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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 ! "



May 2018

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Dear Parents and Nettle Creek Community Members,

It's hard to believe that the end of the school year is right around the corner! Where does the time go? It has been a wonderful school year filled with boundless student success. I recall in August when school



doors opened, we welcomed the Class of 2030 into the Nettle Creek Family as Kindergarten students. There were many tears shed those first few days of school, but over time those distraught parents grew accustomed to the idea that their children were safe and secure under the guidance of their teachers and successfully started on their unique educational path GROWING @ THE CREEK with their friends and neighbors! On the other end of the K-12 spectrum, Hagerstown Jr./Sr. High School obtained a nearly perfect graduation rate with 97.6% of students earning a valuable Hagerstown High School diploma in 2017.

GROW@
THE CREEK
Nettle Creek Family of Schools

We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to the staff for their dedication toward student success.

The end of the year achievement test results are coming in. Teachers see those scores before I do, and more teachers than ever are stopping me in the halls excited to share that their student academic growth scores are showing a school year that should set a few records of its own. When they're excited, I'm excited. We're glad when the numbers confirm what we keep an eye on day-to-day in classrooms across the school corporation throughout the course of the year. Both buildings have worked hard to implement new programs and new teaching strategies to assure the learning success of every student. At the corporate level we have worked with staff to build an educational culture that is above all else focused on student learning. The work of the K-12 Growth Mindset Committee is helping all of us learn that by working together and learning from temporary setbacks that success is truly within reach for every child!

Big changes are coming about in terms of bringing unity to our K-12 curriculum. Teachers are writing curriculum maps under the guidance of Ms. Swain. That and the gift of time that the Condensed Days provide is paying dividends in terms of teacher professional growth which lead to successful student outcomes.

While most students will say goodbye to their teachers on May 23rd, we have a group of students who will return for summer school for a few weeks which will extend their learning time to assure that they earn a few missing credits and to graduate on time or will allow them to start school in August on grade level and ready to make the most of it when school doors open in August for the new school year. We wish each of you a wonderful summer vacation. If your family is leaving town, please travel safely! We say goodbye to our graduating Seniors and their families with a wish for good luck. Remember, "Once A Tiger Always A Tiger!" We look forward to seeing everyone else back when school resumes on Tuesday, August 7th!



Congratulations Jr./Sr. High!

For the second year in a row Hagerstown Jr./Sr. High School has been included by *U.S. News & World Report* on its 2018 ranking of Best High Schools at the Bronze Level. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to the Jr./SR. high staff and students for this accomplishment. Less than 30% of the schools earned the right to be called a Best High School. Schools earn recognition when their underserved students perform better than the state average, the school's graduation rate meets or exceeds a threshold, and students are prepared for college-level coursework. U.S. News badges are widely recognized as symbols of excellence in education. Other high school data this year shows that 29% of our students plan to pursue a Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM) career; 17.8% will be the first in their families to attend college; and 91.4% plan to attend a four-year institution.



How Did Condensed Days Work For Your Family This Year?

Along with evaluating student learning progress now, the school corporation is evaluating strategies we used this year to assure student success. One of the strategies we piloted was the condensed day schedule. During this periodic event, school started 30 minutes later, and the time gained gave principals and teachers the opportunity to pursue regular, professional development to grow instructional skills. Feedback from teachers about condensed days generally indicates that time to learn from leaders and colleagues is important and that condensed days should continue. They also made the suggestion that agendas for condensed days remain focused on professional learning and that topics more suited for faculty meetings should not intervene. Their feedback will help us plan for the coming year. We need to hear feedback from families about condensed days, too. At the beginning of the year, some parents asked that we schedule condensed days every Friday. We have learned this year that there is plenty of things that would use this additional time profitably, but we hesitated to jump in at that level our first year. Some time during the Week of May 21st, I will be using a new "polling feature" of our One Call service that I use for school delays and closings. This will be an interactive call where you will be able to press phone buttons to respond and share your thoughts in response to my questions. I'm looking forward to trying out this new technology, and I'm really looking forward to receiving the results of your good thinking to help us plan!

Fifth Graders Are Supporting A Local Chair-ity, You can, too!

Hagerstown Elementary students in cooperation with Wayne Bank are looking forward to the Relay for Life Chair-ity Auction. The bank donated kitchen chairs for the Grade 5 students to decorate in their choice of themes to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Students have created some unique chairs for the chair-ity auction that is coming up soon. More information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/844536605609291/> We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Doerstler, Ms. Henderson, Ms. Limburg Ms. Locke and their students for creatively supporting this worthy cause and showing CARING GROWS @ THE CREEK, too!



Nettle Creek School Board GROWS @ THE CREEK!

We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to the members of the NCSC School Board for attending an evening Region Six training recently. The agenda for the meeting included information on school finance and new school requirements that were passed by legislators and will go into effect July 1. Ms. Houghton received recognition for achieving Level 2 certification by the Indiana School Board Association.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS GROW @ THE CREEK!

Mr. Hillman and Mr. Retherford arranged for all drivers to participate in a safety workshop this month. During this opportunity, bus drivers and other Transportation staff learned and practiced the correct way to use a fire extinguisher. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to each of them for growing their skills and keeping our students safe!



Dates To Know!

May 17 - Preschool Graduation

May 22 - Kindergarten Graduation

May 23 - Sixth-Grade Graduation

May 23 - Last Day Of School For All Students

June 3 - High School Commencement 2:00P.M.