

## **District's Explore, Plan scores rise**

While the official release won't be made by the Kentucky Department of Education until late December or early January, schools across the Harlan County School District have recorded a substantial increase in Explore and Plan scores for 2011. In fact, it is the first-time ever that the district has exceeded national averages on the Explore, administered to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Our district recorded an Explore score of 15.7 percent, higher than the national average of 15.5.

Plan, the assessment given to sophomores, also increased.

Explore and Plan are considered predictors for future ACT scores. Additional details will be released later.

## **Congratulations to schools for making AYP on NCLB**

The Harlan County Board of Education and the District's administrative staff salute the students, faculty and staff at Rosspoint Elementary, Wallins Elementary, James A Cawood Elementary, Evarts Elementary, Green Hills Elementary and Cawood Elementary Schools for making Adequate Yearly Progress on the No Child Left Behind report. Only 42.6 percent of all Kentucky Schools made AYP. These Harlan County Schools met 100 percent of their goals. Congratulations to the students, staff, administration and parents at these schools for this tremendous accomplishment. Best wishes for continued success in 2012.

## **Black Mountain, Cumberland in KMGSI project**

Black Mountain Elementary and Cumberland Elementary are participating in a three-year long project known as the Kentucky Middle Grades Schools of Innovation (KMGSI) project sponsored by the Southern Region Education Board and endorsed by the Kentucky Department of Education. The project is aimed at ensuring significant progress is made at each partner school in closing the gap between current student academic performance and the proficient level or above in the areas of reading, writing, and math at the middle grades level for all student groups. The year one focus is on literacy, while year two is math. Year three focuses on overall school reform.

## **District receives 14 awards during OASIS competition**

The Harlan County School District received 14 awards during the annual Outstanding Achievement in School Information Services Professional Development Program, sponsored by the Kentucky School Boards Association and the Kentucky School Public Relations Association.

Receiving awards from Harlan County were:

- Evelyn Sargent and Donna Vicini, Harlan County Schools Food Services, second place, printed materials, Cookbook;
- Scott Pace, Harlan County High School teacher, second place, websites, HCPS District website, second place for Harlan County High School website;

- Cecilia Adams, second place for brochures, Top 10 Tips for Strong Study Skills; second place for Feature release, Job Shadow Day; Honorable mention for feature article School Store Supplies Lessons in Marketing, and honorable mention for HCHS Increasing ACT Preparation Efforts;
- Cumberland Elementary School 21<sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Program, second place for internal publications with Village Connection School Newspaper;
- Jenny Saylor and Lisa McKnight, Cumberland Elementary Family Resource and Youth Service Center, second place in Special Events for Dr. Seuss Family Reading Night and Honorable Mention in academic achievement programs for Pow Wow for Progress'
- Harlan County Community Education, Cecilia Adams, director, second place in special events for Scholarship Night and second place in community engagement programs for Harlan County Walking Club;
- Megan Saylor, Jennifer Brashears, Cumberland Elementary 21<sup>st</sup> Century, second place for miscellaneous public awareness products/programs for Lights on Afterschool, and honorable mention in special events for Visual and Performing Arts Performance: Thriller.

For more information on the awards program, you may visit [www.kyspra.org](http://www.kyspra.org).

## **Speak up for public schools – *An advocate's viewpoint***

If you are looking for some new ways of talking about the impact of public schools, you need to read the enclosed article, *Why I Send My Children to Public Schools*, by Robert Niles, founder and editor of *ThemeParkInsider.com*. Niles has worked for numerous major newspapers, is viewed as a leader in online reporting and publishing, and has won numerous awards for his work. His answers fall into five categories:

- Public schools work.
- Private schools aren't inherently better.
- Public school students score better than charter school students.
- Public schools are for everyone.
- Public schools are under attack.

An endorsement of public education from someone in the public arena often counts more than educators carrying the same message. To see the full article and to glean some new messages for your schools, [read on](#).

## **All employees should promote importance of the ACT**

ACT scores are one of the tools universities use when selecting students for admission. But they also use score reports for other purposes, such as course placement and student guidance. Here are just four examples of the many ways universities use score reports:

1. **Admissions.** ACT test results - along with high school grades, academic preparation and extracurricular activities - help college admission officers identify which students will thrive at their institution. Scores alone do not determine admission.

2. **Course placement.** ACT scores, academic background and high school grades are used together to determine which college sections would be most appropriate for each student.
3. **Academic advising.** College advisors look at ACT results, high school grades and classes, projected college grades, career plans and other factors to help students find the perfect fit for his or her course of study.
4. **Scholarships and loans.** Some scholarships may use ACT scores and estimated grades to identify qualified candidates. ACT's unique score report also provides information about a student's educational needs, extracurricular achievements and educational plans. Agencies can use ACT data with other data to evaluate applications for both scholarships and loans.

Please help promote the importance of doing well on the Act to all students, beginning at an early age.

## **Scholarship Night set at HCHS on November 15**

The Harlan County High School Scholarship Night for all students and parents will be Tuesday, November 15, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the HCHS cafeteria. Drop by and learn about scholarship opportunities for Harlan County students. Guidance counselors, scholarship committee representatives, and military recruiters will be available to answer questions and distribute applications.

A "Paying for College 101" presentation will be from 5:30 to 6:30 in the HCHS auditorium. Financial aid information for all students and parents will be presented by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.

Free food and prizes will be available. The event is sponsored by the Harlan County Community Education, HCHS Youth Service Center and the HCHS 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center.

## **District seeking applicants for full-time bus drivers**

The Harlan County School District has immediate openings for the position of full-time substitute bus drivers. An excellent benefit package is available, including health insurance and life insurance. The district will train qualified applicants for the CDL exam. For more information call Joan Anderson or Debbie Dozier at 573-9297.

## **Ticket information for home football playoff games**

The Harlan County Black Bears will host Pulaski County Friday night at 7:30 p.m. in the first round of the KHSAA 5-A playoffs. All tickets are \$5. Advance tickets will be on sale at Harlan County High School on Friday. Advance tickets will be on sale at the Harlan County Schools Central Office on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Tickets at the gate on Friday night will be \$5. Due to KHSAA regulations, there will be no passes honored during the playoff games. This includes senior citizens passes, coaches cards, red passes to athletic events, season passes and Black Bear Club Cards. There will be no free admission for Pee Wee, elementary and middle school teams, cheerleaders or coaches.

## **Is there a FRED in your school or department?**

Is there someone in your school or department who makes a positive difference every day? Who has a heart for people? Who can change ordinary moments into memorable ones? If so, recognize this unsung hero by nominating him or her for the 2012 Fred Award. Give this special person the prestige and recognition he or she deserves! Nomination deadline is March 1, 2012. [Download Nomination Criteria and Application](#)

### Mark Your Calendar

November 8 – Election Day

November 11 – Veteran's Day

November 13-19 -- **American Education Week**

November 16 – National Education Support Professionals Day

November 17 – National Parent Involvement Day

November 18 – Substitute Educators Day

### Did you know?

#### **A suggestion on your email messages**

If you are sending an email that contains a large list of recipients you may want to consider placing the email addresses in the "Bcc" field instead of the "To" field.

Why?

- Using Bcc protects your recipients' private email addresses from being shared with others (from being released into the public domain).
- Using Bcc helps prevent SPAM.
- When using Bcc, messages are easier to read because they contain less text to sift through.
- The cleaner the message, the easier it is to read.
- Because the messages contain less text, they're smaller and require less bandwidth.
- They will download faster.

Excerpt from: <http://www.hamra.net/fun/bcc.htm>

### What are you reading?

#### **Stephanie Jett, District School Psychologist**

I am currently reading *Animals Make Us Human: Creating the Best Life for Animals* by Temple Grandin. Dr. Grandin draws on her own experience with autism, as well as her experience as an animal scientist to deliver insights into how animals think, act, and feel. Drawing on the latest research and her own work, Grandin identifies the core emotional needs of animals and then explains how to fulfill the specific needs of dogs, cats, horses, farm animals, zoo animals, and even wildlife. I have an interest in both autism and animal behavior, so I am really enjoying this book.

#### **Brent Chitwood, Voice/Data Communication Specialist/Network Administrator**

I just finished Stephen King's *Under the Dome* and am now getting ready to read *The Hunger Games trilogy*. In *Under the Dome*, the small town of Chester's Mill, Maine, is surrounded by an invisible force field, the people inside must exert themselves to survive.

The situation deteriorates rapidly due to the dome's ecological effects and the scheming of Big Jim Rennie, an obscenely sanctimonious local politician and drug lord who likes the idea of having an isolated populace to dominate. Opposing him are footloose Iraq veteran Dale “Barbie” Barbara, newspaper editor Julia Shumway, a gaggle of teen skateboarders and others who want to solve the riddle of the dome.

**Janet Howard, *Teacher, Green Hills Elementary***

I am reading *Fearless* by Max Lucado. This book is about using Biblical principles to replace the fear in our lives with faith, and the results should be a life filled with confidence and joy.

**Chamayne Johnson, *HCHS Media Specialist***

I am a football fanatic, currently reading Tim Tebow’s autobiography, *Through My Eyes*. He is one of the most accomplished players in college football history, was the first-ever sophomore to win the Heisman Trophy, and was a first round NFL draft pick. Boys tend to idolize male athletes, often for the wrong reasons, and many athletes are undeserving. However, Tebow, an outspoken Christian, is a man of integrity and character - a remarkable role model!

**Quotes for Educators**

*“One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child.” – Carl Jung*

*“Tell me and I’ll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I’ll understand.” – Chinese Proverb*

*“Without labor nothing prospers.” – Sophocles*

*“The whole purpose of education is turn mirrors into windows.” Sidney J. Harris*

**About This Newsletter**

This newsletter is published by the Harlan County School District. It is distributed electronically to subscribers to the HCPS News Service and to faculty and staff of the Harlan County School District. Contributions are encouraged from all employees. Contact your school public relations contact or email [jeff.phillips@harlan.kyschools.us](mailto:jeff.phillips@harlan.kyschools.us).