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SUPERINTENDENT NOTES

Wow! Because of the pandemic, the start of this school year has been something for the ages. Let me begin by thanking our students, parents and staff for their hard work, patience and understanding during the past few weeks. Starting the school year remotely has been a challenge, but we will continue to work with our families to provide quality educational opportunities for our students during this unprecedented time. Remote learning will continue until October 14th, and this will mark the end of our first grading period. Fall break is scheduled for October 15th and 16th, so we hope everyone can use this time to relax and enjoy a much-needed break.

Estill County Schools will return to In-Person classes on October 19, 2020. Remember that we will be following "Health at Schools" guidance and parents will be receiving updates during the next few weeks. We will be using the Hybrid A/B model for grades K - 12. South Irvine students will begin in-person classes by reporting 4 days per week. We have a phasing plan that will bring back Estill Springs students 4 days per week beginning November 9th and West Irvine students 4 days per week beginning November 30th. Students at Estill County Middle and High school will remain on the Hybrid Schedule through December. Finally, students that have opted for remote learning during the entirety of the school year will have weekly contact with assigned personnel from their school in order to make sure they are keeping up with their classmates.

As a community I simply ask for your support in this difficult time. I know everyone is tired of COVID-19 and would like to just move on, but until we have a vaccine we will have to follow guidance as provided by the CDC, the Kentucky Department of Public Health and our local Health Department. We all have to work together in order for our children to return safely to school, so please wash your hands, practice social distancing and please wear a mask. By following these simple guidelines, we can hopefully return to some sense of normal.

ADULT EDUCATION

Do you want to continue your education and need help?

WHAT: FAFSA (financial aid) Workshop

WHEN: October 29, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

WHERE: Estill County Skills U/Adult Education
200 Wallace Circle, Irvine

*Every participant receives a PPE Swag Bag

**RSVP to:

Sherrie.chapman@moreheadstate.edu

Or

Mary.fields@estill.kyschools.us

AREA TECHNOLOGY CENTER AND FACILITY CONSTRUCTION

If you have been by the High School lately you can see that the Estill County Area Technology Center is starting to take shape. The progress over the past three months has been outstanding. The upper part of



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the Building (Area B) is almost under roof, so that will allow for finished interiors to begin. The floor slab for Area A will be finished next week and you will start seeing the walls go up the following week. This area is scheduled to have a roof installed around New Years. Once that milestone has been reached, interior work will begin on that section as well. The Pedway construction is currently under way, and work will begin on the High School Tower early next month. Thanks to Codell Construction and Ross Tarrant for their hard work, time and energy in ensuring the timely completion of this project. The building is on schedule to open August of 2021, and we are excited about the new opportunities our students will have in technical education. The new Estill Transportation Center is also moving along rather nicely and is on schedule to be completed around November 1. The total project is around 80% complete at this time. As stated in the last edition of E-News, this project is important to the safe transportation of our students and provides our transportation personnel with a first-class facility that they can be proud of.

Lastly, the Board approved the Schematic Design for the final renovation of Estill County High School and our athletic facilities during our last Board meeting. Our community has been looking forward to this project and our Board desires to fulfill its promise to provide safety and energy upgrades to the high school, while also updating our athletic facilities that are in need of an update. The design documents have been posted to our website and social media for all to see. If all goes well we could begin construction by March 1 and be finished sometime during the spring of 2022. The next step in the project is scheduling a meeting in early October with KDE to get final approval so we can move forward with the project.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Estill County Schools has been preparing to be healthy at school when we return to the classroom.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all staff and students in first grade and above are required to wear a mask unless they have a medical condition that prohibits them from doing so. While wearing a mask is one of the most effective ways to stop the spread of COVID-19, we understand masks may be forgotten or lost and require a replacement during the school day.

We also know this pandemic has impacted so many Kentucky families, and we must try to reduce additional barriers from keeping our kids safe. This is why we are excited to share Coverings for Kids, an initiative by First Lady Brittainy Beshear and Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman.

Coverings for Kids seeks to collect mask donations - handmade or otherwise - to provide to Kentucky schools at no cost. Donations of child and adult size masks will be accepted. These donations will help our students, faculty and staff remain healthy at school at the time of their return.

We are reaching out to encourage you to donate if able, or spread the word of Coverings for Kids to those in our community who may wish to be involved. This is an amazing opportunity for Kentuckians to come together and support our schools during these unprecedented times. For more information, please visit FirstLady.Ky.Gov/CoveringsForKids. Here you will also find donation details, mask requirements, resources and tutorials on mask making.

Volunteers can make masks for elementary school students and staff who either do not have a mask or who will forget them at home. The masks donated through First Lady Beshear's initiative will be given directly to students/staff who need masks and those students/staff members can keep them.

Donations can be made by visiting the Estill County Board of Education's Central Office, 253 Main Street in Irvine any weekday from 8 am to 4:00 pm. The phone number is 606-723-2181. If you have questions, please contact Director of Public Relations Teresa Dawes at Teresa.dawes@estill.kyschools.us. We appreciate your consideration and support.



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Coverings for



KIDS

COUNSELING SERVICES

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in Kentucky, and on average, 1 person dies by suicide every 11 hours in KY. Suicide knows no boundaries and can affect anyone regardless of age, race, gender, or background. Some warning signs of suicide include: isolation from family/friends, sleeping too little or too much, loss of interest, giving away prized possessions, acting recklessly, irritability, and talking about feeling trapped or having no reason to live. If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, don't wait...get help immediately! Call 911 or 1-800-273-TALK or text "HOME" to 741741. Please visit <https://afsp.org/keepgoing> for additional information and resources.

As the school year begins and preparations are being made to return to school- whether in-person or virtual learning- the mental health needs of our children, teens, caregivers, and educators are of utmost importance. Change is difficult for most everyone....no matter the age. As a caregiver, here are some steps that you can take to help your child or teen cope with these changes: be available to talk and listen, make sure that your child is getting adequate sleep and is eating healthy, maintain a routine, discuss the expectations (wearing a mask, hand washing, social distancing, etc....), model appropriate coping skills, stay connected safely with family/friends, and take care of your own mental and emotional needs. Some symptoms of increased anxiety to be aware of in children can include: changes in sleep or eating habits, increase in defiance or irritability, difficulty concentrating, decreased energy levels, physical symptoms such as nausea, muscle tension or dizziness, trouble separating from a caregiver, and sadness or crying. If you notice ongoing symptoms in your child, you may want to seek assistance through a mental health professional. For more information on back to school planning, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/parent-checklist.html>



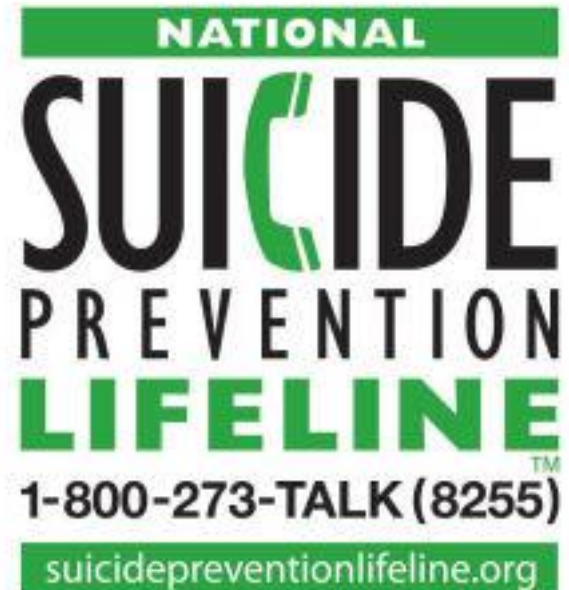
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「Crisis Text Hotline」

Text HOME
to 741741

Free, 24/7 support, just a text away



EMPLOYEE NEWS

2021 OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open enrollment will be October 12-18.

The Department of Employee Insurance mailed out information the week of September 21. You will also receive a pamphlet the week of October 5 at school. Inside the pamphlet will be instructions on how to enroll on line. There will also be a purple flyer with vital details. If you thoroughly read the purple flyer - you should be good!! If not call 723-2181.



FINANCE

The finance department would like to congratulate LaDonna Johnson on her retirement. LaDonna has done an excellent job on payroll here for a little over twenty-two years. We want to wish her the best as she begins a new chapter in life.

At the same time, please help us welcome Jay Winkler to the staff. He will be filling the payroll vacancy. Jay is the son of Chris and Judy Winkler. He is excited to begin his career with us and we look forward to working with him.

Please don't ever hesitate to call if you don't understand your check or deductions. We will be glad to answer any questions you may have. Everyone should understand their earnings and deductions.



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FOOD SERVICE

Food service has been very busy feeding the kids of Estill County. USDA approved the waiver for Summer Feeding to continue until December 31, 2020, or until funds run out is how it was stated. This means we can serve all kids 18 and under. Food Service has partnered with the Transportation department and are delivering meals on the bus routes. Thank you bus drivers for delivering the meals to the kids. I want to say a big THANK YOU, to all of my Food Service staff. Without you all, this would not be possible.

HEALTH SERVICES

We are all working together to help get our schools ready for the return of our students! Our main focus is being "Healthy and Safe at School"! As we get closer to the return date, please be working with your student on what the new norm is going to look like to be safe at school. Wearing masks and staying socially distanced will be very important in this; also, washing hands often and keeping ourselves as healthy as possible!

We have been fortunate to have our local school board support us in dealing with this virus and approving school health positions so we will have a designated health professional available in each school. Parents/Guardians, it is going to be a challenge in that this year will not look like years past. We will be required to send students home more frequently due to symptoms and our return requirements will look different; more information on this will be provided soon. It will also be very important that you monitor your student by doing a quick health assessment before they come to school.

The year 2020 has been a challenge for us all, but we look forward to having our students return to school. We miss having them here with us! We will continue to work towards this goal and make sure we are all "Healthy and Safe at School"!

MAINTENANCE

Even with the COVID-19 remote work the students are doing there are still many things we are currently working on in the maintenance department.

We are adding a nurses' station to South Irvine building that currently didn't have one to address any medical issues needed. We are beginning our installation of water bottle filling station retrofit kits where water fountains are currently located as we get them. With the large demand throughout the entire country these are staggering in as available.

We are in process of acquiring air purification units to install on the nurses' stations, isolation areas and the FMD classrooms where the highest risk areas are. These will ensure safety of our staff and students in these areas.

Soon we should have a new set of bleachers installed in the CO gym that will be an improvement on the older wood bleachers that stood there since the building was constructed. One last thing you may notice if driving out to the high school or middle school the large practice band structure that was located overlooking the back high school parking lot is now gone as the band now has practice facilities behind Estill Springs building on the old youth soccer field.



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PUPIL PERSONNEL

Do attendance laws still matter during remote learning?

The answer is YES! Attendance/Participation Matters! For students learning remotely, law requires student participation in lieu of in-person attendance. Documentation of participation/attendance is documented in several ways. 1. Student has contact with their teacher. This includes student or parent video or phone calls; participation in group video or phone calls; teacher phone calls with a whole class or smaller groups of students within a class. 2. The time students are logged into a learning management software system (Google Classroom, Edgenuity, etc.) completing assignments. 3. The submission of paper/pencil assignments for students in a non-digital, non-traditional setting. For each instructional day, participation is recorded in the district database, Infinite Campus. If a student is not physically present and learning in a school building, it does not mean the student is exempt from the compulsory attendance laws and policies. A student failing to participate without valid excuse for three (3) or more days is truant just as set out in KRS 159.150.

SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY

Even with the absence of students in our buildings, safety and security is a major component of our daily operations throughout the school district. As Director of Safety I do not take this task lightly. Erika Adams, district health services, the local health department, other government agencies, and I are working diligently implementing procedures to help protect our students and staff during this pandemic. Please visit the Estill County School District website (estill.kyschools.us) and click on the COVID-19 Guidance button for more information.

Take care,
Stephen Willis

TEACHING & LEARNING

Welcome to our new District Curriculum Coaches, Andrea Maybrier, Tonya Miller and JoLin Owens! They are looking forward to working with teachers and providing classroom strategies! They have created a Google Slides that feature a strategy for each month. The Coaches will be a tremendous asset to our district. The District has begun work on the Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP). We are looking at the Key Core Work Processes to identify needs and how best to support schools, teachers. The CDIP will be presented at the December School Board Meeting.

TECHNOLOGY

WOW! What a last few months. The technology department has had some dramatic changes due to COVID, as you can imagine. We also are down a technician as Matthew Robertson has accepted a position as a teacher at Estill Springs...we wish him all the best!

We've deployed approximately 600 chromebooks to all of the middle school students, along with brand new hard cases, to keep the chromebooks safe. We'll be issuing these same cases to the high school students soon.

We've also started deployment of 100 hotspots to students, through the FRYSC offices. These hotspots should aid students who don't have internet at home.



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Finally, we've upgraded several of our district software license (Little Sis, Microsoft, Google Enterprise, etc.) to aid in the massive roll out of remote learning.

Needless to say...we're anxious to get back to normal!

TRANSPORTATION

The beginning of the 2020-2021 school year is off to a different start. The transportation staff and food services are working hard with the Estill Schools Meals on Wheels program. We have thirty routes that are delivering nutritional meals and needed supplies to children every weekday across this county. I am very blessed to work with an amazing kitchen, transportation, and teaching staff that have made this program possible. Many times, I have been told by our staff that they have enjoyed being out and seeing our great students and community. Thank you, staff!

This summer three new buses and a box truck were added to the Estill Transportation Fleet. These vehicles have given our community reliable resources that will benefit our students for years to come. The buses were partially paid for with a grant that was received by the Estill County Board of Education. The bus garage construction is moving along nicely. Work is happening on the interior and exterior of the building. The current goal is to move our transportation department into the new facility around the end of October. I am excited to have a state-of-the-art facility that will support our community's needs.

The Estill County Schools Transportation Department is currently looking for safe, courteous, and dedicated employees. If you are interested in applying for a bus driver or bus aide position, please fill out an online application under the jobs button on the Estill County School District website (estill.kyschools.us) or call 606-723-2181 for more information.

Take care,
Stephen Willis

ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

We want to take a moment to thank our students for their hard work during our remote learning time. As we start the second nine weeks after fall break, we are preparing for students to be back on a hybrid schedule, but also are expanding our remote options so students can complete work on Google Classroom or Edgenuity depending on their needs. On the days October 12-14, the Monday through Wednesday prior to fall break, we will be having days where students will have the opportunity to work with teachers to catch up on work they are behind on to make sure they caught up prior to the start of the second nine weeks. We encourage students to take advantage of those days so they can work with teachers on Google Meets in small groups or individually so they can get the feedback they need to improve grades and get work completed. Please reach out to your teachers if you need help or have questions! They are ready to help you every day.

We would like to wish a big congratulations to our boys and girls golf teams as they both won the 11th Region title earlier this week. The boys team won their fourth consecutive region title, and the girls team won their second consecutive region title. Both teams will advance to the state tournament in Bowling Green. We are proud of each team's accomplishments this year!

Boys Scores

- Isaac Napier - 3rd (74)
- Andrew Elam - 5th (76)



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Boys Scores - Continued

- Kade Benton - 6th (78)
- Kenny Rose - T17 (84)
- Caden Stewart - T26 (90)

Girls Scores

- Maddi Jo Benton 82 (2nd overall - individual)
- Addison Beard 105
- Madison Walters 111
- Hannah Raider 116



ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

We are looking forward to getting students back into our building. In preparation for that our teachers have been calling their first period students to discuss three options as we return to in-person learning on October 19th. Option 1: hybrid schedule, 2 days in person and 3 days remote, Option 2: Google classroom at home 5 days a week, Option 3: Edgenuity at home 5 days a week. If you have not been in contact with a teacher please call the school and we will discuss the options with you further and record your decision. The first nine weeks will end on October 14th. Please make sure all work is being completed by this date. We will use October 12th-14th as make up days. We can't wait to see you all!

WEST IRVINE INTERMEDIATE

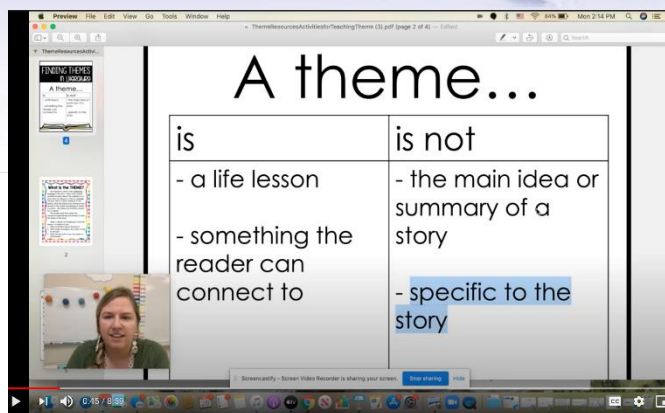
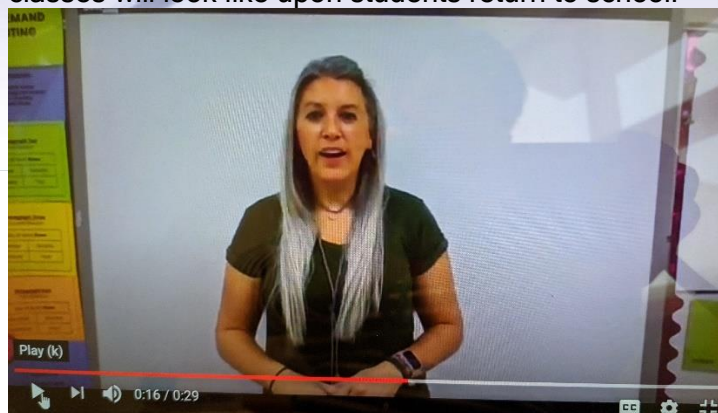
West Irvine has synchronous classrooms that support learning through home/school partnerships. The teachers at West are working hard to keep students learning at grade level. We are contacting families through Class Dojo and Facebook to ensure communication.



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Parents have been surveyed and the data has been used to adjust instruction. Most recently, staff members at West have been working together diligently to make sure that all stakeholders are aware of what in person classes will look like upon students return to school.



ESTILL SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

It has been a great September at Estill Springs Elementary! We are so proud of the hard work that has been displayed by our Staff, Students, AND Families! Our Students are learning content while staying safe at home. Our relationships are growing strong and we can't wait to welcome students into our building! We have enjoyed the unique ways that we have been able to interact with our students. Many students have started using Google Classroom with their teachers. We love seeing them interact virtually. Others have waved at us during Packet Pick-Up in the Drive-Thru while others have waved from their front porches during home visits. Here at ESE we love any opportunity to see our students and let them know that we are here to support them!



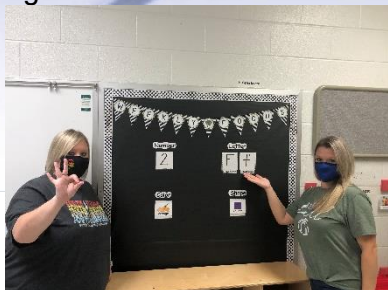


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SOUTH IRVINE ELC

Learning continues at South Irvine Early Learning Center! We are teaching in creative ways! Follow our Facebook page for video lessons throughout the week. Students are invited to work virtually with teachers throughout the week.



SUCCESS ACADEMY

My name is Austin Moore, I am excited to be the new principal at the Estill County Success Academy. The Success Academy has a wonderful staff comprised of Susie Napier, Shauna Murrey, and Susie Hall. The staff of the Success Academy have been working hard to provide our students with the tools needed remotely during these trying times. These ladies have been working tirelessly, and I have no doubt that they will continue to do so throughout the remainder of the year. We look forward to welcoming our students into the building on October 19th! To reach the Success Academy feel free to call ECHS at 606-723-3537, or by email at: austin.moore@estill.kyschools.us