Alexander Jr/Sr High School again scores above state average on the district report card:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>2018 Alexander Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>57</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>76</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hopefully, all of you have read the updated version of the handbook that was approved at the Aug. 21, 2019 board meeting. This will help you and your student better understand the procedures, rules and expectations of students at Alexander Jr/Sr High School. Especially pay close attention to the attendance sections. *Please look at the new graduation requirements for each graduation year with your child. We have numerous changes in these graduation documents.

Last year, we sent out a survey to find out what it meant to be a Spartan. Josten’s (who publishes our yearbook) sent the surveys to a consultant for free. He analyzed the survey information. Then the consultant, Josten’s representatives, administration and stakeholders met as a group. The outcome of the meeting was to determine what it means to be a Spartan. A Spartan means two words: Work and Together. They are separate words but can be used together. The consultant made it very clear that these two words were intertwined throughout all the surveys. Spartans work very hard exerting themselves physically or mentally to achieve a purpose. Spartans fulfill their duties through a sustained effort. Spartans come together and act in conjunction to reach a common goal. The consultant said it was very clear that Spartan students, teachers, administrators and community come together and unite during rough times. So Spartan Nation, when someone asks you what being a Spartan means, answer them with two words: Work and Together!!

Students will no longer receive a printed copy of progress reports. All students and parents can access the interim grades on Infinite Campus and should do so regularly. The interim grades are due to be available on Infinite Campus on Sept. 24, Nov. 12, Feb. 4 and Apr. 21. Only students receiving a D or an F will receive a printed copy, and it will be mailed home as it has been done in the past. The end of the first grading period is October 11, 2019, and Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for November 7, 2019 in the evening and the morning of November 8, 2019. I invite you to call your child’s teachers with any questions or concerns at any time throughout the year. Drivers please remember if you get an F at progress report time or end of the 9 weeks, you won’t be able to drive until your teacher indicates you are passing the failed class.

Parents and students can get up-to-date information on homework and test scores from their Parent & Student Portal. Please contact the Counselor’s Office for a password and username.

Parents, did you know you could nominate teachers of the month? The school website will give you details on nominating a deserving teacher.

Look for future information in our quarterly newsletters.

Dr. Doudna
YEARBOOK

Yearbook Sales – Order forms for the 2020 Yearbooks were distributed during the Back to School Fair. If you did not receive one, order forms are also available in the office and from Mrs. Matheny in Room 523. The base price of the high school yearbook is $60 until December 27, 2019. The price will raise to $65 after December 27th. Personalization is available for an additional charge. Order forms with cash or checks should be returned to Mrs. Matheny or your academic coach. Receipts will be issued. Order by credit card online at jostensyearbooks.com. Jostens is offering a special offer of four FREE icons with the purchase of personalization when you order online. This offer is available ONLINE ONLY. The offer is good until December 27th.

Jr. High yearbooks will be on sale at the basic book price of $32 until October 25, 2019. The price will raise to $35 after October 25th. These forms are also available in the office and from Mrs. Matheny in room 523. Order forms with cash or check can be returned to your academic coaches and receipts will be issued. Additional order forms will also be distributed during academic coaching. Order by credit card online at jostensyearbooks.com. Online orders are placed under Alexander Middle School on the Jostens website. Jostens is offering a special offer of four FREE icons with the purchase of personalization when you order online. This offer is available ONLINE ONLY. The offer is good until October 25th.

REMINDER TO ALL SENIORS

Attention Seniors—Senior Portraits for the 2020 yearbook are due January 31, 2020. Only full color, head shots will be accepted. Head shots may be taken outside but may not have any “props” such as musical instruments, pets, cars, etc. Seniors should not wear hats or shirts with large logos or sayings on them. Additional pictures are always welcome to be submitted. Group pictures and pictures with your pet or other hobby may be used in different areas of the yearbook.

Every senior will be in the yearbook, so, choose your favorite photograph and submit it to Mrs. Matheny. Many local photographers will submit directly to the yearbook department. Individuals doing their own portraits may submit them either by high-resolution email, CD, jump drive or by hard copy to be scanned. Hard copies to be scanned should be in a 5”x7” size and will be returned to the student within one week. Please contact Mrs. Matheny at Lmatheny@alexanderschools.org or by calling the high school and extension 523 with any questions.

Be Involved—Great Pictures are always needed by the yearbook staff. Life outside of school needs to be included in our yearbook! The yearbook staff would love to have pictures from your summer—4H, county fair, vacations, bonfires, hiking, etc. Help the staff get those shots included by bringing your pictures in to Mrs. Matheny. Pictures may be submitted by CD, jump drive, email, online or by SD camera card. You may also upload pictures to the Alexander High School Yearbook Facebook Page.

Mrs. Baker—Science

The Human Anatomy and Physiology and Zoology classes will have an opportunity to earn college credit through the CCP or the College Credit Plus program. Students can gain college credit as they fulfill high school requirements. Human Anatomy is 4 credit hours and Zoology is 3 credit hours.

The Honors Biology classes will begin an ongoing environmental study on Arabidopsis thaliana. The students will determine which Arabidopsis strains are more or less susceptible to a changing environment. Student groups will set up an experiment on salt stress.

Mrs. Baker hosted an international field study to Andros, Island in the Bahamas this summer. The 11 students who attended the trip were able to explore topics of geology, botany, marine biology, reef sustainability, culture, and much more. The students spend a large amount of time snorkeling the barrier reef and other fringing reefs. There will be another trip in June of 2021 for this year’s freshmen and sophomores.
ART

Alexander Jr High and High School students have started out the year making some awesome art in Miss Sheets’ room! The theme for the beginning of the year was IDENTITY and each grade level did a different project. Enjoy checking out these creations from the 6-12 graders!
Fall ‘19 High School “Counselor’s Corner”

The 2019-2020 school year is off to a good start.

Counseling Intern: We are pleased to welcome Mr. Diontre Delk to Alexander. He will be working closely with myself and Ms. Rock to complete his internship in school counseling. Mr. Delk is available to meet with students Tuesday-Friday in his office, 570A (next to Mrs. Johnson’s room).

Credit Checks: Mr. Delk and I will be meeting with all students to go over transcripts. We will begin with the seniors. Each student will receive a credit check sheet containing information about how many credits they have earned and how many they have left to earn in order to be eligible for graduation. The back of the credit check sheet will provide information pertaining to the graduation testing points each student has earned.

Admissions Presentations: There are several colleges coming to visit our students at Alexander. All interested students are encouraged to attend these admissions presentations. We are looking forward to visits from Shawnee State University, Ohio University, Marietta College, Washington State Community College, Muskingum University, and several others during September and October.

ACT Information: Detailed information concerning the registration dates and administration dates for the ACT is available in the Career Center. Seniors wishing to improve a score should register for a test as soon as possible. The last ACT colleges usually accept is the October test. All Juniors will be taking the ACT at Alexander on February 25, 2020. This opportunity is free to all Juniors and is an opportunity to meet testing requirements for graduation, as well as college admission. Sophomores should give serious consideration to signing up for a spring administration of the test. Please see me if you need help signing up for the test.

Financial Aid Meeting: The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will be available October 1st for senior parents to begin completing the application. Our Financial Aid night will be held October 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the library. Financial Aid experts from area colleges will be conducting a program about the FAFSA and different types of financial aid available to college students.

College Credit Plus: The College Credit Plus program allows students who are ready for the challenge of college classes to take courses at a local college for credit while still in high school. If you are interested in learning more about this program, you will need to attend a mandatory College Credit Plus meeting early in December. Please watch our school website and listen for announcements about the date and time for this important meeting.

I am looking forward to a busy year working with our students. Please watch our website for important announcements.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Hanning

Mr. Delk
Know! The Key Skills for Your Child's Academic Success

Academic success is a team effort that includes an individual student, his or her teachers, and the child’s parents. In order to be the best team possible, we encourage you to share the following information with your parent network.

PARENTS: As the new school year begins, you have the opportunity to help your students start strong and stay on track toward academic success. We all know the importance of academic achievement in shaping the minds of our children, giving them a competitive edge to further their education and to better prepare them for future careers. In addition, research shows there are health benefits as well—as young people who achieve higher grades in the classroom also don’t use drugs.

A past national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) showed that students with higher grades were significantly less likely to drink, smoke marijuana, or abuse prescription drugs. This association doesn’t prove causation, but it certainly provides families even greater motivation to make academic achievement a priority as it further sets young people up for success later in life.

With that in mind, let’s kick off this school year right by helping our students strengthen and maintain these 5 Key Skills for Academic Success:

1. **Organization:** Sometimes academic challenges have more to do with organization than with intellect. Help your child get organized with these simple tips:

   • Have them make a checklist of what they need to bring to and from school each day, then post it on whatever door they head out of each morning.

   • Help them develop a system of keeping track of and organizing in-school and at-home assignments.

2. **Time Management:** This is the classic, “wait until the night before an assignment is due to begin working on it, even though they’ve had weeks to complete it” syndrome. Every student has likely been there at some point, but we want to guide our children toward better time management:

   • Have them track assignments on a monthly calendar and teach them to work backwards from the due date to break it down into smaller, nightly tasks.

   • Work with your child to figure out how much time is being spent on homework weekly and help them divide that time into manageable chunks.

   • With your child’s input, choose a specific time block each afternoon or evening for studying and homework, and help your child stick to it.
3. **Prioritization:** Mounting piles of homework can become overwhelming. Without knowing where to begin, a student can easily fall behind and get off track for turning in assignments. Teach your child how to prioritize with these tips:

   - Have your child write down all the things he or she needs to get done, including non-school-related items and activities.
   - Ask your child to label each task from 1 to 3, with 1 being the most important.
   - If your child is labeling all social activities as 1, you'll need to help them refocus and readjust their list to better prioritize for academic success.
   - Have your teen then rearrange the list so that the 1s are at the top. Be sure they check the items off the list as they complete them—it feels good and is a real motivator to keep going!

4. **Concentration:** Designate an area for homework and studying that is free from interruptions and distractions, which typically means no phone, no TV, no playing games or checking social media on the computer, and—depending on your household—it may also mean keeping siblings out of this workspace as well.

5. **Motivation:** No matter what a person is trying to achieve, motivation is a key factor. A child may sincerely want to do well in school but may not have the drive to put in the work to make it happen. Help them find their motivation by tapping into their interests:

   - If your son is learning about percentages, ask him to figure out the price of a discounted pair of Jordan or Huarache shoes. If your daughter is passionate about music, give her books about musicians and help her learn the connections between music and foreign languages. It's about finding the drive to accomplish a goal.
   - Give your child control and choices. With guidance, let them be the one to determine their study hours and organizing system.
   - Encourage your child to share their expertise. It is motivating for them to be able to teach you something.
   - Be sure to hand out plenty of praise, give them pats on the back, and sincerely celebrate their successes!

It takes a combination of skills—organization, time management, prioritization, concentration and motivation—to achieve academic success. You know your child better than anyone. Work with them to identify problem areas, focus on the skills that need strengthened, and strive to help your son or daughter maintain the ones they've mastered. With your support and guidance, your child will be better prepared to start the school year off strong and remain on the road to success, both in and out of the classroom.

**Sources:** Centers for Disease Prevention and Control: Alcohol and Other Drug Use and Academic Achievement - 2009 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). GreatSchools.org: Parenting – Smart Strategies - 5 key skills for academic success. February 20, 2016
Did you know?

- Any student who receives detention will serve it after school.
- Saturday school has now been moved to Thursdays after school.
- End of the year Honors Breakfast and Assembly Awards are based on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grading periods.
- Kids on Campus is back for the school year and is offering a variety of clubs for our students to join!
- Alexander Local Schools offers school-based counseling services to our students through Hopewell Health and Health Recovery Services. Contact Ms. Rock if you would like more information.
- All students have created their own Infinite Campus account to track their grades, assignments, attendance and much more!
- All parents are encouraged to set up an Infinite Campus Parent Portal Account. Contact Ms. Rock if you would like assistance or forgot your log-in info.
- The Jr. High/High School Office sends out a quarterly newsletter- look for it and other important information on the school website- www.alexanderschools.org

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. Here is some important information for students and parents to know:

**Definition of bullying:** *Intentionally aggressive* behavior, *repeated* over time, and involves an *imbalance of power*.

**Signs your student is being bullied:** Any unexplainable injuries, personal items are lost or destroyed, often complaining of illness, avoiding school or not interested in school work, declining grades, changes in eating habits. Issues with sleeping or nightmares, avoiding social situations or a sudden loss in friends, decreased self-esteem, and self-destructive behavior. ([www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov))

**What to do:** Help your student identify a touchstone at school. This is an adult they feel comfortable talking to. Problem solve with your student ways they can comfortably handle a bullying situation before reporting it to an adult. And most of all please report to a principal or the school counselor any bullying your student reports to you or any suspicions you have that your child is being bullied.
LIFESKILLS

The 7th grade Life Skills class is starting the school year learning about the Health triangle. There are three components to the triangle: physical, mental/emotional, and social. This concept serves as our base as we will learn about many aspects of the health triangle.

An interesting debate we have in class is which component is the most important for your health? You could state several reasons for all three components. However, the fact of the matter is that they all feed off one another to develop one’s entire health.

Generally, many people in society think of health as what you eat and if you exercise. While this is certainly an important piece of physical health, it is not totally addressing the other components of health. Interactions with others, attitude, influences, environment, and reflections are crucial in a teenager’s growth. Further educating our kids about these ideas is important for their growth and development which will affect their health in a positive way.

Alexander Band

The Alexander Marching Band is off to a great start for the season. In addition to football games, the band has performed at the Parade of the Hills, the Albany Independent Fair, Oak Hill Band Show, the Paw Paw Festival, and Ohio University Band Day.

The marching band will perform at the Jackson Apple Festival and Parade on Sept. 21st, the Logan Fall Festival of Bands on Oct. 5th, the Circleville Pumpkin Show Parade on Oct. 16th, and the Athens Veteran’s Day Parade on Nov. 11th.

The 7th Grade Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble will present their Fall Concert on Oct. 15th at 6:30 PM in the High School Gym. All are invited and welcome to attend!
2019 All Grades for
Alexander Jr. / Sr. High School

IRN: 000315
School Type: High School
Address: 6125 School Rd
County: ITC
District: Alexander Local Schools
State: SEVEC

Achievement
The Achievement component represents the number of students who passed the state tests and how well they performed on them.

Component Grade: C
Component Points: 2.188

Value-Added
Overall
Component Grade: A
Component Points: 4.150

Gap Closing
The Gap Closing component shows how well schools are meeting the performance expectations for our most vulnerable populations of students in English language arts, math and graduation.

Component Grade: B
Component Points: 4.000

Graduation Rate
The Graduation Rate component looks at the percent of students who are successfully finishing high school with a diploma in four or five years.

Component Grade: A
Component Points: 4.300

Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers
The K-3 Literacy component looks at how successful the school is at getting struggling readers on track to proficiency in third grade and beyond.

Component Grade: NR
Component Points: NA

Overall Grades:

Component Points: 3.177

Click here to see the Secure Data Center - Status of Reports report