



JCMS Newsletter

Fall
2014

Vol. 3, Issue 1

GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS: *There's An App for That!*

Gaston County Schools has a new mobile app to enhance communication with parents, students, employees and the community. The mobile app is available as a free download in the **Apple iTunes** and **Google Play** online stores – just search for "Gaston County Schools." With this new app, you can keep up with all of the news and events for Gaston County Schools, including information for specific schools that you select. Parents can also use this app to access information about their students' grades,

attendance, and meal account. For more information, including an explanatory video, please visit <http://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/gcsmobileapp>.

In addition, don't forget that you can keep up with all the latest news and information for JCMS by visiting our school website (www.gaston.k12.nc.us/chavis), our Facebook page (facebook.com/JohnChavisMiddle), and our Twitter page (twitter.com/JohnChavisMS).

Mrs. Clark Named Teacher of the Year

The 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year at JCMS is Mrs. Kristen Clark. She was selected by her fellow teachers in voting that took place earlier this year. Mrs. Clark is originally from Tennessee and graduated from Carter High School in Strawberry Plains, TN. Mrs. Clark has a bachelor's degree in Spanish from the University of Tennessee, and a master's degree in educational media and instructional technology from Appalachian State University. She is the school webmaster, a member of the School Improvement Team, and chair of the Social Committee.

We interviewed Mrs. Clark to find out a little more about our new Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Clark has been teaching since 2001. The reason Mrs. Clark wanted to be a teacher is because she always has been interested in the Spanish language and wanted to share with others. She got her teacher degree to share her knowledge and interest of the Hispanic culture with others. Mrs. Clark likes working with kids because every day is different, and she likes when student learn something new. She also likes the people and teachers she works with. Her hobbies are spending time outdoors, playing tennis, hiking, and attending sport events. Her favorite color is purple.

By: Madison Garren & Brooke Henley

STOP...It's the Law School Bus Safety Reminders

According to safety experts, riding the school bus is the safest form of transportation to and from school, but recent numbers show that Gaston County has the second highest percentage of stop arm violations.

The NC Department of Public Information shows 64.59% of Gaston County's 209 buses are passed illegally in a single day. That's the second highest percentage in the entire state of North Carolina.

Please remember the following regarding school buses:

- When the amber lights on a bus come on, it means the bus is approaching a stop, so drivers should exercise caution;
- When the red lights come on, the bus has stopped and students are getting on that bus or getting off that bus; drivers should stop at that point;
- There are a few exceptions to the rule. For example, if there is a divider of some sort, whether it's a ditch or a median that is a true divider, that is when drivers do not have to stop;
- However North Carolina law requires that if you're driving on a four lane road without a divider or a two lane road, even with a middle turning lane, you must stop for school buses.
- Also, please remember that this law applies to anytime a school bus is stopped for loading and unloading students, including when they are doing so in front of JCMS in the morning and afternoon.

Sources: WECT; NC DMV



GREEKS

During the first nine weeks of the sixth grade we have been very busy. Everyone has liked the change but it is still a little chaotic.

During the first nine weeks in math we have learned a lot. Here are just some things that we have done: finding ratios, operations with fractions, finding rate and unit rate, finding GCF

[greatest common factor] and LCM [least common multiple]. Sometimes we get to do labs [labs are when we get together with another class from the Romans team]. Labs are very fun! The teachers have many ways of explaining things. We have been very busy doing math, but sometimes math can be fun! Mrs. Jenkins is an awesome teacher, and we have had a great First Nine Weeks!

In Science we have learned all kinds of things about atoms and energy. It has been interesting learning that such little things can make such a big deal in our everyday lives. In Social Studies we have learned about the first civilizations like Ancient Mesopotamia and the people of the Indus River Valley. It is so cool to be able to learn about our ancient ancestors. You might not think about it, but our lives today are based off of what they did then.

In Language Arts we have Mrs. Blackburn. She is a great Language Arts teacher. We are learning how to do analogies and do them as a warm-up to start off our time with her. We are learning to do stems and how to interpret our stories and books. We are learning literary terms, and we are doing vocabulary every week. Mrs. Blackburn teaches us how to correct sentences when they are wrong, and how to find out what each word's part of speech is. Mrs. Blackburn keeps learning fun and we have had a great year so far.

We have had a great first nine weeks at Chavis and we hope to have a great rest of the year.

By: Maggie Beam, Holden Page & Addie Seate



ROMANS

On the Romans team in Language Arts with Ms. Trudnak we've been learning Greek and Latin stems and reading skills. Some of the fun things we've done have

been playing "Stems-ketball" as a review and using the Chromebooks to play Kahoot games with our stems. We've also read Tuck Everlasting and tons of other short stories and articles. Our favorite part about Language Arts is using the Chromebooks and reading all the different genres of stories.

In Math with Mrs. Wagoner our team has been learning about unit rate. Some of the fun things we've done in math are labs where we had to make our own slides about dividing decimals. Our favorite part about math is all of the fun labs we get to do using iPads.

CHARGERS



This first nine weeks has been fun, educational, and exciting! We have greatly enjoyed all of our math, language arts, science, and social studies topics. As seventh graders our work has become more complex and difficult. Our teachers have also encouraged us to grow and be challenged. Hopefully the rest of this year will be as great as this!

We have learned a lot already in Math this year. We have studied the number system, learned about the parts of an algebraic expression, translating expression terms, and so much more. We have also learned about rational and irrational numbers, including fractions and decimals. Things like one- and two-step equations have also been in our days.

This year Language Arts has been more exciting than ever before! Not only have we done the usual schoolwork, vocabulary, fiction and nonfiction passages and poetry, we have also done really exciting assignments, including Cereal Box projects, Conflict Cube projects, and have even taken writing to a new level with E-Journals. We have even had fun with essays with a recently assigned essay about our favorite Halloween candies.

So far this year Science has been full of very interesting things. Science safety was the very first thing we learned about to have a safe year. The atmosphere has been a familiar subject, and we have learned about its layers, the composition, and the chlorofluorocarbons that harm it. Pollution harms the Earth and we have learned ways to try and reduce it. Causes and effects of weather are what we have also studied.

Social Studies has been growing and branching off from what we learned in sixth grade. Geography, culture, government and economics, exploration and colonization have been our sections for learning this year. With a sneak peek into the second nine weeks, we will be learning about the concept of revolution, which includes the American Revolution, the French and Latin American Revolutions, the Civil War, and the Industrial Revolution.

By: Juliana Vollmer and Lara Moss

In Social Studies with Mrs. Peeler we've been learning about ancient civilizations like Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley. We've also just started our research projects. Our favorite part about social studies is creating projects and doing research. In Science we've been learning about matter and electromagnetic energy. The best part of science has been learning about wave length. We are really enjoying sixth grade and can't wait to see what else we are going to learn!

By: Blair Baker & Kenzie Little

CAPTAINS



This year in Language Arts on the Captains team we have been doing self-selected reading (SSR) and conferencing with Mrs. Floyd about our books. We have read many literature stories. We have also been keeping up with stems and vocabulary. This week, we began our unit on the writing process.

In Math with Mr. Ware, we have done many things, such as order of operations, distributive property, and factoring using distributive property. Next we will start translating expressions.

By: Hallie Holt

BUCCANEERS



This nine weeks the Buccaneers have done a lot of things! In Math 1 and Math 8 we are learning the all the formulas for slope. We have also learned square root, integer rules, order of operations, and how to set up an equation. Ms. Stroupe does some activities to make it fun while we learn.

In Language Arts we have been reading a lot of Edgar Allan Poe's poems and books. The 8th grade is going on a field trip to watch four plays of Poe's most famous poems. Ms. Wall makes it fun to learn about Edgar Allan Poe. We played a game that helped us learn about the personality of the characters and how to understand the poems and stories. We have just started reading a book called *The Giver* by Lois Lowry.

During Science we have been learning about the periodic table as well as all its elements and compounds. Mrs. Spiker reviews with us in fun and unique ways; for example, if you answer a question for the review you earn points that, in the end, let your team win. We are now learning about the properties and chemistries of water.

In Social Studies we are learning about the start of America. We have learned about the colonists and the American Revolution. Mr. Moss has found some fun activities and videos that help us understand the material better.

By: Natalie Carter

Yearbooks for Sale!

Only \$30*

*If ordered online; \$33 if ordered at school.

PIRATES



This nine weeks in Math I we have been busy with slope, radicals, and integers! A few weeks ago, we had a slope book project where we had to define the four kinds of slope and give real world examples of each type. In 8th grade Math we have done a lot of review of prior learning, but we have also learned some algebraic operations and integer rules. We just started learning about slope.

In Language Arts, the AIG class read the novel *Johnny Tremain* and did a project, including a report and a visual aid, on one of the characters from the book that had something to do with the history of the American Revolution. All classes have read the work of Edgar Allan Poe and have been playing the "Poe Game." This is a mystery game that challenges you to find out which of Poe's characters, friends, or enemies supposedly killed him, which is really fun and cool to do. We also learned about nouns, verbs, and figurative language, and many classes have just begun reading *The Giver*.

In Social Studies we were assigned a timeline project where we had to find an historical event for each year of our lives. We learned about European Exploration and who discovered areas of land and at what time. We also learned about the American Revolution, including the important people and important battles of the Revolution.

In Science, we have learned about the periodic table of elements. We learned about the structure of the table and what certain things mean on it. We also have labs that we do to help us with what we're learning about at that time. We have had a measurement lab, a density lab, and a water lab.

By: Carter Grace Estes, Chase Abernathy
& Sydney Narron

ATHLETICS DISCOUNT PASSES

Save money at home games!

**\$20 - 5 Games \$40 - 10 Games
\$170 - ALL Games**

Available in the office or at any home game.

PARDON OUR DUST...

You may have noticed some construction work going on around our campus recently. Chavis is currently undergoing a complete roof replacement. This project will help eliminate issues caused by our existing roof, including fixing a number of leaks. The project should not affect any normal school operations, though it may limit space in our parking lots. We appreciate your patience and understanding as this very important work is completed.

SPORTS INFO

The fall middle school athletic season proved very successful to JCMS teams. All of our Wolverines athletes gave their very best efforts and represented the school well. Each team finished in the top four among all GCS middle school teams.

FOOTBALL

The Wolverines football team had an historic season in 2014. For the first time in school history, they ended the regular season with a perfect undefeated record of 7-0, ending up as the Division II champions. The team, coached by Terry Moss, Tim Moss, Blake McLeymore, and Robert Ramseur, showed an enormous amount of heart and determination as they took on each opponent. Their winning spirit carried on the momentum that began last year, and each game drew more and more fans who wanted to witness the Wolverines spirit. Though the team ended the season with a tough loss against Southwest in the playoffs, they made the entire community proud and showed everyone that they would not be underestimated. Not since 1994 (as Cherryville Jr. High) have we seen this level of success, but the team has set the stage for many more years of football glory for Chavis.

SOFTBALL

The Lady Wolverines softball team had a successful year as well, ending the regular season with a record of 8-2. The team, coached by Callie Hahn and Katie Causby, certainly beat expectations and continued the tradition of softball excellence that is legendary in the Cherryville area. Though they lost to rival W.C. Friday in the playoffs, the girls proved that we are still extremely competitive in this sport—as evidenced by our county record number of playoff appearances and county championships!

GOLF

The golf team, coached by Ilene Dellinger, had another great year as well. Though rain interfered with one match, they still finished the season impressively. Chavis also hosted the county golf tournament at the Cherryville Country Club, where our team took fourth place overall.

CHEERLEADING

Our Wolverines cheerleaders also had a great fall season. They never failed to charge up the crowd and performed at six home football games and two pep rallies. Coached by Trista Dye and Jennie Peeler, the girls helped keep spirits high and fans energized. Even a very rainy game against Belmont could not dampen their spirits—the girls cheered on to help make our Wolverines teams successful.

Volleyball & Boys' Soccer

Tryouts for boys' and girls' basketball will begin on Mon., Jan. 5, after school. All eligible 7th and 8th grade students may participate. You must have a **current** physical on file with the school to participate in the tryouts. Please see Mr. Fitch with any questions.

Nov. 10	@ Stanley
Nov. 13	@ Mt. Holly
Nov. 17	Home vs. Grier
Nov. 20	@ Cramerton
Nov. 24	@ Bessemer City
Dec. 2	Home vs. York Chester
Dec. 4	Home vs. Southwest
Dec. 8	Home vs. Holbrook
Dec. 11	@ W.C. Friday

Note: Home boys' soccer games will be played at Tryon Park

Wrestling

Nov. 7	Home vs. Mt. Holly
Nov. 12	Home vs. Holbrook
Nov. 14	@ W.C. Friday
Nov. 18	Home vs. Grier
Nov. 21	@ Belmont
Nov. 25	Home vs. York Chester
Dec. 3	@ Stanley
Dec. 5	Home vs. Southwest
Dec. 9	@ Cramerton
Dec. 13	County Tournament

Upcoming Events

Fri., Nov. 21 - School dance from 3:15-6:00pm

Wed., Nov. 26 – Fri., Nov. 28 - Thanksgiving holidays

Thur., Dec. 4 - Interim reports distributed

Thur., Dec. 11 - Band Concert at Starnes Auditorium at 7:00pm

Fri., Dec. 13 - School dance from 3:15-6:00pm

Tue., Dec. 16 - Chorus Concert at Starnes Auditorium at 7:00pm

Mon., Dec. 22 – Fri., Jan. 2 - Winter Holidays

Fri., Jan. 16 - 16 School dance from 3:15-6:00pm

Fri., Jan. 21 - End of 1st Semester & 2nd nine-weeks

Mon., Jan. 20 - Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday

Tue., Jan. 22 – Wed., Jan. 23 - Teacher Workdays

Thur., Jan. 29 - Second nine-weeks report cards

JCMS Newsletter
Fall 2014

Vol. 3, Issue 1

Published by:

John Chavis Middle School
103 South Chavis Drive
Cherryville, NC 20821
(704) 435-6045

www.gaston.k12.nc.us/chavis

Encore

SPECIAL EDITION

ART

We have completed many interesting projects and are learning about several artists in Art class. Some of the artwork we have completed includes an Earth Artwork and a Recycled Object project. We had discussions about several Earth artists and focused mostly on the artwork of Goldsworthy. Then we went outside and created our own art pieces, using only things from nature. Next we created an artwork using only recycled materials. The best five Recycled artworks were taken to Keep Gastonia Beautiful to compete in a contest. Those students were Emily Torres, Matthew Williams, Kandace Cothorn, Kirsten Wright, and Mallory England. Emily won second place overall! We are currently working with the Spanish class on a "Day of the Dead" project. The sixth graders are making paper sugar skulls, seventh graders are making sugar skull masks, and eighth graders are making linoleum block prints of sugar skulls they designed. Several students will get the chance to have their artwork displayed at "Arts on Main" in the months of December and January.

HEALTH/PE

For Health class students have been studying relationships, tobacco, and alcohol. After all three grade levels complete a unit on abstinence, 7th and 8th graders began the unit on reproductive health and safety education. The 6th grade began studying units on tobacco education and alcohol advertising. While studying advertising the students also studied very basic principles of economics.

This nine weeks in P.E. has been busy with fun activities! The first thing we had to do was chart was our "student's personal best." We did this by doing push-ups, sit-ups, and a ½ mile walk/run to find "our personal bests". Some homework we had to do was to take three measures of our resting heart rates. Using our resting heart rates, we calculated our target heart rates. With all of this, our goals were to do more, get faster, and get fit!

Sports and games were part of our P.E. class. Volleyball included teamwork and having fun! These traits are very important in P.E. Flag football is a fun game that's most like football, with flags! We had to practice and improve our football and frisbee throwing skills. Our frisbee abilities came in handy when we went outside to play frisbee golf! P.E has been full of fun!

By: Juliana Vollmer

SPANISH

Hola, from Mrs. Clark's Spanish class. So far this semester we have learned about *el tiempo* (the weather), *días y meses* (days and months), *los objetos de la clase* (classroom objects), and how to have a conversation in Spanish. This coming week we are going to be learning about a Mexican holiday called *El Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead.) *Hasta luego*.

By: Mallory England and Gracie Hester

CHORUS

The chorus classes have been working on Christmas music in preparation for the Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 16 at 7 pm at Starnes Auditorium. The classes have also focused on sight-singing from "Do" up to "So." The 8th grade Theatre class has been working on monologues. These will be presented in class. The 6th grade Music class has been working on the notes D through G on the recorders. One of the favorite pieces to play is called "Bullet Train." The class is also beginning a unit on time signature and conducting patterns.

CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION

In 7th grade Business Education class we have learned the proper posture and techniques for keyboarding. In the first nine weeks, we have learned to type all of the letters on the keyboard. We have also learned to type all the numbers and symbols. We have typed all these using proper keyboarding techniques that Mr. Beam has taught us. He is a great teacher! We have learned so much about the keyboard and how to use it. We are now learning about MS Word and how to create documents. We are also learning about formatting and editing skills that are used in Word. We are going to continue to work in MS Word and study basic desktop publishing tools during the second nine weeks.

By: Becca Boo Knowles and Gracie Rickard

Our eighth grade Business Education classes have been learning how to properly type, while working on our speed and accuracy. We have also been in Microsoft Excel, where we learned to use spreadsheets and type formulas and functions. In this upcoming nine weeks we will be introduced to Microsoft Access and PowerPoint.

By: Maggie Barnes and Cameron Anthony

In 6th grade Exploring Career Decisions class, we have learned about types of values, attitude, learning styles, interests, personality types, transferable skills, the career planning cycle and career information.

By: Faith Anthony and Maggie Beam

Encore

Sixth graders have only been in Band for nine weeks, but we have made lots of progress. Mrs. Whitfield is really nice and wants to help all her students; she gives us all a chance. In the beginning we voted for officers; for the brass and percussion class Ryan Riffle is treasurer, secretary is Wyatt Wilson, and student conductor Abby Schultz. In the woodwinds class, treasurer is Cheyenne Congleton, secretary is Chataveon Bennett, and student conductor is Riley Huffman. We are looking forward to our first concert on December 11!

By: Riley Huffman, Olivia Mosteller, Wyatt Wilson,
Raven Hampton & Abby Shultz

We are off to a great start at the JCMS 7th grade Band. We have just finished up our two pep rallies! Mrs. Whitfield is the best band director that we could ever have!! Right now we are preparing for All-County and All-District Honors Band. We hope we have great turnout this coming February just like last year. Most of our band is trying out for these Honor Bands and hopefully, like last year, we will have the biggest group to make it.

By: Avery Walker & Blaise Shiver

8th grade Band is never hard, but it's complicated. Our first important topic of 8th grade was the band shirts, which were awesomely designed by our band shirt design team. We had many rounds of voting on our band shirts (and many arguments about them too), but we finally put all our heads together and made our **AWESOME, SUPER** band shirts. Next we had to practice a bunch for our performance at the high school's football game. Our pep rallies were fun too! Now we are getting ready for All-County and All-District by practicing our scales and checking them off on our chart of magical scales of success (it's really just a normal chart). We are also getting ready for our Christmas concert which is going to be held on December 11, 2014, at Starnes Auditorium.

By: Jessica Hendricks & Sarah Bowles



BETA CLUB

This year we elected five new officers. Logan Barrett as president, Madison Philbeck as vice president, Macie Drum as treasurer, Taryn Jenkins as secretary, and Brent Walls as the seventh grade representative. Over this nine weeks

we have collected \$72.20 in box tops which will go towards school funds. Every Friday Beta Club members are sent out to collect box tops from all classrooms. We encourage students to continue bringing box tops. Friday, November 7th, we will sponsor a hat day where all of the proceeds will be given to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. All of us have been working very hard this nine weeks and will continue to do so. Thank you for your support!

By: Macie Drum, Brent Walls, Logan Barrett,
Taryn Jenkins & Madison Philbeck

STUDENT COUNCIL

Congratulations to our Student Council Officers who were recently elected for the 2014-15 school year.

President - Madelyn Daggerhart

Vice President - Brent Walls

Secretary - Addy Pruitt

Treasurer - Sophie Pfeifer

Historian - Sydney Narron

Parliamentarian - Gracie Jackson

Also, each team selected representatives for the Student Council recently. The representatives are: Romans team - Dalton Pence and Ty Heavner; Greeks team - Riley Huffman and Wyatt Wilson; Captains team - Wyatt Ford and Hallie Holt; Chargers team - Noah Ingle and Juliana Vollmer; Pirates team - Matt Cain and Cayson Sellers; Buccaneers team - Burgess Beam and Carlie Grace Jackson.

All of these students look forward to working hard on projects to improve our school and representing the voices and opinions of the most important people at Chavis—the students! They will meet with Mr. Denton on a regular basis to provide the students' point of view on matters. Student Council will also sponsor service projects this year. They are currently collecting tabs from aluminum cans to raise funds for the Shriner Hospital and for the cancer center at Caromont Regional Medical Center. In addition, they will once again sponsor the collection of shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child project to benefit needy children around the world.

WOW!

33% of JCMS students had perfect attendance for
the first quarter

36% of JCMS students were on the A or A/B Honor
Roll for the first quarter