

Scott County School Review



Invitational Education: You are welcome

By DALLAS BLANKENSHIP, Ed.D.
Superintendent

The Scott County School System is fortunate to have a community that embraces and supports education. Judge-Executive George Lusby often says, "Scott County is the best place in the world to live." I wholeheartedly agree with him and, furthermore, believe Scott County is the best place in the world to learn.

Our community is built on the concept that Scott County is a place where tradition and progress meet. We benefit from long time residents and many new residents who bring with them diverse cultural and educational expectations. We are a growing, working, learning and thriving community.

Along with these influences, our school system attracts a staff of educators who truly care that students learn at high levels. District staff believes strongly we must help students develop high character. We collaborate with parents and the entire community to provide the learning opportunities our students need. All citizens benefit from lifelong intellectual curiosity. We provide high quality opportunities for all ages. We are keenly aware of the necessity to offer first-rate opportunities for preschool children and our aging population.

Our team approach to education produces a family-like atmosphere we strive to enhance as each administrator, teacher and staff member focus on quality education for children. Mike Luscher, Director of Facilities, stated, "We (Department of Facilities) make school inviting by creating a physical environment that enhances the teachers' ability to teach and the students' ability to learn."

He added, "The building environment is as critical as any other tool — be it a computer, textbook or television — in a student achieving better test scores, it supports the educational program. If we do not provide a well-maintained, safe, comfortable and clean place for students to learn, the building becomes a deterrent and inhibits instruction."

Safety begins at the bus stop. David Button, Director of Transportation,

commented, "We provide clean, warm buses that pick up approximately 3500 children each day from their homes and deliver them safely to school ready to learn. We celebrate our outstanding safety record as we travel over one million miles each year and average only two or three reportable accidents."

Extensive training, safety evacuation drills, bus monitors, video cameras and a highly competent staff of drivers make Transportation an essential part of the inviting school atmosphere.

Director of Technology Leslie Flanders emphasized the importance of technology in creating an inviting school.

"Technology provides new ways to learn new things," she stated. "It is engaging, fascinating and motivating. Technology makes it more fun to be at school. Learning is so much more exciting. It makes students want to be here."

Diverse learning experiences and a

variety of unique opportunities welcome and engage students.

Randy Napier, Director of Human Resources, stressed the importance of parents in the education of their children. According to Napier, "We do all that we can do to provide a safe and comfortable learning environment that centers around children."

To establish strong relationships with parents we must work together, spend time and listen to one another as we focus on student learning. Napier added,

Our School Board members — Becky Sams, Randy Mayo, Rob Knight, Rick Smith, Luther Mason and I pledge to work diligently with you to find ways to continually improve. A motto that we have used over the years in the school system is "Together We Can". Together we can provide inviting schools and a community of lifelong learners. I encourage all of our staff members, parents and community to help us to live up to these high ideals.



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Superintendent Dallas Blankenship and Garth Elementary student Jacob Green agree with Judge-Executive George Lusby: Scott County is the number one place in the world to live and learn.

SCOTT COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL



EYE OF THE BEHOLDER: Josh Kliest, a student in Wilma Privat's biology class, looks at cells of an onion in various stages of division.



WHAT MAKES SCHOOL INVITING?: Ben Kelly pictured with Cleveland Howard, Alex Cassidy and Whitney Elrod, said that class is inviting because "we learn something new every day. We not only learn just for the class, but the lesson sticks with us throughout the year."



PIECE OF THE PIE: Students in Charlene Cornett's Career Networking class have explored different careers this year. Aaron Cox, Patrick Hiltbermend and Richard Warren prepare a dessert after studying careers in Family and Consumer Science.



SIGNS OF LIFE: Jaime Benner and Halli Kee, students from Ellen Osborn's emergency procedures class, practice CPR.



A SPECIAL TREAT: Students in Linda Stubbelfield's French class hosted a surprise Valentine's Day party in her honor.



LEND A HAND: Michael Wilson and Roy Geyve work to receive their Red Cross Professional Rescuer Certification.

SCOTT COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

High school enhances Invitational Education program

By DOUG SOUTHWORTH
SCHS Principal

Scott County High School is a school with a proud tradition of helping students become successful members of the community and society. This is evident through the number of students who continue their education beyond Scott County High School and the number of students who go successfully into the workforce after graduation.

We have defined our Invitational program according to these major areas: people, places, policies, processes and programs.

People

We honor teachers who win state and national recognitions with receptions and media releases.

New teachers are assigned a "buddy teacher."

We post articles recognizing teacher and student achievements on bulletin boards in the teacher mailroom and guidance department.

Teachers participate in monthly team competitions planned for team building and moral support.

We take new teachers on a bus tour of the entire school district to familiarize them with the home environments of the students served at SCHS.

The Cardinal Merit Award allows students to individually honor teachers who have been influential in their lives.

Teacher-led professional development activities occur during planning periods throughout the school year.

We also plan to sponsor a Japanese teacher for the spring semester this year.

We do everything within our power to encourage students to stay in school. SCHS has two main programs in place to help address this need. The first program is Second Chances, an opportunity for students to catch up on work missed or failed during a grading term.

The second program is a new program called Project Success. This program offers more one-on-one assistance to at-risk students.

Our guidance department provides individual parent-student conferences for scheduling purposes as well as intervention/counseling services as needed throughout school year.

Student aides provide all new students with tour of the building. Tours are also offered to prospective parents and students throughout the year.

Parents and community members spend thousands of volunteer hours planning and hosting a safe post-grad-



A CLOSER LOOK: Rachel Shaltes, a student in Wilma Priest's biology class, experiences the wonders of science with her very own eyes. Sometimes you just have to see it to believe it!

nation celebration for all graduates and their guests. Parents provide support and volunteer hours to all extra-curricular activities. Parents comprise the major membership of athletic booster groups. The community provides thousands of scholarship dollars to SCHS seniors.

The FFA Alumni Chapter at SCHS was awarded the top alumni member in the nation in addition to winning state and national chapter awards. The FFA Alumni is composed of parents and community volunteers who provide hundreds of dollars in scholarships and contributions to community charitable projects.

Places

Several school beautification projects have taken place to make the physical environment more inviting. Over the Christmas holidays the following clubs participated in service projects in different areas of the building to make SCHS more appealing to the public and the student body: Spanish Club, AFJROTC, FCCLA, 4-H, FFA and French Club. The FFA weeded and pruned plants at the entrance of the school. They also maintain the trees in the parking area and landscape areas of the building. Student work is displayed throughout the building in classrooms and hallways.

Policies

We have decreased the number of students retained at grade level and

decreased the percentage of D and F grades. Policies require all visitors to sign in at the front office, which helps ensure a safe school environment as well as a welcoming, inviting atmosphere. Doors have decals posted forbidding weapons on school grounds. Teachers supervise certain areas of the building to ensure student safety. Digital video security system is used throughout the building.

Programs

Numerous special programs include the Child Safety Program, Health and Wellness Fair, Educational Fair, Career/College Night, Financial Aid workshop for parents, individual and group counseling, mediation for students, psychological/educational testing and parent/teacher conferences.

The Spring Showcase, a collaborative effort in which curricular areas highlight and showcase student achievement, informs parents and community of what goes on in our school on a daily basis.

We send newsletters to students and parents regarding scholarships, college open houses, graduation information and other timely information regularly throughout the year.

Awards Night honors student scholarship and academic award winners.

We employ a School Resource Officer and a School Social Worker full-time for the safety and well being of students.

Our Safe School Helpline is available for all students and parents to anonymously report personal and/or safety concerns.

We offer Vocational Programs in the following areas: health services, technology education, family and consumer science, agriculture, business, marketing and informational technology.

Our curriculum includes 10 Advanced Placement classes, honors classes and collaborative and resource classes.

The English department provides a student-produced school newspaper and yearbook.

We teach four foreign languages and offer three at the Advanced Placement level.

SCHS also provides English as Second Language, numerous school-based enterprises, special programs for students at high risk of dropping out, child care classes and a certified day care center for student parents.

Processes

Scott County High School is a Standard Bearer School through the Center for Leadership in School Reform. This is a professional development program that helps us focus on our core business—developing engaging work for students. This program helps classroom teachers become highly skilled at designing engaging work for students.

Through the services of API, a consulting firm, teachers have improved behavior management skills and their delivery of instruction to students.

We have implemented the QUEST Program throughout our school. The acronym stands for Quest for Useful Employment Skills for Tomorrow. Using this process students and teachers have learned to problem solve to communicate and work more cooperatively in teams.

All of our faculty participates in developing the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan. Focus for this year's plan include equity, open-response questioning, vocational/practical living and reading.

The school's Site Base Decision Making council is comprised of two parent representatives, three faculty representatives, an ex-officio student representative and the school principal.

The guidance department is open throughout the summer to schedule conferences, register new students and provide transcripts/information for former students as needed.

Our current focus is to close gap as defined by 2002 CATS scores - to ensure "No Child is Left Behind."

NINTH GRADE SCHOOL

Ninth Grade School is one-of-a-kind

By BETTY HUGHES
Ninth Grade Principal

Our invitational journey began two years ago when our counselor and a group of teachers attended the International Alliance of Invitational Education conference in Greensboro, North Carolina. They were so excited they couldn't wait to return and share with the rest of the staff. They were determined to make our school an inviting and safe place where students could learn and parents would always be welcome.

Although the Ninth Grade School is a new school, only in its seventh year of existence, our school is a friendly, happy place. Teachers have adopted the philosophy and school motto, "Achieving Success One Step at a Time." The big difference is a positive attitude focused on success.

Instead of dwelling on what we don't have and making excuses for not succeeding, we have focused on teaching and learning. The Ninth Grade School is a relatively new concept where the teachers and administrators are totally focused on ninth grade students. The ninth grade transition into high school is one of the most difficult years for students.

We have welcomed educators and visitors from many states in the past five years. Groups comment that this is a happy, inviting place. One visiting principal said, "Teachers act like they want to be here." Of



PRINCIPAL INTEREST: Student Council officers Eddie Wells and Katie Oser present their proposal for a new student welcome package to Principal Betty Hughes.

course we want to be here, teaching is our mission in life and our ninth grade students are our passion.

We have embraced some of the most powerful new ideas in education today and have learned from top educators in the nation. Our school is organized into interdisciplinary teams (Math, English, Science and Social Studies), which is very unusual in high school. This approach allows a team of teachers to not only deliver interdisciplinary curriculum but also divides students into small learning communities. Most of our teachers have had

state, national and international learning opportunities that increase their knowledge and teaching ability. Our teachers have studied, digested and extracted the best from Invitational Education, Quest for Useful Employability Skills for Tomorrow (QUEST) and Standard Bearer Network (WOW).

Another inviting initiative has been our concentration on quality student work. We display student work in classrooms and in the hallways. We provide authentic work for students. An example, we published a book of student poetry last year

entitled: *A Journey, Finding Myself*. A student author signing showcased student achievement. Parents and friends were delighted with the results.

We display pictures of students on bulletin boards throughout the school celebrating student achievement and awards. Each month each teacher nominates a student of the month demonstrating character education. The counseling office recognizes the students with a certificate, refreshments and photograph and we post these awards. Each hallway has displays of students' work.

Students find it helpful that all rooms are clearly marked with teacher's name and room number. The hallways are getting a new stripe to match the team color, red, white and blue. The front office is open and inviting to students, faculty, parents and visitors. Each classroom is warm, comfortable and decorated according to each teacher's curriculum objectives.

We recognize students monthly for perfect attendance.

All these concepts focus on students, ensuring student achievement, inviting student engagement, giving student choice, providing meaningful and authentic student work, providing multiple opportunities for student success, valuing students, developing trust, helping students make connections and giving continuous student support in a creative, safe, secure and happy environment.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: Tom West, Sturgis Cullasuro and Edward Aldrich students in Jesse Smith's Cisco and A+ Computer Repair classes, network two computers together for the Student Technology Leadership Program conference.



UPBEAT PARENTS: Parent volunteers Nancy Curtis and Patti Bridge assist Leigh Ellen Baird's science students to prove how a helicopter's energy is stored when in flight.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM

An alternative focus, building positive relationships

By STEVE WALKER
Alternative Program Director

Positive relationships facilitate effective teaching. Emotional needs must be met before achievement can occur at the highest level possible. At the Alternative Program, creating a positive school climate is our major goal this year. Mutual respect is our focal point, from which learning easily evolves. As new students enroll at our school, they bring with them pre-conceived notions dispelled by our non-threatening environment.

Effective school culture is at the forefront of the Invitational Education theory. Our school adopted the Discovery Program this year to guide the creation of an atmosphere of mutual respect and high expectations. We use non-confrontational behaviors to diffuse daily

occurrences common to classrooms. We direct negative behaviors toward the shared goals originally created for our positive school community. The importance and responsibility of each individual takes high priority.

Everyone in our school, students and staff, are expected to follow specific guidelines, which ensure the most productive culture possible. The result has been the creation of a positive learning atmosphere. The Discovery Program provides the framework needed for effective communication and conflict resolution. The result has been a calm and safe atmosphere. To date there have been no fights to settle disagreements. That's what I would call an inviting atmosphere!

We have encourage students to take ownership of our their educational experiences. Students have helped im-

prove the physical appearance of the school by painting rooms and helping in the layout design of our newly furnished computer lab. Our new Uniform Policy has helped create a sense of belonging and self-respect. The uniform has received many compliments by others on campus, affirming a more positive image for our school as a whole.

Leadership Scott County, a very diverse group of community leaders, has agreed to provide positive role models for our students. Members have volunteered their time and resources to share a sense of community in real-life applications. Mentoring opportunities will be available for our students to shadow individuals performing jobs vital to our Scott County culture. Other members of this group will work side-by-side with our students to continue to improve the physical appearance of our building.

Another community connection will take place later this spring as we participate in the Georgetown International Kite and Cultural Festival held at the Cardome Center. Students have the opportunity to experience a cross-cultural exchange through the medium of kite building and display. Volunteers will work with our students on kite design, production and flying. Students from other counties within the state, along with students from Japan, will take part in the cultural exchange at the festival.

I must also give credit where credit is due. I am blessed with a terrific staff. Students regularly comment that they know our staff cares for them. Unselfish dedication to our students' needs is practiced on a daily basis. Invitational Education begins in the heart, and my staff's collective "heart" is second to none.



RECOGNITION: Director Steve Walker congratulates student Amanda Tolson on an assignment. Students enjoy school more when their accomplishment are noticed.



TAKING PART: Students are invited and encouraged to be part of our positive school culture. Sophomore Kiri Smith accepts the invitation as she takes an active part in the Discovery Program.



PARENTS WELCOME: Junior Chris Chandler and his mother enjoy time together at Discovery Graduation. Students invited family and friends to help celebrate their accomplishment.



JUST MY STYLE: At the Alternative Program we design lessons that make students successful by catering to their specific learning style. Terry Petrie reaches his goal and succeeds at a physical task.

GEORGETOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Inviting, in progress

By TOMMY HURT
GMS Principal

An inviting school first begins with appearance or curb appeal, if you will. About four and a half years ago, the front entrance, lobby and front office of GMS were remodeled. The front of the building got a facelift with new windows and doors and pillars with a new school sign between them. Also, every spring, our Beta Club does a wonderful job landscaping the front yard and the front of the building. Our lobby was opened up and got a new white and green tile floor with the letters "GMS" as the pattern. Any time you walk into our lobby you will find examples of the talent of the students of GMS. Art Teacher Artie Janow, Joan Mullen, our Family and Consumer Science Teacher, and several other teachers continuously display their students' work in the windows, display cases and even on the ceiling. School Secretary Maxine Stanley helped design our front office. It is a really nice room that opens into the lobby and has lots of glass and open spaces. Finally, our custodial staff works extremely hard to make sure that our school is a clean, comfortable place to learn.

Secondly, an inviting school gives ownership to the students by getting them involved in some type of activity. We try to be a home away from home. We want our students to take pride in our school. When I talk to fifth grade students each spring, I

always challenge them to find an activity that suits them and stick with it. At GMS we offer so many activities, they are too numerous to list. We offer athletics for boys and girls and academic teams at each grade level. We have a school play every spring. This spring our production of *Grease* will debut. Club and extra-curricular offerings include: Beta Club, school newspaper and a new Video Club. Lee Dawson, Youth Service Center Coordinator, conducts fun activities for students every early release day. These are but a few of the numerous opportunities for students to be involved at GMS.

Finally, an inviting school tries to make parents and the community feel welcome. We are working diligently to improve in this area. We have an active PTO that works very hard for the school and we greatly appreciate their efforts. However, it is a small group and we'd like to see it grow. Ms. Mullen started a new program called Buffalo Pals to recognize guests who come to our building to share their knowledge with our students. We have a homework hotline for each grade level so that we can improve communication with parents. Also, we will begin working with a new web site in the near future to get information out to the community.

As you can see, GMS is working hard to become an inviting school, but we still have a way to go. If you have any suggestions, want to join our PTO, or would like to volunteer, feel free to call me at school at 865-3883.



ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE: Teacher Steve Burke challenges Kendall Bonoliet to test the strength of the domes in an egg's shell as he tries to crush the egg in his palm.



LEARNING LIGHTS THE WAY: Emily Franklin lights the menorah as Jerry Park's social studies class studies the celebration of Passover.



JAZZING THINGS UP: Kala Kellerman and Jordan Jarvis perform a music video to *All That Jazz* created for Neil Earwood's chorus class.



ALL HEART: Seventh grade students Megan Huett, Tasha Downey and Sandy Rodriguez share their valentines with Mr. Hurt.

SCOTT COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Experiences, opportunities grow as quickly as middle school students

By VALERIE SEWELL
SCMS Principal

Do you remember what it felt like to look down and discover that the pants that fit you just a few weeks ago were two inches too short? Scott County Middle School is home to about 800 growing students and a dedicated faculty and staff, who understand what it's like to be a middle school student. In addition, SCMS has a tremendous parent and volunteer force.

Each grade level has a distinct schedule, which meets the needs of our students. Sixth grade students have a block schedule, which reduces both the number of times they must change classes and the number of classes for which they must prepare

each day. Seventh grade students have two language arts classes to help them become better writers. Following a traditional schedule, our eighth grade students prepare for the transition to high school. In addition to academics, SCMS encourages students to participate in a variety of extra-curricular and enrichment activities, such as band, sports, clubs and academic team.

Walking down the hallway, you might notice the bright flag outside each teacher's room, shiny floors and the smell of fresh paint. Our faculty and staff work to make school a comfortable place to learn. Teachers strive to help students learn what they will need to be productive community members. From investing les-

sons that will engage students, to planning a recycling program, SCMS teachers want our students to feel like school is a great place to be.

Parents are a positive element of our school. Several years ago, an enthusiastic SCMS parent and our school counselor developed the parent volunteer training model that is now used across the district. Many parents visit our school throughout the year to speak to classes, assist teachers, attend special activities, participate in PTA or council meetings and watch academic and athletic competitions. We welcome their presence and participation. The guidance office helps parents keep track of the activities and student accomplishments by publishing a newsletter

each grading period.

Besides parents, SCMS welcomes community volunteers. Without them, we would be unable to have the annual Reality Store, health fair and health screenings. In return, SCMS is a good community member. Our SCMS family participates in charitable events such as coat collections, food drives, recycling and projects for veterans and nursing home residents.

Scott County Middle School is much more than a bunch of students, teachers, desks and books. We are a community that provides an opportunity to develop school spirit, embracing the importance of everyone being a contributing citizen in our nation. Everyone is important and can make a difference!



ART AND SOUL: Principal Valerie Sewell helps Noah Gillis with his art project.



HELPING OTHERS: Sixth grade peer mediators help fellow students improve communication.



MORE IMPORTANT TO GIVE: Mason Korrick presents a gift to Cameron Castle during the Peer Pals Program.



LEARNING FROM PEERS: Eighth grade peer mediators Michael Leggett and McKay Barnett train sixth grade mediators Travis Southworth and Covey Denny.

ANNE MASON ELEMENTARY

Parent and students: our most important customers

By CARMEN DONINGER
SCMS Principal

Choosing tile colors, deciding which keys will fit which locks, ordering books for the library and instructional materials for classrooms are just a few of the crucial tasks on an ever-growing "to do" list for opening a new elementary school. Though details such as these cannot be overlooked, an intense focus must remain on the most important issues for any school: What do we want our students to learn and what kind of environment must be created to ensure that all students are learning as much as they can?

When thinking about answers to questions such as these, perhaps it is easiest to first think about the kind of school that we do not want. At some time or another, probably all of us have entered a public building of some sort only to have to search for the office or a help desk. Then, when we finally find someone who seems to be in a position to help, we stand patiently and wait to be acknowledged though we feel certain that our presence is known. One can only imagine how a child would feel if this is what he or she encountered in school. It certainly would not encourage a feeling of belonging or one of being valued.

In contrast to this grim scenario, think about visiting a school where you and your child are greeted each morning by the principal before you even enter the building. As you walk down the hallways, you cannot help but slow down enough to take a look at the unique displays on the walls showcasing student work, with informative captions underneath explaining exactly what has been learned.

Perhaps you have to stop by the office, and there, despite the fact that phones are ringing in perfect time with the never-ending stream of children and adults coming through the doorway, all with seemingly urgent needs and requests, you are warmly welcomed by the school secretary. As a matter of fact, it almost seems as if she has been hoping you would stop by. She is able to smile while interacting with every adult and child, making each one feel as if their need at the time is the most important issue to address.

For a principal hoping to create a school community with this kind of feel, there are countless resources to consult, from books and tapes written and produced by invitational experts to three-day workshops to attend. It seems, however, that the most reliable resources to consider when planning for an invitational school are our customers themselves: students and parents. Their opinions are often far more insightful than whatever information might be contained in an "invitational" book, and it is obvious when hearing what they have to say that a truly invitational school goes far beyond how a place looks and friendly faces.

We are genuine in our belief that all children can learn and we truly want each child to learn as much as he or she can. Because I want to make Anne Mason Elementary a place where all feel welcomed and valued, I have asked for advice from our most important customers, students and their parents.

Special thanks to Scott County High School teacher Lee Ann Nupke, Garth Elementary teacher Sabrina Adkins and especially to the students and parents who took the time to share their thoughts and ideas.



UP FOR THE CHALLENGE: Anna Wirths and Ethan Campbell, with Anne Mason Principal Carmen Doninger, learn about algebra. They think challenging work helps to make school more inviting.

What Makes a School Inviting?

Parents have these suggestions:

- Have designated visitor parking spaces and welcoming signs at entrances that include clear directions to the office. Large signs with directions/traps to the library, gym, cafeteria and restrooms would also be helpful.
- Have student work displayed throughout the building in attractive ways.
- Be sure the building is well kept and repaired when needed.
- Have an identified workspace furnished with materials for parent and community volunteers. It would also be nice to have a volunteer coordinator who worked actively to coordinate volunteer efforts within the school. One helpful idea might be to have a bulletin board that lists specific volunteer needs from each teacher within the school. This bulletin board could also list specific services and/or supplies volunteers have to offer.
- Have clearly written information available to parents and visitors explaining the school philosophy, programs and how a person could be involved. The school's mission statement should also be displayed prominently for all to read.
- It would be nice to have a sign outside the building that not only displayed opening events but also recognized student, staff and organizational achievements.
- Use the school website to make available for parents on-line assignments and information about upcoming events. Also, compile an email list of parents who wish to receive daily announcements of interest to them, such as a calendar of events and important dates, newsletters and report card information, fundraiser information, picture day details and so on.
- Be sure students and staff members exhibit friendly, courteous behavior to each other and visitors. The school climate should be cheerful and student-centered.
- It would be helpful if all staff members were consistent in their expectations of students, from behavior to standards for achievement. Expectations should be consistent school-wide and should be communicated clearly to students and parents.

For fourth-graders, an inviting school is ...

• A place where, if we are learning about electricity, we don't read out of a book. We do it with a battery and a light bulb.

• Clean

• A school where the principal visits all the classes everyday.

• A school with men and women for teachers.

• A school where you see teachers before the next year, when you have them.

• Safe.

• A place where teachers are fair and you learn things in a certain order.

• A school where we can learn from doing things, like experiments, and not by just being told.

• A bright and colorful building with flowers and a big welcome sign in front.

• A school where we don't have reviews on things we already know.

• A place where teachers will sometimes play with you on the playground.

• A place where teachers understand and listen to each side of a story.

• A school with the same rules every year.

• A place where you get a reward if you've followed all the rules.

• A school where teachers have fun with the students.

• A school with brand new walls, a brand new lunch room, brand new desks and a brand new playground.



EASTERN ELEMENTARY

School should be the most inviting place in town

By EDWIN L. DENNEY
Eastern Principal

Every two years, each school develops a consolidated plan. This is a comprehensive school improvement plan with goals and objectives and how they will be achieved. During the 2001-02 school year, the staff at Eastern Elementary School decided to explore and adopt the invitational schools philosophy which was initiated by Dr. William W. Purkey.

Invitational education is about people and their attitudes toward one another. Invitational education is a systemic approach to total school improvement. It states that schools should be the most inviting place in town. The ultimate

goal of invitational education is to enrich the overall climate of the school. Deliberate action is taken to improve areas that are helpful and remove those that can be harmful. Every employee in an invitational school believes that every child can learn, wants to learn and can be taught. The assumptions that drive the invitational educator are trust, respect, optimism and intentionality.

Invitational leaders ask that all staff members examine ways to make improvements and eliminate everything that is disinviting within the school. This is accomplished by the development of five committees or strands which are: people, places, poli-

cies, programs and processes.

Every teacher at Eastern Elementary School has been recently placed on one of the five committees to consider the following questions:

What practices and characteristics of our school can we identify as being inviting or disinviting?

As we examine our own beliefs about the role of our school/classroom climate in school improvement, what conclusions can we draw?

What challenges or obstacles do we feel must be overcome in adopting the characteristics of an inviting school?

Why do we think that we are sometimes disinviting in our behavior even though it is not intentional?

Ponder the thought that we are all somewhat unaware of the disinviting things we do to others. How can we acquire the kind of honest feedback we need to improve?

In addition, committees have been asked to list goals, obstacles that may prevent achievement of those goals, an evaluation process and an action plan to achieve our goals. Hopefully every Eastern Elementary School employee, parent and student will feel equally important about their role in the process of invitational education.

Together we can provide every child with the education they are entitled to in an environment that is warm and caring.



COMMUNITY RESOURCE: STLP students Shayenne Charles, Sean Owens, Jordan Wagner and Molly Perkins display their technology skills as they show their inviting school video at the Scott County Public Library.



PICKLE PAY OFF: Volunteers Tammy English and Cindy Martin work as cashiers at the Pickle Store. Students learn economics as they shop with their diller dollars earned by being model students.



ME AND MY SHADOW: Eastern Elementary students had the opportunity to learn about careers from the Georgetown Fire Department in honor of Geozoid Hog Job Shadow Day.



TAKE CARE: Scott County High School student Lara Henderson helps out in the office and medical room at Eastern taking Kelsey Duncan's temperature.

GARTH ELEMENTARY

History strengthens community

By RUSTY ANDES
Garth Principal

Garth School has a long rich heritage of invitational education. In 1936 Edwin Claude Garth's parents donated the proceeds from his estate for the purchase of the lot upon which Garth School was built for the youth of the community to be his beneficiaries. This was a great act of kindness, inviting the youth of the community to reap benefits from their son.

Garth Elementary is the most visible and centrally located Scott County school. The grounds and historical architecture of the building continue to be a source of pride for our community. As we continue to look at the history of Garth there are many stories and examples of our staff and students creating an inviting environment.

Countless Scott Countians are former students of Garth and the alumni of Garth have been a strong force in the development of the Garth community.

Today at Garth our goal is to create a positive learning environment where students strive to do their best work and grow as individuals. Our mission is to enable students to become independent learners, decision-makers and effective communicators.

While attending Garth Elementary, students feel worthwhile, become positively motivated to learn and acquire the basic skills they will need to become productive citizens. Students learn to successfully accommodate change in a rapidly expanding and integrated world.

Each day, as students arrive at our building, we have several staff who greet them outside to welcome them to a new day. As they enter the building there are staff members located in the hallways, office and classrooms to welcome and assist students in beginning a day of learning. All areas of the building are clearly defined with signs and student work is visible and readily displayed. Our classrooms have created learning environments that students are anxious to attend and do not want to miss.

One parent shared that their child

woke up sick and then started crying because they knew they would not have the chance to go to school that day. The student did not want to miss the work the teacher had prepared for her.

Another parent stated that his son said, "the weekend goes by too slow." This is what we desire to accomplish with all of our students, the love of learning and the aspiration to interact with others in a positive way. Garth endeavors to create this by having invitational classrooms and a school which authentically engages students so they find meaning in what they are learning.

This process must continue throughout the school day. As our students leave the building each day you will commonly hear rich conversation with our parents, teachers, students and staff.

Striving to offer personal and educational growth for all who make up the Garth family, we changed our committee format last year to the five "P's" (Programs, Policies, Processes, Place and People). Our goal is to become a school that is intentionally inviting. We strive to make the "P's" purposeful, creating an environment in which each person who enters our

building is "cordially summoned to develop optimally, both personally and professionally."

Through several different types of professional development, committee work and communication our teachers and parents study our policies, procedures and philosophies to identify areas which lead to a more intentionally inviting school.

Through our participation with the Center for Leadership in School Reform we now analyze the work we provide to our students. We strive to create tasks that students find inviting and engaging.

The staff at Garth is committed to give to the children of Scott County hope and opportunities. With that goal, we commit ourselves to continue to grow professionally and invitionally, as individuals and as your school.



NO GENERATION GAP HERE: Second grade student Michael Lawson accompanies his grandparents. On Grandparents Day, grandparents were welcomed to visit their grandchildren sharing stories of their school days and enjoying refreshments and songs.



A GOOD START: Kalena Brink, a fourth grade student in Barbara Mason's class, gets a good morning hug from School Counselor Sandy Lynch. Ms. Lynch welcomes students to school daily.



LEARNING TOGETHER: Georgetown College education major Shemsika Gill and Brandon Power, a first grade student in Betsy Hicks' class, read together. Ms. Gill points out a difficult word to help Brandon sound it out.

NORTHERN ELEMENTARY

At Northern, 'Together each star shines brighter'

By MELODEE SPRINGATE
Northern Principal

Northern Elementary, located in picturesque northern Scott County, was named a National Invitational School in fall 2000. Northern Elementary staff, along with PTO members, strive to make Northern an inviting, welcoming place for students, parents and community members.

Teachers and classroom aides work continuously to make classrooms inviting for students and parents. Teachers send weekly newsletters home in Friday folders to keep parents informed on what

is happening in the classroom, as well as upcoming events. Teachers also work to put programs together for the parents to visit the classrooms and see what their child is learning.

Office personnel work to make your first impression of Northern a positive one. To maintain a safe environment for all students, we assist visitors as they sign in and put on a visitor's sticker. We also assist in the care for sick children, making them comfortable, which has been a large part of their job during the flu season.

Custodial staff works tirelessly to keep Northern clean and safe. Custodial staff

also serves as role models for students and collaborate with teachers to encourage positive behavior. You will often see them helping students with projects, popping popcorn as an incentive for good behavior or dressing up as characters on various holidays.

Cafeteria staff works to make the cafeteria inviting. You will see brightly decorated tables and counters when you walk into Northern's cafeteria. Staff takes pride in working to provide the healthiest, appetizing meal.

Our most important job is to foster the love for learning. Teachers do this by working to meet the individual needs of

each student, helping each to achieve at the highest level possible. Teachers conscientiously work to make their classrooms:

- Engaging for each student;
- Relate to real life;
- Address core content (as mandated by the state);
- Address individual learning styles;
- Check that each child knows what is expected, academically and behaviorally; and
- Keep parents informed on their child's progress.

We welcome you to come and visit and see the wonderful learning going on each day!



WHAT A PRODUCTION: Young Parker and Jacob Key proudly display a theatrical backdrop with Principal Melodee Springate.



EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE: Andrew Steele, a fourth grade student in Dedea Newcomb's class, assists Isaac Allen during their study of blindness on Extraordinary People Day.



AN AMERICAN HERO: Lee Vanlandingham's students Drew Glenn, Lyric Gordon and Dylan Southworth work on a project in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. with the help of teacher Clyde Wilkins.



GET ORGANIZED: First grade students in Jenny McKinney's class enjoy a spatial/categorizing activity with student teacher Jessica Sloan.

SOUTHERN ELEMENTARY

Southern hospitality

By **BRYAN K. BLANKENSHIP**
Southern Principal

I think everyone understands the meaning of Southern hospitality. So, when thinking of Invitational Education, all one has to do is keep this southern expression in the back of their mind. Invitational Education (IE), in its truest sense, is the positive, caring feeling you get when you enter a school. It is the atmosphere and climate you get from the people in the building. It should only take a few moments to feel it upon entering. Schools either have or they don't - you can't fake it. This inviting aura is found not only in the physical characteristic, but also, and more importantly, from the actions of the staff. At Southern Elementary, we believe in creating and sustaining that kind of "Southern" hospitality.

Students should be greeted daily with a smile as they walk through the door.

Students need to know that they are cared for and loved each day. Our teachers do a great job of making each student feel as though they are the teacher's favorite. Building self-esteem is crucial in the inviting classroom. Everyone should be made to feel that they are an important part of the team and that their contributions are important and expected. To invite students to learn in a safe and loving atmosphere is the very best gift a teacher can give. We are very proud of our Invitational activities such as: Blue Leader Program, Peer Mediation, Peer Pals, assemblies, guests speakers, Blue Sky Cafe, special musical programs, honor choir, academic team, art show, science fair, PTA performances, Fright Night and cultural exchanges.

A lot of schools underestimate the importance of the parent in the child's educational journey. The involvement of the parent has an enormous potential to produce positive academic results with children. Schools should not overlook this potential. Therefore, invitations to parents should be the norm and not the exception. Invitations to parents should be

given to volunteer, to attend field trips, to join PTA, join in assemblies, committee work, Christmas musicals, parent conferences and many other events should be a regular part of the inviting school philosophy.

This philosophy should involve open invitations to the community. Every community has a wealth of resources just waiting to be tapped. Scott County is certainly no exception when it comes to community resources. Our community has a lot to offer our schools. We should welcome our community into our schools with open arms and warm hearts and thank them dearly for their efforts. Invitational learning is about working together in helping children reach dreams.

Invitational activities involving parents and community include: chili supper, parent-teacher conferences, parent newsletters, open house, Grandparents Day, Lunch Bunch, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Bluegrass, Relay for Life and Reality Store.

If you show me a school where a staff truly cares about and respects one another, then I will show you a successful school. I can't emphasize enough the importance of a staff working together to meet student needs. There should be a family atmosphere among the staff in which taking care of each other is commonplace. Taking care of one another in times of need is a trademark of our school. It warms my heart to work with such a giving group of educators. Our walls are filled with many uplifting stories of heartfelt giving toward staff members. This translates into a happier, cohesive and inspired staff, which, in turn, results in quality work for students.

The passage above is how I view my school. What I have written is what we believe. What you have read is what we are at Southern Elementary. Granted, they are only words. So, my "invitation" to you is to come and let us show you our "Southern" hospitality. Surely you will see the essence of Invitational learning and why Southern Elementary is a special place.



A MATTER OF PRINCIPAL: Principal Blankenship reads to Ann Leigh's second grade class. Mr. Blankenship feels that it is important for the principal to be visible to students. He enjoys taking part in the learning process.



SHAPE UP: Megan Hoover and Abby Morris help each other build solid shapes from straws and clay during a recent geometry unit.



CLAYMATION: Students in Kelly Denton's first grade class presented their clay animation projects to the Scott County Board of Education. Nikki Taylor prepares for her presentation.

STAMPING GROUND ELEMENTARY

School has history as center of the community

By MARY RUTH STEVENS
Stamping Ground Principal

Being an invitational school is likened to a journey whose travelers are our many stakeholders: students, parents, families, volunteers, community members and school staff. The educational journey takes us many places. The experiences we share each day at Stamping Ground Elementary School make our travel both meaningful and engaging.

The journey begins even before reaching the front door. We greet students warmly each morning as staff members assist them out of cars and off buses and safely into the school. As our guests walk through the front door of our new building, we often hear them comment that

they feel right at home, as if they are already part of our Stamping Ground family. We make all who enter our school feel valued and respected. Faculty and staff are simply happy to be here and this sense of belonging sparks energy and enthusiasm that make Stamping Ground an exciting place to learn.

We provide a friendly, child-centered atmosphere. The bright, colorful, giant pencils are a pleasant and eye-catching surprise, reminding all that "we are about kids."

Volunteers are welcome to stop in and join in the learning process. Our staff and students benefit from a strong volunteer program as active parents and community members attend field trips, provide one-on-one attention and complete clerical

tasks. We encourage participation in our school, so, please, schedule your volunteer training and join us today.

Stamping Ground Elementary serves as the center of activity for our small, rural community. This relationship allows us the opportunity to work with several civic groups in our town. The local Woman's Club, Buritan Club and Optimist Club have a long-standing tradition of support for our school and students.

For many years students have worked with the Buritan Club to make their annual canned food drive a success. To express their appreciation, the club recently helped to fund an assembly for all students to enjoy.

"Friend of Youth" is the motto of the Optimist Club and the club has completed

their mission through varied projects over the years. Optimist friends sponsor an attendance incentive program, Christmas Angel Tree, Kids Speak Out Oratorical contest, Respect for Law program and several other activities.

The strong collaboration between school and community occurs almost daily at Stamping Ground as we welcome visitors, senior citizens, PTA, parents and families. We want community members to know how much we appreciate their support. It is equally important for students to realize the benefits of the community support, traditions and history. The journey continues for our school, students and community as we foster a shared spirit and learn and grow together.



SHARING A LOVE FOR READING: Britany Martin, Brian Simpson, Nicholas West, Tovin Buffin and Shelby Garrison share their favorite books with Principal Ruthie Stevens.



PARENTS TAKE PART: Parent Melinda Slato, a Junior Achievement representative, shares a lesson with Bette Ann Monroe's kindergarten class.



ROLE MODEL: SCMS student Shana Manning visits Stamping Ground to read to Mary Muffian, Donald Daily and Wyatt Wilson.



FAMILY UNIT: Parent Debbie Bender shares lunch with her son Zachary, daughter Mackenzie, Cody Collins, Casey Mulberry and Angie Kirby.

WESTERN ELEMENTARY

Learning today, leading tomorrow

By ZAN REXROAT
Western Principal

Invitational Leadership is a theory of leadership based on the four guiding principles of respect, trust, optimism and intentionality. It communicates caring and appropriate messages to unleash a person's full potential to overcome obstacles and accomplish great things. As I began my homework assignment reading the book by Betty Siegel and William Purkey, *Becoming an Invitational Leader*, (yes, principals have homework too!) I thought of many things we already do at Western Elementary that parallel the beliefs outlined in the book. I also realized by reading this book that there are many areas for improvement and much work to be done to make our school more intentionally inviting.

How is Western Elementary an inviting school? In the paragraphs that follow I will mention just a few of the many ways that Western is an invitational school.

As visitors enter Western Elementary, their eyes are drawn to a beautiful student-made ceramic mosaic.

They are greeted by a smile from a parent or grandparent volunteer at a front door welcome table. Hallways are attractively painted with murals in many locations throughout the building. Student work can often be seen on the hallway walls and on risers located on both sides of the main office. The custodial staff works hard to keep the building clean, safe and inviting.

Our PTO is a very supportive and inviting part of the Western Elementary community. This school year started with the PTO providing a staff breakfast buffet at our opening day meeting. They also organized a teacher appreciation workday in early December as well as a Christmas dinner. Additionally, they hosted a picnic for everyone at our school-wide open house. The collaboration between a very dedicated staff and

a hardworking PTO has made our school year rich with parent involvement at events such as Grandparents Day and Fall Carnival.

Last summer, the kindergarten staff initiated an idea for a new way of conducting kindergarten open house. For two days including evenings before school started, teachers and instructional aides hosted individual orientation and school tours for kindergarten families. By taking the time to be more personable and inviting, the start of the school year was made more informative and less stressful for kindergarten students, their parents and kindergarten staff.

Another way Western is intentionally inviting is the VIP treatment provided daily to students in the parent drive circle. In both the mornings and afternoons, regardless of the weather conditions, students are greeted and provided a curbside car door opening service. It is both inviting and expedient to load and unload six or more cars simultaneously. A very uninviting traffic back up that begins in August with more than 100 cars and over a 30 minute wait is reduced to about 15 minutes within a few days.

To keep parents informed, many teachers send classroom newsletters weekly in the Friday Folders. *The Western Gazette*, a school-wide monthly newsletter, provides parents with a calendar of upcoming events. It also contains minutes from SBDM council meetings and committee meetings.

PTO also publishes a colorful and very informative newsletter on a regular basis.

As test scores indicate, Western Elementary is an excellent school. But we are about far more than test scores.

We are a caring community of learners striving to provide students with a foundation on which to develop their unique talents as they build their individual dreams for the future.



INVITING LEADER: Western Principal Zan Rexroat discusses the Western Coal Fields region of Kentucky with Allannah Childers, Jordyn Morschhausser and Nikki Gibbins.



LIFE CYCLE: Fourth grade students Cody Ross, Bris Granville and Peyton Blanton work cooperatively as they study the life cycle of a frog during 4-H.



PARTNER IN RHYME: Chenelle Hangrove and Daren Jones partner up for reading.

ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Starting over with technology

By CAROL SCOTT
Director of Lifelong Learning

Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

At Scott County Adult and Community Education, we live by these words. Our "school" serves a population as diverse as Scott County itself. Some of our students never learned to read. Others dropped out of school and want to earn a GED, or need to brush up on basic skills after years in the workforce to go to college or technical school. Still others want to learn to drive safely, converse in another language to help a new friend or neighbor, try yoga for the first time or learn how to use a computer.

We bring these adult learners together in a variety of ways. All of our students are met with open arms and warm hearts. Our staff understands the obstacles that face adult learners. We accept students where they are and build upon their strengths. We provide adult learners with the opportunity to plan and guide their instruction and to offer feedback on how their learning is progressing through daily class evaluations. We take this feedback into account even as a class is progressing. No two classes are the same.

We have changed the face of adult education in central Kentucky through our incorporation of QUEST. Gone are the days of guided self-study. In its place are activities designed to foster teamwork, teach problem solving, communication and conflict resolution skills. We have

seen our enrollments consistently increase and the achievement levels of our students rise. Students leave our program with a GED and the interpersonal skills that will allow them to make the most of this academic achievement. Our student's comments tell the story. One said, "QUEST has made me aware of how we got to the bottom of problems." Another said, "I learned to express myself." A third, who had a history of "dropping out" of everything she started said, "I have definitely learned great group skills. The QUEST [program] was good... I will finish this!" She did.

We provide our non-reading students and speakers of other languages private rooms to work one-on-one with a tutor who provides lots of encouragement along with individualized instruction. Tutors and students work hard to develop literacy skills. They also laugh and have fun. They share each other's trials and celebrate their triumphs. Most of all, they share the joy of learning.

Community Education is the foundation that supports a variety of opportunities for members of the community. For personal and professional improvement, community education offers classes such as computer training, Spanish, Japanese, yoga, photography and genealogy.

The success of the programs at Scott County Adult and Community Education is based on the partnership between students, the community and the collaborative efforts of directors and staff who care so deeply for students and their progress.



FINDING DIRECTION: Carol Scott, Director of Lifelong Learning, and student Bobbie Newman share the joy of learning.



PART OF THE TEAM: Lucky Hawkins, Roxtony Burke, Greg Huff and Derrick Milner use QUEST techniques in a skit they wrote on how to resolve conflict.



ALWAYS A SMILE: Sue Maspin and Gail Widerwohl, volunteer adult reading tutors, enjoy the twice weekly visits.



ADULT READING: Instructor Dottie Hughes discusses a computer-based reading skills program with student Jackie Cox.

PRESCHOOL

Preschool students develop self concept, perception of world

By VIKKI PARTLOW
School Review Coordinator

Preschool classrooms are created to be inviting to children and families. One of the key principles behind preschool education is that it creates positive and healthy attitudes about schools, which will be carried throughout a child's educational career.

The early years are crucial to a child's education. A quality program for young children must respond to the comprehensive needs of children and their families.

The objective of Scott County Schools is to foster cooperation between parents, community and preschool program personnel and to

encourage a smooth transition between home/school and program settings. We encourage active parent involvement in the education and development of children. Parents are a child's first and most important teacher. When schools and parents support each other, they help a child build a stronger self concept.

Parents are the most significant and most influential person in a child's life. Scott County Schools preschool program welcomes parents through a number of different activities, such as parent newsletters, visits to the classrooms, meetings with preschool teachers and participation in parent education and training through the Preschool Program and the Family

Resource Services. Parents can also volunteer in their child's classroom after completing a training program.

Preschool education is about teamwork. Regular and special education teachers, families and community representatives all work together as a team to create and maintain education opportunities for children.

To help cultivate communication between parents and teachers, it is a requirement for preschool programs to conduct home visits. Home visits allow children a chance to meet with their teachers and parents in familiar surroundings. Scott County Schools also provide special needs services when parents have concerns about their child's development. Early educational

services can maximize a child's educational outcomes and enhance success. If a parent has any concerns about their child, a free assessment is available in the areas of motor skills, speech or language skills, social skills, emotional well-being and behavior. Early intervention can minimize the effects of a disabling condition and prevent additional developmental delay.

Scott County Schools Preschool Program takes pride in our ability to work with families and the community. It is in the early years that children learn to trust and respect, begin to make intentional choices and develop positive ideas about themselves and the world.



SHARING CIRCLE: Shari Coleman, parent volunteer at Stamping Ground, shares circle time with Shyenne Soumer, Kacey Coleman, Nathan Greene and Jeremy Darnell and Mary Beth Pevier reads to the class.



WARM HEART: Kadi Jones gets a little help from his grandfather Russell Jones.



PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER: Preschool students work hand-in-hand to help one another solve a large-than-life size puzzle.



SHARPE REFLECTION: Director of Child and Family Services Jan Sharpe helps Walker and Austin Bohodilla create bags for Valentine's Day.

FAMILY RESOURCE AND YOUTH SERVICE CENTERS

Students are taking steps toward success

By LEE DAWSON
School Resource Coordinator

It is a pleasure to work and live in a community that shares my philosophy. Since coming to work with the school, I have been impressed at how well our parents, volunteers, businesses and community organizations work with our school. The school often reaches out to the community to find a wealth of resources to help with the education process. The community responds positively, which allows the children to be the beneficiaries of a great working relationship.

Family Resources and Youth Services Centers provide programming for students which, at times, requires more people than we have personnel. The use of parents and volunteers for many functions such as health fairs, health screenings, Reality Store, Advisory Council Members, Early Release, nutrition education, health & wellness educational programs and parenting workshops allows us to provide services that we otherwise would not be able to afford. Parents and volunteers are a vital part of our school.

Family Resources and Youth Services collaborates with schools and businesses to help in several areas of educating our students. The classroom lectures and books can only teach part of what is in store for our students in their adult life. Businesses

have provided hands-on experiences to our students. Mentors give explanation of actual work experiences in their area of expertise and direction of how they have learned to be successful in life. Businesses donate staff and resources to programs like Job Shadowing, Teen Night, Reality Store, staff wellness and other programs, allowing students to see how what they are learning in the classroom relates to work experiences.

Community organizations such as YMCA, Parks and Recreation, County Extension Agency, WEDCO Health Department, Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services, UK Dietetic Department and Scott County Public Library have made valuable contributions to our schools through their programs.

You will often find people from these organizations in classrooms, providing after school programs and extra curricular activities for our students. These community leaders make a strong effort to adapt their programs to our schools to meet the needs of our students.

If a community is going to provide a good education and prepare its children to become good citizens it requires effort from the entire community. Scott County is just such a community, which is why Scott County is a great place to live and raise a family.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Jill Lucas, UK Dietetic Intern, teaches students about the food pyramid.



FOLLOW THE LEADER: Zach Secherland and Chance Fryman experience walking as if they were blind as part of the Extraordinary People program.



CLOSER LOOK: Will Hollen tries out special goggles designed to help the vision impaired.



BEST FRIEND: GMS Teacher Debbie Colvert and her trusty sidekick answer questions about being blind.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL

Welcome to St. John School

By KATHLEEN BOOTHE
St. John Principal

"Let the little children come to me," said Jesus. This invitation crosses the image of a gentle, wise savior inviting children to learn with Him. At St. John School, we strive to create an environment where all who come feel welcome and included in our efforts. As stated in the school's mission statement, we "...attempt to give students the tools to develop spiritually, academically, socially and physically."

Our goal is to lead children to a Christian life. Simply teaching and memorizing facts, doctrines or moral standards cannot achieve such a goal, although these things are important. Faith is best learned in a personal manner. The teachers at St. John School are

the greatest contribution to this learning process. Daily they make a sincere attempt to share their own faith and the greatness of God. This theme is carried out throughout the day in every subject matter. An atmosphere of faith combined with high expectations of the students encourages all students to find success and be the best they can be.

We are blessed at St. John's School to have a family-like feel to our school. Our parents are involved in the learning process of their children. Together with the staff, they discuss the academic and social behavior of their student to find what works for each individual. Our teachers are available for conferences and dedicate their time and talents after school with individuals and groups. They work to provide students with a quality education. We also schedule social events

service projects during the year to involve the student's whole family. Combine this with genuine care and concern for each family, and we have a healthy balance of academic progress and fun.

Currently, physical space is limited at St. John's School. We have attempted to make use of every foot available to us. Our growing population is an additional blessing that we look forward to serving in a new facility at a new site in the near future.

Recently the school community joined Catholic schools around the world to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Centered on the theme "Catholic Schools: Making a World of Difference," each day focused on a group who makes contributions to St. John's learning environment. On Student Day each classroom, preschool through grade eight, set up a learning activity for other students to experience a culture from a different country. The students researched their chosen culture and

shared what they had learned through skits, displays and crafts. Students in Mrs. Groves' kindergarten class shared two Vietnamese dragons and Mrs. Griffin's fifth grade presented a skit about the Australian outback. Students enjoyed an international lunch with foods from around the world. The "melt in your mouth" cakes from Vietnam and Mexican spicy salsa and chips were especially good!

Guests are always welcome at St. John's. Parents who are considering St. John's for their child(ren) may schedule an observation time to visit the classrooms. Groups such as Leadership Scott County and civic organizations visit the campus regularly.

Volunteers enrich the learning environment at St. John's by sharing their time, talent and treasure. After a volunteer orientation and backgrounds check, parents, grandparents and community volunteers help in the classrooms, with field trips, as coaches, guest lecturers and more.



HERE TO HELP: St. John Principal Kathleen Boothe assists first grade student Brittany Hill with a math assignment.



LOST IN THOUGHT: Kevyn Eke and Paul Clegg work to solve a math problem in Math Counts, an after school program offered to middle school students to enrich their math skills.



OH CANADA: First grade student Corrine Person shares the Canadian national symbol during her presentation to students from other grades.



DOWN UNDER: Fifth grade students Hannah Simms, Luke Wright, Patrick Hailey and Ashley Ruth serve international foods during lunch.

ACROSS OUR DISTRICT

Board policy

By RENEE HOLMES
Special Programs Coordinator

The importance of community on education cannot be understated. We are fortunate to have very thoughtful and dedicated board members that focus on student learning. Their role is pivotal in developing inviting schools.

They identify needed services and provide a vision for growth and development for the school district.

Member Bob Knight commented, "Strong cooperation between parents, the community and the school system staff is vital to an effective education for the children of Scott County. We must continue to explore opportunities to get parents and those in the community even more involved with the schools. We should make sure we are careful to listen and respond to the good ideas and skills they bring to the effort of providing the best educational experience possible. We are blessed with a very strong staff and partnership with parents and community only enhances that strength."

Luther Mason shared his thoughts, "While embracing the idea that no child will be left behind, we believe all students deserve a rich educational experience which encourages each student to reach high levels of achievement and contribute as citizens of this community. As a school board, it is our responsibility to provide innovative and challenging experiences, nurtured with a sense of cultural awareness, that enable students to achieve their potential. We believe in a community of life-long learners and we see ourselves as providing an opportunity for faculty, staff and the community to develop a sense of ownership, spirit and pride in our educational system."

Vice chairperson Randy Mayo considered

what makes one feel welcome. "A place that is inviting to me is a place where I want to go. It is a place where I am accepted as I am. It is important for parents to see the work of their students. Each student should have high quality work to show."

Rick Smith affirmed the importance of invitational education. "It is essential. You have to have a good environment for students to learn. We (board members) ensure students have this environment."

Board of Education Chairperson Becky Sams provided a very thoughtful response when asked, "What makes a school inviting?"

Our Scott County Schools are visually attractive and inviting. Our custodians keep the buildings well maintained, both inside and out, which gives a welcoming atmosphere to students, their families and the community.

Each school facility is staffed by professionals who work hard to create an environment conducive to learning. They invite success by their approach to learning and their willingness to encourage parent and community participation in both school and after school activities.

The goal of creating and maintaining an inviting environment has been achieved by all of our staff members: maintenance personnel, food service, teachers, aides, office staff, principals and community volunteers.

We have the necessary tools for success available to help students achieve at their individual level.

The Scott County Board of Education would like to express our appreciation to the Scott County community for their ongoing interest and involvement in our schools and our future. It is our shared goal to protect, teach and encourage the success of our greatest asset, our children.



MEMBERS OF the Scott County Board of Education, with Principal Carmen Dominguez and Superintendent Dallas Blankenship, check on the progress of Anne Mason Elementary School.



TOOTHY GRIN: Austin Zierbes, a first grade student in Stephanie Kewney's classroom at Garth Elementary, learns to brush and floss every day during a trip to the Lexington Children's Museum.

Scott County School District Vision Statement

All Scott County Students achieve their highest level of academic success and personal growth by learning core content through engaging work in a secure and inviting environment.

Scott County School District Belief Statements

1. The Scott County School District takes the responsibility for providing engaging and meaningful learning opportunities.
2. Student learning is the focus when making decisions.
3. Achievement improves when students are engaged in their work and choose to share in the responsibility for learning.
4. Schools, supported by the community, are safe and inviting places enabling students to learn at high levels.



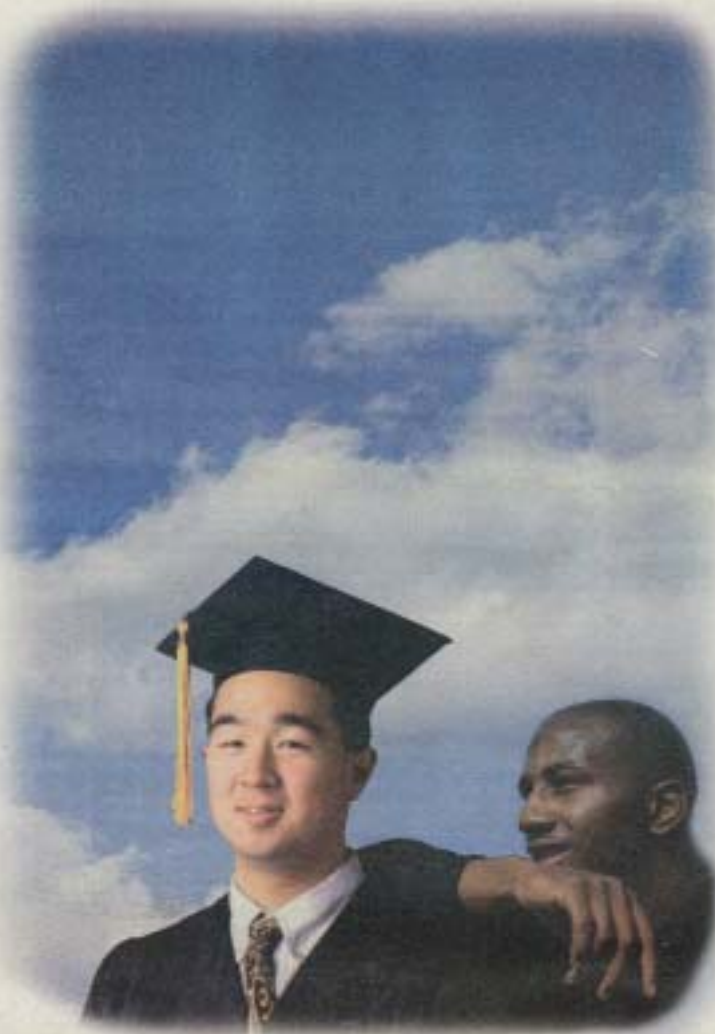
SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL REVIEW

Renee C. Holmes, Special Programs Coordinator
rholmes@scott.k12.ky.us
(602) 570-3069

School Review Coordinators:

Margaret Roberts	.....	SCHS
Kathy Fulgo	.....	9th Grade School
Rodney Mason	.....	Alternative Program
Laura Foxworth	.....	GMS
Michael Shouse	.....	SCMS
Carmen Dominguez	.....	Anne Mason
Kim Perkins	.....	Eastern
Candi Texas	.....	Garth
Nora O'Her	.....	Northern
Elaine Devers	.....	Southern
Lynnda Tackett	.....	Stamping Ground
Heather Sapp	.....	Western
Nancy Ridge	.....	Adult and Community Education
Vicki Pardlow	.....	Preschool
Lee Dawson	.....	FRYSC

Making dreams a reality.



Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Kentucky, Inc. (TMMK) is proud of its strong commitment to help career-minded youth further their education.

Through a \$60,800 annual donation to the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges & Universities, TMMK has invested in our youths' scholarships. This contribution is used for "Toyota Scholars" which provides scholarships to students at each of the Commonwealth's 19 independent college and university campuses.

Since 1986, TMMK has sought ways to enable young scholars in making their career dreams a reality.

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