

Superintendent's Letter to the Community

Community Use of School Facilities

As Superintendent of the Estill County Schools, when hired I agreed to assume the duties of administering all the programs of the district. This includes the areas of strategic planning, management, external relations, and the operation of associated programs. As the superintendent, I strive to maintain good relationships with our students, parents/guardians, staff and members of our community.

As a public servant, I have to be above reproach in everything I do. Transparency and accountability are core values for our district and because perception is reality, it is important to be forthright about the questions raised recently in regards to the usage of school facilities and to address any areas of concern. This school system belongs to the people of Estill County and the board wishes to make

our facilities available for use by the community, but in order to do so I must ensure that the school system is protected from all forms of liability and possible litigation. The Estill County School District Board Policies 05.3, 05.31 and 05.32 outlines our policy on Community Use of School Facilities, Rental Application/Contract, and the Public Sales on School Premises. These policies and procedures apply to every group or organization that desires to use our facilities, without exception. Everyone will be treated fairly and no special privileges will be granted under any circumstance. The following paragraphs outline our current policies.

WHO MAY USE

The Board may grant the use of school facilities to responsible and organized groups for purposes that provide demonstrable benefit to the schools or to the community as a whole. School facilities shall not be used for personal or commercial activities. The Board may authorize the use of school property by public members of the community during non-school hours for the purpose of recreation, sport, academic, literary, artistic, or community uses as defined in KRS Chapter 162 pursuant to this and other policies adopted by the Board and related procedures established by the Superintendent.1

AVAILABILITY

The Board shall determine when and which facilities will be available to the community and establish reasonable fees for their rental.

APPLICATION AND CONTRACT

The Board has adopted an official application form and an official rental contract, both of which shall detail the conditions of usage. Persons authorized to represent officially the renting organization must sign the application and contract. Approval of a request to use District facilities does not signify District sponsorship, endorsement or approval of an organization or activity.

LIABILITY

The Board shall require a renting organization to assume all liability for injury to individuals by reason of the lease of Board property and that the organization indemnify and save harmless the Board from any loss or damage thereby.

INSURANCE

If the non school related activity sponsored by the community group involves admission or is designated as a high risk activity by the Superintendent or designee, the community group shall provide a certificate of liability insurance naming the Board as additional insured under the policy for the activity.

EXCEPTION

Activities that are sponsored by approved student organizations, faculty groups, school related parent groups may use school facilities without charge when approved by the Principal and supervised by school personnel.

CONDITIONS OF RENTAL

All rental of school facilities is subject to the following conditions:

1. An official application shall be made to the Principal not less than one (1) week prior to the intended date of use of facilities.
2. Rentals will be made only to responsible and organized groups, and responsible officers of that group must sign the application and the contract.
3. Conditions of that contract shall include:
 - a. Acceptance of responsibility

by officials of the renting organization for any damage or loss resulting from the rental;

- b. Agreement that renting organizations, and officers thereof, shall assume all liability for any personal injuries incurred during their use of the facilities and shall hold the Board harmless from any such claims against it;

- c. Agreement to observe all fire and safety regulations;

- d. Agreement that the use of tobacco products shall not occur within the building; that the use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in school buildings or on school grounds; and that gambling shall not occur in school buildings or on school grounds;

- e. Observance that no immoral or illegal activity shall be allowed on the premises;

- f. The presence of a school employee at all times. If a custodian is present, the hourly wage of the custodian(s) must be included in the contract along with the social security and retirement payments required by law. If the employee is employed beyond the normal 40 hour week that s/he works for the Board, overtime wages must be paid.

- g. Agreement that no alterations to the buildings or grounds be made without prior approval. Signs, banners or pennants shall not be erected on school grounds by any group, except those associated with activities sponsored by the Parent Teacher Organization, or those used for temporary group identification, which shall be removed at the conclusion of the group's use of facilities;

- h. Agreement that the renting party shall not sublease or reassign any portion of the building or item of equipment covered by the rental contract;

- i. Agreement that school equipment shall not be a part of the rental contract unless specifically enumerated; and
- j. Agreement to leave the facilities in as good a condition as before used.

- k. Agreement that the groups' use of the facilities will in no way restrict or limit the normal instructional program of the school during regular school hours.

- l. Agreement that the use of school equipment is prohibited unless the Principal gives prior approval for its use;

In renting school facilities, Principals shall follow procedures developed by the Superintendent regarding group classification, fee schedules, and building availability.

SCHOOL-RELATED PURPOSE

In compliance with the Board's prohibition of the use of school property for private business or personal gain, all sales activity on school premises must have a clear school related purpose and must be approved by the Principal. Groups renting school facilities must indicate in their applications the nature of any sales to be conducted.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative procedures governing the time, place and manner of any public sales on Board property.

As part of my commitment to continuous improvement, I will always be looking for ways to strengthen our processes and procedures. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with questions at either jeff.saylor@estill.kyschools.us or (606)723-2181.

Sincerely,
Jeff Saylor
Superintendent
Estill County Schools

Wanderings from the Woods & Water

by Jay Bicknell
WetStoneKennels@Yahoo. Com



Deer Management and Football Bears

I try to read and watch anything that has to do with deer management. Growing quality deer is just about as interesting to me as hunting big deer. Seeing a buck reach his full potential is pretty cool. I guess it's the wildlife biologist in me.

I like to read about land managers in states not known for big bucks who grow monsters. These managers are taking deer to their full potential. In some of these states it's extremely hard due to a lot of negative influences.

The first thing these land managers do is look at the deer herd's home. They do what they need to do to make the home the best it can be. The manager makes sure his property has proper nutrition, proper water, and proper cover. The things that deer needs to thrive.

The next thing the manager does is look at the negative influences affecting the deer herd on their property. The negative influences are dealt with and snuffed out. Such things as predators and poachers could be the problem. The land manager can't rest and has to always be vigilant to the negative influences.

When these managers create a great home range and control the negative influences the herd reaches its full potential. The work can be tough, but the reward is worth it.

Now here is where I tie deer management into my Football Bears. I coach the Bears, a flag football team. A team that I am so proud of the way they conduct themselves.

We played a flag football team from another county that I am not going to mention. I couldn't believe how dirty these kids played. They were shoving my Bears in the back and even punched one of my Bears in the face. At one point a couple of their kids were staring my team down like they wanted to fight. I wondered where did these 5

to 8 year old kids learn this behavior!? Well I looked to the opposing sideline and got my answer. The parents were cussing and they threatened to beat up the referees. They acted awful and to be honest their coaches wasn't much better.

I told my Bears we would play the game right. I told them not to let the dirty play get to them. We won the game 13-0. My Bears were leaders and I couldn't be any prouder of how they conducted themselves.

Parents and adults, these little eyes are watching us. These little feet are following you. My son Josh is one of my Bears and I went to check trail cameras Sunday afternoon. I took my muzzle loader in case I saw a deer. Josh took his cricket 22, in case he saw a squirrel. We walked up a hill headed to our first camera. I looked back and Josh was carrying his rifle the same way dad was. He was even trying to take the same steps dad took.

Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

The way I see it, raising kids is a lot like growing quality deer. You give a kid a Godly home and cut out the negative influences and they will reach their full potential.

Until next week, get out and enjoy God's creation!

Birding BITS BY Cindy Brook

Nighttime Listening
Nocturnal birds serve their purpose. They add to the ambiance that is night. What would an orchestra of crickets be without the steady call of a whip-poor-will? I will climb out of sleep to listen to a barred owl. Day or night, birds are great!

E-mail: birdingbits@cfl.rr.com
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Canyon Hix connects on a deer. Congrats!

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School & Community News

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

After School Tutoring Services

ECHS offers free after school tutoring services every week! This is a service provided to help our students be successful whether they need a little extra assistance or they just need to make up a missing assignment or two.

- Tutoring Schedule (3:15-4:15)**
- **Monday** – Math with Mr. Crowe (Room 43)
 - **Tuesday** – Science with Mr. Horn (Room 40)
 - **Wednesday** – Math with Mr. Crowe (Room 43)
 - **Thursday** – English with Mrs. Mills (Room 36)

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

Free ACT Workshops!

Who: Any interested ECHS student
When: October 19th-22nd directly after school

- **Monday** – Science with Mr. Stringfield
- **Tuesday** – Math with Mrs. Farmer
- **Thursday** – English/Reading with Mrs. Moore

Where: Estill County High School
****Must provide own transportation.**
Any questions, see Ms. Rader.

Thursday, October 29th

Trick-R-Treat Night

Trick-R-Treat will be held on Thursday, October 29th in Irvine, Ravenna and Estill County, from 6 until 8 p.m. Homes welcoming trick-or-treaters should leave the front porch light on. Only ages 12 and under may participate in trick-or-treating events.

Trick-R-Treat Trot

Trick-R-Treat Trot will held on Thursday, October 29th on Broadway in Irvine, beside US Bank. Register by October 27, 2015. Set up by 4:45 p.m. on Thursday, October 29th. Bring your own chairs and booth set up. Bring individual pre-packaged candy ONLY. Please come dressed in costume For more information please contact Paula Short at 606- 723-3537.

Hallelujah Night At Irvine Nazarene

On Thursday, October 29, 2015, the Irvine First Church of the Nazarene, 280 Broadway, Irvine, will be having its annual Hallelujah Night between the hours of 6-8 p.m. Hot dogs and candy will be given out as long as supplies last. Everyone in the community is invited to participate.

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