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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 ! ”



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Dear Parents and Nettle Creek Community Members,



It’s March in the Nettle Creek Valley! Robins are back in the schoolyard, the baseball field has received its first hair cut for the year, students are getting a midday break outdoors for recess, and students in Grades 3-8 and 10 have finished their first round of ISTEP+ testing! Spring Break is on everyone’s mind. Spring Break begins on Monday, March 26th, and school resumes on Monday April 2nd. I hope you and your family have the opportunity to get a little time away. Probably more than at any other time, the weather will play a role in how much time families can get outdoors to observe first-hand the rebirth that is a welcome part of Spring!



A Proud Tiger Student Lends A Hand!

We send a tip of the Tiger’s tail to senior student Gabrielle Ankrom who, as a part of her class with Mr. Williamson, painted the tennis bleachers in preparation for the Spring tennis season. Ms. Ankrom is a step ahead of the new Graduation Pathways requirements that will be in effect in 2023. Beyond academic work, the pathways call for students to learn through project-based learning, service-based learning, or work-based learning activities. Whether it’s painting bleachers, working with the cows in the Beef Farm or taking advantage of the opportunities at the New Castle Co-Op, NCSC already provides our students with many such options. And while Gabrielle will graduate from Hagerstown High School long before these pathways requirements are in place, Mr. Childs and his staff are already asking clarifying questions so that they can assure this year’s eighth-grade students that they will have plenty of opportunities to meet and exceed these graduation requirements at Hagerstown Jr./Sr. High School!

Students in the graduating class of 2023 must satisfy **all three** of the following Graduation Pathway Requirements by completing one of the associated Pathway Options:

Graduation Pathway Requirements	Graduation Pathway Options
1) High School Diploma	Meet the statutorily defined diploma credit and curricular requirements.
2) Learn and Demonstrate Employability Skills¹ (Students must complete <i>at least one</i> of the following.)	Learn employability skills standards through locally developed programs. Employability skills are demonstrated by <u>one</u> the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project-Based Learning Experience; • Service-Based Learning Experience; OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work-Based Learning Experience.²
3) Postsecondary-Ready Competencies³ (Students must complete <i>at least one</i> of the following.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honors Diploma: Fulfill all requirements of either the Academic or Technical Honors diploma; • ACT: College-ready benchmarks; • SAT: College-ready benchmarks; • ASVAB: Earn at least a minimum AFQT score to qualify for placement into one of the branches of the US military; • State- and Industry-recognized Credential or Certification; • State-, Federal-, or Industry-recognized Apprenticeship; • Career-Technical Education Concentrator: Must earn a C <u>average</u> or higher in at least 6 high school credits in a career sequence; • AP/IB/Dual Credit/Cambridge International courses or CLEP Exams: Must earn a C <u>average</u> or higher in at least three courses; OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally created pathway that meets the framework from and earns the approval of the State Board of Education.

Jr./Sr. High Students Have A Second Chance For Breakfast!

The cafeteria staff at the Jr./Sr. high school is piloting an opportunity for students to get something to eat a little later in the morning. It's not unusual for students to be in a hurry in order to arrive at school on time and miss breakfast. Whether students aren't morning people, or if they just run out of time, cafeteria staff is extending their serving time and now have made the opportunity between First Block and Tiger Time for hungry students to swing by the cafeteria and pick up something to eat. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to the Food Services staff for this innovation that supports learning!



Practice Makes Perfect!

Any educator would say that the more you practice the better you'll get at practically any skill. This includes being able to read well! Ms. Isaacs, NCSC librarian, has organized a new way to help parents bring the love of reading to their children at home. Ms. Isaacs has secured sponsorships to bring the Little Free Libraries initiative to Nettle Creek. As a part of this program, Ms. Isaacs, with the help of Mr. Williamson's students, has partnered with the Every Child Can Read organization and arranged for recycled, purple newspaper stands to be installed outside the Greens Fork Community Center, the Economy Town Building at the corner of Market and Main Streets, Falmouth Farm Supply in Millville, and the Monaghan property in Jacksonburg which is sponsored by Dougherty Orchard. The libraries operate on a Take A Book, Return A Book principle. Books that are found in these little libraries can be borrowed and returned there, or they can be kept if they become a family favorite. Please contact Ms. Isaacs for more information!



Social Media Has Its Place, But We Ask You To Call Us If We Can Help!

The staff at Nettle Creek School Corporation takes its responsibility to serve students seriously! With this goal in mind, we send out this reminder that if you have a special request for your child, please contact whoever in the corporation is most likely able to work with you on the matter at hand directly for the best result possible. It is encouraging for employees who work hard every day to meet students' needs to find out about situations from you first rather than finding out about situations on social media. Thank you!

We've Established New Requirements For Substitute Teachers!

We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to NCSC Board Members for establishing new guidelines substitute teachers in NCSC classrooms must meet. These requirements are the same as those established by the Indiana Department of Education. Substitute teachers must be 18 years of age or older, hold a high school diploma, and must possess a substitute teacher permit granted by the Indiana Department of Education. More information on obtaining this permit is available at: www.doe.in.gov/educatorlicensing

Our Students Lead By Example!

We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to our Jr./Sr. high students for choosing to participate in the recent, national memorial commemorating the one-month anniversary of the school shooting tragedy in Florida in a safe, yet significant way. Student representatives worked with Mr. Childs to design a touching tribute to the Florida students and staff who lost their lives. While there are 1,173 miles separating Hagerstown Jr./Sr. High and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on March 14th our students became kindred spirits with students across the country standing up against violence in schools!



HES Supervision Reminder!

We send a reminder to HES parents that student supervision begins at 7:40A.M. Please help us keep your children safe!

Congratulations To The Hobson Family!

We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to the Hobson Family. Their Randolph County farm is being recognized as a Hoosier Heritage Farm for remaining in the family for 100 years. Congratulations! And here's to the next 100 years!