

Community Update

3-20-15

Good Friday afternoon! I hope this update finds you doing well and enjoying the long-awaited spring weather! Today is the last day of the 3rd nine weeks session and Monday will usher in the home stretch of the school year and, for many seniors, an increasing case of “senioritis”! Hold on seniors – don’t let up now!

Testing

Overall, our recent state required testing went well. To be sure, there is much ongoing debate at the state and local levels about time spent on testing and the structure of the tests. Aside from that debate, though, our students adapted well to the format in most cases and our testing team of administrators, guidance counselors, technology director, and teachers were well prepared – so well prepared, in fact, that we were the only high school in the county that took on the apparent challenge to complete all tests online (others chose to do “paper-pencil” tests or online only for a few segments). While some might argue that the “paper-pencil” testing format would have been the safer route, it is undoubtedly going to be phased out so our goal was to acclimate our staff and students to the new testing format sooner rather than later. Kudos to all of them for doing so well.

On a related note, SB 3 sponsored by Senators Faber and Hite aims to decrease the amount of required testing and test preparation allowed in schools. While this bill is a move towards a more common-sense approach in many areas, it still falls short of giving back the necessary oversight to local school boards. For instance, it establishes a limit for testing without thought to what each individual school might need. Not all schools have the same needs, or the same student needs and to enforce a unilateral amount of testing and assessment to determine how to best meet those needs presumes that those differences (and different ways to achieve success) do not exist. Nonetheless, I think this bill is certainly, on the whole, a step in the right direction. An analysis of the bill is available at:

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA131-SB-3>)

Athletics

As winter comes to a close we mark the shift to spring sports with the excellent banquets to honor our student-athletes. It’s always great to re-live the memories and celebrate the successes of the individuals and the teams. For the boys’ basketball team it was great to see the balance of senior leaders and the great numbers of younger players coming up the ranks. Coach Birchmeier and his staff are doing a great job of focusing on building the youth programs to ensure long-term success for the program. The girls’ basketball team had amazing senior leaders this year which really helped promote the stability and growth of the program. The coaching staff brings a well-rounded approach to growing the program and, as Coach Ludwig noted when he discussed “success”, the team has left the situation better off than when they arrived and the stage is set for the next wave of girls to take the program to the next level. The cheerleaders demonstrated what it means to be a close-knit group for many reasons, but most importantly for their willingness to fill in when necessary because of injuries. Varsity cheerleaders cheered at a JV level and vice versa to ensure the team was well-represented at all events. Swallowing your pride and doing what is best for the team is not easy, but it’s a testament to their dedication to the sport and to each other. Of particular importance are our all-academic honorees: Matthew Alspach, Ian Moser, Kara Galvin, Adrienne Erford, Megan Ritter, Kendra Tuttle, and Mariah Burkholder (all of the senior girls on the team – great job!). Matthew Alspach also recently received the prestigious honor of being named among 29 Northwest Ohio football players who earned a minimum GPA of 3.2 (though Matthew’s was much higher!), named All-League, and represented his school and community well. Matthew was one of only two players in Hancock County to receive this honor from the Toledo Wistert Chapter of the National Football Foundation. Congratulations! More information on student-athlete

achievements can be found at <http://cory-rawson.k12.oh.us/index.php/athletics/> . Finally, the wrestling team will celebrate their season on Tuesday evening.

Congratulations!

Congrats to Emma Garver who won the Hancock County 3rd Grade Coloring Contest put on by Blanchard Valley School for their awareness for March Disabilities Month. Emma got to attend a lunch with Miss Ohio as part of her award. Great job Emma!

PI Projects

With spring upon us you'll soon see some permanent improvement projects popping up. As required by the state fire marshal, we will be replacing our current fleet fueling station and incorporating additional safety measures. We will also be re-grading the soccer fields this spring (weather permitting). Unfortunately, when the fields were installed they were done so in accordance with OSFC guidelines for play fields and not as we had desired. Much like the regulations which did not permit us to build the connector between the buildings during the original construction project, the OSFC only allowed us to go so far in creating these fields. The fortunate part was that we were able to convince them of the need for the fields (and not be left with the entire scope of work and expenses), but could not obtain the required grading we desired. While there is substantially less work than if we had started from scratch we are, nonetheless, having to go back to make this right so our soccer teams can have an appropriate playing surface. Both of these projects and a few additional interior projects yet to be determined will be funded by our Permanent Improvement Funds in addition to a partial refund from the soccer field projects we were able to obtain from our project manager after much discussion about our need to make improvements.

Calendar

With spring break approaching I wanted to remind our community that we will have school on Monday (30th) and Tuesday (31st) of next week. These two days will satisfy our remaining make-up day requirements. Additionally, we will have a scheduled 2-hour delay on Monday April 6th for professional development purposes.

Have a great weekend and GO HORNETS!

Robert Hlasko
Superintendent