

◆ School Improvement News @ PHES ◆

Where Reading Counts!

<http://www.heid-esp.eu.dodea.edu/>

September 2009

Check Out Our Standards!

The next time you stop by the school, please take a minute to check out our "standards" bulletin board. The "standards" describe our curriculum and what students are expected to learn at each grade level in each area of learning.

Our display describes how we work to link our system's standards with "in school" student performance and achievement.

If you would like to view the standards online, they can be found at the following web address:
<http://www.dodea.edu/curriculum/index.cfm>

Look at the Exemplary Work Wall

The Exemplary Work Wall is a weekly program that honors high quality student work. It is located outside the main office and displays work from all grade levels in the school.

It is important for students, teachers and parents to compare student work so that a clear understanding of quality is shared by all of us.

PHES Mission Statement:

The mission of Patrick Henry Elementary School is to educate all children by providing a nurturing environment and standards based curriculum dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of every child.

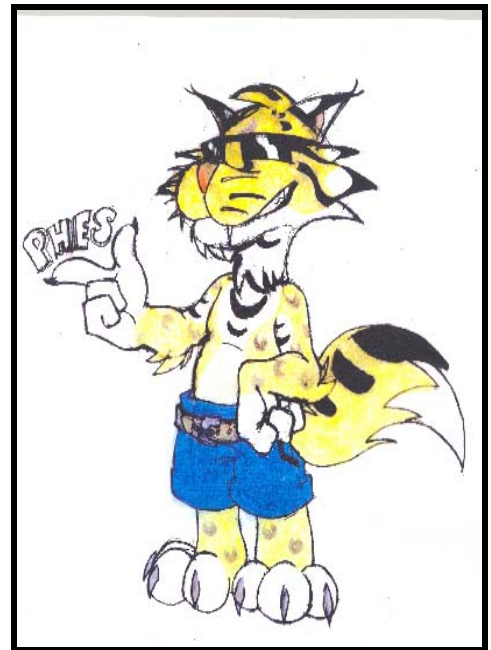
We will work collaboratively with families and community members to prepare and challenge our students for success in the 21st century.

School Improvement @ PHES

We have two main school improvement goals at Patrick Henry Elementary; one reading goal and one math goal.

- Our reading goal is that we want our children to read on grade level.
- In math we want students to be able to communicate well mathematically and be good problem solvers.

We know that these skills will allow students to "learn how to learn" and prepare them for their future while helping them be successful in their current world.



PHES Reading Goal: All students will demonstrate an improved ability to comprehend text in all curricular areas.

A publication of Patrick Henry Elementary School

Principal Russ Claus

Assistant Principal Marie Granger

Assistant Principal David Groat

School Telephone Number 06221-338-9054

School Bus Office 06221-338-9335

School-wide Programs that Support our Reading Goal

The following programs help students at all grade levels gain the skills needed in order for them to become effective readers:

Compensatory Education and Language Arts Reading Specialists provide group and individual instruction to students scoring in the 3rd and 4th quartiles on the TerraNova test. These specialists additionally assess students new in the school, suggest student placements in programs, monitor student performance and growth, and provide staff development for mentors, tutors, and members of the professional staff.

Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) is used in classrooms to promote silent, sustained reading as part of the school day. Research shows that by having students engage in reading at their instructional level for a sustained period of time, then having students discuss what they have read, increases their overall reading performance.

Individual Guided Tutors provide students additional assistance in order to be successful in reading. These daily tutoring sessions will be supervised by the LARS and focus on developing specific reading strategies. Tutors are members of the staff and volunteers. Tutors work with only one student per quarter; however, sessions will occur daily for a set time period.

Reading Counts (RC) is a computer program we have at Patrick Henry that uses comprehension probes to determine students' understanding of materials they have read independently. Individual and class data collection allows for progress to be noted and monitored, as well as for competition to exist between classes and student groups.

School-wide Activities and Strategies that Support our Math Goal

The following activities and strategies help us all to see the link between our reading focus and our system's current math initiative:

Modeling Thinking Aloud Teachers talk through problems so that students can get a clear picture of "how they might think" about a math problem. In this way, teachers "model" how to think about math.

Explain Your Thinking Students are asked to explain how they solve a problem as they check to see if they understand how a math problem is solved. By doing this the teacher can check for understanding and help students truly understand how math problems can be solved. There are usually a number of ways to solve a math problem and this process allows students and teachers to discuss how they communicate about math.

Math Newsletter This monthly publication highlights a different math standard and provides examples of student work.

Posting of Student Work Student work is posted throughout the school. Check out our displays of graphs. Graphs highlight individual student input in a broad based format of data collection. Look at the Exemplary Work Wall too. There you will see examples of how math is highlighted at Patrick Henry Elementary.

PHES Math Goal: All students will demonstrate improvements in the areas of math problem solving and math communication.