

Hickory Public Schools

Week in Review

January 28, 2017

“A snapshot of HPS good news”

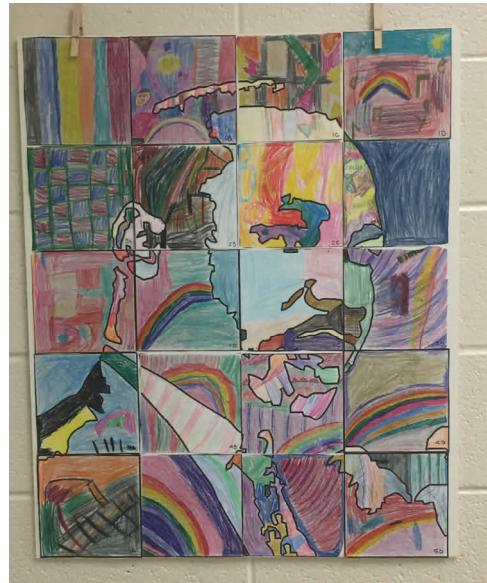
Viewmont art students create MLK portrait

With the recent birthday celebration in remembrance of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the upcoming focus on Black History Month (February)—the students at Viewmont Elementary School have created some beautiful pieces of artwork to reflect their ongoing classroom studies.

Under the instruction of Mrs. Denise Knowles, art teacher, the second grade students designed pieces of a puzzle, not aware that their end result would reflect a portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The students were instructed to color their piece of artwork using light and dark colors as they formed designs within the space. They had been studying the work of American pop artists including Roy Lichtenstein, Peter Max, and Andy Warhol—which influenced the students’ artistic style.

When the students completed their individual pieces, Knowles placed the pieces together, producing the surprise image of Dr. King, Jr. This collaborative art challenge complements the students’ study of Dr. King’s contributions to society.



Shown are board members Margaret Pope, Amy Monroe, Courtney Osteen (with certificate), Julie Correll, Sallie Johnson, Ittiley Carson and Reginald Hamilton. In back is HPS Superintendent Robbie Adell.

National board helps teachers hone skills

Now more than ever, teachers must prove themselves in a constantly changing education landscape. National board certification allows teachers to hone their practice, showcase their talent in the classroom, and demonstrate their dedication to their students and their profession.

Among the 112,000 teachers in the nation who have earned this impressive certification, Courtney Osteen's name is now added to the list. She is one of the 23 teachers with the certification at Hickory Public Schools.

North Carolina has more National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) than any state in the nation, with 20,873.

North Carolina offers statewide support for teachers interested in pursuing national board certification as a

result of legislation adopted in 1994 and enhanced via the Excellent Schools Act in 1997. NBCT moved to a new salary schedule for teachers achieving national board certification, resulting in a 12-percent salary increase.

This is Osteen's 10th year as an educator, having worked with Hickory Public Schools at Northview Middle for six years. A teacher of math and social studies, she wrapped up her prep work for the National Board last May.

Osteen, the daughter of Gary and Tanya Comer of Taylorsville, is thankful for the support from her husband, Kyle Osteen, also a teacher and coach at Northview and Hickory High. "My husband and I welcomed our first child last May as I was finishing requirements for my National Board, so family support is very important. It was truly a balancing act,"

she said.

Osteen earned both her undergraduate degree in history/secondary education and her masters in instructional technology from Appalachian State University. Osteen was recently nominated as a North Carolina Middle Level Education Teacher to Watch.

"Earning the National Board certainly helped to build my confidence as a teacher, but most importantly, I desired for this achievement to serve as inspiration to my students," Osteen said.

"I want them to know that we never stop learning. The only way to grow as an educator is to keep reaching for more and more. My continued growth and constant learning will be displayed in the classroom."

Osteen dedicates her achievement of national board certification to her

mentor and good friend, the late Chrissy Young, who died in September 2015 from breast cancer. Osteen is now teaching in Young's classroom, the very room where Osteen received words of wisdom and advice from Young.

"She encouraged me to never give up and she pushed me to achieve national board certification. I would not have achieved this growth had it not been for the constant support from Chrissy Young," Osteen said.

In addition to Osteen achieving her national board certification, three teachers at Hickory Public Schools recently completed their "renewal" as National Board Certified Teachers: Dedra Whiteman, Southwest Elementary; Paula Gambill, Jenkins Elementary; and Vanessa Lail, Grandview Middle.

Southwest student leaders join Dr. Jenny White, principal, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance for the HPS Board of Education.



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EdCamp at Grandview a HUGE success!

Learning adventures for all! Thank you to everyone who helped to make this a great opportunity for educators from across NC!



School Spotlight:
Submitted by Heidi Rice, French instructor and
Jamie Pennington, HHS communications liaison



Bonjour from Hickory High School!

Students in Mrs. Heidi Rice's French 1 classes recently presented their book projects designed for children. The books were written in French with interactive features.

The winners were (L-R) Gillian Murdock (teacher's choice); Kaitlyn Dang (best illustrations); Hayden Huffman (most interactive); Reed Williams and David Henry (most original); and Leah Knowles (most interactive).

There were many other books in the running — and the judges had a difficult job!

Congratulations to all the students for their creativity!