

My Turn

By Dennis Franks

January 25, 2013

Remember to vote early and vote often beginning Feb. 4.

What we're voting for are three, \$10,000 grant proposals registered with NBC4 in Columbus. To vote, simply log on to NBC4's website, find the "Make A Difference Grants," and look for each of the following grant applications in these specific grant areas:



Connect: We are pursuing a "Technology Spotlight" grant to put our Media Design Technologies students on the cutting edge of social and broadcast media. Employing iPod® touches and iPad® minis purchased with the grant money, students will engage these technologies in a comprehensive learning experience to promote Pickaway-Ross to the community. The grant will enable students to enrich their high school education and prepare them for real-world applications of modern technology after they graduate.



Think: The "Learning Oasis" will enhance the learning among our technology savvy students. Pickaway-Ross will convert a traditional classroom to The Learning Oasis, which will be one part den and one part coffee shop. Traditional desks will be replaced by comfortable couches and chairs, accented with soft lighting and Earth-toned paint and decorations. The Learning

Oasis will serve as a reward for students excelling in traditional classroom settings.

Serve: Pickaway-Ross proposes hosting a "Wounded Warriors Benefit Concert" to raise even more money and awareness to a worthy cause spearheaded by students in our Criminal Investigation and Police Science program last year. The concert would be held on our grounds, and grant money would be used to fund construction of a stage and offset transportation costs for students from our affiliated school districts to attend. Grant money would also be used to offset costs of transporting resident veterans from the local Veterans Administration complex to attend the concert, which would feature local, regional and national bands and acts.

Many other schools and districts are vying for these grants, so make sure to get the word out so Pickaway-Ross gets and stays in the running.

Congratulations to our new Grants Committee for its ongoing efforts to pursue any and all grant opportunities to enhance educational opportunities for our students.

Lastly, I would be remiss in any discussion of grants if I failed to mention our Adult Education department, which has been pursuing grant opportunities for many years. Adult Education was recently awarded a United Way Grant to bring its very successful "Game Plan" program to the Ross County middle schools. Game Plan is a dropout-prevention program that has had great success in Pickaway County for several years. Congratulations to Carrie Fife, Julie Bolen, Debbie Wipert, Amy Poorman, and Ernie Karshner for the continued development of the Game Plan program, and for reaching out to partner and assist other districts with this worthwhile endeavor.

