

Dear Staff,

Happy Earth Day 2018! Temperatures in the 70s and a sunny afternoon at Nettle Creek are pleasant reminders of how much we depend on Mother Earth for our daily survival. Earth Day.com has chosen the theme and is spreading the word about the dangers of plastics in our environment this year.

Their website has classroom activities and learning materials available for all grade levels. I am aware of at

least one recycling program at NCSC. Students and teachers at HES recognize that any good effort "Starts With Me!"



We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to our school administrators! Mr. Childs, Mr. Dawson and Ms. Swain are taking a group of teachers this week; and Ms. Hokey, Ms. Morgan and Ms. Swain are taking two groups of teachers early in May to Brownsburg to observe classroom instruction and a school-wide planning strategy they use called professional learning communities. Each of Brownsburg's schools is nationally recognized as a Blue Ribbon School and has earned Indiana Four Star School status. Administrators visited Brownsburg a month or so ago, and PLCs caught our attention as a strategy to build a great culture for learning and that can help us grow (@ THE CREEK) our student achievement.

In a professional learning community teachers recognize that they must work together to achieve their shared purpose of learning for all students. PLCs create a framework that promotes a collaborative culture. Planning instruction moves beyond developing lessons focused on subject matter and begins to include responses when students don't learn it the first time through. Nettle Creek teachers will see how school staffs K-12 are implementing a unified approach that uses achievement data; practical, professional experience and a focus on the educational needs of every student. We look forward to the information these groups will bring back with them as we continue to build an ever-improving Tiger Way! Safe Travels!

The Growth Mindset Crew continues to learn about the advantages we can provide a student when they learn that intelligence is changeable. Students can improve the way they learn when they know about the power of growth mindset. Mindsets have a major influence on people's ability to learn and people who use a growth mindset tend to learn, grow and achieve more over time than people with a fixed mindset. To cap off this school year's growth mindset initiative, the NCSC GM crew has identified an informative video as a follow-up to the activities we have



begun that principals will share and is designed as the next step in our understanding of growth mindset. According to the results of the latest Bryant/Keesling survey, the majority of teachers report they have at least the beginning of an understanding about growth mindset. I will use this video with the School Board, too! We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to the GM group who offers this video and the accompanying activity as a means to continue to build awareness and as a doorway into the growth mindset activities that will come our way in the next school year!

We received correspondence from Ms. Murray, Executive Director of Communities In



Schools, which commended Ms. Williamson, our CIS coordinator at HJr./Sr.H, for the opportunities she is bringing to our students. Ms. Williamson joined our staff in January as a result of a Title IV Grant. Her focus is on direct student support on bullying education, sexual harassment and initiatives against sexting and pornography. Since she has joined us, Ms. Williamson is investigating an organization called Why Try which addresses dropout prevention, school violence prevention, and character education. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Williamson for her work here supporting students

at Nettle Creek School Corporation!

Earning dual credits at the Jr./Sr. high is one of the Tiger Advantages at NCSC. Both parents and students quickly recognized the value in being able to earn college credit at no cost since these credits transfer to state colleges and universities. For NCSC to offer dual college credits, teachers must meet certain criteria including a Master Degree or graduate credit hours in their core subject area. IDOE has distributed a memo to help teachers meet these requirements. It says in part:

Dual credit faculty without a master's degree in the discipline in which s/he is teaching must complete at least 18 graduate credits in the content area before September 1, 2022. In response to the concerns expressed by many, the IDOE is pleased to announce a one-year dual credit partnership with Indiana University that will enable 100 to 200 dual credit teachers in Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and English to become fully credentialed and meet the new requirements. Indiana University will be responsible for ensuring the credentialing will be accepted by dual credit programs across the state before the dual credit teacher begins course work. For more information, please contact Dr. Scott Syverson, Chief Talent Officer, at ssyverson@doe.in.gov.

We'd be happy to write a letter of recommendation for all of you who are looking to GROW @ THE CREEK in this way!

Yours for another successful week with children!

WD

