

Posted Feb. 12

In the name of COVID-19, the topic of student growth and student achievement often comes up. Have the disruptions caused a negative impact on student learning and academic development? The common answer would be 'yes'. I believe it is most true to say there certainly has been some level of impact on the students' progress. So my answer also would be 'yes'.

Rather than leave it at that, I have spent some time recently pulling some past data marks in order to present a more objective look at our local performance. Please know, and please understand that I know, this data does not paint the entire picture. I just simply would like to make available for our community and stakeholders a reference to student performance. This can assist you while making conclusions about the COVID-19 impact to our overall Arlington student population. Please see the next pages below if you want to take a closer look at that data. I am still pulling from some other sources, so I may become more informed over the weeks ahead. In the meantime, feel free to give me a call if you have questions.

Also, in response to our performance and COVID-19 impacts on learning, I want our community to know that we are beginning to make plans for a summer program that will be revamped in order to assist more students. We are brainstorming and hoping for a program that overall will be more extensive than past years. Please know if you are a parent with a student currently in grades Kindergarten through 4th grade, we hope our summer program can include your child if that is the desire.

Save the Dates:

- ❖ **State Testing is still looking as though it will take place. We will be scheduling these testing sessions for all 3rd-6th graders to take place in the month of April. There is some work currently in Legislation that could eliminate testing for the day.**
- ❖ **Kindergarten Screening will take place on March 17th. Kindergarten students will not report to school on this day.**
- ❖ **Mark Your Calendars, (more information to come) - 4th-6th Spring Musical Thursday March 25**
- ❖ **REMINDER: Elementary Memory Book Sales End February 26
Orders.langephotographics.com
Enter Code: HQL6LE9Q**

The chart below is data referenced from the **STAR READING ASSESSMENT**.

Renaissance/STAR is an assessment vendor whose products are used nation-wide as a means to track and monitor student achievement and learning growth.

Numbers represent Recent Arlington Classes' **AVERAGE GRADE EQUIVALENCE**.

	Jan 2019	Jan 2020	Jan 2021
3rd	4.0	4.3	4.0
4th	4.8	5.0	5.0
5th		5.7	5.6
6th			6.6

The chart below is data referenced from the STAR MATH ASSESSMENT.

Renaissance/STAR is an assessment vendor whose products are used nation-wide as a means to track and monitor student achievement and learning growth.

Numbers represent Recent Arlington Classes' AVERAGE GRADE EQUIVALENCE.

	Jan 2019	Jan 2020	Jan 2021
3rd	3.4	3.4	3.2
4th	4.4	4.4	4.0
5th		5.5	5.2
6th			6.4

Third Grade is the ONLY elementary grade level to take a State Test in the fall. Public Schools were required to administer the Reading Test this past fall. The chart below gives the Percentage of students who passed the test (Passage Rate).

**Keep in mind, our Passage Rate for the 3rd grade test increases significantly in the spring. The goal is to hit at least 80%. The spring rates are also shown below.*

	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020
ELA/READING					
Arlington 3rd Grade	58%	52%	72%	73%	53%
Ohio 3rd Grade	37%	38%	40%	44%	37%

	Spring 2017	Spring 2018	Spring 2019	Spring 2020	Spring 2021
ELA/READING					
Arlington 3rd Grade	85%	80%	95%	COVID	TBD
Ohio 3rd Grade	63%	61%	66%	COVID	TBD

Posted Jan. 21

#1) We would like to welcome all of the new faces to our building as we have had a large number of students move in over the past 4 weeks, dating back into December. Some students are new families who have moved into the district and a couple are students who have re-enrolled or joined back from virtual and/or homeschooling.

#2) The current COVID numbers in the elementary are much lower than we were experiencing before Christmas Break. We are thankful for that, and we are excited for the potential of increasing our time and returning back to a schedule closer to normal. Concerning a reduced day schedule, one thing that I recognize, and I want to share coming from a principal and a parent is that I understand and see a need for our children to have time to socialize and engage with appropriate play with peers. I just want to make note of that for what it is worth to you. Remember, our school days this year have not been conducive to allow for much recess play, lunch room dialogue, and normal types of peer interaction. Those of our students who are energized by social settings and of course recess and play time are really missing that experience. Again, we look forward to a time where some of that returns.

#3) You will notice report cards coming home on Friday, January 22. Hopefully for those of you with a 3rd-6th grade child, you will find no surprises on the report card marks. ProgressBook keeps current grades, so I encourage parents to utilize ProgressBook to keep a pulse on their child's grades and completed assignments. You will notice a blank 1st quarter. The mark for the 2nd quarter will actually count as the mark for the full semester. There could be some confusion/ misinterpretation of how the attendance is showing on the report card. Please rest assured that our official documentation on school records are accurate. If the school has significant attendance concerns for your child, we have already been in contact with you. Teachers are limited with how much they can fill out in the comments section. If you as a parent are seeking MORE feedback, feel free to reach out to the teacher. As I referenced before, report cards are a nice opportunity for student reflection. Sometimes I ask students how they would grade themselves based strictly on the effort put forth. That is a really nice place to start with a kid.

#4) Valentine's Day is coming. For the primary students, valentines can be somewhat of a big deal. Please look for further information regarding classroom plans to be coming soon from your child's teacher.

#5) Kindergarten Screening will take place on March 17th. Current Kindergarten students will not have school this day. More information regarding screening can be found on the main page of the school website.

#6) Make note of our Spirit Week for the week of February 8. See Below.

#7) I don't have much to update for Spring State Testing. Testing normally takes place for third through sixth grade students. At this point, public schools have not been notified of any cancellations to testing due to COVID. These decisions are directed from the state and federal government, and at this moment, we are told to prepare as normal. These tests take place in late March through April.

#8) Spring pictures will take place on Wednesday, February 10.

Elementary School Valentine's Spirit Week February 8 - 12, 2021

Monday - Feb. 8 Show your love for your favorite character: Dress like your favorite character or wear their gear.

Tuesday- Feb. 9 Show your love for comfort: Comfort and Cozy Day!

Wednesday - Feb. 10 Dress to Impress: Tap into your fancy side and Dress to Impress!

Thursday- Feb. 11 Show your love for your favorite team: Show your love for your favorite team by supporting their gear!

Friday- Feb. 12 Red, Pink, White Out: Get into the Spirit of Valentine's Day and wear your best RED, PINK, and/or WHITE outfit.

Posted Jan. 7

- ❑ **Happy New Year! Welcome back students and staff! We are hoping we have a great 2021 here at Arlington!**

- ❑ **The end of the semester is January 15th. Grade Cards will be sent home on January 22nd.**

- ❑ **Our work with The Leader In Me has been a challenge this year. With limited instructional time in our daily schedule, lessons involving the 7 Habits have also been limited. Finding opportunities for students to function in groups, join in town halls, and take active roles in school wide leadership have been impossible to maintain. I'd like to remind parents, students and staff... Dr. Covey, the creator of the 7 Habits, once said, "The 7 Habits work best when they have a problem to solve. Especially NOW." Dr. Covey made this statement well before the time of Covid 19. Let's remember that through the application of 7H, we are empowered to play a role beyond that of a victim. Please see the following guide and consider to utilize it with your child as reinforcement for developing an understanding of the 7 Habits.**
<https://www.leaderinme.com/embed/the-7-habits-tree?school=7c1c7b80920f2455531dfa19a744f9a0f2a86fd894832ea07e76965431069d97%24%24e6tspSTTFxxOWehdNw%3D%3D--Le02pB5O9%2FEyjQdP--LlvVtRvXDRW7qifH%2FV2%2F6A%3D%3D>

- ❑ **Another quick video from The Leader In Me website.**
(Great for older students and adults)
<https://www.leaderinme.com/embed/choose-to-change?school=0b04b44d90a7404fd9e73294878fdb6d2bc7bbaa7ef34e2b62f11ad066b8090d%24%24fe807PbKX7Qf05mqpw%3D%3D--EdCpRsLROpMwIzoy--fzX1W7CVX0YUc4yPZw1Ctw%3D%3D>

- ❑ **As always, feel free to contact the office with any questions or concerns @ 419-365-5123.**

Posted Nov. 13

1st – 3rd Grade Christmas Program

Plans are in place to hold a Christmas Program featuring our 1st – 3rd grade students. Like everything else seems to be these days, the program must be modified to adhere to safety measures.

Mrs. Griffin recently sent home a letter with every student with specific information regarding the program. Students will perform by grade level at their designated times. (See Save the Dates)

Mrs. Griffin will be sending home 4 tickets for the grade level performance with each student. We realize that many families will desire more tickets, however the limits on permissible capacity in our gymnasium will not allow for more than 4 members per family to attend. This limit on capacity will be a challenge for some family units. Our other option is to move forward without a program, but at this time, our desire is for our children to experience a performance. Masks must be worn, and the tickets should be utilized for entry to the program. We appreciate your understanding.

Student participation in the program is NOT required, and we understand that conflicts or health concerns may prevent some children from participating.

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Griffin or the Elementary Office.

Finally, if the program needs to be cancelled for any reason, there will be no make-up date.

Save the Dates:

11/15 Jac & Do's Pizza Sunday for PTO (always the third Sunday of the month)
11/26 - 11/27 Thanksgiving Break
12/3 1st Grade - 3rd Grade Christmas Program (Gymnasium)
 Grade 1- 6:00 pm

Grade 2- 7:00 pm
Grade 3- 8:00 pm
12/20 Jac & Do's Pizza Sunday for PTO (always the third Sunday of the month)
12/23 - 1/3 Christmas Break
1/4 School Resumes

Posted Nov. 4

Attendance Model

Elementary parents may wonder about future school schedules, pertaining to an interest of an increase or decrease in time of the school day schedule. There have been districts in our area who have made adjustments to their student times (i.e. more days, more hours).

AT THIS TIME, the Kindergarten-6th grade students will remain attending 3 hours daily. Our teachers are thankful to have the ability to interact and instruct in person 5 days a week.

In the event that our county would change to a level RED, our district is likely to remain in the current structure of the hybrid schedule. This is a change from our initial plan, where it was established that a RED County level would result in remote learning. Again, these decisions are revisited often, and can change. At this time, we are anticipating remaining in a Hybrid Model and 3 hour school day if our County Status Advances to RED. Please stay tuned to 'Marcum's Material' and Final Forms emails for any changes to this information.

Save the Dates:

11/15 Jac & Do's Pizza Sunday for PTO (always the third Sunday of the month)
11/26-11/27 Thanksgiving Break

Leader In Me:

I recently shared this video with our teaching staff. I think it is important that we understand and recognize the importance of teaching hope to our children. I believe parents can also find the short video to be meaningful.

<https://www.leaderinme.com/embed/teaching-hope?school=274c30c9f2e254a13540a5caf2d3a43e0e185f1d930b716981e1c0b0c8a45157%24%24I1%2F0cZ3SLnSJe6%2FSaw%3D%3D--y2XGJ5sKBIZb5qmA--TV%2B0B5r84bMyq2PMOMq1ag%3D%3D>

A Day In the Life at Arlington Elementary... Thank you Media Team Members!

<https://youtu.be/v07mXKwqhR8>

1st Quarter Grades:

Just a reminder, Arlington K-12 students will not be receiving a 1st quarter report card. Grade cards will be issued at the semester break in mid-January.

Posted Oct. 22

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5th/6th Grade Band Opportunity

Please be aware that Mr. Sorensen is developing a plan to start meeting with 5th and 6th grade students desiring to participate in band. Joining band is an option for any student in 5th or 6th grade. Unfortunately, due to our current 3 hour school day schedule, we are unable to provide this during the 8:00-11:00 and 12:00-3:00 time. The 5th and 6th grade students will meet between 11:00 and 12:00 two days per week. We understand that due to parent schedules and transportation logistics, some students may not be able to attend consistently or even at all. We believe providing the opportunity will at least be beneficial for some, although unfortunately, it may not include all that desire that experience.

Mr. Sorensen will be sending information home with all 5th and 6th grade students in the next week.

Spirit Days for Red Ribbon Week Oct. 26-Oct. 30

Monday **Pink Out** - Breast Cancer Awareness

Tuesday **Red Out** - Red Ribbon Awareness

Wednesday **Comfy Clothes Day**

Thursday **Dress Like a Farmer Day - Celebrate our Community Farmers!**

Friday **Red and Black - SCHOOL SPIRIT**

Enrichment and Gifted Programs

Mr. Cheney is in collaboration with 4th, 5th, and 6th grade teachers to develop a broader approach to Gifted Intervention and extension to the curriculum. Please understand some of the existing barriers that make this a challenge.

- 1) Students qualify in various areas. (Creative Thinking, Math, Reading, Superior Cognitive, Science)
- 2) Students attend in one of four sections per day. Teacher A in the a.m., Teacher B in the a.m., Teacher A in the p.m., Teacher B in the p.m.
- 3) Students school time is currently reduced to a 3 hour day.
- 4) Students pulled should remain in a group that is reduced in capacity, and restricted to their grade level.
- 5) Please understand, Public School Districts are required to assess and identify gifted area students. Public School Districts are not required to provide formal gifted services. Arlington Elementary does not provide a broad formal service to all gifted students. It is our desire to seek opportunities to extend, nurture and engage the exceptional student population.

Parent/Teacher Conferences Reminder

Normally in the fall, we hold evening sessions for parent teacher conferences. This year, we will instead consider our conferences to be ongoing and as needed. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher to set up a time to meet if you have any questions or concerns.

Save the Dates:

11/6 End of 9 weeks

11/13 Grade cards go home

11/15 Jac & Do's Pizza Sunday for PTO (always the third Sunday of the month)

POSTED OCTOBER 12, 2020

Bless the Backpack Program

The Arlington Local School and community members are working together to maintain family participation with our Bless the Backpack program.

This program provides meals to be sent home each Friday that school is in session. With our current economy, many families are struggling to make ends meet. This program is designed for families who have genuine needs and is completely optional. If you would benefit from this program, please call Mrs. Ginter in the elementary office and your name can be added to the distribution list. You may discontinue the program at any time. We do our best to fill all needs, but cannot guarantee that we can.

The money for the items is donated by area churches, Good Samaritan Nursing Home, and community members.

If you have further questions or are interested in signing up, please contact Mrs. Ginter at 419-365-5123 ex 244.

Mrs. Inniger's K-6 Art Classes

Parents, Hello from the Art Room!

Throughout this school year, your child will be coming home with artwork that they have made during their time with me. Due to Covid-19, all artwork will be sent home and not stored at school. Please keep your child's work in a safe place. If we are able to have an Arts Festival in May, I will ask that you return SOME of your child's work to school so that it can be displayed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Thanks

Mrs. Jane Inniger

POSTED OCTOBER 8, 2020

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all your efforts in supporting your child's education. While our structure and schedule is much different than past years, the staff has found many positives encountering these changes. We are thankful for establishing a school schedule that includes students attending 5 days per week in our elementary. Students are situated in very small groups, where teachers are able to provide more individualized feedback and guidance to students. Students remain engaged at a higher level for the time they are here, with overall less disruptions to the learning environment. Great job students! Thank you parents, and thank you Arlington Staff!

We know this has not been easy for our parents, while coordinating schedules and logistics, but we do appreciate your active involvement and thank you for your patience. Normally in the fall, we hold some evening sessions for parent teacher conferences. This year, we will instead consider our conferences to be ongoing and as needed. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher to set up a time to meet if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Scott Marcum, Elementary Principal

Save the Dates:

Jac & Do's Pizza Sunday for PTO is always the third Sunday of the month

Fall Pictures Make-Up Day

10/19

5th Grade Iowa/ Cog At Testing	10/19 through 10/23
3rd Grade ELA State Testing	10/20 through 10/21
3rd Grade Iowa/ Cog At Testing	10/26 through 10/30
Red Ribbon Week	10/26 through 10/30
End of the 1st nine weeks	11/6
Grade Cards Go Home	11/13

FINAL FORMS PARENT EMAIL SENT 9/29/2020

Dear K-6 parents,

In the event that our County Level changes to Red, our students would shift into a Remote Learning Environment. We are hopeful that this does not happen, but we want to make preparations so that learning and instruction can continue.

As a reminder from the district's attendance model shared in August, if our County would advance to a 'Red' level, we would prepare to start remote learning on Monday of the following week.

If your family would be in need of an electronic device under this situation of 'Level Red' remote learning, please fill out the survey below. In a Hancock County 'Level Red', students would need to have daily access to a laptop, desktop or tablet so that they can receive instruction from their teacher.

In completing the survey, we can compile names and have an accurate account of the devices that would need to be distributed to our elementary students. Please understand, families with multiple children in the elementary may only be granted one device, based upon the level of need that we receive from the survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VD5TL8H>

Thanks,
Scott Marcum- Elementary Principal

