

The 2014-2015 school year at Hickory Grove /Sharon Elementary was a year full of new ideas implemented, academic growth, and individual successes. Student achievement continued to be a priority as our school has become a school where data greatly influences instructional decisions. As we expect all the time, our students were continually challenged to display good character and good work ethics as well.

Our teachers have worked diligently in preparing for our new state test this year, the ACT aspire. They prepared our students by introducing and practicing strategies needed to be successful on the test, like administering rigorous timed tests, something new to state testing this year. Our teachers have been administering benchmark assessments based on standards, taking the results of the assessments and using them to further drive instruction.

We kicked the year off again with our great PTO welcoming everyone to Meet the Teacher night in August. Our PTO is a hardworking group that actively volunteers at our school. Recent fundraisers by the PTO have resulted in a grant donations toward a new mural to be painted on our courtyard, something that has been needed for a while and donation money toward getting more leveled reader books into the classrooms. They also provided numerous teacher meals and covered lunch duties for our teachers, not to mention a whole week's worth of surprises during Teacher Appreciation Week. The HG/S PTO really takes care of HG/S!

We are strengthening our culture here at HG/S by continuing to implement the Olweus Bullying program to become a "no bullying" school. Our classes have weekly meetings to discuss issues as well as guidance times being used to stress our no bullying culture. We have signs on our grounds, in our buildings and on our buses to remind everyone that we do not tolerate bullying. We even had a bully awareness assembly done by the NED Show.

We also offered a series of Parent Café' nights where our parents were invited to get together for round table discussions on best practices in dealing with parenting issues. We are excited about these initiatives!

Literacy remains at the forefront at HG/S because we believe that reading opens up so many doors to a child's success in academics. We pride ourselves in getting books into the hands of York District One students as our staff donated over \$400 again to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. This donation helps to ensure that children will receive a book per month from birth until the age of five years old. We also held our annual book fair in the Fall and also a BOGO (buy one get one free) book fair in the spring just to get more books into the hands of students. Again we held our annual Fall for Reading Carnival in the fall with games, prizes and books galore.

We continued Jumpstart, where students got their day started with positive encouragement from our guidance counselor over the P.A. system.

We continued to focus on our mission, vision, and beliefs for our school and district; however our district goals remain in the forefront of our student's academic endeavors.

We are very proud and very pleased with the 2014-2015 school year at Hickory Grove/Sharon Elementary School!

H. Dietrich Long, Principal

Tiffany Statzer, School Improvement Council Chairperson