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Anderson County Schools

Every Student, Every Day

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Anderson County Community Connections

Harshbarger Named Principal of the Year

Jeff Harshbarger, Principal of Norris Middle School, has been named East Core Principal of the Year and is one of 12 finalists for principal of the year for the state of Tennessee. Before receiving the East Core honor, Jeff was chosen as Anderson County Principal of the Year in March of 2017 by his fellow ACS administrators. To honor their principal and his selection as principal of the year, the students and staff of Norris Middle School planned and executed a surprise assembly in the gymnasium. Over 500 students cheered and celebrated as members of the National

Junior Honor Society shared quotes as to why Mr. Harshbarger was their "knight in shining armor" and the school presented him with a suit of armor trophy. Not only



was Mr. Harshbarger surprised, but for the first time ever, he was speechless!

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 (ACHS). After receiving his B.S. in Biology with a teaching license in Life, Physical, and Environmental Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, he continued his post-secondary education by completing his Masters in Administration and Supervision from Lincoln Memorial University in 1997. He furthered his education again in 2013 by receiving his Ed. S. in Curriculum and Instruction also from LMU.



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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 1996. After 13 years at NMS, he moved to ACHS where he taught Honors Biology, Bio-Tech, and Honors 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. Their 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 keeper for his AYSO soccer team.

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 acapella group called “The Back Row Boys” which 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 who 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 as East Core Principal of the Year.



Young Adult Author Visits NMS



The young ladies enjoyed lunch and conversation with the author before Court moved to the gym to deliver an inspiring speech for the class of graduating 8th graders. Finally, Court delivered an empowering talk to forty 7th grade girls, talking about her unexpected journey to becoming a published author, and encouraging all of us that we CAN accomplish anything we set our minds to! Before heading back to Nashville, Court “tagged” the graffiti wall in the NMS library!

Feel free to drop by and see it and perhaps you will feel inspired too!

On Friday, May 19th, Norris Middle School was privileged to host Young Adult author Courtney “Court” C. Stevens for a visit with some of our 7th and 8th grade students! Court grew up in a small town in Kentucky and now hails from Nashville. She is the author of *Faking Normal*, *The Lies About Truth*, the e-novella *The Blue-Haired Boy*, and forthcoming *Dress Codes for Small Towns*. The idea to contact Court came about because a several NMS 8th grade girls LOVED Courtney’s book, *Faking Normal*, so much that they couldn’t stop talking about it. A few sneaky staff members, our principal, and the author arranged the visit without announcing it to the students, and Court was able to surprise a group of 15 unsuspecting, 8th grade fans, who were first stunned to silence before some actually cried!



“Read Option” and Blue & Silver Game

As part of “Read Option,” where the Anderson County football players read to the CRCS elementary kids during lunch on Fridays, Clinch River Community School students were given a special treat. On Thursday, May 11, the CRCS elementary students were invited to the Anderson County High School’s Blue and Silver



scrimmage. The kids went early and toured the locker room and the weight room at ACHS. They were given time to run around the football field with the players. The students were given snacks and made their way to the crowded stands where they watched their new



football buddies in action! It was a great experience for everyone!

PCUD Hosts Career Day at LCMS

Kids get excited about their future and Friday May 5th was no different at Lake City Elementary School. Powell-Clinch Utility District (PCUD) hosted their first Career Day for LCES 5th graders. Present were digging equipment, line locaters and natural gas detection devices. Three 5th grade classes were able to receive hands on experience as PCUD employees walked them through their jobs. Rob Neil, President of PCUD, said he enjoyed sharing



learning about PCUD's equipment. To view more PCUD career day photos, visit the Powell-Clinch Utility District's Facebook page.



PCUD provides natural gas and propane energy along with appliance sales, service and installation to Anderson and Campbell Counties. To contact PCUD or learn more visit them at 203 E. First Street in Rocky Top, 1005 Jacksboro Pike in LaFollette, on the web at www.powellclinch.com, or phone (865) 426-2822.

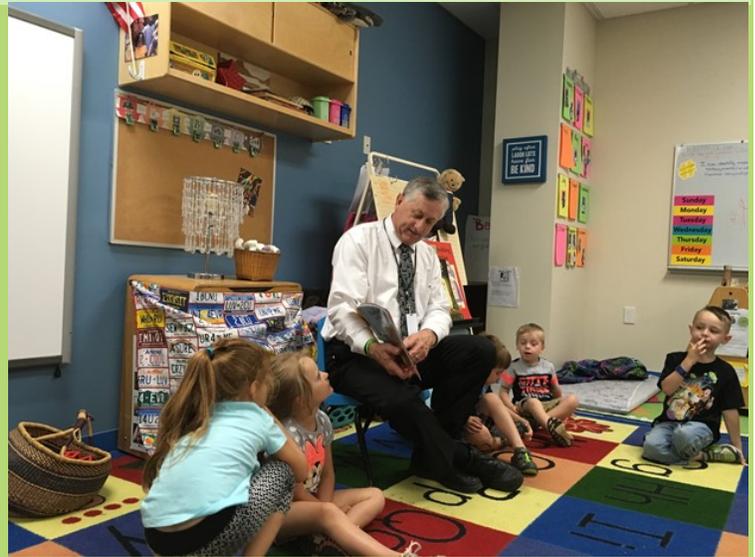
with the children the many different types of careers that are available in the natural gas/propane industry. He would also like to thank Principal Baggett along with Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Lawson and Mrs. Vance for making PCUD a part of their day. PCUD plans to host more career days in the future at other Anderson and Campbell County schools.

Pictured are employees participating in career day along with students



ACS Preschool/Head Start Program News

The Anderson County Schools 'Head Start Program in conjunction with Scholastic Books, Inc. hosted Head Start's 52nd Birthday Celebration in May. ACS has been an intricate part of supporting hundreds of Families and children living in poverty in Anderson County for many decades. To honor Head Start's 52nd birthday Scholastic Inc. provided free classroom books for participating Head Start classrooms to promote the importance of literacy for young children. Happy Birthday, Head Start.



AC Mayor Terri Frank and ACS Director of Schools, Dr. Tim Parrott read to Ms. Ridenour's and Ms. Holstine's classes to celebrate Head Start's 52nd birthday.



ACS Lake City Early Head Start's children and parents enjoyed a safety presentation from "Ollie the Otter" and the Rocky Top Police Department on car seat safety and "Thumbs Down to Texting While Driving."



ACCTC NEWS



The house that Carpentry II built in partnership with Clayton Appalachia is complete. One half of this 3 bed, 2 bath house was built by students from fall semester, with the second half being built by current students in the spring semester. At the completion of this project, this house will be given away to an Anderson County family in need. This project has allowed our students the opportunity to take part in every aspect of residential construction except for foundations. During each step of the building process, Clayton sent a representative to the school to go over the plans and show students how they will construct the house. Also, each day, a representative from Clayton is on site to observe construction students in an effort to monitor their work ethic and building skills. Clayton's representative has the authority to offer employment to any student whom they feel would make a good employee. To date, six students have been offered employment at the Clayton Appalachia plant upon graduation. The house is fully functional only needs a location with connection to water and electricity. The projected completion date was early May. The home was donated to Habitat for Humanity.



What's New?

- ◆ **Total TN Promise Scholarship amount provided to former students during the fall of 2016 and spring of 2017 comes to \$240,530.17!!**
 - This represents actual dollars paid out on behalf of ACS students. That means that through GEAR UP and ACS, under the direction of Mrs. Angela Merryman, we have saved this amount for the students and parents enrolled in ACS!!
 - Anderson County Schools are ranked #1 in this funding among GEAR UP sites in the state- even bigger than those places with more students such as Memphis and Nashville, and also those of similar size to Campbell County.
- ◆ **ACS graduated our first class of Middle College students on Saturday, May 6th. ACS had 31 graduates who earned an Associate's degree!!!!**
- ◆ **The Department of Secondary Instruction has purchased books for many of our high school students to take home and keep this summer! These books will become part of the student's home library!**

Clinch River Community School News

Members of the CRCS leadership team took two members of the student leadership team to The Courtyards Assisted Living Facility on Tuesday, May 5. The students and staff took flower pots to paint with the residents and then the group planted flowers for the residents to take back to their rooms. It was an amazing experience for the students and seniors.



Clinton High School Community Outreach

Clinton High School students visited Morning Pointe Assisted Living for breakfast as part of their community outreach.

Special Visit

On Thursday, May 18th, the Anderson County High School History Department welcomed Mr. Claude Martin and Mr. Bob Cummings. These gentlemen both served in the armed forces. Mr. Martin served in the Pacific during WWII and throughout the Korean Conflict. Mr. Bob Cummings served during the Vietnam Conflict. Both were able to share their amazing stories of heroism with our students. We were honored to have them.



Anderson County High Cadets Earn Honor

The Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps top award, the 2016-2017 Distinguished Unit Award (with Academic Honors), was awarded to Anderson County High School in April.

This is the 14th year in a row that the Mavericks have been chosen for the highest unit award by the Navy for Junior ROTC programs and the ninth time this award with Academic Honors has been received.



Congratulations to the Navy JROTC Cadets and their Cadet leadership on their hard work to achieve this goal.

The award allows ACHS to directly nominate Cadets for service academy appointments at West Point, Annapolis, and the Air Force Academy without requiring Congressional representative action.

It recognizes the school, school system and community support which the group has received.



Anderson County High School Graduation



Anderson County High School had 249 students graduate this year!



Clinch River Community School Graduation

Nine student graduated from CRCS this year.

Clinton High School Graduation



There were 236 students that graduated from Clinton High School this year.



Middle College Graduates

These students graduated with their associates degrees from Roane State Community College the week before graduating from High School. There were 17 students from ACHS and 13 from CHS.



Innovation Academy Graduation

Innovation Academy graduated 41 seniors this year, a record number for IA! This is the first year to have seniors who were with us all four years of their high school career graduate from ACOLA (the Anderson County Online Learning Academy), and there were four who did so.



Seniors Award

Breakfast

Seniors were honored at the Senior Award breakfast, which was catered by Mrs. Pam Wilson's Culinary Arts class at ACCTC.



Clinton River Community School graduates were recognized at the Senior Award Breakfast.