

Jasper City Schools



Celebrating Great News Around the Jasper City School District

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JCS 1:1 iPad Initiative Provides 21st Century Tools for All Students

In 2012, the Jasper City Board of Education took bold steps to launch a 1:1 iPad Initiative to facilitate seamless integration of 21st century technology into every facet of education for JCS students. The initiative places the Jasper City School District among a small group of forward-thinking systems to undertake similar ventures in Alabama. The initiative began with the purchase of iPads for teachers and related training to assist teachers in delivery of engaging lessons via the new technology. The Board followed with the purchase of iPod Touch carts for all K-2 classrooms, and entry into a contract with Apple, Inc., to provide iPads for all students in grades 3 – 12. *(Continued on Page 8)*

"We are preparing students for their future, not our past."

~Alan November, International Technology Education Consultant



In the 21st century, heavy textbooks can become things of the past. Walker High students (left) in Mr. Mike Cordle's English class use their iPads to access their electronic textbooks. Students also have Cordle's PowerPoint presentation for the literary unit opened in the *Notability* app. Students can slide the screen back and forth between the online book and the PowerPoint to read the text or take notes.

2012 Seniors Awarded Over Three Million Dollars in Scholarships

2012 Walker High School Seniors were offered more than three million dollars in college scholarships. The group included 155 graduates who received their diplomas on May 25, 2012. Academic scholarships were awarded to 61% of the class, and 92% indicated plans to pursue postsecondary education. Honors diplomas were awarded to 29 students. Five students were ranked #1 in the class: Heidi Keller, Mallory Maloy, Andrew McGehee, Carson Roberts, and Hannah Studdard.



Kindergarten Classes Celebrate First 100 Days of School

In January, 2013, kindergarten students at Memorial Park Elementary and West Jasper Elementary celebrated the first 100 days of school. Increased student engagement and learning take place when students can connect lesson content with “real world” events. Students sharpened their math skills through fun activities focused on connections between the value of 100 and objects or events in everyday life.



Laura Bush Grant Goes to West Jasper Elementary Library

The West Jasper Elementary School Library is one of only four Alabama school libraries and one of only 238 U.S. school libraries to receive a 2012 grant from the *Laura Bush Foundation*. West Jasper received \$5000.00 to expand, update, and diversify the school's library book collection.

The *Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries* was founded in 2002 as a fund of The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. Since its inception, the Laura Bush Foundation has awarded more than \$9.5 million to schools in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands.



Above, a member of the Junior Crescent Study Club volunteered her time to read to WJS students.

Getting in the *Habit* of Voting

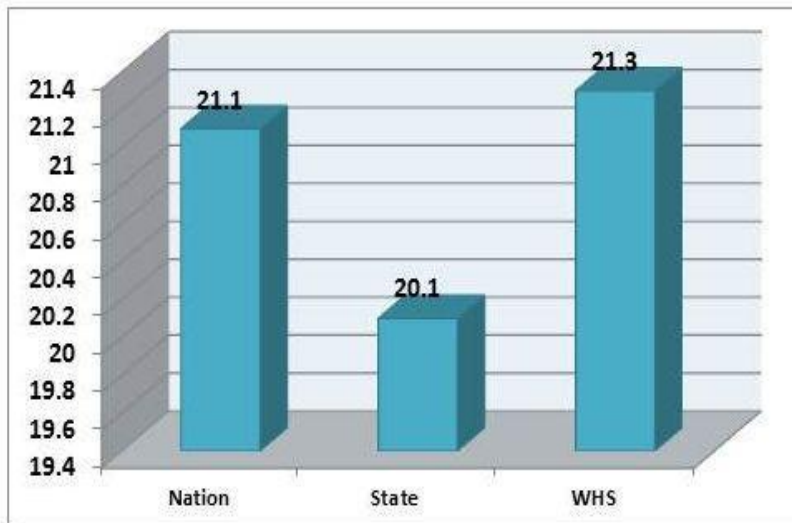


The T.R. Simmons Elementary S.G.A. held a mock presidential election on Monday, November 5, 2012. S.G.A. officers approached this task, as they do with most school projects, with Covey's "Leader in Me" principles in mind. Ivey-Elise Ivey began with the "end in mind" as she designed the student ballots. Lilly Kilgore was proactive and volunteered to decorate the ballot box.

All students exercised their right to vote and placed their ballots in the ballot box on the way to lunch. SGA members assisted student voters as needed and handed out "I voted!" stickers. S.G.A. President Jackson Durdin announced the winners after S.G.A. members totaled the ballots. Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan received 260 votes, while Barack Obama and Joe Biden received 243 votes.

"The objective of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives." ~ Robert Maynard Hutchins

ACT Scores Still Above State and National Averages



For more district and school assessment results, visit www.jasper.k12.al.us and click on "Assessment and Accountability."

ACT's August, 2012 release of composite scores for the nation's schools, districts, and states showed the 2011-2012 composite score among the 113 Walker High School students who took the ACT was 21.3, which was slightly higher than the 21.2 composite posted by WHS students in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. The 2011-2012 composite also surpassed the national composite of 21.1 and the state composite of 20.1.

Just Saying . . . Congrats to Our Own!

WHS Anchor Club

Vicki Lyle

Katie Oliver

Debra Rhodes

WHS Competition Cheer Team

MMS Cheerleaders

WHS FOCUS Group

WHS Band

WHS Football

Sgt. Ray Hessler

Missy Bryan

Eric Rigsby

Lori Wallace

Beverly Simon

Named 2012 International Club of the Year

Named 2013 2nd Place International Anchor Advisor of the Year

Inducted into Jacksonville State Univ. Teacher Hall of Fame

Earned National Board Certification

Won 5th in nation in UCA Competition in Orlando

Named UCA Regional Champs

Named November "Featured & FOCUSED School"

Named Alabama 13 Band of the Week

Named 5A Region 6 Champs; made 2nd round State playoffs

JCS Secondary Teacher of the Year; WHS Teacher of the Year

JCS Elementary Teacher of the Year; TRS Teacher of the Year

MMS Teacher of the Year

MPS Teacher of the Year

WJS Teacher of the Year

Also, our congratulations to personnel who completed JCS Prospective Administrator Training:
Karen Bunch, Tiffanye Mitchell, Betty Odom, Eric Rigsby, Kerri Trawick, and Marc Sargent.

North Highlands Students Learn About Fire Safety



Captain David Lockhart, Payton Phillips, Terri Fields and Jerry Hartley (dressed as the Fire Pup) visited North Highlands School during Fire Prevention Week in October, 2012, to speak with students about fire safety. NHS students had the opportunity to see the fire truck and equipment. To show appreciation to the fireman for their service to our community, the NHS faculty and students prepared snack bags for each of the 29 Jasper firemen.

WHS Students Selected for UA Honor Bands

Four WHS students were chosen to perform with various Honor Bands in early February, 2013, in the prestigious University of Alabama Honor Band Festival. They were part of 350 students chosen out of over 900 applicants.



Students, above left to right, are Madeleine West, Matt Meadows, Krystin Bonner, and Joseph Shubert.

Maddox Middle School Math Team Wins Awards



On February 9, 2013, thirty-two MMS math team members competed in the annual Grissom High School math competition at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville. Over 700 students competed in the event. The MMS Algebra I team won second place in the competition. Individual awards were won by Holley Beth Spivey and Parker Smith.

Memorial Park Elementary 4th Graders Enjoy Hands-On Study

In February, 2013, Memorial Park Elementary fourth graders completed a two-week AMTSI Animal Study Unit focused on the habitat and lifecycle of the African Dwarf Frog. Students cared for the amphibians throughout the science unit and then released them into the pond at the Natatorium. Students enjoyed this hands-on approach to their study of animals.

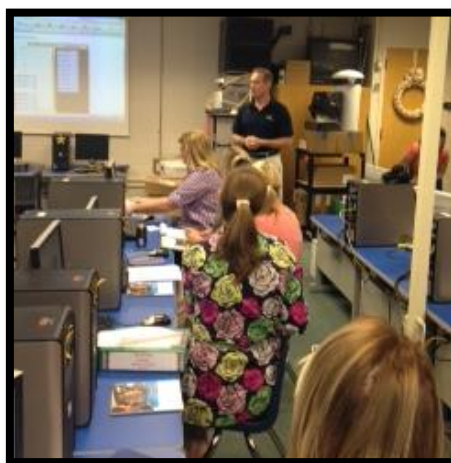




Tech Tools and Project-Based Learning in Jasper City Schools

Intel training for teachers and increased project-based learning for students are key parts of the Jasper City School District's major 2012-2013 focus to fundamentally change the way we teach and the way we equip students to thrive in a 21st century world. By encouraging students to tackle real-world problems and utilize technology to research, collaborate, and produce innovative projects, teachers are empowering students to gain deeper knowledge of the subjects they study.

TEACHER TRAINING lays a strong foundation for launching major technology initiatives. Barry Wiginton, instructional technology specialist with the UNA Research and Inservice Center, is leading a year-long emphasis on Intel training for JCS teachers to support integration of the Intel tools into classroom lessons. These online tools facilitate the use of higher-order thinking skills as students rank and prioritize, explore cause and effect relationships, and develop argumentation skills. At right, Wiginton provides Intel training for a group of JCS teachers who will lead training for their colleagues throughout the year.



INTEL IN THE CLASSROOM is evident across the school system as students work in groups and use the tech tools. For example, (at left) in Mrs. Tyra Beaird's 5th grade English classes at T.R. Simmons Elementary, students did a visual ranking activity as a spring board for an expository essay on inventions. The students read an article about several different inventions created within the last century and then compiled a list of inventions they felt had the most impact on society. Mrs. Beaird took the students' lists and created a visual ranking activity. Groups of students ranked the list of inventions according to each invention's impact on society. They also discussed and explained in writing the reasoning behind their ranking. Finally, each group had fun comparing their ranking with those of other groups.

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(Continued from page 1)



Through a series of “iPad Launch Nights” in January and February, 2013, iPads were “rolled out” to students in grades 3-12. The district has extended its wireless network with additional bandwidth to support the increased number of iPads being used in JCS schools.

On January 4, 2013, the day following the first iPad rollout for 11th and 12th graders at Walker High School, students were already using the new tech tools in the following ways:

- Mrs. Vicki Lyle’s second block class used the iPads to conduct a career analysis. Afterwards they created a fun project with their newly acquired knowledge and technology.
- Mrs. Kayla Goetz’s students researched the top languages of the world.
- Mrs. Meldre Poe’s Pre-Cal class evaluated conterminal angles with the app Quickgraph™.
- Mrs. Amber Wright’s class practiced camera skills and used a story writing app.



In Mrs. Kennedy's 8th grade science class at Maddox Middle School, students used their iPads and the NOVA app to learn about protons, neutrons, and electrons. The app allowed students to place electrons in different orbital fields to simulate various chemical elements.

Questions or comments about this publication may be directed to Dr. Martha LaCroix, Director of Accountability Programs & Support Services, Jasper City Schools, P.O. Box 500, Jasper, AL 35502, mlacroix@jasper.k12.al.us

It is the official policy of the Jasper City School System that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, disability, sex, religion, creed, national origin or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program, activity, or employment. Inquiries, complaints or concerns regarding compliance with federal regulations may be directed to Dr. Jean Lollar, Assistant Superintendent responsible for all Federal Program Titles (I, II, IX, X), or Betty Odom, Director of Special Education and Section 504 Coordinator, at 110 17th Street West, Jasper, AL 35501 - Phone (205) 384-6880.