



October 2018  
Volume 4, Issue 1

## Stallion Status Newsletter



# Principal's Message

We are off to a great start! As we complete the beginning of the year and move into October, I want to let all of you know that I am encouraged by the effort, cooperation, and hard work I have seen from students so far this year. This hard work is the kind of effort each of them must maintain to be College and Career ready. I am also equally pleased by the hard work and dedication of the educators here at Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts for ensuring that instructional lessons are rigorous, engaging, and differentiated for all learners. I value you and the expertise that you bring to our learning environment! All stakeholder contributions assist us in meeting our overall goal and the vision of our district. Our goal is to make sure our students are prepared for excellence, which prepares ALL students to live and compete successfully in a global society.

Parents, please continue to reinforce good attendance habits with your son/daughter. Attendance and accuracy of attendance is a vital component of a successful school year. Excessive absences may result in missing work, which is difficult to make up, losing continuity in school work, an irresponsible attitude toward daily obligations, and failure in school. Additionally, please be sure to check our school website on a regular basis for up-to-date important information. For example, some of the items included within our high school website are our calendar of events and our teacher web pages which contain valuable information.

Our school wouldn't be the same without the generosity and active support of our parent and community organizations. I invite you to take a leadership role and make a difference! I encourage you to be involved in our school by working with your student at home – encouraging academic excellence and responsibility –and taking part in volunteer groups such as the PTSA and School Site Council.

Acclimating our students to testing conditions is a valuable part of this program and to that end our teachers are working diligently to ensure that your child has acquired the skills and knowledge necessary to do well on upcoming high stakes assessments. A formative assessment calendar has been prepared by each academic department to determine instructional modifications based on the data derived from these assessments. October 10, 2018, our students are preparing to take the PSAT. Student performance on the ACT/SAT is an important indicator of College Readiness. While these scores figure less prominently in the admissions process than they once did, they are still highly important as the evidence from research illustrates. One of the best ways to prepare to perform at a high level on the end of year summative assessments is through rigorous lessons and explicit instruction. This is not only a district priority, but also a priority for us here at the Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts.

Thank you for everything you do to support your students, the teachers and our school community!

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Robinson

Principal

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## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### Vision

**The Vision of the Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts is to establish a learning community where students achieve high academic standards, maintain good citizenship, and excel in their artistic environment.**

### Mission

**The Mission of the Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts is to develop 21st century thinkers to become global leaders by providing the highest quality of education in and through the arts.**

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**Schoolwide Parent Teacher Conferences** – The first Schoolwide Parent Teacher Conference night. Will take place November 1, 2018 The next Schoolwide Conference night will take place on Thursday, March 28, 2019. The conferences are by appointment only. Parents can sign-up by accessing the school's website and following the *Sign-Up* link.

**Seniors** – Monitor your grades in preparation for mid-year reporting to colleges. Continue applying to colleges and researching scholarship opportunities. Use the Thanksgiving and winter breaks wisely to further your research– remember to APPLY!

The counseling department would like to welcome Andra` Cole to the Counseling Department. He will be working with all 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students (K-Z). This school year is underway and there are several announcements regarding the counseling department. Our students have had several opportunities to speak with college representatives during the Clayton State University Probe Fair, the Infinite Scholarship Fair and The Stilwell Performing Visual Arts Fair.

On November 3 form 10-2, come be apart of the Stilwell's Scholarship Boot Camp (grades 10-12), Jessica Johnson will be working with students and family's assisting and providing information as it pertains to researching and applying for scholarships.

Please note if you are interested in Dual Enrollment, please make sure to follow the guidelines set by the Dual Enrollment College and the eligibility requirements set by Stilwell School of the Arts.



## CURRICULUM NIGHTS AND PTSA MEEINGS

### Curriculum Nights

We are hosting Curriculum Nights at Stilwell School of the Arts. Curriculum Night is an educational open house hosted at Stilwell School of the Arts and the PTSA. It is an opportunity for parents/guardians to engage in the core content curriculum and expectations for the year. It is our way of bridging the connection of the instructional process between school and home. Please plan to attend.

The schedule for the 2018-2019 PTSA and Curriculum Nights is listed below.

Math/Science	November 14, 2018	Cafeteria	6:00 PM
Social Studies/ELA	January 16, 2019	Cafeteria	6:00 PM
Fine Arts/ Physical Education & Health	March 13, 2019	Cafeteria	6:00 PM

### MEDIA CENTER BY MRS. SHANA JORDAN

I'm excited to say the Media Center has new books lining the shelves waiting to be checked out. The Media Center is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm for students to print assignments, study and check out books. Students are allowed to check out three book at a time as long as they don't have any overdue. Any student with an overdue book is asked to return them as soon as possible. Students also have option to sign up for Media Center Lunch passes every morning until 11am. This allows for students to eat lunch and come to the Media Center for the remainder of their lunch period to read, study, print, or check out books. The Media Center also contains Study Guides to help students prepare for the ACT, SAT, and the ASVAB.

We also continue to build our Stilwell eBook library. Our eBooks may be accessed from any personal device both in school and at home by going to [www.destinydiscovery.com](http://www.destinydiscovery.com). The student password is CCPS1234 and their username is their student number including the leading "0"

Also, we are very excited about the addition of the Encyclopedia Britannica Destiny catalogue database. When researching a topic on the Media Center's catalogue, students can now access encyclopedia articles on that topic. Students also have access to Galileo when they login to their Rapid Identity account. The password for this semester is "rush".

As always, we have been very busy in the media center making every effort to meet the technology and instructional needs of our faculty and students by offering opportunities for collaboration, instruction and technical assistance when needed. Please continue to consider the media center and its personnel as a resource and know that our goal is to serve all stakeholders. If you have any questions please feel free to email me, at [shana.jordan@clayton.k12.ga.us](mailto:shana.jordan@clayton.k12.ga.us)







Mr. Paschall with Iria Rowe, Kennedy Lindsey, Nia Parks, Kendal Brown, Niah Lewis, Zoe Ruffin, Khalia Johnson, & Jayda Carey



## THEATRE

BY MRS. TAWANA PARKER-BELLAMY

On October 19th, we will be having our public performance of our One Act, The Colored Museum! There will be two showings, one at 5:30, and another at 7:30. The show will take place in Tarpley at the PAC. Tickets will be \$5. The students are very excited to take the piece to the Region One Act Competition on October 27th and the State One Act Competition on November 10th.

Let's give an astounding round of applause to Charlexent Visionaries for being awarded the First Place Winning Short Film, Breach, at the first annual Mobile Movie Makers Competition directed by Sahar Simmons. The purpose of the M3 Youth Film Competition and Festival is to support the next wave of young content creators. M3 is dedicated to nurturing budding young filmmakers and sharing the transformative power of their creativity. M3 empowers youth to use smartphones to create personal stories that will positively influence their peers and community. Lauryn Allums, Michael Parks, and Sydney Williams (Charlexent Visionaries) have worked ever so diligently to receive this award as well as the \$1,000 prize that will go towards video equipment for future endeavors. Thank you to everyone who voted and please continue to support these blossoming creators.

Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts has been selected as a 2018 HOPE Jingle Contest Semi-Finalist! Created by the Georgia Lottery, the HOPE Jingle Contest allows schools to win funds for their theatre department by performing and submitting an original rendition of the "HOPE" Jingle! Congratulations to Caleb Middleton for putting together a great video with the assistance of all the Fine Arts Departments

## DANCE

BY MR. JUSTIN PASCHALL

We have become partners in education with Atlanta Ballet Center For Dance Education. Last week Mrs. Sales (outreach director) came to watch my class and offered 8 students scholarships to their adult open classes. Each scholarship is worth \$1,200 totaling \$9,600 and is good for an entire year. These students are able to take classes at any of the 3 locations the Atlanta Ballet offers 7 days a week!!! This is an amazing opportunity for our students and if you see them please congratulate/encourage them.

The dance department is currently working hard for their upcoming fall concert. Students take classes in ballet, modern, and jazz techniques. The concert will be November 15 at 6pm.

## PIANO

BY DR. JIMMY CHEEK

The piano students have been working on developing piano technique through exercises, sight reading, and learning a variety of piano repertoire. Three piano students recently performed at the Performing Arts Center. Michelle Doa was the featured pianist for the Recruitment Show and Heidi Hernandez & J'Lissa Challenger presented piano solos at the Stilwell Performance Hour. Piano students are currently working on their annual holiday/seasonal repertoire that will be presented in the Performing Arts Center lobby prior to the Stilwell Chorus Winter Concert in December. The selections will also be recorded and shared with the CCPS District and our community stakeholders.

**WORLD LANGUAGES**  
BY MRS. OPHELIA RIVERA

# *Celebrando con Sabor...*

## Hispanic Heritage Month



World Languages department has been celebrating con “Sabor” the Hispanic Heritage month.

We are pleased to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month with our staff, faculty, and students that are Latinos and share with us the beauty and the diversity of their culture.

Last week Fine Arts and World Languages departments came together and gave the opportunity for our students at Stilwell to highlight their talents and participate in the beauty and the diversity of the Latin American culture.

To conclude our festivities the Social Studies department will join us as we celebrate El Dia de los Muertos with music and face paintings.

### **ORCHESTRA**

BY MR. JOEL PERKINS

Congratulations goes out to the following students on passing their 1st round of all-state auditions! We are the only high school in Clayton County to have orchestra students audition at the state level for all-state and at that, it is remarkable to have a total of 10 students pass (with one exempt from auditioning due to admission in last year's all-state orchestra)! Only 3 students study with a private teacher. Students had to prepare 3 octave major and minor scales series, an etude, and sight reading.

Vshoi Emanuel (10) - Double Bass

Alyssa Jackson (9) - Double Bass

Camille Johnson (12) - Cello

Kevin Kurashima (10) - Viola

Kevin Nguyen (9) - Violin

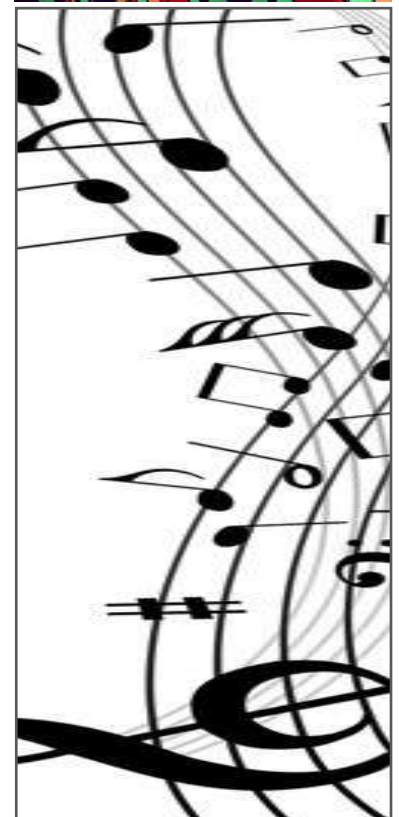
Taylor Tookes (12) - Violin (exempt)

Nehemiah Wiggins (10) - Violin

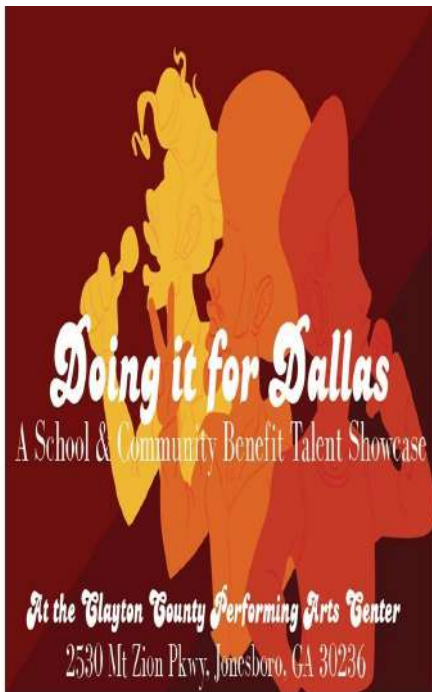
Hiyori Williams (10) - Violin

Zoe Willingham (11) - Violin

Kendall Wyatt (12) - Double Bass







## SINGING BROTHERS OF STILWELL

BY DR. JIMMY CHEEK

This November 12, 2018, the Singing Brothers of Stilwell of M.E. Stilwell School of the Arts will perform before music educators, district arts supervisors, and leaders in the music education profession from around the country at the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) National Conference in Dallas, Texas. This national event brings together pre-service and in-service music teachers and administrators for four days of professional development, during which these educators share best practices and learn from respected leaders in the profession about the latest innovative ideas in providing music education in every school. The Singing Brothers of Stilwell is one of only seven high school and college-level student groups that will perform at the NAfME National Conference.

The theme of the 2018 NAfME National Conference is "Amplify: Lead. Engage. Inspire." Taking place November 11-14, music educators will take a "deep dive into leading topics in music education." Formatted into five different "Opuses," or learning tracks, educators will learn the latest ideas in teaching students 21st-century skills through music education, preparing all students, regardless of background or socioeconomic status, to be leaders in whatever profession they pursue.

### "Doing It For Dallas"

The award-winning Singing Brothers of Stilwell, under the direction of Dr. Jimmy Cheek, were selected to be the opening performance for this year's Keynote Session, at the National Association for Music Education's National Conference in Dallas, Texas in November. To help with group expenses, the Singing Brothers of Stilwell proudly present "Doing it for Dallas" a School and Community Benefit Talent Showcase. This event will be held on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at 6 pm at the Clayton County Performing Arts Center, 2530 Mt. Zion Parkway in Jonesboro, Georgia. We will be featuring some of the greatest talent in Clayton County. Your support is greatly appreciated!

## VISUAL ARTS

BY MS. JESSICA SOUCHICK

Exciting things are happening in the Visual Arts Department at Stilwell. All classes are engaged in projects that will build their skills and portfolios and prepare them for college or careers. The 9th graders have been focusing on developing their drawing skills and learning about the elements and principles of design. Sculpture has been working with recycled materials to create unique works of art. Pottery students have been working on creating pots and refining their skills. Students have also been working on photography and video assignments, including a Lego stop motion film.

My name is Miss Souchik and I'm excited to join the Stilwell community this year! I come to Stilwell from Pennsylvania. I attended Lycoming college and received my Master's in Art Education from Edinboro University. I previously taught for eight years at Franklin Area School District in Franklin, PA. I started out teaching at the elementary level and moved up to the high school my last four years with the district. In addition to teaching art, I also coached tennis and advised the art club at the high school. As an artist, I enjoy working with watercolor and oils and utilize my travels and outdoor adventures as inspiration for my work. I am looking forward to a great year at Stilwell

## CHORUS BY DR. KAY PACE

### **The Choral Department sings with Peach State Opera Company in Grand Opera**

The Stilwell Advanced Chorus sang with Peach State Opera Company in a moving performance of the opera LA BOHEME by Giacomo Puccini at the CCPS Performing Arts Center on September 23, 2018. Complete with staging and costumes, 80 choral students participated in this exciting production and got a first-hand glimpse into the world of opera. This was the fourth year that Stilwell choral students have participated in grand opera productions. The event was sponsored by the CCPS Fine Arts Department in conjunction with Peach State Opera.

### **The Advanced Chorus of Stilwell will sing at the GEORGIA MUSIC EDUCATORS STATE CONVENTION**

The Advanced Chorus of Stilwell has been invited to sing at the Georgia Music Educators State Convention on January 26, 2019 at the University of Georgia in Athens. Only three high school choirs in the state of Georgia have been selected to sing concerts during the convention. The concert will be held on Saturday at 10:00 am in Athens First Baptist Church. The Choral Department invites all of the Stilwell family to attend this performance and show support to our students.

### **3 AllState Choral Winners Won Placement in the National Association for Music Education Chorus in Orlando, Florida**

Kalissa Hernandez, Cardell Smart and Lindell McFadden were selected to sing in the NAFME Chorus in Orlando Florida in November by competitive audition. These 3 students were also recognized and honored by the CCPS Board of Education for their outstanding achievement on October 5, 2018.

### **15 Choral Students were selected to sing with Dr. Rene Clausen in Spivey Hall Honor Chorus at Clayton State University**

Clayton State University hosts its prestigious Spivey Hall Honor Chorus for high school students on October 18-20, 2018. This year's special guest conductor is the world renown composer/conductor Dr. Rene Clausen. Our Stilwell choral participants are: Zakiyah Simms, Claire Bennett, Akira Myles, Hayley Callwood, Dawon Johnson, Cahllil Mapson, Kalissa Hernandez, Barnabas Jackson, Kaitlyn Gilbert, Matthew Hollis, Joseph Harris, Genesis Harris, Zoe Hilton, Makenzie Williams, and special scholarship recipient Antone Wells.

### **Upcoming Events:**

The Chorus sings an annual Holiday Concert at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum in Atlanta on December 12 at 11:00 am. This internationally publicized concert is free and open to the public.

The Annual Winter Choral Concert takes place on December 7 at 6:00 pm in Stroud Hall of the PAC.





## GUITAR

BY  
MR. PHIL MCPHERSON

This fall we welcomed 27 new students into Beginning Guitar. They have been learning note locations on each string and putting that knowledge into practice as they sight-read and learn class repertoire. We are happy they have chosen to begin their musical journey with us.

All students have been learning repertoire for this year's performances, in both large and small ensembles. The entire guitar orchestra will play in the October Recruitment Show, October 18, and the Stilwell Performance Hour, Nov. 15. Our advanced students have been preparing to play other events as well, including the Latin Heritage show and Principal Partner's Day.



## BAND

BY MR. DERRICK JACKSON

First Semester this year has been a very busy but productive start so far. On September 30th, we started our year out with our annual trumpet clinic. This event allows the student to get instruction in large group classroom setting on trumpet pedagogy and practice habits. The students were instructed by the one and only Melvin Jones, professional trumpeter and director of trumpet at Morehouse College. The students had a great time working on breathing and playing techniques with this professional trumpeter! And they learned numerous performance skills in the area of jazz and classical music.

On October 11th, 2018, we had the pleasure of hosting the Georgia Music Educator's Associations District 6 Jazz All-State 1st Round Auditions here at Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts. We had students from Fayette, Spaulding, Coweta, Henry and Clayton County participate in this state competition. We had 8 Stilwell Students advance to the 2nd Round of the jazz all-state. Please congratulate the following students to the 2nd round:



Christian Zamora- Alto Saxophone

Keith Wilson- Alto Saxophone

Sorrell Carr- Alto Saxophone

Jimmy Scott- Baritone Saxophone

Vishrut Thaker- Trombone

Jordan Simpson- Trombone

Rodney Clark, Jr- Drums

Argel Pimentel- Dominguez- Drums

We also, had two students make two of the metro-Atlanta honor ensembles for the best high school students in the area. Rodney Clark is performing in the Atlanta Talent Development Program. And just recently, he attended the Interlochen summer band camp. This camp is one of the oldest and most prestigious camps in the United States. Rodney auditioned and was accepted in the Atlanta Metro Youth Orchestra this fall. Also, Christian Ramsay, 2nd year clarinet major auditioned and was accepted in the Metro Atlanta Youth Wind Ensemble. Both groups perform concerts and meet weekly in the city of Atlanta. Please congratulate these great musicians.

We also, ended this month with performing for County Commissioner Felicia Warner's community outreach event at the Morrow Center. The student lead jazz combo received numerous compliments about their professionalism and outstanding sound. Commissioner Warner also, made a donation to the jazz band program to assist with equipment and practice materials.

### Upcoming performances for the Stilwell band program:

Winter Concert- December 11th Clayton County Performing Arts Center

M.D. Roberts Winter Concert- November 13th

Stilwell Performance Hour- November 15th





## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Now until November 11**—Visual Arts Student Work Display at Clayton County Performing Arts Center
- **October 26, 2018**—Singing Brothers of Stilwell Presents “Doing it for Dallas” at the Clayton County Performing Arts Center, Stroud Hall, 6pm
- **October 26, 2018**—One Act Regional Play Competition Clayton County Performing Arts Center, Tarpley Hall
- **October 30, 2018**—Orchestra Recruitment Concert at MD Roberts
- **November 10-13** —Singing Brothers of Stilwell at the NAFME Convention in Dallas , TX
- **November 15**— Performance Hour at the Performing Arts Center, 2pm
- **November 15**—Fall Dance Concert, Performing Arts Center, 6pm
- **November 29**— Musical Theatre Cabaret, Performing Arts Center, 6pm
- **December 1**— Orchestra Noir Event, Stilwell School of the Arts,
- **December 6**- Technical Theatre Show, Performing Arts Center, 6pm
- **December 7**—Mini piano concert , Performing Arts Center, 5pm
- **December 7** —Choral Fall/Winter Concert, Performing Arts Center, 6pm
- **December 11**—Orchestra/Band Winter Concert, Performing Arts Center, 6pm
- **December 12**—Singing Brothers of Stilwell perform at Capital Holiday Performance
- **January 7–February 28**—Visual Arts Student Work Display at CCPS Board Room
- **January 12**—Choral Performance at the Carter Presidential Center
- **January 17-19**—Theatre Presents “Hunchback of Notre Dame, Performing Arts Center, 7:30pm



Check school website for any changes to date and location  
<https://316.clayton.k12.ga.us/>

## HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

BY MS. YOLANDA JENKINS  
 AND MR. COREY THOMAS

For the month of October Health/PE has been focusing on Social health. In Social health students have been learning effective communication skills and talking about violence in the community/schools. The students have been working applying the skills of communication to their every day living. Students have been during current events articles addressing the issues center around violence acts in school and the community.



## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

BY SABRINA ISDELL

### Science Newsletter

The science department is excited to have your students in our classrooms for this 2018-2019 school year. The science curriculum centers around 3 dimensions of learning: Core Ideas (how we learn science), Science & Engineering Practices (how we do science), and the Cross-cutting Concepts (how we think about science) which are incorporated into the Georgia Standards of Excellence which provides the framework for teaching and learning science. This year your child will be engaged in numerous hands-on activities that will require them to think critically about natural phenomenon in their everyday world and how to problem solve. Our department will also challenge your students to plan and carry out investigations to collect evidence that will enable them to answer questions about the natural world. Your student will also be using their evidence that they collect from lab investigations to construct explanations using evidenced based writing. You may hear your student mention several claim-evidence-reasoning or argument-driven inquiry assignments where they collaborate with their peers by analyzing and interpreting data and practice presenting arguments to support their claims to guiding questions. These are a few of the numerous ways that we engage your students in the scientific process that keep them curious about how the world works. We are here to assist your student in every way possible so that they will be academically successful this year and for their future.



The science department consists of the following members: Rebecca Brown: Biology, Anatomy, and Anime Club sponsor, Maisha Humphrey: Anatomy, Environmental Science & Science club co-sponsor, Sabrina Isdell: Biology, AP Biology & Science Department Head, Shana Martin: Chemistry and Science club co-sponsor, Rajini Sundararaj: Physics, Physical Science, Science club sponsor & Women in Engineering Club sponsor.

### Biology Updates: Brown & Isdell

Biology students have just wrapped up the first unit on Genetics and Heredity and now are moving into Unit 2: Cellular Functions and Processes. Students will be exploring the function of enzymes, cellular transport and homeostasis, and energy cycling through photosynthesis and respiration. Students will be investigating these processes and their role in cellular organelles. Students will be planning and carrying out investigations to explore reaction rates in cells using enzymes and observe osmosis and passive transport across cell membranes. Students will be developing and using models of the plasma membrane to demonstrate their understanding of passive and active transport. Student will wrap up the unit in December exploring how the structure of the mitochondria and chloroplast play important roles in harvesting energy and synthesizing energy. ADI labs include: Blood Typing and Osmosis in Grapes. This unit will center around two major phenomenon: Zyrees Oliver- a high school football player who died of water intoxication after drinking 4 gallons of water to stop cramps during practice, and “Are all of Mr. Johnson’s children his biological offspring?”



## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CONTINUED

### **AP Biology: Isdell**

This year in an effort to improve success rates on the math and science AP exams, CCPS is partnering with the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI). AP biology students recently participated in the first Saturday tutorial session here at Stilwell. Students walked away with skills and tools that will help them tackle the 2 part AP exam of multiple choice and free response questions which will take place on Monday, May 14, 2019. There will be 2 more study sessions with NMSI scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup> and March 2, 2019 from 8:30A-12:30P. Students currently have wrapped up the first unit on Evolution and are now moving into Cellular Functions and Processes. Students need to be studying on a regular basis and utilize Google classroom for resources and study skills.

### **Anatomy Updates: Brown & Humphrey**

Anatomy students are currently working on Unit 2, which deals with the integumentary system (skin), skeletal system, and muscular systems. Students need to be able to explain how the skeletal structures provide support and protection for tissues, and function together with the muscular system to make movements possible. One of the projects students work on in this unit is an argument driven inquiry lab called "The strength in Your Bones: Bone Composition" Lab. Students research the structure of skeletal bones and make a claim about how they think they can make a stronger model of a bone.

### **Chemistry: Martin**

Chemistry is the scientific discipline involved with compounds composed of atoms. Chemistry looks at their composition, their structure, properties, behavior, and the changes they undergo with other substances in a reaction. We are currently working on Unit 2 which focuses on the interactions between atoms and molecules and their properties. The students will complete an argument driven inquiry lab called "Identification of an Unknown Based on Physical Properties." The purpose of this lab is for students to apply what they have learned about physical properties and the nature of solutes, solvents, and solutions to identify two unknown solutions. They will also be learning how to write chemical formulas and name compounds (ionic, covalent, and acids).

### **Environmental Science Updates: Humphrey**

Environmental Science students are currently working on Unit 2: biodiversity, ecological succession, animal behavior, habitat destruction and human impact. Currently students are working on an ADI Lab that deals with Animal Behavior and Great White Sharks. Students will use the OCEARCH Global Shark Tracker database and identify patterns in the long-range movements of the great white sharks, and then develop an explanation for those patterns using the evidence they recorded.

### **Physics Updates: Sundararaj**

SP2a. Students will construct an explanation based on evidence using Newton's Laws of how forces affect the acceleration of a body.

b. Students will develop and use a model of a Free Body Diagram to represent the forces acting on an object (both equilibrium and non-equilibrium).

c. Students will use mathematical representations to calculate magnitudes and vector components of different types of forces.

e. Develop and use a model to describe Newton's Universal Law of Gravitation. Students will take their unit 1 Assessment on Wednesday, Oct 25, 2018.

### **Assessment Topics:**

- One-dimensional kinematic equations
- Compare and contrast scalar and vector quantities
- Two-dimensional motion with constant acceleration
- Projectile motion

### **ADI Labs:**

1. Falling Objects and Air Resistance
2. Forces on an Incline plane
3. Falling Objects and Air Resistance
4. Circular Motion

### **Physical Science:**

Flow of energy during phase changes and Waves

Students will take their unit 2 Assessment on Monday, Oct 29, 2018.

### **Assessment Topics:**

- Energy transformation
- Heat Transfer- conduction, convection and radiation
- Specific heat capacity
- Heating and cooling curves

### **ADI Labs:**

- Wave Properties: Refraction and Reflection

### **Resources:**

- [www.physicsclassroom.com](http://www.physicsclassroom.com)
- Khan Academy
- <http://my.hrw.com/>
- <https://gpb.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/8337/8341/all/>



## MATH DEPARTMENT

BY MR. EARL LEWIS

### Our Goal:

The goal of the Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts mathematics department is to equip each individual student, despite deficiencies upon entering the program, with an acceptable level of proficiency in order to ensure they are college and career ready at the time of graduation. Further, we strive to accelerate the learning and increase the understanding of those students who enter the program with a strong mathematics foundation by adding rigor and critical thinking tasks to the normal curriculum.

### Our Focus:

The focus of our department, currently, is to move our students individually, to a higher level in their respective understandings. Because our classes are most often heterogeneous in nature, populated with all types of learners, from high flyers who find the content easy, to those who struggle with the material, and everyone in-between, this can be difficult to achieve. We are seeking to use additional constructed response problems in class to assist in this effort. By requiring the students to not simply stop at the correct answer, but to further think through and explain the process by which their answer was attained, we allow for differentiation amongst the class. While every student may come to the same numerical value, there will certainly be variation in the explanations of, and justifications for the mathematical process used, given the different levels of understanding amongst the students. As a result, teachers will be able to address individual students, not only from a standpoint of right or wrong, but additionally, from the perspective of overall content understanding.

### Our Current Location in the Content:

Algebra I: Unit 2 – Reasoning with Linear Equations and Inequalities

Geometry: Unit 2 – Congruence, Similarity, and Proofs

Algebra II: Unit 2 – Operations with Polynomials

AMDM: Unit 2 – Probability

Precalculus: Unit 3 – Trigonometry of General Triangles

Calculus: Unit 2 – Derivatives



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

### 9th Grade

Led by Ms. Rand, the ninth graders have been participating in debates, speeches, and skits, in addition to composing argumentative and informational essays. They are now working on a narrative about struggles that they have overcome to introduce the new unit theme “The Struggle for Freedom.”

### 10th Grade– Mrs. Cooley

Congratulations to Sophomore English teacher Mrs. Cooley and her husband on their baby, Tommy!

### 11th Grade - Ms. Mains

The essential thematic focus driving American Literature this unit has been “Coming to America.” Some of the texts the students have been close-reading include foundational U.S. texts, like the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. Students have also been improving their rhetorical analysis writing skills by constructing evidence-based responses that critique the impact of various authors’ choices.

### 12th Grade - Ms. Conaway



Asia Burkes presenting Unit 1 Independent Novel project



Niara Thompson leading group discussion for TPCASST poetry analysis.

### AP Lit

All Things Poetry! AP literature students have started the year with an in-depth study of poetry. Poetry analysis on the AP Exam requires students to have knowledge of form, meter and a solid grasp of how an author’s use of language and sound devices impacts meaning of the text. Students also completed an Independent project for which they created artistic presentations provided for their classmates a comparative analysis of important themes shared between two texts of their choosing. The presentations ranged from poetry to original musical compositions.



### English Lit 12

“To Be or Not To Be that is the question”- Students are completing their study of Shakespeare’s Hamlet. Students have analyzed dramatic elements and are now preparing for their in class debates. Students will use their skills of argumentation to debate the age old question of Hamlet’s sanity. Students have also had the opportunity to participate in a cross-curricular research and writing assignment. Utilizing their knowledge of Economics and marrying their knowledge of research and writing students worked in teams to complete a DBQ answering the question “Is College Worth It.”

## SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT



**World History** Currently the World History Classes are studying the impact of the Mongol Empire as it rose to world prominence in the 1200s A.D. We are discussing the roles of Genghis Kahn and his grandson Kublai Kahn as they led the Mongol Empire in its height as the largest empire the world had ever known—controlling almost all of Asia and parts of Eastern Europe including Russia. Classes have just finished Unit 1—which dealt with the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, China, Greece, and Rome. Unit 2 includes the Byzantine and Mongol Empires, the rise of Islam, and the rise of the African kingdoms of Ghana, Mali and Songhai. Students have just begun their semester research projects for National History Day and the Social Science Fair. This year's theme for National History Day is Triumph and Tragedy –students will be incorporating that theme as they do research and prepare projects in World History.



**Government** I have just recently finished my opening units in my AP and CP government classes. I am now moving into unit two where the classes are going to move into two different directions. I have decided to go ahead and start covering our unit on American Political Ideologies in AP Government. With the upcoming midterms, I thought it would be nice for students to dive into understanding the rationale behind our public policies and political culture. So much of what seems to motivate and at times divide us among tribal lines these days stems from our political perspectives. I hope that at the end of the unit the students will have much deeper understanding of not just American political ideologies, but that they will also better understand why they know what they believe in and why. For CP Government we are starting our unit on the Interaction Among the Three Branches. This unit will very nicely connect to our first unit on the origins of government and really take our knowledge to higher ground regarding the concepts of federalism and checks and balances that we established in unit 1. I am excited to be starting with the Congress as again I believe the topic will nicely align with the upcoming midterm elections.



**US History** Eleventh grade United States History students are currently discussing the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Students are learning about Andrew Jackson and antebellum reform movements and will have a Reformers Convocation to assess understanding of the social movements that influenced this period. Students began National History Day projects and are working to create either a paper, exhibit, documentary, website, or performance for the national competition. The current unit, Unit 2, covers Jackson to Reconstruction and will end in December. Students will have a cumulative final exam that covers all material from the colonial period to the end of Unit 2.



## SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT CONT.

**AP US History** students are working diligently to prepare for the AP Exam in May 2019. Students are working on SAQ and DBQ practice, completing reading modules aligned with AP themes, and discussing broad ideas via Socratic Seminar. In terms of content, APUSH students are engaging with 19<sup>th</sup> century historical issues related to the market revolution, antebellum reform movements, and Jacksonian Democracy.

**Economics** Unit one provided students with an understanding of economic principles that will better prepare them to be active and engaged citizens in the American economic system. All classes researched three colleges and created a decision making chart to evaluate the costs and benefits of attending each school. Afterwards, students used the information to answer the question which college is best for them and why. This project reinforced several of the principles of economics, such people face tradeoffs, there is an opportunity cost in every decision, people respond to incentives, and a rational choice is one that uses the available resources to best achieve the objective of the person making the choice.

All economics classes are currently studying microeconomics, unit two, which continues the study of decision making. Microeconomics is the study of decision-making and interactions of individuals, businesses, and government, as well as the consequences of those decisions. The culminating assignment for unit two is to answer the Documented Based Question How Should the US Reduce Economic Inequality. Several different instructional strategies will be implemented to ensure mastery of content.

Seniors had the opportunities to register to vote during economic or psychology classes. On October 17 several students participated in early voting during a tour of the Clayton County Historic Courthouse.

### Psychology

Currently Psychology classes are finishing up Unit 2 on Mind and Body. Students are working on how the brain processes sensory information and perception. Earlier in the unit, students identified and described parts of the brain, the nervous system, and how a neuron (nerve cell) works. Classes have also diagrammed how the body processes sensory information including vision, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. Students also have begun working on their semester projects entitled DSM-V at the Movies. Individuals or pairs of students will be preparing a case study of a movie, cartoon, or TV character and analyzing and diagnosing their psychological disorder using the American Psychological Association's latest edition of the Diagnostic and Statistics Manual (V) which clinicians use to diagnose psychological disorders.



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