

April 2011

Academics

Each year, students at the Junior High School are required by the State of Michigan to take a standardized test created by the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP). The purpose of the test is to determine students' proficiency levels in the areas of mathematics and language arts. The questions on the MEAP are based on a common curriculum that has been developed at the state level and disseminated to public schools.

Continuous growth in student proficiency on the MEAP is a school improvement goal at Holt Junior High School. We have set a benchmark of 90% for students reaching satisfactory proficiency, with 100% of students showing some growth as indicated by the MEAP. This year, our students have surpassed previous levels of proficiency earning 87% proficiency in both mathematics and language arts at the 7th and 8th grade. This grade level proficiency score surpasses the state average and is a reflection of the rigorous curriculum, high quality instruction, and continued parent support that takes place in our students' homes.

Integration of Technology in the Classroom

To the West or Bust! Students in Mrs. Wardell's 8th grade American Studies classes spent their final week of second trimester in the library researching Westward Expansion. They culminated their research with exciting digital photo stories. Mrs. Wardell and Mrs. Bosshart, the library-teacher, co-taught this unit integrating technology and research skills within the history lesson.

The steps below outline how a digital photo story is created. Students start by researching a topic of their choice for westward expansion. They had a variety of areas to choose from and were able to practice their not taking skills with a print sources as well as a web source. Once the student finished their research, they wrote the key pieces of information in story format and found pictures that went along with their facts.

After they completed those steps, they created a photo story of their topic where they matched up the pictures with the relevant material that students chose to share. Students shared their story by talking into a microphone. Click on the following link to see the assignment.

http://livebinders.com/play/play_or_edit?id=64709



Mrs. Wardell helped increase student motivation on this new endeavor by challenging her students. A

panel of judges looked over the photo stories and the two best photo stories in each class were rewarded by having a pizza lunch provided by Mrs. Wardell.



Attached below are two of the winning stories from Megan Jezak and Dalton Jones.

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rV1v55rwwO4>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSDUb6v-OWs>

Anti-Bullying Campaign at Holt Junior High School

Let's take bullying out of the dark and shine a light on those who care! That is the message that we are sending out at Holt Junior High School to let victims of bullying know that they do not need to stand alone. We started our campaign in February with a quilt making activity and an anti-bullying poster contest, and a video (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2k-2l9hSyM>) facilitated by our Art teacher, Mrs. Crosby-Boerma. In addition, small class discussions on the topic of bullying were facilitated by the Counseling Department and the Library provided a suggested list of books on this topic. A school wide anti-bullying assembly is scheduled for April 11th.



Entries in the Anti-Bullying Poster Contest are proudly displayed in our hallways!



Students at Holt Junior School signed a quilt piece pledging to be a friend to anyone who is being bullied and needs help. The quilt is hanging in the C hall of Holt Junior High School.

H.O.L.T. Scholarship Award Recipients:

Holt Junior High School is proud of the five 8th grade students who were selected to be a part of the H.O.L.T. Scholarship Award Program. For the past two years, the H.O.L.T. Scholarship Program has been raising funds since 2009 to offer two-year scholarships from Lansing Community College for targeted at-risk students who agree to remain in Holt Public Schools and graduate.

The H.O.L.T. Scholarship Program was established to provide education scholarships to talented students who are “at-risk” of failing to obtain college education because of their cultural, economic or physical circumstances.

“We all know how important a college education is for our young people,” said Dr. Johnny Scott, Holt Superintendent. “This program will provide the incentive for these at-risk students to stay in school and have a post-high school experience at LCC.”

Delhi Township Supervisor Stuart Goodrich said the program doesn’t only benefit the students but the entire community by providing an incentive to move into the community. Mr. Goodrich hopes eventually the program can be expanded to include scholarships for every student in the district.

The Program is overseen by a Board of Directors which includes Dr. Johnny Scott, Holt Superintendent; Stuart Goodrich, Delhi Township Supervisor; Ann Coe, Holt High School Assistant Principal; Marshall Perkins, Holt Jr. High School Principal; Harry Ammon, Delhi Township Treasurer; Evan Hope, Delhi Township Clerk; Lori Conarton, Dimondale Village Trustee; Deb Roeske, Holt School Board members; Gene Wriggelsworth, Ingham County Sheriff; Jeff Blohm, Blohm Creative; Dave Leighton, Leightronix; Howard Haas, Mercantile Bank; and Don Mann, Holt Education Foundation. For more information visit www.holthelps.org



Principal Perkins speaks to H.O.L.T. Scholarship Recipients



H.O.L.T. Scholarship Program Board Members