

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Aug. 22, 2014

Welcome to the 2014-15 school year!

It's hard to believe that the summer – as determined by the school calendar – is behind us.



While every school year brings familiarity, changes exist, too: We have many new teachers and staff members at Pickaway-Ross, a new class of juniors started Tuesday and there are a few new programs.

In addition, we have a celebration this year, as the 2014-15 school year marks Pickaway-Ross' 40th anniversary. Our first seniors completed their programs in 1975, which *was* a great year. (That's the year I graduated, after all).

We'll be marking our 40th anniversary with some fun events. First on the list is our annual Community Appreciation Day, to be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20.

Community Appreciation Day has grown over the years and I hope you'll stop by.

The family-friendly day features an open car show, craft show, live music, food vendors and activities for kids, including a tractor pull that was a big hit at the Ross County Fair.

This year's event will also feature a kick-off for the 40th anniversary celebration, as Mayor Jack Everson of Chillicothe and Mayor Don McIlroy of Circleville will join me at 11 to say a few words about Pickaway-Ross and its role in the community.

Also this year, I'm looking forward to the installation of our new fitness trail, made possible through the NBC4 Make A Difference grant and a donation by the Bill & Mae McCorkle Foundation. When the grants committee conceived the trail



It may not look like much now, but once assembled and installed, the pieces above will be our new exercise stations on the fitness trail.

idea, a key element was that many facets of the school be involved. For example, Ed Ryan and his Criminal Justice students will work with Aaron McManes and his junior Carpentry students on the installation.

Suggestions have been made that science students can help identify plants and trees along the trail, which can then be labeled with signs created by Interactive Digital Arts and Welding students.

If you have an idea how your program or students can be involved, please let Principal Shara Cochenour know. This trail will not only be for the community. It will be created by the community of Pickaway-Ross.

With all the great things to celebrate, let's make sure we continue doing what we do best: putting students on the path to their successful future. Help me in making this year a very special one. Good luck and have a great year.

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