



Communications

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BASSETT, HILLIARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS NAMED BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

Westlake's Bassett and Hilliard elementary schools are two of only 17 outstanding schools in Ohio to achieve the 2012 National Blue Ribbon Schools award.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools award highlights and gives recognition to schools producing outstanding results for all students regardless of race or socioeconomic status. Schools recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools have demonstrated consistent excellence, and in some cases, those that have made progress and closed gaps in student achievement. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program is part of a larger U.S. Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices.

Both Bassett and Hilliard elementary schools were nominated based on Exemplary High Performing criteria, highlighting the fact that both schools are among the state's highest performing schools as measured by performance on state assessments. Bassett earned the top score of Excellent on the most recent state report card and a Performance Index Score of 110.4, which reflects the achievement of every student. Hilliard also earned an Excellent on the state report card and posted a Performance Index Score of 108.2.

"The staff at Bassett is humbled by this recognition," said Bassett Principal Ben Hodge. "Former Principal Tim Rickard created a learning community that achieves excellence, and I want to continue that for all children here at Bassett. We have hard working students, parents and staff, and I believe this award recognizes their efforts."

Hilliard Principal Kim Conley also said her staff was honored by the award.

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“Through the solid foundation which former Principal Mary Flanagan established, I’ve been privileged to carry on this journey with a remarkable and dedicated staff, talented students, and supportive parents and community,” Conley said.

“It’s a great honor that two of the 13 Ohio schools nominated for such a prestigious award come from the Westlake City Schools,” said Superintendent Dr. Daniel J. Keenan Jr. “The Blue Ribbon nominations are a testament to the work and commitment of the teachers, principals, support staff, PTA and all who spend so much time seeing Bassett and Hilliard strive for excellence.”

Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. For the past 29 years, this prestigious program has honored more than 6,000 of America’s most successful schools.

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