Gratefully Blessed
From CHS Student Body Vice President, Cole Pettigrew

Three years ago, I made the inevitable transition between middle school and high school. Although this is a challenging time for all teenagers, being from a feeder school (Latham), I had more of a challenge than most of my peers. Due to a lack of friends and to little connection to the school district, I was building my reputation from the ground up.

Although it would be an uphill battle from the beginning, I was and still am remarkably lucky to be involved in the community that I am. From the classroom to the many extracurricular activities that I have been involved in, the extraordinary teachers and staff made my journey all that more bearable.

I still recall those first couple days of school. I had to stop and ask a teacher in between every hour where my next class was.

Even more so, I have absolutely been blessed to live in the community that I do. Whether I was feeling the support from an audience at a musical or concert, or witnessing the bond of our community in fundraisers that I helped plan through student council, I have come to realize that our community here in California, Missouri is like no other.

I would like to wrap up by saying thank you. Thank you to my teachers for challenging me every day academically and shaping me into the student I am today. Thank you to our administrators for organizing this place where myself and others can experience once-in-a-lifetime experiences, not to mention a notably dynamic school atmosphere. Finally, thank you to the community for showing us students invaluable support, and who we do it for.

I am honored to have been able to share myself with this wonderful district and cannot wait to show the rest of the world all I have learned here.

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<td>Band Concert in CPAC MS at 2:00 p.m. HS at 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>9/V Boys BB @ Centraila 9/V Girls BB vs SoBoCo 7th Boys/Girls BB vs Warsaw</td>
<td>1st Grade Concert 7:00 p.m. in CPAC 4th Grade field trip 7/8 Boys BB @ Osage 9th Boys/Girls BB @ Osage</td>
<td>9/V Boys BB vs SoBoCo</td>
<td>Var BB National Guard Shootout @ IC Girls vs Hermann Boys vs Eldon</td>
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<td>17 Christmas Choral Concerts in CPAC HS at 2:00 p.m. MS at 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>9/V Boys BB @ Knob Noster 9/V Girls BB vs Centralia 8th Boys/Girls BB vs Eldon</td>
<td>School Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. in CHS Library</td>
<td>MS STARR Party 9/V Girls BB @ Lebanon</td>
<td>Early Dismissal 1:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>7th Boys/Girls BB @ Sedalia</td>
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<td>7/8 Boys BB vs Versailles 7/8 Girls BB @ Versailles</td>
<td>All-District band @ Warrensburg</td>
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<td>7th Grade Boys and Girls Tri-County Basketball Tournament @ Osage</td>
<td>8 CES PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m in cafeteria</td>
<td>District FFA Greenhand Conference 8:30 a.m. @ Jefferson City 7th Boys/Girls BB @ Eldon</td>
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<td>84th Boys and 24th Girls Annual Basketball Tournament @ CHS</td>
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<td>7th Grade Girls Tournament @ Camdenton</td>
<td>8th Grade Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament @ Eldon</td>
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<td>8th Grade Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament @ Versailles</td>
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<td>3 PTO Me &amp; My Special Guy Dance Tri-County Honor Band @ Eldon 9/V Girls BB @ Helias Shootout</td>
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<td>No School 9/V Girls BB @ Hallsville</td>
<td>9/V Boys BB @ Hallsville</td>
<td>School Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. in CHS Library</td>
<td>9th Boys/Girls BB @ Fulton 9/V Girls BB vs Skyline</td>
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Mrs. Friedrich installs appreciation of the arts
by Turner Myers

Stacy Friedrich is the K-5 general music teacher and California Kids director. She is the one in charge of preparing the kids for grade-level performances.

She has a lot of responsibilities when organizing a show.

“I have to pick out the cast, figure out costuming, teach the songs to the kids, and work on the acting and choreography,” said Friedrich.

“She does it all,” said Deborah Francis, fourth grade teacher. “Helping students memorize their parts, teaching dance moves, and making costumes and props.”

Performance preparation takes up a lot of time.

Friedrich said, “There is not enough time during school to prepare everything for a concert. I spend a lot of weekends planning and preparing.”

Because of these extensive responsibilities, time with family is limited. Her husband, Brad, is the high school art teacher and CPAC manager. Their daughter Lauren is in seventh grade. Luckily they help out a lot and get to spend time together that way.

She said, “[Brad] makes a lot of the props for me and is also in charge of the maintenance for the Performing Arts Center. I couldn’t do a performance without his help!”

“Since Brad and I both play a part in the production of these programs, we sometimes miss out on our daughter’s activities, but it doesn’t happen very often,” said Friedrich.

With six grade-level concerts a year, the fun never stops.

“I really enjoy directing the first grade kids,” said Friedrich. “First grade does the Christmas program every year and it’s one of my favorite music programs.”

She said the hardest grade level is kindergarten because they are little and inexperienced.

“Sometimes they can be a little unpredictable, but they sure are cute when they perform!”

With over 100 students per grade level, each concert is a big undertaking. Thankfully, she receives a lot of help from her family, teachers, and parents.

Teachers work backstage during performances and help with cleanup. The parents provide their kids with costumes.

“This helps me out a lot!” said Friedrich. “The parents in our community are very supportive of the music programs.”

Being a music teacher takes a lot of dedication and time. However, Friedrich emphasizes that she profits greatly.

“The benefit for me is feeling a sense of accomplishment when the kids are successful at their performance. Plus, I am teaching kids to appreciate the art of music performance and giving them experiences that they will remember years later.”

In my room . . . Skills lessons guide good citizenship
by Paige Johnson

Each month the elementary school counselors teach their students skills organized around social and emotional development, academic development, and career development.

Christiane Goans has been working with children for twenty-two years. She is the California counselor for grades third, fourth, and fifth.

During skills week she provides a 50-minute class period concentrating on the character focus of the month such as being proactive in the community.

“My goal is for the students to acquire some of these skills. Also I want to promote self-awareness, improve self-regulation, and engage the students in positive social interactions with their teachers and peers,” said Goans.

Recently, the character focus was the five components of a good citizen, which are responsible, respectful, compassionate, brave, and honest. Students also discussed the importance of having an “Attitude of Gratitude.”

The students learned that individuals who focus on what they are thankful for are much happier as opposed to those who focus on the things they don’t have.

To end the November Skills Week, Goans let the students decorate fall leaves and list what they are thankful for.

Skills for Growing is only one aspect for Goans’ job. When not teaching lessons in her classroom, she provides responsive services to individual students or in small groups.

In addition to her scheduled time with students, she supervises hallways and tries to visit with students as she travels throughout the building. Goans tries to constantly interact with students from the moment they enter the building to the end of the school day.
The goal is for all kids to feel safe at school

California R-1 School District adopted a revised version of Policy JFCF in December 2016. This policy defines bullying and lays out the process and procedures for the school to follow should an incident occur. The following is the definition of bullying as stated in Policy JFCF:

In accordance with state law, bullying is defined as intimidation, unwanted aggressive behavior, or harassment that is repetitive or is substantially likely to be repeated and causes a reasonable student to fear for his or her personal safety or property; that substantially interferes with the educational performance, opportunities or benefits of any student without exception; or that substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. Bullying includes, but is not limited to: physical actions, including violence, gestures, theft, or property damage; oral, written, or electronic communication, including name-calling, put-downs, extortion, or threats; or threats of reprisal or retaliation for reporting such acts.

You can look up Policy JFCF on the school district’s website californiak12.org under District-Policies for more specific information about the policy.

Davis, Bishop attend energy course

As for the bullies, Edwards said district policy will be followed for punishment of the bully’s actions.

“Bullying does not always happen at school. It might happen off campus too, but if it disrupts the education of the student, we are obligated to handle it,” said Edwards.

It is clear that Edwards and CMS want to give their kids the best education. If kids are being bullied and do not feel safe, they can’t be putting their education first.

Parents and teachers, it is important and cannot be emphasized enough that we need to all come together as a district to remind our youth to be encouraging, not exclusive. We can’t control others’ actions, but we can control our own: be a friend to all.
School addresses student needs beyond classroom
by Kyle Hofstetter

In the high school office, behind a door that used to house the district money safe, is now a treasure one wouldn’t expect to find in high school: a clothes closet.

The high school clothes closet is a place for kids to get the necessities they need throughout the day. Not only does it provide kids with a variety of clothes to pick from, but it also provides a selection of hygiene products and school supplies as well.

“Our staff is able to support our students in significant ways that hopefully help them concentrate on school rather than worrying about being able to meet some basic needs,” said Sean Kirksey, high school principal.

The closet was established for kids that had torn shirts or just needed an extra change for gym class. In creating this closet for kids, many things have developed inside it.

Lori Bailey, high school health aide and administrative assistant, is in charge of the clothes closet.

“There were a few boxes of clothes and hygiene items stored in the nurse’s office. The counselors also had some of these items. Over the summer, we combined and reorganized into one central location,” said Bailey.

Since the closet was established, the office administration have added hygiene products such as mouthwash, shampoo, and deodorant. Other supplies such as pencils, pens, and notebooks have been added as well.

Also she said, “This is something kind of new, so there is a nice selection of most sizes. We could use more XL and 2XL clothes, both men and women.

“I have shirts and ties and a few dresses for senior pictures and graduation. They can either borrow the clothing, or if they ask, I will let them keep it,” said Bailey.

Kirksey said, “I believe it is a really valuable service. Any program that helps others is worthwhile. However, a program that helps our students when they are most in need of help is extremely important.

“Our staff is able to support our students in significant ways that hopefully help them concentrate on school rather than worry about being able to meet some basic needs.”

In my room . . . Lindquist thwarts identity theft
by Trinity Bays

Personal finance is a semester course required for California sophomores. Jon Lindquist uses the Dave Ramsey Foundations of personal finance curriculum to teach students.

In November, students learned about identity theft and how to protect themselves from having their identity stolen. Students in personal finance use class discussion and identity theft research to learn about the current forms of identity theft, such as having credit card information or a social security number stolen.

“Identity theft is becoming a very common occurrence in our society. This lesson will help students lower the risk and teach them what to do if they suspect they have become the victim of identity theft,” said Lindquist.

Jon Lindquist teaches four periods of personal finance.

Lindquist said, “I love everything about personal finance. I love that I get to teach a subject that applies to the everyday lives of just about everyone on this planet.”

Sonic funds multiple school projects
by Marni Smith

Sonic is doing more for the community than just providing food. They have a program called Limeades for Learning that provides money for local schools.

High school librarian, Janet Henley, has used this program for seven years. Projects are posted to Limeadesforlearning.com by teachers, and students vote each day for the project. When the project receives a certain amount of votes, it gets funded at a maximum of $600 to any one project.

“This program allows students to make a difference in their community without having to donate any money,” said Henley.

Only California’s high school has been using this program, but elementary and middle school teachers have been supporting the projects. This year, three teachers received full funding.

Henley had 3411 votes to buy some kind of trip they have taken and use that as their subject,” said Friedrich.

In total, Limeades for Learning provided $1,500 to CHS this year alone, and teachers plan to use it more in the future.

California Basketball Tournament
January 8-13 at CHS

Boys (Tuesday/Thursday): California, Fatima, Southern Boone, Fulton, Boonville, St. Elizabeth, Warrensburg

Girls (Monday/Wednesday): California, Boonville, Fulton, Fatima, Southern Boone, Battle, Helias, St. James

Game times 4:30, 6:00, 7:30, 9:00 p.m.
Consolation Friday
Championship Saturday