



From the Superintendent's Desk - Dr. Ann Jackson

In this  
issue:

- Note from Dr. Jackson
- Graduation
- JHS Principal
- School Highlights
- Viking Athletic News

*It has been a successful year for the Jasper City Schools with many scholastic, fine arts, and athletic accomplishments that families, staff and community members can be proud of as we close out the year. The 2017 WHS Senior Class earned almost 3 million dollars in scholarships with 113 students receiving academic scholarships and 7 received athletic scholarships. Also, 91% of graduates indicated they will pursue some type of post-secondary education. Preparing our students to be college and/or career-ready is our goal.*

*As we prepare for August, I would like to reiterate the wonderful opportunities we have as we reconfigure our schools. We look forward to students having more positive experiences as they transition to each grade level. Faculties will have a greater opportunity for planning and collaboration for all learners. Every child will have the same opportunities, the same resources, and the same curriculum. We're making sure that everything is equal for every student. We're all Vikings. Thank you again to all the parents and community members who helped in the moving process during the last few weeks of school. I hope all of our students, faculty members and parents have a wonderful summer!*  
-Ann Jackson



**Remembering Walker High  
School's Great Leader**

**Mr. Tommy Hobson**

Members of the 2017 graduating class of Walker High School — the last prior to the school being renamed Jasper High School — received their diplomas during graduation ceremonies held May 26th at Kiro-Gambrell Field. The seniors opened the ceremony by honoring Walker assistant principal Tommy Hobson, who died in a car accident on March 22 in Arkansas.

# Bart Reeves named principal of Jasper High School



Reeves is a native of Geraldine in DeKalb County, Ala. He has a 20-year career in education, which began as a social studies teacher at Cherokee Elementary School for Guntersville City Schools. Reeves later served as principal of the school. He most recently worked as superintendent for Jackson County Schools, which was a temporary position. He said the school district’s superintendent retired from the elected office. “We moved to that county, not expecting to win, but I was expecting to gain a lot of experience. ... That term ended in December,” Reeves said in an interview with the Eagle Thursday.

Reeves interviewed for the principal’s position at Jasper High School in early May, and he said he has always heard good things about the Jasper City Schools system.

“We were targeting schools that number one, would be a great place to work, and number two, a great place to send your kids to school,” he said. “We’re blessed and fortunate. We’re extremely lucky to be here.”

Reeves and his wife, Amy, have three children, John Whit (5), Hadley (3) and Harper (7 months old). He said his son will be entering kindergarten this fall.

Other than knowing a friend from Walker County, Reeves said he has no connections to the area, but he said everyone has been welcoming during his first week.

“Everybody took us in yesterday. It felt like a family atmosphere when we walked in the door and met the board members and some of the other people that were there. What more can you ask for?” he said. “If you work hard and you do what’s right, God is going to take care of you, and that’s my mindset. ... I don’t have the words to describe the excitement that my family and I are feeling. This is going to be home.”

Reeves will replace Terry Smith, who has been interim principal of the high school since February. Reeves will be the first principal of Jasper High School.

News info by NICOLE SMITH, Daily Mountain Eagle

**Jasper High School****Jasper High School junior earns perfect score on ACT**

Jasper High School junior Calen Stewart poses with his second place trophy from the 2017 Chess SuperNationals. Stewart recently earned a perfect score of 36 on the ACT — a feat only a few students achieve each year.

One Jasper High School junior managed a composite score of 36 on his ACT test — the highest composite score possible and something very few achieve.

Calen Stewart, 16, took the ACT, a standardized test for high school achievement and college admissions in the United States, in April for his third time and scored a 36. His two previous scores were a 31 and 34. When previously asked by Spanish teacher Kelly Whitaker what his goal for the year was, Stewart said he wanted to score a 36. After hearing that his most recent score at the time was a 34, Whitaker didn't doubt that he would achieve this goal. "When he says he wants something, he goes after it," she said. "I don't doubt him. I'll never doubt him."

Gayle Crump, an assistant principal at Jasper High School, said that in the nearly three decades she's been at the school, she doesn't remember another student ever scoring a 36 composite.

According to data from 2016, Stewart's score puts him in the 99.9585 percentile, which marks how Stewart's score compares to others who have taken the ACT. This means he's scored higher than a little over 99 percent of test-takers. Going into the test, "I was comfortable with all the sections," Stewart said. "I felt really confident about it."

He said that while he anticipated possibly making another 34 or even a 35, he didn't expect the 36 — "to see the six, it just felt weird." As far as what advice he'd give other students who are taking the ACT, Stewart encouraged them to not doubt themselves and know that they can do better and improve.



In addition to his outstanding ACT score, Stewart also won second place out of 490 players in his division of the High School Championship at the recent 2017 Chess SuperNationals in Nashville. He's been playing chess for close to three years, beginning shortly before his freshman year. SuperNationals "is the biggest chess tournament in the world," said John McGraw, a teacher at Jasper and sponsor of the school's chess team.

The event is only held once every four years and this will be Stewart's only opportunity to compete in it.

Stewart competed in the High School Division Under 1600 rating, which is designated as Class C under the U.S. Chess Rating System. The ratings are based on performance at previous events. According to Francisco Guadalupe, director of events for the U.S. Chess Federation, Stewart finished with six wins, including a victory against the top seed of that section, and one draw. Several of his matches lasted for three or four hours.

"His score of 6.5 out of 7 earned him the second place trophy in that section," Guadalupe continued. "[Stewart] did very well, indeed. Based on his performance at this event, he moved from a Class C category to a Class B, with a post-tournament rating of 1665." His pre-tournament rating was 1468. Stewart was slightly nervous when the tournament began but said that feeling didn't last long.

"I think I was nervous but then as I played on, when I realized I wasn't losing. That helped," he said. "I think I played better as I went on through the tournament" and gained more confidence.

McGraw said that Stewart's reserved personality also helps him excel at chess. "I'm sure he gets excited, but he keeps it all in," McGraw explained. "His opponents can't see it, and I think that helps him in his matches." He added that the things Stewart and the others on the team work on to improve their chess game, including time management, problem solving and creative thinking, also help them in the classroom.

Stewart has a 4.4 grade point average and is in advanced placement classes. He's also a member of the school's scholar's bowl team.

Aside from his own academics, Whitaker said that Stewart also helps other students. She said he recently explained to one of his classes how to work through science problems on the ACT. He is also going to tutor seventh- and eighth-graders this summer. "He's intelligent, but he can still tutor. Most intelligent people can't explain how they know what they know. [Stewart's] got a really good personality, as far as teaching ability," Whitaker said.

"He's just so driven," Crump added. "Anything he doesn't know, he's going to find out." Once he graduates high school, Stewart hopes to be able to attend Princeton University. "It's a top school. I was looking at mathematics and I heard they were really good for that," Stewart said of his reasons for wanting to attend the school. "But I also learned that they have really good financial aid, if I were to qualify."

His mother, Brooke Shubert, described him as very practical. She said he's always excelled at everything he's ever put his mind to and she's extremely proud of him. Stewart described himself as being a little competitive, but added there's more to what motivates him than just that. "When I'm good at something, I want to do it more and get better at it," he explained. "I'm good at taking tests so I figure I should try to do the best I can."

Adapted from article by LEA RIZZO, Daily Mountain Eagle

# MORE Impressive Senior Class Statistics

	# students	%
4-Year College	86	43%
2/4 Year College	51	25%
2/Year College Only	36	18%
Technical School	10	5%
Military	9	4.5%
Work	9	4.5%
Undecided / Other	0	0%
	<u>207</u>	

Total # in Class at end of year 207

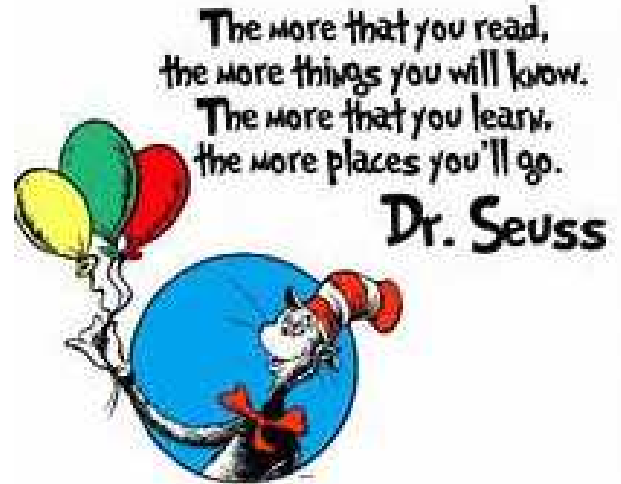
# of students ranked # 1 = 4 (Blake Hendrix, Lucas Peacock, Allison Sortino, Holley Beth Spivey)

# of students with a 4.0 or above GPA = 38 (18%)

# Receiving Honors Diploma / 38

# Receiving Advanced Diploma / 74

# Receiving Standard Diploma / 95



Academic Scholarships 113 out of 207 (55%)

Athletic Scholarships 7

Scholarship Amounts \$2,924,044

91% of graduates indicating that they will pursue some type of post-secondary education.

## Jasper High School 2017-2018 Student Council Officers

**Congratulations to the new 2017-2018 Jasper High School Student Council Officers:**

President Amberlee Fisher

Vice President Thomas Ward

Secretary Sawyer Nicholson

Treasurer Kaiden Kennedy



## Seniors reflect on being the last graduating class of Walker High School



Walker High School seniors recently reflected on being the last graduating class under the name of Walker High School.

Pictured, from left, are Torie Cook, Joe Manasco, Cole Manasco, Mary Frances Ward and Blake Hendrix.

Daily Mountain Eagle - Nicole Smith

The students said they have some advice for those who will be the future graduates of Jasper High School.

“I just hope that everybody makes memories in the same ways that we have, because high school is a time that you need to make the most memories that you can, whether it be good or bad. High school has a lot of things to experience,” Cole Manasco said.

“I am jealous of the incoming freshman that are going to get to use this facility for four years, because the possibilities here are a lot greater,” Hendrix said.

Joe Manasco said he wants people to stop referring to Jasper High as the new high school and simply anticipate the new journey ahead. “I hope everyone embraces this school and the newness it brings. I hope they embrace it the same way that Walker was sewn into our community, and how everyone showed up to the games and had that spirit about it,” he said. “I hope that happens here too. I hope it doesn’t continue being the new school. I just hope it becomes our school.”

All of the students said they have enjoyed being in the new high school since January and are happy for the students that will be able to take advantage of what the facility has to offer.

## Maddox Middle School

### Ending the school year in a BIG way!

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Day

8<sup>th</sup> Grade students enjoyed the final 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Day at MMS on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The day celebrates the completion of the three year test known as middle school. The day of fun included a womanless beauty pageant, a video of memories, superlatives, and a roast of the students by Coach Greg Tinker. Students were also rewarded with pizza for lunch and cotton candy.



### **Awards Day**

MMS hosted its final awards day on May 18th. Students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade were rewarded for their outstanding achievements in all of their various classes. Additionally, all the final 8th grade class of Maddox Middle School graduated to move on to Jasper High School! Congratulations, students!

### **NJHS Induction**

National Junior Honor Society introduced 58 new members on the morning of May 2nd. 54 members of this academically elite group were 7th graders while 4 8th graders were added. This elite group of academically high-achieving students is only honored with this achievement if their GPA is at least a 3.78.

### **MMS Testing Reward**

Students at MMS were rewarded with a dance party extravaganza for having over 99% attendance during state testing. Students played new games outdoors and indoors during their enrichment times thanks to the help of local youth pastors.



### **Spring Band Concert**

The MMS band impressed during their spring concert on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The concert is the culmination of a whole year's worth of improvement and work!

## **West Jasper Elementary School**

### **West Jasper's Tech Team Showcases Award-Winning Projects**

West Jasper's Tech Team students recently showed their award-winning projects to their classmates. There were numerous winners at state competition, including the following:

Aizlyn Lewis (4<sup>th</sup> grade)- 3rd place Multimedia;

Jakayla Kirk(5<sup>th</sup> grade)- 2nd place Video Production;

Dekilia Samuels, Jennifer Mitchell, Savanna Mix (5<sup>th</sup> grade)- 1st Place Computer Programming;

Yadi Sanchez, Daisy Pino, Jaden Mason, Jaylen Mason (4<sup>th</sup> grade)- 3rd Place Video Production;

Jakayla Kirk, Kanya Hankins, Mckayla Powell, Keyon Mason (5<sup>th</sup> grade)- 1st Place Video Production

### **West Jasper Bids a Fond Farewell to Retirees**

Mrs. Patti Kilpatrick, Phil Moss, and Mrs. Barbara England were honored at a recent retirement celebration. West Jasper certainly appreciates all of the hard work these three put in for students. Mrs. Patti has given 22 years, Coach Phil has given 13 years, and Mrs. Barbara has given 5 years to West Jasper. As faculty and staff prepare to move to their newly assigned schools, Patti, Phil, and Barbara will be missed. West Jasper wishes them the best as they enter this new and exciting chapter in their lives!



## Fourth Grade Visits Montgomery

Thanks to Representative Connie Cooner Rowe, City Councilwoman Jennifer Williams Smith, and the Jasper City Council, West Jasper's fourth graders had a fun and educational visit to Montgomery.

## Final Walking School Bus a Big Hit

Thanks to the Walker High School Drum Line, the final Walking School Bus ended with a bang—or a beat. Students made the final climb up the hill to the school as the drum line played familiar cadences. Students who participated in the WSB were rewarded later in the day with active toys. The program has certainly encouraged many students to #movemorelivebetter.



## T.R. Simmons Elementary School

The end of the school year is always full of activities. Mrs. Trotter hosted the Alabama Walk @ School Day. Next was the annual Simmons at Sunset 5K Run. Mrs. Abbott and the Kids Korale gave an outstanding musical performance this month. Once again the T.R. Simmons Talent Show was a huge success. There was dancing, singing, gymnastics, and even magic. Students were treated to a little fun at May field day with bouncy houses. As a reward for meeting the 5K fundraising goal, students and teachers got to duct tape Mr. Allen to the wall. The Kindergarteners graduated on May 22. The last T.R. Simmons fifth grade graduation was on May 23. Awards Day was held on May 24.



It has been a great school year. See you in August.





## Memorial Park Elementary School

### Memorial Park Elementary ended the school year in style!

Grade levels celebrated with their annual traditions such as the first grade luau, the kindergarten Ice Cream Social, the second grade Reading Recognition Day and the annual K-5 Variety Show. Our third graders completed a unit of study on “Forces That Shape the Land”. This unit was celebrated with family and friends as students created and erupted their very own volcanoes. Our K-Kids Club sponsored one last service project called “Pennies for Patients”. They were able to raise \$3183.19 school-wide to help the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Mrs. Moore’s third grade class partnered with RUFF, a local dog rescue center, to sponsor a school-wide drive for pet supplies and to encourage the adoption of local rescued dogs. Our fifth graders graduated on May 22nd. A luncheon was held in their honor at FUMC. Our recent MPS Open House was a huge success. We were happy to welcome so many new family and friends who were able to tour the building, meet our new teachers, and share cookies and lemonade.

Students will soon be picking up report cards and supply lists for next year. We wish everyone a very happy and restful summer. We look forward to many changes that will soon be taking place in our district. Remember no matter where you are located next year, we are all family—and we are better together! Remember to rest, relax and read a good book! Vikings unite and have a super summer!



Behind us are  
**memories**  
beside us are  
**friends**  
before us are  
*dreams*

## North Highland School

North Highlands School celebrated nearly 60 years of service to students in our community. Former faculty, staff and administrators shared memories of the exceptional needs school, located at 12th Avenue Southwest in Jasper, that will close at the end of the current school year. The four students that remain at the school will relocate to Jasper High School in the fall.

The school family watched a slideshow during the celebration with pictures taken of special times at the school, and many photographs were also placed in albums for people to view.



Teacher Debra Rhodes, who has been at the school 19 years, said the move will be bittersweet. “I can see them being in a very sheltered environment for their safety and to have their needs met, but I can also see where they need to be included in a high school environment,” Rhodes said. “We are excited for our students to have the opportunity to be with students their own age and to have the age appropriate resources that go along with that.”

Dr. Mike Morton, former North Highlands principal and director of special education for Jasper City Schools, attended the gathering Thursday. He said over 1,000 students have come through North Highlands doors, which was originally known as the Shrine School when it opened in 1959. He became principal of the school in 1976 before retiring years later. “We had a big enrollment, because it served all of the county,” Morton said. “The county didn’t have that many programs then, and we had 70 to 80 kids.”

The school was formed by the Shrine Club and Lion’s Auxiliary Organization, and has had a number of uses over the years. The building not only served special needs children, but has also served the hearing impaired and offered physical therapy, among other services. One of the first Pre-K schools was also located at North Highlands in the early 1970s.

Morton said when city and county schools began implementing special education programs in all schools, the population at North Highlands decreased. Jasper City Schools later took control of the school. Morton said he believes the move to Jasper High School will be positive for students. “I hate it for the kids, but the move is for inclusion, everybody having interaction with non-exceptional students. I think it’s the way to go with all kids,” he said.

Current Director of Special Education for Jasper City Schools and Principal Betty Odom said she hopes students are able to quickly acclimate to their new surroundings at Jasper High. The students will have their own self-contained classroom equipped with safety measures, such as rubberized flooring, and an area to teach life skills. Students will also have their own bathroom, equipped with a shower. “We’re excited to move, and the kids are excited about having a new facility,” Odom said. “I just hope they have an easy transition, and I think they’re going to really enjoy being there. ... I appreciate all the people that have supported the school all these years, and North Highlands has been a staple in the community. It’s hard to see it go, but new things are coming.”



# Viking Athletic News

## **Walker Athletics Takes Home the Gold in Total Accomplishments**

**There were numerous athletic tournaments won and championships earned this year at Walker High School.**

### **Football**

-Isiah Cox 2016-2017 AHSAA North/South All-Star Football Game Selection

### **Volleyball**

-Congratulations to the Volleyball Team for their 6A 2016-2017 Team Elite Eight Participation at the State Volleyball Championships

### **Cross-Country**

-Jodi Ann Martin Selected by way of finish in the AHSAA State Meet as a 2016-2017 6A All-State Honoree in Cross Country

### **Indoor Track**

-Maddie Harrell 3rd Place Medalist at the 2016-2017 Indoor State Track Meet in the 60M dash.

-Maddie Harrell State Champion at the 2016-2017 Indoor State Track Meet in the 60M Hurdles.

-Thomas Mobley State 2nd Place Medalist at the 2016-2017 Indoor State Track Meet in the 800M Run.

-Jodi Ann Martin 3rd Place Medalist at the 2016-2017 Indoor State Track Meet in the 3200M Run.

### **Tennis**

-Ben Hicks 2016-2017 State Singles Tennis Champion at #2 Singles

-Grayson Barber 2016-2017 State Singles Tennis Champion at #6 Singles

-Congratulations to Men's Tennis on their Third Place Finish at the 2016-2017 State Tennis Tournament

-Congratulations to Women's Tennis on their 5th Place Finish at the 2016-2017 State Tennis Tournament

### **Outdoor Track & Field**

-Congratulations to The Women's Track Team on their 9th Place Finish at the 2016-2017 Team State Track Championships.

-Maddie Harrell 6A 100 meter Hurdle State Champion

-Maddie Harrell 6A 300M Hurdle Third Place State Medalist

-Thomas Mobley 6A 800M Run State Second Place Medalist

### **Heptathlon**

-Maddie Harrell 6A State 2nd Place Medalist

### **Softball**

-Regional Tournament Qualifier

-State Tournament Participant

### **Bryant-Jordan Award**

-In Recognition to Holley Beth Spivy for being named a 2016-2017 6A Regional Winner and State Finalist for the Annual AHSAA Bryant-Jordan Award.