

Small Schools, Big Futures

LANCER *&* LETTER

AMESVILLE & COOLVILLE ELEMENTARIES • FEDERAL HOCKING MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Learning Through Service

Why does our school district put such an emphasis on volunteering?

From their first years in school and on until they graduate, students in the Federal Hocking School District engage in a wide variety of service-learning activities. Ranging from assisting other students to supporting community groups, our children are actively engaged in service to their communities. Aside from this just being a good thing to do, why does the District put such an emphasis on service?

Many researchers have studied the effects of service activities on students. A recent summary of these studies pointed out that students engaged in school or community service benefitted educationally in many different ways.

Students involved in service activities:

- **Develop a better attitude about themselves and about school and learning.** When students feel they are making a difference in the world around them, they feel better about who they are. They also feel better about the place (the school) giving them this opportunity.
- **Develop stronger social skills.** These skills, necessary for success in life after school, include how to work together for a goal and how to cooperate with peers and adults.
- **Are more successful in school.** Students involved in service get better grades and test scores, and have a higher graduation rate than those who are not.
- **Are more likely to engage in civic affairs after graduation.** Everything from voting to volunteering, service activities in school lead to civic engagement as an adult.

Our staff works hard to provide a wide variety of service learning activities in our schools because we know these activities help children gain the tools necessary for success both in and out of school. With the holiday season approaching when many service activities are going on, we thought it would be a good time to feature service learning in our schools.



STUDENTS TRAVELED TO HONDURAS ON A COMMUNITY SERVICE TRIP

In the following pages you will learn about all the ways the students and staff of Federal Hocking Schools are making contributions to our community. We invite you to join with them as well in making a difference right here at home and helping all our children learn.

Service Learning at the Elementary Schools

Just as reading, writing, and mathematics are taught at every grade level, so are the habits of service

From PreK to sixth grade, all students at both Coolville and Amesville Elementary have the opportunities to learn the values and skills associated with service learning. Additionally, at the elementary school parents and the Parent-Teacher Organizations pitch in and model community service through their activities.

Young students serving their peers

In both elementary schools multiple service learning projects are going on at all grade levels. "When children assist their peers they learn great lessons about listening skills, cooperation, and see that they can make a difference in their world," according to Coolville Principal Mary Mitchell. "We try to have a number of ways our students can support one another because we know it improves the school environment and just makes the school a friendly place to be."

Peer Mediator programs have been operating at both elementary schools for a number of years. Elementary Guidance Counselors Angela Myers (Coolville) and Jamie Linscott (Amesville) direct the program at each school. "We work with fourth through sixth grade students and teach them about conflict resolution," said Myers. "Then they use these skills on the playground during recess for times. Students can come to them to get help if they are having a problem with another student or even if a game is not being played fairly. Usually the peer mediator assists student in solving the problem without a teacher having to be involved."

At Amesville Peer Mediators also help lead the All-School Meeting. "Speaking to the entire student body gives peer mediators an opportunity to learn public speaking skills," says Linscott. "It takes a lot of practice and confidence building to be able to speak to over 350 of your peers, and these skills will pay off through school and in life."

Sixth Grade Buddies involves all of the sixth grade students at both schools in service to younger students. At Amesville the sixth graders meet regularly with kindergarten students and do everything from read books together to assisting with walking field trips to places like the Post Office. At Coolville sixth graders work with various classes helping during a set time of the day with everything from tying shoes to opening milk cartons to hanging student art. "My favorite part is watching our sixth graders step into their mentorship roles with our younger students," said Myers. "Their compassion and service are an invaluable example for our younger students."

At Amesville, sixth grade students also play an important role on the annual **Moving Up Day**. "This is the day our kiddos get to 'move up' and meet their teachers for the coming year. Since the sixth graders are actually moving on to the middle/high school, they use the time to do service projects for the school," notes Amesville Principal Cathe Blower. Projects have ranged from new picnic tables to building clean up to playground improvements.



"When children assist their peers they learn great lessons about listening, cooperation, and see that they can make a difference in their world...we know it improves the school environment and just makes the school a friendly place to be."

~Coolville Principal Mary Mitchell



FROM LEFT: SIXTH GRADERS ASSISTING THEIR YOUNGER BUDDIES WITH HANDWASHING AND READING, PENNIES FOR PATIENTS, BUILDING PICNIC TABLES FOR MOVING UP DAY

Serving their community

At Coolville and Amesville children also learn that they can make a difference in the world around them. Some activities go on at both schools, but each school does take on different projects to help our youngest students feel powerful in the world around them. Here is a list of activities taken from both schools:

Trick or Treat for UNICEF: You may have helped fill those bright orange boxes as our children collect funds to help rebuild schools ravaged by hurricanes and earthquakes around the world.

Empty Bowls: A project where students in art class make bowls which are then sold to community members with the funds going to local food pantries.

Pennies for Patients: Children collect pennies that are then donated to families whose children are battling Leukemia and Lymphoma.

Nursing home visits: Our kids create decorations for our senior citizens and then take a field trip to share these items and read and play games with their elders.



CLOCKWISE: MOVING UP DAY, EMPTY BOWLS FUNDRAISER ART, PEER MEDIATORS

Adults & children serving their neighbors

In 2014 several parents approached Principal Mitchell with a concern. While we do provide children with free breakfast and lunch at school, many of our children find that on snow days, weekends, and holidays there is not enough food at home to keep them from hunger. They knew that proper nutrition helps with improved health, positive behavior, better school attendance, higher test scores, and better reading scores. They wanted to do something about this lack of food at home and began the **Coolville Cares** program.

Coolville Cares provides students with a backpack including breakfast, lunch, and fresh fruit. Food is provided to take home during long weekends, holidays, or if it looks like there could be a snow day coming up.

The following year the Coolville parents met with the Amesville PTO and helped Amesville launch a similar program. And then they collaborated with the middle and high school to set up a **Lancer Locker** where students can 'shop' for needed food, clothing, and personal hygiene items. This program was run by a senior for her Senior Project.

While this program relies upon donations from numerous organizations and individuals, we do want to note that Coolville parents Amy Hill and Sammie Gaul were the ones that first approached the schools about this effort. Due to her continued efforts, Amy is being awarded the Jenco Award by the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (read more below).

Amy Hill awarded for her service

Coolville parent Amy Hill was chosen to receive the Jenco Award for her volunteer work in our community through establishing and maintaining a food backpack program at Coolville Elementary as well as inspiring others in the district to do the same. Amy was recognized and honored along with fellow Jenco Award winners from the region at an awards ceremony last October.

The Jenco Award recognizes the service of those who work to improve the lives of others in Appalachian Ohio. It's given by the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio and was established by journalist Terry Anderson to honor the work of his late friend and fellow hostage Father Martin Jenco.



You can view more information about the Jenco Award here:

<http://www.appalachianohio.org/grow/funds/fund-profiles/jenco/>

Eventually the video highlighting the 2016 Jenco Award recipients, including Amy, will be uploaded to this site.

Engagement at FH Middle and High School

Multiple projects and organizations give students the opportunity to serve

Four school-wide projects and multiple club and service organization activities give all of our middle and high school students the opportunity to engage in service activities. "Probably the best known service activity at the middle and high school is the **Angel Tree** project," says principal Cliff Bonner. In collaboration

need, contributing both funds and food to area food pantries such as the Friends and Neighbors in Coolville and the Community Center in Kilvert.

Individual students also engage in a very special and personal form of service—**giving blood**. Three to four blood drives

are organized by the Student Trustees each year. Taking place during the school day, students save lives by donating blood.

A new service opportunity for all students was begun during the 2015-16 school year and directed by the FH National

continued next page



with Athens County Children's Services, students at the school raise money and then purchase gifts for children who otherwise would not have a Christmas. Each advisory in the school takes on a project to raise the funds and then purchases and wraps the gifts for a child they have selected. "We have done this for nearly 20 years," Bonner added, "and I know many of our graduates continue doing this after they graduate."

Advisories also engage in an **annual food drive** that takes place after the holidays. While many organizations do such drives before or during the holidays, local food banks that work with the school noted a drop off in donations after the first of each year. To help meet this need, the school times its drive for when there is the most

FFA students serve in Honduras

Three of our FFA members traveled to Honduras with a total of 13 Ohio FFA members on an 8 day community service trip. Graduating seniors Cody Pfeiffer, McKenzie Steele, and Chelsea Washburn, along with FFA Advisor JoAnn Pfeiffer, helped build a garden for a community outreach program. Working in 100-degree weather, they used pickaxes to break up the soil to plant seeds with the children.

They also traveled to an island fishing community where the children averaged 5 days a month with no food. Our students cooked and served lunch for about 60 school children, grades 1-3, who are all taught in one room by one teacher.

In addition the group toured a dairy processing facility, walked through the market where many Hondurans buy their food, taught a lesson on honey bees and pollination at a vocational school, attended a traditional wedding, and went to church.

What did our students come away with? A huge appreciation of what we have in this country—food, freedom, education, transportation, safety, and opportunities. To read more about this trip, visit: <https://ohioffahonduras2016.wordpress.com>

Honor Society. Called **The School-Wide Community Service Day** it involved every student in the school fanning out across our communities to make a difference. Students spent time painting, cleaning, weeding, and installing playground equipment in our towns and at our schools. They also read and sang with senior citizens, cleaned cemeteries, and helped various community centers restock and organize goods. This activity is currently being planned again for this year and if you know of a community group or facility that could use some TLC, just call the secondary school.

“Kids will get to play on something I made. I guess I made a difference today.”

You may have heard of the **Nelsonville Music Festival**, but did you know that Federal Hocking students are an important part of the weekend? One of the important parts of this family-friendly event is the children’s area where music, art, and dramatic play activities go on all weekend. This is both designed and run by FH students in our Art and Drama Clubs.

Another big activity in Athens County is the annual **Special Olympics** held at Peden Stadium. The Federal Hocking Team is supported, through fund-raising, training, and meet support, by students in our Business Professionals of America (BPA) club. Throughout the year, and on the day of the meet, students help students prepare and compete in an event looked forward to every year.

The effects of such service activities were best summed up by a high school student who was finishing up building a playground structure at Gifford Park in Amesville. “I’m pretty proud of this,” he said. “Kids will get to play on something I made. I guess I made a difference today.” Indeed he, and all the students at Federal Hocking did and do!

Meet the New Assistant Superintendent



Jake Amlin
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

New for this school year, Federal Hocking Local Schools created the position of Assistant Superintendent for Student Services to help coordinate a variety of initiatives and programs. Chief among those programs are Gifted Education, Special Education, and Early Childhood Education. Jake Amlin, previously of Piqua City Schools, was hired to fulfill the responsibilities of Assistant Superintendent.

Amlin, a graduate of Ohio University, is a veteran educator of fifteen years. He began his career as a primary teacher in Cincinnati Public Schools and then moved to the Dayton area, where he taught fourth grade for seven years in Piqua City Schools. For the last five years, Amlin served as a primary and intermediate principal, with his most recent principal assignment being that of a newly created 875-student intermediate school that served fourth through sixth grades. In this role, Amlin oversaw the building’s Special Education and Gifted Education programs in addition to the day-to-day responsibilities of a building administrator.

While his office is located in the Administrative Offices in Stewart, Amlin

Priorities for the year include increasing educational opportunities for Gifted and high-achieving students, aligning Special Education services to create efficient and effective service delivery, and supporting the district’s preschool teachers in preparing students for entry into kindergarten.

visits each campus every week in order to meet with teachers and students to best support student achievement.

Outside of school, Amlin and his wife Tera, a teacher at Amesville Elementary, spend most of their time trying to corral their five daughters—all of whom are students at Amesville. The girls, ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade, are active in the band, choir, Girl Scouts, 4H, basketball, and a global peace program called Children’s International Summer Village. The Amlins are seeking to establish a CISV chapter in Athens County to provide opportunities for the county’s children to travel the globe and forge lasting memories and friendships with children around the world.

When he does get time to himself, Amlin enjoys hunting and planning a market homestead. Before relocating, he also played on a vintage baseball team that observed the rules of the game as played in 1860, including wooden bats, no gloves, and the original spelling of the game: “base ball.” His team nickname, Catfish, was a nod to the handlebar mustache that he wore for games.

Veteran Volunteers Honored with Naming of “Green Field”

It is only fitting that in this Lancer Letter devoted to service we feature an honor bestowed upon two of Federal Hocking’s most devoted volunteers. In October the Federal Hocking Board of Education honored Lester and Betty Green for their 48 (and counting) years of service by naming the FH Football field “Lester and Betty Green Field”.

The resolution honoring the Greens noted that they have “provided innumerable hours of volunteer support to all parts of the Federal Hocking Athletic Program including working at games, conducting fund raisers for athletics, making sure student athletes were able to participate through supporting multiple student needs, providing transportation for teams, assisting with the development and maintenance of athletic facilities, and more.”

Additionally, the board noted that the Greens were “founding members of the Federal Hocking Athletic Boosters and served in multiple officer positions in the Boosters and have attended



LESTER AND BETTY GREEN HONORED FOR THEIR 48 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE FEDERAL HOCKING ATHLETIC PROGRAM

virtually every Federal Hocking Athletic event for the past 48 years and can be found making Lester’s special recipe popcorn or taking tickets at the gate.”

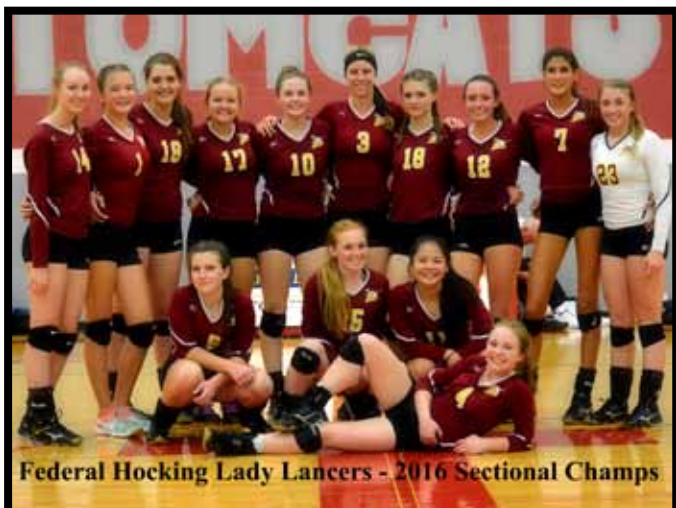
The Board surprised the Greens with this honor at the September board meeting. In response, Lester said: “I just don’t know what to say.” Everyone present agreed it was probably the first time Lester was without an opinion. When he finally composed himself, he did offer that **“We never did this for any honor, we just wanted to do it for the kids.”**

Familiar Faces Take Over FH Boys Basketball



A quartet of familiar faces will be taking over the Boys Basketball Program at Federal Hocking. Moving into the head coach position will be 2005 Lancer graduate Josh Vernon. Vernon has been handling assistant coaching duties for several years and is ready to step up to lead this year’s squad.

Returning to the coaching ranks are Brent Chadwell, Joe Butcher, and Bob Vales (pictured above). All three of these gentlemen have experienced success in coaching multiple sports for the Lancers. Now they are turning their attentions to our developing athletes as they will be working with our 7th and 8th grade teams. These boys will be learning from the best as they sharpen their skills and knowledge of the game.



CONGRATULATIONS LANCER VOLLEYBALL!

The volleyball team ended their 2016 season with an overall record of 11-13. After losing to Trimble twice during the regular season, they traveled to Glouster on Oct. 20th and defeated the Tomcats in a convincing manner for their 3rd Sectional Championship in the past 4 years. Way to go!

LANCERS

2016-17 WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

Schedule changes due to weather will be posted at:
www.fedhock.com

JV / VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

				GAME TIME	BUS DEPARTS
Sat	12/3	Athens	Home	3:00 PM	
Mon	12/5	Nelsonville-York (V only)	Away	6:00 PM	4:30 PM
Wed	12/7	Eastern (V only)	Away	7:30 PM	4:00 PM
Thur	12/8	Belpre	Home	6:00 PM	
Sat	12/10	Wellston Class (V only)	Away	4:30 PM	2:30 PM
Mon	12/12	Southern	Home	6:00 PM	
Thur	12/15	Waterford	Away	6:00 PM	4:00 PM
Sat	12/17	South Gallia	Home	1:00 PM	
Thur	12/22	Trimble	Away	6:00 PM	4:30 PM
Mon	1/2	Belpre	Away	6:00 PM	4:30 PM
Wed	1/4	Athens	Away	6:00 PM	4:30 PM
Thur	1/5	Wahama	Home	6:00 PM	
Sat	1/7	River Valley	Away	1:00 PM	10:00 AM
Mon	1/9	Miller	Away	6:00 PM	4:00 PM
Thur	1/12	Southern	Away	6:00 PM	4:00 PM
Thur	1/19	Eastern (V Only)	Home	7:30 PM	
Mon	1/23	Waterford	Home	6:00 PM	
Sat	1/28	Ironton St.Joe (V only)	Away	12:00 PM	7:30 AM
Sat	1/28	Nelsonville-York (JV only)	Away	3:00 PM	1:30 PM
Mon	1/30	South Gallia	Away	6:00 PM	3:00 PM
Thur	2/2	Trimble	Home	6:00 PM	
Mon	2/6	Wahama	Away	6:00 PM	4:00 PM
Thur	2/9	Miller (Senior Night)	Home	6:00 PM	

7/8TH GIRLS BASKETBALL

				GAME TIME	BUS DEPARTS
Tues	11/29	Logan	Away	6:00 PM	4:00 PM
Wed	12/7	Eastern	Away	5:30 PM	4:00 PM
Thur	12/8	Belpre	Home	6:00 PM	
Mon	12/12	Southern	Home	6:00 PM	
Sat	12/17	South Gallia (7th only)	Home	1:00 PM	
Thur	12/22	Trimble	Away	6:00 PM	4:30 PM
Wed	12/28	Park Elite C. (8th only)	Away	4:00 PM	2:45 PM
Thur	12/29	Belpre	Away	6:00 PM	4:30 PM
Thur	1/5	Wahama	Home	6:00 PM	
Mon	1/9	Miller	Away	6:00 PM	4:00 PM
Wed	1/11	Logan	Home	6:00 PM	
Thur	1/12	Southern	Away	6:00 PM	4:30 PM
Thur	1/19	Eastern	Home	5:30 PM	
Sat	1/28	Ironton St.Joe (7th only)	Away	10:00 AM	7:30 AM
Mon	1/30	South Gallia (7th only)	Away	6:00 PM	3:00 PM
Thur	2/2	Trimble	Home	6:00 PM	
Mon	2/6	Wahama	Away	6:00 PM	4:00 PM
Thur	2/9	Miller	Home	6:00 PM	

VARSITY WRESTLING

				GAME TIME	BUS DEPARTS
Wed	12/7	Belpre	Away	6:00 PM	4:30 PM
Sat	12/10	Warren	Away	9:30 AM	8:00 AM
SSat	1/7	Nelsonville Tourney	Away	9:30 AM	8:00 AM
Wed	1/11	South Gallia	Away	6:00 PM	3:00 PM
Wed	1/18	Gallia Academy	Away	6:00 PM	3:00 PM
Sat	1/21	Athens Invitational	Away	10:00 AM	8:30 AM
Thur	1/26	Wellston	Away	6:00 PM	3:30 PM
Sat	2/18	TVC @ Trimble	Away	TBA	TBA

JV / VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

				GAME TIME	BUS DEPARTS
Fri	12/2	Alexander (+ 9th)	Home	5:00 PM	
Sat	12/3	Zane Trace (V only)	Away	3:30 PM	12:00 PM
Mon	12/5	Nelsonville-York (V only)	Away	7:30 PM	4:30 PM
Tues	12/6	Southern (+ 9th)	Home	5:00 PM	
Fri	12/9	Waterford	Away	6:00 PM	4:00 PM
Tues	12/13	Eastern	Home	6:00 PM	
Fri	12/16	Miller	Away	6:00 PM	4:00 PM
Tues	12/20	Wahama	Away	6:00 PM	4:00 PM
Wed	12/28	Nelsonville-York	Home	6:00 PM	
Fri	12/30	River Valley (+ 9th)	Away	5:00 PM	2:45 PM
Fri	1/6	South Gallia	Home	6:00 PM	
Sat	1/7	Amanda Clear Ck	Home	6:00 PM	
Tues	1/10	Belpre	Home	6:00 PM	
Fri	1/13	Trimble (+ 9th)	Away	5:00 PM	3:30 PM
Fri	1/20	Waterford	Home	6:00 PM	
Tues	1/24	Eastern	Away	6:00 PM	4:30 PM
Fri	1/27	Miller	Home	6:00 PM	
Sat	1/28	Nels-York (9th and JV only)	Away	4:30 PM	1:30 PM
Tues	1/31	South Gallia	Away	6:00 PM	3:00 PM
Fri	2/3	Wahama	Home	6:00 PM	
Tues	2/7	Southern (+9th)	Away	5:00 PM	3:45 PM
Fri	2/10	Belpre	Away	6:00 PM	4:30 PM
Fri	2/17	Trimble (+9th/Senior Night)	Home	5:00 PM	

7/8TH BOYS BASKETBALL

				GAME TIME	BUS DEPARTS
Wed	12/7	Eastern	Home	6:00 PM	
Thur	12/8	Belpre	Away	6:00 PM	4:30 PM
Mon	12/12	Southern	Away	6:00 PM	4:30 PM
Wed	12/14	Warren	Away	6:00 PM	4:30 PM
Wed	12/21	Warren	Away	1:00 PM	10:00 AM
Thur	12/22	Trimble	Home	6:00 PM	
Thur	12/29	Belpre	Home	6:00 PM	
Thur	1/5	Wahama	Away	6:00 PM	4:00 PM
Mon	1/9	Miller	Home	6:00 PM	
Thur	1/12	Southern	Home	6:00 PM	
Thur	1/19	Eastern	Away	6:00 PM	4:30 PM
Mon	1/30	South Gallia (8th only)	Away	7:30 PM	3:00 PM
Thur	2/2	Trimble	Away	6:00 PM	4:30 PM
Mon	2/6	Wahama	Home	6:00 PM	
Thur	2/9	Miller	Away	6:00 PM	4:00 PM



Some Final Thoughts

Last year when we posted on the Federal Hocking Facebook page photos and stories about the middle and high school “Day of Service” most of the responding comments were very positive. However, one person did ask a fair question wondering if involving students in service activities is the best use of their time. I believe that this issue of the Lancer Letter helps answer that question.

At Federal Hocking we are committed, as it says in our Operating Principles, to educating the whole child in order that “all young people become productive and engaged citizens.” A large part of that task is teaching children how to read and write, having them learn science and social studies, engaging them in the arts and physical activity, and exploring a range of areas from agriculture to technology.

But beyond those skills, schools also teach values. That is why hard work is rewarded, why being on time is important, and why learning how to work as an individual and a team are both modeled and taught. It is also why we engage our children in service—**because it both reinforces academic skills and also teaches the importance of making a difference in your community.**

Every day I see the difference that is being made in the lives of our children by the service so many give to our schools. As you read in this issue of the Lancer Letter, we honored two of those volunteers, Lester and Betty Green, this fall. But there are so many others—volunteer coaches in our elementary school athletic programs, our band and athletic boosters, the FFA Alumni, our PTOs—the district simply would not be able to do what it does without them.

When I see our students involved in service, be it sixth graders helping shelve library books, FFA students raising and selling pink pumpkins for cancer research, or an older student just tying a kindergartener’s shoe laces, I see the seeds being planted for lifetimes of service to communities. This is what gives me hope. Hope, and yes confidence, that the young people in our schools, who learn and serve, will be adults who make a difference in the world in which we all live.

George Wood, Superintendent
Federal Hocking Local
“Small Schools, Big Futures”



TOP: AMESVILLE STUDENTS PRESENT CHECK FOR FOOD BANK.
ABOVE: FILLING BACKPACKS FOR COOLVILLE CARES FREE FOOD PROGRAM

BELOW: AMESVILLE’S ALL-SCHOOL MEETING ABOUT FRIENDSHIP LED BY PEER MEDIATORS

