

Letter From the Superintendent

Our 2014-2015 school year is off to a great start! It's nice to have students back in our school buildings, working hard with our teachers. We are excited about a few new programs we are implementing for the first time. We always look for ways to improve our curriculum so that our students can continue to grow to high levels.

The first is an online reading program: Scientific Learning's *Reading Assistance*. This program will be used for students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade. The program is basically an individualized reading tutor. The student uses a headset with a microphone to read aloud. They start off with an initial reading assessment, and the results are used to assign various stories and activities that are appropriate for both their reading level and their age. As they read aloud into their microphone, the "tutor" helps them through words when the student either hesitates or struggles. Comprehension of their reading is also measured through a brief quiz after the reading selection. Students are given the opportunity to practice the words they struggled with in each selection so that they may increase their vocabulary. We are confident that we will see our students' reading levels grow with this new program. Becoming a proficient reader is an essential skill that impacts success in life beyond high school.

Another new program we are implementing this year involves work with our 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. Ludlow High School is partnering with NaviGo Prep Services to bring this college and career planning curriculum to PAWS time on Fridays. Ten teachers and five school and district administrators were trained by NaviGo staff to become coaches to LHS students. Students will meet with their NaviGo Coach three times per month, on Fridays during PAWS time. Coaches will work with students in small groups, starting in the 10th grade, to get them researching and planning for their life after high school. A new twist to this program is that groups will be made up of students who have similar career interests. Each career interest group will partner with an area business within that career cluster to get students on site and shadowing jobs in the field. Again, we know this program will be a huge asset to our students and parents, and we're excited to bring it to LHS this year. Our students will be better prepared to implement their plan for life after high school once they graduate. We are the first school district in Northern Kentucky to partner with NaviGo!

If you've read previous letters of mine, you'll know that the Dual Credit Program is one that is very important to me. I've worked with our Board of Education and many local sponsors (businesses, organizations, alumni, and community members) to expand these course offerings. We were successful this year by increasing the number of students taking these courses. Students take dual credit courses through Gateway and NKU, but they can take them right at Ludlow High School if they choose. Our English AP seniors will again participate in NKU's hybrid ENG 101 course in the spring. The new courses offered this year include NKU's Criminal Justice 101 and 231. One of our own faculty members, Michelle Combs, is now an Adjunct Professor through NKU and is approved to teach these college courses at LHS. The really exciting part about all of this is that the students can participate in these courses for free. Their tuition and textbooks are being provided for them. I feel that if students get involved in these kinds of courses in high school, they will feel better prepared for the college setting.

As the 2014-2015 school year continues, you will hear more about other changes we've been making at Ludlow Independent Schools. As always, please contact me at 859-261-8210 or mike.borchers@ludlow.kyschools.us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Michael Borchers

Michael Borchers
Superintendent of Ludlow Independent Schools