

Hanover Community School Corporation

**Hanover Central High School
Hanover Central Middle School
Jane Ball Elementary * Lincoln Elementary**

From Superintendent Thomas L. Taylor

Every month, I have the opportunity to recognize students who have accomplished or achieved great things. This recognition takes place at the beginning of each school board meeting. After a recent board meeting, while driving home, it struck me again that we have a lot of students who have incredible skills and talents, but beyond this skill and talent is the incredible amount of time that our students, teachers, and coaches spend together in order to develop these gifts. Our kids are also learning the value and importance of hard work, commitment, teamwork, how to take direction, leadership, and how to deal with failure and success.

Every year, our band and choir kids perform at the highest levels in local, regional, and state-level competitions. We have students that are selected to perform in state band and choral honor groups. Many of these students also perform in our theatre productions in the fall and spring.

We have students who give outstanding efforts in after-school clubs and organizations, many of who are involved in community service activities. Our kids have helped food pantries, shelters, and community service organizations serve those who are less fortunate.

Of course, we continue to have students who excel in athletics. Our individual and team awards are through the roof. A number of our athletes earn scholarships and grants-in-aid to further their education.

I could go on and on about the skills and talents of our kids. However, it would be far better to see this for yourself. I invite you to attend one of our concerts, productions, or contests. There can be no greater sense of pride than to see the hard work and dedication of so many realized. I truly believe that if you see our kids in person, you too, will walk away with the same sense of amazement and wonder that I feel after recognizing our students. After all, aren't they the reason we are all here?

Trends in State Support Eric Kurtz - Director of Business Services

There has been much discussion about the how our State funds local schools. Indiana's General Assembly, our State Senators and State Representatives, announced increased funding for K-12 education in the July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017 biennium budget. What does this really mean for our students and educational programs here in the Hanover Community Schools?

Looking at our general school funding which includes; tuition, full-day kindergarten and complexity, (the index used by the state to determine poverty levels) the support received from the State of Indiana for Hanover Schools has not fared as well as other districts in the state. This school year, 2015-16, Hanover Community Schools expects to receive State support of \$5,376 per student; which is \$38 more per student or an increase of seven tenths of a percent (0.7%) over what we received in 2014-15. For 2014-15 we received \$5,339 per student which was a decrease of \$45 per student or a reduction of eight tenths of a percent (-0.8%) from our 2013-14 funding of \$5,383 per student. Hanover Community School's state support for 2015-16 is \$7 per student less than we received two years ago in 2013-14. These are the facts – these are actual per student tuition, full-day kindergarten and complexity support your schools received from the State of Indiana.

I have been told by members of our community they were informed "the schools would be receiving a big increase this year." This simply is not the case; the fact is we are receiving seven dollars (\$7) less per student than we received two (2) years ago.

For 2015-16 Indiana's public and charter schools receive State support averaging \$5,879 per student; again Hanover Community School Corporation receives \$5,376 or \$503 less per student than the average. Hanover Community Schools ranks 331 in State tuition support out of 365 public and charter schools.

It is important to know that if we received average State tuition support that would mean an additional \$1-million in funding for our programming. We believe that our community understands that every dollar spent by Hanover Schools is carefully monitored and our students continue to receive the best education, per dollar, in the state of Indiana. We will continue to carefully watch tuition support trends and provide you with honest and transparent updates as they become available.



Middle School student, Carina Bolanos (center), shown with family members, was recognized at the February Board Meeting and performed her gold award winning solo from the ISSMA competition.

Hanover Community School Corporation

Our Student's Safety

Hanover schools recognize the opportunities provided by the use of technology and social media, but we also recognize the dangers they sometimes present. In an effort to enhance our partnership with parents, we have added important links, information and stories to our webpage at www.hanover.k12.in.us. To access this information click on 'Departments' and select 'School Safety.' You will also have the opportunity to learn more about our School Resource Officer, Lane Linder. If you have specific concerns, you should feel free to reach out to Officer Linder via email at sro@hanover.k12.in.us or by phone at (219) 374-3882.

This Winter At Hanover Schools

The winter began with students at all four Hanover schools sharing their compassion for those less fortunate. Collections of food, clothing and other items were gathered and distributed to various community organizations. These efforts are not easy to complete, nor easy to ignore. The leadership and organizational skills of our students are second to none. As the holidays came and went, January and February were 'back to business' months at our schools. At all grade levels, our students learned that their futures are bright and their destiny is in their own hands, but we promise to continue helping them on their journey. At the high school, Erik Lakomek and Madison Fanta brought us to our knees by being chosen as two of only five national award winners for their '*Power of Children Award*,' while Senior Jacob Maish became a published author. At Lincoln Elementary School, first graders learned that they are the perfect age to become the next generation of explorers in outer space from Commander Becky Manis of the Challenger Space Center, as well as what it means to be a farmer and that someday, in the not too distant future, they may be riding on school buses that smell like french fries. Our middle school students tackled the tough subjects raised in the 1960's award winning novel, *The Outsiders*. They thrilled us with their 'PSA' announcements and understanding of the issues facing today's middle and high school students.



Our service minded students didn't ignore their philanthropic tendencies just because the holidays were over. Students at Jane Ball Elementary School continue to recycle plastic caps and lids to help the earth and to help earn a new bench for their playground. They also held a fundraiser to support the children in Flint, Michigan and collected enough pet products to fill a pick-up truck for the Lake County Animal Adoption and Control Center. Our Key Club kids offered an afternoon of free fun at the ever popular Free Fitness Fair and their middle school counterparts, the Builder's Club, held a hat day to benefit the American Heart Association.

Our students are also being exposed to some very important curriculum initiatives. One District, One Book kicked off at the beginning of February and by the month's end, over 800 elementary school students will have read '*Stuart Little*' with their families. The ISTEP Experience was introduced to allow our students and their families the ability to familiarize themselves with the planned technology format of the spring tests, currently scheduled to begin in April.

Our choir and band students from the middle school and high school brought home a collective 47 gold medals and 31 silver medals from the ISSMA contests held at the end of January. Our athletes continue to impress with the most recent success coming from the semi-state wrestling tournament where two of our athletes, Evan Larson and Ashton Matuwa, qualified for the state tournament.

Where do our students get their talent and drive for excellence? Those lessons begin at home and we thank all of our Hanover families for sharing their children with us every day and letting us help point them to the bright futures they so richly deserve.

What's Next?

It's impossible to list all of the accomplishments and activities of our corporation and our students in these two short pages. It's equally impossible to list all of the upcoming activities. Just a couple of important highlights coming up very quickly include; the 2nd annual Bingo Eagles Fundraiser (March 19) and the annual Hanover Central Athletic Booster Dinner Dance and Silent Auction (April 15). Both Lincoln and Jane Ball Elementary Schools will be hosting their annual Kindergarten Information meetings on March 9th and 10th, respectively. Details of upcoming events can be found on our website at www.hanover.k12.in.us and be sure to "like" us on Facebook for the latest news and updates.