

CLAYSBURG - KIMMEL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS



MARCH 2016

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 2

Who Is New in 2016?

January 4th, 2016 brought a new High School Principal to Claysburg-Kimmel, Stephen Puskar from the Pittsburgh area. Mr. Puskar brings over 25 years of experience to the position, 17 of which have been in administration from urban, suburban as well as rural schools.

Twelve weeks into 2016, you may have encountered Mr. Puskar at an athletic event or another program happening at Claysburg-Kimmel. If you have not had the opportunity to meet or contact Mr. Puskar, do not hesitate. He has made your children and their education his priority.

Another new face since February is Matt Bilchak from Portage. Mr. Bilchak is the school counselor at the high school. He replaces Ms. Hinkledire who is on a leave of absence for the remainder of the school year. As a counselor in North Carolina, Mr. Bilchak also worked with the football team.

Both men are committed to using their experiences and expertise to continue to support CK students as they learn and grow into responsible productive citizens. Mr. Puskar can be reached at 239-5141 ext. 1302. Mr. Bilchak's number is the same with his extension being 1308. Take a few minutes to meet them.

After School STEM

Thanks to a grant from the Claysburg Education Foundation an After-School Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program has been in place at the elementary prior to the first of the year and at the high school since January. Many students, parents, volunteers and teachers are working with Nancy Gobert, who serves as the coordinator for the program. A variety of activities are used to work within a monthly theme. If interested in the remaining sessions, contact a building principal for more information.

PSSA & Keystone Testing

It will soon be the time of year when the testing windows for PSSA and Keystone tests are upon us. In the next several days you will be receiving letters from each of the principals with information, a calendar and helpful hints for easing the anxiety of these tests. Below are some of the highlights:

- *All 3rd – 8th graders will take PSSA tests in English Language Arts and Math; 4th grade will also take a Science test.*
- *The PSSA window opens April 11th and continues through April 29th. Not every day will be a test day!!*
- *Keystone tests are end-of-course tests given at the end of Algebra I, Biology and 10th grade English.*
- *The Keystone window is scheduled for May 16th – May 27th.*
- *For all students taking these tests:*
 1. Get a good night's sleep
 2. Eat a good breakfast either at home or school. Snacks will be provided during testing windows.
 3. Do the best you can, review your work and take your time.
 4. Be present because students will have make-up sessions.

While the State uses these scores in calculating our School Performance Profile (SPP), we understand that these tests are just one measure of the Claysburg-Kimmel School District and its students. The State understands a more holistic approach is better, and we support that concept!

Extra-Curricular Highlights

Claysburg-Kimmel students in both the elementary and high school have been very busy achieving and preparing to achieve outside the classroom. Below are a few highlights:

- The Arts have had a good festival season as the Jr. High and Sr. High students have participated at the county, district and regional levels in both band and chorus. The elementary festival season is up-coming. Again CK will be well represented.
- Students at both levels also gave back to the community through their fundraising efforts to help the American Heart Association, Cove Relay for Life, Salvation Army and a project for Veterans.
- The Jr. High Scholastic Scrimmage team advanced to the final four. Twenty-five plus FBLAers are preparing for the States. Readers have been working through a booklist in order to be ready for their competition the last day of March.
- In athletics every level in every sport worked hard to advance to the next step beyond the regular season. Spring sports are no different as the weather has been very cooperative for getting outside early in the season.

Thank you for your role in making these activities possible. We appreciate all of the hard work and dedication you provide for the students of Claysburg-Kimmel.

Backpack Program

A weekend food program has been in place at the elementary since November. On the last day of the week, volunteers pack a bag of food for 100 of our elementary students. The program is a combined effort of the Claysburg-East Freedom Ministerium and the District. Christ Lutheran holds the tax exempt status for those who would like to donate. For more information regarding enrollment, donating or volunteering contact the Elementary or ckbackpack@aol.com

Coming Soon!

March:

- 30 – Spring sports contests begin
- 31 – Report cards distributed

April:

- 4- 8 – Elementary book fair
- 7- Elementary book bingo
- 10 – 13 – State FBLA
- 11- 29 – PSSA Testing Window
- 22 – Two-hour early dismissal
- 27 – Midterm progress reports issued

May:

- 5 – Elementary Spring Concert
- 6 – Jr. High Spring Concert
- 7 – Prom
- 10 – Sr. High Spring Concert
- 16 – 27 – Keystone testing
- 16 – Blair County Reassessment Meeting
- 18 – Honors Banquet
- 20 – Kindergarten Recognition
- 26 – Elementary Award Night
- 27 – Last day of school
- 28 - Baccalaureate
- 29 - Graduation

These are just a few of the exciting items and events happening within our District in the next nine weeks. We all know there are field trips and ball games to remember as well. Stay tuned as the year continues to move quickly to June. One of the best ways to stay on top of all these activities is to use our Facebook page or website. Those addresses are:

<http://www.cksdbulldogs.com>
www.facebook.com/ClaysburgKimmel

Summer activities and announcements may also be listed on these pages. Activities could include any and all types of camps for students. The announcements may include a sports physical date, 7th grade orientation date, Meet the Teacher Night and many others.

Enjoy the remainder of the school year and have a safe and fun-filled summer!