

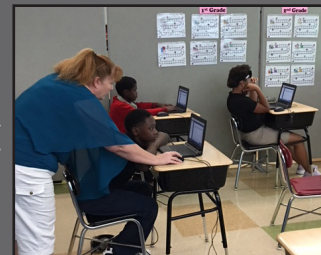


# Owl News

Spring, 2018

## Mt. Healthy City Schools - One on One with Computers

Over a year ago Mt. Healthy City Schools began the process of increasing technology in every school taking the district to a one-to-one system for student-used computers. The district chose to purchase Chromebooks due to the versatility and connection with Google Classroom. We are committed to educating students through technology for everyday use as well as to offer new, innovative classroom teaching and learning techniques. Carts have already been distributed into each of the elementary classrooms in grades 3-6 and the Achieve Program. Carts will continue to be distributed at the Jr/Sr High School through the end of this school year and into next school year. Each cart has enough laptops for each student's use. Students will collect their computers in the morning from their homeroom and return them at the end of the day to be charged for the following day's use. Chromebooks will stay on the campus as they are meant for educational learning within the school.



## Literacy in Our Schools

As a main focus in all three school building as well as the district's strategic plan, literacy is a fundamental skill that is necessary in order to develop life-long learners. It is weaved throughout all activities in teaching and learning. Many teacher professional development activities have been centered around innovative ways to instruct literacy. Literacy coaches were introduced and Response to Intervention activities designed to help struggling readers in K-6.



Additionally, we've added time in each grade level's English Language Arts blocks to strengthen and further develop skills. For example, K-2 now has a literacy block of 123 minutes, grades 4-6 have 90 minutes, and grades 7-8 increased to 100 minutes of uninterrupted ELA time. Teaching teams along with district personnel have created a Reading Plan to develop strategies designed to improve reading skills that will benefit all students. Furthermore, all three schools are increasing family engagement activities focused on building comprehension and thought processing skills, so that the entire family can be involved! Most importantly we are engaging families as partners in language



and literacy development.

## Mt. Healthy Preschool Program Earns Five Star Rating

Step Up to Quality evaluated Mt. Healthy City School Preschool program for a quality rating for programs in the elementary schools. Both North and South received a ranking of FIVE stars, which is the highest rating that can be achieved. The program and teachers were assessed in four areas: Learning (teaching) and Development, Administrator and Leadership practices, Staff Quality and Professional Development, and Family and Community Partnerships. They scored especially high in several of the areas including Family and Community Partnerships. Mt. Healthy Preschool Program offers children and families highly trained teachers, consistent and intentional professional development for teachers, a commitment to continuous improvement, a focus on family engagement activities, kindergarten readiness for students, and a safe learning environment. This ranking will stay in place for three years with annual monitoring.



Step Up To Quality is a collaboration between Ohio Department of Education and Ohio's Job and Family Services implemented an initiative for all Ohio Preschool programs that received state and federal funding including day care facilities serving preschool aged children.



# Showing Owl Pride

Mt. Healthy Jr/Sr High School has had quite a bit of good news to tout over the last few months. In February the Mt. Healthy Chapter of National Honor Society inducted 13 members of the Junior and Senior Classes. It takes strong values and commitment to participate in NHS, and many members are also involved in other school activities and sports. 2018 Inductees: Jasmine Dumas, Evan Edwards, Jierre Franklin, Brittany Gibbons, Daniel Han, Gilbert Hernandez, Kursten Jones, Derrick Sanders, Ja'Mya Tribble, Sandy Trinh, Paige Washburn, Devin Walker, and Leeonte Young.



Achieve students celebrated Black History Month with 3rd Annual Cafe Flow. They read from Black poets like Maya Angelo and songwriters like TuPac in addition to reading Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have A Dream" Speech. There were also special guests who danced and sang honoring Black artists.



Several members of the Mt. Healthy Band participated in the Tri-State Band Symposium at Northern Kentucky University in Greaves Concert Hall. The top honor band consists of outstanding band students from Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. They were conducted by Dr. Brant Karrick of NKU and Dr. Thomas Rohrer of Utah State University. The members of the MTHCS band who participated in the symposium were: Alysa Abrams, Aiden Burress, Jenifer Calai, Bryan Bernardo, Daniel Han, CJ Hall, Winston Jones, Elijah Poston, and Noah Weitz. Mr. Mark Quintero, Mt. Healthy Band Director, expressed great pride and honor in working with an outstanding group of students!



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## High School Students Honored as Student Leaders

Several students were honored at the February and March Board of Education meetings as student leaders: Mickayla Charles, Jadah Dessauer, Charles Gibbons, Keysha Morris, Taryn Smith, Devin Walker, Evan Edwards, and Paige Washburn. These students are active in club and athletics at the high school as well as strong academically.



Three student athletes, Nyla Houston and Ju'Aries Montgomery signed letters of intent to play at the collegiate level. Nyla will run track and field for University of District of Columbia, while Ju'Aries will play football for Alderson Broaddus in West Virginia. Senior, Taylor Dickerson, signed to play soccer for Ohio University.

A dinner program at the Jr/Sr High School has begun to assist students who stay after school for extra curricular activities or for students who may not have the option of eating after school. This program was the brain child of Mr. Thomas Hill, Jr/Sr High School Principal, and Ms. Fredrika Richardson, Director of Food Service at Mt. Healthy City Schools. The program has been a tremendous success and well supported by staff.





## Mt. Healthy South Elementary Celebrates Dr. King by Honoring Peacemakers

In keeping with Dr. King's teachings, Mt. Healthy South Elementary School celebrated the 1st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Peacemaker Celebration to honor students as peacemakers in their school in January.

A Peacemaker is described as: One who demonstrates leadership to handle problems in a peaceful way. One who tries to resolve matters without conflict and violence. This student is friendly to classmates and others. He or she has a good disposition and character. Mrs. Benita Mudd, Sixth Grade ELA teacher who organized the event with her team, explained the importance of students knowing their history of Dr. King and the struggles for Civil Rights. "We want students to accept the responsibility of their history, and who they are in order to be respectful, upstanding citizens in our society today," she stated. In addition to the program honoring the peacemaking students, they will stand as role models in conjunction with the district's newly implemented student accountability, Positive Behavior Intervention Supports program (PBIS).



During the celebration, students listened as Mrs. Macon, South Elementary Principal, explained the importance of Dr. King and his peaceful endeavors in their modern day lives. Dr. Cosby was on hand to congratulate and support the students and staff in the fantastic presentation about Dr. King. A group of talented sixth graders under the direction of Ms. Harris performed a dance to "Glory" that honored him. In addition, during the 4-6 grade presentation, Rev. Damon Lynch III reflected on his upbringing and careful thinking about actions that we do as individuals. He explained how every action has a consequence and how to "use your head so your feet can rest." He also shared uplifting and inspirational stories with students.



In early February, a Pre-K Literacy Night was held to encourage family engagement in early literacy. It offered families fun activities and strategies to complete with young children. A Hamilton County Librarian was on hand to read to students and register parents and guardians for library cards. Parents and



guardians learned strategies like pointing out easy words, finding and reading words in recipes or directions, and helping their youngsters get excited about reading and school.

In February, staff at The Hillman Group, in Springfield Township, began mentoring 3rd grade students at North Elementary School. The mentors work with identified students twice a week reading with them, talking about information in the books as well as working with students on word puzzles and other activities.



For more information about Mt. Healthy City Schools visit [www.mthcs.org](http://www.mthcs.org)  
Like us on Facebook @mthealthycityschools  
Follow us on Twitter @mthealthyschool  
Follow us on Instagram @mthealthyschools

**Mt. Healthy City Schools and  
Springfield Township Police Department  
Collaborate for School Safety**

Shortly following the school shooting in Florida, Chief Rob Browder, Police Chief for Springfield Township, and Mr. Thomas Hill, Jr/Sr High Principal, presented a program for all students and staff at Mt. Healthy Jr/Sr High School. Both Mr. Hill and Chief Browder had positive and important messages for the students.

Mt. Healthy City Schools and Springfield Township Police Department are continuing a partnership of building bridges with students and families that is reflective of the school community. This partnership encourages being role models in the school community and promotes positive behaviors among the students and school community members in addition to giving back to the community through service.

**Upcoming Activities and Events  
at Mt. Healthy City Schools**

- 3/30-4/6 Spring break - All Schools Closed
- 4/9-27 ELA State Testing
- 4/23-5/11 Math, Science, Social Studies State Testing
- 4/13 North Family Fun Night  
7 pm-9 pm
- 4/19 North Spring Ed and Art Night  
6 pm-7:30 pm
- 4/21 Jr/Sr High Spring Arts Fair  
12 pm-3 pm
- 4/25 Progress Reports sent home
- 4/30 Incoming 7th Parent Orientation  
6 pm-7:30 pm (Jr/Sr High School)

For more pictures and good news about Mt. Healthy City Schools, please visit our newly designed web site at [www.mthcs.org](http://www.mthcs.org). Each school has a site with lots of pictures and information about events and activities.