



**Board of Education
Members:**
Dean Bidlack
Ron Bradford
Robin Etter
Chad Olds
Mike Zachrich

Continental Local Schools

5211 St Rt 634
 Continental, OH 45831
 419-596-3671
 February, 2015

Superintendent:
Joel Mengerink

**HS Dean of
Students / Athletic
Director:**
Tim Eding

**Elementary
Principal:**
Brian Gerdeman

Kindergarten Registration Under Way

Continental Elementary School began its Kindergarten registration last month. If your child will be 5 years of age before September 30th, 2015 they are eligible for Kindergarten. Continental has a full day/every day kindergarten program. Registration forms can be obtained and completed in the elementary office. The school will also need copies of the student's immunization record, birth certificate, and social security card. The deadline for registration is April 1st due to screening in April. If you have any questions, please call the elementary office at 419-596-3860.

Students to Begin New Statewide Testing This Month

Students in grades 3 through 9 will begin new statewide testing during the month of February. For 5th and 7th graders, this will mean the first look at new online testing. Students in the other grade levels will also experience different kinds of assessments but continue using paper and pencil testing to complete it.

The 5th & 7th graders were able to go through a small practice run on January 29th to see what the testing would be like. This also gave the district a chance to see what kind of bugs still existed with this technique.

The first test students will take will be for English-Language Arts (ELA). This test will take place on February 17th. The following day, students will then take the first section of the new math test. The remaining test schedule can be found on the [school website](#). On test days in which school is delayed, testing will take place after lunch.

Please make sure that you child/children are getting plenty of sleep before these tests, and encourage them to give it their best effort!

Department of Education's Recommendations to Reduce Testing a Start

The Ohio Department of Education recently announced a recommendation to reduce some student testing. This proposal was a required report from the state legislature, however, these recommendations do not go far enough.

Currently, students spend on average about 19.8 hours testing per year. Along with that, students spend about 15 additional hours taking practice tests. Between practice tests and the actual tests, students are spending about a week on formal state tests. This does not include time that teachers spend preparing students for the new online assessments. They are having to do this because of the tools that are used as a part of the assessments.

While we do not disagree that some testing is needed to monitor and improve student performance, and to hold schools and teachers accountable, we believe the reduction in testing needs to more than the recommended 2-4 hours that the state is making. How about cutting testing time by at least half?!

Happenings Around Continental Local Schools

2/3	All A's Recognition @ Game	2/6	Homecoming Dance @ 7 pm	2/12	Vision & Scoliosis Screenings
2/4	Sophomores Visit Vantage	2/7	County Science Fair @ FJ	2/13	Midterm
2/4	Quiz Bowl vs. WT	2/7	Homecoming Game vs. CG	2/18	Quiz Bowl @ PG
2/5	Quiz Bowl vs Kalida	2/11	Quiz Bowl vs. CG	2/25	Quiz Bowl vs. Ottoville

WHAT'S CHANGING IN OHIO EDUCATION

Ohio's Elementary and High School State Tests

What are they? State tests measure student progress toward Ohio's New Learning Standards. The results show whether students have the knowledge and skills necessary to move successfully to their next steps in education or a career.

State tests are the Ohio Achievement Assessment for third-grade reading and the Ohio Graduation Tests for students who entered ninth grade before July 1, 2014. The state tests also include new tests for grades 3-8 and new high school exams, which are required for first-time for the class of 2018—students starting grade 9 after July 1, 2014.

Each new state test has two parts. The first is called performance-based and the second is called end-of-year. The student's scores on the two are combined to create a final score for each subject.

Students will solve multi-step problems that require reasoning and address real-world situations on the performance-based test. The end-of-year test requires students to demonstrate an understanding of concepts and procedures as well as carrying out short applications.

Districts have the option only in the 2014-2015 school year to give the tests on computers, in paper format or a combination of both by content level or grade level.

The Ohio Achievement Assessment will continue this year only for third-grade reading. The Ohio Graduation Tests will continue as one requirement for earning a high school diploma for the classes of 2015 through 2017.

Which grades and subjects?

Grade 3 Reading – Ohio Achievement Assessment in paper format in fall 2014, spring 2015 and summer 2015

Grades 3-8 English language arts (grades 4-8), mathematics (grades 3-8), social studies (grades 4 and 6) and science (grades 5 and 8) – new state tests in computer and paper formats

High School Classes of 2015, 2016 and 2017 – Ohio Graduation Tests in paper format Class of 2018 – New state tests in computer and paper formats in English language arts I and II, algebra 1, geometry (or integrated mathematics I and II), physical science, American history, American government

Ohio | Department
of Education

News From the Elementary

Fifth Graders Learn About Sound

Students in Mrs. Baughman's fifth grade science class recently studied about sound and how it is produced. As part of their final project they had to develop an instrument that made sound. The students had to describe how the sound was produced and play a short song using their instrument. Pictured to the left is Luke Recker and his instrument that used various sized PVC tubes to create sound.

Family Game Night Scheduled for March

Parents of Pirates will be hosting "Family Game Night" on March 14th from 6-9 p.m. in the elementary gym and cafeteria. There will be life-size games to play such as Jenga, Kerplunk, Connect 4, Plinko, etc. There will also be lots of board games and card games too. Light snacks will be provided. We hope that you plan to join in on the fun in March.

