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Anderson County Schools

Every Student, Every Day

Volume 2 Issue 2

Anderson County Community Connections

ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS PUT A DIFFERENT SPIN ON GROUNDHOG DAY

Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on Groundhog Day this year and 2007 Anderson County students saw their future. On February 2, Anderson County Schools held its first Job Shadow Day.

Students across the district ventured out of the traditional classroom to determine where their shadow might lead them in a career. Dr. Tim Parrott, ACS Director of Schools and Kelly Myers, ACS Director of Career and Technical Education, had 2007 students in the district participate in some aspect of local business and industry.

The day was planned to give students a glimpse into the career they might aspire while opening the doors to business and industry partners in our local communities. Students experienced the jobs that are available, trends in industry that will affect those jobs in our local economy and



Norwood Middle School Students at CNS Y-12



Shadowing the AC Sheriff's Department

learned how they can develop the work ethic to prepare for a career in that field.

The assistance of parents, community leaders, Anderson County Chamber of

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Commerce and other industry partners was instrumental in making Groundhog Day possible.

On the morning of February 2, district 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th graders were able to go to work with a parent, guardian or family member to experience what a day of work looks like for these adults and experience their work first hand.

Eighth and Eleventh graders had the opportunity to visit local industry to get an idea of jobs available and the kind of work being done in Anderson County. Twelve bus loads of students were taken to Clayton Homes, SL Tennessee, Magna/ Eagle Bend Manufacturing, Northrop Grumman Remotec and CNS Y-12. These industries hosted students and gave them an up-close look at what they do and what it takes to work in these industries.

Twelve of the Criminal Justice students were able to job shadow with the Sheriffs Department, D.A. Chancery Court and Sessions Court. One student was hired

for an internship that day.

Overall the day was a great success! Students learned real life lessons and had a taste of just what their parents do each



Job Shadowing at Y-12 Federal Credit Union



Students at ACS Central Office with Kelly Myers, Director of ACCTC



Job Shadowing at Remotec (left) and Clinton Utilities Board (Right)

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Governor's Commitment to Education in State of the State

Governor Haslam showed a commitment to education in his State of the State address on Monday, February 6:

- The governor is looking to invest in our teachers again for a third year by helping our teachers move toward being the fastest improving state in the nation in raising salaries for our educators.
- Governor Haslam believes it is critically important for our state's economic future that all students graduate from high school ready for college and careers. In order to prepare our students to meet modern-day workforce needs, they need training and experience on the equipment they will operate in the field. This investment will provide \$15 million to help schools acquire equipment for their CTE programs, particularly in areas like advanced manufacturing, health sciences, and information technology along with additional funding for competitive grants



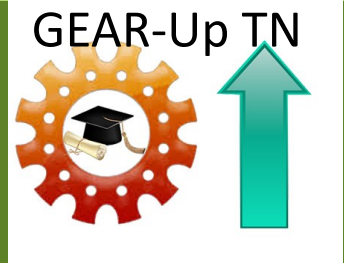
Governor Bill Haslam speaks to Anderson County Chamber Members and Educators at a luncheon in September 2016 at the Junior Achievement Building in Clinton

that will

- support work-based learning opportunities.
- Read to be Ready: We know the earlier we can build strong literacy skills in our students the more likely they are to be successful long-term. Our Read to be Ready initiative aims to build foundational reading skills for our youngest learners, and the governor has proposed to provide \$4.5 million for the second year of this initiative to support educator coaching and strong teaching and learning practices in early literacy.

GEAR-UP TN

Anderson County Schools' high school and Gear-Up students have done it again! Our high school seniors have completed more FASFA's than any other county in Tennessee! A "FASFA" is the acronym for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form that current and prospective college students (undergraduate and graduate) fill out annually to determine their eligibility for student financial aid. Special thanks to Mrs. Angela Merryman, Gear-Up Director, our students are at the top in both volume and percentage of FASFA's filed. Most importantly, a total of 406 seniors from our school system have the opportunity to cash in on a two-year free-tuition education! Congratulations to all of these seniors!



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Principals In Training

Amanda Powers, Anderson County Schools 6-12 Reading Specialist, led our secondary principals in a great day of training focused on how students are taught to read. The day of learning was held at Alex Haley's Farm. This interactive day was designed to share the complicated process of reading as well as how to support struggling readers within our schools. Principals walked away with not only a better understanding of how to support students and also teachers.



Amanda Powers leading principals in training

ACS Student Art Exhibition



Clinton. Come celebrate students' artistic achievements and show support for the fine arts. The exhibition will feature artwork created by students in grades K-12. Special performances and light refreshments will be provided by ACS students. We hope to see everyone for this exciting evening!

Anderson County art teachers invite the public to join them for the first annual ACS Student Art Exhibition on March 9 from 5:00-8:00 PM at Elizabeth Claire's, 364 Market Street,

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Services is working with several organizations and departments to develop a feeding program which will help distribute non-perishable food items to students in need over extended school breaks. More information will be shared soon.

Focus on Norris Middle School

Introducing Principal Jeff Harshbarger

Jeff Harshbarger is a lifelong resident of Anderson County and was in the first class to go all the way through Anderson County High School. After receiving his B.S in Biology with a teaching license in Life, Physical, and Environmental Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville (UTK), he continued his post-secondary education by completing his Masters in Administration and Supervision from Lincoln Memorial University (LMU) in 1997. He furthered his education again in 2011 by receiving his EDS in Curriculum and Instruction also from LMU.



Mr. Harshbarger began his educational career at Norris Middle School as a 7th grade science teacher in 1990 where he received NMS Teacher of the Year and Anderson County Teacher of the Year honors in 1998. After 13 years at NMS, Mr. Harshbarger moved to ACHS where he taught Biology, Bio-Tech, and Biology 2. Mr. Harshbarger transitioned into an administrative role in 2005 when he was named assistant principal at Claxton Elementary School. After

spending over two wonderful years at Claxton, Mr. Harshbarger left the Claxton Cougars for a

return to Norris Middle as interim principal in September of 2007 and was named “official” principal in the spring of 2008.

Jeff and his beautiful wife Jenny are raising two boys in Norris. Jenny is a stay at home mom and member of the Knoxville Choral Society. Their eldest son, Nicholas, is an 8th grade student at NMS and is active in academic competition clubs such as TSA and Science Bowl as well as being a member of the National Junior Honor Society and the NMS Band. The Harshbarger’s other son, Eddie, is a 5th grade student at Norris Elementary School. Eddie loves math, Harry Potter and especially space science. He is also a member of the Anderson County Rock Climbing Team and plays soccer.

Mr. Harshbarger’s passions include his church, biking, reading, travel, and just spending time outside. He is a member of Norris United Methodist Church where he is a long-time member of the choir and the lay leader. Jeff also sings in an accapella group called “The Back Row Boys” who performs at area churches and events like the Appalachian Fall Homecoming at the Museum of Appalachia. As part of his dedication to his faith, Mr. Harshbarger and his family travelled to Latvia last summer on a mission trip and also visited Auschwitz Concentration Camp in Poland. Jeff is a cyclist who enjoys long trips on his touring bicycle including a 4000 mile



cross-country trip in 2003 and has recently taken up mountain biking. He and his family love to travel to new places, share their love of reading, and explore the great outdoors.

Jeff also enjoys the sport of volleyball as a player on the University of Tennessee Club Team and as the coach of the ACHS Volleyball team from 1991 to 2005 where he helped the team reach the state tournament 11 times and brought home Anderson County’s first ever state championship in any sport in 1999. He currently helps coach the NMS volleyball team that won the district and sectional tournaments this past fall.

Mr. Harshbarger loves his job at NMS and credits the terrific students, teachers, and staff for any success he has. He regularly encourages reading in his school by instigating a “nine books in nine weeks” reading challenge and holding daily book drawings where he talks to individual students about books they have recently read. Mr. Harshbarger has a staff at NMS that puts students first and daily expresses the drive to ensure that “every student” succeeds “every day.” He is honored to be chosen by his peers from an impressive group of administrators as their representative for Anderson County Principal of the Year.



CHS HOSA WINS AT COMPETITION

HOSA Class Sponsors Lori Hill and Anita Hill recently led their students to wins at a state competition. HOSA-Future Health Professionals is a great club found at Clinton High School and Anderson County High School.

Founded in 1976, HOSA is an international career and technical student organization endorsed by the U.S Department of Education. According to the HOSA website, the mission of HOSA is to "enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of all health science education students, therefore, helping the student meet the needs of the health care community." HOSA offers over 50 competitive events, ranging from skill-based to leadership and team-based. Members compete at the regional, state, and national levels. Those who place in the top three positions at the state level are given the opportunity to compete at the national level.

The following students placed in recent Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) competition at the state level: Samantha Mack 2nd place Dental Science; Hope Disney 4th place Sports Medicine; Health Education 4th place - Landyn Ford, Halie Martin, Emily Phillips, Kinsley Williams; Ciara Riedlinger 4th place Transcultural Healthcare

Extras!

The Bridge Academy students and staff enjoyed a wonderful breakfast compliments of our Odysseyware software team.

Dr. Rosemary Burks and Ms. Melanie Tuck drove through the snow in Middle/West Tennessee to honor our students for their hard work and positive attitudes!

More on this great program coming next month!



Clinch River Community School Students celebrating Utrust's "Cafeteria Staff Appreciation Day."

Elite¹⁰⁰

What is it? It's group of students who graduate with Honors by meeting or exceeding the ACT benchmarks

What are ACT benchmarks? ACT benchmarks are an established set of minimum scores for each portion of the ACT that shows students are college ready. **English-18, Math -22, Reading -22, Science- 23**

Why do I want to be a part of the group? By meeting the benchmarks, students are considered college ready. Students will be recognized at graduation and you will get to wear the gold honors cords. Students will be recognized and congratulated in various ways like being announced at ballgames and in the newspaper. Best of all when students meet their benchmark they get to go out

to lunch courtesy of GEAR UP TN Anderson County.

Why 100? ACHS and CHS are in a competition to see which school can have 100 juniors and seniors meet these benchmarks first. If the schools can do it, we will set a record for achievement in our county and state!

Who can be the elite? *YOU CAN* if you believe and put your mind to it!



The competition is in high gear. Above is a photo of ACHS's Elite 100 being recognized during halftime of the Gibbs vs. ACHS basketball game.

Shadowing continued from page 2

day. Anderson County Schools believe our future is our students and for them to be successful, they have to know what work looks like in order to make great decisions for their future.

Additionally, ACHS and CHS Criminal Justice students had the opportunity to job shadow at the Anderson County Court House. Throughout the day, students and their shadows posted TWEETS about their experience by tagging @ACSchoolTN and the hashtag #GroundHogDay4ACStudents. Top tweets of the day from students or shadows earned gift cards for students for their effort in sharing their experience on social media.

We would like to thank the many parents, businesses, companies, vendors, offices, and employees for making this day so special for our students. Also, a big thanks to our school administrative offices for the countless hours of hard work making this instructional day very meaningful.



Anderson County is a great place to live, with great community support for education!

CAREER AND TECHNICAL NEWS

MICROSOFT OFFICE CERTIFICATIONS

Nine students received Microsoft Office Certifications in their Advanced Computer Applications class at Anderson County Career and



Technical Center. The Tennessee state award winner for the Microsoft Championship, Jessica Saganich (left) was ranked number 1

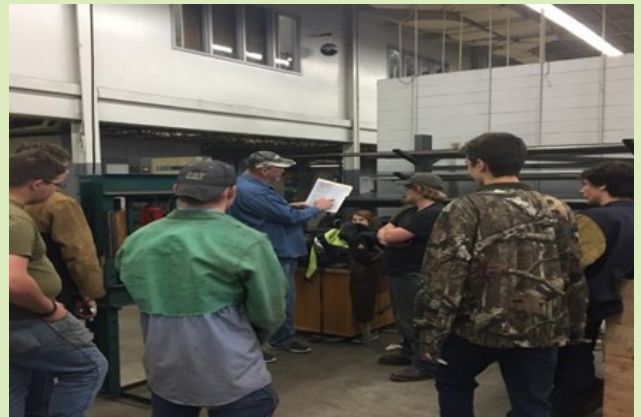
and invited to Orlando in June to compete in Nationals.



Students with their Microsoft Office Certification Certificates

WELDING

Six Anderson County Career and Technical Center Welding students received certification in 3G welding from Certified Welding Inspector Jeff Hankins on December 19, 2016.



COORDINATED SCHOOL HEALTH

LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) – Officer Kim Lay has completed all ten sessions of the Too Good for Drugs curriculum at Andersonville Elementary School, Dutch Valley Elementary School, Fairview Elementary School, and Norris Elementary School. The program includes a pre- and post-test measuring understanding of the subject matter. Officer Lay is still working on the outcome data but the initial review indicates a significant increase in subject matter understanding among students participating in the class.

A ten-week session in the “Too Good for Violence” program began at Clinton Middle School on January 19 and will conclude March 3.