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## ETTLE CREEK SCHOOL CORPORATION

"Our mission is to provide an exemplary educational experience that maximizes each student's highest potential."

" P E O P L E A R E I M P O R T A N T H E R E ! "



September 2017

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Dear Parents and Nettle Creek Community Members,

September is a great month for students at Nettle Creek School Corporation. With a few weeks of the new school year already under our belts, learning has grown into a comfortable routine, the baseline assessments are complete with results already available to help teachers plan effective instruction, and Homecoming is at hand! Of course, for students, it's the final item on the list that they value! Coming off of an impressive win over Northeastern last week, the Tigers face Union County on Friday night, September 15th. You are invited to join us as we cheer the Tigers on at Friday's game beginning at 7:00P.M. **Go Tigers!**



**GROW**  
**THE CREEK** @

Nettle Creek Family of Schools

### **ISTEP+ Scores Are One Indicator!**

The Indiana Department Of Education released schools' 2016-2017 ISTEP+ scores last week. The value of ISTEP+ has been called into question enough over the last several years that the state is due to replace it eventually by a new standardized, state-wide exam. While it remains, however, we take ISTEP+ results seriously though with a grain of salt. This year's scores indicate that Nettle Creek's relative achievement rate among Wayne County school corporations remains consistent. We are proud of our academic standing, but fully recognize we need to keep our prime focus on our students' academic achievement and grow it. The actual percentages of students passing is quite variable between subjects in the corporation. Proficiency percentages are tops in science ranging between 80% and 90% of our students passing. The percentages of students proficient in reading range from 60% to 70%. Our math proficiency ranges from a low of 36% in Grade 3 to a high of 63% of students proficient in Grade 4. The variability in the range of scores between subjects can be explained. Science instruction is absolutely on track, and teachers are working hard to maintain exemplary instruction while working to help more students each year reach success. ISTEP+ reading has tested vocabulary and comprehension for many years, and they test the state standards, so students and teachers are prepared for what students will see on the reading test. Math assessment which at one time focused on calculation has changed quite a bit, however. Now, ISTEP+ math tests reasoning which requires a level of sophistication that is being addressed here with different instructional strategies and materials in classrooms and time for students to learn this new way of math thinking. Teachers have selected new math materials and are receiving training that will help them teach to this area of need. We make no excuses. As Nettle Creek GROWS @ THE



CREEK to assure that all of our students meet this new challenge, teachers are using MAP test scores in both reading and math in Grades K-12 to determine where our students' levels of understanding are and what they are ready to learn next. MAP scores show we are making progress that will become evident in ISTEP+ scores or on the next state exam when it comes. If you have questions about your child's achievement, please contact your child's teacher. We recognize that our strong home & school partnership is essential for student success!

### **Walk Throughs Are Powerful Tools!**

Principals are rising to the challenge of increasing student achievement in their building by visiting each classroom at least once per week to observe instruction and to provide actionable feedback to teachers. With two principals in each school building, each teacher can expect a short, unannounced walk-through visit twice per week. Teachers are very welcoming of these visits, and the opportunity for principals to actively see first-hand how instructional time is being used gives them the background necessary to carry on a productive, professional dialog with teachers that supports increasing student academic achievement.

### **School Personnel Are Always On Hand!**

Keeping students safe in school is very important at Nettle Creek School Corporation. Teachers and administrators take an active role to assure student safety. Close student supervision is an important part of our school safety plan. One procedure that is in place at both schools is especially useful when students are walking in the halls. In the morning at HES when students are coming to class, teachers greet students in the hall outside of their classrooms. This is a nice way to start the day for both students and teachers. Administrators stand at the school's front doors, and teachers at the Jr./Sr. high are outside their classroom doors, too, in the morning and during passing periods sharing smiles and trading friendly banter with students to assure students get where they need to go on time. The secret to our success though lies in the trustworthiness of our students themselves. Nettle Creek families begin teaching their children to respect others and plant the seeds of successful conflict resolution long before they arrive at school as Kindergartners. Some schools tout the number of cameras they have in their facilities. We have those cameras, too, but the best security we have includes active staff supervision and students who expect better of themselves.



### **Thank You Hagerstown Lions Club!**

We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Dr. Harper and the members of the Hagerstown Lions Club for running the vision checks at the elementary school this past week. Dr. Harper and the Lions perform a general vision screening to determine if a student's vision needs to be checked further. Parents are contacted by the school if a question arises during the screening. This is one of those cases where no news is good news. Ms. Ullery, our Community In Schools coordinator, arranged for the Mobile Dentist from the Smile Program to visit HES as well. Children whose parents completed and returned a form were given a complete dental check up. Dental treatments might have included cleaning, x-rays, fluoride, sealants and fillings if required. Dr. Rachel Goad and her staff were particularly patient and gentle. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Ullery for arranging this opportunity.



### **Our Students Shine!**

Also deserving tips of the Tiger's tail are the Boy Scouts who raised the flag prior to Friday's football game and to the following 7th graders who performed the National Anthem. Singers included Bryce LaMar, Braydon Favorite, Carter Jenkins, Braylon Doerstler, Kyndall Sinle, Miriam Girdley, Taylor Tutterrow and Emily Nadler. Our music teacher, Ms. Sanders, prepared the students well for the experience!

