



The *Bear Truth*



Tellico Plains High School
"Where Opportunity Meets Excellence"

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Principal Notes....

Mr. Russell Harris

Even though January brought a cold start to a new semester, the teachers and students at Tellico Plains High School have been working exceedingly hard.

On February 3, the freshman class will be taking the Tennessee Writing Assessment. Also, the sophomore class will be taking the Tennessee Writing Assessment during the week on February 10, and the junior class will take the writing assessment on February 19. Each class has been working hard preparing for the exam. Good luck

to each of you!

The school had an outstanding homecoming week. The students participated in dress up days and in a wall decorating competition. Congratulations to our senior class on winning first place!

If you have any concerns about your child's grades or progress, please let your child's teacher or me know about them. All of these teachers are here to help your child succeed!

Our spring semester Open House is set for Thursday, February 5, from 3:00 to 6:00. We encourage everyone to come and visit with your child's teachers. Over 200 stu-

dents earned all A's and/or B's for the first semester. This is exceptional! For their hard work these students have received a maroon or white card, which is good for free admission into TPHS events including regular season sports events.

The administration and guidance department will be making preparations for next year's class schedule; therefore, registration for the 2015-2016 school year begins in January. Mrs. Sarah Brown continues to meet with each underclassmen in order to pre-register for next year. With each student, she discusses his/her four-year plan and what options are

From the Assistant Principal

Mrs. Sharon McKinnon

January was Writing Assessment Awareness Month at TPHS. Mrs. Cristal Harrill's has been diligently preparing this year's junior class for this assessment. Also, many others on the faculty have made great efforts to prepare the underclassmen for the TN Writing Assessment in February. Ninth through eleventh graders will participate in this assessment.

We are very excited about this year's junior class. They have been preparing since August, and I am confident they will do well. TPHS is offering incentives for those students who score at least a 3 or 4 on this exam.

Following the writing assessment, this same junior class will be taking the ACT in early March during school hours. So, you've got your work cut out for you, juniors! Let's Go!

Guidance Office Announcements

Mrs. Sarah Brown

Seniors that are participating in the Tennessee Promise Scholarship need to complete their FAFSA and their college application by February 15, 2015. If anyone needs help completing either of these please stop by the guidance office and we will be happy to assist you. The next mandatory Tennessee Promise meeting will be held March 26 at 5:30 p.m.. There are many scholarship opportunities available in the guidance office. Seniors can pick up applications anytime during the school day.

All juniors will have the opportunity to take the ACT test on Tuesday, March 3 at the school. After the test students will be given the opportunity to attend a college luncheon at Sweetwater High School. Transportation will be provided and permission forms need to be turned in by February 20. Parents are invited to attend the luncheon with their student. Other opportunities to take the ACT will be April 18 and June 13 for more information see the guidance department or go to www.actstudent.org/start.

The guidance department has met with all students and completed schedules for the 2015-2016 school year. Next year's juniors and seniors planning on taking dual enrollment courses need to make sure that they have met the ACT requirements. Check with the guidance department for assistance with this information. Also, the funding for these courses have changed if you need more information, please see the guidance department.



Academics



Math Department

Happy Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, and Groundhog Day! Whew! Lots of "days" this month to celebrate! Algebra I students continue their quest toward May and the EOC. With the end of course exam as 25% of their second semester average, it is very important that everyone keeps his/her eye on the ball so to speak. Factoring proves to be a handful for some but as the chapter comes to an end, students will continue on with chapters on square root functions and radical equations.

The new semester block math classes are settling into their curriculums this spring. With only eighteen weeks in this semester, students will need to really buckle down to get the material covered, so we encourage all students to have good attendance and try not to miss any of their block class. Before and after school tutoring continues to be offered to students struggling with the new semester. If you have tutoring questions, please see the guidance office or talk with any of the math teachers to get tutoring information.

Fine Arts Department

Spanish I class is already on its way to learning how to speak Spanish. The days of the week song, as well as the alphabet song, is almost mastered. If you want to hear some fine singing by your son or daughter, grandson or granddaughter, just ask him/her to sing the new songs for you. You'll be as pleased as I am! Introductions and farewells have been covered, so let them practice a little of their newly learned language skills.

Spanish II is ready to delve into Spanish literature at this time. Brushing up on breakfast foods in Spanish will kick off this semester. "Ole!" I am happy to have such good classes. With the cold weather, Spanish classes may have to warm up to "frijoles" and of course, tacos, tortillas, sopapillas, y salsa.

Social Studies Department

Government students will continue look at the government in the U. S. and how it was created by the founding fathers while also exploring the types of governments held by the early colonists and the structure of the Articles of Confederation. The end of the month will lead to the formation of the Constitution.

U.S. history classes have delved into the reconstruction and industrialization period. In February, students will learn key facts about immigration in the U.S., along with urbanization in the country from 1865-1914. Next will be a focus on the issues of the Gilded Age (1877-1900).

Psychology students will finish up their studies on adolescence and begin an exploration of issues faced during the various stages of adulthood.

Ms. Martin would also like to note that parents should strongly encourage their children in her classes to take advantage of the extra credit options and use her website as needed.

Science Department

First semester Chemistry I did a fabulous job on the EOC which was taken in December. TPHS had 83% of students make a grade of 85 or higher! We couldn't be more thrilled or proud of our kids.

Currently, in chemistry classes students are studying matter and the periodic table. This is such an important topic, and there is a heavy emphasis on this subject on the EOC. Students need to try to be here every day and come prepared to work.

If there are any parents or students that would like to sign up for text alerts just send the text @15chemblk to the number 81010.

In physical science students will begin their unit over chemistry. Students will be learning all the basics associated with this topic. They will be studying the periodic table and becoming more familiar with the equipment used in a chemistry lab.

Fun Science Facts:

- If you could drive to the sun at 55 mph it would take about 193 years.
- It is impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
- The human eye blinks an average of 4,200,000 times a year.
- Only female mosquitoes bite.
- The average human produces a quart of saliva a day, about 10,000 gallons in a lifetime.
- Sharks are immune to cancer.
- Each person sheds 40 pounds of skin in his or her lifetime.



Academics



English Department

Coach Gary Tucker's English IV students will be studying William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and then will present their PowerPoint projects. The students will then study the "Metaphysical Poets" and the "Carolina Poets," including John Donne, Leo Tolstoy, and Ben Jonson.

Mrs. Cristal Harrill's English III classes are practicing their writing skills in anticipation of the writing assessment in February. The students will next focus on grammar and other forms of writing.

Mrs. Lisa McDaniel's English II classes will be turning their research papers into PowerPoint presentations. They will also be completing a short story unit. English IV/Dual Enrollment students will be reading *Beowulf* and *The Canterbury Tales*.

Mr. Chris Hollingshead's English II classes are focused on poetry and drama units, which include the works of Robert Frost and the classic play by Thornton Wilder entitled *Our Town*.

English I students in Mrs. Sandy Childress's and Mrs. Brook Evans's classes are reading the tragedy *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare. In addition, we continue with our preparation for the English I EOC, which will be here before we know it!

Vocational Department

The Third Annual Tellico Plains High School fashion show, featuring student-made recycled and upcycled fashion apparel will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2015, on the campus of the Tellico Plains High School. The event will feature creative fashion-forward designs and resourceful recycling techniques turning common household items into wearable art. Tickets are \$10 or \$7 for students. Proceeds go towards building a scholarship fund for students pursuing higher education in the art and design fields. Last year's event featured 70 designs with \$2000 in proceeds. This year there are over 70 designs and the goal is to raise \$3000.

This year's buzzed-about designs include the use of fabric, paper, garbage bags, transparency papers, curtains, Styrofoam plates, packing materials, and other household items. Runway lighting will be provided by Jim Ogle of Ogle Entertainment and Light Design, the event will be photographed by Dixie Pixel, videography by Nicholas and Keaton, make up design by The Southern Sirens, hair design by Paul Mitchell, Crystal Clonch, and Matthew Davidson, and stage design from Whimsical Gatherings.

"The students aim to inspire design ideas, bring awareness to recycling, and simply have some fun creating and coordinating an event from start to finish," said Leah McCall, Tellico Plains High School teacher. "The students are thrilled to have the opportunity to showcase their work in front of a lively crowd and raise money for those who need financial assistance with college expenses."

The Show, scheduled for 7 p.m., is expected to attract attendees who support the arts and youth achievement. Seating is limited. Reservations for tickets can be made by phone, mail, email, or on the Facebook event page.

Mr. Kurt Harrill's computer applications classes will begin a unit on Microsoft Excel, following the unit on computer literacy terms. Business Management is currently working on the cycles of the economy deficits and debt. Personal finance classes will begin working on preparing budgets and balance sheets.

TN WRITING ASSESSMENT TESTING DATES

February 3
9th Grade

February 10
10th Grade

February 19
11th Grade



Just So You Know...

NO SCHOOL

February 13

Staff Development Day

February 16

Presidents' Day

