

Dear Staff,

It's the boys' turn for basketball Sectional action. Though the weather is pretty unpredictable at this time of year, you can be assured that the boys will always be playing their hearts out in Sectional games! We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Coach Jones, his staff and our players for coming off a win against Easter Hancock last Friday night. They will treat us with what will undoubtedly be more great basketball this week. It's fun to attend the games beyond the opportunity



to see the competition. I have fun catching up with community folks who I don't seem to run into anywhere else except at NCSC

sporting events. If, by chance, you have not made it to a game recently, wear your purple and gold. Tuesday night this week is your first chance to see our boys play. We host the Sectionals this year at the Jr./Sr. high, and

Hagerstown plays Winchester at @ 7:30P.M.



I caught up with Ms. Dennis at one of her Jr. high swimming/diving practices recently. Like any other sport, swimmers have to put in hours of practice; and the coach is a combination of teacher, motivator and cheer leader encouraging each athlete to always look toward exceeding previous personal best. The number of students participating in swimming continues to climb each year. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Coach Dennis and Coach Hellwarth for growing their program and developing a competitive aquatics program at NCSC!



Last week I shared the student enrollment numbers that our school corporation needs to take into consideration as we plan for the future. I send a tip of the Tiger's tail to those who have shared some pretty creative ideas since then on ways to both economize as well as to market with the goal to increase student enrollment. Ideas range from implementing a four-day school week with extended days to marketing our facilities for rent. We need your ideas! Even if your idea might seem a little "out there", please share it with me. While your idea might seem non-traditional, having it in the conversation might spur another thought by someone else that is the home run we need. Our particular focus is the need to address General Fund expenses/revenue. General Fund supports employee salaries and benefits for certified and support staff, substitute teachers, co-curricular activities and to a much lesser extent supplies and materials, heating/cooling, repairing furniture and equipment, travel and postage. Title 1 funds and Capital Project funds overlap to a degree and help stretch the General Fund, thankfully.

We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to the HES Math Bowl coaches (Ms. Campbell, Ms. Chew, and Ms. Keesling) for bringing home a second-place finish last week. Thanks to Ms. Chew for sending the following description of the action that required **FOUR** tiebreakers for First Place at their last meet:

What an exciting time at Math Bowl we had last night! I was on the edge of my seat trying to watch our team and our rival team (Cowan) during the last round to see who would come out on top. In the end, we each had 24 points.

So, the Math Bowl gurus have put a tie-breaker system in place for when these things happen. The first tie-breaker is the number of tie-breaker questions your team got correct. (The tie-breaker questions are the last questions for each of the 4 rounds). We got 2 correct, and so did Cowan.

The second tie-breaker is to see who had a perfect round. Out of the 4 rounds, we did not have a perfect round (where all 8 questions were answered correctly). Cowan also did not have a perfect round.

The third tiebreaker looks at how many questions you missed in a round (so, the lower the number, the better). We missed only 1 question in a round, and so did Cowan!



The fourth (and final) tiebreaker looks at the number of consecutive questions answered correctly. Between rounds 2 and 3, we had 7 consecutive correct answers. Cowan had 9 consecutive correct answers during the competition. Ugh!!!! Why did they have to make a fourth tie-breaker!!! :)

We are still happy with 2nd place and are proud of our HES kiddos! It was awesome to see Mrs. Hunt and Miss Henderson at the competition to cheer on the kids! Kudos to them!

Lastly, out of 109 schools in our division, we ranked 18th! That is awesome!



We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Mr. Childs for the work he and his team put in in '15-'16 to bring home the highest graduation rate ever at Hagerstown Jr./Sr. High School. Mr. Childs was recognized at the last Board meeting. His name and the 95.9% graduation rate becomes the first entry on a plaque that will record rates that exceed 95%.

We received word on Friday that the Nettle Creek School Corporation's system of staff evaluation meets or exceeds IDOE expectation in all areas. This is the first time we earned a perfect score, and the Evaluation Committee has worked diligently each summer to bring it up to its current level. Staff evaluations are rated on 20 criteria, and this year, we meet 20 out of 20!



Finally, we send tips of the Tiger's tail to all teachers and their students who are taking ISTEP+ Part 1 this week. I recognize that everyone will be asked to support their effort and maintain prime testing conditions in both buildings so that students can show us what they know! Following test protocols precisely is a must. Thanks to Ms. Kaiser, Ms. Olinger and Ms. Sewell for preparing the test materials.

Yours for another successful week with children!

WD

