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Continental Local Schools

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New Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Ensures a Better Start

At Continental Local School, we want all students to enjoy school from the day they enter kindergarten. Coming to kindergarten with certain skills already in place makes learning easier for your child. For example, children whose families have read to them and children who can draw some basic letters have an easier time learning to read. That's important, because reading lays the foundation for learning throughout their school years.

This fall, we will begin using a better way to determine what our kindergarten students know and can do. This more accurate information will help teachers better identify what each student needs to succeed in kindergarten.

Teachers will use Ohio's new Kindergarten Readiness Assessment to get a snapshot of every child's knowledge and skills in six areas: social skills, math, science, social studies, language and literacy, physical well-being and motor development.

How the assessment works

The teacher will assess every child in the class. Sometimes the teacher will work with your child alone. Sometimes he or she will observe your child during everyday classroom activities.

In some cases, the teacher will ask your child to answer questions that have only one correct answer. For example, the teacher will read your child a very short story and ask simple questions about the story. At other times, the teacher will look at how well your child can complete an activity, such as sorting shapes.

The results of your child's assessments will not appear on his or her report card. No score can keep your child from continuing in kindergarten. The results simply help the teacher work more effectively with your student.

Supporting your child in school as he or she takes the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, and helping with your child's learning at home, will help us make sure your child has a bright future in school.

Happenings Around Continental Local Schools

9/1	Labor Day – No School	9/11	HS Fall Picture Day
9/3	Elem Pictures (Preschool thru 3 rd Grade)	9/18	JH Fundraiser – Orders Due Jostens Meeting w/Frosh & Seniors
9/4	Elem Pictures (Preschool and 4 th -6 th Grade)	9/23	College Fair @ Defiance College – Srs.
9/6	Band to BGSU Football Game	9/25	Jostens Orders Due
9/7	Band @ Pioneer Parade	9/26	1 st Quarter Midterm – Early Dismissal ASVAB Test – Juniors
9/9	JH Fundraiser Kicks Off	9/28	Band @ Fall Festival Parade

Class of 2018 and Beyond To Have New Graduation Requirements

Students starting ninth grade this fall will have new state requirements for earning a high school diploma. The change will ensure that our students are better prepared for success after high school whether they attend college, pursue other training or go directly into a job.

What's New

Students have three ways to qualify for graduation:

- Earn an appointed, combined passing score on a series of seven end-of-course exams in English, math, physical science, American history and American government. Students who take physical science, American history or American government as part of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or College Credit Plus programs can take the end-of-course exams designed for these courses instead of the state's end-of-course exams. This will avoid double testing.
- Earn a "remediation-free" score on a nationally recognized college admission exam, such as the ACT or SAT. The score must show that a student will not need to take high school-level review courses in college before earning college credits. Every student entering ninth grade this year, and all those beyond,

College Visits

9/10	Heidelberg
9/12	Findlay
9/17	Ohio Northern
9/22	Inst. of Ther. Massage
9/23	St Francis
9/29	Lourdes University

- Earn an industry-recognized "credential" or state license to practice a vocation and receive a score on a job-skills test that shows the student is ready for employment.

What Will Not Change

Students who have exceeded Ohio's curriculum requirements for graduation have an opportunity to earn a diploma with honors.

To graduate, students still must earn a certain number of credits in English, math, science, social studies, physical education, health and elective courses.

Through the class of 2019, students can meet alternative requirements in mathematics and science.

The state has designed these options to ensure that every high school student has access to a high-quality education and is prepared for success in college and careers. Be sure to monitor your child's high school coursework and credits, and encourage your child to do the same.

For more details, visit education.ohio.gov and type *new graduation requirements* in the Search box.

TEACHERS RECEIVE GRANTS FOR CLASSROOM PROJECTS

Several teachers were awarded with grants over the summer for various projects within their classrooms to take place this year. The Cooper Family Foundation awarded grants to six teachers totaling \$3,000. The grant money will go toward classroom equipment, reading materials, learning tools, and project supplies. Teachers receiving the Cooper Education Grant are Lisa Benton, Jennifer Hopps, Jill Krutsch, Pam Retcher, Terri Schlegel, Kathy Schmiedebusch, and Sharon Siebeneck. We are thankful for the Cooper Family Foundation's support of our teachers and students.

Pam Retcher is also the recipient of a \$500 grant through the Elmer's & Kids in Need Foundation Teacher Tool Kit Grants.

Reminder: Parents of Pirates meet the first Monday of each month at 6:30 pm in the elementary library.

Ohio School Report Cards to Measure Schools in Two New Areas

Most students receive report cards showing how well they are performing in school. Likewise, each fall Ohio issues report cards to its school districts and schools. Using A-F letter grades, Ohio School Report Cards detail how well schools and districts are doing in areas that affect your child's education.

The reports contain information such as how students are scoring on annual achievement tests and how much they have learned from the beginning of the school year to the end. The reports measure districts and schools on how many of their students are graduating on time as well as whether students of all incomes, races and cultures are getting the support they need to learn.

The Ohio Department of Education will release school and district report cards for the 2013-2014 school year in September 2014. This year, the reports measure two additional areas:

K-3 Literacy: This grade relates to Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee and measures how well schools and districts are helping young students who are reading below grade level.

Prepared for Success: These measures report how well schools and districts are preparing their students for college or a career. There are no letter grades, but data are reported for six categories. Among them are how many students graduated with honors or earned college credit or industry credentials by graduation.

The Ohio School Report Cards also report financial information showing spending and performance for districts, community schools and STEM schools. From them, you can learn how much is spent and how much is directed to classroom instruction. The data also report how your school and district's spending compares to that of others. The financial data is added to Ohio School Report Cards later in the school year.

For more details on the Ohio School Report Cards, visit reportcard.education.ohio.gov.

Energy Savings Important Part of District Finances

One of the biggest ways that the school district has been able to save money in recent years has been through energy cost-saving measures.

Several new initiatives have been put into place that would allow us to save money. These include the installation of a new ice bank chiller system to replace a troubled air conditioning system at the elementary building. This new system allows the building to build ice during the overnight hours – running the chiller during off-peak hours.

An old boiler was replaced in the high school. The new boiler is propane powered and runs at a 92% efficiency or better, compared to the old boiler which was only 62% efficient. A [dedicated HVAC unit](#) was also installed in the high school server closet this past year that paid for itself in savings in under six months.

Another important area of energy savings has been the installation of improved energy efficient lighting. This

includes the installation of new energy efficient LED's this past spring for lighting on the exterior of the buildings and parking lots. The improvements will pay for themselves in savings in less than five years.

There have also been lighting changes within the building. These include changes to lighting in the hallways and classrooms. Motion sensor lighting has been installed in areas where consistent lighting isn't always necessary. This has been done in the cafeterias and bathrooms throughout the buildings. Lights have also been replaced in the high school gym – giving us the option of having two different levels of brightness.

Our head of maintenance and custodians, Mark Siebeneck, has played an important role in securing incentive packages and rebates for many of the changes that have been made. He has been able to save the district more than \$30,000 just in rebates and incentives over the last four years.