

# From the Desk of the Superintendent

January 2010



## News from the Superintendent

### Superintendent's Message:

I am not sure where the time has gone. It seems like it was just August and we were preparing for our students to return. Now, it is January and we are all looking forward to warmer weather and spring. In my thoughts about the past few months, I began to think of all the good things that have been happening with staff and students. So, for my January message, I would like to share where my thoughts lead me.

### Contents

Superintendent's News	1
Upcoming Events	1
Child Nutrition	2
Golden Apple Certificates	2
Student Support Services	3
Cold Weather Protocol	3
Personnel	4
Curriculum and Instruction	4

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ February 25- RESA VIII Video Conference

- The excellent job that Vicki Arose is doing working with TechSteps to keep all of us moving along.
- The recognition that East Hardy High School has received from US News and World Report for their academic performance.
- The addition of our alternative education program to help ease some stress on our schools.
- The recognition that our graduates are getting: Megan Tusing in the *Law and Order series*, Chris Jennings' recognition for his work in animation, Hannah Salyers for being named to the Dean's List at Wesleyan College and Andrea Walker for being elected to a state officer position in FFA just to name a few.
- Our staff's relentless effort to incorporate into their daily classroom activities all the changes that have been handed down to us in order to improve our students' achievement levels.
- Our athletic programs that continue to involve students and help to keep them engaged and connected with school.
- Our maintenance and custodial staff that work on weekends to clear snow from our walks and school grounds.
- The support we get from our community to keep our programs viable.
- Our parents that work with our schools in our athletic programs, our volunteer programs and in our advisory programs.
- Our school and central office secretarial staff that play a significant role in the operation of our schools. It is well known that they really run our schools!
- The many years of service that Mary Gunter, Juanita Hoover, Elizabeth Webster, Connie Wood, Raymond Snapp, Scott Hammer, and Belinda Gaynor have given and now have decided to join our group of Hardy County School retirees.
- Stephanie Simmons joining our growing number of teachers who are getting their National Board Certification.

Continued-Page 2



The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.

-Robert Maynard Hutchins

- Dan Junkins' work in the agriculture and FFA programs at MHS.
- Rodney Hardman on his Honorary American Farmer Degree.
- Allen Sine, Joe Sherman, Terry Hardy, and Stephanie Armentrout for agreeing to collect and analyze discipline data in their schools.
- June Hencke for her continued patience with the renovation of the MHS library.
- The positive comments I continue to receive about our new teachers.
- The bus drivers who bring our students to school safely on difficult weather mornings.
- For Nancy Sisk and Sherry Barb and the school cafeteria staff who continue to work to make our nutrition program fulfill code requirements.
- For our school principals who take daily stress situations and turn them into positive actions for our schools.
- The contribution of Kathy Hardy, Diane Tusing, Steve Williams, Veeta Burgess, and Nancy Sisk as county directors that keep our programs moving forward.
- For all of you who work, work, and then work more because you are teachers, aides, secretaries, bus drivers, central office personnel, custodians, and maintenance folks who have dedicated your lives to the education of our children.
- And, our students. Some give us laughter and joy, some give us problems and make our hearts ache for them, but all give us pride that they are our students.

This is where my thoughts wandered. There are many, many more examples out there. Look around you and make your list. Think of the professional staff, service personnel staff and the students that surround you. Make your list and share it with those who need to hear that you know they are there.

## From the Office of Child Nutrition...

How often do you hear, "Mom, I'm starved" when your child comes home from school?

You may be surprised to know that children actually need snacks. Their stomachs are small, so they can't get all the food and nutrients they need in just three meals a day. The trick is to give your youngster a snack that's both healthy and filling. Try giving your child a choice of snacks when he comes home. Offer string cheese and fruit, peanut butter spread on celery and apples or one of the following smoothies.

Toss fruit, a few ice cubes, yogurt, and juice into a blender, and mix until thick. With your supervision, children can even do it themselves? Try these combinations:

**Red and White** - 4 strawberries, 1 banana, 1 container low-fat vanilla yogurt, 1 cup orange juice

**Cool Blue** - 1 ½ cups fresh or frozen blueberries, 1 container low-fat blueberry yogurt, 1 cup 100% grape juice

**Just Peachy** - 1 cut-up peach or 1 cup frozen peaches, 1 container low-fat peach yogurt, ¾ cup orange juice.

*Tip: Add a teaspoon of wheat bran (available at your grocery or health food store)*

## Golden Apple Certificates...

EHEMS - Juanita Hoover

EHHS - Beth Webster

MES - Jane Yokum

MIS - Jane Stein

MMS - JoAnn Wilking

MHS - Connie Thomas

## From the Office of Student Support Services...

### Re-Evaluation Procedures for Special Education Students

Within three years of the date of the last EC, or more frequently if the parent or teacher requests or conditions warrant (e.g., if the district determines that the educational or related services needs, including improved academic achievement and functional performance, warrant a re-evaluation), the district shall conduct, as appropriate, an individual multi-disciplinary re-evaluation to determine a student's educational needs and continued eligibility for special education and related services and whether any additions or modifications to the student's special education and related services are needed to enable the student to meet their measurable annual IEP goals and to participate, to the extent appropriate, in the general education curriculum. As part of the re-evaluation, the IEP Team and other qualified professionals, as appropriate, must review existing evaluation data on the student, including:

1. The current IEP and the student's progress toward meeting the annual goals;
2. Evaluations and information provided by the parent of the student;
3. Current classroom-based, local or state assessments and classroom-based observations; and
4. Observations by teachers and related service providers.

This team may conduct its review with or without holding a meeting but must document its decisions on the *Re-evaluation Determination* form.

If the IEP Team decides that additional evaluations are needed, the team will obtain consent as described in Section 3.B., Consent Requirements. This evaluation must be conducted prior to the established triennial review date. For students with giftedness, a re-evaluation must be conducted during the eighth grade year to determine eligibility for exceptional gifted.

If the IEP Team decides that no additional assessments are needed to determine the educational needs of the student and whether the student continues to be a student in need of special education, the district must provide PWN to the parent/adult student of that determination and the reasons for the determination and of his or her right to request an assessment for this purpose. If the student's parent, teacher or the adult student requests a re-evaluation, this evaluation must be conducted prior to the established triennial review date.

The district must also reevaluate a student with a disability before determining that the student is no longer eligible for special education, unless:

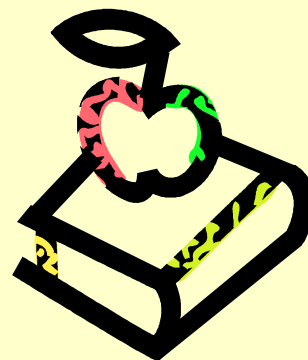
1. The student graduates with a standard high school diploma; or
2. The student reaches the age of twenty-one.

For a student whose eligibility terminates under circumstances described above, the district must provide the child with a summary of the child's academic achievement and functional performance, including recommendations on how to assist the student in meeting his/her post-secondary goals. PWN must be provided to the parent/adult student if the student is exiting special education due to graduation with a standard high school diploma.

While re-evaluation procedures must be provided at no cost to the parent/adult student, re-evaluations may not occur more than once a year without district and parent agreement.

### The following protocol will be followed for the delaying of schools in the event of extreme cold weather:

- The ability to ensure the safety of students as well as to safely operate school buses will be the overall factors when making a decision to delay school due to extreme cold temperatures.
- If morning weather is suspected to be extreme relative to cold temperatures, the Director of Transportation and Superintendent will review all available data to determine the temperatures and wind chill in all parts of the county.
- If temperatures are recorded at 6 degrees F or below, wind chill factors will be accessed to determine the effects on the temperature recordings.
- If wind chill has decreased the actual temperatures being recorded to 3 degrees F or below, then school will be delayed for 2 hours.



Readers are  
leaders.  
Thinkers  
succeed.  
-Marva Collins

- If the actual recorded temperatures are reflected without any effects from wind chill to be 6 degrees F or above, school will open on regularly scheduled time.
- All parts of the county will be assessed. School will be delayed relative to the overall assessment of the temperatures in different parts of the county and not just one area. Decisions will be made relative to actual temperatures as well as the effect of wind chill.

## FROM THE PERSONNEL OFFICE...

It is the time of year to renew your teaching certification if you have completed the requirements. Please remember that it is the individual teacher's responsibility to keep his/her certification valid. We are more than willing to help, but we do not always have the information on classes taken or degrees pursued. Here are a few suggestions that may prove beneficial if you do not yet have permanent certification in all endorsement areas.

When paperwork is submitted to the WV Department of Education for renewal, an additional endorsement, or a salary upgrade, you will receive a blue certificate in the mail. Always check this certificate closely to see if the information is correct. Check the endorsement areas and the grade levels to make sure that these correspond with the course of study you have completed. Also, check your salary classification to see that it is correct.

Completing a program does not mean that you are automatically certified in a certain area. You must apply for certification by filling out the appropriate paperwork and submitting it to the WVDE. This can be done through the personnel office. Also, there are sometimes additional requirements such as a PRAXIS or an additional training that must be completed.

The professional personnel seniority list is posted in all schools. We have added endorsement areas to this list. Please check the endorsement areas we have listed for you and let us know if you find a mistake. We will be happy to correct it. This list was put out in July 2009 so any changes since that time will not be reflected until July 1, 2010.

If you have any questions regarding your certification, please call us at 304-530-2348, extension 222 or 236.

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## From the Office of Curriculum and Instruction...

I recently had the opportunity to attend the National Title I convention in Washington, DC with our Title I teachers and Principal, Bonnie Rogers. The conference was tremendous; Ron Clark was the keynote speaker, sessions were outstanding and just validated that we are doing what we should be doing. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, spoke on Friday afternoon and discussed several proposed changes in education that are, in my opinion, for the best. He mentioned such things as merit pay for outstanding work, adopting a set of national standards as opposed to each state having their own, a new testing procedure that measures actual growth of students, as opposed to an arbitrary number needed for AYP, revising the testing for special education students to test on their appropriate level and/or skills taught, etc. I was very excited by the things he mentioned. Now we will need to see if these things are followed through with.

From the state and county testing realm, the Online Writing Assessment dates have been released. Middle Schools will test from March 1 through 19. High schools will test from March 22 through April 9, and Elementary Schools will test from April 12 through 23. Principals received training in January, and they will now create their unique schedules for each grade tested. We have received word that our Critical Skills Grant for grades 3 and 8 was approved; we are waiting for the money. That will enable us to hire more interventionists and run a summer school program for at-risk students. -Beverly Coppe, Director of Curriculum and Instruction