

Academic Honor Roll



Lindsey Parsons, daughter of Dr. John and Jeanine Parsons of Mt. Vernon has a perfect 4.0 grade point average in the senior class at the Rockcastle County High School. Lindsey is planning to attend Eastern Kentucky University where she will study Journalism. While at RCHS, Lindsey has been a member of the Dance Team, which she captains. She is also vice-president of the Spanish Honorary Society and the School Service Chair of the Y-Club. She is also a member of FCA, NHS and Beta Club. Lindsey also serves as assistant editor of the *Rocker* where she has been a staff member for three years.

Roundstone Elementary recognized by U.S. Department of Education

Roundstone Elementary School has recently been recognized by the United States Department of Education. The department commissioned Public Impact, an educational agency, to study schools across the nation in search of exemplary programs in the areas of professional development and strong faculty focus. Roundstone was one of four schools in the nation to be recognized by the department for its improvement efforts. Kirk Winters, of the U.S. Department of Education, outlined that the schools profiled by the department were "found to be four of the most progressive schools in the nation in the areas of professional development, staff focus, and student achievement."

On December 9th, David Pensol, Roundstone Elementary School principal, spoke in Washington, D.C. to a group of national educators about the specifics of the school's strong academic program and the impact professional development has had on the school's dedicated, hard-working staff, great students, and a wonderful, supportive community of parents and families. These key ingredients, coupled with a comprehensive instructional program, have sustained a high level of achievement for Roundstone students.

Roundstone's profile can be viewed on the United States Department of Education website at www.ed.gov or the Kentucky Department of Education's site at www.kde.state.ky.us/shared/whatsnew/

Below is a summary of the profile which can be found on the website above:

"Teachers at Roundstone Elementary School use time during the summer to develop curricula, improve teaching strategies, and analyze data. Using time during the summer for this work is important, a Roundstone teacher explains, because, 'During the year, when you have the children, you are so concerned about their individual needs that it is difficult to develop quality questions.' She and other Roundstone teachers found that the best time for curriculum work is the week after students leave. 'Even though we are mentally and physically tired, if we sit down when everything is fresh in our minds, then we can adjust the curriculum and have the summer to work on the changes so that nothing is thrown in and disconnected.' Roundstone's principal notes that this curriculum work has had another important effect: it has created a strong bond among teachers."

When Kentucky began ranking schools in 1990, Roundstone Elementary school was near the bottom. Today and for the past few years, test scores of the 260 students in this rural elementary school have put Roundstone among the state's top performing schools.

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Angela Mullins, daughter of Luke and Kay Mullins of Snyder, has a perfect 4.0 GPA at Rockcastle County High School. Angela plans on attending Eastern Kentucky University and major in Accounting. She is a member of FCA, National Honor Society and the Beta Club. Angela's hobbies include reading.

Offerings by 21st CCLC

Basic Webpage Design Class

A Basic Webpage Design using Microsoft FrontPage 2000 class will be taught at the Rockcastle Area Technology Center on Tuesdays from 5:00 - 7:00 on January 9th, 16th, 23rd.

The class is designed for people who have basic computer skills (i.e. using mouse, opening and closing windows, and navigating on the Internet). Instructor will be Patty Himes. Cost is free and to sign up contact Ralph Baker at 256-1111.

Microsoft Access Class

A Microsoft Access class will be taught at the Rockcastle Area Technology Center on Mondays from 4:00 - 6:00 on January 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, and February 5th.

The class is for people who are computer literate (i.e. comfortable with performing basic computer tasks). Instructor will be Kristi Reynolds and the cost is free. To sign up contact Ralph Baker at 256-1111 or Kristi Reynolds at 256-4346.

Internet can help students

During the holiday break, high school students planning to attend college next fall can use the Internet to begin the application process. ACT's website, at www.act.org provides valuable information and links to help students search for colleges, take virtual campus tours, and apply to hundreds of colleges online.

The application deadlines for some colleges and universities fall in early January. Getting information and filling out forms can be a time consuming task for students and their families. Electronic application can speed up the process.

ACT's website contains a Financial Aid Need Estimator, which uses the federal financial aid formula to estimate what the student's family

may be expected to contribute for costs at specific colleges. January is a good time to file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form for the fall semester.

The website also provides useful information regarding the ACT college entrance exam, including online registration, practice questions and the opportunity to order test preparation materials. ACT scores are used by virtually all four-year colleges and universities in the nation. ACT scores are accepted by all Ivy League schools.

The next ACT test will be given nationwide on February 10, 2000. The registration deadline is January 5, with a late deadline of January 19. An additional fee is required for late registration.

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