BYOD @ JCMS

Chavis Leads the Way on New Initiative

John Chavis Middle School is proud to have been selected as the pilot middle school for Gaston County School’s new “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) initiative this year. Thirteen teachers from JCMS have begun using this innovative approach to teaching and learning in their classrooms so far, and more will be implementing it during the second semester.

BYOD brings learning into the classroom through technology. Thanks to recent investments in technology infrastructure such as wireless Internet access at all schools, Gaston County Schools is introducing BYOD learning to teachers and students—a trend that is taking place in school districts across the country.

The BYOD program gives everyone access to a computing device. And as students and teachers bring their smartphones, tablets or laptops from home, they will have access on a daily basis to the ever-growing range of educational tools and content available on the Internet. For those who do not have a personal device to bring to school, teachers will be able to supply Chromebooks or laptops within their classrooms so that all students can participate.

With BYOD, students will get to use their devices for educational purposes in a safe, content-filtered environment. Each school planning to implement BYOD is required to create classroom management strategies.

Geography Bee

Each grade level recently held a Geography Bee, sponsored by our Social Studies teachers and coordinated by Mr. Moss. Students were tested on their knowledge of places around the entire world with questions designed by the National Geographic Society. Each grade’s winners then competed in a school-wide competition. Congratulations to Wyatt Wilson for winning the JCMS Geography Bee. He will complete a written test to try to move on to the state-level competition. Second place went to Nathan Jeffers.

Cyber - Chavis

Did you know that lots of important information about Chavis can be found all over the web and social media?

⇒ Our school maintains a phenomenal website that is updated on a regular basis to keep parents and students informed of the many events at our school.

⇒ Also, all of our teachers are in the process of creating new websites where they will post information about their classes, assignments, projects, etc.

⇒ JCMS has a Facebook page, too. Have you liked us yet? You can check it out at www.facebook.com/JohnChavisMiddle

⇒ We are also on Twitter! Be sure to follow us at twitter.com/JohnChavisMS

⇒ Parents can access their students’ detailed grades 24/7 on the Parent Portal online program. Stop by or call our school office for more details.

⇒ Be sure we have your current phone number and email address on file so you can receive weekly reminders of upcoming events and other important JCMS details!

⇒ Download the GCS app for mobile devices to keep up with the latest district and school news, plus tons of other great features!

We want to welcome to the faculty Mr. Scott Pervine, our new Technology Education teacher. Mr. Pervine is a recent graduate of Appalachian State University, and before that he graduated from Hunter Huss High School.
GREEKS

Language Arts has been great! Every day we do warm ups with analogies, D.O.L or grammar sentences. Mrs. Blackburn is an awesome teacher, and she teaches us grammar in a fun way. Some of us had a novel that we had to read each night, and the next day we would come in and discuss it as a class. That was really fun! Some of us have done a pantoum, which is a poem that has rhyme scheme and each line repeats itself. We also just finished discussing a story called “Thank You M’am.” At first, we did not understand it but after we talked about it we found some hidden meanings. Right now we are studying Greek and Roman literature by reading myths, and some of us are reading the novel The Lightning Thief.

In Science we have learned about volcanoes, earthquakes, plate tectonics, rocks and minerals, and most recently soil conservation. We have learned many fun facts about the Earth, as well as many of the geological events that Earth has gone through. In Social Studies we are learning about ancient cities and how our own country and government today has learned from them. Some ancient cities which still influence us today include Rome, Athens, Sparta, and Mesopotamia. Even today, many modern places still use ancient civilizations as a guide for building and designing well-organized cities so that people can live comfortably now just like they lived comfortably then.

In the second nine weeks in math, we have been learning how to do multi-step problems and adding and subtracting integers. Mrs. Jenkins is really nice and explains math in a fun and interesting way. Sometimes we get to do a math lab, which is when we get together with the other team and do an activity with partners. We also do a lot of fun things to help us understand the work we are doing. One time we had to make a poster showing the steps to do a multi-step problem, and we also made note cards for vocabulary words and put them in our notebook.

By: Maggie Beam, Christian Hahn, Holden Page & Addie Seate

CHARGERS

Math has become more complicated but is still very enjoyable! So much more has come our way with unit rates, rates, and ratios. Constant of proportionality, determining proportionality when given a graph or table, and writing an equation for the graph or table using the form y=kx, have shown up in our weekly lessons. Percents introduced themselves in fraction, decimal, and percent conversions, and simple interest. Looking ahead, we will see a continuation on solving percent word problems, percent increase and decrease, markup and discount, sales tax and tip, and percent error and commission.

In Language Arts we have completed and reviewed many concepts. We kicked off a unit on writing with an essay on censorship, using the First Amendment and the Library Bill of Rights as resources. We also reviewed primary and secondary sources, and completed a novel newsletter project. Prior to Christmas break we read the holiday classic, A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens, and are currently completing a novel study on The Outsiders, by S.E. Hinton. We have continued our weekly Greek and Latin stem study, vocabulary study, as well as an e-journal writing topic each week. Mrs. Crain keeps us very busy, but it has been lots of fun!

New topics and facts have aroused our interests in science every day! Microscopes have shown us many new microscopic organisms. Animal and plant cells are much more complex than we thought! The heredity study of how genes are passed down in families has given us the answer to the question of why we look like our parents. In preparation for the third nine weeks, we plan to study the human body and dissect a frog! Some people may say “Eww!”, but to us, it’s just new!

By: Juliana Vollmer and Jenna Sherrill

ROMANS

This quarter in Ms. Trudnak’s Language Arts class we have been reading Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief. We’ve also played stems-ketball which is a review game where you guess the meaning of a Greek or Latin stem; if you get it correct you get to throw the ball into the net and try to score for your team.

In Social Studies with Mrs. Peeler we have been working on a city-state project where we partner with someone in our class and make up a city-state to present to the class. The project was part of our unit on Ancient Greece and Rome. In Science, we have been talking about the rock cycle and the different processes that happen in the rock cycle.

In Math with Mrs. Wagoner we have been learning about multi-step equations and solution sets. We also worked on an expressions project where we had to label the different parts of the equation. I really like that Mrs. Wagoner allows us to make corrections to our tests and quizzes so that we can figure out where we made mistakes and improve our math skills.

By: Emma Ricardo

120 & $840
Number of shoeboxes & money collected for Operation Christmas Child at JCMS this year
In Language Arts this nine weeks we have been keeping up with vocabulary and stems. We also have been continuing SSR (self-selected reading) and conferencing with Mrs. Floyd about the books that we are reading. We have been reading the novel The Outsiders. This novel is mainly about a teenager named Ponyboy and how he can depend on his gang and brothers. The novel is about the conflicts between two social classes, known as the “Greasers” and the “Socs.” Even though the story takes place in 1967, there are a lot of common themes that teenagers deal with today.

In Math we are beginning percent of a number and percent of change. We will go from there to tax, tip, and commissions. We will finish this section with markup and discount. We have also been keeping up with warm-ups and homework every day.

Social studies continues to build on itself every day. We have enjoyed utilizing Discovery Education for assessments and using Kahoot! for classroom review. At the closing of this nine weeks, we’re finishing our unit on the Industrial Revolution in Great Britain and North America. In the future, we’re going to study the Civil War, the Great Depression, World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War, and the Cold War. Mrs. Self always keeps our interest up and our brains full!

By: Hallie Holt

In Math I, we just finished solving systems of inequalities. We discovered that the overlapping shaded portion of the graphs satisfied the solution. We have begun our study on functions and have discovered domain, range and the criteria to determine if a set of numbers represent a function. We are using graphs to describe relationships and functions, and we are comparing relationships and functions represented in different ways.

In Math 8, we just finished the Pythagorean Theorem and the distance formula. We used them to solve problems involving geometric figures, as well as real-world distances such as distances across ponds and lakes, how far apart buildings are on maps, and how far a quarterback can throw a ball. We are now starting with the midpoint formula.

In Language Arts, we’ve been learning about verbs and how to do proper research for our i-Search project. The AIG class has been busy with verbs and the 1940’s. We read the historical account of a young Japanese-American girl in the concentration camps during World War II. We have also spent a lot of time on the atomic bomb (Manhattan Project) and the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The other classes did a research paper on a topic that we picked. We also did an activity on Edgar Allen Poe’s death. Finally, we read The Giver and did a project on it as well; it was a very good book.

In Social Studies, we have studied the period of time before the Civil War, also known as Antebellum America. In doing so, we compared the North and the South. We have started looking at the secession of the South from the Union which leads us into the Civil War.

In Science, we have studied energy and the renewable and non-renewable resources of the Earth. We dissected a starfish and learned about its anatomy. Energy and what it does to the environment has also been a topic of interest this nine weeks.

The 8th grade is also looking forward to our upcoming field trip to Washington, DC. We will be traveling there from March 31 until April 3. While there we will visit the U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian Institution museums, International Spy Museum, and the Arlington National Cemetery among other sites.

By: Addy Pruitt & Shamyiah Jefferies

**8TH GRADE**

**BUCCANEERS & PIRATES**

**ATHLETICS DISCOUNT PASSES**

Save money at home games!

- **$20 - 5 Games**
- **$40 - 10 Games**
- **$170 - ALL Games**

Available in the office or at any home game.
SPORTS INFO

JCMS recently recognized student-athletes from our 1st semester sports at an Athletic Awards banquet. The ceremony on January 20 included a dinner catered by Homestead’s Grill & Taphouse of Lincolnton, followed by team recognition and individual awards for each sport. All players received a certificate of recognition, and the following individuals were presented with special awards:

FOOTBALL
Best Defensive Player: B.J. Ramseur
Most Versatile Player: Matt Cain
Best Lineman: John Crain
Team Before Self Award: Chapel Moss
Best Offensive Player: Justin Lemons

SOFTBALL
Best Offensive Player: Gracie Hester
Best Pitcher: Taryn Jenkins
Most Valuable Player: Katie Camp
Most Improved Player: Sara Word

GOLF
Most Valuable Player: Addison Beam

VOLLEYBALL
Best Server: Brooke Henley
Most Valuable Player: Allison Raines
Best Offensive Player: Carter Grace Estes
Most Versatile Player: Katie Camp

WRESTLING
Most Improved: Matthew Green
Most Valuable Player: Bryan Heavener
Coach’s Award: Gabe Shumaker

BOYS’ SOCCER
Best All Around Player: Addison Beam
Coach’s Award: Logan Barrett
Best Offensive Player: B.J. Ramseur
Best Defensive Player: Justin Lemons

Girls’ & Boys’ Basketball
Jan. 29  Home vs. Belmont
Feb. 2   @ Stanley
Feb. 5   @ Mt. Holly
Feb. 9   Home vs. Grier
Feb. 12  @ Cramerton
Feb. 17  @ Bessemer City
Feb. 19  Home vs. York Chester
Feb. 23  Home vs. Southwest
Feb. 26  Home vs. Holbrook
Mar. 2   @ W.C. Friday

Tryouts for baseball and girls’ soccer will begin on Tues., Mar. 3, after school. All eligible 7th and 8th grade students may participate. You must have a current physical on file with the school to participate in the tryouts. Please see Mr. Fitch with any questions.

Upcoming Events
Fri., Feb. 13 - School dance from 6:00-9:00pm
Mon., Feb. 16 - Teacher workday
Thur., Feb. 26 - Interim reports distributed
Tue., Mar. 10 - Spring pictures
Mon., Mar. 16 - Fri., Mar. 20 - Spring Book Fair
Thur., Mar. 19 - Early dismissal at 12:00pm
Fri., Mar. 20 - School dance from 3:15-6:00pm
Mon., Mar. 30 - End of third nine-weeks
Fri., Apr. 3 - Fri., Apr. 10 - Spring Break
Thu. Apr. 16. - Third nine-weeks report cards
Fri. Apr. 17 - School dance from 3:15-6:00pm
Tue., Apr. 28 - Talent Show at 7:00pm at Starnes Auditorium
Mon. May 4 - Fri., May8 - Teacher Appreciation Week
Mon. May 11 - End of School Year

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ART
This nine weeks in Art we have been working with clay. We made ornaments around Christmas time to bring home to our families. Before we could use the clay we had to learn the process of working with clay and how to prepare it to a finished piece. After we came back from Christmas break, we started learning about one-point perspective. One-point perspective is a popular type of art in which the painter makes the painting appear as if you are there and looking at it yourself. After we finished our rough draft, we began with our project to make our own one-point perspective. Everyone’s one-point perspective looked great and we moved on to making clay. We began to make coiled pots. After a week of working on them we let them dry to go into the bisque firing. The next week we began to glaze our pieces and start finishing up the project. Now we’re waiting for Mrs. Hahn to fire up the pieces in the kiln and so we can bring them home.

By: Matthew Vazquez

HEALTH/PE
This nine weeks has been exhaustingly fun! We have learned a lot of new topics this nine weeks. Physical Education has been a work-out! Health has explained many important aspects of our nutrition. Physical Education has consisted of different exercises. We have done student’s personal best, basketball drills, and a multitude of other sports. Health has taught many things on nutrition, including healthy eating and sleep, body mass index and fat, and healthy reproductive systems. Projects have been completed on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and videos have been viewed on sexual assault.

By: Jenna Sherrill & Juliana Vollmer

SPANISH
Hola, from Señora Clark’s Spanish class. In November, we went on a field trip to Manantial, a local Mexican restaurant. We had to order our meal in Spanish. We also put a recipe book together with different dishes from Latin America. We have learned about los deportes (sports) and their equipo (equipment), las partes del cuerpo (parts of the body), and La Navidad and the Christmas traditions in different Spanish-speaking countries. Adiós.

By: Taryn Jenkins and Chase Abernathy

CHORUS
6th grade chorus is working hard at singing two-part harmony. They are also working on a Russian folk song, “Tum Balalaika”. 7th grade chorus is already preparing for their Carowinds performance, singing “Gloria” and “Blessing”. 8th grade chorus is also preparing for their Carowinds performance, singing “This Train” and “When I Am Silent”. 8th grade Theatre is wrapping up the semester with some Shakespeare parodies. Please note: 7th and 8th graders going to Carowinds need to turn in their $40 payment by February 13. Also, congratulations to Macie Drum, Ashlyn Beattie, and Allie McCloskey for being selected to participate in the 2015 NC Middle School All-State Chorus.

By: Addy Pruitt & Caitlyn Goodman

CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION
In Mr. Beams 7th grade Business Education class, we have been working on formatting and editing documents, business letters, tables, business documents, agendas, minutes, tables of contents, title pages, works cited pages and reports. Although this seems like a lot, it is very easy because of our great teacher! He is very kind and helps you learn a lot of computer skills that are very helpful!

By: Sarah Word

This nine weeks in Mr. Beam’s 8th grade Business Education classes we finished up using Excel spreadsheets. When we were working in Excel, we did a Skittles activity. We counted how many different colors of Skittles that everyone had and then put them in a spreadsheet. Next, we worked in Access where we typed data into database tables. Now we are learning about career clusters and four-year plans for high school.

By: Riley Huffman & Brandon Smeltzer

We have been learning new and exciting things so far in Mr. Beam's 6th grade Exploring Career Decision’s class! Mr. Beam and the guidance counselor, Ms. Oliver, have taught us lessons for Project Aim. During that we have learned about passive people, aggressive people, and assertive people. We also learned how to do a resume and business card. In addition, we have learned about how to get a job and what kind of job we would like to have when we get older.

By: Riley Huffman & Brandon Smeltzer
**Encore**

**BAND**

We're half way into the school year in the 6th grade band, and Mrs. Whitfield has taught brass, percussion, and woodwinds a lot. She is doing her very best to push us to our full potential. At our recent concert, Mrs. Whitfield let some of the students in the 6th grade do an ensemble performance of “Up On the House Top.” Some other 6th graders just went to All-County auditions. Megan Smith (woodwinds), Ashley Sparks (brass), and Chloe Nelson (brass) made All-County! Good job girls. Nice job to all the others for having the courage to go to All-County auditions! We really appreciate Mrs. Whitfield for all her support. She pushes us to try and never give up or doubt ourselves! We are moving into a new semester and 10 new band students will be joining us!

By: Riley Huffman

We have had a great 2nd nine weeks and 1st semester in 7th grade band! We had a wonderful turnout at our annual Christmas concert. As usual we had a great time with the help of all the parents and Mrs. Whitfield. We would like to congratulate the 37 students who made All-County Honors Band, including the following seventh graders: Emma Rayfield, Gracie Jackson, Hannah Carroll, Jenna Sherrill, Joseph Gunter, Maddie Hampton, Payton Huffman, Jessica Carver, Austin Lackey, Victoria Pruett, Jaime Whitley, Sophie Pfeifer, Kaylee Brooks, Madison Hedgpeth, Avery Grace Walker, and Blaise Shiver. Austin and Blaise were first in the county on snare drum and mallets!

We would like to also congratulate the two students who made All-District from the 7th grade: Avery Grace Walker, on the French horn, and Payton Huffman, on snare drum. Mrs. Whitfield is now getting us out of Book One and we are moving in to Book Two.

By: Blaise Shiver & Avery Grace Walker

**BETA CLUB**

This nine weeks the Beta Club has been very busy! We hosted a food drive and collected 616 items for the Cherryville Area Ministry. Mrs. Pace's 6th grade homeroom brought in the most items and received a free breakfast from Bojangles! We also raised $34 dollars on Hat Day, where students were allowed to wear a hat of for the day for contributing $1. We were able to donate $100 dollars to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Recently we received a check for the $185 we have raised in Box Tops. Every time you bring ten Box Tops you can receive a Tootsie Pop. Also, each month a name is drawn from those who brought Box Tops and they receive a free lunch from Pat's Drive In. Please continue to bring Box Tops and thank you for your support!

By: Macie Drum

**WOW!**

26% of JCMS students had perfect attendance for the second quarter

36% of JCMS students were on the A or A/B Honor Roll for the second quarter