



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DECEMBER	4 HS Volleyball Athletic Banquet 2:00 p.m. in CHS Commons	5 JV/V Girls BB @ Tipton	6 JV/V Boys BB vs. Green Ridge 9 Boys/Girls BB vs. Jefferson City (play at CMS)	7	8 7/8 Boys/Girls BB @ Hallsville	9 9/JV/V Boys BB @ Tipton	10 ACT 9/JV/V Girls BB vs. Pleasant Hill
	8th and 9th Grade Boys Basketball Tournaments @ Osage						
	11 HS/MS Band Concert 2:00 p.m. in CPAC Dance Team Mini Camp 1:30 p.m. @ CHS	12	13 7 Boys/Girls BB @ Warsaw 9/JV/V Boys BB vs Centralia (Mini Dance Camp perform @ varsity halftime) 9/JV/V Girls BB @ SoBoCo	14 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. in CHS Library	15 First Grade Concert 7:00 p.m. in CPAC 7/8 Boys BB vs. Osage 9 Boys/Girls BB vs. Osage	16 9/JV/V Boys BB @ SoBoCo	17 Var Boys BB vs. Hermann @ National Guard Shootout (JC)
	8th Grade Girls Basketball Tournament @ Jefferson City		Junior Varsity Boys Basketball Tournament @ Blair Oaks				
	18 HS/MS Choral Concerts 2:00/4:00 p.m. in CPAC	19	20 9/JV/V Boys BB vs. Knob Noster 8 Boys/Girls BB @ ELDON 9/JV/V Girls BB @ Centralia	21 Early Dismissal	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK							Tri-County Tourney
1	2 District FFA Greenhand Conference in CPAC	3 8 Boys/Girls BB vs. Sedalia	4 No School (Teacher Professional Development) 9 Boys/Girls BB @ Marshall	5 7/8 Boys BB @ Versailles 7/8 Girls BB vs. Versailles	6	7	
Varsity Boys and Girls Tri-County Basketball Tournament @ Hallsville							
8	9	10 7 Boys/Girls BB vs. Eldon	11 Conference Choir Clinic @UCM	12	13 ES Movie Night in the Gym at 6:30 p.m. Kindergarten Nursery Rhyme Day 1:30 p.m. in CPAC	14	
California Varsity Boy & Girls Basketball Tournament							
15	16 No School JV/V Girls BB vs. Hallsville	17 9/JV/V Boys BB vs. Osage	18 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. in CHS Library	19 Third Grade Concert 7:00 p.m. in CPAC 9 Boys/Girls BB vs. Fulton	20 9/JV/V Boys BB @ Versailles	21	
Seventh Grade Girls Basketball Tournament @ Camdenton		Seventh Grade Boys Basketball Tournament @ Versailles		Eighth Grade Boys/Girls Basketball Tournament @ Eldon			
22	23 9/JV/V Girls BB @ Fatima 9 Boys BB vs. Smith Cotton	24 7 Boys/Girls BB vs. Sedalia	25	26 7/8 Girls BB @ Osage	27 9/JV/V Boys BB vs. Hallsville	28	
Varsity Girls Basketball Tournament @ Eldon							
29	30 JV/V Girls BB @ Skyline	31	1	2 JV/V Girls BB @ Eldon	3	4 ES Me and My Special Guy Dance 6:30-8 p.m. in CES Gym JV/V Girls BB vs. Owensville @ Helias	
Varsity Boys Basketball Tournament @ Southern Boone							
5	6	7 JV/V Girls BB @ Versailles 9/JV/V Boys BB @ Warsaw	8 DECA ACTE Legislative Day, MO State Capital	9 Second Grade Concert JV/V Girls BB vs. Warsaw	10 9/JV/V Boys BB vs. Eldon	11 Tri-County Honor Band @ Eldon	
12 Friends of Music BBQ in CHS Commons	13 JV/V Girls BB vs. Osage	14 9/JV/V Boys BB @ BO	15 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. in CHS Library	16 9/JV/V Girls BB @ BO	17 No School (Teacher Professional Development)	18	
19	20 No School	21	22	23 Fifth Grade Concert 7:00 p.m. in CPAC	24	25 HS StuCo Polar Bear Plunge at the Lake FFA Contest @ Eldon	
National FFA Week							
Boys and Girls District Basketball Tournament @ Southern Boone							

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

In my room . . . 2nd Grade with Mrs. Amy Howard

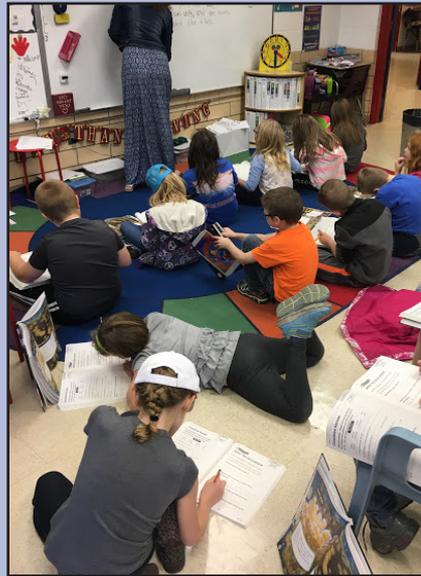
by Wyatt Bestgen

On Monday through Wednesday, the second graders read a weekly story together and talk about the sight words and vocabulary words in the story. They also answer comprehension questions.

On Thursday they read a paired text, which is a text that is similar to the main story, called the anchor text. Then, we discuss how those two stories are similar and different.

On Fridays, students take a quiz over the main story using Google Forms. Then, they graph their score in their data binder.

Students complete a worksheet that goes with their story for the week.



The Faces of CES: It's hard to be family if we don't know one another!



Ms. Rande Hall was born in Columbia but raised in Eldon, Maggie Valley, NC, and Hallsville, MO. She attended Hallsville High School and participated in FCCLA, NHS, Flag Corp., and the A+ Program. She was very fortunate to be able to hold leadership positions in all of the aforementioned activities.

Ms. Hall attended Moberly Area Community College right after high school to earn her Associate Degree and later attended Columbia College where she first got a degree in Psychology and then Elementary Education.

She currently lives in Columbia with her 3-year-old daughter Lilly. In her free time she loves to craft, watch various tv shows, read, and of course play with her amazing daughter. Ms. Hall teaches second grade.



Ms. Ashley Byrd was born and raised in the St. Louis area, in the small suburb Eureka, attending Eureka High School. She completed her first two years of college in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the University of Tulsa. She then transferred to Mizzou to complete her Bachelors in Elementary Ed. and, recently completed her Masters in Learning, Teaching, and Curriculum through Mizzou's Teaching Fellowship Program.

Ms. Byrd currently lives in California. She spends her free time biking and trying new trails and visiting friends and family, particularly her older sister and younger brother. Ms. Byrd teaches second grade

Famous Missourians Make Appearance

by Kelli Williams

For many years, fourth graders throughout Missouri have brought to life some of our state's most renowned residents. This month, fourth graders at California Elementary have dug deep into the life of a famous Missourian of their choice.

With the help of the elementary specials and classroom teachers, the students sharpened their informational writing and research skills. Each young scholar utilizes the Big 6 Research process. This writing structure allows the students to identify details through various resources, formulate research goals, and accumulate relevant and credible information.

Throughout the 6 research stages, students utilize biographical resources

from our district and MRRL library, along with Kidrex.org, a safe online search engine. Students fulfill the following learning criteria: state mapping, biography investigation, written analyses, script writing, and portrait creation.

On Tuesday, November 22, the public had the opportunity to enjoy meeting a small sampling of famous Missourians, as portrayed by our fourth grade students, at our annual Famous Missourian Museum.

Attendees visited student stations to view individual projects while each delivered their script, in hopes of receiving a vote to earn a permanent star in the Missouri Walk of Fame hallway.

Elementary Takes Reading Journeys

by Jerumin Banda

Journeys is a new language arts program being used at California Elementary to teach kindergarten through fifth graders.

Among the things students do to use this tool are vocabulary games, flashcards, unit stories, vocabulary lists, small group readings, phonics, and tests on vocabulary words.

Journeys is both a digital and a physical program. The stories are in a text book, but many of the activities are computerized.

Assistant Principal Aaron Shewmake, who taught *Journeys* for six years before joining CES said, "the teachers are doing a good job, and I am seeing lots of good things."

Kelli Williams, fourth grade, and Susan Hogan, first grade, agree their students like *Journeys*. They also agree that the teachers like having a program that incorporates everything they do, instead of having to pull information through various sources.

This program was chosen over another program called *Wonders* because the staff liked the layout, and some staff already had experience with *Journeys* noting it creates a smooth transition through grade levels and has better growth areas and more resources.

Journeys is a multi-grade level program that is helping raise student reading levels.



Mrs. Wendy Barker grew up in Lohman and went to Russellville Schools all 13 years. She then went to Westminster College and graduated in May 2012 with a Bachelor's of Arts in Elementary Education. While there she was in the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and graduated with Summa Cum Laude honors. She has since earned her Early Childhood certification.

Mrs. Barker currently lives in Jefferson City with her husband Matt and their Doberman Dexter. They like to take Dexter to the park and play ball with him in the yard. They also enjoy frequent trips to St. Louis to visit family and friends. They love to spend time with their nieces and nephews. Mrs. Barker teaches third grade.

Mrs. Kelly Hall grew up in Jamestown, attending Jamestown school from kindergarten through twelfth grade. She went to college at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, where she was a member of Sigma Society (a women's service organization) and held an on-campus tutoring job. Mrs. Hall graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Education with a mathematics concentration.



Mrs. Hall currently lives in the McGirk area with her husband, Trenton. Away from school, she usually catches up with family and friends. Mrs. Hall teaches fourth grade.

Mini Dance Camp!

When? Sunday, Dec. 11
Time? 1:30-4:30 p.m.
Place? CHS gym
Cost? \$20.00

*Girls, K-5th grade.
Forms due by December 5



*Learn the dance on Sunday and perform on Tuesday.

Me and My Special Guy Dance

Saturday, Feb. 4
CES Gym 6:30-8:00
Semi-Formal Dress



Desserts and drinks to be served.

Cheerleading Squad Begins Basketball Season

by Tyler Long

The CMS cheerleaders encourage the crowd, support sports teams, and build confidence in themselves.

Any seventh or eighth grader is allowed to join, as long as grades are maintained. There are try outs at the beginning of each season. As of now there are eleven girls and two boys.

Practicing twice a week, they begin with stretches, then squats, sit ups, and crunches, sideline cheers, and then the halftime dance.

The squad is led by Courtney Wiley who is in her first year of teaching history at California.

"I looked forward to the opportunity to work with kids in a non-academic way. I had never cheered in school, but I was on the dance squad," said Wiley who has coaching experience in track.

The squad first came together in July to work on teamwork and balance. After football season was over, they got a ten-day rest before they began practice for basketball season.

Coach Wiley said, "being on the team has made the kids more outgoing, and they are more willing to make relationship with peers."

Some of the goals for the team are learning enough cheers to get through a basketball game and learning enough dances for designated halftimes. Also, Wiley would like to increase stunting.

Litzi Romo, eighth grader, is a



The CMS cheer squad practices cheers for an upcoming basketball game. (photo by Shay Oswald)

new member of the squad. Her goal is for the team to "have a perfect performance," and she also wishes to be able to do the splits by season's end.

The squad gets to games early for warm ups. They cheer through the whole game, breaking at half-time. Cheerleading is a MSHSAA regulated activity, but mainly for safety regulations like wearing proper clothing and having a health physical.

The most challenging parts of cheerleading are time management, keeping good grades, and attending practice.

Wiley said, "I like watching the kids gain confidence and seeing that confidence transfer to academics."

Wiley would like to do a fundraiser in the future to purchase new equipment and a team jacket and sweatpants.

Coach Wiley hopes to hold next year's tryouts in May.

Teachers have Daily Period to Plan, Collaborate

by Mary Hentges

A plan period is a state-mandated conference time of 45 minutes that teachers spend getting lessons ready, grading, and collaborating.

"This is time I get without kids in the room to get everything done," said Amy Elliott, eighth grade English teacher.

Principal Matt Abernathy said teachers can only leave campus during this time if they have school-related business to attend to.

Elliott also uses this time to work with students that are behind or having difficulty. She can work one on one and give feedback to the students that are struggling.

"We worked hard to ensure that teachers at the middle school have common plan times," said Abernathy. "This was done so grade level teachers can get together and use their plan time once a week to have team meetings to discuss student concerns and solutions and events that will impact the grade level (assemblies, field trips, STABLE events, etc.)."

On another day of the week, teachers common time to conduct data team meetings, where they discuss student assessment results, develop RTI groups, review MAP data and IBD reports from the state, and analyze data from other sources (Evaluate, SRI, ICU).

Plan periods help make lessons more effective because the teacher is able to bounce ideas off of other teachers and is better prepared.

Ninth Hour Program is a Motivational Tool

by Zack Wilcox

Ninth hour is about 30 minutes at the end of each day. It allows students to get one-on-one help from teachers to improve learning.

In previous years, all students participated in a study block with a particular teacher, which made it hard for teachers to give the one-on-one help to students who needed it.

Now kids are allowed to choose the area they want to improve in, or if their grades are good enough, they may opt to spend that time with friends participating in select activities.

Principal Matt Abernathy said, "Last year we had a program called ICU, which is a database that tracks the students with a missing or late assignment."

If a student was behind on their work, they would remain in class with a teacher and receive help, instead of being able to leave and socialize with friends.

They found that students would turn in assignments but score poorly on them. Since assignments were being turned in, they would not show up on the ICU database, so kids were slipping through the cracks.

"We now use a D and F list in conjunction with the ICU database, to ensure that we are helping everyone who needs it," said Abernathy.

Another problem with the old method was "the D/F list was printed every two weeks, so some students would shut down and not work because they knew they couldn't leave the study block for two weeks. Now, we print the list every Monday," said Abernathy.

He feels the students have shown an overall love and appreciation of the new program. They



Mrs. Meisenheimer looks over a student's shoulder to give her a helping hand on her math assignment. (photo by Sam Kirby)

seem to use the free time that they get towards the end of the day to hang out with friends, open gym, art, or do homework. Something new they have added this year is an open weight room, where students are allowed to lift and become a physically better individual.

This concept of ninth hour has shown a big improvement on the overall grades. After two weeks of school, 165 middle school students were on the D and F list. But, after utilizing ninth hour, that number dropped to 41 students at the end of first quarter.

Abernathy said, "rewards is a motivation for students to want to do better, but it has to be the student who wants to do better. We can only do so much."

In my room . . . FACS with Megan Jones

by Shay Oswald



Miss Megan Jones, Family and Consumer Science (FACS) teacher, explains to her eighth graders about their upcoming test on food safety. They have to score a 100% to be able to move on to the kitchen. As groups they make recipes such as bacon-wrapped smokies, chicken casserole, garlic green beans, mini cheese cakes, chocolate chip cookies, and dirt cake. Every nine weeks, a new group of students takes the class.



The Giving Tree

sponsored by CMS Peer Helpers

Would you like to help a family in need this Christmas? If you do, contact California Middle School. Pick up a gift tag and make a family's Christmas joyful.

Tag Pick-up by Friday, Dec. 9
Gift Return by Wednesday, Dec. 14

Gifts consist of clothing, special-requested items or cash donations.

Stipend for CHS Class Sponsors

by Dustin Ferguson

Each principal comes in with his own idea of how class sponsors should be organized and so at California, several different rotations have been tried. Currently, all teachers who aren't coaching have a class to represent.

This year, a stipend was provided for two permanent junior and two permanent senior sponsors. Those teachers will not follow the class through the years like the other sponsors. Instead, they will serve as head sponsors, guiding prom and graduation respectively.

Julia Potter and Janet Henley were contracted as the head senior sponsors. Both agree being a class sponsor is great, and they enjoy it.

"The best part of being a class sponsor would be the interaction with the students," said Potter who has been a senior sponsor for 17 years. This is her first year to receive a stipend, but she and Henley both said they would have done it without the money.

Henley said, "It's a great joy to see those who have struggled, and never thought they could do it, walk across the stage."

The primary duties for sponsors are to supervise Homecoming and Courtwarming activities. Being a class sponsor provides opportunities for teachers to interact with the students outside of the classroom.

Head junior sponsors are Denise Banderman and Kate Lootens.

Greetings



Tim Beydler, assistant principal, and Michele Bilyeu, choir teacher, welcome high school students as they arrive to school. Teachers are now assigned certain days for parking lot duty. They are to make sure students park in the student parking sections, to watch for students that come and go, and of course, to greet the students in the mornings. (photo by Erica Schnirch)

Transition Conference has MPACT on California Students

by Daniel Weil

On October 27, our special education department sent eighteen students, three parents and two teachers on a field trip to the 8th Annual Tools for Life Transition Summit in Jefferson City. The conference, which is sponsored by the Missouri Parents Act or MPACT, was held at the Truman building with about 200 parents, professional educators, and young adults in attendance.

The summit is designed to educate students with disabilities, special education teachers/case managers, parents, vocational rehabilitation counselors, and independent living personnel. The goal is to prepare students as they transition from high school to postsecondary education, employment, and independent living among their communities.

"I thought it would be a good learning experience to learn about people that needed help like we do now, or about something they have problems with that we could learn about and learn from,"



said Andrew Salmons, a CHS student on the trip. Dixie Trester and I led the group to the summit, where we learned how important it is to help our CHS students prepare for their future.

The summit began with opening remarks from the organizers and Robert Honan, the director of the Missouri Governor's Council on Disabilities. Honan spoke about the importance of helping young adults with disabilities find their self-confidence and determination. He said just because

some people have disabilities, doesn't mean they have to give up on their life goals.



The collective was then dismissed to attend breakout sessions for youth, families and professionals. Sessions included information about bullying, a youth leadership forum for students with disabilities, independent living after high school, and who youth can turn to for help securing jobs.

Salmons shared a story he learned from one of the breakout sessions on independent living. "We watched a video about a girl that learned to live without arms. She [had] to use her feet for everything, like she could fly a plane and do everything else with her feet. So we learned how to live with [our] disabilities and support yourself."

CHS students then traveled back to the main auditorium where they listened to Aaron Likens, the Keynote Speaker for the transition Summit. Likens was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome later in life as an adult. Asperger's is considered to be on the high-functioning end of the autism spectrum.

Likens spoke of his struggles with social interactions and his difficulties with building interest in things. He spoke of his struggles with repetitive behaviors and how they would get in the way of his daily tasks. Likens has found success in overcoming his social fears and now serves as the Easter Seals Midwest's autism ambassador.

After lunch, CHS students, teachers, and parents went to one more series of breakout sessions. Students departed Jefferson City sharing many positive remarks about the Summit. They left surprised but determined to never let go of their goals and dreams after completing high school.

In my room . . . Anatomy with Michael Baepler

by Connor Lane

In Anatomy students learn about the human body. This includes such things as the bones and their functions, different kinds of tissue, and how different body systems work. Currently they are studying how the brain is able to learn or remember people and places.

Shown here, Mr. Baepler tries to teach Senior Monica Whitson and the class how to juggle using some tennis balls and old-fashioned elbow grease.

"This is an example of a skill memory. Other examples of skill memories include learning how to ride a bike, tying your shoe, or writing," said Baepler.



Winter Concert Series



All performances are in the CPAC.

Admission is free.

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2:00 p.m.
HS Band Winter Concert
MS Band Winter Concert
directed by Shawn Smith

Thursday, Dec. 15, 7:00 p.m.
1st Grade Concert
directed by Stacey Friedrich

Sunday, Dec. 18
Winter Choral Concert
2:00 p.m. - High School
4:00 p.m. - Middle School
directed by Michele Bilyeu
& Erika DeMoss

This newsletter is a product of the CHS Print Media class taught by Mrs. Christy Heimericks.

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