

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- ◆ Dec 1
Two Hour
Delay
- ◆ Dec 11
High School
Winter
Concert
- ◆ Dec 12
Grades 1-4
Winter
Concert
- ◆ Dec 13
Board of
Education
Meeting
- ◆ Dec 22
Christmas
Assembly
Christmas
Parties
- ◆ Dec 23—Jan 2
No School
Christmas
Vacation
- ◆ Jan 3
School
Resumes
- ◆ Jan 11
End of Second
Nine Weeks
- ◆ Jan 9
College
Financial Aid
Meeting
- ◆ Jan 10
Board of
Education
Meeting
- ◆ Jan 16
No School
Martin Luther
King Day
- ◆ Jan 23
Grades 5-8
Winter
Concert
- ◆ Jan 27
High Fives/
Awesome
Achievers/
B.U.G Awards
Program
- ◆ Feb 14
Board of
Education
Meeting
- ◆ Feb 17
No School
Teacher In-
Service
- ◆ Feb 20
No School
Presidents' Day

Edon Northwest Local Schools

District Newsletter

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2

WINTER 2011



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER A Message from Mrs. Troyer, Elementary Principal

OHIO'S RACE TO THE TOP STRATEGY

Arne Duncan, United States Secretary of Education, noted that states pursuing the nationally competitive program titled Race to the Top must "demonstrate capacity for real, dramatic reform as well as the capacity to achieve these reforms." To our state's credit, Ohio was awarded a Race to the Top grant in round two of the application process.

Approximately \$400 Million dollars has been awarded to Ohio and will be shared among schools that entered into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ohio Department of Education and each local school district. The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to assure that school districts will work in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Education and assure that the required Scope of Work is implemented according to specified guidelines.

Ohio is working diligently to transform the current education system. Ohio wants to avoid 'tinkering' with a system that has not produced desired results. Specifically, Ohio has established four goals that will benefit the children in our state and will be achieved by the year 2014.

- 1) Ohio will improve graduation rate by 0.5% a year.
- 2) Ohio will reduce graduation rate gaps by 50% between underrepresented and majority students.
- 3) Ohio will reduce the performance gaps by 50% on national and statewide assessments.
- 4) Ohio will reduce the gap between Ohio and the best-performing states by 50% on NAEP reading and mathematics.
- 5) Double the projected increase in college enrollment of students ages 19 and younger.

Edon Northwest Local School District is participating in the Race to the Top initiative and has developed a Scope of Work to guide our work toward progress over the next four years. Our district will receive approximately \$100,000 dollars to assist with the financial responsibilities associated with the Race to the Top requirements and our work continues. Helping our students prepare for higher-skill jobs in a highly competitive economy is our goal. We are proud to be a part of the comprehensive and collaborative reform supported through the Race to the Top program.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER - Continued

A Message from Mrs. Troyer, Elementary Principal

WELCOME, STUDENT TEACHER!

Miss Heather McIntosh, student at Trine University, will be joining Mrs. Gensler's classroom as a student teacher beginning February 21, 2012. Miss McIntosh will work with Mrs. Gensler and Mrs. Gensler's students until May 4, 2012.

REPORTING A STUDENT ABSENCE

Law requires maintaining accurate attendance records with parent call logs and written excuses. Reporting an absence by phone eliminates the need to write a note to accompany your child when he/she returns to school. Calling the school also eliminates the need for the school to attempt to reach you by phone. Failure to report an absence by phone requires a note for the child to be excused. Furthermore, the note must accompany the child on the day he/she returns to school or the absence is logged as unexcused and remains an unexcused absence. **Credit for schoolwork is denied when an absence is unexcused.** Please take care to follow student absence reporting guidelines. **REMEMBER:**

No Phone Call—Note Required
Phone Call—No Note Required
Call 419-272-3213 to Report an Absence



SPRING TESTING INTERVENTION SESSIONS

Staff members in grades 3-6 will be affording students opportunities to attend testing intervention sessions beginning mid-March through mid-April. The testing intervention sessions are designed to provide students with intense achievement intervention in order to best assure that students perform well on the State required tests. Look for information letters to come home on February 21, 2012!

SPRING TEST DATES

Students in grades 3-8 will participate in the required Ohio Achievement Assessments during the week of April 23, 2012. Parents are reminded that attendance is critical during test week. Also, parents should not schedule medical appointments or other appointments during test week. Please mark the dates below on your calendar so that your child is well-rested, well-fed and in attendance on these dates.

CONFIRMED SPRING TESTING SCHEDULE

- April 23 - Grades 4, 5, and 8 Reading
- April 24 - Grades 3, 6, and 7 Reading
- April 25 - Grades 4, 5, and 8 Math
- April 26 - Grades 3, 6, and 7 Math
- April 27 - Grades 5 and 7 Science

VISION STATEMENT

The Edon Northwest Local School District is a community and family-oriented district with a cutting-edge and innovative educational environment empowering students to be life-long learners and well-rounded members of society.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Edon Northwest Local School District provides all students an exceptional educational experience.

IMPORTANT DATES

- December 12 - Grades 1-4 Winter Concert - 7:00 P.M. - Auditoria
- December 13, 14, 15 - Grades Pre-4 - Santa's Store
- December 22 - Grades Preschool-4 - Christmas Parties
- December 22 - Christmas Assembly - Grades 5 and 6 - 2:20 P.M.
- January 3 - School Reconvenes
- January 11 - End Quarter 2 Reporting Period
- January 16 - School Closed - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 20 - Quarter Reports Home
- January 23 - Grades 5-8 Winter Concert - 7:00 P.M. - Auditoria
- January 27 - High Fives/Awesome Achievers/B.U.G./Perfect Attendance Awards Program - 9:30 A.M.
- January 30-February 3 - Junior Achievement Program - Grades 2 and 4
- February 10 - Valentine's Day Parties - Preschool-4
- February 17 - No School - Professional Staff Development
- February 20 - No School - Presidents' Day

Boonie Brown
Michelle Free
John Bob **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

Shark *Barbara* *Scottie Hammar* *Katie Hummel* *Susan Schellise*
Byron *Wes* *Heather* *Jay* *Carrie*
Andy

Dempsey Johnson *Calvin* *Toni Thiel*
Nikora Gessler *Kristen Hall* *Brenda*
Parish

Cher Jacobs *Edith* *Bobbi Jackson*

Deborah *Marty* *Dawn Becker* *Thomasina* *Deb* *Hickman*
John Malheur *Kara J. Opt* *Mindi Kessler*

Jacki Hake *Shannon* *Beth* *Taylor*
Natalie *Furnham* *Hallcut* *Cathy* *Frost*

Suzanne Hollabyl



A MESSAGE FROM MR. KENNEDY

EDON NORTHWEST MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas

As we approach the holiday season, I can't seem to get several thoughts out of my head. The words of O. Henry sum up one of my thoughts, "There is one day that is ours. There is one day when all we Americans who are not self-made go back to the old home to eat saleratus biscuits and marvel how much nearer to the



porch the old pump looks than it used to. Thanksgiving Day is the one day that is purely American."

The other thought is of the Christmas season. Charles Dickens once wrote, "But I am sure that I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round... as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and

women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely."

So during this festive time of the year, let us all reflect on the memories of the past and create new memories with our family and friends.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!!!



Does your teen work well with teachers?

High schoolers have many teachers and they probably like some better than others. Learning to get along with authority figures is an important life lesson.

Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below to see if your teen is working well with her teachers:

___1. Do you remind your teen of her responsibility for

relationships with her teachers? She needs to always be courteous and respectful.

___2. Do you help your teen keep things in perspective? She doesn't have to love a teacher to learn something in that class.

___3. Do you help your teen figure out what is causing the problem if she is having trouble in a class?

___4. Do you encourage your teen to work out issues with teachers on her own?

___5. Do you ask to speak to a teacher if a problem becomes overwhelming for your child?

How well are you doing?
Each *yes* means you're helping your teen learn how to work with teachers. For *no* answers, try those ideas.

Focusing on family traditions reduces teenage materialism

The holidays can be a time when your teen focuses on material things. She *has* to have this pair of shoes. Here is the latest electronic gadget she absolutely must have.

How can you turn her attention to the things that really matter? One way is by focusing on traditions that emphasize family and friends. Here are a few ideas:

- **Talk about the holiday** traditions your teen loves most.

Then figure out a way you can put even more emphasis on those things. If your teen loves special foods, set aside time to prepare those foods together as a family.

- **Do some research.** Have your teen talk with older relatives or friends. How did they spend the holidays when they were growing up? Are there some old-fashioned traditions you'd like to revive? A neighborhood

caroling party might be a great way to bring your community closer.

- **Start some new traditions.** It's never too late to establish some traditions for your family. Invite some friends in for a cookie-baking party. Look for an ice rink so everyone in the family can try skating. Try out several things until you find a few that you want to continue in the years to come.

Stick to good attendance over the winter

In winter, the sun rises later—and your teen sure would love to get up later, too.

It may be tempting to let your teen sleep in occasionally, especially with winter break right around the corner. But resist that impulse. Research has shown over and over again that attendance makes the difference between school success and failure.

After all, your teen's classes are still going on even when they're not there. Teachers don't just say, "Well, I guess we'll just sit here today, since Madelyn's out." Your teen's classmates are continuing to learn, while your teen falls behind. And students who have dropped out of school often report that falling behind in their classes is one of the reasons they dropped out.

So strive for perfect attendance this December. And let your teen know that as a reward, they can sleep in a little later over the winter break.



From the Desk of Ed Ewers, Superintendent

Transportation

As you read this edition of the district newsletter, you won't need to be reminded that the winter weather brings challenges in transporting students to and from school and school activities. As we navigate through this season, there are several things to keep in mind. Our buses travel an average of 58 miles each day hauling students on our regular routes. There are areas within the district that may experience difficulty with flooding or snow removal. This means a bus may be late arriving for a pick up or drop off, if they have to take an alternate route due to the condition of a particular road.

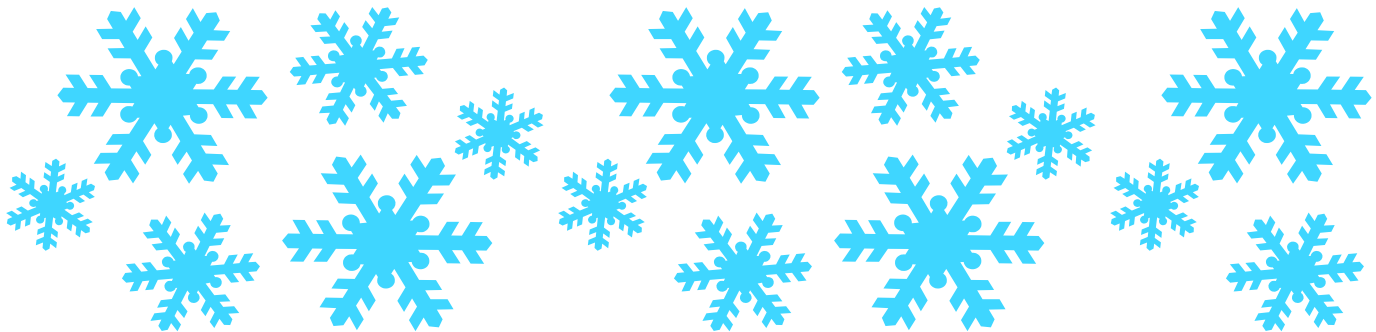
It is also worth noting that the decision to close school due to these conditions can also be very tricky. There will be times when a specific road or area of the district will be more hazardous than others. In these instances, school may not necessarily be delayed or closed, but the drivers know they should take greater care in their driving. There may also be instances that we will not be able to transport a student or group of students because we can't make it down a particular road. Again, this doesn't automatically mean school will be cancelled, because it may

not reflect the conditions in the majority of the district.

I know these types of decision can be troubling when it affects your family, but always remember, the law does allow you some flexibility to report your child absent if you feel it isn't safe for them to travel. If you have questions about whether or not you should send your child to school or to a school sponsored event due to road conditions or inclement weather, I encourage you to communicate with your child's coach or advisor as well as the appropriate building principal.



I would also encourage you to have your Honeywell Instant alert account configured to your particular specifications. As a parent, you have the ability to tailor your settings to control the number, and types of alerts, you receive from the school. We use the system to communicate a variety of information, so you may or may not wish to receive all alerts. If you need assistance in configuring your account, you can contact our technology director, Mrs. Molly Miller at mmiller@edon-nw.org or you may contact me and I will attempt to assist you.



Winter Sports Season

The student athletes are already immersed into the winter athletic season. I'm sure all of us hope they can build upon their success of this past fall. I would encourage all of you to come out and support the athletes and coaches as they represent our school with pride. These students work hard to balance the demands of school and sport and this effort deserves recognition.



Musical



I would like to congratulate the cast, crew and directors for their recent production of *Anything Goes*. I believe they should be commended for a very good performance. I would also like to thank the community for their support of the musical. I believe the kids performed in front of a "packed house" every night. A big thank you to all who were involved!

From the Desk of Ed Ewers, Superintendent - continued

Academic Notes

Recently, the Ohio Department of Education published a preliminary ranking of public, private and charter schools based on each school's Performance Index (PI score). ODE defines a district or school's PI score as the following: *The performance index rewards the achievement of every student, not just those who score proficient or higher. Traditional school districts and school buildings, including community schools, earn points based on how well each student does on all tested subjects in grades 3-8 on Ohio's Achievement Assessments and on the 10th grade Ohio Graduation Test. All assessments have five performance levels which include: advanced, accelerated, proficient, basic and limited. The percentage of students scoring at each performance level is calculated and then multiplied by the point value assigned to that performance level. The points earned for each performance level are totaled to determine each school's performance index score, where applicable.*

The ODE has compiled this list in preparation of House Bill 153's mandate to publish PI scores in September 2012. Such rankings will provide parents and taxpayers a new way to evaluate how local schools are performing while allowing educators to compare their performance with peers.

I am very pleased to report that Edon Northwest was ranked 87th out of 936 traditional and non-traditional (private, parochial and charter) ranked schools in the state. The only other area schools in the top 10% were Pettisville, and Ayersville. When comparing only traditional public schools, Edon was 78th out of the 611 ranked schools. Other area schools in the top 15% were Pettisville, Ayersville and Archbold.

I believe these results help to further demonstrate the quality and value of the education our students receive. It also speaks to the dedication of our teachers and staff in ensuring our students are academically prepared to compete.

School Operations

As the district moves forward from the recent election results, it is important that we hear from you regarding the direction you would like to see us take. A survey has been developed for all residents of the district. You may access the two page (15 questions) survey by visiting the following webpage:

Page 1 www.surveymonkey.com/s/YPXTXCG

Page 2 www.surveymonkey.com/s/YZWCHZF

These questions are not exclusive to any levy discussion; rather it is designed to cover a range of topics and to act as a springboard for future topics and direction. It is important that we hear from as many people as possible in order to make decisions that accurately reflect the wishes of our community.

Parents, a hard copy of the survey was sent home with students. A paper copy can also be found on the school's homepage: www.edon-nw.org.



Greetings from the Guidance Office!

Please use the **Ohio Career Information System**, commonly called **OCIS**. This is a **tool** that is fantastic for **career and college planning** and **college scholarships**. It is accessible 24/7 from a computer. You can access **OCIS** by going to Edon's website > guidance webpage>links. Scroll down under the links section and you will see OCIS with the username and password provided. Please explore this valuable reference tool that is provided by our school district!

I am currently facilitating **OCIS** career investigation and planning on a rotating basis with all the eighth graders. Mrs. Phillips Life Skills classes (7th/8th graders) are using **Kuder**, another career assessment tool, which allow them to complete career interest and aptitude assessments.

It is important for our students to be introduced to these career and college exploration activities at the junior high level so that they may make wise college and career choices during high school. However, if any new high school student has not completed a career assessment at their previous school, he/she needs to do so now. If students need assistance or have questions, please see me.

EXPLORE TEST

Edon's 7th and 8th graders will be taking the **EXPLORE** test on **December 7th**. This test allows our junior high students to get a head start on the ACT test and to make sure they are academically on track for high school.



For the high school students who took the **PSAT test** in October, the results will be coming back in December. Students will then be given free access to MY-Road, the College Board's web-based career, majors, and college exploration tool. Students will receive log-in information on their PSAT/NMSQT Score Reports in December and will have immediate access to this rich array of college planning information.

We have received the **PLAN test** results for freshmen and sophomores. Their test results projected ACT scores if the students follow a college-bound curriculum. The results allow the students to see areas that need intervention in order to reach full potential when taking the actual ACT as a junior and senior. Career planning information is provided in this report as well. It's crucial that our students understand the significance of good ACT scores, especially as these scores are highly utilized in the awarding of college scholarships!

Juniors or seniors registered to take the **December 10th ACT** need to be utilizing the www.actstudent.org website to take practice tests. The **next ACT test** is **February 11th** and the registration deadline is **January 13th**. Registration should be done online at the above website. Students taking the December test need to get plenty of rest the night before. It is important that they get to the test site early and have their photo I.D. admissions ticket, No. 2 pencils, per-

mitted calculator, and wristwatch. It is a good idea to dress in layers and eat a good breakfast as the testing can take up to four hours. Other opportunities to take the ACT test will be in April and June.

Interested **sophomores** will be attending the **Sophomore Visitation Day** at **Four County Career Center** to explore some of the programs offered at Four County on Friday, **December 9th**. This exploration day allows interested students to see their options.

During the month of December, seniors and their parents should go to www.pin.edu.gov and get a PIN number, which will be needed to fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form to receive financial aid from the state, federal government, and the colleges themselves. **Both the student and parents will need a PIN number to complete the FAFSA form.** The FAFSA form cannot be completed until January 1, 2012; however, you can get your PIN numbers and be ready to fill out the form when January rolls around. The FAFSA can only be completed online.



Greetings from the Guidance Office! - continued

Any senior considering attending college after high school needs to attend the **Financial Aid Workshop on Monday, January 9th**. This event will be held here at Edon in the Auditoria at **6:30 p.m.** This is a joint venture with Edgerton, and it is our turn to host this year. Parents need to accompany their seniors if at all possible. **Juniors and their parents are also welcome to attend**, although they will not need to fill out a FAFSA form. Please make the effort to attend this extremely important evening! **Mary Cannon, Financial Aid Director of Mount Vernon Nazarene University**, will be the presenter. Mary has presented at our Guidance Night-College/Career Fair and is absolutely wonderful. Her presentations are very clear and easy to understand. She will cover the FAFSA and financial aid process. She always welcomes any questions that you may have!



On **January 19th**, Juniors will receive an explanation of their **ASVAB** test results as they relate to careers that align with their abilities and interests. This is another career exploration tool available for our students.

On **February 1st**, Juniors will hear Sylvan Learning Center's presentation, "Acing The ACT" to assist them in preparing to take the ACT Test

Any Edon student who will be in high school for the 2012-2013 school year and is interested in the **post-secondary enrollment options program (PSEO)** needs to attend the **PSEO program on Monday, February 27th** at 6:30 p.m. in C119 with a parent. Students currently enrolled in the program simply need to confirm their plans with me by March 31st.



All students, especially freshmen, need to remember to take their studies seriously and give their best effort to succeed academically during high school. Colleges and potential employers certainly consider your academic performance and the quality of the courses you take in high school in their admission and scholarship decisions. Even the Tech Prep programs at Four County have certain GPA and course requirements for admission. You, the student, are ultimately responsible for your learning, acquisition of skills, and academic performance.

2011-2012 EDON BOMBERS WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

Some Schedules Subject to Change)

Edon Varsity Boys Basketball

Thurs	Dec	8	Fayette	A	6:00
Sat	Dec	10	Hicksville	H	6:00
Thurs	Dec	15	Pettisville	H	6:00
Sat	Dec	17	Liberty Center	H	6:00
Thurs	Dec	29	JV RT 49 Classic (Edg)	Hicks	TBA
Thurs	Dec	29	Var RT 49 Classic (Edg)	Hicks	6:00
Fri	Dec	30	JV RT 49 Classic ()	Hicks	TBA
Fri	Dec	30	Var RT 49 Classic ()	Hicks	TBA
Thurs	Jan	5	Stryker	A	6:00
Sat	Jan	7	Wayne Trace	A	6:00
Thurs	Jan	12	North Central	H	6:00
Tues	Jan	17	Fremont - JV only	A	7:15
Fri	Jan	20	Hilltop	A	6:00
Sat	Jan	21	Montpelier	H	6:00
Fri	Jan	27	Fayette	H	6:00
Sat	Jan	28	Edgerton	A	6:00
Tues	Jan	31	Hamilton - Varsity only	A	7:30
Fri	Feb	3	Pettisville	A	6:00
Sat	Feb	4	Monclova Christian	H	6:00
Fri	Feb	10	Stryker	H	6:00
Sat	Feb	11	Antwerp	H	6:00
Fri	Feb	17	North Central	A	6:00
Fri	Feb	24	Hilltop (Sr. Night)	H	6:00

Edon Varsity Girls Basketball

Fri	Dec	2	Hilltop	A	6:00
Tues	Dec	6	Antwerp	H	6:00
Fri	Dec	9	Fayette	H	6:00
Tues	Dec	13	Montpelier	A	6:00
Fri	Dec	16	Pettisville	A	6:00
Thurs	Dec	22	Var RT 49 Classic (Edg)	Edon	7:30
Fri	Dec	23	Var RT 49 Classic ()	Edon	TBA
Thurs	Dec	29	JV RT 49 Classic (Edg)	Hicks	TBA
Fri	Dec	30	JV RT 49 Classic ()	Hicks	TBA
Tues	Jan	3	Fairview	A	6:00
Fri	Jan	6	Stryker	H	6:00
Sat	Jan	7	Delta	H	1:00
Tues	Jan	10	Wayne Trace	A	6:00
Fri	Jan	13	North Central	A	6:00
Tues	Jan	17	Fremont - JV only	A	6:00
Thurs	Jan	19	Hilltop	H	6:00
Thurs	Jan	26	Fayette	A	6:00
Mon	Jan	30	Hicksville	A	6:00
Tues	Jan	31	Hamilton - Varsity only	A	6:00
Thurs	Feb	2	Pettisville	H	6:00
Sat	Feb	4	Edgerton	H	1:00
Thurs	Feb	9	Stryker	A	6:00
Thurs	Feb	16	North Central (Sr. Night)	H	6:00

Edon 9th Boys Basketball

Mon	Dec	5	Hilltop	H	5:00
Tues	Dec	6	Hicksville	A	5:00
Sat	Dec	10	Pettisville	H	10:00
Mon	Dec	12	Fayette	A	5:00
Sat	Dec	17	North Central	H	10:00
Tues	Dec	20	Hicksville	H	5:00
Mon	Jan	9	Stryker	A	5:00
Tues	Jan	17	Edgerton	H	5:00
Thurs	Jan	19	Hilltop	A	5:00
Mon	Jan	23	North Central	A	5:00
Thurs	Jan	26	Fayette	H	5:00
Thurs	Feb	2	Pettisville	A	5:00
Thurs	Feb	9	Stryker	H	5:00
Sat	Feb	11	BBC	Hill	TBA

Edon JH Girls Basketball

Tues	Nov	29	Montpelier	H	4:30
Sat	Dec	3	Stryker	A	10:00
Sat	Dec	10	Pettisville	H	10:00
Mon	Dec	12	North Central	H	4:30
Sat	Dec	17	Hilltop	A	10:00
Mon	Dec	19	Fayette	A	4:30
Tues	Dec	20	Hicksville	H	5:00
Tues	Jan	3	Antwerp	A	4:30
Sat	Jan	7	Stryker	H	10:00
Mon	Jan	9	Pettisville	A	4:30
Tues	Jan	10	Edgerton	H	4:30
Sat	Jan	14	North Central	A	10:00
Thurs	Jan	19	Fayette	H	4:30
Sat	Jan	21	Hilltop	H	10:00
Sat	Jan	28	BBC	Stry	TBA

Edon JH Boys Basketball

Sat	Dec	3	Stryker	H	10:00
Thurs	Dec	8	Edgerton	H	4:30
Sat	Dec	10	Pettisville	A	10:00
Mon	Dec	12	North Central	A	4:30
Thurs	Dec	15	Hicksville	A	5:00
Sat	Dec	17	Hilltop	H	10:00
Mon	Dec	19	Fayette	H	4:30
Tues	Dec	20	Montpelier	A	4:30
Thurs	Jan	5	Antwerp	H	4:30
Sat	Jan	7	Stryker	A	10:00
Mon	Jan	9	Pettisville	H	4:30
Tues	Jan	10	Edgerton	A	4:30
Sat	Jan	14	North Central	H	10:00
Thurs	Jan	19	Fayette	A	4:30
Sat	Jan	21	Hilltop	A	10:00
Sat	Jan	28	BBC	P-ville	TBA

