



PANTHER POST

PUBLICATION OF THE CHARLES A. BEARD MEMORIAL SCHOOL CORPORATION

SPRING 2018

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- » Knightstown High School Students Save Time, Money Through Dual Credit Courses
- » Knightstown Elementary Consistently Performs Above State Average on ISTEP+
- » Registration Dates Set for the 2018-19 School Year



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

I am delighted to introduce this first edition of the "Panther Post," a regular newsletter distributed to all residents within the Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corp. boundaries to keep our stakeholders informed on important information and recent accomplishments.

This newsletter is just another way we are working to spread the word about the growth and achievement of our schools and students. I am convinced that the success within Charles A. Beard schools is the best-kept secret in our community, and I am working to change that.

Our school district is committed to empowering students of all ages to become lifelong learners and acquire knowledge that will help them meet the new realities of the 21st century learning environment. While providing students with a strong academic foundation that will help them realize their utmost potential in life, we also strive to develop our students into responsible and respectful individuals.

In this edition, you will find just a few examples of how we are doing just that – from saving students time and money through dual credit opportunities to connecting our youngest students with organizations in the community that help meet their needs outside of the classroom so they can focus inside the classroom.

I look forward to bringing you even more information about Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corp. in future editions, including information about recent renovations, an overview of our strong financial information, and – of course – spotlights on our incredible students and staff.

I am proud of what we do each day in this school district, and I am thankful to the staff, students and community who work together to make it happen. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to email me at jbhehny@cabeard.k12.in.us or call me at (765) 345-5101 at any time.

Sincerely,
Superintendent Jediah Behny

WHO IS CHARLES A. BEARD?

Although everyone in the Knightstown area has seen his name on school buses around town, very few know much about Charles A. Beard.

When he passed away in 1948, "Time" magazine called Beard "the most influential American historian of his day" -- and that historian was a product of Knightstown High School.

After graduating from Knightstown High School in 1891, Beard went into the newspaper business and ran the "Knightstown Sun" for four years. He then attended DePauw University in Greencastle, graduating with high honors.

Beard had a passion for learning and furthered his studies at Oxford University in England, and Cornell University and Columbia University in the U.S. After earning his doctoral degree, he began teaching history at Columbia University in New York City. Beard taught that history is not just names and dates -- it is the story of people living, fighting, starving, loving, hating and struggling.

Beard was not always a model student and his ideas were controversial. Many called for him to resign from his teaching job after he published a book suggesting the Founding Fathers wrote the U.S. Constitution to protect their own land and wealth rather than to protect the interests of the American people. Despite his unpopular theories and opinions, Beard helped shape the field of political science in the early 20th century.

Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corp. is proud to carry the name of such an influential historian, and students are always encouraged to explore unconventional ideas and become lifelong learners like Beard.



KNIGHTSTOWN LAST CRUSADERS BRING HOME ROBOTICS CHAMPIONSHIP BANNER

Knights town High School Robotics Team 3947, The Last Crusaders, brought home a championship banner from the FIRST Robotics Competition Indiana District Plainfield Event in March.

"This is a great accomplishment after all the hours dedicated to the program by students and mentors," Principal Steve Wherry said.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a multinational nonprofit that aspires to make science, technology, engineering and math as cool for kids as sports are today. FIRST robotics programs allow students to practice math and science in a fun, engaging way while also building relationships with fellow students and mentors.

In the competition, students were challenged to raise funds, design a team brand, hone teamwork skills and -- over a 6-week time period -- build and program a robot.

At the Plainfield event in March, the Last Crusaders joined more than 30 high school First Robotics Competition teams from across the state as they competed on a field the size of a basketball court with 4-foot tall, 120-pound robots.

KNIGHTSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SAVE TIME AND MONEY THROUGH DUAL CREDIT COURSES

Knights town Community High School students and their families are saving thousands of dollars in college tuition costs through dual credit offerings, which allow students to earn credit towards both their high school and college degrees at the same time.

The Knights town graduating classes of 2016 and 2017 earned a combined 1,494 dual credits. Considering the average cost of a college credit at an Indiana state school is \$220, Knights town students and their families have saved \$328,680 in tuition costs over the past two years.

As a member of the New Castle Career Center, Knights town has established partnerships with Ivy Tech Community College, Vincennes University and Indiana University at Kokomo to offer college-level courses to students.

Dual credit programs are growing at high schools at a rate of 7-percent per year, according to the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships, and Knights town High School is committed to grow its own program. The NACEP also estimates that more than 20-percent of U.S. high school students are taking at least one dual credit course.

There are many benefits -- even beyond the incredible cost savings -- for students enrolled in dual credit courses. For one, exposure to more difficult course work in a post-secondary type setting may better prepare students mentally for the rigors of college level coursework. High school students can start taking a few courses with the safety net of living at home and being with familiar high school instructors before attending a class on a larger college campus. These experiences can create a smoother transition to college and students enter college needing fewer credits to complete a degree.



KNIGHTSTOWN ELEMENTARY CONSISTENTLY PERFORMS ABOVE STATE AVERAGE

For the past three years, students at Knights town Elementary School have outperformed the state average on the ISTEP+ assessment.

Principal Danielle Carmichael says that fact is proof that Knights town Elementary is fulfilling its mission of instilling a love of lifelong learning in the 340 students who attend the school. She listed five reasons that contribute to Knights town being a great school.

1. Staff

Teachers at Knights town Elementary have been recognized on the district and state level for their work. In 2015, kindergarten teacher Carolyn Shryock was named one of 10 Teacher of the Year finalists in the state of Indiana.

"KES takes a team approach to do what is best for kids," Carmichael said. "Our staff goes out of their way to support students and families."

2. Positive School Environment

Knights town Elementary makes a concerted effort to recognize students, staff and volunteers who contribute in positive ways to the school and the community through awards and recognitions.

"We help students develop not only academically, but character-wise as well," Carmichael said.

3. Community Connections

With more than half of Knights town students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunches,

Knights town Elementary works with local organizations and programs to ensure the needs of all children are being met outside of the classroom. The school works with Coats for Kids and the Second Harvest Food Bank, among many others.

"We feel it takes a village to raise a child and the more partnerships the better," Carmichael said.

4. Communication and Family Involvement

When parents, families and members of the community are involved with schools, the students benefit. Knights town Elementary has multiple volunteers from the community who spend time in the school, and important information is communicated via weekly newsletters, social media and a website.

"Knights town makes it a priority to communicate frequently with families as well as getting them involved at KES," Carmichael said.

5. Academics

Students at Knights town receive strong instruction in basic grade-level skills as well as intervention and acceleration programs that are built into the daily schedule. Additionally, students can continue their learning through extracurricular clubs like drama, fitness and computer coding.

"Our teachers are always striving to help students perform to the best of their ability, oftentimes volunteering their free time after school to tutor children," Carmichael said. "We also work hard to support all levels of learners including high ability and special education."

ADDING NEW EXTRACURRICULAR, ATHLETIC OPPORTUNITIES BENEFIT STUDENTS AT KIS

Scientific studies have found that students who participate in extracurricular activities are more likely to excel in school -- and that has proved to be the case at Knights town Intermediate School, as well.

Over the past three years, Knights town Intermediate School has significantly expanded its opportunities for students. In the same time period, student growth and achievement on state testing has steadily increased each year. In 2017, 15 percent more KIS students earned passing scores on the ISTEP+ exam than in 2015.

The KIS band and choir programs doubled in size during that time, and tennis, softball and baseball were added to the athletic lineup that now includes 14 sports opportunities. In addition to the existing clubs and drama program, KIS has also added an art club, science masters club, robotics club and robotics team.

"The intermediate years are very important developmental periods as our students begin to discover who they are and what their interests are," said Principal Chad Gray. "Through athletics and extracurriculars, our students are afforded the opportunity to discover new passions, make new friends and learn important life lessons like teamwork and time management."

Gray also said it is important to note that the increase in student growth cannot solely be attributed to extracurriculars. Teachers and students have also worked hard to improve academic performance, and the district has invested in supports like new Prometheon boards and Chromebook carts.

"These opportunities have worked together to enhance the educational experience for students at KIS," he said.

KNIGHTSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL FAST FACTS

» Between the Classes of 2016 and 2017, all but three students earned at least a Core 40 diploma.

» 98.3% of the past two graduating classes earned a Core 40, Academic Honors or Technical Honors Diploma.

» Knights town High School sophomores (Class of 2019) who took the ISTEP+ during the spring of 2017 showed results 10% above the maximum expected growth in English/Language Arts, and 6% above the maximum expected growth in mathematics as compared to their eighth-grade ISTEP+ scores.



YOU'RE INVITED!

The Charles A. Beard Memorial Schools Board of Trustees meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month. Meetings are at 7 p.m. at Knightstown High School unless otherwise stated. Regular meetings are open to the public.

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FEEDBACK IS WELCOME

We welcome our readers' letters, comments and critiques. Write to us at Editor, Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation, 8139 W. U.S. Highway 40, Knightstown, IN 46148 or call (765) 345-5103.

CONTACT US

Main Office(765) 345-5103
Knightstown Community HS.....(765) 345-5153
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REGISTRATION DATES SET FOR 2018-19

New students can register from 1 to 7 p.m. July 24 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 25 in the cafeteria at Knightstown Community High School, 8139 U.S. 40, Knightstown, IN 46148.

ALL-SCHOOL CALENDAR

Aug. 3 Teacher Day (no school for students)
Aug. 6 Teacher Day (no school for students)
Aug. 7 First Student Day of the 2018-19 School Year
Sept. 3 Labor Day (no school)
Oct. 8-12 Fall Break
Nov. 21-23 Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 21 Teacher Day (no school for students)
Dec. 24-Jan. 4 Winter Break
Jan. 7 Students Return
Jan. 21 Weather Make-Up Day
Feb. 18 Weather Make-Up Day
March 25-28 Weather Make-Up Days
March 29-April 5 Spring Break
May 27 Memorial Day (no school)
May 30 Last Student Day
May 31 Teacher Day (no school for students)