The BOARD REPORT

October 27, 2026 • Issue 45

KSA Results: Progress, Priorities

Assistant Superintendent Kelly Fithen reviewed district-wide Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) results, highlighting areas of improvement, continued successes, and opportunities for growth. Each assessed school's admin team followed with a short recap of their own.

Takeaways:

- Student growth is happening across CCPS. Schools shared improvements in reading, math, science, and other tested areas. Several gains were noted among specific student groups, including students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged students.
- Reading and math remain major priorities. Schools are working to reduce the number of students performing at the novice level while helping more students move into proficient and distinguished performance levels.
- Strong classroom instruction is a priority. All principals referenced high-quality instructional resources, Tier 1 instruction, cooperative learning strategies, professional learning communities, instructional coaching, and targeted interventions.
- Schools are using data to guide decisions. Principals discussed reviewing results, tracking subgroup progress, identifying students nearing the next level, and tailoring instruction to student needs.
- Relationships and school climate matter. Several principals emphasized student engagement, attendance, belonging and meaningful relationships with adults as important parts of academic success.
- Rather than making changes simply for the sake of change, principals discussed refining existing strategies, strengthening instruction, and making targeted adjustments where results show a need.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, Nov. 17 - 6pm

NOTABLE & QUOTABLE

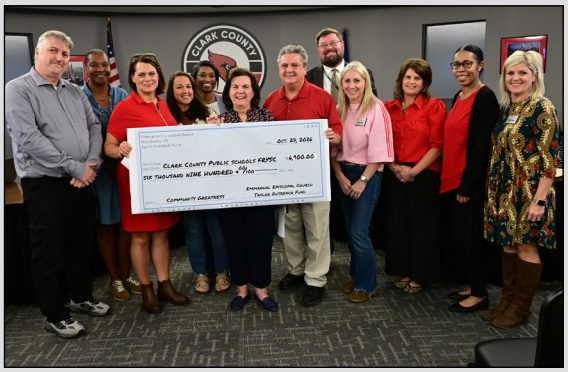
We're growing, we're getting better, we're working our guts out for kids, and we'll continue to do all of that.

-Superintendent Dustin Howard

GROWING GREATNESS
CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education
GREATNESS RECOGNITIONS
Pages 3-10

Emmanuel Episcopal gives annual gift of support



Emmanuel Episcopal Church presented a $6,900 check Tuesday night to our Family Resource Youth Service Center coordinators, continuing a years-long commitment to supporting students and families. The Board honored Emmanuel Episcopal as Engaged Citizens. See Recognition on Page 3.

Clark County Board of Education - The Board Report - Oct. 27, 2026

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KSA: Gains, Areas of Focus

CCPS received its Kentucky Summative Assessment results in mid-October and has been analyzing the data to evaluate current initiatives and identify next steps. The district-wide recap, along with a graphic synopsis of each school's KSA results, may be found **in our online magazine**, ***The Cardinal Rule***.

Additional Business

The Board unanimously approved:

- Payments to Codell Construction for ongoing Baker and RDC projects, and to Ross Tarrant Architects for design development and project oversight of the RDC and Baker baseball and softball field designs.
- The initial Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) grant offer, including the district's required local match for next year.
- A Memorandum of Understanding with the Clark County Winchester Heritage Commission regarding the Holly Rood property, clarifying ownership and transferring maintenance and liability responsibilities for a portion of the property to the Commission.
- A letter of interest to Milestone Towers, allowing district leadership to explore a potential partnership involving district property.
- Board members' attendance at the KSBA Winter Symposium December 4-5 in Louisville.
- Acknowledged the annual 3R and 504 chairperson report, identifying trained ARC and 504 chairs.
- Approved an overnight trip for GRC student Hannah Bastin, a JAG state officer, to attend the National Student Leadership Academy in Washington, D.C.
- The Financial Report, payment of salaries and accounts payable, and Consent Agenda items. VIEW AGENDA



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dustin Howard

Superintendent Howard highlighted the district's ongoing efforts to improve student achievement, support staff, and strengthen family engagement. The district will conduct its second annual i-Ready reading and math assessment window in December, with future Board updates planned to review student progress, project state assessment performance, and identify students needing additional support.

District and school leaders are also developing their annual Continuous District Improvement Plans (CDIP), which identifies areas for growth, improvement strategies, and resource needs. This process includes reviewing school safety, conducting needs assessments, and evaluating curriculum and instructional resources.

Howard highlighted the Year One and Year Two New Teacher Cohorts, which provide ongoing, targeted professional development for new educators. The district will work with principals in the spring to align future PD with school improvement plans and staff needs.

CCPS will host its annual Greatness and Gratitude Holiday Lunches beginning November 17, inviting families to visit their child's school, share a delicious meal, and spend time together.

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GREATNESS RECOGNITIONS

The Clark County Board of Education Greatness Recognitions honor staff, students, and community members who exemplify one or more of the Portrait of a Clark County Learner competencies. Recipients must be nominated by staff, and are chosen by a selection committee based on set criteria related to the Portrait of A Learner.

GROWING GREATNESS
CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ENGAGED CITIZEN

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Emmanuel Episcopal Church continues to be a valued partner in supporting students and families throughout Clark County Public Schools. Through its annual donation, the church provides valuable support to Family Resource and Youth Services Centers throughout the district, giving coordinators the resources and flexibility to provide emergency assistance to families facing unexpected challenges. We are grateful for Emmanuel Episcopal Church's continued investment in the well-being of Clark County students and the Winchester community. We proudly recognize their commitment to being Engaged Ciizens as they remove barriers, support families, and help every student succeed.

-Kent Coogle, Nominator

Emmanuel Episcopal's donation of $6,900 for this school year is part of an ongoing financial commitment the church makes to support our students and families. Church representatives Therese Smith, Mary T. Yeiser, and Henry Branham presented a check to each FRYSC coordinator.

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ENGAGED CITIZEN

BAILEY CONKWRIGHT • EMERSON FAWNS
BAILEY OLIVER • FARRAH WORLAND



It is my distinct honor and privilege to nominate Bailey Conkwright, Bayleigh Oliver, Emerson Fawns, and Farrah Worland for recognition for their extraordinary student leadership at Robert D. Campbell Junior High School as Engaged Citizens. Together, this exceptional group of four students took the initiative to organize and orchestrate the weekly Robert D. Campbell Star Student program. At its core, active citizenship begins within one's immediate community. An Engaged Citizen does not simply occupy space in a school building; they actively enrich it, advocating for others and building environments where everyone can thrive. A school community's culture isn't defined just by what happens in the classroom; it's built on how we lift each other up. Bailey, Bayleigh, Emerson, and Farrah embody active school citizenship in its highest form. Rather than waiting for recognition to be handed down by adults, they took ownership of building up their peers. By celebrating the character, academic growth, and everyday kindnesses of RDC students, they have helped foster a supportive culture where positive behavior and effort are championed daily. Doing this once is commendable—running it seamlessly week after week requires real responsibility, commitment, and heart. Bailey, Bayleigh, Emerson, and Farrah represent the absolute best of Robert D. Campbell Junior High School. They don't just learn about community leadership—they model it for all of us every day. Please join me in recognizing Bailey Conkwright, Bayleigh Oliver, Emerson Fawns, and Farrah Worland for their outstanding contributions to Robert D. Campbell Jr. High School.

-Tiffany Smith, Nominator

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EMPOWERED LEADER COMMITTED COLLABORATOR

SHEARER 4TH GRADE TEAM



Our incredible fourth-grade team is consistently going above and beyond as Empowered Leaders and Committed Collaborators. By organizing and leading an unforgettable overnight 4-H field trip, they gave our students a priceless experience and created memories that will truly last a lifetime.

-Diana Jackson, Nominator

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EMPOWERED LEADER ENGAGED CITIZEN

GRC HOMECOMING TEAM



Each year, we embark on planning a Homecoming celebration for our students and community, but this year truly went above and beyond. I want to take a moment to recognize four individuals who were at the heart of making all of that happen. From the parade and community pep rally to the student pep rally, the themes throughout the week, the door decorations, and the community window decorations, there were so many moving pieces that had to be planned, organized, and executed. These four individuals took on that work and made it all come together. What I appreciate most is that they didn't simply plan events—they created opportunities for our students, staff, families, and community to come together and celebrate GRC. Through their work, they modeled what it means to be Empowered Leaders and Engaged Citizens. A week like this doesn't happen without people willing to put in countless hours behind the scenes, think through all the details, solve problems, and keep everything moving forward. Their work often happens quietly, but it absolutely does not go unnoticed. GRC is incredibly lucky to have these four individuals who care so much about our school and our community. We are grateful for everything they did to make this year's Homecoming celebration one that our students and community will remember.

-Emily Cook, Nominator

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ENGAGED CITIZEN

NORTHEAST AHEC



We would like to recognize Northeast AHEC and representative Kellie Jones for truly embodying what it means to be an Engaged Citizen. Their continued commitment to our Health Science students provides them with valuable hands-on experiences that go far beyond the classroom. Through their support, our students have the opportunity to explore healthcare careers, gain real-world experience, interact with healthcare professionals, and better understand what it takes to be successful in the healthcare field. These experiences help our students build confidence, make meaningful connections, and see the possibilities that exist within their future careers. Northeast AHEC continues to invest their time, knowledge, and resources into our students and our community. Their dedication to helping develop the next generation of healthcare professionals is making a lasting impact. Thank you, Northeast AHEC, for being an outstanding Engaged Citizen and for giving our students opportunities to learn, explore, and experience healthcare firsthand!

-Dr. Jessi McCullough, Nominator

Pictured with Dr. McCullough and Superintendent Howard is Kellie Jones, Northeast AHEC Assistant Director

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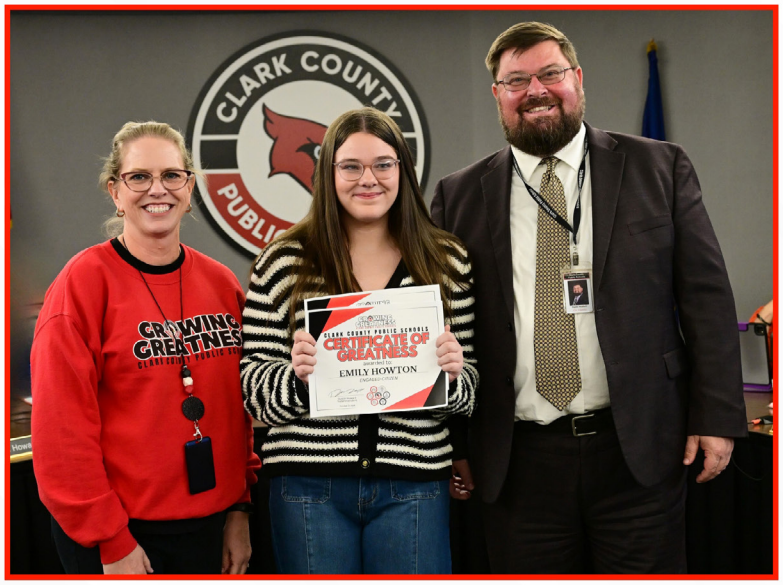
ENGAGED CITIZEN

EMILY HOWTON



Think Critically. Lead Confidently. Serve Purposefully. The Civic Leadership Institute is a multi-year program offered to sophomores and juniors in collaboration between the Center for Gifted Studies at Western Kentucky University and the McConnell Center at the University of Louisville. It is designed to help high school students grow as critical thinkers, confident leaders, and engaged citizens. Only 20 sophomores and 20 juniors from the entire state were chosen to participate as part of a highly competitive application process. Emily Howton was chosen to represent Clark County. Her dedication to collaboration, integrity, initiative, innovation, building community connections, cultivating vision, and an eager mindset sets an example for others. She will connect with ambitious peers from across the state, community leaders, and local/state/national politicians while completing a community action project to be completed at the end of the 2 years. For all these reasons, I nominate Emily Howton for recognition for her GREATNESS as an Engaged Citizen.

-Michelle Cason, Nominator

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ENGAGED CITIZEN

NICOLE NEWSOME • BRITTANY WINBURN

COMMUNITY TRUST BANK



Nicole Newsome and Brittany Winburn with Community Trust Bank have been Engaged Citizens with Conkwright for several years now. Their latest example of this competency is partnering with Conkwright Elementary to provide shirts for all students and staff for the First Day Back to School in August. This may seem small, but to many who cannot afford a "first day of school" outfit, their child does not stand out. Instead is included and already a part of the Colt Family. Staff and students get to start off on the right foot due to their generosity and thoughtfulness. They also made shirts for the GRC/Montgomery Co football game to bring the community together. Their dedication and annual investment in our schools is deeply appreciated and should not go unrecognized.

-Megan Swart, Nominator

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EMPOWERED LEADER

CCPS PRINCIPAL TEAM

National Principals Month



It's impossible to Grow Greatness without great leadership. This National Principals Month, we are proud to recognize our CCPS principals and assistant principals. The way they collaborate, build relationships, and support students and staff each day reflects the qualities we value in our Portrait of a Clark County Learner. We can't say enough about this fantastic administrative team, the way they work together, and the example they set for those around them. We are honored to celebrate the Greatness they bring to our schools, students, and staff every day.

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK
Justin Arms
Emily Cook
Dr. Chelsey Highley
Dr. Chad Luhman
Kerrie McIntyre

PHOENIX ACADEMY
Courtney Grimes

CLARK COUNTY ATC
Dr. Jessica McCullough

CARDINAL VIRTUAL ACADEMY
Dr. Lindsay Hale

CAMPBELL JUNIOR HIGH
Tiffany Smith
Dustin Fore
Tom Swart

BAKER INTERMEDIATE
Josh Mounts
Robert Hammonds
Renee Ware

CONKWRIGHT ELEMENTARY
Megan Swart
Ada Damron

JUSTICE ELEMENTARY
Mary Maldonado
Ryan Daniel

CLARK COUNTY PRESCHOOL
Jillian Blanton
(Director of Early Learning)

SHEARER ELEMENTARY
Diana Jackson
Lindsey Campbell

STRODE STATION ELEMENTARY
Anitria Coston
Jordan Henry

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