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On, NEW CASTLE

Publication of New Castle Community Schools

FALL 2021

Built on Tradition, Focused on the Future

EXCITING BUILDING PROJECTS

Middle School

The Middle School renovations are currently underway, with the expected completion of March 30, 2022. The renovation is addressing critical safety and security needs as well as general facility improvements. Staff and students are excited about more accessible areas, including the addition of a black box theatre, a community room, choir room, general music room, new art rooms, updated science classrooms and labs, more accessible special education areas, as well as a new gymnasium. The renovations also optimize natural light and contain multiple common areas for students and staff to work. The kitchen area is being updated with new equipment and more efficient serving areas.



Parker and Eastwood Elementaries

The recent renovations of the front entrances at both Parker and Eastwood elementaries have created more secure areas. By relocating various offices and workstations, and upgrading security technology, we have safe, modern spaces for classroom creativity. The renovations are now near completion, as final touches are being made and new furniture is on the way. Additionally, the second phase of construction at Parker is scheduled for



completion in December 2021, wherein students will be able to utilize the new STEM lab during the second semester. The new preschool classrooms will be complete at the start of the 2022-23 school year.

Future Renovations

In addition to these building projects, three more exciting projects are in the works: Bundy Auditorium will undergo complete renovations, improving our Fine Arts programs with modern equipment and a new layout. The high school's baseball field is under construction with new dugouts, irrigation, back stop and scoreboard. Coach Pearson stood on the new diamond and jokingly said, "If you build it, they will come!" Lastly, the tennis courts have been relocated and expanded, thanks to Fred Luddy's generous donation. More details on these additions will come in the spring edition of our newsletter.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT?



Marching Band

The Trojan Marching Band had a great fall season. For the first time since 2009, the band played in ISSMA Open Class C. The group worked diligently on their Grecian mythology show, *Pandora*. The band celebrated their final performance at Decatur Central High School Oct. 30 at ISSMA Semi-State!



Disney's The Little Mermaid

NCCSC put on an amazing rendition of Disney's *The Little Mermaid* in November, starring Lainey Cross as Ariel, Mariel Chan-Ba as Prince Eric, and Beau Ford as Sebastian. The cast and crew's hard work paid off under the amazing leadership of Theater Teacher and Director Amber Schuyler.



Red Hot Blues Show Choir

The NCHS "Red Hot Blues" has been burning up the stage since 2005. RHB is an auditioned mixed show choir of 43 singers and dancers. This year's show is titled *Hip to the Groove*, journeys through a kaleidoscope of the Seventies' most iconic songs. Full of good vibes, dyn-o-mite choreography, and slammin' vocals, it's sure to make you wanna' put on your *Boogie Shoes* and *Groove Tonight!*

On, NEW CASTLE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Throughout this newsletter, our corporation and school websites, and our social media platforms, you will notice the recurring theme of outstanding students, staff and community members performing inspirational deeds and achieving amazing accomplishments! This past month, the School Board and I had the privilege of awarding several individuals the *Trojan Award of Excellence*.

The first Award went to the Joe Petty family. Joe Petty was a 1970 graduate of NCHS and a retired science educator/coach in Miami, Florida. He developed a passion for basketball at a young age as he frequently tagged along to work with his father Tom, who was a local photographer. Tom and Barbara Petty were avid Trojan fans supporting the "Gym Now" campaign in 1958 to fund the Fieldhouse. They bought shares and season tickets for each of their five sons. Joe loved basketball and was a talented gymnast. Combining his skills and school spirit, Joe became a pillar of the cheerleading team both in New Castle and Ball State. He was a true Trojan at heart! Even living out



of state, he kept up to date through *The Courier Times*. He never missed a chance to see the Trojans play when he came home. Joe's impressive and benevolent donation totaled \$400,000. Primary benefactors are the boys and girls basketball programs and

our cheerleading program. Pictured receiving the Trojan Award of Excellence were Joe's brothers, Jeff and David and David's wife, Marsha. We are humbly grateful for the generosity of the Joe Petty family and for their Trojan Pride!

No one likes to think of tragedy, but when it strikes, past training becomes second nature. I'd like to publicly thank our Career Center Director Mackenzie Jackson, students Gage Reno and Brendan Powell, and Deputy John Sproles for their swift and courageous leadership in the face of a tragic accident involving our Building Trades Teacher, Don Criswell. All four individuals mentioned received a Trojan Award of Excellence for their leadership, as did Mr. Criswell, for modeling such a positive outlook and demonstrating perseverance throughout his journey to recovery. We are proud of all of them! Don's story was covered in *People Magazine* and there is talk that he may soon appear on the *Kelly Clarkson Show*!

Matthew S. Shoemaker Ph.D.

Superintendent, New Castle Community School Corporation

Twitter: Dr. Matt Shoemaker@NCSupt

Front left to right: Deputy Sproles, Jackson, Reno, Criswell and Powell.

Back: Career Center students



NEW WRAPPED BUSES AND SELECTED BUS TRANSPORTATION

New wrapped buses have been completed and are already transporting students to various activities. They were designed utilizing input from multiple stakeholders, including students. NCCSC looks forward to spreading its Trojan Pride through the use of these buses. Please note that NCCSC offers selected bus transportation to the following school corporations: Nettle Creek, Blue River and South Henry. If you have transportation needs, please bring your inquiries to the Administration office.

TROJAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN ACTION



The New Castle Alumni Association promotes loyalty to the school corporation, while strengthening ties to alumni, the community and parents. NCAA partners with existing school organizations, creating honorariums as *Trojans Remembered* and organizing Homecoming, while financially supporting student and school projects. They raise money for city activities and help students find scholarships and jobs through a wealth of resources and references. When both planned and organic reunions occur, members interact with alumni from different generations. By sharing memories, honoring the present, and creatively supporting our schools, the Alumni Association upholds traditions and ensures New Castle's future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GREEN JACKET HONOR RECIPIENTS, NCHS'S TOP 12 ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS!



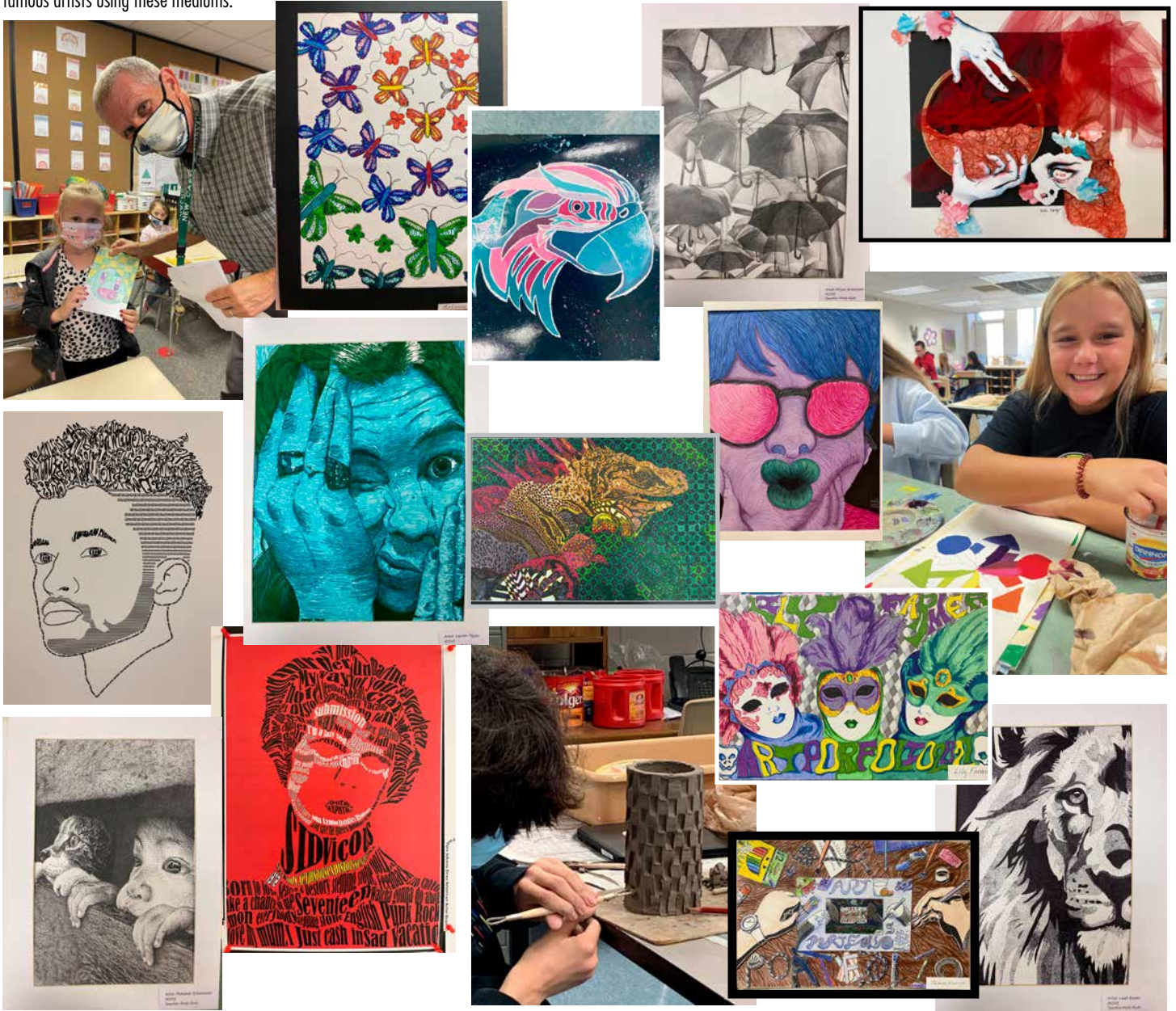
ART PROJECTS AT ALL LEVELS

Middle School Goals

Our seventh grade art goals introduce students to the Basic Elements of Art: color scheme painting, optical illusions and ceramics. An introduction to famous artists is included with each unit. The eighth grade goals focus on Principles of Design: painting, design, drawing, ceramics, graffiti-art and ceramics. Eighth graders also are introduced to new and historically famous artists using these mediums.

High School Goals

Intro to Art classes, Drawing and Painting, as well as independent or advanced classes are all offered at the high school. Students taking these courses engage in sequential learning experiences that encompass art history, art criticism, aesthetics and production. At the end of a semester, students have created personal portfolios and quality works.



SPECIAL SERVICES HIGHLIGHT: THE UNIQUE LEARNING SYSTEM



New Castle Area Special Services provides services and supports for students with disabilities. The cooperative includes five area school districts: New Castle, Shenandoah, Charles A. Beard, South Henry and Nettle Creek. The programming spans a full continuum of services from accommodations within the general education setting to full-day intensive support within a special education setting.

While most students with disabilities learn alongside their peers working toward a diploma, a small percentage of students with disabilities require a unique approach

to the teaching and learning process. This distinctive approach aligns instruction to grade level standards while introducing material and skills at each student's proficiency.

To provide this level of instruction, special education teachers rely (in part) on a curricular program known as The Unique Learning System. This program serves as a cornerstone for classrooms and students with complex needs and helps New Castle support all students. Dr. Amy Blake, Director of Special Education, says, "We strive to serve and support every student, regardless of the nature of the disability. Doing so makes our special education programming strong! We have excellent educators throughout the district and are proud to serve the students of New Castle."

YOU'RE INVITED!

The New Castle Board of Education meets via livestream, please call Gail Edwards at (765) 521-7201 for an invite. You are invited to attend these meetings.

SCHOOL BOARD

Travis Callaway President
Jennifer Blackford.....Vice President
Nan Polk Secretary
Cory BennettMember
Jaci HadsellMember

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Parker Elementary (765) 521-7209
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Riley Elementary (765) 521-7211
Principal, Aimee Howard
Sunnyside Elementary..... (765) 521-7213
Principal, Aimee Howard
Westwood Elementary (765) 521-7215
Principal, Kelley Cox
Wilbur Wright Elementary (765) 521-7217
Principal, Jean Ann McAllister
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Principal, Jacob White
New Castle High School (765) 593-6670
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OUR WEBSITE

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TWITTER

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FACEBOOK

Eastwood @EastwoodEaglesNC
Parker @ParkerElementarySchoolPanthers
Riley @RileyElementarySchoolBulldogs
Westwood @WestwoodNCCSC
Wilbur Wright @wilburwrightelem
NCMS @ncmstrojanpride
NCHS @NCHSTrojans
NCCC @nccareercenter1

On NEW CASTLE

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ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM ADDITIONS AND TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

With innovation in curriculum and technology, administration and teachers seek to assist each student reach their highest learning potential.

For the 2021-22 school year, all elementary schools will have implemented Project Lead the Way's computer science module for K-6 students. PLTW creates an engaging, hands-on classroom environment, empowering students to develop in-demand knowledge and skills they need to thrive. And since 2010, an 8-STEP Continuous School Improvement Model has been in progress. The 8-STEPs consist of data disaggregation, calendar development, instructional focus, assessment, tutorials, enrichment, maintenance, and monitoring. This process is a "best practices" umbrella, providing consistency for all K-6 students no matter what building they attend.

With the unusual 18 months of the pandemic, there has been a great deal of unfinished learning on behalf of student achievement. Students were mandated to learn from home during the spring of 2020, and many chose to do so last year. Now fully back in the classroom, our elementary schools are focusing on accelerated learning by:

- Extending instructional time during the school day
- Revising pacing calendars to focus on and assess critical state standards
- Using customized math and English lessons, meeting individual needs and gaps
- Allocating 30 minutes a day for small group time, meeting remediation, maintenance and enrichment needs of all students

Lastly, our New Castle Schools Technology Cabinet, including students, staff and volunteers from within the community, meets monthly. Their mission is to be a connecting bridge of communication and support to all schools, empowering staff and students with the appropriate technology tools. By incorporating best practices and blended-learning into instruction, our students can be positive digital citizens in life and career.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RON GRIMES ON HIS RETIREMENT

Ron Grimes worked joyfully and meticulously as New Castle High School's Math and Computer teacher for 52 years! He created our Technology Department in 1988, and we are using his fiber optic cable renovation still today! He now serves part-time, running the student information system, PowerSchool. We wish you warmest congratulations on your retirement, Mr. Grimes. Thank you for loving our kids and humbly serving our community.



PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR OUR UPDATED 2021-22 ALL SCHOOL CALENDAR