

Craig R-3 2011-12 Second Semester Newsletter



Mr. Leach, Superintendent

Dear parents and patrons,

The winter season has been kind to us so far. I have enjoyed not having to make the 5:00 am phone calls to cancel school because of snow and ice. Plus our heating bill has been considerably less this winter.

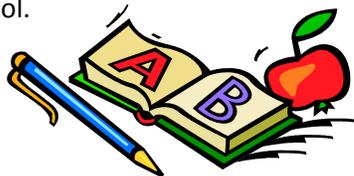
The school year is in the second semester and progressing along at a fast pace. Many of our families have recovered or have made adjustments due to the summer flood. Although our attendance declined as some families relocated to neighboring districts, we have gained some new families, and a couple of families have returned to the community.

The 2011-2012 school year continues to be a successful one for our students and staff. The teachers continue to do an excellent job of teaching and motivating students. The students enjoy attending school, and have a positive attitude toward the Craig R-III School.

Financially the District remains in very solid shape. The Board of Education and Administrators have strived to make wise fiscal decisions which have benefited the school and community.

I hope the year 2012 will be a very good one for each of you and your families. I realize 2011 was a rough one for many of you in the community. If you would like further information regarding the school please feel free to contact me here at school.

Sincerely,
Mike Leach Superintendent



Mr. Walker, Principal

Greetings from the Principal's office! The month of January seems to be racing by, and teachers are getting back into the swing of things following the Christmas Break. Elementary teachers are conducting second semester DIBELS benchmark assessments to monitor the progress made over the first semester. In addition, both elementary and secondary students are gearing up for the MAP Tests and End-Of-Course Tests that are approaching in just a couple of months. A variety of activities are keeping students, sponsors, and coaches very busy. Elementary basketball tournament season is currently underway and our high school basketball teams are in full swing. Other teams and organizations

are busy preparing for upcoming contests and competitions: Academic Bowl team, FFA, FBLA, and high school band. Encourage your child to be an active participant in one of our groups or organizations! Please remember to take the time at night to ask your child how their school day went. GO HORNETS!!

Mrs. Clayton, Counselor

This semester is full of energy as students are preparing for MAP and EOC testing, seniors are organizing post graduation plans, and basketball and academic bowl practices are under way which will soon be followed by track practice and meets. It's always nice to see students involved in activities as well as chatting in the hallways and laughing.

We have been discussing many topics this year in guidance classes. The main focus with elementary students has been teamwork and learning positive character traits about self and others. This month the elementary students are focused on the word "tolerance" and learning about famous African Americans and Native American Indians and how they impacted the United States.

Junior High students are working on career exploration this semester to help start that thinking process of what classes to take in high school. Eighth graders are also reading the book *7 Habits of a Highly Effective Teen* by Sean Covey. This book emphasizes making positive choices and setting goals for the future.

I am pleased to say this is the first year in my time here at Craig that all seniors planning for college have taken the ACT test prior to their final school semester! The seniors this year have really taken huge steps in preparing for the transition to college. Many have taken dual credit classes or advanced science and math courses, gone on college visits, completed scholarship applications, and started the paperwork for housing and financial aid needed to live on a college campus. The next major task is completing the FASFA (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>) so students can receive scholarship, grant, and loan money for college. You must have your 2011 taxes completed prior to completing this paperwork...the earlier the better! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions concerning your child.

Donna Vest, Librarian

The library has been a busy place this quarter. Many new books have been shelved and checked out. The seventh grade has begun a **Library Exploratory** class that meets daily during fourth hour. The exploratory class reviews the Dewey Decimal System, book report writing, dictionary, index and glossary usage and also instructs the students in the Big Six system for locating information on a research topic. The upper elementary classes are studying library skills as well as sharing novels. The **first and second graders** are practicing alphabetical order in order to locate books on the shelf and to prepare for using a basic beginning dictionary as well as reading beginning reader books and picture books. The **third/fourth and fifth/six grades** are studying the parts of books and writing book reports and will be working on the Dewey Decimal system so that they can locate non-fiction books in the library.

Just a reminder to parents: Please help your child remember to return his/her library books on their library day. This helps me keep track of the books and allows your child to return the books that are read and check out new books each week. If a book is damaged or lost, the student must pay for the book. Thank you for your help. The schedule of library times is listed below.

Elementary Library Schedule:

Kindergarten	Fri	12:10-12:40
First/Second Grade	Wed	12:10-12:40
Third/Fourth Grade	Mon	12:10-12:40
Fifth/Sixth Grade	Tues	12:10-12:40



Kindergarten by Ms. Pearson

Language Arts. We have been enjoying stories about holidays, snowmen, and counting. We have been distinguishing between letters and words in sentences. We have also been working on reinforcing comprehension strategies and skills before and during the story. We continue to sequence stories and identify where the beginning, middle, and end are. We have been learning how to write lists and a friendly letter. We have been learning and reviewing the following letter names and sounds: Mm, Nn, Vv, Ff, Pp, Bb, Aa, Ii, Tt, Dd, Cc, Kk, Uu, Gg. We continue to work on our sight words which includes in, to, of, and, a, the, it, is, that, was, he, you, on for, with, are, his, and as.

Math. In math we have been focusing on identifying and creating an ABB sound and movement patterns, matching a number card to a set, and identifying and counting dimes to 50 cents. We have also been learning how to count by 10's to 100, identify a cube share a

whole by separating it into two equal parts, and identify missing numbers 0-20.

Science and Social Studies. We have been learning about the gingerbread man, reindeer, snowmen, The Polar Express, and trains. While learning about the gingerbread man, we did an experiment. Before starting our experiment we made predictions of what we thought would happen to the gingerbread man if he got wet. Then, we tested those predictions by placing a gingerbread cookie in water and watching what happened. We created snowmen by writing our last names and we also made many snowmen pictures using a variety of materials and paint. We discussed the cause and effect of a snowman on a cold, winter day and what happens on a warm, sunny day. We learned about The Polar Express and listened to two guest readers read us the story. After listening to the story, we sequenced the different parts of the story into the right order. We also discussed trains. Afterwards, we made rhyming trains using pictures and the endings of words.

Reminder:

Please make sure to check your child's backpack each night for their C.A.M.P. Folder! It is very important that your child brings it to school each day. Also, please encourage your child to empty out his folder and backpack each night.

First & Second Grade by Mrs. Schlapia

I would like to start out by saying first and second grades have done a wonderful job of getting back into our routine after the break! These last few weeks we have been reviewing things that we learned right before break, as well as learning some new things as well. This semester we have a lot of fun and engaging things that are going to be taking place! Take a look below to see some of the things we will be learning about this semester.

Phonics. In phonics we have been reviewing our sounds from *Vowel Town* by playing *Cross the Wild River* with partners as well as learning old word/new word on our magnetic boards. Beginning next week, Screech will be teaching us about "two vowels go walking" as well as multi-syllable words. We will be doing a lot of practice with multi-syllable words, which will have us looking at multiple sounds instead of one sound. You can practice this skill with your child by giving him/her words with more than one syllable and having them clap out the syllables for you. Other skills we will be working on this semester include: tricky endings in multi-syllable words,

the -dge and -tch ending sound, and g followed by e, l, or y.

Spelling. For spelling this semester we will be working on many skills that we are learning in phonics. For first grade spelling we are currently working on words with the long vowel sound. Other skills we will be working on in first grade include: the -qu and -x sounds, -ou, -ow spellings, as well as some multi-syllable words. In second grade we are currently working on multi-syllable words with plural endings, as well as past tense words. Other skills we will be working on in second grade include: compound words and contractions.

Reading and Writing. In reading and writing we have been learning about many different types of nonfiction books such as poetry, and biographies. In first grade, we just ended our mini-unit on poetry. During this unit, we learned how to read poetry with rhythm and rhymes, and we even got the opportunity to write our own poetry which turned out wonderfully! We are very proud of our poems and will be displaying them in the hallway for everyone to see. We are also reading about different types of homes for animals and people. In writing we continue to learn how to recognize different types of sentences based on the type of punctuation mark we see as well as exploring paragraphs. In second grade reading we just finished our mini unit on biographies. During this unit we learned what a biography was and read many different biographies about famous people including Dr. Seuss. The students really enjoyed learning lots of facts about famous people they know of and even some they didn't know! We will also be reading about families in different cultures and even get to taste some of their food! In writing, we are learning to write our own stories by going through the writing process, writing a friendly letter, and writing to inform others about specific topics

Math. In first grade math, we have been focusing on identifying even and odd numbers to 24, finding a set of dimes and pennies, making a design with a line of symmetry, and showing time to an hour on a clock. An activity you can do at home to help your child practice their math skills would be, at different times of the day, on the hour ask your child to tell you what time it is. A few skills that we will be working on this semester include: counting by 5's, 25's, and 100's, adding two digit numbers, and measuring and drawing lines to the nearest inch. In second grade math, we have been focusing on adding two-digit numbers with regrouping, making a Venn diagram, using a.m. and p.m. labels for time, and reading a thermometer to the nearest 2

degrees Fahrenheit. An activity to help your child practice their math skills would be to save your store receipts. Have your child choose two items on it that each cost less than a dollar and add the two amounts. A few skills that we will be working on this semester include: reading time to five-minute intervals, subtracting two digit numbers, and multiplying by 1, 5, 10, and 100.

Science and Social Studies. In science we are currently learning about natural resources and rocks. We have done many fun experiments including investigating different types of rocks and soil. We will even get the opportunity to make our own fossils! Other units that we will have this semester include: weather, planets, the human body, plants, and animals. We will be doing many hands-on experiments this semester including making our own snow, growing our own vegetables, and even having a few insect and animal friends come to visit! In Social Studies, we are learning about how to earn, spend, and save money along with what goods and services are. This semester we will also be learning about neighborhoods, maps, famous Americans and landmarks, and different kinds of landforms. A few projects that we will be doing this semester include making our own landforms using salt dough, and making maps of what they believe Craig looks like.



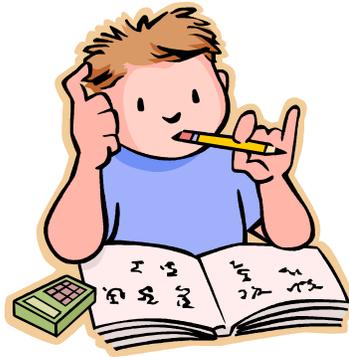
Third and Fourth Grade by Mrs. Wooten

I hope everyone had a wonderful and SAFE holiday season. A great big THANKS goes out to Ms. Hope Wright and Mrs. Melissa Livengood for providing the YUMMY treats and the FUN ornaments for the Christmas party. The third and fourth grade students came back rip roaring to go. The third graders started working on their cursive writing right before the break. They continue to work on learning each cursive letter. We are halfway through with the lower-case letters and will immediately jump into the capitals. Once all lower-case letters have been introduced ALL third grade assignments will be completed in cursive writing, with the exception of the capitals. ALL fourth grade assignments have been completed in cursive writing since the beginning of the year. I am very pleased with the students' attempts, they are working very hard.

Reading. Within both reading groups we have finished up their perspective units; third grade "Incredible

Stories" and fourth grade "That's Amazing". Both classes wrote stories of their own concentrating on the different parts of a story (main characters, supporting characters, setting of where and when, and the plot which includes the problem, the steps to solving the problem, and the solution). Both groups continue to work on the different forms of nouns and verbs, sentence tense, prefixes, suffixes, dictionary work, and sentence structure.

Math. The third graders are busy working through their telling time and graphing data unit. We will jump right into the multiplication unit next. Once we have completed the multiplication units we will move into measuring, geometry, division, and fractions/decimals. The fourth grade is busy working with measurement and then we will move into the division units. After division we will be looking at geometry and fractions/decimals. **ALL STUDENTS NEED TO REMEMBER TO PRACTICE THEIR FLASHCARDS NIGHTLY FOR AT LEAST 20 MINUTES.**



Science. In third grade science class we are discussing the Earth's crust and how to use and save the natural resources found throughout the Earth. We then will move into discussions about the Solar System. The fourth grade has been looking at different ecosystems along with how plants and animals have adapted to survive within their environments. Once finished with the last of the life science units we will move into the earth science units (the shape of the Earth's surface, weather, and the universe).

Social Studies. In social studies both groups continue working throughout their perspective series. The third grade has just finished discussing the differences between rural and urban areas. With this chapter and the following few chapters we will discuss the components that make up different types of communities and will look at how each community differs from the rest. The fourth grade has finished looking at the states of the Northeast. We have moved into the discussion on the states of the Southeast. We are looking at the geography, the resources, and the people of this region. We will then look at this region's past. The following chapters deal with each of the remaining regions (Middle West, West, and Southwest).

As we study each region the fourth graders continue to study the placements of each of the states. They all did a fantastic job on the Northeast and they now continue with the Southeast. Once each region is introduced the students are tested over where each state is located within our country. Toward the end of the quarter, we will begin discussing Missouri History.

Fifth and Sixth Grade by Mrs. Pyeatt

Missouri weather has been unusually calm when compared to last year. We look forward to having it continue! Our class appreciated the refreshments provided by Susan Liles and Rebecca Monroe for our Christmas party. Thanks to all of you! As testing time nears, our class continues to work on mastering standards that will be tested in April when we take our MAP tests.

Communication Arts. Both fifth and sixth grades have completed theme three and headed into theme four. Fifth grade is learning about problem solving and decision making, noting details, comparing and contrasting, and making inferences, and the elements of a play. Sixth grade will be concentrating on the author's viewpoint; cause and effect; topic, main idea, and details; and myths.

Grammar skills in fifth grade will continue to be the study of adjectives, commas, combining sentences, direct quotations, and using exact verbs. Sixth grade will concentrate on the use and forms of adjectives and adverbs. Using correct grammar in all writing is expected. I have emphasized to the class that their knowledge of grammar, spelling, and punctuation needs to be applied when writing is done. Please encourage your child to use the dictionary when unsure about spelling.

Please continue to encourage your child to read and turn in book reports. Each child is aware of the number of books they need to complete during third and fourth quarter in order to earn the Missouri Reading Circle Certificate. It is a worthy goal for every student.

We are enjoying going into the kindergarten room on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to help the kindergartners with their reading skills. Every fifth/sixth grade student is participating one day every week. It is important to be a good role model to a younger child.

Science. "Earth's Systems" will be our unit of study in fifth grade. This includes Earth's changing surface, structure, and the wise use of resources. We have experienced the importance of paper recycling with our

recycling program that is in place at school, and we hope that this carries forward to recycling in our homes. In sixth grade science we will explore our changing environment. Cycles in the biosphere, ecosystems, and population are part of this unit.

Social Studies. Fifth and sixth grade are learning about the early Greeks and Romans and their important contributions to our culture. We will then move on to The Middle Ages.

If you have any concerns or questions please contact me.

Science Department by Ms. Heitman

Greetings from the science room! Here are the subjects your children will be studying during the second semester.

Physics. The class will be working problems involving motion, work, power, and energy. Students will learn that energy is the capacity to do work and that it comes in many forms. We will then begin a unit on nuclear energy.

Anatomy. Students will be studying the endocrine system, the circulatory system, immune response, the respiratory system, the digestive system, and the urinary system. Ask your child about the circulation of blood in his or her body.

Earth Science. Students will cover units on Earth's air and water, Earth's internal processes, and Earth's history.

Biology. In class, students will be studying cell reproduction, cell division, genetics, and ecology. Ask your child to tell you the number of chromosomes found in humans and to explain how two brown-eyed parents can have a blue-eyed child.

Physical Science. The freshman class will be studying energy, heat transfer, and beginning chemistry. Ask your child to explain why your hands become cold when holding a snowball.

Eighth grade. The students will be studying the human body, disease, and genetics. We will then review for the MAP test which begins the first week of April.

Seventh grade. Last, but not least, this class will be studying energy, motion, and electricity.

Please check to see that your child has his or her science homework done every night. Moreover, you can quiz your child over his or her notes or help him/her read the chapter. Asking your child what he or she learned in science over supper helps reinforce the new material for that day. Every extra effort counts! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you!

Music Department by Mrs. Purcell

Kindergarten - 6th General Music. We will be working on a variety of musical concepts. The kindergartners will be identifying and applying loud and soft sounds as well as ascending and descending melodies. 1st and 2nd graders will be learning how to recognize characteristics of a song. 3rd and 4th graders will be learning about different time signatures and how to conduct them. 5th and 6th graders will be learning how to sing harmony by singing in rounds. All K-6 classes will be learning how to identify and count rhythms. 3rd through 6th grade will be also learning how to read note names on the staff so they can play recorder in 4th quarter.

5th Grade Band. Students will continue to learn more notes and rhythms on their instruments. Students should be practicing every day. We will also be learning strategies for practicing at home. There will be a spring concert the last week of April. More information will be sent home about the concert at a later date.



6th/7th Grade Band. We will be working toward finishing our method book, Essential Elements 2000. We are very close! The 6th graders will be learning pep band music that the 7th graders learned last semester. In addition to that, the whole class is going to be learning more sheet music. There will be a spring concert the last week of April. More information will be sent home about the concert at a later date.

Junior High Choir. A few students are taking vocal solos to the Junior High Music Contest that is Saturday, February 11th at Northwest Missouri State University. These students will be working on their music before or after school. More information about performance times will be sent home at a later date. In class, students will be learning more on vocal production. They will also be working on a song to sing on their own for the concert. There will be a spring concert the last

week of April. More information will be sent home about the concert at a later date.

High School Choir. The group will be working on music to take to Solo and Ensemble Music Contest that is Saturday, March 24th at Central High School in St. Joseph. In addition to that, some students are taking vocal solos as well. These soloists have to learn two songs and one of them is going to be in Italian! The students who are taking a vocal solo will have to be here after school to work with the accompanist beginning in March. There will also be a Saturday that students will be working with a vocal professor from Missouri Western State University. A schedule of performance times for March 24th will be sent home at a later date.

High School Band. The group is going to be working on music for the Large Group Music Contest that is on Friday, March 30th. A schedule of performance times will be sent home at a later date. Everyone in band works very hard for this performance. If you can attend this performance, it would be great to have your support! In addition to music contest, students will also be working on music for the spring concert which will be the last week in April.

High School Music Appreciation. Students will continue in their study of music from the Romantic and 20th Century Periods. Students will also be learning about music from the 70s, 80s, and 90s. Projects that students will be doing include the Movie Story Project. In this project, students will listen to music from different movies and create their own story to go along with the music. They will also create their own movie poster. This is a really fun project. Students always get really creative with their stories!

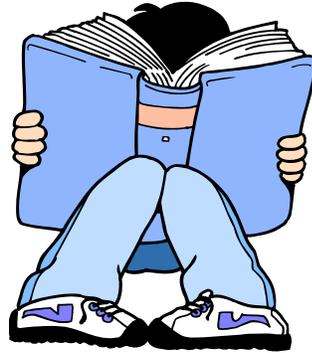
Communication Arts Department by Mrs. Acton

I hope you all found ways to enjoy the holiday season without becoming too bogged down with the work of putting it together! Hopefully, in addition to all of shopping, family get-togethers, cooking, and snow days you took the time to enjoy a good book.

Seventh Grade. Amidst this fast-paced time, this class has continued their study of the Grade Level Expectations of comparing, contrasting, analyzing, and evaluating connections in various fiction works. Students are also connecting text ideas to their own experiences and to our world. The class is practicing test-taking and question answering techniques, which are useful during MAP testing time. The students are

careful to restate part of the question in their answer and are giving at least two specific details from the reading passage in their answers. These techniques help students learn to support their own opinions or answers with evidence from the text, thereby proving the validity of their answers. Students will soon begin a review of the letter writing process, and weekly spelling assignments and tests continue.

Eighth Graders. The students are currently reading John Steinbeck's novel, *The Pearl*, a novel about a husband and wife's journey after finding "the pearl of the world."



After the completion of this novel, the students will begin John Boyne's *The Boy in Striped Pajamas*, set during the Holocaust. Later, the students will select their own novel set during the same time period. Each student will be responsible for completing a student-selected project and the presentation of their novels

to their classmates. Eighth graders are also continuing spelling work, with pre-tests on Wednesday and post tests on Friday.

Communication Arts I. The class is in the process of completing a fiction unit while reading *The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding. The class will soon move on to Homer's *The Odyssey*. Various writing activities accompany this unit.

Communication Arts II. Students recently finished *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Clustered Course Level Expectations for this class included: using the writing process in composing text, while using Standard English conventions; creating an effective thesis, effective paragraphing, convincing elaboration, and voice; and the use of rhetorical devices in writing. The class is now moving on to Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*.

Communication Arts III. Students have continued making connections between text ideas and the world by analyzing and evaluating the relationship between the literature and its historical period and culture. They have completed various research projects after reading literature set during the 1960s and during the Salem Witch Trials. We will now be practicing test-taking skills while answering constructed response questions and using graphic organizers, while reading the novel *The Scarlet Letter*.

Mass Media. Students are in the process of finalizing a theme and cover design for the 2012 yearbook, as well as learning various journalism, photography, and desktop publishing skills. Remember, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 yearbooks can still be purchased for \$40.00 each. 2012 yearbooks will arrive in August when school starts next year.

Mathematics Department by Mrs. Smail

7th and 8th grade Math. Both grades are currently working on the applications of percents. We will be covering Geometry, Measurement and Data units within the next couple of months. This will lead us into MAP testing in April.

Algebra I. We are currently working on how to write linear equations and to recognize their different forms. This is a very important concept that they will use in the later high school courses.

The next couple of units we will be working on before the End Of Course exam in April are Solving System, Properties of Exponents and Exponential Functions.



Geometry. We just finished discussing the different properties of quadrilaterals. The End Of Course exam will be in April and before that time we will be going over the Area of Polygons, Surface Area & Volume, and Transformations.

Algebra II. During this semester, students will be working on solving polynomial functions and learning how to apply operations to radical expressions and functions. It is important to review previous material, which we are currently doing with our bell work, to help prepare for the End Of Course exam.

Trigonometry. As the year progresses students are demonstrating their comprehension and retention of the material. We will be going deeper into understanding logarithm, trigonometric equations during the second semester.

College Algebra. College algebra is progressing through the book at a good pace. There are only three more chapters to be covered before the end of the semester. At the end of the course there will be a comprehensive final exam.

Business Department by Mr. Atkinson

Busy, busy, busy is what the Business Department at Craig is right now. All of my classes are working hard and have a lot of exciting things going on. FBLA is about ready to start contest season and we have a lot of contestants involved in a lot of different events. Just as a reminder, FBLA district meeting this year will be Thursday February 16th at Northwest Missouri State University.

Business Communications. This class has a lot of new lessons going on for this semester. One of the primary goals that I have for the students this semester is to improve typing accuracy and speed. The students will be required to type 35 words per minute in the 3rd quarter, and 40 words per minute in the 4th quarter. We will be covering different Microsoft office programs as the semester progresses as well.

Business Technology. This course is a capstone course for all of the business classes offered at Craig. The students have been working on a review of Desktop Publishing, which they took as sophomores. As the semester progresses we will get in to advance functions the Office Suite programs like Word, PowerPoint, and Access.

Economics. The students in class are having a blast learning about business organizations which encompasses basic functions of businesses, and all the different types of business one could be a part of. They will be having a big test coming up in a few weeks which will be on chapters 8 and chapter 9. The students watched a documentary about the wealth distribution in the United States, and we had a lot of really good discussions about this topic.

Desktop Publishing. This is a 1st semester class that switched from Web Design. The kids have covered the basic design principles of desktop publishing and will soon take their first test. As the semester moves along they will create and be involved in a lot of fun projects and get the chance to become a desktop publisher themselves. They will get the chance to create brochures, marker boards, restaurant menus, and a 12 month calendar which they will print and bring home to hopefully put on the fridge.

Personal Finance. This class is finishing up a careers unit and constructing their own personal resume. We will also go through mock interviews to better prepare them for their career field to end the careers unit. Our next unit will we dive into the world of taxes. I can't

guarantee they will be able to prepare and file your taxes by April 15th, but we will have a better understanding of the tax system and different paperwork that is involved.

Art Department by Mrs. Sipes

Kindergarten. The students have worked on construction paper snowman scenes. They also drew a mural with markers. They love using markers on their projects!

First and Second Grade. The students have worked on oil pastel resist watercolor pictures. They used the oil pastels to create a winter landscape or activity scene. These classes also drew crazy caper pictures that were make-believe and funny. Ask your child about his/her picture.

Third and Fourth Grade. The class did landscapes showing a favorite outdoor memory like the famous artist Terry Redlin. They also have put together abstract construction paper collages. Lately, they have been making heart lanterns.

Fifth, sixth, junior high, and high school students had a guest speaker, Ken Rhode, talk to their classes on topics such as: cartooning, step by step animal drawings, sculpture from recycled material, and caustic art.

Fifth and Sixth Grade. The students did step by step bear crayon drawings. These turned out fantastically with each bear having its own unique look. They also have made construction paper abstracts.



Junior High. The students have created Mandarin style designs and marker designs. The marker designs are interesting because they are done with a variety of different types of lines.

High School. The students have worked on caustic pictures. This is an old style of artwork done before paints were readily available. They love making these. Also, they made make-believe pictures using magazines. These are entertaining pictures to look at.

Spanish Department by Mrs. Clayton

This semester will be much faster pace than first semester. Students have already gone through half a chapter and taken a test in the past two weeks which is about five to six days faster than the fall. This means

two things 1) we will be covering more material and 2) studying outside of class will be important. Please encourage your child to study and use their Spanish vocabulary. A great way to do this is to ask your child what various items or activities mean in Spanish while you are going throughout the day. For example, if you see someone riding a bicycle - ask your child how to say that activity in Spanish (*montar en bicicleta*).

After we complete the current chapter on school supplies and schedules, we will be exploring foods for breakfast and lunch. This will give us the opportunity to have a cooking unit and create Spanish style food. This section of the course is always fun for students.

Please contact me if your child is struggling with class or if you have any questions.

Agriculture Department by Mr. Ball

Ag. Science I. We have been studying the Supervised Agricultural Experience Unit. This involves the third component of the Agricultural Education program. The primary goal of a good SAEP is to reinforce classroom instruction and to earn while learning. A good SAE also can lead to recognition in Degree work and proficiency awards. Next week our records will arrive and they will learn how to use them properly. It will soon be time to devote time to Agriculture Career Events.

Ag. Science II. The class has been summarizing their record books. This is the first time for the class and has been a learning experience. They will be getting exposed to award applications that come from keeping good records. Career development workshops or contest are coming up so we will be devoting time to this.

Craig FFA Chapter. The Greenhands attended the Greenhand Motivational Conference in St. Joseph. This is sponsored by the area and state officers. Taylor Burnett, Colton Flint, & Blake Bradley attended this event. Chapter officers will be planning activities for National FFA Week, which will be held February 18-25.

P.E. Department by Mr. Bolger

I was very pleased with how the first semester went in each of my classes. We were able to get a lot of various things accomplished. I am looking forward to an awesome second semester.

Team Sports. In my second hour team sports class we will be starting with basketball and then work our way

into some pickle ball/badminton. When it gets warmer out we will start our soccer and golf skills.

Freshman. Third hour freshman PE we have been working a lot with basketball and plan on moving into our bowling unit next. We have also been working on our fitness by running the mile and doing a little strength training as well.

Elementary. The elementary students did a tremendous job of learning various locomotor movements and specific sports skills through stations in the second quarter.

We have kicked off a basketball unit in which they are learning about dribbling, passing, and shooting. After that they will start using their feet instead of their hands in an indoor soccer unit. Along with their great jump roping skills we will be kicking off JUMP ROPE FOR HEART in February!

Lifetime Sports. The class has been doing a basketball unit where they seem to really enjoy playing team games and the game 9 out. We will be doing a P90X unit very soon were I will introduce them to some new fitness ideas and have them do it for a couple weeks only two or three times a week.

Junior High. Eighth hour PE will also be working on various fitness related activities and will have a lot of the same lessons as my 7th hour lifetime fitness. Track season is just around the corner! What a great way to get in shape and improve your speed, strength and agility for other sports/activities!
Go Hornets!

Social Studies Department by Mr. Wiedmer

The second semester is underway, and we have a lot of exciting things happening in the Social Studies Dept.

Eighth Grade. The class is learning about the constitution, and will be taking the US Constitution Test which is required for them to graduate 8th grade. We will learn US history from the Constitution to the Civil War.

World History II. The sophomores began the semester learning about Crisis and Absolutism in the 16th and 17th Centuries. The great Muslim Empires in the Middle East during the 15th-18th century. They will also learn about china and be working on a world religion project. Each student will be researching a religion and making a

power point presentation to the class. The second part of the semester will lead us into WWI.

Government. We will be focusing on the 3 branches of government; Legislative, Executive, Judicial. The students will be doing a variety of projects, such as making a children's book on the process of how a bill becomes a law, holding a mock election, and writing a court brief. We are gearing up for the end of course test in April.

Seventh Grade. The students are learning about Ancient Rome from its beginnings to the rise and fall of the greatest Empire in history. The students will be doing a project over Ancient Rome to further help their understanding of this pivotal time in history. After Rome we switch gears and focus on Geography for the remainder of the year. This unit will consist of weekly map tests, and a historical fiction country study project.

American History II. We started this quarter discussing WWI, this quarter we will cover American History from WWI- WWII. We are preparing for the EOC exam in April. We will learn American history up until the modern day. All of the work done throughout the year will help them study for the EOC test.

Contemporary History. We are wrapping up US History as we inch closer to the present. We began the quarter learning about Nixon and Ford; we will be discussing the presidencies of Ford through Bill Clinton. The students once again have a 5 page term paper that they will be working on throughout the semester. This class is designed in the likes of a college class.



The Following Students had the highest percentage during the 2nd quarter: 1.Jocelyn Clayton (World History I) 2.Kelly Dougherty (World History II) 3.Hailey Bomar (World History I) 4. Sam Hinrichs (World History I) 5.Kathy Howard (World History II) 6.Thauan Andrade (Cont. History) 7.Chandler Monroe (World History I) 8.Jordan Stoner (Am. Government) 9.Mackenzie Marks (Cont History) 10.Kyleigh Panning (American History I)

Academic Team. The team is beginning as well; we have a Jr. High and High school team this year. The Jr. High team includes Pantera Womeldorff, Jocelyn Clyaton, Ryan Long, Chandler Monroe, and Sam Hinrichs. The high school team consists of the

following: Rachel Lewis, Heather Lewis, Allyssa Kling, Kelly Dougherty, and Chandler Peeks.

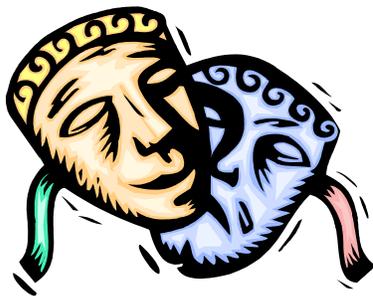
The Jr. High team has one meet, on Saturday February 18, @ Savannah The high School begins their season on Saturday February 25, @ North Andrew Every Thursday in March, the team will be competing. March 8 is the home meet, so come on out and support our team.

Title Reading by Mrs. Wallace

My Title I students are continuing to use a number of techniques and materials to improve their reading skills. A favorite activity of all of the students is reading chapter books together (guided reading), and each class has read at least two books so far this year. When sharing a book, the students are able to hone their decoding skills and to increase their vocabularies, both of which are extremely important to the process of reading improvement. The students work to improve their comprehension as a result of applying higher level thinking skills during discussions, and achieving better fluency is also a goal for each child.

The materials known as “Reading Skill Builders” are used individually to help the children increase their proficiency on various decoding and fluency skills. Included in these skills are such things as letter recognition, letter sounds, specific long and short vowels, sight words, phrases, sentences, and complete reading passages. Some students need more practice with quick recognition of word and sentence parts, and those children use these skill building materials more often than others.

Readers’ theater is being planned for the near future, and is always enjoyed by my students. It has the advantage of giving the students an opportunity to read multiple parts, and students’ fluency and enjoyment of reading improve as a result of this process. Since no props or costumes are required, the focus of these readings remains on the reading process. We often use audio and/or video recordings with readers’ theater, and the children enjoy listening to and watching themselves as they read their parts.



The use of graphic organizers aids the students in learning to organize their thinking, and is something

with which all of the children are familiar from their work in their classrooms. I encourage my students to increase their comprehension through improved use of visualization when they read and are read to. When they visualize what is read, they take ownership of the material, and invest more of themselves in the process. This enables them to apply their reading to their own lives via the experiences that they have had.

I look forward to a very productive second semester with my students. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions regarding my program.

Have a Heart Wear Red Day

Wear RED on Valentine’s Day
to raise awareness for heart
disease.



Sponsored by
Community Hospital Fairfax

Dates to remember:

- Feb. 8 – Early Out
(12:45 Dismissal)
- Feb. 14 – Wear RED
- Feb. 20 – No School
- Mar 9 – End of 3rd Quarter
- Mar 14 – Early Out
(12:45 Dismissal)
- Apr 6 – No School
- Apr 9 – No School
- Apr 11 – Early Out
(12:45 Dismissal)
- May 11 – Last Day of School
- May 11 – Graduation

Craig R-III New Website

It has been in the works for several weeks and months this school year but the new school website will be available for viewing the first of February. The website will allow parents to see the school calendar, menus, and contact numbers/emails – just to name a few. The goal is to have a current website that offers parents access to what is going on at school.

The website address will be:
www.craigr3school.com



STI Parent Portal

Many families have been using the Parent Portal successfully this year. Several parents have called in and asked questions about the program and have used the resource well. You should be able to view grades, absences/tardies, homework, and daily announcements. Scholarship deadlines as well as ACT test dates are also posted on the calendar portion.