



# 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 and Biology I end-of-course exams will be given. Good luck and do your best! Students who are in English III block, U. S. history block, and geometry block will be taking the new TNReady exam on December 14. 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. These course

exams account for a portion of the semester average. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the guidance department.

Our Christmas Break will begin on December 18 at 10:00 a.m. Students will return to school on January 5.

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 EX-TREMELY 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 16, for periods 1,3,5,7, December 17 for periods 2, 4, 6, and 8, and December 18, 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 27 at 5:30. Parents are encouraged to attend, but this is not a requirement. Each senior received a TN Promise booklet which contains a checklist that states the requirements needed in order to complete this process. Cleveland State came in November to enroll anyone in dual enrollment classes for spring semester. There will also be a college mini-fair on February 16 at 9:30 a.m. for all seniors and juniors.

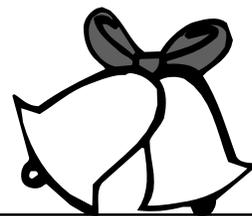
All juniors should have received their ASVAB scores. If your student did not pick up these scores, he/she can come by guidance. We will be showing students how to interpret these results. This can assist students in making career choices, and it can also help them to see what they need to be working on to improve their ACT scores.

Progress reports will be handed out on December 2, and grade cards will be distributed on January 14. The ACT test will be given on Saturday, December 12 and again on Saturday, February 6, 2016. 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.

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 18.

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 Gary 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. Cristal Harrill's English III classes are continuing to prepare for the TN Ready exam, on November 17 (Part I) and December 14 (Part II). Students are also writing in preparation for the TN Writing Assessment in February!

Mrs. Lisa 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 produce their own creative writing projects over "Found Objects." In

January students will begin their semester long study of British literature.

Mr. Chris 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's poetry.

Mrs. Sheann Graham 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 TN Ready practice test and the reading of the beloved screenplay *To Kill a Mockingbird*. In January students will continue TN Ready 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 2015 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 for the new year. 2016 will no doubt introduce a fun-filled, packed new 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.

## Library News....

New library books have been ordered and will return after the first of the year. I encourage each student to check out those titles that are on The *New York Times* Bestseller List and those titles that are on the "Everyone Should Read" list posted in the library.

Our chapter of the National Beta Club has been extremely busy volunteering at our feeder schools' fall festivals. Our next project is working at two basketball concessions to raise money for St. Jude's Research Hospital. We are also volunteering at this year's Candlelight Walk in downtown Tellico Plains on December 5.

## TPHS Testing Dates

### End of Course

Exams for Biology I & Chemistry I

December 8, 2015

### TNReady

Exams for English III, U. S. History, & Geometry

November 17-19, 2015 (Part I)

December 14-15, 2015 (Part II)

# Academics



## Science Department

As this first semester of school is coming to a close, there are a few classes preparing for their end of course tests. The Biology I EOC exam will be on Tuesday, December 8. Be sure students are doing all they can to ensure they pass this test because it counts a portion 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 classes will also be taking an end of course test. Their test will also be on Tuesday, 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 on December 3. 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 fourth in the district; FFA is also participating in the Christmas Parade. 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.

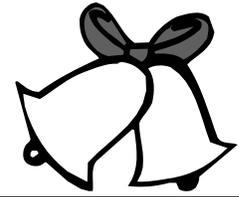
U.S. history will finalize studies on World War II, the Cold War, and Vietnam in December, if time permits. In January the syllabus and other class forms will be reviewed with the new history block of students, followed by a focus on the Re-

construction Era, Industrialization Period, and Indian Wars. Remember, U. S. history block classes will be taking TNReady exams on November 17 (Part I) and December 14 (Part II). These students have worked extremely hard to prepare for this new Tennessee achievement exam.

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.



# December 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Basketball (H) vs. SQHS Concessions by BETA Club. Donations for St. Jude's Research Hospital	2 Progress Reports Go Home	3	4 Basketball (A) vs. Midway	5 Candlelight Walk in Downtown Tellico Plains
6	7	8 Biology I & Chemistry I EOC Exams English IV Final 2nd-3rd Periods Basketball (A) vs. Sweetwater	9	10	11 Basketball (H) vs. Meigs Co.	12 ACT Given at TPHS. Sign in @ 7:30 a.m.
13	14 TNReady for English III, U. S. History, & Geometry Basketball (A) vs. Polk Co.	15	16 Semester Exams for Periods 1, 3, 5, & 7	17 Semester Exams for Periods 2, 4, 6, & 8	18 Dismiss @ 10:00 Basketball (A) vs. Grace Christian	19
20	21 Winter Break 	22 Winter Break	23 Winter Break	24 Winter Break	25 Merry Christmas 	26
27	28 Winter Break	29 Winter Break	30 Winter Break	31 Winter Break		



# January 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Winter Break	2
3	4 Staff Development Day	5 Students Return Basketball (A) vs. Concord	6	7	8 Basketball (H) vs. Greenback	9
10	11	12 Basketball (H) vs. Midway	13	14 Grade Cards Go Home Basketball (H) vs. Sweet-water Concessions by BETA Club. Donations for St. Jude's Research Hospital	15 Basketball (A) vs. Rockwood	16
17	18 NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	19 Basketball (H) vs. Rockwood	20	21	22 Basketball (A) vs. Meigs Co.	23
24 31	25 Basketball (H) vs. Polk Co.	26	27 TN Promise Mandatory Meeting @ 5:30 p.m. in cafeteria	28	29 Basketball (A) vs. Greenback	30