



## Data:

We now have **263** high schools and ATCs registered for Imagine Academy in Kentucky!

Make sure you are also a testing site with Certiport so your students can certify!

## Stay Connected:

[KYIA webpage](#)

[Microsoft IA Blog](#)

[Microsoft EduCast Webinar Series](#)

[KY's Certiport webpage](#)

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Laura Raganas, KY IA Program Manager  
[laura.raganas@education.ky.gov](mailto:laura.raganas@education.ky.gov)

Megan Hochstatter, Microsoft Deployment Manager  
[megan@vegaconsultingllc.com](mailto:megan@vegaconsultingllc.com)

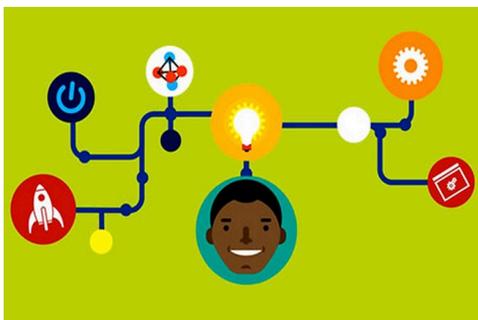
Ann Schreck, Certiport Deployment Manager  
[ann.schreck@pearson.com](mailto:ann.schreck@pearson.com)



## Mandatory End-of-Year Survey

Below is a link to the mandatory survey for all Imagine Academy Program Administrators to complete. The data collected will help make decisions for 2016-17, so your complete and accurate responses are imperative. I am grateful to those who have already responded. If you have not, you need to do so immediately, as this will help ensure you have what you need for the 2016-17 school year.

[Imagine Academy Planning Survey for 2016-17 School Year](#)



## The Last Training Opportunity This Year!

Are you new to Imagine Academy or just trying to figure out how to navigate the site to access the curriculum and resources made available to you at no charge? Register for the final training event this school year:

[May 19<sup>th</sup> at Western High School in Louisville](#)

## Certipalooza at STLP

The inaugural Certipalooza event took place April 22 at the state STLP competition in Lexington and was a big success! Students were invited to attend and earn as many Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) and/or Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA) certifications as they could in one day. MOS certification is the leading IT certification in the world, while MTA certification has tracks in Database, Developer and IT Professional. These two certifications showcase a student's knowledge and skill in an economy that demands leaders understand, collaborate, and manage both data and infrastructure. Students in Kentucky have certainly demonstrated that they have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to productively use Microsoft Office.

During the STLP event, KET was on site to interview state officials, program leaders and students. The interviews will be a part of the "Education Matters" show that will debut on KET at 9 p.m. May 16 and will air at other times on KET and KETKY during the following days.



Certipalooza testing lab



Certiport announcing Certipalooza winners



KET interviewing a student

### **Buckhorn High School wins Best High School Project at STLP with the use of Creative Coding Through Games and Apps – a curriculum inside Imagine Academy**

Kim Campbell, the STLP sponsor at Buckhorn High School, wrote, "I just wanted to take a second to brag on our Buckhorn Wildcat STLP students. These students started a project last September that at many times they wanted to abandon but they kept working until they developed, from scratch, a game aimed to help primary and elementary students with math concepts tested on the new District Exit Criteria. These students then traveled around the district showing teachers and students how to play their game and got feedback from students, parents and teachers.

"I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am of this group of young people! They have a desire to be the best students they can be, a work-ethic that leads to state championship results and character that knows no bounds.

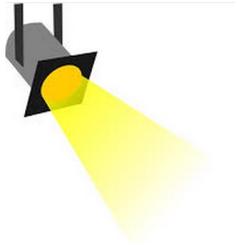
"In case you have no experience with STLP, our students competed against over 5,000 students and over 500 other instructional projects to be named the Best High School Project in the state of Kentucky! If you would like to see the game they created, you can access it here:

<https://www.touchdevelop.com/app/#run:bdfd0b4e-4552-4502-64fa-3081e8b1f8d0:id=zqkhrv>

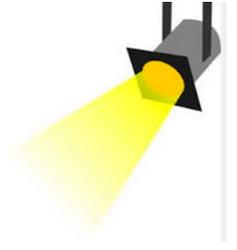
Buckhorn High School students will represent Kentucky in June at the ISTE conference in Denver.



Buckhorn High School winners



# Spotlight:



## Dixie Heights High School

Story by Shane Stamper, Dixie Heights High teacher

Dixie Heights High School is in just our third year of offering the Microsoft Office Specialist Exams to our students. In our first year, we had a total of nine certifications awarded. Last year our certification numbers exploded to 210, and we are on track this year to award over 300 certifications. Included in this success this year are six students who have achieved Microsoft Office Master Certification for Word and 1 student who is Master Certified in Word and Excel!

Dixie Heights is on a trimester schedule, giving us the opportunity to certify students six times during the school year. To prepare, we have utilized the Shelly Cashman book series as a primary means for preparing our students. Recently, however, we have begun using the Imagine Academy materials and study guides. This school year, we have certified students in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Advanced Word and Advanced Excel.

For newer Imagine Academy programs or programs that want to boost their success, I would make several recommendations. First, if your site is not a testing center, sign up to become one. Students seem to do better in a comfortable surroundings and equipment. I would also recommend for the instructor to take the certification exams or be certified in the areas they are teaching. This allows for the instructor to understand the format and testing environment for when students certify. I have taken and achieved Microsoft Office Master Certification and Microsoft Certified Educator this year, and it definitely helps me give my students a good foundation for success.

Finally, explain the many benefits that certifying has to offer your students. Not only does certification give the students extra skills, it also allows them to help build their resumes and college applications. Additionally, several former students have stated that they have received college credit based on successful completion of the four core level certifications:

*"I remember Mr. Stamper telling me about the certification tests sophomore year and thinking I'll never pass any of those. After a lot of encouragement and practice on activities in the Microsoft Office books, I passed my very first certification test. It drove me to want to pass all of them. I knew the success on the tests would give me a competitive edge in the working world. It would give me the confidence in myself I needed to do anything I set my mind to accomplish. I'm glad I gave in to Mr. Stamper's suggestion to take my first certification test. It paid off!" – Alana Moore*

*"The Microsoft Office Certifications have given me a new kind of confidence. I have applied what I've learned by helping a few teachers at Dixie and showing my grandmother how to use Excel. These certifications will also help me next year as I begin my first year of Engineering School." – Spencer Wynn*

*"When I was about to start doing my first certification exam, I was certain I was going to fail. But, with the help of my teacher, I was able to gain the confidence to pass with a significant amount of points. This allowed me to have a controlled level of confidence to pass the rest of them. The certifications mean something to me. They mean more than what I thought and I'm actually going somewhere in my career. They give me something to look back on for motivation. But now, in the end, I can proudly say that I have my Master Certification as a Microsoft Specialist!" – Miles Spurlock*

### Data Points for April:

The number of schools signed up for membership: 262

The number of registered testing centers: 248

The number of Excel certifications for the month: 337

The number of Excel certification year-to-date: 1,613

The number of MTA certifications for the month: 61

The number of MTA certifications year-to-date: 165

The number of online courses started: 33,130

The number of online courses completed: 27,722

The top 10 certifying sites:

1. Clark County ATC	6. Mayfield/Graves County ATC
2. Dixie Heights High, Kenton County	7. Franklin Simpson High, Simpson County
3. Simon Kenton High, Kenton County	8. Murray High, Murray Independent
4. Breckinridge County ATC	9. Hart County High
5. Ryle High, Boone County	10. Highlands High, Fort Thomas Independent

**Is your school listed here?**

## MOS Master Certifications

School	Name
Marion County High	Dylan Tungate
Dixie Heights High	Michael Smeltzer
Pulaski County High	Mike Crowhurst
Simon Kenton High	Katelyn Taylor
Simon Kenton High	Christopher Welch
Simon Kenton High	Kathryn Johnson
Simon Kenton High	Johnathan Hawkins
Montgomery County ATC	Greyson Cox
Simon Kenton High	James Kreidenweis
Beechwood High School	Logan Hamm

School	Name
Dixie Heights High School	Miles Spurlock
Dixie Heights High School	James Fussinger
Dixie Heights High School	Andrew Perry
Livingston Central High School	Kaylin Travis
Dixie Heights High School	Matthew Sims
Dixie Heights High School	Spencer Wynn
Dixie Heights High School	Alaina Moore
Russell ATC	Dennis Stephens
Simon Kenton High	Alyssa Armes
Simon Kenton High	Andrew Stevens

### KDE's [KY IA Website!](#)

Check out the Microsoft Resources folder and the Certiport Resources folder - they both have lots of "how to" documents that will help you navigate the Imagine Academy site. There is also a webinar available: "[Webinar for the New Imagine Academy website](#)" that you may want to watch.