

Community Update from Superintendent Hlasko

September 26, 2014

Well, as the first official day of autumn comes and goes, the weather has remained a very pleasant temperature. I never grow tired of the slight chill in the air and the first leaves beginning to change. Soon crops will be harvested (even as I write this some are already off) and the “chill” will turn to a “chilly”. With it will come the end, all too soon, of the fall sports season and first semester of school...which hardly seems possible. In the meantime, though, the sports are in full swing and classroom academics are moving full-steam ahead!

I've had an opportunity to observe some excellent things in the classroom...like the lesson I observed in Mr. Diller's Organic Chemistry class which amazed me with the very high level thinking these students are doing (and brought back some memories of my struggles in science class!). I also sat in on Ms. Alexander's 2nd grade class when they had a native of Japan visit their classroom to teach them about her culture. In today's world, which is more closely interconnected than ever due to technology, social media, and economic interrelations, it is imperative to understand cultures other than our own. Other teachers, like Ms. Shumway, Mrs. Stockwell, Mrs. Rosenbauer, and Mrs. Hamilton, are involved in writing grants, like the \$15,000 grant we received from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, to help improve students' access to resources which will help them improve their literacy skills. Every day our teachers are doing innovative and amazing things with our students to give them the best opportunities to succeed at the next level.

Outside of the classroom, we hosted the annual Hancock County Bus Driver's banquet and training this week. Every year all the bus drivers of Hancock County come together for food, fellowship, and training to both ensure they are always at the top of their game and to celebrate the amazing accomplishment of safely transporting thousands of kids every day. I've driven bus on more than a few occasions and the responsibility of making sure 40 students get to school and home safely is an awesome one, which we all too often take for granted.

Finally, as previously noted, fall sports are in full swing. The volleyball team had an exciting victory against Hopewell-Louden this week, pulling it out in 3 sets, including two come-from-behind sets in the mix. Great job girls!

Good luck to the football team as they travel to Vanlue tonight! Good luck also to the boys' soccer team who take on Spencerville Saturday morning and the midget football team who takes on Leipsic on Sunday in the first round of their playoffs!