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And much more...



Marshall County Schools continues to seek ways in which open communication can be provided for parents and community members. Visit boe.mars.k12.wv.us to contact county administrators or school principals.

Board of Education policies may be viewed at <http://boe.mars.k12.wv.us/>

Marshall County Has New Faces at the County Office

The retirements of Fred Renzella, Wayne Simms, Robyn Fitzsimmons, Joan Palmer, and Marilyn Dague left some open positions in our county office and one previously empty position was filled this summer as well. Meet the newest team members...

Mr. Michael Hince, Superintendent, began his career with MCS in 1979 teaching English at John Marshall and has 21 years teaching and 13 years administrative experience. "I am so pleased that the Marshall County employees in all areas of the school system have created a positive climate for student and professional growth to take root and begin to thrive. My hope and aim is that we all stay focused upon our common purpose of student learning."



Mr. Corey Murphy, Assistant Superintendent and Personnel Director, was the head principal of JM for the last four years. "It is great to be able to get out in ALL the schools and meet our staff and students. I am excited and look forward to the many relationships we will build."



Mr. David Soltész, WVEIS Coordinator and Computer Applications Trainer, worked 15 years at John Marshall (teaching ten and as an assistant principal for five.) "I'm learning a ton of new things in this position. This first year in WVEIS will be a challenge and a good opportunity to broaden my computer experience."



Ms. Tracy Lagos, Attendance Director, was a counselor at Moundsville Middle for five years before coming to the county office. "I'm looking forward to doing what I can to help our students succeed. The first step is getting them to school."



Mr. Woody Yoder, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, was the principal of Center McMechen Elementary for seven years and previously worked in Ohio County as an administrator. "I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. WV next generation standards, continuing education, professional development, professional learning communities, textbooks and supplies, and a host of other demands have all made for very busy days. However, I have discovered how fortunate I am to work with such willing and capable people at the county office. I have also had opportunity to work with many principals and teachers and look forward to our collaborative efforts that will make a positive difference for all students."

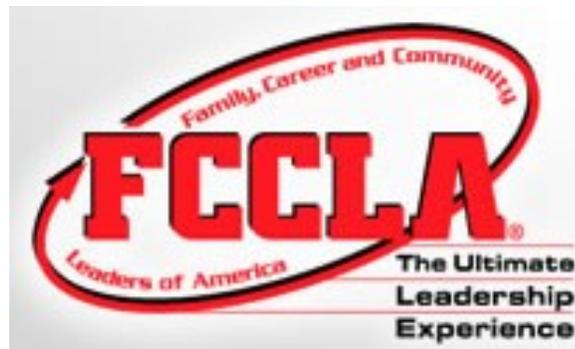


Summer Award Winners



Many Marshall County Students and Faculty were busy this summer bringing home gold medals and other awards. Alyssa Ebert of Cameron High School was a 2013 Governor's Honors Academy Member and she nominated Ms. Jennifer Schwertfeger for the 2013 Outstanding Educator Award, which she won.

Outgoing seniors Karissa Duke and Candace Kesselring of John Marshall High School's Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) club attended the national leadership conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Duke won a Gold Medal for her Star Event, "Entrepreneurship" and Kesselring won a Silver Medal for her Star Event Project, Interpersonal Communications. This was Duke's second consecutive Gold Medal award.



Smoother Driving (in cars, and the lane)

This September, the parking lots at McNinch Primary, county office, and Cameron's stadium were paved and expanded. An access ramp was added and now connects McNinch's parent parking lot and the rear parking lot of the county office. This fall the student parking lot at John Marshall will also be upgraded and paved providing a smoother ride for students while Washington Lands should also see paving performed this fall. The outdoor basketball courts at JM will also be repaved soon.



Free Meals for ALL Students

This school year, with the assistance from the passing of the December 15, 2012, Excess Levy and the USDA's Community Eligibility Option (CEO), ALL Marshall County students are receiving free breakfasts AND lunches. West Virginia was one of only four states to be selected to participate in the CEO for the 2012-2013 school year on a limited basis and that has been expanded to all schools this year. The CEO completely eliminates paper applications to be eligible for free meals so school secretaries and parents are happy to be free of one less form.

School Spirit Soaring at JMHS

John Marshall High School's "Monarch Maniacs" have been atop of the RSNSports.com's Top High School Support Sections Rankings for four weeks in a row this year. The top rankings are even more impressive considering those weeks were all road games for the football team. JMHS has added an official twitter account @JMHSMonarchs they use to highlight student activities and academic pursuits in the classroom and the community has provided funds to help support travel busses to games, school decorations, and student tailgating.



ROLL PRIDE!

Technology Integration Resources Available to MCS Teachers



Marshall County is fortunate to have two full-time Technology Integration Specialists (TIS) working to help classroom teachers make lessons come alive with technology. Jennifer Lipski and Susie Kelch visit classrooms to help with Tech Steps lessons as well as collect online resources to help teachers be effective and use best practices to instruct students. The TIS webpage is located at <http://www.edline.net/pages/MarshallCounty/Technology/TIS> and has information regarding EducateWV.me, Cyber Safety, technology troubleshooting, and many other sources of information to help classroom teachers be the best they can be. For more information, visit the website or contact them at 304-843-4400, x312.

Afterschool Wellness Program Energizes Our Youth



Noble Energy, Inc. joined with Marshall County Schools and the Marshall County Chamber of Commerce to dedicate “*Energizing Our Youth*,” an afterschool wellness and mentoring program that offers Central and McNinch elementary students homework assistance, healthy snacks and lessons about energy, healthy living and substance abuse prevention.

“We surveyed parents in our school district and found a need for a hands-on aftercare program, but also learned that cost is an issue,” Marshall County Schools Superintendent Michael Hince said. “We are grateful that the Chamber of Commerce sought out a solution and that Noble Energy expressed an interest in serving our children’s needs, enthusiastically offering financial support and assistance with the curriculum.”

Noble Energy is making a \$300,000 commitment over three years to the program and has become an official “Partner in Education.” The program, which includes transportation and is currently serving almost 40 students, is staffed by Youth Services Systems (YSS) and operates on school days from dismissal to 5:30 p.m. YSS’s licensed and certified team has a successful history of running similar programs.

Gary Willingham, Noble Energy’s Senior Vice President for the U.S. Onshore Region, said, “Noble Energy’s purpose is to energize the world and better people’s lives. We know it is a privilege to work in West Virginia and we stay true to our purpose by listening to what communities identify as their greatest needs, and then by helping address them.”

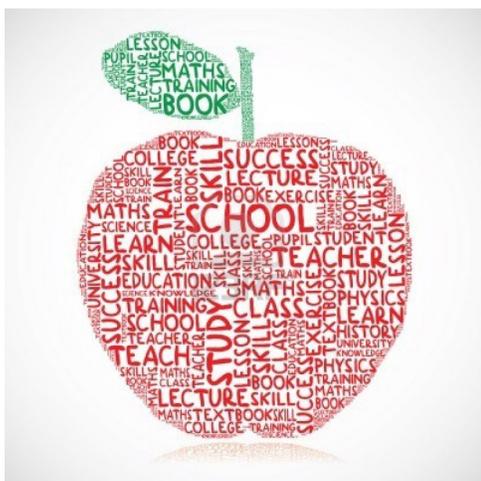
“As active members of the Marshall County community, it is a priority for Noble Energy to help the community grow,” Noble Energy Senior Operations Manager Bob Ovitz said. “Ensuring that our children have opportunities and the resources they need is crucial to energizing them and the entire community. We are honored to be a part of this important effort.”

New Hiring Practices Now in Effect

Effective July 1, 2013, the West Virginia Board of Education policy 5000 changed the long-standing procedures for posting, hiring, and transferring school personnel. The new policy provides the ability for both the school principal and the faculty senate to have input into the hiring process by having their suggestions being factored into the hiring matrix.



What are YOU Doing for American Education Week?

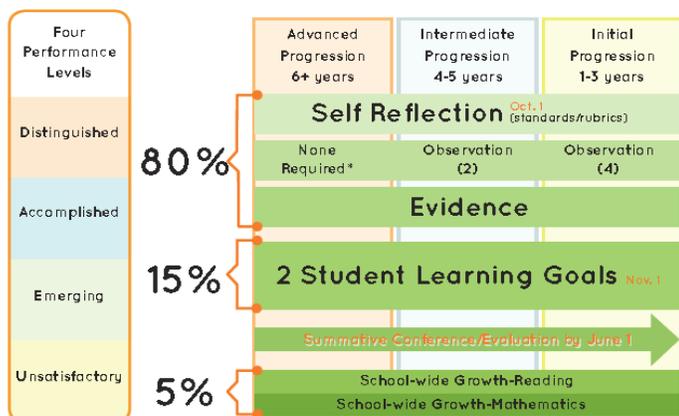


American Education Week—November 18-22, 2013—presents all Americans with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. The weeklong celebration features a special observance each day of the week.

Teachers who are planning special celebrations or activities, such as John Marshall’s upperclassmen who go to the elementary schools to read to the students, should let their principals know what they are planning so the county office can have a complete list of all the activities.

Also, Friday, November 22nd, is substitute educators day so be sure to thank a sub for all the work they do.

New Evaluation System For Professionals Statewide



House bill 4256 required a new evaluation system that includes student learning as an indicator and measure of educator performance. The new changes were rolled out with beginning of this school year and were a focus of a CE day in August.

The system revolves around a self-reflection and evaluation of five professional teaching standards, two student learning goals, and school-wide growth in reading and mathematics.

With the new system comes new deadlines. The following dates are of importance with the new system:

Beginning of year – October 1: Educators complete self-reflection and begin working on student learning goals

Beginning of year – November 1: Evaluators complete first observations for those on initial and intermediate progressions and educators submit learning goals

November 1 - January 1 : Evaluators complete second observation for those on initial progression

January 1 - March 1 : Evaluators complete third observation for those on initial progression

March 1 - May 1 : Evaluators complete final observations for those on initial and intermediate progressions and educators submit evidence for student learning goals

By June 1

Convene year-end conference and complete summative performance rating

School administrators and counselors will be part of the new evaluation system with 5% of their summative evaluation score being based on school-wide growth in reading and mathematics as measured by the WESTEST 2 tests.



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2014 Marshall County Teacher of the Year, Jonna Kuskey

On October 9th, Mrs. Jonna Kuskey was honored at a reception at the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences in Charleston. Mrs. Kuskey, English teacher at JMHS, was a finalist for the West Virginia Teacher of the Year for 2014. She considered it an honor to represent Marshall County as a finalist and said, "I am proud to work with all the talented teachers in our county and feel privileged to be among them." She is the latest in a line of Marshall County teachers to be recognized at the state level for teaching excellence. Since 1993, Marshall County has had two WV State Teachers of the Year (Danny Prado and Dave Soltesz) as well as five other state finalists (Dave Gaudino, Christy Rodgers, Jan Madden, Kathy Fox, and Tammy Dewitt). Congratulations again, Mrs. Kuskey!



Early Retirement Incentive

Classroom teachers are eligible for a \$500 bonus as long as they have submitted written notification of their intent to retire to their county boards by January 15, 2014, continue to work through the end of this school year, and do not work on or after the first day of the instructional term for the 2014-15 school year. Marshall County Schools also offers the \$500.00 early notification incentive stipend to those professionals not covered by the State stipend and all service employees. You must submit **written notice** to Corey Murphy, Personnel Director for Marshall County Schools, on or before **January 15, 2014**, to be eligible for the \$500.00 stipend.