



NEWS!

November
2019

SUPERINTENDENT NOTES

During November, we begin a time of year for gratitude and Thanksgiving. As this Holiday season begins, I want to thank all of our stakeholders for making Estill County a special place to work and live.

We have fantastic students, supportive parents, hardworking staff members, a fantastic Board and community partners that go above and beyond to help us be successful. I am truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful community.

ADULT EDUCATION

Your past never Defines your future. Come and earn your GED!

Estill County Official GED Test Dates

Saturday, November 16, 2019

Saturday, December 14, 2019

www.myged.com

AREA TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Sorry for the delay of this month's newsletter, but I waited until the completion of our special called board meeting on November 5th, in order to give you the latest news concerning the Estill County ATC. The Estill County Board of Education, with a unanimous 5 - 0 vote, approved a \$14.6 Million contract for the construction cost associated with the project.

I would like to commend the board on making the decision to accept all the alternates for the project, which includes additional parking and traffic flow improvements on the HS/MS Campus, a pedway connecting the new building with the existing high school, and improvements at the high school including a new Youth Service Center and hallway access to the band room. Construction is set to begin before Christmas Break. This is a wonderful Christmas present for our students and community!





NEWS!

November
2019
Page | 2

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Estill County Schools Volunteer (Parent and Community) Protocol and Procedures

- I. District Responsibilities and Volunteer Definition:
The district is required by KRS 161.148 to arrange for a state criminal records check on all volunteers who have contact with students on a regularly scheduled and/or continuing basis, or who have supervisory responsibility for children at a school site or on school-sponsored trips. (Policy Reference 03.6) Visitors are not required to have a background check to attend a party, school program or play, eat breakfast or lunch, etc....
- II. School Responsibilities:
The Community Education Director and School Counselors are responsible for the administration and implementation of the volunteer program.
- III. Community Education Director Responsibilities
 - a. Conduct all new parent/community volunteer orientation trainings and background checks
 - b. Set a schedule for monthly new parent trainings during the school year, which shall be published on school and district web site.
 - c. Update the list of approved volunteers on a monthly basis and forward to the school counselor.
- IV. School Counselors shall adhere to the following time-line at the beginning of each school year.
 - d. Promote and encourage parents and community members to volunteer at their local school
 - e. Refer parents or community members with no background check on file to the Community Education Director
- V. Volunteers must adhere to the following process
 - f. Complete the required paper work needed for the criminal records check
 - g. Abide by all policies and procedures adopted by the school.
 - h. Parent information on the criminal records check:
 - The records check is good for a 5-year period as long as they attend an annual orientation meeting.
 - The district/school reserves the right to complete another records check for any individual during this 5-year period at the district expense.
 - i. If a volunteer is charged with a criminal offense, the volunteer has an obligation to inform the principal of the school, who should immediately report such occurrence to the superintendent and/or their designee. The incident shall be reviewed by the superintendent and/or designee to determine if the volunteer can continue to serve at the school.
 - j. Failure of the volunteer to disclose such an event will result in an indefinite suspension of all volunteer activities.
- VI. Procedure for Dealing with Back Ground Checks that have Prior Offenses
 - k. All prospective volunteers have a responsibility to disclose any violation that may appear on their background check at the time of their application.
 - l. Minor offense such as driving violations and other misdemeanors will not disqualify an individual from serving as a volunteer
 - m. Any major violation, as deemed by the superintendent and/or designee, that has occurred within the past 5 years will disqualify an individual from volunteering



Page | 3

- In order for an invoice to be processed for approval at the board meeting, all paperwork must be complete with all signatures, on or before the deadline date. Board members receive a list of invoices several days prior to the board meeting for their review. At the board meeting, board members vote on the approval to pay the claims. It is their discretion, whether invoices are paid or not.



NEWS!

November
2019
Page | 4

Checks will be available the day after the board meeting. If an employee is receiving a check, it will be ponied to their location. Vendor checks will be mailed. Please call Benton at extension 2240 or Angie at extension 2241, if you have a question about an accounts payable issue.

<u>Board Meeting Date</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Check Date</u>
November 21, 2019	November 13, 2019	November 22, 2019
December 19, 2019	December 11, 2019	December 20, 2019
January 16, 2020	January 8, 2020	January 17, 2020
February 20, 2020	February 12, 2020	February 21, 2020
March 19, 2020	March 11, 2020	March 20, 2020
April 16, 2020	April 8, 2020	April 17, 2020
May 21, 2020	May 13, 2020	May 22, 2020
June 18, 2020	June 10, 2020	June 19, 2020

FOOD SERVICE

Our Thanksgiving meals scheduled as followed:

- November 19 - Estill Springs
- November 21 - High School, Middle School and West Irvine
- November 26 - South Irvine

We invite everyone to eat with us on these dates.

HEALTH SERVICES

Happy Fall! As we head into the season of holidays I know everyone's schedules are very busy, but we are needing some students to work on updating their immunization requirements. Last year brought two new regulations that some may need to work on getting up to date. Please remember if you have already had your student receive their first Hepatitis A vaccine the second part is due 6 months later. Also, ANY student who has turned 16 is now required to receive a meningitis booster! It is being referred to as the "16 vaccine"; as always, any questions or concerns regarding your student's immunization needs feel free to call any of our health service team! We appreciate your cooperation in keeping all our students healthy!!

MAINTENANCE

We in the maintenance department are staying busy every day on work orders coming in on a steady basis. We have assisted Hardy oil company with installation of the diesel tank out beside the central office to fuel buses till we can have a permanent location at the new bus garage. We have changed many lights at West Irvine building, Middle School building and High School building as the days are getting shorter and there is a greater need to have adequate outdoor lighting for staff and students. We have finished all our work at the football field house of installing the new washer and dryer systems in that building for the first time so they can wash anything needed on site vs taking it home to wash. As temperatures get cooler we are addressing some of the calls for heating as the temperature changeover is beginning at each school to heating from cooling set points which is always a balancing act in early fall as well as spring with mornings and nights being cool but day temperatures can still require cooling operation from time to time. We hope to find a medium where comfort can be achieved as well as energy savings which in heating is easier than cooling to find a comfort level and save energy at the same time as it is easier to heat buildings than cool them. We are currently working to install a flag pole at Estill Springs now that the front of the building's construction is complete to replace the one that was removed during the construction process. It should be complete with the flag waving when this letter comes out.



NEWS!

November
2019
Page | 5

PUPIL PERSONNEL

The third month of school was a great month of attendance! The school calendar is different from the 12-month calendar and our school third month ended on Monday, March 28th. As a district, we had an average daily attendance of 94.90%. This was better than the 2018-2019 school year's third month (94.59%). Thanks to all parents/guardians for the effort and keep up the good work!

SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY

The Estill County school district is in the process of hiring a new SRO. This process takes time and careful consideration. In the meantime, we continue to improve school safety. The high and middle schools are both getting a safe school audit in November. The audits are done by the Kentucky Center for School Safety. School surveys are being sent out at this time. Please participate and voice any concerns and/or recommendations.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Our district and schools have started the process of continuous improvement planning for the upcoming year. This is a collaborative process involving multiple stakeholders. Through the improvement planning process, leaders focus on priority needs, district funding, and closing achievement gaps among identified subgroups of students. When implemented with fidelity, the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) and the Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP) cultivate an environment that promotes student growth and achievement.

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback to schools and the district by reviewing plans on the school/district websites and completing a short Google survey. CSIPs and CDIPs are to be submitted to Kentucky Department of Education by January 1, 2020.

TECHNOLOGY

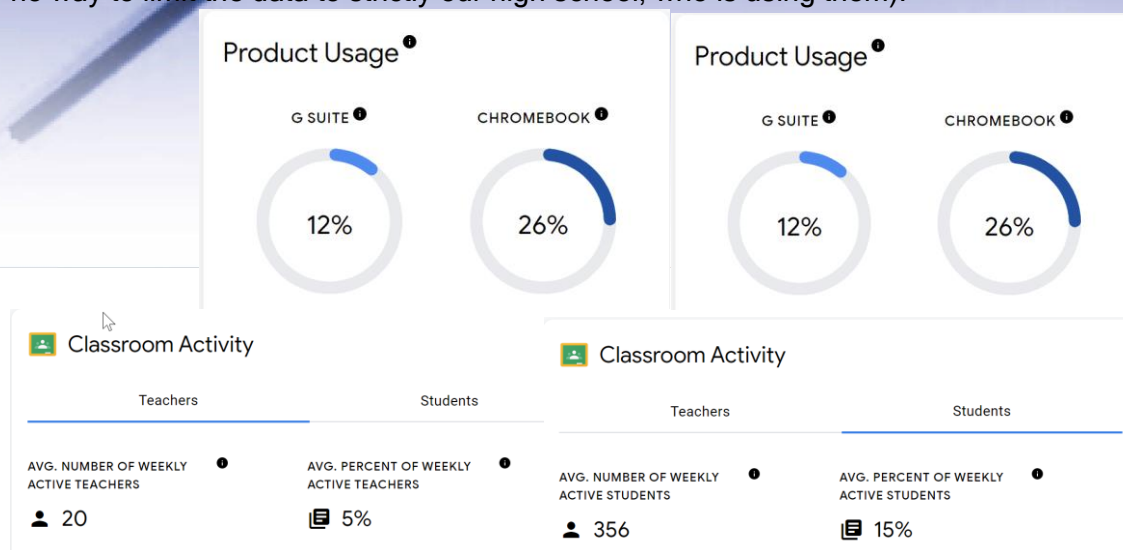
- **Support Tickets:** The technology department is running well for this time of year. So far, for this school year, starting July 1, 2019, we've closed 302 tickets, and only have a handful of tickets open currently. Please remember, if you need technology support, fill out a helpdesk ticket by emailing your problem to helpdesk@estill.kyschools.us or by filling out a support ticket through your helpdesk icon in your desktop.
- **Personal Devices:** To connect your personal electronic device to our Wi-Fi for internet, follow the steps outlined here: <https://www.estill.kyschools.us/Content2/podnet>. Please remember, NEVER connect a district device to the Personal Devices Wi-Fi.
- **S.T.O.P Tipline:** Anyone can submit an anonymous tip to the districts S.T.O.P Tipline for cases of bullying, violence, drugs, alcohol, self-harm, sexual abuse, theft, or other high risk behavior: <http://www.kycss.org/stop/stop.php?district=Estill.County.School.District>
- **Email:** Here are some great tips to avoid Phishing emails and more information concerning data security: http://www.estill.kyschools.us/docs/district/Files/Technology/Email_Scams.pdf
- **Esports:** The Estill County High School Esports team will have its first match against Greenup County High School on Tuesday, October 29th. We are very excited to being our inaugural year of Esports!
- **Chromebook Initiative:** To elaborate on our chromebook initiative, here is some transformation results as far as the implementation is concerned. Please remember these percentages are based upon the



NEWS!

November
2019
Page | 6

entire district, with almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of our student population not using chromebooks (unfortunately there's no way to limit the data to strictly our high school, who is using them):



TRANSPORTATION

New Bus Garage Update: bids have been opened and the school board has selected a builder for this new facility. Standafer Builders will be carrying out this project. Work will begin in November and a completion date will be late next summer. This facility will again allow all transportation department work to be conducted on one site located at 2220 Winchester Road.

We are again applying for a grant sponsored by the EPA. This grant is for removing less efficient diesel buses from daily use. We were the recipient of this grant two years ago and were awarded \$100,000 for the purchase of a new bus.

Interested in becoming a school bus driver? Call 723-2181 to obtain information on getting your CDL and possible employment.

ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

At ECHS, we are winding up the first trimester with final exams, homecoming week, and Red Ribbon Week. The return of Powderpuff Football, our pep rally, and the big homecoming football win over Garrard County ended a great week of school spirit. Our boys and girls soccer teams both won the 14th Region titles in soccer, capping an excellent season for both teams. Our senior night for football will be Friday, November 1st, against Bethlehem High School. Our football team will participate in the opening round of the 3A Playoffs on November 8th at Rockcastle County. Our Marching Engineers had a great run in the KMEA State Marching Band Semifinals and Finals. In the semifinals, the band placed first overall with a distinguished rating and school record score of 93.4. In the finals, the finished 2nd in the state in Class AAA. Their season will continue November 14-16 at the Bands of America Grand Nationals in Indianapolis.

We're extremely proud of the attendance our students have had over the past few weeks. We want to continue to encourage students to be here every day as we enter the second trimester. Since we returned



NEWS!

November
2019
Page | 7

from Fall Break, our attendance has been at 94.4%, and for the third month of school, the 10th grade had the best attendance overall!

ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

We have some really fun upcoming events at ECMS! Our first Renaissance Rally will be on Friday, November 1st. Students need to bring your dollar bills and tape Mean Banks to the wall! We are glad she is such a good sport to help us raise money for the 8th grade trip to Chicago. Basketball season will begin November 11th with a home game, volleyball starts on November 7th in Jackson County, and our band travels to Indianapolis on November 14th. Come out and support your Engineers! November 14th is Family Fun Night, get in contact with Michael Flynn through email michael.flynn@estill.kyschools.us to be a part of this fun night! We will be having Thanksgiving dinner and making Christmas wreaths to kick off the holiday season. Our school is also participating in a Safety Audit on November 7th. We want to do everything we can to make this building safe for all students and staff. If at any time we can help you with anything please call us at 723-5136. It is a great time to be an ECMS Engineer.

WEST IRVINE INTERMEDIATE

Learning Comes to Life at West Irvine! Kentucky Safe Schools Week kicked off with excitement! Remix Education joined us for a school-wide assembly. They encouraged students to treat others with kindness regardless of differences. Students danced with Jiggy, competed in relay races, and worked as a team to turn a friend in to a toilet paper mummy. Each activity demanded all students to work together; each student played an important role in success. The week campaign continued each day as we learned about...Kindness, Unity and Empathy.





NEWS!

November
2019
Page | 8

ESTILL SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

The month of October has flown by at ESE! Our classrooms are filled with rich instruction and high expectations for all Students! We are setting goals for all (Students and Staff) and cheering each other on as we reach them!

Fall Break brought some much-needed rest and we are happy to see attendance improving each week. We had wonderful attendance for our Parent Teacher Conference and our Book Fair was a huge success! Pete the Cat spent some time with our Students and this brought some big smiles!

The month of November is quickly approaching and we want to encourage everyone in the community to attend our School Carnival on November 8th from 5:00 - 8:00.

We appreciate all the support from our Community and School Community!

SOUTH IRVINE ELC

October has been a wonderful month at South Irvine ELC! We have enjoyed the changing of the seasons and we are looking forward to cool temperatures. Our teachers are working hard preparing our students for kindergarten and beyond! Part of our kindergarten readiness curriculum is learning number skills and number values. One of our focuses this year is numeracy. Numeracy is the ability to use numbers and solve problems in real life. It means having the confidence and skill to use numbers and mathematical approaches in all aspects of life.

The students loved participating during Red Ribbon Week, the themes were incorporated into daily instruction and enhanced each lesson. On November 7th, we will have a weather themed family learning night. Each preschool student that preregistered will receive a new winter coat and educational materials. This event is made possible through funding from the Madison Estill Community Early Childhood Council. The Madison Estill CECC supports the engagement of parents, families and the community as vital partners in the achievement of school readiness goals.



SUCCESS ACADEMY



NEWS!

November
2019
Page | 9

We now have 15 students working to complete credits, catch up on academic and social skills as well as improve reading and comprehension. A few students have transitioned back to their regular schools and a few more are scheduled to after Christmas as they continue to improve.

Students participated in an Art Project and their work is on display in the Success Academy hallway. The project enabled students to see more perspective and independent decision making as well as creative thinking.

