

Hall Elementary School

Progressing Toward Proficiency

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Science 'matters' to Hall third graders

Spend some time in Candace Herren's 3rd grade classroom and you may find yourself shocked by the students' level of understanding and by the science specific vocabulary they use so fluently.

You may even be embarrassed that these 3rd graders have a greater understanding of certain scientific concepts than most adults! Ms. Herren and her classes currently are field-testing an innovative science program for Nancy Larson Publishing, which is aligned with national science standards and reinforces the reading concepts found in the "4 Blocks" organizational model which has been successfully used in the district for years.

Ms. Herren took the necessary steps to become a field tester for Nancy Larson Publishing which gives her students and the school the privilege of receiving a variety of free field test materials. Ms. Herren will take what she and her students learn from the program and share this knowledge at a four day training this April in Connecticut.

Anyone interested in the quality of instruction or the level of learning at Hall Elementary should spend a few minutes in Ms. Herren's science classroom and witness the in-depth understanding of scientific principles displayed by every member of her class. When these students are assessed in science during their 4th grade year, there is little doubt of the improvement the school will show due to Ms. Herren and her students' hard work.



Principal, math teachers teaming up for greater success

Principal James Clem and the mathematics teachers at Hall Elementary are determined to see math scores rise for all of their students.

There is no way to hide the fact math scores in certain grades at Hall have not been up to *No Child Left Behind* standards, but that is all about to change!

Prior to the beginning of school, Mr. Clem and the math staff recognized that they faced a tremendous challenge — the way they were teaching math had to change if the school was going to

meet its math objective for 2007.

Mr. Clem, his math teachers, and district support staff set about making changes that would insure that students at Hall received the best math instruction possible. A clear plan was developed with numerous changes and strategies all designed to make certain Hall's math scores not only rise, but hopefully "skyrocket."

At the heart of the plan was the idea that all 4th through 8th
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Teachers Jamie Middleton, John Carter, Ben Johnson, Karen Cox, Principal James Clem, Trish Crider and Sandra Lynn

Hall media specialist first in school district to earn National Board Certification

Chamayne Johnson recently became the first teacher in the Harlan County Public School District to achieve National Board Certification.

National Board Certification is the highest credential in the teaching profession!

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and more than 700 local school districts recognize National Board certification as a mark of distinction.



CHAMAYNE JOHNSON

Mrs. Johnson joins an elite group of only 218 teachers from across Kentucky who gained National Board Certification in 2006. She is now recognized as being among the nation's top educators.

At this time there are only 29 media specialists in the entire state who have received National Board Certification.

Mrs. Johnson currently serves the students at Hall as the school librarian.

The entire staff of the district is very proud of Mrs. Johnson's accomplishment.

Basketball success boosts pride

The Hall Gamecocks 7/8th grade boys' basketball team is off to a fantastic start.

The team currently has nine wins and only three losses in district games which count toward tournament rankings.



The Hall Basketball Team

The last time the Hall 7/8th grade team posted a winning record was during the 2000-2001 season. The boys 7/8th grade basketball teams have really struggled over the last five years but this year may be the turning point for the school's basketball program.

This year's team, led by new coach John Carter, is hungry for success and is motivated to win through hard work and dedication.

Since the purpose of this newsletter is to promote the positive academic initiatives, accomplishments, and programs offered at Hall Elementary, some of you may be wondering why we would spotlight the recent success of the boys' basketball team. The answer to that question lies in the development of school pride and a winning attitude.

Developing a winning attitude in athletics is one step in the creation of school pride. School pride is something which can hopefully be transferred over to academics.

When assessment time arrives this spring, we hope to capitalize on the success of the boys' basketball team and transfer their winning spirit over to the schools performance on the CATS test.

We invite all students, parents, and community members to come out and support both 5/6th and 7/8th grade basketball teams as tournament time approaches.

Math

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grade students would have both a skills oriented math class and an application oriented class taught by two different instructors who would correlate lessons with one another to give the students a double dose of every concept.

The math teachers have been equipped with the latest technology and given any resource they need to provide the highest quality instruction. The math teachers all feel a tremendous sense of urgency and there is a lot of personal pride associated with insuring that their students can demonstrate proficiency on this year's state test.

Sandra Lynn utilizes that latest technology and her

years of teaching experience to provide instruction to 3rd graders. John Carter provides skills instruction to 4th and 5th graders. Jamie Middleton, Trish Crider, and Karen Cox provide application and enrichment classes. Brett Johnson and Ben Johnson form the 6th, 7th and 8th grade math team. Mr. Brett Johnson provides skills instruction, while Mr. Ben Johnson follows with lessons which stress real world application of those same skills.

Earn bonus points for your child

Parents: After reviewing this newsletter, sign below, clip and return to your child's teacher.