responsible at an early age. It promotes success after the school years and stresses the importance of attendance in the workforce. All parents want their children to be successful in life, so let's value the importance of attendance in school. It is a lifelong lesson that will be passed along for generations! It has to become a priority for our students at every level!

SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY

We continue every day across the district to monitor and make changes to address school safety. Window tint has been applied at two to schools further secure our buildings. Safety and learning remain our top priorities!

Bullying Prevention Month

October is Bullying Prevention month and this year Kentucky Safe Schools Week is focusing on...Kindness, Unity and Empathy. Kentucky Safe Schools Week is set for October 20–26, 2019. This year's theme is "Our Safety Story!" and the Kentucky Center for School Safety stands on the belief that everybody should enjoy school equally and be treated with respect. Community members, educators, students and parents are encouraged to get involved during Kentucky Safe Schools Week. As school begins and schedules are in place the climate and culture of school becomes evident. Rules and guidelines of acceptable behaviors are set, discussion and modeling are great tools to reinforce wanted outcomes. KCSS encourages all Kentucky schools to take this opportunity to promote positive behaviors and encourage social, emotional wellness by taking the Ky Safe Schools Week Pledge, and using the resources (lessons, videos, etc) while planning a week-long school campaign. www.kycss.org/ssw.php Embedded in the theme "Our Safety Story" students and staff alike can discover their purpose, promote kindness, teach empathy and encourage unity throughout the school and community.

By taking the pledge we are embracing unity, kindness and empathy to enhance "Our Safety Story" and create a feeling of community and friendship throughout Kentucky's schools.

To keep Kentucky schools safe places in which to learn and work, I pledge to be:

Strong enough to show empathy for others who need help at school.

Awesome, as I strive to use tolerance to create unity at school.

Friendly, showing kindness to others of all ages.

Encouraging, promoting a feeling of community and friendship throughout my school.

www.kysafeschools.org/sswpledge



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TEACHING & LEARNING

The Teaching and Learning Team has spent time in elementary classrooms this month. Teachers are busy planning and delivering instruction. Students have been actively engaged in lessons and activities in all content areas. It is great to see students having fun while learning.

CHARGE!

KEDC's Project CHARGE (Civics History through Advanced Research and Geography Education) will provide professional development for 17 Estill County teachers from Kindergarten to 8th grade. Leveraging technology to support instructional practices will be a project priority when working with both teachers and administrators. Teachers will explore Micro-Credentials from KEDC in educational development learning while increasing their knowledge in American History. The K-8 or elementary and middle schools participating in Project CHARGE will receive innovative opportunities through an online interactive interface providing access to high-quality accessible digital tools, assessments, and online learning communities. Through Historical Field Institutes, teachers will visit historical locations and interact with University Historians who will lead rich and relevant discussions. Through these Institutes, teachers will increase their knowledge base of relevant times and deeds as well as their collection of strategies, enhancing their content specific skills and expanding topics for use in their classrooms.

ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Assessment results are in! The state K-Prep spring 2019 assessment results will be released to the public and media on October 1, 2019. MAP assessments are also completed. Look for individual student reports coming home soon. Please contact your child's teacher for questions regarding their progress.

VOCABULARY BUILDING

Exceptional Children services have been busy working on our students' Individual Education Plans. Although our students are at various levels of learning, one area of concern across the board is vocabulary. Most students with reading disabilities are sight readers which means they read by recognizing a word as a whole and not sounding it out letter by letter. Building sight vocabulary for our students is very important and parents/guardians can help by encouraging students to read signs in the community and labeling items in the home with index cards (window, door, refrigerator, telephone, etc). The more words the students readily recognize, the BETTER!!

TECHNOLOGY

We're happy to report that since last August 30th, we've successfully deployed chromebooks to 8th and 9th graders. Of course, we still have some stragglers, however, once they turn in their chromebook user agreement, they'll be issued their chromebook. This means that all 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and most 12th graders now have chromebooks, and are using them successfully. Since inception at the beginning of last year, we've now added 1621 chrome devices to our computer account throughout the district, which includes, Neverware, Chromebox, and Chromebook devices.



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E-Sports

The board has approved our inaugural year of E-Sports. For those that don't know, E-Sports is a KHSAA activity. E-Sports officially stands for electronic sports, not to be confused with video games. E-Sports takes video gaming to another level with organized competitive gameplay between two teams, governed by its own strict set of rules and guidelines. The difference is comparable to a pick-up basketball game at a park versus a varsity high school basketball game. E-Sports requires teamwork, communication, critical and strategic thinking, creativity, sportsmanship, and leadership — much like traditional sports. For Estill County our E-Sports team will be led by Tyson Barnette at the high school.

TRANSPORTATION

The Estill County Board of Education is pleased to provide transportation for your child during the school year. Pupil transportation is a vital part of the educational process. Our goal is to oversee a safe and efficient department.

Bus rules and regulations provided to you online at www.estill.k12.ky.us (visit the transportation link) have been put in place in order to provide a safe environment to move students safely between home, school, and points in between.

A good way to summarize bus expectations is as follows: 1. Be Safe 2. Be Respectful 3. Be Responsible and 4. Be Cooperative. Please review each of these points with your child and discuss ways for each to be exhibited on the school bus. These simple points can lead to effective conversations between parents and children. We encourage you to refer to these throughout the school year as a way to promote positive expectations.

ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

There are a lot of exciting things happening right now at ECHS. We've finished our fall MAP and Mastery Prep assessments for our 9th-11th grade students which will be used to help to plan instruction for our classes. The week of September 30-October 4 will be our week to roll out Sources of Strength across the school. We've been getting great feedback from our student leaders about the program, and we're excited to start the program with all of our staff and students. Our Parent/Teacher conferences for the first trimester will be Wednesday, October 2nd, from 4:00-7:00. We hope to see many parents and guardians come out for these conferences to help continue to build relationships between our school and the families of our students. Our fall activities are having great seasons. Our marching band is having a very successful fall season. Most recently, they won 1st Place in class 3A at Pulaski County. In the finals they won best color guard, best overall effect, best music, best overall visual, and they were named Grand Champions! Their next competition will be Saturday, October 5th at Madison Central. Our boys and girls soccer teams won their senior night games over Powell County, and they will start district play during fall break. Our volleyball team is on a three-game winning streak, and they have three weeks left in the regular season with their senior night coming up on October 17. Our football team has a five-game home stand coming up, beginning with Jackson County at home on Thursday night, October 3rd. Our student-athletes love seeing everyone come out to support them at our games, so we hope to see many of you out there to cheer on our Engineers. Our football players also began a new program called #ReadtoWin last Friday, going to Estill Springs to read to students there. We are thankful our players had the opportunity to give back to students in our community, and we look forward to more of this program in the future. Finally, we have created a Twitter account for updates about happenings at ECHS. Please follow that account at @ECHSEngineers. Going forward, we'll use that account for activity/sports updates and keep our Facebook account more for news items and announcements.



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ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

We have exciting things going on at ECMS! Our football team has wrapped up the season with a 5-2 regular season record and runner-up in the Bluegrass Conference Tournament. The girls basketball team finished regular season play with a 6th grade record of 17-6, 7th grade 16-7, and 8th grade 9-10. Sixth and seventh grade team also extended their season into the semi-finals of the conference tournament. Our second nine weeks will begin when we return from Fall Break. We will be gathering data to give students their Renaissance cards and host our first rally. With the release of our KPREP data ECMS was rated a top performing school with a 4 out of 5 star rating, losing a star for a gap in our proficient/distinguished score with one of our subpopulations. It is a great time to be an Engineer at ECMS!

WEST IRVINE INTERMEDIATE

Learning Comes to Life at West Irvine! Exciting learning is continuing throughout West Irvine. One of our favorites was a Culture Carousel in third grade. Each classroom experienced reading, writing, social studies, and science while becoming experts on a country. As a final celebration third grade students traveled to other classrooms/countries with their passports to learn about five additional countries. Later in the day, fourth and fifth grade students were invited to visit third grade classrooms. Third grade students then became the teacher of the country. During our travel around the world we even spotted Cleopatra and an Aboriginal from Australia!



ESTILL SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

Estill Springs has had a wonderful month! Students spent time learning about Patriot Day and Constitution Day. They learned about the Preamble and wrote their own classroom Preambles. 2nd Grade visited Fort Boonesborough and enjoyed learning about this important landmark in Kentucky. We celebrated Grandparents Day with our first Family Learning Night of the year. We appreciate all of the grandparents in our building who play such a vital role in supporting their grandchildren. 2nd Grade students completed the MAP Benchmark Assessment and are busy using those results to drive instruction in the classroom. All classrooms are vibrant with instruction and we are excited to see students growing and learning!

SOUTH IRVINE ELC

Our school year at South Irvine Early Learning Center has gotten off to a great start! The students are learning about shapes, numbers, and letters. Another component of preschool is learning how a school functions and practicing daily routines. These tasks include learning how to go through the lunch line, mastering carrying a tray, and opening a carton of milk. Our students are learning how to be more independent in the process. Another component is learning through hands on activities. Some of our classes recently celebrated Johnny Appleseed Day. Activities included making applesauce, crafting with apples, and counting with apples. Other classes have taken advantage of our beautiful campus and ventured outside for nature walks. They have enjoyed nature through exploration by examining leaves, sticks, rocks, and bugs. At South Irvine Early Learning Center every day is an adventure and a new opportunity to learn.



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SUCCESS ACADEMY

The Success Academy now has 7 middle and 9 high school students enrolled. The middle school students recently completed MAP testing as they continue to make progress in several academic areas including, Math, English, Reading, Writing, Social Studies, Science and PE. The high school students are completing credit recovery classes through Edgenuity. Many are making significant progress and gaining ground toward being back on grade level and graduating. In addition to academic improvement Success Academy students receive help in organizational strategies, time management, goal setting and communication skills. We work with community agencies and partners to provide counseling and other opportunities for our students.