

Welcome back! I hope the Fair Break was enjoyable (I won't say relaxing because I know for many of our families it was non-stop activity at the Fair!). Thankfully the warm weather has finally subsided mid-week and we can return to some sense of normalcy. Don't forget, by the way, as you plan for next year...we will shift to start school after Labor Day.

Ohio's new Strategic Plan

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) recently released a 36 page report detailing their Strategic Plan. This should not be confused with the work we are doing at a local level on strategic planning or the work a group of grassroots stakeholders is doing across the state to develop guiding principles and beliefs for Education. ODE decided to proceed with their plan despite recommendations from many stakeholders that a state level strategic plan would be too general and, frankly, ineffective without better communication and partnership between ODE and the legislature. While I applaud the effort I, too, am leery of a state strategic plan for education. We already face an uneven playing field in education – the State Report Card does not, according to many sources, measure what matters and, has been demonstrated each year (time and again), is biased towards higher wealth districts.

While ODE's recently released strategic plan acknowledges some of the above concerns, it remains to be seen how they will be implemented – as ODE must be responsive to a legislature which has not demonstrated foresight in development of a continuum of a policy aimed at improving (and, more importantly, supporting) education. In fact, if you take a glance at page 14 (<http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/About/Ohios-Strategic-Plan-for-Education/Final-Strategic-Plan-Board-Approved.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>) of the plan you'll see that ODE acknowledges that the "supply of teachers might be decreasing". ODE and the legislature need only look in the mirror to see why good educators are either leaving the field or choosing another career path from the beginning. ODE and legislature have stigmatized a profession that was once held as crucially important to the development of our future citizens. Everything the state does emphasizes treating students as a number rather than a person. My *hope* is that this strategic plan helps guide ODE and the Legislature to improve the support they provide for education. My *belief* is that if we rely on the state for that, we'll be waiting a long time. We are, arguably, better served to develop our own local plan which understands the needs and desires of our students, family, and community and, moreover, can better define what a successful graduate entering the world looks like.

Congrats!

A huge congratulations to all of our Fair participants! As always, they impressed with their wide-range of interests, knowledge, and representation of themselves and our school! While the list is exhaustive, we wanted to provide special recognition to current CR students who were Fair Royalty or Champions (with a note that if I overlooked anyone on this rather lengthy list please accept my apologies and let us know so we can correct any errors!):

Fair Royalty

Emma Bower - Lamb and Wool Queen

Eric Davis - Poultry Prince

Megan Fisher - Pork Queen

Hannah Hassan - Draft Horse Queen

Anthony Rieman - Dairy Feeder King

Cheyenne Welch - Dairy Feeder Queen

Champions

Winner Swine Skillathon – Olivia Bacon

Winner Printmaking – Hunter Bixler

Sr. Champion Guys & Gals Lead – Emma Bower

First, Guys & Gals Lead Age 14 & Up – Emma Bower

Winner Sr. Sheep Skillathon – Emma Bower
First Place Ag Educational Project \$25.01-\$50 - Jacob Brown
Best of Breed, Californian Rabbit – Jon Cade
Winner Glass Art – Caleb Camper
Reserve Champion Beef Feeder - Rylei Cooper
Duct Tape Challenge, Most Useful – Eric Davis
First Place Tallest Corn Stalk - Amos Garmatter
Winner Acrylics Art – Riley Garmatter
Winner Youth Decorated Cookies (Girls 9 & under) – Cara Garver
Winner Cookie Decorating (8 & under) – Cara Garver
Photography (12 & Under), Second – Cara Garver
Winner & Best in Show Photography (12 & under) – Emma Garver
Rate of Gain Boer Winner - Makayla Gillfillan
First Place Ag Educational Project over \$100 - Amanda Green
Winner Sr. Draft Horse Decorating – Hannah Hassan
Grand Champion Calf Club Steer - Octavia Hassan
Best of Show Duct Tape Challenge (14 & up) – Dakota Holleger
Best of Breed, Holland Lop Rabbit – Dakota Holleger
Champion Overall Ewe – Austin Inbody
Reserve Champion Overall Farm Flock – Austin Inbody
Sheep Super Showmanship Reserve Champion – Austin Inbody
Reserve Champion Overall Ewe – Megan Inbody
Reserve Champion Overall Ram – Megan Inbody
Int. Showmanship Winner Dairy Feeder - Lanie Kempf
Reserve Champion Dairy Feeder - Lanie Kempf
Int. Skillathon Dairy Feeder Second Place – Lanie Kempf
Reserve Champion Fancy Turkey - Anthony Kizer
Winner Duct Tape Creation – Becca Ludwig
4-H Photo Contest, Class A, Second – Becca Ludwig
Winner Dog Agility Std on Lead (12”) – Chelcie McVetta
First Place Ag Educational Project \$5.01-\$15.00 - Jamey Miles
Other Breads/Cookie/Brownie/Candy (17 & Under), Second – Jamey Miles
Sr. Rabbit Showmanship Winner – Erin Murray
Themed Gift Baskets (8-12), Second – Gabriel Nye
Grand Champion Market Barrow - Makayla Oman
Int. Showmanship Winner Swine - Makayla Oman
Reserve Champion Market Dairy Goats - Cale Parkins
Dairy Goats Showmanship, Second – Mazie Parkins
Rabbit Sr. Showmanship Winner -Caitlin Quinlan
Rabbit Super Showmanship Champion – Caitlin Quinlan
Champion Boer Market Goat – Brynn Reese
Reserve Champion Junior Boer Doe - Brynn Reese
Reserve Champion Sr. Boer Doe – Brynn Reese
Cookie Decorating, Second (Age 9 & up) – Brynn Reese
Jr. Boer Goat Showmanship - Carson Reese
Winner Watercolors/Opaque Art – Madison Risner
Int. Showmanship Winner Beef - Lexi Roth
Beef Super Showmanship, Second – Lexi Roth
Grand Champion Market Ewe - Matthew Roth

Res. Champion Market Wether - Matthew Roth
Lamb Sr. Showmanship Winner - Matthew Roth
Sheep Super Showmanship Champion – Matt Roth
Winner Pottery/Hand Built Art – Ashley Schaller
Winner Mixed Media Art – Sophie Simon
Winner Horses Senior English Pleasure - Kylee Simpson
Winner Red Slicing Tomatoes – Kylee Simpson
Best of Show Artwork (ages 13-17) Acrylic – Kylee Simpson
Winner Acrylic Art (ages 13-17) – Kylee Simpson
Winner Watercolors/Transparent, 3-dimensional Design Art – Kylee Simpson
Winner Textile Design – Chloe Stagnolia
Champion Jr. Yearling Heifer - Jacob Warnimont
Senior Dairy Feeder Skillathon, Second – Cheyenne Welch
Sr. Beef Skillathon, Second – Cheyenne Welch
Decorated Gourds (over 6”), Second – Mathys Wenger
Winner Mini Pumpkins – Mathys Wenger
Winner Decorated Gourds (over 6”), First – Teagan Wenger
Winner Sunflower Best Shaped & Best Oval – Teagan Wenger
First Place Ag Educational Project \$5.01-\$15.00 - Blake Wilson
First Place Hybrid Corn - Brandon Zuercher
First Place Alfalfa Hay - Brandon Zuercher
Grand Champion Vegetable – Brandon Zuercher
Winner Dusty Miller, Salvia, Snapdragon, & Bell Pepper – Brandon Zuercher
Champion Non-Annual Flower – Nathan Zuercher
Winner Marigold (small bloom), Dahlia, & Mixed Small Gourds –Nathan Zuercher

Again, please contact my office if anyone has been overlooked.

Good Luck!

After a close game last week, the football team looks to bounce back against Riverdale tonight. Good luck, also to the boys' and girls' soccer teams on Saturday as they both travel to take on Ottoville and Miller City, respectively. Go Hornets!