

## Jasper City Schools



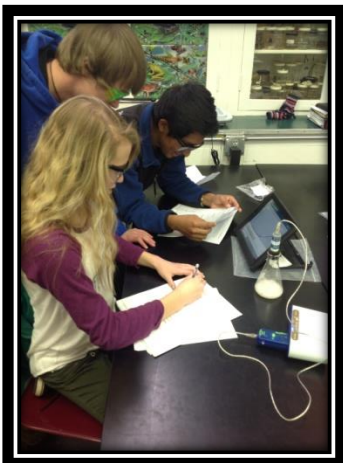
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### JCS 1:1 iPad Initiative Enters Second Year in Jasper Schools

Following the 2013 launch of the JCS 1:1 iPad Initiative in the Jasper City Schools, students and teachers continue to expand use of iPad technology in Jasper schools. During the 2013-2014 year, students in grades 3 through 8 experienced online benchmark assessments taking place on their own iPads. While the State Department of Education made possible the *Performance Series* and *Achievement Series* assessment options to determine student placement and diagnose student learning for appropriate instructional planning, the Jasper City Board of Education made possible the technology devices that allowed students to test individually in their own classrooms.

Veteran WHS teacher Beth Kennedy has just moved into the role of Technology Integration Specialist for Jasper City Schools. She recently shared just some of the ways iPads have revolutionized the teaching of Advanced Placement Biology at Walker High School.



iPads are incorporated into the science classroom during AP Biology experiments to collect and analyze data. The students are able to use a Bluetooth connection to interface their iPads with Pasco scientific probeware to measure the changing levels of carbon dioxide and oxygen during a cellular respiration experiment. The data is gathered and placed in tables and graphs for the students to examine and analyze the results of their experiments.

## 2014 Seniors Offered More Than Three Million Dollars in Scholarships

2014 Walker High School Seniors were offered more than three million dollars in college scholarships. The group included 190 graduates who received their diplomas on May 23, 2014. Academic scholarships were awarded to 66% of the class, and 92% indicated plans to pursue postsecondary education. Honors diplomas were awarded to 27 students. Three students were ranked #1 in the class: Madison Redmill, Jacob Runyan, and Dustin Steffan. The class also included 21 students with GPAs of 4.0 or above.



2014 Walker High School Graduating Class

### MPS Leaders Shine

On May 12, 2014, Memorial Park Elementary K-Kids officers attended the weekly Kiwanis Club meeting at Bevill State, where they ate lunch with the club members and participated in the meeting by sharing their service projects for the 2013-2014 school year. The Kiwanis Club then presented K-Kids members with a check for helping to sell the annual Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast tickets.

MPS students recently elected the following SGA officers for the 2014-2015 year: President-Luke Sparkman; Vice-President-Charlie Beth Pruett; Secretary-Cole Kelley; Activities Chair-Jamin Lay and Crimson Kyser; and Sergeant-at-Arms-Hamp Lee.



MPS K-Kids officers received a check from the Kiwanis Club.



2014-2015 MPS SGA Officers

## West Jasper Students Learn in Community Garden

The 2013-2014 year marked another round of season-appropriate learning experiences for WJS students in the school's community garden. Last summer, a University of Alabama student worked to expand the gardens during a two-month summer internship sponsored by UA's New College and the Walker Area Community Foundation.

WJS students have planted everything from cabbage to cucumbers to pole beans in the community garden this spring. The Walker County Health Action Partnership has been instrumental in collaborating with WJS staff and students on the community garden project.

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014, West Jasper Elementary opened its doors for the community to come and see all of the things the kids have growing this season in their garden. Along with visiting the garden, parents, teachers, and relatives received gardening information and were able to pick out seedlings to take home! It was a great day and the kids were so excited to show off their garden and paint garden pavers to help beautify the space.



## T.R. Simmons Elementary Students Spell Way to Success



Sixteen excellent spellers from T.R. Simmons Elementary entered the academic arena known as the Spelling Bee on January 10, 2014. Olivia Harris won the competition. She was the TRS representative in the Walker County Spelling Bee. Second place finisher was Shawn Andrews (both shown below).

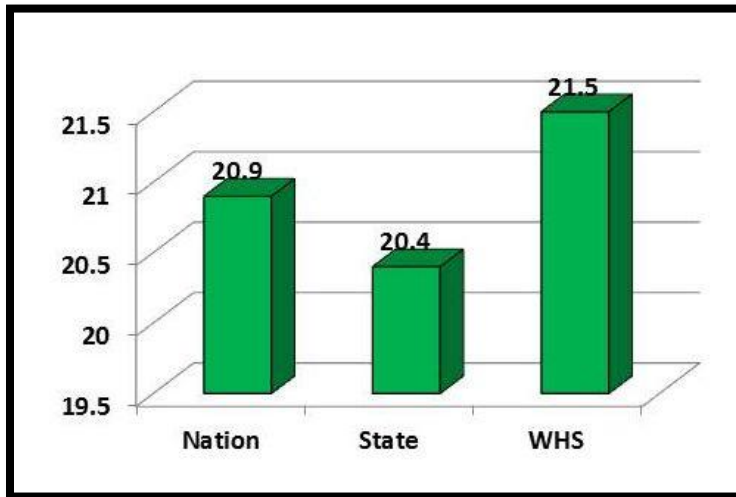


**"Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel."**

**~Socrates**



## ACT Scores Still Above State and National Averages



For more district and school assessment results, visit [www.jasper.k12.al.us](http://www.jasper.k12.al.us) and click on "Assessment and Accountability."

ACT's August, 2013 release of composite scores for the nation's schools, districts, and states showed the 2012-2013 composite score among the 124 Walker High School students who took the ACT was 21.5, which was slightly higher than the 21.3 composite posted by WHS students in 2011-2012. The 2012-2013 composite was also higher than the national composite of 20.9 and the state composite of 20.4.

**Just Saying . . . Congrats to Our Own!**

Jacob Runyan	Named Regional winner of Bryant-Jordan Scholar Athlete Award
WHS Competition Cheer Team	Placed 6 <sup>th</sup> in UCA Southeast Regional Competition, and were 5A runners-up in AHSAA state competition
WHS Football	Named 5A Region 6 Champs
Dr. Jean Lollar	Named 2014 recipient of National Association of Federal Education Programs Administrators (NAFEPA) State Leadership Award for Alabama
Lisa Mellott	JCS Secondary Teacher of the Year; MMS Teacher of the Year
Tyra Beaird	JCS Elementary Teacher of the Year; TRS Teacher of the Year
Teresa Kitchens	WHS Teacher of the Year
Sharon Abbott	MPS Teacher of the Year
Amanda Chesser	WJS Teacher of the Year
Maddox Middle School	Selected for Elite 8 in Alabama Middle Grades Leadership Academy
WHS Jazz Band	Awarded all superior ratings at Mobile Jazz Festival; won "best rhythm" section; Austin Meadows named "best trumpet soloist"

**"Live as if you were to die tomorrow; learn as if you were to live forever."**

~Gandhi

## ACT 30+ Students Recognized at WHS



At the Jasper City Board of Education meeting on May 5, 2014, Walker High School students who have scored 30 or higher on the ACT were recognized. These students have ACT scores that place them in the top 5% of all students who take the ACT nationally and are members of the WHS 30+ Club.

Students honored were as follows: *Top Left to right:* Kylie Waid, Ryan McKay, Alexandra Page, Shelby Wesley, Madison Redmill, Dustin Steffan, Lucas Johnson, Carson Chambers, Logan Norris, Ethan Freeman, Ned Sanders.

*Front Row L to R:* Hannah Langlois, Liam Punton, Jacob Runyan, Alyssa Knight, Callie Cross, Jean Paul Osula, Noah Naden.

## Walker High Band Aces State Assessment



At the Alabama State Music Performance Assessment (MPA) in Florence, Alabama in March, 2014, the Walker Symphonic Band made all superior ratings "with distinction," which is the highest rating possible. The WHS Band was one of only 2 Bands out of 49 to achieve this rating.

## 2014 JCS Technology Winners

Based on performance in district competition, Maddox Middle School had 14 students to earn a spot at the state technology competition. Of those 14 students, each one placed 1st or 2nd in district competition in one of the following areas: informational technology, web design or general applications.



From T. R. Simmons Elementary School, 14 students competed in the West Regional Technology Fair. Nine of those students earned a total of 10 medals and qualified for state competition. All nine students who received a medal qualified for the ACTE State Fair in April.



In district competition, all WJS students medaled in their category. In Multimedia, Aiden Hitchcock, Treyvon Stewart, Amia Porter, and Brandon Tidwell placed first. Coming in first in Web Page Design were Lillie Montgomery, Samatha Taylor, Jonathan Curtis and Keirstan Clay. The Robotics Team consisting of Logan Duncan, Adam York, Jason Johnson and Matt King placed second, as did Tyquasia Mercer and Brianna Nimock in Video Production, and Kaitlyn Edgil, Erica Stallter, and Rae Ann Hall in Web Page Design. Brodie Vinson and Justin Ascar also placed second in the Multimedia category. Adam York placed second on the IT test.



**The West Jasper Elementary  
"Soaring With the Seven Habits"**  
student team won second place in the  
video production category at the State  
Technology Conference in Montgomery,  
Alabama. Members working on that project  
were Aiden Hitchcock, Amia Porter, Brandon  
Tidwell and Treyvon Stewart.



From West Jasper Elementary, Adam York brought home the third place trophy from state competition for his performance on the Information Technology (IT) test. Adam earned this honor by scoring high on a general technology knowledge test.

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## **AdvancED Gives JCS District Positive Report**

After a thorough examination of the Jasper City Schools on February 2-5, 2014, a five-person AdvancED district accreditation review team presented a positive report to the Jasper City Board of Education at a 2PM meeting of the Jasper City Board of Education on February 5. Lead evaluator Mary Anne Hipp of Lake Charles, Louisiana, told the Board, "You have done extremely well." The school district was recommended for continuing district accreditation.





JCS Financial Update	
For the 7 months ended April 30, 2014:	
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$6,579,966</b>
Every system is required to hold at least one month's operating cost in reserve. For JCS, this amount is \$1,774,542. Our actual reserve is \$6,579,966, which equates to 3.7 months' operating costs.	
Our General Fund balance is \$481,000 over budget through April 30, 2014	
<b>Capital Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$4,503,856</b>



## New Walker High School Project Getting Off the Ground

After months of anticipation, Jasper residents are finally seeing evidence of a new Walker High School becoming a reality. An access road and trees being cut are the first signs of site preparation at the Viking Drive location.

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

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