

## Insight on Education

By Superintendent Nick Carter, Ed.D

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." –*C.S. Lewis*

The results from last year's Kentucky Department of Education accountability testing system are in, and I am excited to report that our students in the Breckinridge County School District continue to meet and exceed state averages in many areas. The four-year graduation rate for the class of 2018 was 93.1%, and the five-year rate for the class of 2017 was 95.6%. Both rates are above the state average of 90.3%. In addition, 62.8% of the class of 2018 met the state's transition ready benchmarks, which was higher than the state's average of 60.9%. Moving forward, our high school is planning to reevaluate instructional and preparation strategies aimed at helping student improve their ACT scores. In addition, dual college credit opportunities will be maximized, which allowed over 1,200 college credit hours to be earned by BCHS students during the 2017-18 school year. The high school will also be working this year to enhance and increase work based learning opportunities in an effort to fully prepare students for the rigors of the 21st century working world upon graduation.

Last year, students at the Breckinridge County Middle School took exams in the areas of reading, math, social studies, science, and writing and scored above the state average in all. Our students ranked 4<sup>th</sup> out of 21 area middle schools in math and 5<sup>th</sup> out of 21 in writing. The students at our middle school also scored in the top when compared to area middle schools in the areas of reading, science, and social studies. Moving forward, the staff at Breckinridge County Middle School plan to continue working to pursue academic excellence, while focusing on the positive social and emotional development of all students.

Our school district's elementary students continued to outperform the rest of the state in all areas tested (reading, math, science, social studies, and writing). Overall, the elementary students in the school district ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in proficiency testing (reading and math) out of 53 third region elementary schools. The elementary students in the school district also ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in separate academic indicator testing (science, social studies, and writing) out of all the elementary schools in the state of Kentucky. These tremendous accomplishments by our students were made possible by their work ethic and terrific attitudes and the hard work of many adults in our elementary schools.

Celebrating the wonderful testing accomplishments of our students is warranted over the next month. Students in the Breckinridge County School District work hard and deserve the very best education possible. The continued success of our students is a reflection of the value and commitment we as a community place on education. Plans are already underway in our schools to not only celebrate these wonderful accomplishments, but to enhance learning even more through improvement. Our schools will continue to focus on literacy instruction, minimize novice scoring on benchmark exams, promote personalized learning, and enhance student engagement. We understand the importance of continuous improvement and are committed to addressing our growth areas in the school district during the 2018-19 school year.