



# WAKULLA COUNTY

## 2014-2015

### Superintendent's Report







# WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

69 ARRAN ROAD  
POST OFFICE BOX 100  
CRAWFORDVILLE, FLORIDA 32326  
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**ROBERT PEARCE**  
SUPERINTENDENT

**VERNA BROCK**  
DISTRICT I

**MELISA TAYLOR**  
DISTRICT II

**BECKY COOK**  
DISTRICT III

**GREG THOMAS**  
DISTRICT IV

**JO ANN DANIELS**  
DISTRICT V

Dear Citizens of Wakulla County:

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2014-2015 Superintendent's Report, which provides a snapshot of the educational activities and opportunities that occurred last year in the Wakulla County School System. I continue to be amazed at the dedication of employees at all levels of the system as they work diligently to meet the instructional needs of students.

Wakulla schools, along with all public schools in Florida, administered the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) in the spring of 2015. The first round of data from this assessment indicates a new norm in Wakulla, but still gives indication of continued overall achievement above the state average. Wakulla students averaged a top ten score in 17 or the 17 areas tested in grades three through ten compared with other district scores throughout the state. In 13 of the 17 areas tested, Wakulla students ranked in the top five averages statewide. We eagerly await the finalization of the score reporting, so that we can better quantify the success of our students.

One of the highlights in the district was the growth in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses, through which students earned industry certification that enabled them to move directly into careers upon completion of their high school years. CTE, formerly known as Vocation Education, continued to be a major focus as students participated in the Medical Academy, Accounting, Culinary, Carpentry, Welding, Automotive, the Engineering Academy, and Business courses. Middle school students were able to earn certification in the Microsoft bundle.

The expansion of programs across our district helped to ensure that our students were challenged and well rounded. Odyssey of the Mind was available in both elementary and secondary schools, and our students competed at the regional and state levels. Project Learning Tree, which promotes environmental education, remained strong in the elementary schools and the PreK. Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) strategies supported students in all of our secondary schools and were introduced to students as early as fifth grade. Spelling Bees, Brain Bowls, speech, essay, and art contests continued to provide our students with a variety of opportunities to excel.

Our district Teacher of the Year for 2014-15 was Connie Worrill from Medart Elementary School. Her leadership with support for parents of students who present on the autism spectrum is recognized within and outside of Wakulla. Her effort was one more indication of the Wakulla intent to address the needs of all students.

In a challenging political climate for public education, Wakulla continued to strive toward our vision of a rigorous and appropriate education for all students. The 2014-2015 school year saw our teachers and our staff engaging with high standards and with our students. With concern for the whole child, we aimed to find each child's strengths and interests to build upon. The strong Wakulla community supported us in and kept us accountable for keeping children as our number one priority.

Sincerely,

Robert "Bobby" Pearce



**ROBERT PEARCE**  
SUPERINTENDENT

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DISTRICT I

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Dear Citizens of Wakulla County:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve these past 15 years as a member of your School Board. I truly appreciate the trust you have placed in me to work for our children.

Our schools continue to perform extremely well academically, providing students with the knowledge and skills they need to become successful adults. At Wakulla High School our Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses (formerly known as Vocational) continue to grow and provide employment ready skills to our students. Our high school students also outshine their peers statewide at being ready for the rigors of college. Wakulla students performed above the state average in every category of the American College Test (ACT) this past year.

Your School Board continues to be a wise steward of taxpayer dollars. The Center for American Progress examined the productivity of almost every major school district in the country and named Wakulla one of the top eight districts in the state of Florida for return on investment. Over the past year we have continued our focus on improving the quality of the facilities our children use each day.

The greatest investment Wakulla County can make in its future is to provide a high quality education for its children today. We are truly fortunate to have so many fine people working to meet the educational needs and to assure the wellbeing of our children. With continued commitment from our students, parents, teachers and staff, and the support of our community, Wakulla County Schools will continue to be one of the top school districts in Florida.

On behalf of all of your School Board members, let me assure you we will not waiver in our commitment to providing the highest quality education to the children of Wakulla County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Thomas".

Greg Thomas  
Chairman

## PURPOSE

A rigorous and appropriate education that results in success for all students

## DIRECTION

Committed to Success for all students, teachers, staff, and our school system

## CORE VALUES (governing our Way of Work)

We will always:

- Make decisions based on the best interest of the students.
- Behave in an ethical manner.
- Prepare students for productive citizenship.
- Be willing to try innovative research-based programs.
- Employ highly trained and dedicated individuals who can work effectively in their assigned positions.
- Treat each person with dignity and honor their right to be safe.
- Recognize the uniqueness and capability of each student.
- Set high expectations and embrace a challenging curriculum.
- Celebrate our cultural heritage and the diversity that enriches our lives.
- Embrace technology to engage students and enhance education.
- Work to involve our community and all stakeholders in the educational process.
- Teach and practice responsibility and service to others.
- Teach students to be accountable for their own actions.
- Focus on continuous improvement for student achievement and professional growth.

We will never:

- Compromise excellence.
- Give up on a student.
- Stop striving for excellence.

# WE ARE PROUD OF OUR SCHOOLS!



The Wakulla County School District is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, which is an accreditation division of AdvancED.

## 2014 DISTRICT STAFF

**Robert Pearce**  
Superintendent

**Randy Beach**  
Chief Finance Officer

**Beth Mims**  
Chief Academic Officer

**Karen Wells**  
Chief Human Capital Officer

**Randy Bristol**  
Executive Director of Facilities & Maintenance

**Tanya English**  
Executive Director of ESE & Student Services

**Sue Anderson**  
Director of Special Programs & District Assessment

**Belinda Fries**  
Director of Technology Services

**Gail Mathers**  
Director of Food Services

**Jim Griner**  
Coordinator of Safety & Risk Management

**Pat Jones**  
Coordinator of Transportation

**Katherine Spivey**  
Coordinator of Curriculum

**Dod Walker**  
Director of Adult, Athletic and Diversity  
Recruitment Programs



"Heroes and Leaders" was the theme for the 2014-2015 school year. Crawfordville welcomed Frankie Harvey as the Dean of Students. Although new to the position, Mrs. Harvey was a member of our 4th grade Cougar team for eleven years. Brittani Williams joined our 5th grade team with five years teaching experience from Central Florida. Amber Allen, a Flagler Graduate and Crawfordville Elementary intern, joined our 3rd grade team. Erin Henderson, a former pre-k teacher and Crawfordville Elementary intern, became a member of our 1st grade team. Lauren Sweatt, a former Wakulla Middle School 6th grade teacher, joined us as a 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade teacher. Mary Hunter joined us half way through the year as a Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade teacher. Tonia Gay and Christen Gehrke joined our office paraprofessional team while Emily Pierce and Teresa Burns started the year as classroom paraprofessionals. Later in the year Joy Wise, Paige Manning, Melissa Branan, and Tracie Graham joined the paraprofessional team in Mrs. Hunter's classroom. Al Mills became a new member of our Magnificent Maintenance Crew. At the end of the year, Crawfordville faculty and staff bid fond farewell to long-time educator Betty Hobbs with a 70's themed disco party.

Throughout the year our students were involved in the learning process through a variety of special activities. Students participated in the Spelling Bee, Writing Bowl, Brain Brawl, Student Council, Jr. Garden Club, Fire Prevention Day, SAVE, Project Learning Tree (PLT), Cougar Cadets and Chess Club. During Red Ribbon Week, which is a nationally recognized week that focuses on healthy lifestyles, good choices, and saying no to drugs, students took part in daily activities with the most popular being the themed dress up days. During the month of September, Crawfordville and all other Wakulla County Schools joined together to raise money to support our senior citizens. Each week students donated change to participate in fun activities such as wearing a hat, wearing pajamas, indulging in a delicious snow cone, and enjoying popcorn and a movie. Teachers also supported the cause by paying to "dress down" each week. Donations topped \$1,000.00, and students learned the importance of giving back to the community and looking out for the elderly.

Parents are an integral part of Crawfordville and had numerous opportunities to attend activities during the day and evening that fostered parental involvement. Such events included our Annual Country Fair, BINGO for Books, Title I Annual Parent Night, Grandparents Luncheon, Grade Level Parent Nights, Awards Assemblies, Holidays Around the World, and Science Night.



## CRAWFORDVILLE Elementary



**ANGIE WALKER**  
Principal

We also hosted our first Pajamas, Pancakes, & Family Literacy Night. The purpose of the event was to get families excited about reading and into the school. The night began with many teachers and several community members, including Dod Walker, Sue Anderson, Buddy Wells, and Frank Mingledorff, flipping hundreds of fluffy, scrumptious pancakes for eager students and parents dressed in their finest pajamas. After eating, students and their parents traveled to various classes where community volunteers were dressed up and ready to engage listeners in exciting stories. Readers included Superintendent Bobby Pearce, Sheriff Creel, Resource Officer Ed Creel, JoAnn Daniels, Beth Mims, Belinda Fries, Rick Myhre, Sunny Chancy, Barbara Mingledorff, Cori Revell, Angie Williams, Dr. Plagge, Lori Nicholson Wells, Lucile Graham, Ian Brazier, Katherine Spivey, Terry Price, Amy Seidler, and Erin Caquimbo. With close to 300 in attendance, the night was a huge success!

Another first for CES was our "Donuts and Data" Saturday parents training. The event began at 9:00 in the morning with donuts and coffee. The computer lab was utilized to give parents the opportunity to access their child's FOCUS account and AR information. With the help of our Director of Technology, Belinda Fries, and our Curriculum Software Specialist, Margo Gunnarsson, parents were able to access accounts, retrieve DEA data, and set up email communication from our Accelerated Reader Program, Renaissance Place. Mrs. Burse was on hand to help parents become more familiar with Renaissance Place and explain how the program works.

An event that always seems to "spice" things up was our Annual Chili Cook-Off. With great entertainment from Brett Wellman and The Stone Cold Blues Band and more than 25 different types of chili, it was an evening full of excitement, laughter, and thirsty taste buds. Mr. Larry Darnell received the "Best Traditional Chili" award. Ms. Cindy Quincey won "Best Non-Traditional Chili" while Mrs. June Davis earned the "Spicy But Pleasing" award. Our Courageous Kindergarten team won "Best Presentation," and our Thriving Third Grade team received the "People's Choice" award. Proceeds from this event were used to provide two \$500.00 scholarships to Wakulla High School graduating seniors.

There was a reading explosion last year at CES! The school-wide goal was for all grade levels to work together and read 220 million words, but when the dust settled, students and teachers had read over 231 million words! The top teacher-reader was third grade teacher, Miranda Bowen, with 8,626,531 words. The top student-reader was fifth-grader, Cierra McNair, setting a new school record with 8,747,114 words. Sixty-six students and teachers ended up joining the Million Word Reader's Club and sporting an "I Read I Lead" t-shirt.

The Odyssey of the Mind team members went to Regional Competition in February to perform the solution they created for their problem "Runaway Train". With a first place finish in their division, the team was invited to the state competition in Orlando. During the State Competition the team performed an improved solution to their problem "Runaway Train" while competing against 20 other first place teams from around the state. The team was very successful and placed 10th overall in the state competition. Team members included Clara Alford, Lily Stolk, Abbi Hatfield, Penny Corbet, Luke Harden, Tres Panzarino, and Micah VanSyckle. The team was led by Renee Kelly, Holly Harden, and Kirsten Brazier.

During the course of the year numerous teachers were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the school and teaching profession. Rhiana Tucker was our November 2014 Teacher of the Month and Lauren Sweatt was our March 2015 Teacher of the Month. To cap off the teacher recognitions, Kindergarten teacher, Amber Stallings, was selected by her peers as the Teacher of the Year! Terry Price, our Reading Coach, was selected as the District Professionals Teacher of the Year!



# MEDART Elementary



**KIMBERLY DUTTON**  
Principal

At Medart we believe all students possess leadership abilities. We work daily to cultivate and grow these skills empowering students to achieve success in all areas.

Mrs. Connie Worrill was selected as the Medart Teacher of the Year and then subsequently earned the title of Wakulla County School District Teacher of the Year. A kindergarten teacher at Medart, Mrs. Worrill believes in having students "get messy" while they learn. She says, "Active play is important and necessary." The Mustang teachers of the month were Cary Gerrell in October and Kendall Watson in February. New teachers to join the corral this year were kindergarten teachers

Mrs. Christy Baker and Mrs. Glenda Hance. Fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Jodie Martin moved to the office as Associate Dean of Student Services.

Medart students practiced leadership skills daily through participation in a variety of student teams designed to improve the school through service. Examples included the Beautification Team, Green Team, Greeters, Butterfly Club, Triple "R's"; Box Tops Team, Technology Team, Breakfast Club, Designing Leaders, Lost & Found Team, Pony Express, Sharpen Up Club, and The Welcome Wagoneers. Some of the many projects the leadership teams completed include: Painting the Mustang horse in front of the school, hallway ceiling tiles, two hallway bathroom murals, and a school wide hallway welcome sign. Other projects included helping students in the cafeteria at breakfast, greeting guests for school programs, sharpening pencils, cutting box top labels for technology, making welcome packets for students new to the school, growing a vegetable garden, maintaining a fruit orchard and butterfly garden, and managing the Mustang Mercantile. Students applied for positions to be ambassadors for the school and hold positions in the cafeteria, hallways, outside areas and classrooms.

Many exciting learning events filled the calendar last year for Mustangs. The year began with a Title 1 Science Night where the students became scientists in the classrooms and tested their parents' skills. They were joined by special guests from the FSU Magnetic Lab, Florida Wild Life Conservation Commission, and the U.S. Forestry Department. The night was completed with a pizza dinner and book fair. Other student achievement activities were held such as the Spelling Bee, Brain Brawl, Student Council, Leadership Rallies, Tropicana Speech Contest,

The Golden Horseshoe Award, The Million Word Reader's Club, Fire Prevention Day, The S.A.V.E. Program, Red Ribbon Week, and Safety Patrols. The Brain Quest Fest was held in the spring to celebrate literacy with construction and strategic games such as chess, Legos, checkers, and Kerplunk. The school mascot, Maverick, puzzled students with brain teasers and riddles. Student writing was displayed and a cook out was held on the lawn.

In November, the Mustangs took time to honor others who have made sacrifices for their country. A Veteran's Day program was held with student songs and a meaningful power point. Students penned handwritten invitations to local servicemen from the four branches of the military to invite them to the program. Special guests, Mr. Jerry Evans and Mr. Randy Anderson, played patriotic music for a sea of red white and blue dressed students. The names of servicemen were read aloud.

Students in Mrs. Gerrell's class became explorers and sent an experiment far out to sea and under the ocean to see what would happen to Styrofoam cups when water pressure was applied. The students made hypotheses prior to the experiment and then a parent, Mr. Tillman, tested them by sending the cups down in a dive cage to a depth of 2740 feet. The cups came back compressed and very tiny, as most students had hypothesized!

To beautify the school front entry, Mrs. Myhre's art classes created a school-wide rock garden. Each student created individually decorated clay fired stones. On the last Friday in May, fifth graders retrieved their stones and walked down the hall for the Fifth Grade Friday Farewell.

The students continued to practice the Seven Habits and gained leadership skills through their service. In doing so they earned Mustang trading cards to trade for items in the new Mustang Trading Post. Some students purchased vouchers to be used for time spent in the Rodeo Recreation Room.

The Frozen Winter Wonderland Festival took place in December. Proceeds from the festival helped purchase a new piece of playground equipment. The Sopchoppy and Crawfordville Lion's Club were both on hand to cook for the festival. Medart students provided entertainment on stage in the cafeteria. Santa even made a guest appearance, riding in on the Panacea volunteer Fire Department firetruck. The festival is a PTO community sponsored event.

Medart Elementary students sponsored many community service projects throughout the year, including a canned food drive for Thanksgiving. A Pet food/toy drive to benefit the Wakulla County Animal Shelter was organized by several fifth grade students. They made posters and developed a grade level competition. In September, students collected coins to raise funds for the Wakulla Senior Citizen's Center.

During the 2014-2015 school year, students were busy setting academic and leadership goals. They participated in many activities to prepare them as lifelong learners and leaders. As we look forward towards next year, our goal remains achieving success. It's a Mustang thing!





Otters shot for the stars in the 2014-15 school year! Not only did we hit the new Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) out of the park, several Otters got to talk to the astronauts in the International Space Station as it passed over RES. Our school earned an "Exceeding Expectations" award from the East Coast Technical Assistance Center (ECTAC) and several teachers and a student were recognized for their excellence in education. Otters are truly out of this world.

The new Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) was implemented in the 2014-15 school year. While there was a lot of media attention placed on the assessment, the Otters of RES continued to work hard and devote themselves to their education. Due to the dedicated students, teachers, staff, and parents at RES, we again scored higher than the state in both the English/Language Arts (ELA) and the Math assessments.

Mrs. Katrina Roddenberry and Mrs. Melissa Martin wrote and presented a proposal to NASA. The proposal resulted in our students having the chance to talk to the astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS). Students wrote questions and took a turn at the microphone asking the astronauts their questions and eagerly awaiting the answers. "The program, ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station), allowed for a once in a lifetime opportunity for both teachers and students at Riversink Elementary," stated Mrs. Roddenberry.

RES also soared when they were one of 18 schools, out of thousands of Title I schools in the state, to present their success story at the ECTAC awards in Orlando, Florida. RES was selected by an ECTAC data analysis team that first identifies Title I schools that are exceeding expectations by showing significant progress in improving student achievement. RES was chosen and then visited by an ECTAC team who interviewed parents, students, and teachers, and did classroom observations. After a careful review of the data and analysis of what they observed, the ECTAC team identified RES as an Award School.

Four teachers from RES were recognized by their peers for being out of this world educators. Wendy McGuire, a first grade teacher, was chosen as one of our Teachers of the Month and Claudia Crotta, a second grade teacher was chosen as the other Teacher of the Month. Connie Cooper, our music teacher, was chosen by the RES faculty as the Teacher of the Year while Jennifer Brooks, our art teacher, was also chosen as Teacher of the Year by another school.

A third grade student at RES, Madalyn Stewart, was one of two state winners of the 2015 Black History Month Art Contest. The 2015 Black History Month Art Contest theme was "A Celebration of African-American Innovation and Innovators" and was open to students in grades kindergarten through three. Madalyn titled her winning entry "Reflections of What Could Be". It depicts a young girl and her dog looking at their reflections in three mirrors as she wonders what she might want to be when she grows up. She sees herself reflected in three different ways from the influences of three great African-American women she read about. Her picture is on display in the RES front office and at the district office.

This truly was a year of stars! The faculty and staff of Riversink Elementary are looking forward to another outstanding year in 2015-16!

## RIVERSINK Elementary



**JACKIE HIGH**  
Principal



# SHADEVILLE

## Elementary



**SUSAN BRAZIER**  
Principal

### "Shadeville – A GREAT PLACE TO TEACH AND LEARN"

"Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort" – Franklin Roosevelt. Always mindful of our school's purpose, direction, and core values that "Every child is a unique individual and therefore, has the right to learn at his or her own developmental level in a child-centered environment", the faculty and staff of Shadeville Elementary continue to be committed to success for all children. We share a common vision of excellence that guides our students to a high level of academic achievement, prepares them to live in a rapidly changing technological world, is mindful of our students' physical well-being, and develops responsible, healthy citizens who are able to go into the world and create fulfilling futures.

Through a strong focus on achieving the goals outlined in our School Improvement Plan, teaching the standards and curriculum in a child-centered and creative environment, as well as hard work and dedication by all stakeholders, the 2014-2015 school year proved to be successful. Shadeville's students continued to meet the rigorous challenges of grade level standards in Florida's public schools through the teamwork of our dedicated faculty, staff, parents, and volunteers. We worked diligently to be able to provide students with quality learning opportunities throughout our school which enabled them to reach for the stars and accomplish their goals.

During the 2014-2015 school year we were proud to welcome Mrs. Carrie Beard to our first grade team, Ms. Claire Knight to our second grade team, and Ms. Kassie Jones to our Exceptional Student Education team. Our school's faculty honored Shadeville's fabulous art teacher Mrs. Jennifer Brooks as the "Shadeville Teacher of the Year". She was also selected to represent Shadeville as the January Wakulla County Teacher of the Month. The faculty also chose Mrs. Cami Bernales, a wonderful second grade teacher to represent them as the September Wakulla County Teacher of the Month. We are very blessed to have teachers of their quality working with our students.

Read, read, and keep on reading! It is our belief that reading is the cornerstone of a high quality education; therefore, our students participated in the following activities to enhance their skills and love of reading: The Grade Level Goal/ Million Word Reading T-shirt program, two wonderful Scholastic Book Fairs, Title I sponsored BINGO for

Books night, "Book – Buddies", on-line books available in the library, computer lab, and classrooms, Time for Kids was purchased for every student, and children participated in Read Across America activities. The Accelerated Reader program continued school wide, and each semester the "AR Store" was open for students to spend the points they had earned reading. Teachers kept a mindful eye on each child's reading progress throughout the year through Discovery Education Assessments and Renaissance Learning – STAR reports. Shadeville's faculty took advantage of the outstanding reading assistance provided through our reading coach Ms. Amy Seidler.

Our students continue to have many opportunities to stand out and shine during the school year through the annual fifth grade Brain Brawl, Geography Bee, and fourth and fifth grade Spelling Bee competitions. Additionally, students shared their accomplishments and talents during the: Holidays Around the World, Kindergarten Circus, Orff Band, Athletic Field Days, Special Olympics, and Positive Behavior System events. Our Physical Education program was enhanced through the assistance of Champions, which is a program sponsored in part through Capital Health Plan and focuses on teaching children to lead an active lifestyle. The faculty continued to place an emphasis on science during the 2014 -2015 school term through hands on lessons provided in the classrooms, web based instruction through United Streaming and Brain Pop, and the annual Project Learning Tree extravaganza. The efforts were coordinated by chairman Michelle Hunter and her team of science loving teachers and staff members. The blast of small rockets could be heard at the "Back 40" of our school property when our 5th grade students further increased their base of science knowledge, understanding, and skills while under the direction of Florida State University's "Science on the Move" presenters. Teachers hosted "Title I - Science Afternoon" in which students and their parents participated in grade level science exploration activities. For the first time a team of Shadeville students participated in Odyssey of the Mind activities directed by Mrs. Seidler and Mrs. Everton. The afterschool enrichment program targeted fourth and fifth grade students. Team Members included: Shelbie Ducharme, Troy Thaxton, Ruby Sexton, Zachary Cierpik, Casey Paarlberg, Samantha Piotrowski, and Blake Wolf.

Keeping an eye on our future citizens and developing good character traits is always on our minds and hearts. Under the direction of School Resource Officer Deputy Crum, fifth grade students participated in the Substance Abuse and Violence Education program (S.A.V.E.) sponsored in partnership with the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office. In September, students raised money to support the Wakulla County Senior Citizens. October brought "Red Ribbon Week" activities which also promoted a healthy drug free life style. Students participated in cyber-safety and anti-bullying activities through our school's guidance program. November was the Student Council's canned foods drive for Thanksgiving. Ms. Simurra, guidance counselor, believes in teaching students by doing, so last year she developed the Peace Keepers Club, which is a group of students whose goal is to make the school's environment a kinder place for learning.

Once again we were blessed by the many parents, family, and community members who work with us to meet the challenges provided by the 21st

Century. Because of their continuous support our school earned the "Golden School Award" for volunteer hours given, and our annual Fall Festival was a huge success. The funds are used for a variety of instructional projects. Many thanks to the enthusiastic CVFD Volunteer Fire Fighters and Wakulla Fire Fighters who took time out of their busy schedules to educate our primary students about fire safety during Fire Prevention Week. We would also like to thank the many, many parent and grandparent classroom, book fair, PBS and Million Word Reader celebration, and AR store volunteers who continuously give of their time and talents at our school ensuring our students get the help and hugs they need to succeed. You just never know how or when you might influence the life of a child positively!

The educational journey of Shadeville's students, faculty, staff, and administration during the 2014 – 2015 school year was an exciting and sometimes challenging time, built on a "Commitment to Excellence", an understanding of child development, and a belief that team work makes the "Warriors Dream Work" for all involved.





At Riversprings Middle School, academic rigor is a vital component in all facets of the student's education. RMS also has a rich heritage of academic excellence, strong community support and is a leader in middle school education. The school began operation in 2000 as a result of population growth in the county. The practice of past reflections combined with annual development of new goals makes the School Improvement process a part of the day-to-day lifeblood of our school. We are committed to our mission and provide for every student who passes through our hallways.

Mr. McBrayer was our 2015 Teacher of the Year. Mr. McBrayer holds a Bachelor of Science in Math Education from Florida State University. He is certified in Mathematics, Social Studies, Science and Language Arts. He has taught all levels of middle school math and social studies. Mr. McBrayer has consistently demonstrated his support of our students' academic achievements by positive encouragement and incorporating AVID strategies in his everyday routine. On top of being a dedicated teacher, Mr. McBrayer has been the girls' soccer coach for 11 years.

Reading is fundamental to life, and here at RMS we are doing all we can to encourage students to be lifelong readers. This year we set up a reading rewards program and encouraged all teachers and students to read, read, read. Several teachers started challenging the students to top their personal word count with that of the teachers. The school rewards students throughout the year with various celebrations. Students who read one million words are rewarded with t-shirts and recognized during afternoon announcements. We have expanded our reading selections from having only a list of 15 Sunshine State Reader books to a list of 60 books available for the students to choose from to reach their 15 book goal. RMS students set a goal for 2014-15 to read one million words. 113 students achieved that and more, with 60 students reading all 15 of the Sunshine State Books. The RMS Bears read 385,621,345 words last year!

When can students learn to become organized, work as cooperative teams to support each other in challenging classes, and focus on a goal to attend college? In the RMS AVID class, that's where! AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a program promoting student success strategies that has been working for over 30 years. Last year, students were identified in sixth and seventh grades and interviewed for placement in the AVID elective class. We saw the incredible impact first hand and in 2015-2016 will be providing a 6th, 7th, and 8th grade AVID program.

AVID students develop "best practice" strategies for success, including maintaining an organized binder so they are prepared for their classes and taking Cornell Notes that require students to think about their class content and "capture" what they learned in a summary. The purpose in the middle school level AVID class is to create a foundation for academic success that will continue in the WHS AVID program. RMS has taken AVID by the reins and incorporated the program school wide. This has attracted many schools around the state to visit our campus to see successful AVID strategies in full force. Throughout 2015-2016, RMS will be completing the final steps to becoming the only middle school in Florida north of the Orlando area, to be an AVID demonstration school.



**MICHELLE YEOMANS**  
Principal

The Riversprings Band performed in either the Musical Educators National Conference (MENC) All State Band or Musical Educators National Conference (MENC) All State Honor Band for the 6th consecutive year. Not only did the Bear Band have the largest number of band students qualify and perform in the Big Bend All District Honor Band than any other middle school, they were the only middle school to receive straight superior ratings at the Florida Bandmaster's Association District Evaluation! Go Bears; Go Band!



Each year RMS students learn hands-on about living in Florida's environment. Riversprings Middle School, The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), Wakulla Springs State Park, the Florida Department of Environment Protection (DEP) and Florida State University partner each year to help students learn about our environment and ways to protect it. The Living in Florida's Environment (LIFE) Program complements the science curriculum for each grade level. Students in the 6th grade attended a field trip in October to Wakulla Springs State Park where they stepped into a classroom without walls to learn about environmental science through interactive lessons and hands-on activities. The students were involved in three labs where they conducted experiments in bird watching, water quality, and macro-invertebrate sampling. Students in the 7th grade also attended the field trip to Wakulla Springs State Park, and 8th graders took a look at geological features at Leon Sinks. The goal of the LIFE program is to help students become aware and appreciative of the environment so that it may be preserved for future generations.





# WAKULLA

## Middle School



**RICK MYHRE**  
Principal

With all the 2014-2015 school year changes at Wakulla Middle School, the Wildcats were poised for another banner year under the leadership of first year Principal Rick Myhre and Dean of Students Amy Bryan. The Wildcats continued along the path of success set forth by the many years of excellence, established by the legacy of the tremendous school leaders who came through Wakulla Middle School.

A major component of our success is the AVID Program. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination and is a program that helps middle level students gain the necessary skills to be successful in Advanced Placement courses and eventually college. Wakulla Middle is a Nationally Certified AVID School and each classroom throughout the school demonstrates AVID strategies, not just the AVID elective course. The AVID program also stresses the importance of providing rigorous courses for students and WMS does not fail to meet this directive. AVID students from both 7th and 8th grade took a college tour of Tallahassee Community College and Florida State University.

One of the many excellent opportunities that Wildcat students took advantage of was completing courses for high school credit. In 2014-15, Wakulla Middle School offered a wide variety of high school level courses, ranging from science, to math, to computers. This was the first year that Geometry I Honors was offered in the 8th grade as a course to follow 7th grade Algebra I Honors.

Reading continues to be a top priority at Wakulla Middle School. Many reading incentives are offered throughout the year as students made progress toward their goal. During the 2014-2015 school year, WMS students read a combined total of over 481 million words. More than 151 students read over one million words by the end of the year, with our top reader, Kelsey Smith, having close to 11 million words. The million word readers received a special recognition t-shirt and engaged in water balloon warfare with the teachers and administration on the last day of school, showcasing the exciting culture of avid readers we have on campus.

As with every year, the students continued the tradition of academic excellence and success. There are many talented individuals at Wakulla Middle School and top honors were given out at the eighth grade awards ceremony. Headstart Scholarships to Tallahassee Community College were awarded to Taylor Rowan, Lincoln Porter, Shea Harrington, Sydney Rentz, and Kendall Taylor. The Honor Court included Eleanor Darnell, Harrison Hoover, Katie Hutto, Jaquesha Jefferson, Faith Joiner, Hunter Lawhon, Brianna Poole, Taylor Rowan, Talia Smid, and Kendall Taylor. Katie Hutto was named Laureate with the highest grade point average and Faith Joiner had the second highest as Oracle. WMS is very proud of all their hardworking students.

Wakulla Middle School students not only excelled at academics but also in extracurricular activities. The Wildcat Football Team finished with yet another undefeated season and was named County Champions for the second consecutive year. The WMS girls' basketball team had a terrific season on the court and competed in the first conference championship game. The student athletes at Wakulla Middle School were fierce competitors on the field and in the classroom. Another fantastic opportunity for the students is our drama program under the leadership of Alex Kauffman. They performed the timeless classic "Wizard of Oz." Cast and crew spent months preparing set designs, costumes, and rehearsing lines. The play was spectacular and the students of Wakulla Middle School definitely showcased their dramatic talents. Students also have the opportunity to participate in other groups such as Students Working Against Tobacco, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Junior Honor Society, Band, Brain Brawl, Student Council, Yearbook, and a student newspaper.

The teachers and staff are the foundation of success at WMS. Excellent teachers are the norm at Wakulla Middle School but only two could be chosen as the Teachers of the Month. Physical Education teacher and coach Eddie Metcalf was selected along with the guidance counselor and new Associate Dean of Student Services Catherine Cutchen as two excellent representatives. Both teachers are AVID site team members and are known for their ability to connect with their students. Becky Thomas received the distinct honor of being named Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Thomas is involved in many aspects of the school, including being the school librarian, leading many of the reading incentives that are offered to students throughout the year, and putting together the school yearbook. In addition to great teachers, Wakulla Middle School is also fortunate to have wonderful staff and volunteers. Lee Peck, the anchor of the front office, was selected as Employee of the Month. Tom Dunaway volunteers most of his days during the week at Wakulla Middle School spending the majority of his time with 6th graders on the Tigers Team. "Poppa Tom" was awarded Volunteer of the Year for the entire state of Florida. After many years of service to the students and staff at WMS, Larry Shiver our hardworking maintenance foreman was set to retire at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year. He will be dearly missed at the school, but will always be part of the Wildcat family.





Last year was another successful year of firsts for Wakulla High School: largest student population in school history, record numbers of industry certifications and dual enrollment, and our first WHS graduates to receive their high school diploma in addition to their AA degree from Tallahassee Community College.

In our first administration of the ELA (English Language Arts) portion of the Florida Standards Assessments, 10th graders achieved the third highest average score in the state. Wakulla High students also outscored the state in End of Course exams for US History and Geometry, coming in third in the state in Algebra 2. Numbers continued to rise in our dual enrollment programs offered both on campus and at TCC, FAMU, and FSU. Two hundred seventy-three students took advantage of available college classes while 274 opted to complete the rigor of Advanced Placement courses on campus. Either choice allows students to earn college credit while they are still in high school at no cost to the student or parent.

We are so pleased that our efforts towards expanding our Career and Technical Department have shown great merit. Nearly half of the 250 WHS graduates earned one or more industry certification reflected on their diplomas with a Merit designation. Through a partnership with Lively Technical Center, Wakulla's Welding Program completed its first year and students are earning hours toward certificate programs for welding jobs in the high wage/high demand category.

Wakulla's Automotive Program had its first group of 19 graduating students from their two-year program. All 19 earned a certificate of course completion from Lively in Automotive Maintenance & Light Repair, with hours earned in high school transferable to Lively. Over half of our graduates passed the Industry Technician Certification Test and are certified as per Florida DOE in Automotive Maintenance & Light Repair.

Impressive numbers from 2014-2015 include the WHS Medical Academy, with 63 undergraduate students earning their First Responder credential and 23 graduating also with their state board Certified Nursing Assistant license. Last year was an exciting year for Wakulla High School's Engineering Academy. Forty-three students earned the Autodesk Inventor software certification, where they work on high level designing and problem solving using math and computer skills. Sixteen students completed the second year Project Lead the Way course Principles of Engineering. These students learned to design, assemble, and develop computer software for microprocessor-based autonomous vehicle navigation and other challenging robotic applications. Approximately 25 students completed the third year Engineering Academy courses, a two semester sequence taught through Tallahassee Community College's Center for Advanced Manufacturing. We are pleased to share that students learned to use our Makerbot Replicator 3D Additive Manufacturing printer and the Makerbot 3D laser digitizer, an awesome addition to the resources available to our Engineering Academy.

Wakulla High continues to offer opportunities to explore the arts in high school. Under the direction of Lindsey Sparkman, our drama department performed the musical "Grease". Students who had never thought of performing before, sang and danced this fifties Broadway hit to sell-out crowds. Dramatis Personae competed in Niceville at this year's District Competition. Five were awarded a Superior and advanced to the State level.

For the sixth year in a row, the Marching War Eagle Band received a superior rating at Marching Music Performance Assessment. This was made even more special by receiving Straight Superiors, a superior rating in every category from every adjudicator. The WHS Winter Guard received a superior rating at their district assessment while the Concert Band and Jazz Band received an overall excellent rating, the highest ever by a Concert Band at WHS. The WHS Wind Ensemble, our school's premiere performing ensemble, received straight superiors at District. They followed that with an overall Superior Rating at State Concert MPA. A proud first, Wakulla received a superior at State two consecutive years. WHS had 29 people accepted into the All District Band, the most from any school, and approximately 150 overall superior medals for District and State Solo and Ensemble festivals.



The WHS chorus had one student, Destiny Phillips, selected to participate in the statewide Florida Choral Directors Association High School Mixed Honor Chorus. During the holidays, soloists from the high school performed at the Toys for Tots Event in the Park in Crawfordville. Our school's chorus also represented Wakulla well at the 2015 Music Performance Assessment Contest with an Excellent Stage Rating and a Superior sightreading rating. Finally, we had group of students chosen to sing with the Florida State Women's Chorus last year in their spring concert in April.

Encouraging our service-minded students to get involved, WHS's Rotary-Interact Club members performed over 600 hours of volunteer service last year, lending a hand at district events, community celebrations, state fundraisers, and even international projects. Interact's work for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society earned WHS the Lifesaver Award and Top Fundraising School designation for our area. The year concluded with five senior members winning over \$2,000 in scholarship funding -- well-deserved recognition of their demonstration of service above self.

Students earned their required club service through a variety of projects, including a sneaker donation for Special Olympic Athletes, free after-school tutoring and cell phone donations, Ziggedy.com referrals, Relay-for-Life, selling baked goods after school and other holiday functions during the school year.



Wakulla High added its own on-campus WeatherStem last year. This can be used by the citizens of our county to receive accurate local weather reporting and by coaches at all schools to detect lightning and plan accordingly. Science teacher, Logan Crouch, conducted training for teachers on how to use the weather data in classrooms.

Wakulla High's sports programs continued to lead the way with the junior varsity football team concluding its fourth consecutive undefeated season and stretching their winning streak to 37 games in a row over five seasons. The men's weight lifting team won the Big Bend weightlifting championship for the fourth consecutive year and for the ninth time in the last ten seasons. The team sent five competitors to the state tournament, which was the highest number in the Big Bend area. Also, the wrestling team won the Regional Championship, with seven state qualifiers and three state placers. Thank you to all of our hard working teachers, administrators, staff members, students and parents for a monumental year.

# WAKULLA High School



MIKE BARWICK  
Principal



## WAKULLA ADULT & Community Ed



**DOD WALKER**  
Director of Adult, Athletic  
and Diversity Recruitment  
Programs.



**MIKE CROUCH**  
Principal of Sopchoppy  
Education Center

During the course of the 2014-2015 school year, the Adult Education Program continued to grow in the three main areas of focus: Adult Basic Education with GED Preparation, Adults with Disabilities and Certified Nursing Assistant training.

The opening of the new Wakulla County Testing Center was a major highlight of the 2014-15 school year. Opening in August of 2014, the Testing Center ushered in the era of online GED testing in Wakulla. It was met with great enthusiasm and support from the community. Adult Education secretary Misty Taylor is the primary Testing Center staff member. Her hard work helped dozens of Wakulla County citizens achieve the life goal of a high school diploma. During the course of the year, over 100 adults participated in Adult Basic Education and GED Prep and over 70 complete GED tests were administered.

Under the direction of Theresa Hernandez and Joann Hernandez, the Wakulla County Adults with Disabilities (AWD) program had another successful school year. Through the generosity of some of the WCSB district staff, the adult students proudly sported white shirts with the Legacy Café logo each time they served meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays. One of the major changes to the program was the expansion to three days. Students who could provide their own transportation could attend on Wednesday to work in the Legacy Boutique to catch up on creating items to sell. Students were also taught to use the laundry facilities in the Legacy Café. A major supporter of the AWD program was Myrtle Hoffman with the Wakulla Hospice. She utilized the students' work from the Legacy Boutique to purchase items throughout the year. In May, the students were treated to a field trip to St. Marks Wildlife Refuge. Volunteers Neil Hostnick and Gladys Kilgore took the class on an in-depth guided tour of the refuge via tram. Armed with their cameras, the students snapped photos of pristine landscapes and undisturbed wildlife. This 'off the beaten path' tour by tram enabled the group to view nature at its finest. All in all, the AWD program continues to thrive and grow.

The Wakulla Adult Education Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Program had a great 2014-2015 school year. The program graduated 16 students, 10 in the fall semester, and 6 in the spring. The program included 130 hours of combined classroom and clinical instruction each semester. The clinical instruction took place at Eden Springs, where students interacted with, and assisted in the care of residents. The students also volunteered at Eden Springs for the 2014 Senior Prom, and they provided Blood Pressure screenings at both the Senior Center and the Women's Event held at the Community Center. Many former students currently work in Long Term Care and private duty settings. The staff and Faculty of Wakulla Adult Education look forward to a fantastic 2015-16.



## WAKULLA Preschool



**LAURA KELLY**  
Principal

2014 - 2015 was another exciting, successful and prosperous year at Wakulla and Sopchoppy Pre-K. The Knights of Columbus conducted their annual Tootsie Roll Drive and donated the proceeds to Wakulla Pre-K. In addition, Pre-K was on the receiving end of a Community Connection Grant sponsored by the South Monroe Branch of Wells Fargo.

The Fall Book Fair sponsored the Grandparents Luncheon in September which allowed grandparents to eat lunch with their grandchildren and then visit the Book Fair. Students helped to raise money for the Senior Citizens Center (Silver for Seniors Donation Drive) by dressing up as Super Heroes, sporting CRAZY Hair and enjoying ice pops Fridays during the month of September. Johnny Appleseed Day was celebrated with outdoor centers which included face painting, apple bobbing and printing, relay races, Apple Jacks necklaces, and of course home-made apple juice.

A record-breaking number of parent volunteers and District staff participated in Trunk or Treat. In December, Tina Fleming was selected as Teacher of the Month. February's Family Fun Day had perfect weather and outstanding attendance and participation and raised slightly over \$11,000. March proved to be equally exciting and fun as we celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday Week by eating Green Eggs and Ham, dressing as a Dr. Seuss Character, and creating memorable Seuss crafts. The year concluded with students being recognized for Perfect Attendance by retired Shadeville school secretary, Dorothy Triplett. Wakulla Pre-K is indeed the happiest place on earth.





# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

In 1991, the School Improvement and Accountability Act established School Advisory Councils in Florida comprised of parents, teachers, community members, school staff and students. The groups at each school work cooperatively to develop a School Improvement Plan every year for their schools. With increased standards and accountability for schools, students were assessed by the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA, including End of Course Exams). Although we are waiting the outcome of new cut-scores for achievement for FSA exams, these tests have provided an important piece of our accountability puzzle. We are dedicated to increasing our student achievement for 2015-2016.

## VOLUNTEERS LEND A HELPING HAND

Successful volunteer programs are critical to the vitality of the school system and the continued success of our students. Volunteers provide extra hands and loving hearts that assist and support our students, teachers, and staff throughout the district.

Volunteers are involved at every level of the educational process in Wakulla. Each year volunteers break new ground as they discover more ways to serve our students and build our community. During the 2014/15 school year, over 1125 volunteers logged 17,895 hours in service to our schools. Five of these volunteers served as mentors to individual students. The time and effort of these dedicated volunteers served to sustain and enhance the academic achievement of all of our students.

Across the district, volunteers worked in classrooms and hallways helping individual or small groups of students with their studies. Some served by shelving books in media centers, assisting students in school clinics, speaking to classes, demonstrating career skills, mentoring students, or helping with clerical tasks. Still others helped supervise field trips and participated in fund-raising events. The impact of these enthusiastic volunteers was immeasurable.

Our need for volunteers and mentors is ever present. If you are interested in volunteering or in becoming a mentor, please call a school, contact the district office or visit [www.wakullaschooldistrict.org](http://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org) and click on Volunteer/Mentor at the top to find ways that you can help.

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARD SPONSORS

Tallahassee Community College Scholarships  
TCC Board of Trustees Scholarship  
TCC District Scholarship  
TCC Ambassador Scholarship  
TSMUN Scholarship  
Community Scholarships  
St.Marks Powder Scholarship  
Rotary Club of Wakulla Interact Scholarships  
National Honor Society  
Wakulla County Recreation Board Scholarship  
Brian Parsons Memorial  
Crawfordville Elementary Scholarship  
Crawfordville Elementary Scholarship  
Riversprings Middle Scholarship  
Crawfordville Woman's Club  
Wakulla Academic Boosters Scholarships  
Henry Vause Vocational Scholarship  
Henry Vause Vocational Scholarship  
Henry Vause Vocational Scholarship  
Henry Vause Vocational Scholarship  
Guy H. Hudson Scholarship  
Grady F. McKenzie Scholarship  
Frank Snyder Memorial Scholarship  
Wakulla Men's Association Scholarship  
Keiser Memorial Scholarship  
Gilbert Memorial Scholarship  
Distler Golf Scholarship  
AnitaTownsend Nursing Scholarship  
Bonner Vocational Scholarship  
Brann Vocational Scholarship  
Townsend Vocational Scholarship  
McKenzie Vocational Scholarship  
Paul Dubay Memorial Scholarship  
Alexander/ Pearce Memorial Scholarship  
A. L. Porter Memorial Scholarship  
Roger Stokley Memorial Scholarship  
Wakulla Cattlemen Scholarship  
Wakulla County Elected Officials Scholarship  
McKenzie Star Scholarship  
Veasman Star Scholarship  
Optimist Club Star Scholarship  
W. C. Dodson Scholarship  
Koelliker Memorial Scholarship  
Don White Memorial Scholarship  
WCABA Headstart Scholarships  
Wakulla Academic Boosters Scholarship  
Optimist Club Annual Scholarship  
Wakulla Men's Association Annual Scholarship  
Elsie Schulte Annual Scholarship  
Pee Wee Vause Annual Scholarship  
Wakulla County Realtors Association Scholarship  
Wakulla County Realtors Association Scholarship  
Wakulla County Realtors Association Scholarship  
Arts Scholarships  
Wakulla Arts Coalition Scholarships  
Dramatis Personae Theatre Scholarship  
WHS AVID Scholarships  
WHS AVID Academic Scholarship  
WHS AVID Student of the Year Scholarship  
WHS AVID Ambassador Award  
WHS AVID Volunteer of the Year

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## ATTENDANCE

Florida school law requires each parent of a child from six to sixteen years of age to be responsible for the child's school attendance. The law allows absences for illness and certain other special circumstances. During the 2014-2015 school year, average student attendance was 93.42 percent district wide.

Every effort is made by the schools to encourage student attendance. Incentives for attendance include special activities and awards. It is the responsibility of the parents to notify the school when their child will not be in attendance.

## INSTRUCTIONAL AND NON-INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF COUNT FOR DISTRICT

	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Administrative	26	26	26	25	26	28
Certified Employees, Instructional	348	350	346	344	346	357
Paraprofessionals	97	102	96	90	90	96
Clerical/Secretarial	49	54	52	52	51	53
Service Workers	147	140	138	138	138	136
Other Professional	7	4	4	10	11	11
Total Full Time	674	676	662	659	662	681

## NON DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The following policy applies to students, applicants for admission, employees, and applicants for employment:

The School Board of Wakulla County, Florida does not discriminate in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, marital status, disability, genetic information for applicants and employees, or any other reason prohibited by Federal and State law regarding non-discrimination. See 34 C.F.R. 100.6(d); 34 C.F.R. 106.9; 34 C.F.R. 110.25.

In addition, the School Board provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. See 34 C.F.R. 108.9.

Disabled individuals needing reasonable accommodations to participate in and enjoy the benefits of services, programs, and activities of the School Board are required to notify the administrator at the school/center at which the event or service is offered to request reasonable accommodation in advance.

The designated Title IX and Section 504 Compliance Coordinator as required by 34 C.F.R. 100.6 (d) is Karen J. Wells, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327; 850.926.0065; karen.wells@wcsb.us.

Wakulla County Schools  
Committed to Success  
Wakulla

## SCHOOL/PROGRAM ENROLLMENT FOR DISTRICT

	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Crawfordville Elementary	612	602	595	562	569	612
Riversink Elementary	428	456	446	456	475	460
Shadeville Elementary	684	690	674	607	583	580
Medart Elementary	580	570	546	510	498	502
Riversprings Middle School	492	515	548	558	566	499
Wakulla Middle School	544	577	585	600	603	568
Wakulla High School	1135	1206	1176	1229	1221	1300
District Drop-Out Prevention Prog.	51	45	53	32	62	45
District Pre-K Program	392	319	297	310	317	389
Total	4981	4980	4920	4864	4894	4910



# SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES

## EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

The Wakulla County School System provided services to students with disabilities from three years of age through age twenty-one. Students meeting program eligibility were provided with services and a continuum of specialized instruction based on individual needs. The Legacy Café was open to the community two days per week and provided hands on vocational training for students in all facets of restaurant operation. The Legacy Boutique featured handmade cards, crafts and gifts created by the students in the Adults with Disabilities program.

Focus on Ability Day in October spotlighted the musical talents of students from each school at the One Stop Community Center, and was a celebration of the unique skills that make each of us who we are. Agencies such as Family Network on Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation, Project 10, and Florida Diagnostic Learning Resource Systems provided families with program information.

Special Olympics continued to involve students in games at the district, regional and state levels. Project Unify was a new branch of Special Olympics that teamed general education and ESE students in cheerleading and basketball to play side by side.

## STUDENT SERVICES

The school district provided a full time licensed clinical social worker to oversee mental health services and coordinate community programs to insure that resources were available to students at all levels. A family education night was held in May to help parents understand typical concerns of students transitioning to middle/high school and when to seek help. Speakers from Florida State Multidisciplinary Center, Wakulla County Sheriff's Office, and Tallahassee Memorial Family Practice provided guidance from physiological, psychological and social perspectives. Representatives from Refuge House, DISC Village, Wakulla County Health Department, Apalachee Mental Health, NAMI, One Stop Community Center and Capital City Youth Services provided information on additional services available to students and families.

## HEALTH SERVICES

The Wakulla County School Board continued its partnership with the Wakulla County Health Department through a collaborative agreement, providing health services in school centers, flu immunizations to students and staff, dental services to pre-K and elementary students and programs on healthy nutritional choices. All Wakulla County School sites became tobacco free zones, including the JD Jones Stadium, through joint partnerships such as SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco).

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

With a growing emphasis on the need for an educated workforce in all areas, the tie-in of academic skills needed on the job continued. Elementary students explored career awareness through school-based enterprises, guest speakers, career days, and field trips. Middle school students participated in career exploration and interest inventories through guidance and had more extensive career days. Career and Technical Education program completers in the 12th grade worked at jobs in the areas for which they were trained, earning high school and also college credits. Career and Technical Education programs included Accounting, Culinary Arts, Web Design, Carpentry, Digital Design, TV Production, health care through the Wakulla High School Medical Academy, the Engineering Academy, Automotive Technology and our new Welding partnership with Lively Technical Center. Those programs helped students earn over 325 industry certifications grades 8 through 12 for 2014-2015. Exceptional Education students had a comprehensive career preparation curriculum with all special diploma students receiving on-the-job training.

## DROP OUT PREVENTION

During the school year, the school district continued to operate prevention programs for students at risk of dropping out of school. The Early Head Start Program provided pregnant teens and teen parents with childcare to help them stay in school. The intervention program at Sopchoppy Education Center gave students in grades 6-12 an alternative to suspension and/or expulsion and helped students with a Credit Recovery program to earn back failed classes. In addition, an alternative high school setting let students who fell behind their peers earn a regular diploma on time through the Performance-Based Exit Option Diploma program.

## GUIDANCE/PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Each school had an Intervention Support Team (IST) in place to help each teacher create a 'watch list' of students in need of instructional and behavioral supports. Tiered Plans were written to provide interventions at varying levels of intensity and frequency based on individual student needs. Training was provided to teachers on behavioral interventions and developing appropriate plans through Automatic RtI. The Florida State Multidisciplinary Center continued to provide psychological and mental health services and school counselors at each site provided group and individual guidance in areas such as career education, social skill development, assessment, transition, new student orientation, conflict resolution, and students and families were also referred to community agencies for additional services.

## TITLE I

Title I is a federally funded program designed to provide supplemental services to improve the achievement at schools with a high percentage of students eligible for free and reduced lunches. Title I initiatives are closely aligned with School Improvement Plans. In 2014-2015 instructional equipment and materials were purchased to motivate students and provide opportunities for students to learn through the use of technology.

Title I recognized the importance of parental involvement and provided opportunities for parents to participate in school activities. This program also provided opportunities for teachers and paraprofessionals to participate in research-based staff development activities based on the needs of the students.

# TESTING

Testing/evaluation is an important aspect of the students' academic program in the Wakulla County School System. It provides administrators, teachers, and parents an opportunity to assess how the students compare to other students in Florida and the nation. The results are used to revise curriculum to better meet the needs of the students.

## FLORIDA STANDARDS ASSESSMENT TEST (FSA) NEW FOR 2015

The Florida Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts were approved by the Florida State Board of Education in February 2014 and were implemented in grades K-12 in the 2014-2015 school year. The Florida Standards Assessments include; grades 3-10 English Language Arts (Writing component in grades 4-10), grades 3-8 Mathematics, and Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry end-of-course-exams (EOC). **Achievement level data for the FSA tests is not available at this time.**

## FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT) 2015

The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT 2.0) measures science skills at grades 5 and 8 based on the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS). Students must score a Level 3 or above to be considered proficient on FCAT 2.0.

### SCIENCE

PERCENT SCORING PROFICIENT	WAKULLA	STATE
Grade 5	65	53
Grade 8	49	48

## END-OF-COURSE-EXAMS (EOC)

All students enrolled in an Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and Biology, US History, and Civics are required to take an assessment in the spring of each year. Students must score a Level 3 or above to be considered proficient on an EOC. FSA Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry EOC data is not available at this time.

### 2015 FCAT 2.0 NGSSS END-OF-COURSE-EXAMS

PERCENT SCORING PROFICIENT	WAKULLA	STATE
Biology EOC	74	65
U.S. History	67	66
Civics	67	65

## AMERICAN COLLEGE TEST 2014-2015

The American College Test (ACT) is one major test used for college admission.

	WAKULLA	STATE
English	18.9	18.9
Math	19.8	19.6
Reading	21.5	21.0
Science	20	19.5
Composite	20.1	19.9

### 2014 GRADUATION RATE

Wakulla High School: 81.7%  
State: 76.1%

