

HC THE BEAR FACTS

HCHS Increasing ACT Preparation Efforts

On March 15th, all HCHS juniors will take the most important test of their high school years: the ACT. Thanks to increased preparation efforts, the juniors will be ready. Results from the ACT determine college readiness levels and whether or not a student will have to take developmental college courses that cost the same as regular courses but do not count toward degree completion. Many colleges, including Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College, have recently raised ACT requirements for admission and for entrance into credit bearing math, English, and reading classes. ACT scores are also often a deciding factor in scholarships. Normally a \$33 fee, juniors take the March 15th test for free. HCHS provides a variety of ACT preparation methods. During the school day, students use ACT Learning Express software and Barron's ACT Prep books; both leading resources for test preparation.



A select group of students are field-testing the Kentucky Department of Education endorsed ACT PrepMe website program.

The ACT PrepMe program provides an individualized study program for each student. Workshops focusing on the four test areas of English, reading, science, and math were offered in the fall and will take place again this spring. Any student wishing to use school resources (computers, Internet access, tutors) after school hours to prepare for the ACT is encouraged to take advantage of the 21st Century Community Learning Center at HCHS.

ACT test dates:

- February 12
- **March 15 (juniors only)**
- April 9
- June 11

Smart Responders Being Integrated Into HCHS Classrooms

As HCHS reaches the mid-point of its third year in operation, school and district administration are making every effort to help the school live up to its billing as a leader in technology. When HCHS was constructed, every classroom was equipped with an interactive whiteboard and a ceiling mounted projector as a foundation for improving instruction and increasing student engagement. The Smartboards were an instant success, with most teachers using the boards to improve the delivery of their lessons nearly every period.

With new technology hitting the marketplace nearly every day, it is a difficult task to separate the devices which can truly improve education from gadgets and gizmos simply aimed at taking our money with limited benefit. One of the latest devices to see use in HCHS classrooms that truly benefits both teachers and students is known as Smart Responders.



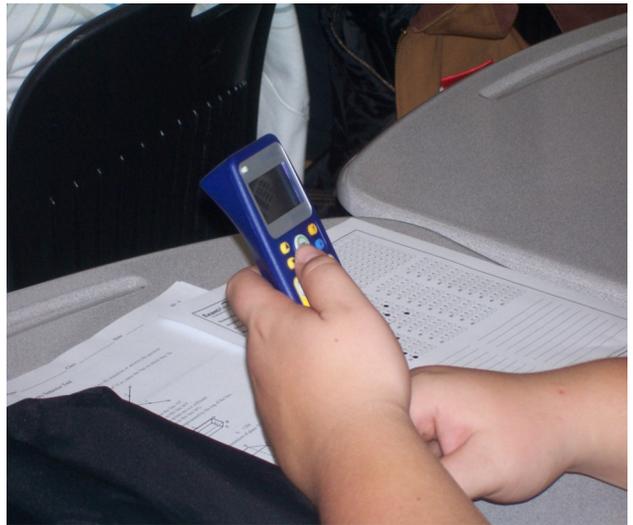
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RESPONDERS CONTINUED

These handheld devices work with the existing Smartboards to improve teaching and learning.

Smart Responders allow teachers to present the class with a question and instantly record the response to that question from every student. Traditionally, teachers could only call on one student to answer a question, letting all the other students “off the hook.” Smart Responders are one way for teachers to ensure that every student in their class is engaged and understanding the material being covered.

The HCHS teachers are also quickly learning that the responders can be used to give tests with automatic grading, saving the teacher time while giving the student instant feedback on their test. HCHS currently has eight classroom sets of responders scattered among English, math, and science dept. classrooms. Administrators say they hope to purchase additional sets of responders as soon as funds become available.



HCHS ESTABLISHES 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

The Harlan County High School 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) was created to establish and expand before and after-school programs. The goal of the 21st CCLC is to provide opportunities during non-school hours for students to improve their academic performance. The program helps students meet state and local standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math while covering special demands with science and history.

The 21st CCLC works with extended school services (ESS) to offer a wide range of quality enrichment and supportive services that complement and bolster student learning and development. These services include tutoring, homework assistance, hands-on projects, community service opportunities, art, photography, and SPARK certified physical activities.

The Black Bear newspaper and the PRIDE Club were formed as after school activities. Hopefully, the high school equivalent to a Rotary Club, known as the Interact Club, will be formed. In the near future we hope to offer a detailed look into radio and television broadcasting, a chess club, and archery. The 21st CCLC helps provide countywide transportation for students in our program as well as any other club or organization that meets after school.

The HCHS Youth Service Center offers ACT and financial aid workshops along with numerous other opportunities to 21st Century participants. One of the goals of the HCHS program is to help the students prepare for college or the workforce. With this in mind, we have recently formed a partnership with the Kentucky College Coach Program through Americorps and Berea College. This partnership supports students as they transition from high school to college with an added emphasis on students who didn't think they could attend college as well as first generation college students. With all these programs working together, we are confident that HCHS students will be better prepared during and after high school.



For more information on the 21st CCLC, contact:
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