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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 ! "



December 2018

William Doering, Ph.D. - Superintendent
wdoering@nettlecreek.k12.in.us

Dear Parents and Nettle Creek Community Members,



Merry Christmas! With school work competing with "visions of sugar plums" at all grade levels for both students and staff, classwork is balanced nicely with holiday programs for families to come and enjoy and with the winter sports season which is fully underway.

Everyone at NCSC wishes you the happiest of holidays, and I hope this holiday season is filled with much joy and peace for you and your family. Winter Vacation begins on Friday, December 21st. School resumes on Monday, January 7, 2019.



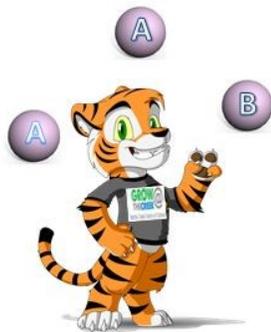
Nettle Creek Family of Schools

Our Children Are Learning @ The Creek!

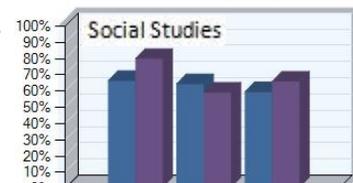
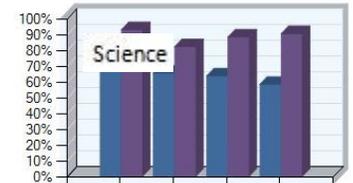
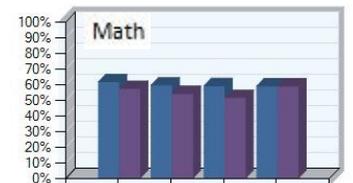
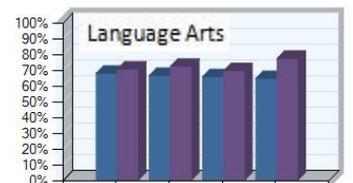
Indiana released school letter grades shortly after we sent out last month's newsletter, so I thought we'd update everyone this month. Each year the State

collects information related to school performance and summarizes it with an A-F letter grade. We are very proud to share that Hagerstown Elementary School received an **A** rating, Hagerstown Jr./Sr. High School earned a **B** rating and Nettle Creek School Corporation received an **A** rating. This success is the result of a lot of hard work by staff and students, a consistent focus on student learning along with the high expectations our community has for every student's success.

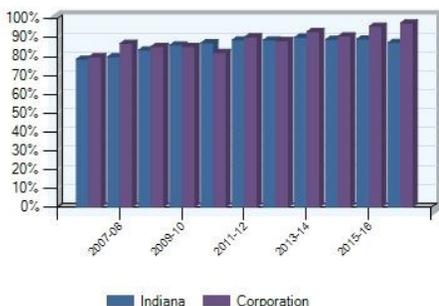
Various information is collected to determine the letter grades. Student performance on English/Language Arts and Mathematics assessments during the year and overall achievement growth in the same subjects from the previous school year are combined and compose the academic achievement portion of the state letter grades. Other components that the high school contributes are its graduation rate from the previous year and the college and career readiness component that factors in dual college credits and workplace certifications earned by students. Thank you for your support of our schools. It's paying off for our students!



ISTEP+ Percent Passing Trend



Four Year Cohort Graduation Rate Trend



It's Find-A-Job-Friday!

On Fridays, the Jr./Sr. high school hosts guests who set up an informational display where students can receive information about career opportunities in the surrounding area. Mr. Templin and Ms. Keifer were recent guests who spoke with students about careers in transportation and opportunities at Dot Foods. Other area employers who have come to school to talk with students at lunch have been Johns Manville and Reid Health.



Seventh-Grade Students Are Motivated Learners!

We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Holliday, a seventh-grade English teacher at NCSC, for using creativity and community resources to motivate her students to learn. To give students a hand learning from the book The Outsiders written by S.E. Hinton, Ms. Holliday included a trip to Richmond Civic Theatre to view the live production presented by Stage One Youth Theater. Among the other educational activities Ms. Holliday had planned with the book, she arranged for several of the cast members to come to the Jr./Sr. high school after the production to talk with the students. This special day included various theater workshops taught by the cast. Science teacher, Ms. Stracener also participated in the workshops because she was a cast member in the play.



Mr. Huffine Shares Useful Perspectives!

Most residents of the Nettle Creek Community know Mr. Huffine, co-owner of Irongate Creative located on Main Street in Hagerstown. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Mr. Huffine for serving as the featured speaker at the JAG Induction Ceremony recently as he shared his experience as a small business owner with students who are focused on obtaining the skills and knowledge they will need to start their careers after high school graduation.

Check Those Facts!

Sixth-grade science teacher, Ms. Arnold sent a tip of the Tiger's tail to one of her colleagues for some assistance she provided. Ms. Arnold wrote, "Thank you so much for yesterday's lesson to all sixth graders about how to fact check websites. This will be vital as they begin to research their science fair projects." The teacher who lent her assistance is Ms. Isaacs, our NCSC library-media specialist. With the students' use of the internet as an important learning tool in classrooms, we need to be sure they can sort out fact from fiction among the information they find there. Thank you, Ms. Isaacs, for team teaching, and thank you, Ms. Arnold, for recognizing Ms. Isaacs for going the extra mile!



School Safety Is A Top Concern!

We received several calls from parents after the tragedy at Dennis Middle School in Richmond. County school corporations, including NCSC, offered support all through the process as RCS worked to move beyond the occurrence. More than one parent asked about the security measures in place here on the second floor of the Jr./Sr. high school with open doorways. After providing information on the situation, one parent responded, "Thank you. My daughter was just informing me that the front office now has a button that, when pushed, shuts and locks the doors that open up to the 2nd floor. I had no idea this action had been taken, and I appreciate it. There may be other precautions that have been taken, as well, of which I'm not aware." Parents at NCSC should never hesitate to talk with any administrator about their concerns for student safety!



Thank You For Your Service!

Everyone at NCSC thanks Ms. Hellwarth and Mr. Keesling for their many years of service as active members of the Nettle Creek School Board of Trustees. We send tips of the Tiger's tail to them both for their leadership and dedication to our students and staff! Ms. Hellwarth's and Mr. Keesling's contributions will continue to positively affect education at NCSC for many years to come.

