

COVER STORY

Scott High

Continued from Page 1AA

was wild,” said Seth Cooper, 18, an honor student, athlete and president of the incoming senior class. “There were just an extreme, extreme amount of fights, kids roaming the halls.”

The poor atmosphere prompted students and parents to pack a Kenton County School Board meeting last April to demand change. The turmoil also garnered negative media attention for Scott.

“The story last year was tough on us because there were so many hard-working people that it hit,” said Brennon Sapp, principal. “In reality there were a lot of changes going on already when the outcry came.”

However, Sapp admits the publicity was an impetus for parents, students, school staff and community members to get on the same page and solve the problem.

The June 3 release of the latest TELL (Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning) Kentucky survey reveals dramatic school improvements. TELL Kentucky is an anonymous statewide survey of educators which assesses teaching conditions at a school.

This year’s results show educators believe 74.4 percent of students follow the rules of conduct, versus 18.2 percent in 2013, the last time the survey was held. And 78.4 percent of educators said school leadership



Scott parents host a holiday-themed teacher appreciation party. Many parents have become more involved in an effort to make positive changes in the school.

PROVIDED

makes an effort to address teacher concerns regarding student conduct versus 39 percent two years ago.

Overall, 89.5 percent of educators say the school is a good place to work and learn versus 64.3 percent in 2013.

For Lisa Beckelhimer, an associate professor of English composition at the University of Cincinnati, that’s

huge. Beckelhimer is also a School-Based Decision Making Council member and mother of both a Scott grad and an incoming sophomore. She was part of the initial group that expressed a need for change.

Beckelhimer said committees were formed to address curriculum, climate and culture issues that had

slipped through the cracks. Previously fractured groups collaborated, stricter cell phone and dress code policies were enforced, course offerings were expanded and improved, and a career-oriented series of courses was established to serve students on multiple pathways.

As a result, behavioral referrals were cut in half and ACT and state test scores went up.

Beckelhimer said the successes were beyond their expectations and she’s confident her son will now thrive at Scott.

“It’s really done a 180,” Beckelhimer said. “Our percentile ranking went from the 28th to 73rd percentile, so we’re one of a handful of schools in the whole state of Kentucky to improve that dramatically. Those kind of numbers, those are what have shown our successes.”

In the 2012-2013 school year, Scott ranked below historically low-scoring schools with a Needs Improvement rating. The following year, the school was ranked Proficient.

Results from state testing this past May, will be available in September. The goal is to achieve a Distinguished rating, or the top 20 percent in the state. That would be quite a feat to improve that dramatically in three years, but it’s an attainable goal, according to Sapp.

“I’ve always loved Scott. I never thought it was a bad school,” Cooper said. “But this year it’s been like a completely different school. It’s been awesome.”



A NEW JOB... RIGHT IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND.

Killing time while at the airport? On the train? Waiting in line? Find and apply for jobs on the go. Download CareerBuilder.com’s mobile app today.

TAKE FIVE MINUTES A DAY TO BUILD A BETTER LIFE.

careerbuilder.com

An affiliate of the CINCINNATI.com network.

SUPERIOR HYUNDAI NORTH

2014 Hyundai Equus Ultimate

BUY FOR
\$699
Per Month⁽¹⁾

\$6,500 DOWN
PAYMENT



2015 Hyundai Genesis RWD 3.8

\$299
Per Month⁽²⁾

36 Month Lease
\$1,999 Due
At Signing



Ohio’s #1 Hyundai Dealer!†

Best Price Guarantee!**

America’s Best Warranty††
10-Year/100,000-Mile
Powertrain Limited Warranty

Hyundai Assurance
CONNECTED CARE



513-870-9800 MYHYUNDAIDEALER.COM

5665 Dixie Hwy. • Fairfield, OH 45014

†First dealer in Ohio, Dealer #OH001. ††Based on total package of warranty programs. See dealer for limited warranty details. (1)Stk #F14087850, MSRP \$68,920, plus tax, title, license and doc fees. 3.5% APR for 84 months on approved credit. All incentives applied and retained by dealer. (2)Stk #F15034499, plus tax, title, license and doc fees. Purchase at lease end for \$23,098.50, 10K miles a year with 20¢ per mile over. On approved credit. See dealer for complete details. Offers expire 6/30/15. **Must present competitor’s written offer to qualify for adjusted pricing. Offer must be the same make, model, year and trim. Offers expire 6/30/15.