Students in Bowling Green Independent Schools, grades 5-12, were asked to complete a recent Gallup Student Poll, measuring hope, engagement and wellbeing. Decades of Gallup research has determined these three factors are key predictors in students’ grades, achievement scores, retention, and even future employment. The Gallup Survey also shares information for the entire community to better support local students and schools, preparing youth for their future. A total of 1,566 Bowling Green students completed the brief survey.

Hope is defined as the ideas and energy we have for the future. Engagement is the involvement in and enthusiasm for school. It reflects how well students are known and how often they get to do what they do best. Wellbeing is how students think about and experience their lives. It tells how students are doing today and predicts their success in the future.

Of Bowling Green students surveyed, 57% are considered hopeful, which means students possess numerous ideas and abundant energy for the future. Thirty percent of students are considered stuck, which means they are generating little momentum for the future, and 13% were discouraged, lacking ideas and energy for the future. To determine these percentages regarding hope, students were asked questions related to grades, problem-solving, caring adults, graduation, and future employment. Of the more than 400,000 students across the nation who participated in the survey, 54% were hopeful, 32% stuck, and 14% were discouraged.

Sixty percent of Bowling Green students surveyed are considered engaged, or highly involved and enthusiastic about school; 26% are not engaged; and 14% actively disengaged. Compared to other students who participated nationwide, 57% are engaged, 27% not engaged, and 16% actively disengaged. Engagement is determined by asking students about their friendships, recent recognitions, the importance of school work, participation in volunteer work, and individual strengths.

Sixty-six percent of Bowling Green students surveyed are considered thriving, or thinking about the present and future in positive terms, in good health and with strong social support. Thirty-three percent are considered struggling and tend to be worrying about meeting the daily demands of life. One percent responded they are suffering, which is a result of having negative thoughts about life, and limited access to basic needs such as good food or healthcare. As a nation, 67% of students who responded to the Gallup poll stated they were thriving, 32% struggling, and 1% suffering. Wellbeing is determined by asking students about topics such as respect, how often they smile and/or laugh, energy levels, overall health, and involvement of family and friends.

Next Steps

Participating in the national Gallup survey and studying local data will help the entire community understand, identify challenges, and ultimately better prepare our youth for their future. Gallup has provided schools and districts participating in the research suggestions and strategies to help students become more successful. Suggestions and solutions are also provided for the entire community, noting that every person can do one thing to enhance hope, engagement, or wellbeing.

Teachers, Counselors & Advisors:

- Help students develop ways to overcome individual obstacles and improve grades.
- Get to know students by identifying interests and resources of every student.
- Give students time each week to do what they do best, emphasizing the link between school success and future success in school and work.
- Help students discover and develop strengths, then help them use those strengths in good times and bad.

Parents & Guardians:

- Talk to children about the future. Make goals a topic of conversation and help develop ideas and energy to make goals a reality.
- Give children personalized feedback, recognition, and praise for effort and doing what he or she does best.
- Spend quality social time with children and create a space where he or she can entertain friends.

Mentors, business people & neighbors:

- Show and tell a young person how education and good decision-making are related to getting a good job.
- Ask a young person to share opinions of the surrounding community, to learn their perspective.
- Invite a young person to a fun, exciting experience at your home, neighborhood, alma mater, or office.
- Ask a young person the highlight of their week, listen actively, mirror their enthusiasm, and ask meaningful questions about the highlight.
T. C. Cherry Team Wins Innovation Award

T. C. Cherry’s FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO team, Shark Attack, earned First Place for Innovative Solution at the State Robotics Championship at WKU on Saturday, February 2. The theme, Senior Solutions required teams to work with a community partner to identify an issue facing senior-age adults. The project included extensive research, teamwork, and presentation skills, as well as building and programming a LEGO Robot. As part of the project, the Shark Attack team developed a product to assist Alzheimer’s patients. The team now hopes to work with WKU’s Center for Aging to discuss the possibility of producing their idea.

EXPLORE and PLAN Scores Released

Kentucky’s 8th- and 10th-grade public school students participated in a statewide administration of the EXPLORE and PLAN assessments in September 2012. Both tests are precursors to the ACT college entrance exam and evaluate content knowledge in English, math, reading and science. Results show students across the Commonwealth are making gains in all subject areas and more are on track to be ready for college coursework by the time they graduate high school.

Administration of the EXPLORE, PLAN and ACT assessments, which are provided by ACT, Inc., was mandated by Senate Bill 130 (codified in KRS 158.6453) in the 2006 session of the Kentucky General Assembly. Senate Bill 1, passed in the 2009 session of the Kentucky General Assembly, requires a high school readiness examination in 8th grade and a college readiness examination in 10th grade. EXPLORE and PLAN, respectively, will be used for these purposes, and data from the assessments will be included in the state’s Unbridled Learning: College/Career-Ready for All accountability system.

For more information about EXPLORE and PLAN assessments, visit our website at www.bgreen.kyschools.us or the Kentucky Department of Education’s Open House Portal: http://openhouse.education.ky.gov.

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100th Day of School: 100-Themed Activities
Students to Compete in Spelling Bee

Students from twenty-five local schools, grades 4-8, will compete in a County-Wide Spelling Bee on Thursday, February 7 at Bowling Green High School. Representing Bowling Green City Schools are:

Nupur Chhachhi, Bowling Green Junior High
Grace Tweedy, T. C. Cherry
Jaeden Gough, Dishman-McGinnis
Daelin Rigsby, Parker-Bennett-Curry
John Wulf, Potter Gray
Samuel Chang, W. R. McNeill

Good luck to all Purple Spellers!

Kentucky Proud® Produce In BG Schools

Farm to School is a program that connects schools and local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias, improving student nutrition, providing health and nutrition education opportunities, and supporting local and regional farmers. The Bowling Green City School District purchases over $45,000 each year in locally grown produce.

For more information about many more Nutrition and Physical Activity initiatives in Bowling Green Schools visit: http://tinyurl.com/FoodService2012

BGHS Choral Activities invite families to first

Princess Tea Party

Sunday, February 17
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
at Christ Episcopal Church, 1215 State Street

Listen to some of Disney’s favorite princesses sing their special songs, enjoy refreshments and a photo with child and a princess. Tickets are $25 for adult & child; $5 for each additional sibling, $10 for each additional adult.

For tickets or information: princessteabg@gmail.com.

REMINDER: Schools will be in session Monday, February 18 to make up the day missed on January 25.

Teachers aNd Technology

District Technology Resource Teacher, Allen Martin, is showcasing teachers using technology tools in their classroom through brief testimonial videos.

Mr. Robert Lightning
Ms. Joy Luna
Ms. Julie Lane

http://tinyurl.com/TNTFebruary

...Dyn-O-Mite!

Dishman-McGinnis Elementary School will host the third annual Eagle Flight 5K and 1 Mile Walk on March 9, 2013 at Kereiakes Park. The 5K Run/Walk begins at 9:00am and the 1 Mile Walk at 9:45 am.

Click the link below to visit Active.com and register for the race!

http://tinyurl.com/EagleFlight2013