A Monthly Update from the Hernando School District

February 2021

Staff Receive Covid Vaccines

On February 19th, school district employees 65 years or older and those who serve as school health staff, were provided Covid vaccines through the Department of Health. Over 80 school employees including bus drivers, food service staff, teachers and custodians were able to get the vaccine in just a few minutes thanks to a smooth and efficient process set up by the <u>DOH-Hernando</u>.

Presenting Our 2021 District Royalty

The Hernando Education Foundation, brought their usual creative flair to celebrate our district royalty in a festive, yet safe, school-based recognition. Mason Lewis (DSPMS) was selected as Teacher of the Year and Kim Noon (CK8) is our School-Related Employee of the Year. Earlier, our award committee named Troy LaBarbara (WWHS) Principal Leader of the Year and Chris Clifford (CHS) Assistant Principal of the Year. We are honored to have all four of these talented professionals represent Hernando at the state level.

Central ROTC continues to shine

Each month, the School Board celebrates students and staff who reach learning, service or performance distinction. There are few teams that have earned more state and national honors than Central's NJROTC Air Rifle team. On February 9th, at the school board meeting, Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael Arnett presented his state championship team and awarded them their well-earned medals. "Central's JROTC team has made excellence the foundation of their program. Not only are these cadets victorious in competition, they are also outstanding student leaders on their campus," Superintendent John Stratton said.

School Board Approves Resolution

In response to a local bill, proposed by a member of the Hernando Delegation, that would return the district to an elected superintendent, the school board approved a resolution opposing the bill. In 1992, Hernando voters rejected the position of elected superintendent and instead, voted for an appointed school superintendent.

Message from the Superintendent

Safety is more than gates and locks

No one could predict that Covid would still be impacting our lives well into 2021. But it is and while pandemic fatigue is real and taking a toll on some, I encourage students and parents to continue taking steps to prevent the spread of Covid. Face coverings are not perfect but as part of other healthy routines including good handwashing, social distancing and regular surface cleaning, they are very effective. Let's not lose faith. There are positive signs that relief is ahead so I encourage each of us to continue to use face coverings and healthy strategies as tools to keep us all safe. Spring Break is almost here. Let's do our part to stay healthy and safe!



John Stratton