

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

Recently, I wrote about four exemplary students — one from each Pickaway County public high school — who had been selected as recipients of this year's Leo Moats Foundation Scholarship, provided through the Sunrise Rotary club.



Members of the Foundation committee who meet with the applicants say selecting just one from each school is difficult as each student excels academically, in extracurricular activities and in community service.

And yet, the students who applied for that scholarship make up a small percentage of Pickaway County public school students.

Throughout each district, in every school building, are students, teachers and staff members who are examples of the great work that public schools do.

At Circleville High School, senior Dylan Brooks has been accepted to MIT. Dylan is the first Pickaway County student to be accepted to the Ivy League school since 1970.

Nate Smith, principal at Logan Elm High School, shared that the Spanish teachers, Beth McCallister and Megan Michalski, attended an Organic World Language (OWL) training in the summer that resulted in significant changes to their traditional classrooms.

"They no longer have desks in their rooms and all of their instruction takes place with students standing and interacting with each other.

"As an administrator I was very nervous about this drastic change, however I can honestly say that I have never seen a classroom as interactive as theirs."

In the Teays Valley district, Ashville Elementary School participated in the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart. The school raised \$6,809.09. Of that, third-grader Dawson Fannin raised \$1,631.72 by posting a video in which he pledged to complete a push-up for every dollar he raised.

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Dawson Fannin, left, raised more than \$1,500 for Ashville Elementary's Jump Rope for Heart. Anydrewh Hylton raised \$550.

Ashville Elementary has been participating in Jump Rope for Heart since the 1991-92 school year and has raised \$42,174.30 in that time.

Another recent success was Westfall Middle School's Science Olympiad team, which placed in four events this year. That is the best that the team, led by Rachel Joseph and Judy Blum, has done in the three years it's been competing.

These are just a sample of the great things that we do in public schools and anybody who wants to can promote them through the #PublicSchoolShoutout campaign, initiated by a coalition of 10 public education-related associations.

Just add #PublicSchoolShoutout anytime you post on social media about something great happening at your school. Parents also are encouraged to use the hashtag when posting about a child's school accomplishment.

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