

The rest of the story...

For those who have read The Courier's article regarding area Report Cards I'd like to share the rest of the story which The Courier did not report. I'll start with the caveat that we welcome accountability - being held to standards is part of any job and ours, in educating our children, is arguably one of the most important. Having said that, we desire, like anyone else to have fair and reasonable accountability. You have likely read from me that about the only consistent thing the state legislature and department of education have done is change the "target". Constantly changing tests, standards, and mandates along the way have caused educators much consternation. We do not dislike change (indeed, we welcome change that encourages improvement); however, we dislike change that is implemented without any thought to the impact upon students. Students have been bombarded by testing which captures just a snapshot of what they have done in the classroom. Our staff provides a quality education that consistently provides value to our future citizens. This is evident, at the very least, in our consistently high graduation rates and student enrollment in higher education and successful jobs.

Senator Randy Gardner released a statement yesterday sharing our frustration with the report card:

"Ohio's report cards this year do not fairly reflect what is going on in many of our schools and classrooms. In many cases they do not measure the positive work being done by our teachers and other education professionals. The public deserves better information and our schools deserve a more accurate public report on how they are serving our communities and our children."

Senator Gardner's sentiments were echoed by State Board of Education member A.J. Wagner and a colleague who released a joint statement yesterday.

"Every grade on these report cards is tainted by unverified, arbitrary, poorly designed and implemented tests that have been thrown out by the Ohio legislature. The flaws are so pervasive that the grades on the Ohio School Report Cards should not be counted for anything. The tests, and therefore the grades, violate standards of fairness. My colleague and I urge students, parents, and communities to ignore them. These report cards are not just inaccurate, they are harmful to our children, our schools and our communities."

After all of this, the Report Card is still present and while it encourages us to continue to improve I would share a final thought which, hopefully, encourages a bit less panic. The difference between a "D" (as reported by The Courier) and a "B" grade for our district? Less than 10 students. In a school of nearly 600 students less than 10 students' scores were the difference from a subpar grade card to something more palatable. Is this an excuse? No. EVERY student should achieve and improve and even 10 out of 600 is something to focus on. We will continue to seek ways to improve the education we provide (that will not change whether we have a D or an A) but, as I stated in the article, I would encourage all stakeholders to consider the whole picture rather than just a snapshot of what we are providing to our children.

Congrats

Congratulations abound this week...our 8th grade boys basketball team took 3rd place in the JH Tournament and the 7th graders took 2nd place! The atmosphere surrounding their seasons and final games was electric with the stands filled with roaring fans! Great job boys!

We had 4 varsity wrestlers advance to Districts from Sectionals this past week. Daniel White (106), Tyler Stoodt (113), Isaiah Colvin (132), and Dylon Stoops (170) will represent the Hornets tonight and tomorrow at Toledo Waite. Good luck guys!

On an individual level, Rachel Breitigam recently represented CR as part of the Ohio All-State Honors Choir. Rachel finds herself in unique company as the only person to have represented our school for 3 straight years! Kudos!

Finally, congratulations to Rachel Breitigam and Jamey Rettig on being named BVC (Winter Season) All-Academic Athletes!

FFA Week

This past week was National FFA Week and our local group celebrated their traditions and achievements all week long. I'm always impressed with the FFA students and their self-disciplined student leadership. While there are myriad groups that prepare our youngsters for future success, the FFA represents a unique and adept group which continuously seeks self-improvement and instills values and morals that help these students take the next steps towards success.

Calendar additions

Last night, the Board of Education approved two additional 2-hour delays for purposes of professional development. Please note the upcoming delays on March 29th and May 2nd. Please also note a reminder about our remaining in-service day for staff on March 23.

Upcoming Events

Good luck to the Show Choir as they perform at Grove City this weekend! For PK-3 families, come on out and join us this Tuesday (March 1) as we host Family Reading Night at CR during Right to Read Week!

FEBRUARY 2016

Friday26 FFA Week – Truck Day
FFA Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, 6:30-8:30am, Ag Room
Wrestling Districts @ Toledo Waite, 4pm
Saturday27 Show Choir @ Grove City
Wrestling Districts @ Toledo Waite, 9:30pm
Sunday.....28
Monday29 Right to Read Week – Dress Like a Friendly Monster
Grades 6, 7 & 8 Scoliosis Screening
Good News Club, 3-4pm, Mrs. Wagner's Rm
JH Quiz Bowl @ St. Michael's – 4:30 pm
HS Girls' Basketball Banquet, 6pm, café

MARCH 2016

Tuesday1 Right to Read Week
Family Literacy Night, 4-7:30pm, El gym & cafeteria
Explore Our World, 3-4:15pm, cafe
Music Booster Mtg, 7pm, Bd Mtg Rm

Community Update

February 26, 2016

Page 3

- Wednesday2Right to Read Week - Dress Like Your Favorite Dr. Seuss Character
HS Art Club, 3-4:30pm, Mr. Sherer's Room
HS Track & Field Pre-Season Parent Mtg, 6:30pm, Old Café
- Thursday.....3Right to Read Week
Mr. Faine's Business Class Field Trip to Cooper Tire
Earth's Resources, Soil & Rocks Program, Mrs. Quinlan's Rm
HS Band & Choir Concert, 7:30pm, audi
- Friday4Right to Read Week
Backpack Friday
K-6 Right to Read Movie, 12:30pm, Auditorium
Show Choir @ South Dearborn
- Saturday5FCCLA Regional Rally @ Penta Cty Career Ctr
Futsal Soccer Tournament, HS & Abbey Gyms, 9am-9pm
Show Choir @ South Dearborn
- Sunday.....6
- Monday7Good News Club, 3-4pm, Mrs. Wagner's Rm
- Tuesday8Hancock Youth Leadership presentation to 10th grade, 1:30pm, Comm Room
Explore Our World, 3-4:15pm, café
MS Band/Choir Concert, 7:30pm, audi
- Wednesday9Officer Presentation to Grades 1-3, 1:20-3pm, Abbey Gym
HS Art Club, 3-4:30pm, Mr. Sherer's Room
8th Grade Parent/Student Mtg for Washington DC Trip, 6:30pm, cafe
- Thursday.....10
- Friday11Amer Lit/Advanced Comp Field Trip to Van Buren, Author Cristina Henriquez
Presentation, 8:15-10:30am
HS Band District Large Group AE@ Lima Shawnee, 8:30pm
- Saturday12NJHS Ironman Event, 5:30-8pm, Abbey Gym
SOS Mother/Son Night, 6-7:30pm, Elem Gym