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Marshall County Schools continues to seek ways in which open communication can be provided for parents and community members. Visit boe.mars.k12.wv.us to contact county administrators or school principals.

Board of Education policies may be viewed at <http://boe.mars.k12.wv.us/>

Marshall County Has New Faces at the County Office

The retirements of Dr. Susan Jones, Kenny Rhodes, and Mary Kay Wensyel left some open positions in the county office which were filled over the summer. Say hello to some familiar faces in new positions...

Karen Klamut is the Director of Student Services, Title I, and State Assessment. She attended West Liberty State College and later West Virginia University for her Masters degree in Special Education. Before coming to the county office, she was principal of Central Elementary for ten years. "I am enjoying my new position. Every day I am learning something new and not a day goes by that I do not think about the students and great individuals that I worked with at Central. I still think of them as my Central Family."



Pete Hill is the new Maintenance Foreman for our county. He has worked for Marshall County Schools maintenance department for 31 years. "The new role as Shop Foreman is exciting and a new challenge. All the people I have been working with have been great to work with and have helped me in any way they could to make it easier in my new position."

Mrs. Jeannie Blake is our county's Literacy Facilitator/Trainer. She went to West Virginia University for both undergraduate and graduate work. She worked as a Title I teacher for ten years with Marshall County before moving to the county office. She has helped with Marshall County Parent Involvement Policy meetings and loves reading, baking, and spending time with her children.



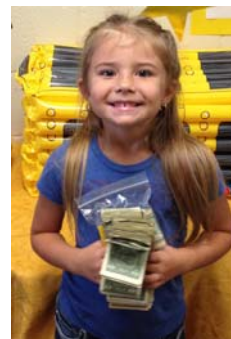
WVEIS Employee Self Service Now Available

MCS employees now are able to view their basic information, check history, print W-2 tax forms, and other things that they normally would have had to call the county office to find out. The website wveis.k12.wv.us/countempol is where employees go to register with their employee ID. The information stored here will be helpful for anyone trying to buy a house, secure a loan, or file their taxes. If you have any questions about the new site, call Shelly Och at the county office at 843-4400 x341 or email her at soch@k12.wv.us. You will need to create your own account before you can access the information.

September Marked National Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month

Several schools in Marshall County held fundraisers during the month of September to help children with cancer. McNinch Primary held several fundraisers and raised \$2,685. There was a big push to GO GOLD.

Students from Center McMechen and Washington Lands took part in a GO GOLD day to raise awareness of pediatric cancer. Students collected coins to benefit New Martinsville student, Bentley Yow, and made and sent cards wishing him well. Both schools combined their efforts to donate \$1,825.67 to Bentley's parents for medical needs. Jordyn Potter (seen here) collected \$157 for Bentley and his family. Great job!



Marshall County Schools Has Moved to a New Online Personnel Program

MCS will no longer be accepting paper bids for employment. All current employees who wish to bid on a different job and all outside applicants bidding on a new job will do so through an online service called **Applitrack**. This program allows for applicants to upload all information they feel is pertinent to obtain a job with MCS. There will be a computer in the lobby of the board office for those who do not have access to a computer at home. Also, training will be offered to all current employees who wish to participate. This program will allow the personnel department to become more efficient in their hiring practices. All principals and faculty senate hiring committee chairs will have access to the online program to see all applicants who bid on jobs in their school. All that is required of the applicant is to have a working email address because this is how interviews will be set-up for the position desired. Any employee or applicant can come to the board office where they can get assistance with bidding if needed. This program will be used for all professional, service, and athletic positions. Visit the MCS website for the link to the new program or go to <http://www.applitrack.com/mars/onlineapp/>. Training for current employees will be available soon.

Getting Fired Up About Learning!

Lisa Ingram, the new Marshall County 4-H Extension Agent, along with fourth and fifth grade teachers and students from Glen Dale Elementary "launched" a science program on design, construction, and projection of rockets to a designated target. This project is in conjunction with National 4-H Week. October 8th has been named National Science Experiment Day across the nation. The mission was to design, build, and test a propulsion system and prototype Food Transportation Device (FTD) that could accurately deliver its food payload to a specific target. Students used collaboration, problem solving, and creative design to build a rocket using everyday materials such as paper, rubber bands, pipe-cleaners, and other common materials. The object was to launch the rocket from a platform of PVC pipe with a two-liter bottle attached by stomping on the bottle and sending the FTD to the target. Students tabulated their measurements and graphed the results.

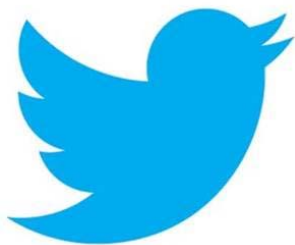


Future Business Leaders of America Clubs Excel in Marshall County

Cameron High and John Marshal High both have thriving FBLA clubs who are active in their schools and communities. Rhonda Williams (CHS) and Megan Pintus (JMHS) have been the advisors for 13 and 3 years respectively. Both clubs do numerous community service projects throughout the year and help students prepare projects for the state competitions. Winners at the state level can go on to compete at the national conference. CHS has 85 members and JMHS has 26 members (up from only four the first year the club returned to JMHS.) JMHS recently won awards at the WV Fall Leadership Conference for most members in attendance (22), Chapter Winner, and first place in the Network Concepts competition won by Nathan Rice. FBLA is the largest business career student organization in the world and the first chapter was chartered on Feb. 3, 1942 in Johnson City, TN. For more information about FBLA, visit fbla-pbl.org/.



Over 10,200 Tweets and Counting for @JMHSMonarchs



John Marshall has been working to improve school spirit and one of the tools it has effectively mastered is Twitter. The official Twitter account for JM, @JMHSMonarchs, created by Assistant Principal Jason Marling, has taken off in popularity. Over 4,000 photos have been posted to the site and the account has 1,468 followers since the beginning of last school year.

Mr. Marling said, “The first thing we did was try to gain followers. We promoted the account to the students at the beginning of the year. We posted pictures, news, and really anything that was relevant to JM on there. From there it just took off.”

The account has been well received by the community and the student named hashtag #ROLLPRIDE has been incorporated into t-shirts, posters, Edline, and other venues. The hashtag provides a way for other Twitter users to connect with the JM account. Various groups and sports at JM also have their own Twitter accounts and use the #ROLLPRIDE hashtag to keep students and the community informed of what is going on.

Mr. Marling says Twitter at JM is used for other things such as homework assignments, bell schedules, lunch menus, activity reminders, teacher appreciation, student testimonials, sports updates, and really just anything they want to promote. Local businesses also support the school by sending encouraging tweets to the school’s Twitter account.

Last year, the twitter account caught the attention of RSNSports.com who ranks the top ten student sections with school spirit in class A, AA, and AAA schools. John Marshall was ranked first in the state for several weeks during football season last year and was #1 for the first three weeks of this year, only falling to #2 during week four. RSNSports.com praises JM school spirit with comments like, “They’ve raised the bar in all classes...impressive as always... still the standard bearer when it comes to Top status...”

Mr. Marling added, “It is a quick and easy way for us to show the JMHS community all the great things happening on a daily basis at the school. If you aren’t using some form of social media in today’s world, you are getting left behind. Our students are all over Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. We thought this would be a great way to connect with them on their level.”



Around the County

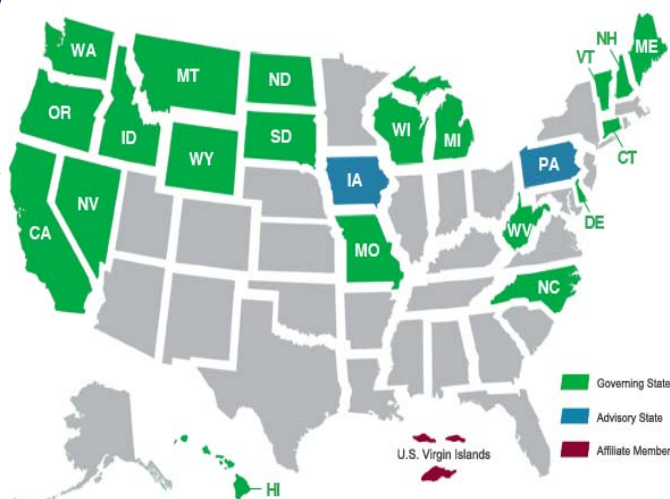
- Arica Holt at Center McMechen was named a Distinguished Scholar at last year’s Principal Leadership Academy.
- Jessica Bramer was selected to present two sessions at the Journalism Education Association/National Scholastic Press Association Fall National Conference in Washington, DC, in November. The JMHS yearbook staff was also featured on Jostens’ social media for National Yearbook Week.
- In August, US Department of Education officials visited Cameron to tour the new school and recognize them for their National Green Ribbon School award in 2014. The Green Strides Best Practices Tour saw CHS’ solar panels powering greenhouses and the FFA students producing eggs, hams, bacon, and produce for sale locally.
- The senior Health Science / Certified Nursing Assistant students began the clinicals at Good Shepherd Nursing Home on October 13th. The practical, hands on experience is essential to training competent CNAs.
- Jack Cain has met with the Cameron mayor, Cameron city council and business community members, and two top officers of the Drug Free Clubs of America to discuss the Drug Free Club at CHS and future cooperation.
- Kathleen Loughman was selected among five high school teachers in WV to participate in the West Virginia Idea Network for Biomedical Research summer research program. She completed eight weeks of research under the mentorship of Dr. Joseph Horzempa at West Liberty University and was selected to give an oral presentation on the molecular mechanism of the temperature-dependent antibiotic resistance of *Francisella tularensis* at WVU this July.
- Sherrard Middle, Glen Dale Elementary, and McNinch Primary all have recently installed (or will soon) new digital marquees to replace their old signs.
- Linda Shalaway was named an Outstanding Educator and honored at last summer’s Governor’s Honors Academy. This was her fourth time earning this award.
- Dana Zambito created a “Pilots and Co-pilots” Title I reading program to promote reading in the community.
- You can email your interesting faculty/staff news to Dave Soltesz at dsoltesz.k12.wv.us to get in the next newsletter!

Are You Ready for Smarter Balanced Assessment?

This year, West Virginia will replace the WESTEST 2 with the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) for our annual statewide summative assessment. This test will be taken and scored online similar to how last year's WESTEST 2 was. According to the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, "The Smarter Balanced assessments are a key part of implementing the Common Core and preparing all students for success in college and careers. Administered online, these new assessments provide an academic check-up and are designed to give teachers and parents better information to help students succeed." Although over 20 states make up the SBA Consortium serving more than 19 million students, the test is not without its controversy since the assessment is aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). According to educationnews.org, the standards that became CCSS were envisioned as voluntary but later their adoption was made a prerequisite to the further granting of No Child Left Behind waivers with billions in funding at stake on a national level.

You can take a practice test for yourself at <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/> and click the "Student Interface Practice and Training Tests" button and gain familiarity with the test software platform and sample test questions for grades 3-8 and 11. The test was updated in May 2014 and is available for English language arts and mathematics.

For more information about West Virginia's plan for implementing the Smarter Balanced Assessment, visit <http://wvde.state.wv.us/smarter-balanced/> to learn more. The site has information for educators and parents as well as sample items from the test.



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2015 Marshall County Teacher of the Year, Rosetta Epifano

On October 9th, Ms. Rosetta Epifano and other WVTOY county selections were honored at a reception in Charleston. Ms. Epifano, art teacher at Sherrard Middle, was one of five finalists for the 2015 West Virginia Teacher of the Year. She is the latest in a line of Marshall County teachers to be recognized at the state level for teaching excellence. Since 1993, Marshall County has had two WV State Teachers of the Year (Danny Prado and Dave Soltesz) as well as six other state finalists (Dave Gaudino, Christy Rodgers, Jan Madden, Kathy Fox, Tammy Dewitt, and Jonna Kuskey). Congratulations!

Thinking About Retiring? Get a Head Start

Employees considering retiring in 2015 or 2016 must submit the Benefit Estimate form to the retirement board to start the process. This step must be completed before the retirement board will send you a packet. The estimate does not obligate you and the process could take several months so be sure to submit yours well in advance of a potential retirement date.

Classroom teachers are eligible for a \$500 bonus as long as they have submitted written notification of their intent to retire to their county boards by January 15, 2015; continue to work through the end of this school year; and do not work on or after the first day of the instructional term for the 2014-15 school year. Marshall County Schools also offers the \$500.00 early notification incentive stipend to those professionals not covered by the State stipend and all service employees. You must submit **written notice** to Corey Murphy, Personnel Director for Marshall County Schools, on or before **January 15, 2015**, to be eligible for the \$500.00 stipend.