



The **Bear Truth**



Tellico Plains High School
"Where Opportunity Meets Excellence"

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Principal Notes....

Mr. Russell Harris

This is a very busy time at TPHS! On December 8, the Chemistry I EOC will be given. Good luck and do your best! Biology I and English III EOCs will be given for those students who are enrolled in these block classes this semester. I know all of these students have worked hard and are ready to tackle the state-mandated exams. If your child is taking a test, he or she has already been informed and should be preparing for the exam. The end-of-course exams account for 25% of the semester average. If you have any

questions, please feel free to contact the guidance department.

Our Christmas Break will begin on December 19 at 10:00 a.m. Students will return to school on January 6.

Personal incomes often change from the start of the school year. Free or reduced lunch can be applied for at any time throughout the school year if your family's income changes. Free and reduced lunch forms can be picked up in the office during school hours. Currently, two-thirds of our students are on free or reduced lunches.

Class scheduling information

will be sent home with students before Christmas break. Students will have the opportunity to request to drop or add classes.

Please come support our Bears' and Lady Bears' basketball teams. We wish both our teams the best of luck this season. Your support for our athletic teams has allowed us not to increase ticket prices in several years.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. May each of you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

From the Assistant Principal...

Mrs. Sharon McKinnon

What a great first semester this has been at TPHS. I would like to say thanks to our students for their EXTREMELY good attendance; also, to each parent, we thank you for supporting the administration and faculty at TPHS as we work diligently towards educating your child for his/her future. We owe you our deepest gratitude for your support and backing. Students, let me encourage you to work even harder to maintain your progress as we plunge into next semester!

Semester exams will be held on December 17, for periods 1,3,5,7, December 18 for periods 2, 4, 6, and 8, and December 19, we will dismiss at 10:00. Remember, if a student is not a maroon/white card holder, he/she can only miss one excused day in order to be eligible for exemption. If a student has had any unexcused day(s), been suspended, is failing a class, and/or had in-school suspension, that student is NOT exempt from semester exams. I want everyone that has to take semester exams to do his/her best! Also, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Guidance Office Announcements

Mrs. Sarah Brown

Seniors should have already applied to the college that they plan on attending. The first mandatory TN Promise meeting will be on Monday, January 26 at 5:30. Parents are encouraged to attend, but this is not a requirement. Darlene White will be here on Monday, January 12 from 10:00-6:00 in the library to help parents and students fill out their FAFSA. I will be sending out a checklist with all seniors that will list everything needed in order to complete this process. Maria Gonzales with Roane State Community College will be here on Monday, December 15 at 9:00 to talk with any senior that will be attending Roane State. Hiwassee College will be here on Tuesday, December 2 to complete spring dual enrollment for students taking Biology II or English IV.

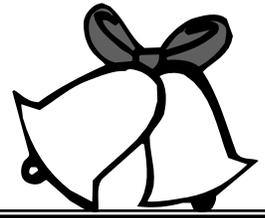
All juniors will be receiving their ASVAB scores back next month. We will be showing students how to interpret these results. This can assist students in making career choices, and it can also help them to see what they need to be working on to improve their ACT scores.

The ACT test will be given on Saturday, December 13 and again on Saturday, February 7, 2015. If anyone needs more information about the ACT, help signing up for it, or downloading a photo to the site, please come by and let us help you. ACT vouchers will arrive in January.

We will be meeting individually with every underclassman in December. We will be discussing what courses each student will need to take in the future. Each student will receive the paperwork to register for next year's classes. This paperwork must be turned in to the guidance department by Friday, December 19.

The guidance department wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May God Bless each of you!

Academics



English Department

In December Coach Tucker's English IV classes will be presenting five-minute oral reports. In January students will be studying Shakespearean sonnets and the tragedy of *Macbeth*. Seniors will complete a sonnet notebook and a PowerPoint presentation on William Shakespeare.

Mrs. Harrill's English III classes are continuing to prepare for the End of Course exam, which is December 9. Students are also writing in preparation for the Writing Assessment in February!!!

Mrs. McDaniel's English II students will be completing a unit of poetry and concentrating on their writing skills more. English IV Dual Enrollment classes will continue to analyze sample essays and articles as well as producing their own creative writing over "Found Objects." In January students

will begin their semester long study of British literature.

Mr. Hollinghead's English II students continue a rigorous study of vocabulary while also finishing up an in-depth study of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. Students will have also completed their sophomore research projects and turned their attention to Robert Frost poetry.

Mrs. Childress and Mrs. Brooke Evans's English I classes have completed an extensive study of grammar focusing on agreement and pronoun usage. In addition, students have completed their first EOC practice test and the reading of the beloved screenplay *To Kill a Mockingbird*. In January students will continue EOC preparation and begin studying William Shakespeare's famous tragedy *Romeo and Juliet*.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Math Department

Happy holidays from the math department. We hope all students end 2014 on a good note. Remember: The Big Guy is watching!

In December, some students will finish up their course load with a fall end of course exam while others will endure semester exams at the end of the first semester. We encourage all students to end the semester strong. In January, new classes and new schedules will spring up from the new year. 2015 will no doubt be a fun-filled, packed second semester.

Set your DVR Alert! Scholars Bowl Announcement: The PBS Scholars Bowl season starts in January. The Tellico Plains High School Scholars Bowl game will air January 21 at 5:30 p.m. on PBS channel.

Special Education Department

We have had a great first semester in the special education department. Our students have done a great job in their classes, and we are very proud of them. Mrs. Stacey's classes are learning important life skills both in the classroom and around campus. Mrs. Woods's English students have worked hard on their grammar skills and writing. Next semester students will work on end of course skills and read a story together in class. The Bears Club went on a field trip in November to Tennessee College of Applied Technology in Harriman to learn about educational opportunities available to them after high school through the Tennessee Promise. Any student who did not get to attend this field trip will have the opportunity to visit the Athens campus in the spring. We want to wish all of our students a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! As always, parents, please feel free to contact us at any time with any questions or concerns you may have.

We would also like to welcome Hillary Smiley back to TPHS from maternity leave. Her son, Timothy Ryker Gillis, was born July 3, weighing 7 pounds 15 ounces. The clothes closet is open in Room 26. Donations are accepted, and shoppers are wanted.

Academics



Science Department

As this first semester of school is coming to a close, there are a few classes prepping up for their end of course tests. The Biology I EOC exam will be on Thursday, December 11. Be sure students are doing all they can to ensure they pass this test because it makes up 25% of their final average.

Mr. Barry Carroll's Biology I students should soon be bringing home end of course flash cards to help prepare them for this very important exam. Mrs. Tonya Brown's Chemistry I and II classes will also be taking an end of course test. Their test will be on Monday December 8. She is providing tutoring every Thursday for anyone interested in improving his or her score on this test. Let's finish this semester strong!

Career Technical Education

All fruit and nuts have arrived, and the FFA is distributing orders ASAP. Contact Travis Hamilton to see if any extra items are available. The FFA also competed in the district Opening/Closing and Parliamentary Procedure CDEs. Both teams placed first and will be competing in the Regional contest on December 4. The FFA Annual Cookout is December 15. FFA is also participating in the Christmas Parade on December 20. We are busy, busy, busy!

Mrs. McJunkin's diagnostic medicine class is coming to an end in December. Students have learned all the ways to diagnose a patient. The health science class is beginning to study the spread of diseases. During second semester the students will learn medical assistant skills. This will include taking blood pressures, temperatures, pulses and respirations. Also, anatomy and physiology class will begin in January.

We wish everyone a safe holiday season and a Merry Christmas!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from the faculty/staff at TPHS!



Social Studies Department

American government classes will wrap up the semester with the duties and activities of the judicial branch. In January the new senior classes will focus on the origins of government.

Psychology students will finish their studies on consciousness, sleep, and drugs that affect consciousness. In January the class will look at the physical & social development of adolescents and how they form their identities as well as describe the challenges of adolescence.

U.S. history will finalize studies on WWII, the Cold War, and Vietnam in December, if time permits. In January the syllabus and other class forms will be reviewed with the new history block of students, followed by a focus on the Reconstruction Era and Industrialization Period, in addition to the Indian Wars.

Ms. Martin wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a happy new year. She also encourages parents and students to check her website on the school's page to keep current on weekly agendas in her classes.

Mr. Balcom's U.S. history students will be taking their end-of-course on December 10 and finishing up with their Decades Project. Second semester U.S. history students will begin their journey through U.S. history with Westward Expansion, the Second Industrial Revolution, and the Age of Invention.

In ancient history we will have completed our Unit over Ancient Rome, and in January we will be looking at the Civilizations of the Americas and the Rise of Europe.

In personal finance we will have wrapped up with our final exam. We hope everyone has a blessed Christmas Break and a wonderful start to the New Year.