

The Raider Monthly

May 1, 2019

Laurens County School System's New Leader: Dr. Dan Brigman

Upcoming Events

MAY SCHOOL EVENTS

2nd - Golf at Riverview

6th – Golf at Green Acres

6th-9th – 9th Grade

Volleyball Tryouts at WLHS

7th – Spring Band/Chorus Concert at the OWL

(6:00)

7th - Golf at Green Acres

8th – ELA Part 1 Milestone

9th – ELA Parts 2 & 3 Milestones

10th – Milestone Make-Up

Day 13th – Math Part 1 Milestone

13th – Region Golf at Bleckley

14th – Math Part 2 Milestone

14th - Region Golf at Bleckley

15th – Science Parts 1 & 2
Milestones

(8th grade)

16th – Social Studies Parts 1 & 2 Milestones (8th grade)

16th – FFA Banquet

17th – Milestone Make-Up Day

20th - BETA Club Trip

21st – GA Book Award Party

21st – Honor's Night at WLHS (6:00)

23rd – 8th Grade Field Trip

24th – PBIS Reward Day

27th – Memorial Day Holiday

28th - Connections Finals

29th – ELA Final & Social Studies Benchmark

30th – Math Final & Science Benchmark

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

Dr. Brigman joined us during WIN for an exclusive one-on-one interview. We are very appreciative of the time he took to sit down with our newpaper students!

You may not know that Dr. Brigman was in the Navy before deciding to become a teacher. His mother influenced him greatly as she was a teacher for over thirty years. Throughout his career in education, Dr. Brigman has worked with elementary, middle, and high school students in various roles. At one point, he was able to plan and build a brand new middle school "from paper up." He will soon celebrate his 16th year as a superintendent.

What is your philosophy on education?

"You can't determine a young person's, or child's future based on their current circumstances. Their circumstances are temporary. I was raised by a single parent and grew up in a mobile home park. My mother was earning a wage below the poverty line. But I was blessed with a good mother who worked hard to fill in the gaps. I've been very blessed; none of us (Brigman and his siblings) have been jailed, and we all have good jobs."

Where were you serving previously?

"I have served most of my superintendency in Tennessee and in Decatur, Alabama."

What has been the biggest change between those locations and Laurens County?

"Well, I've worked in inner city environments, and I have worked in very rural environments. And, Laurens County is similar to those rural environments. That has been the biggest change. Believe it or not, it is a blessing to pull out of the parking lot and see cattle across the road. We (my wife and I) are blessed to be here."

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Brigman interview continued

What inspired WIN?

"When I first got here, I asked the principals this question: 'Are we happy with our test performances?' And, of course, we are never happy with our level of performance. So, instead of planning everything based off of lunch periods and athletics, we decided to turn the philosophy around and give students time for remediation and enrichment activities instead of expecting students to stay after school."

What is the reasoning behind the loss of exemptions?

"There were several things. One reason was growth and accountability for testing. But, this isn't an open and shut case. The loss of exemptions is still under review."

Do you feel as though arming teachers has been successful?

"I do. We know that, in the case of an emergency, we are prepared to defend ourselves against a potential threat, and we are blessed that we have not had to use this precaution yet."

What is your proudest accomplishment for Laurens County?

"If I had to pick a specific accomplishment, it would be how hard we have worked to put child literacy as a priority; we have made huge progress in a short amount of time."

What is a future goal for Laurens County?

"My main goal, for the future, is to see the class of 2023 with a 100% high school graduation rate."



Look Whooo's Moving to the OWL 6th Grade Academy



Many people are wondering why the 6th grade is being moved to the OWL. Mr. Waldrep told the newspaper staff all about this situation. He said that it was a space issue and would be very beneficial for us to use the three halls that would be left. These halls and classrooms can be used for meeting rooms, possible WIN classes, special education spaces, labs for science experiments, etc. The 6th graders will have the same connections and same classes but in a different location and possibly different teachers. These students will not have to leave campus or switch campuses at any time of the day. The Board and Mr. Waldrep are still working out a car rider line and bus plan for the 6th Grade Academy and for WLMS to create a smooth drop-off and pick-up for parents. There are some decisions still left to be made about this new venture for the Laurens County School System; however, these changes will ultimately provide a better educational experience for students in our county. The following is some specific information provided to parents and students at the 6th Grade Academy meeting at Southwest Laurens Elementary, which was held Tuesday, April 23.

- All clubs and sports offered at WLMS available to 6th, some club meetings may require walking to the middle school
- Same agendas, rules, and routines as 7th and 8th
- Three busses will leave SW, two busses will leave NW (6th grade only on the busses that go from academy to SW and NW and vice versa), route for car riders is being mapped out but will be available for the **Open House May 21 at 6pm**
- Full cafeteria capabilities, all kids eat free breakfast and lunch
- Full technology capabilities
- WIN will continue at the academy
- Media center will be overhauled, nontraditional, "fully functional learning center," Mrs. Cindy Crawford will be the media specialist
- Full-time resource officer
- Nurse is shared between schools (golf cart transport)
- School hours the same
- Mrs. Kemp (principal) hinted that the name of the school is still negotiable if students would be interested in naming the school something other than "6th Grade Academy."
- Alternative school and Heartland Academy is moving out, but the Career Academy will still
 occupy the other end of the building. 6th will be using 1st, 2nd, and 3rd hallways only.
- Subject-based hallways instead of team-based hallways
- All connections coming to OWL, band too
- 13 homerooms, 27 students per class, 350 students (These are estimates.)
- Everything new, all old things out (A/C, carpet, etc.)
- There are plans for a new middle school to be built in the next three years!



Mrs. Dewanna Kemp 6th Grade Academy Principal

WLMS Student Spotlight: Insha Ratnaní - 8th Grade

Insha Ratnani was chosen as one of our 8th grade student spotlights for this month. We chose her because of her interesting background. She has moved quite a lot. In the last year, she has moved from Uganda, to India, to New York, to Florida, to Atlanta, and finally to Dublin. Many things in Uganda were very different from here. In Uganda, high school started in 7th grade, and they had 18 subjects. They also used the metric system, and she had to switch to America's customary system. Insha says she does not have that much family here, and she misses her family and friends. Even though Uganda had 18 subjects, she liked her school in Uganda better and said many of the learning methods were easier. She says that switching money systems and measurement systems were very hard, and she still gets mixed up about it. Insha has done a great job adjusting, and she is happy living here.



WLMS Student Spotlight Will White – 8th Grade

Will White was also chosen as one of our student spotlights for this month. Will loves to garden and has planted a garden in his back yard! He has cucumbers, butter beans, potatoes, squash, and tomatoes. Will says that his uncle inspired him to start the garden because he had planted one in the same spot last year, and it produced a lot of vegetables. He also enjoys the solitude of gardening because it gets him out of the house and away from distractions and stress. His plans are to eat most of the produce, but he may also sell some it at the Market on Madison in Dublin. He has had some problems getting started (ants, animals, and some wind), but he is working hard to correct those problems. Check out Will's produce at the Market on Madison in the next few months.





"No Smoke"

This year WLMS has had 40 cases dealing with vapes. Way too many! Electronic cigarettes were originally designed as a "healthier" cigarette for adults; however, research shows different. Lots of minors enjoy doing this very addictive product but don't know the real dangers of it. There are many harmful effects of products with nicotine. A few of these dangers consist of a higher risk of using cigarettes when growing older, raises blood pressure, increases the likelihood of having a heart attack, convulsions, vomiting and brain injury, and nicotine poisoning. Vaping has become a new way to "use" cigarettes, but this is NOT a safe way to do so.



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WHAT I NEED

7th Grade Book Club Mrs. Heather Fussell

WLMS Newspaper Staff 8th Grade



Do you love reading? That's what the WIN book club is for! The seventh grade book club has been reading the series The Eighth Day. It is a book about a boy named Jax who learns he has an extra day of the week and magical talent. Jax struggles with his new found abilities and knowledge while having questions about his past. He discovers connections to ancient Arthurian legends and a whole new world he didn't know existed. Mrs. Fussell's class finished the first book earlier this semester, The Eighth Day, and everyone seemed to love the book. One student stated, "I loved the book! It is probably one of the best books I've ever read." The class has just finished the second book, The Inquistor's Mark. They're going to celebrate by having a pizza party. Afterward they will begin the final book, The Marrigan's <u>Curse</u>. In this book they're going to find out what happens to Jax and his clan. This sounds like an exciting class!

EXTENDED BREAK REWARD

*Given every Friday from now until May 23

- > Team leaves the cafeteria clean daily
- ➤ Have 3 or fewer referrals per team for the week
- > Team must have 4 different "Good Deeds" posted in the cafeteria weekly

The eighth grade Newspaper WIN class is a class where we create The Raider Monthly. If you enjoy writing and are interested knowing things before everyone else, then this class is for you! We gather information, write articles, and take pictures. You get to be very creative while working in this class. A very good plus of having this class is that after every newspaper we publish, we have a party. We watch movies, talk, and eat snacks for the whole WIN period for that day. Taylor Singletary said she feels that including a "Spill the Tea" section in the newspaper has been beneficial. "I think it has been a way for students to relieve their drama and stress in a safe, anonymous way." Also Taylor has enjoyed school leaders such as Mr. Waldrep and Dr. Brigman taking the time to come talk with us openly about numerous school issues. The students in this class this year include: Whitney Roady, Lily Baird, Macy Solomon, Bekah McCord, Taylor Singletary, Ryleigh Hartley, and Taylor Upshaw. The teachers who guide us are Mrs.Weeks and Mrs.Kemp.







PBIS "Good Deeds" Recognition 8th Grade









Barbee Bungee Mrs. Garnto's 8th Grade Math Class

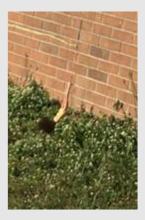


Mrs. Garnto's 8th grade math classes completed the annual Barbie Bungee activity the week before spring break. Students worked in groups to collect data using rubber bands and Barbie dolls or items of their choice. The results of the data were recorded in input/output tables. Students used the information to create scatter plots, lines of best fit, and equations to match the lines of best fit. On jump day, students were given the jump height and asked to determine the number of rubber bands required to give Barbie a safe but thrilling bungee jump. Groups completed presentation boards to display the data, their calculations, and the results of the jump.



















Written By: Your Friend of Faith

Humility

Verse: James 4:6, "God resists the proud, but gives brace to the humble."

Jesus was the perfect example of humility. He was the Son of God, and He walked and was constantly surrounded by sinners. Yet not once did He brag about how much better He was than us. Because Jesus is definitely better than dirty, lying, deceptive sinners like us. He is perfect and flawless. Perfect, yet He walked, talked, ate, drank, and healed all these people who were below Him, unworthy of His presence. Even though Jesus didn't boast about his relation to God, He still showed and shared with people who His Father was with confidence and humility. This proves the difference between confidence and humility.

Quote: "But, there is a think line between confidence and arrogance. It's called humility. Confidence smiles. Arrogance smirks."

You need to have confidence in yourself and be confident when you share God's word. But also be humble enough to realize you are no better than the sinners you are sharing the Bible with. You have sinned before, and that's all it takes to be flawed and imperfect. Wherever you are and wherever you may go remember: "Have enough confidence to hold your head high. And enough humility to not look down on others."

Spill the Tea

- Let's have an end of the school year dance for everyone at the OWL!
- This school needs to appreciate rock music more.
- I prefer someone knocking on the bathroom door rather than jiggling the handle. Jiggling the handle scares me!
- No more littering in the classrooms!
- Don't run, scream, fight, and holler in the hallways! How old are we?
- We want CRCT back! No Milestone! No AR!
- If Fortnite is so popular, why does no one like it?
- Someone needs to bring back Anime and Bend and The Ink Machine. All of us nerds like it.
- How come everyone says,"I like turtles," and "My name is Jeff"? So old school.
- I kinda like map tests.
- How come Securly blocks EVERYTHING!
- Who says cool people are actually cool? I think all of those gossiping girls and athletes just show off.
- The exemptions thing (April Fool's joke) was dumb!
- I found a bug in the cafeteria's strawberries!
- Learn when to give up...it's over.
- We should be able to sit wherever in the lunchroom for the rest of the year!
- Can't wait to leave this place!
- Summer break needs to be longer.
- Our school smells weird.
- Why do we have to take a benchmark, final, and Milestones?
- We need more BTS army! Stan BTS



Freedom In Christ

This time of year is extremely chaotic! We have Easter, Milestones, honors ceremonies, and so many more things that fall into the same time period. If you are a sixth grader, you are so glad that your "Rookie" year is finally over. For you seventh graders, you are looking forward to the fact that you are about to enter the last year of your middle school career. For us eighth graders, we get the excitement of looking high school square in the eyes to say "Ready or not, here we come!!!" All of us are dealing with the bittersweet feeling of moving on at the end of this year. In the days before Jesus was put on the cross, he too had this bittersweet feeling. He knew long before that he would be the one chosen to bear our cross, he knew the pain that he would soon face. Just like he knew that, he knew that even though there would be more pain than could ever be imagined, he would pay the price for every single one of our sins. Why would he choose us, the same people that constantly disobey him, over living a simple life? The answer is unconditional love! There is no love like the love of our father, his love is beyond limitless. John 18:7-8 says "Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they said. Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." Jesus faced death in the eye by willing giving himself up to the Roman Soldiers, he knew that they would take him to the one place where execution would be order for him. He knew that he had not done anything, but he would know pay the price, save the life, for all people that would come after that day. Jesus' execution was ordered, and he was killed. John 19:30 says, "It is finished. With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." When Jesus did they gave Joseph his body, and Joseph prepared a tomb for his body to lay, but on the third day of being concealed in the tomb, he arose! Jesus was ALIVE!!! Jesus being alive is the reason that we have a hope. His life, death, and resurrection is the reason that we live freely. We are all busy. We are all worried about what our Milestone scores will be, but it is important that we never forget that Jesus stopped his life to be put on a cross with nails in his hands and thorns on his head just so we wouldn't have to pay for our mistakes. During times like these especially, we have to let go of our anxiety, problems, or anything else and let God handle our mess.

WEST LAURENS HIGH SCHOOL: The Next Step



High school is just around the corner, and many students are nervous about the change. When you're in high school, you get more freedom. For example, there is no seating chart in the lunchroom; there are no real restrictions on where you can sit except for social restraints. According to one student, lunch is during 3rd period and takes up 30 minutes of your day, but lunch is not the only difference between high school and middle school.

High school also differs academically. The school is on a block schedule. For example, all academic classes are 1 hour and 30 minutes, and students have 5 minutes between each bell. In this system, students take 4 classes per semester that average between 2 core academic classes and 2 electives.

Some additional differences are the sports, like volleyball and dance line are offered. You also have more freedom with your cell phones. Cell phones can be used during non-instructional times. Unlike the cell phone policy, the dress code policy is the same as the middle school. Through all the differences we need to remember a one thing: Don't overthink the difficulty of high school.

Advice to 8th Graders from WLHS 9th Graders:

- Don't be scared because we were all there once.
- Don't wish it away because it goes by faster than you think.
- Don't stress about becoming newbies of the school. We have all been in the position and it's not as bad as you think.
- You will make new friends coming up as a freshman, and they will be just as welcoming as your middle school ones.
- Play all the sports you can, focus on your grades, and don't fall into temptation.
- Don't be the hallway runner.
- If you don't know where you are, then get out of the way!
- Don't stand in the middle of the hall talking!
- Do not be nervous about high school; after the first day, you will be used to it.
- Don't stress about how big the school is; you will know where everything is within a week.
- Be yourself!
- If it's wrong, don't do it.
- Don't be afraid to make new friends.
- Get involved. Join a club or extracurricular activity, but don't do too much.
- Don't be the loud freshman that no one likes.



WLMS Milestone Prep Night

Recently, WLMS parents had the opportunity to participate in our 1st annual Milestone Prep Night. Parents were given a schedule and rotated through their child's grade-level teachers. Each subject gave parents and students valuable information on how to prepare for the upcoming Georgia Milestone exams. At the end of the evening, parents were entered into a raffle where a big-screen t.v., a Flexsteel recliner, and several gift cards were given away. Around 70 parents and students attended. We look forward to making this an annual event!



























WLMS Talent Show

Congratulations to Our Winners:

, 1st Place: Kaylen Cherry 2nd Place: Amaudjae Rozíer

3rd Place: Kathryn Bryan/Brooke Harber



























8th Grade Science Enrichment Field Trip

This year the eighth grade is going on a field trip to Rigby's in Warner Robins on May 23rd. We will be leaving the school at 8:15 in the morning to get there around nine. To be able to attend, you have to meet some requirements. These requirements are:

- No more than 2 office referrals
- Passing all academic classes

Also, you need to pay \$22 to attend. This covers the activities, a slice of pizza, and one drink. If you would like more to eat, you can purchase a school bag lunch or bring your own lunch. Activities included are unlimited bowling time, arcade games, mini golf, laser tag, and skating. If you'd like to use go-karts or buy items at the snack bar, then you can bring more money. If you would like to participate in this eighth grade field trip, \$22 is due on May 10th.



A "Pop'n" Good Time

Eighth grade science classes participated in hands-on learning this week. Students were able to see and feel static electricity produced by a Van de Graaff generator. The students and teachers had fun with this shocking and hair-raising experience!





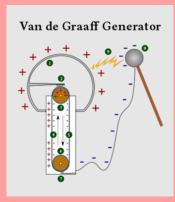












Raider Sports News

WLMS BASEBALL WINS REGION CHAMPIONSHIP Coaches Vic Thigpen, Vaughn Murkerson, & Adam Wood



The baseball team finished the 2019 season with a region championship and a 18-2 record. They defeated Dodge County 12-0 in the first round and defeated Vidalia 7-4 in the championship game. It was a great season. Congratulations to the baseball team and for the 14 eighth graders who finished their middle school career as region champions.







More Raider Sports News

Congratulations, State Track Winners! Coach April Floyd

















***Photo Credits: Yvonne Nesbitt & April Floyd

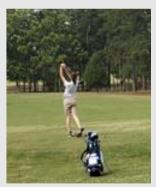
Golf

Scenes from Green Acres Golf Club Coach Matt Taylor











2019-2020 WLMS Color Guard Members Congratulations!

Emma Carter Ziya Stephens Hayden Moad Camaya Mims Jordan Miller Gracie Ritchison Colbie Marchman Emma Mullis Ashlynn Lumley Kaylee Ivey Jasmine Brown Ava Sangster Hidi Kennedy Allyson Allen Torianna Wells Callie Darby Savannah Gilley

Addison Pope



Basketball Banquet

Congratulations, Winners!



William Kellam-Raider Award Riley Sumner-Best Defense Award DJ Taylor-Best Offense Award Rashund Washington-Rookie of the Year Watkinzi Norris-Hustle Award



Rookie Award - Caitlyn Nesbitt
Hustle and Heart Award - Ty'Shiuna Hill
Energizer Award - Tariah Tobler
"Shooter" Award - McKenzie Maddox
Rebounder Award - Kabria Coleman
Raider Award - Ella Miller
"Fearless" Award - Ur'reana Fuller

WLMS Region Tennis Champs!



Special Olympics

The Special Olympics are athetic events for children with special needs from elementary age until they graduate high school. It is simply a time for the kids to get together to participate in sports events that kids are normally able to do. The Special Olympics were held Friday April 12, 2019 at East Laurens High School. They give out 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbions and medals, but all of the children are awarded for being there. All of the WLMS special needs children have an opportunity to go, but attendance isn't mandatory. The children love The Special Olympics, it is, "an amazing time for everybody even the parents. And, we love to see the childrens faces light up while they are there!"



















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Great Job Participants!

Chelsea Butler
Blake Grinstead
Cory King
Senyavian Holsey
Ashanti Lowe
Rachel Belcher
Aiden Souza
Hailey Murphy
Nevaeh Kilgore
Miguel Perez
Madison Fuqua
Addison Jones
Tyler Horne

Earth Day Mrs. Brown & Mrs. Estep's Classes









Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Estep's classes picked up trash around the school to celebrate Earth Day.

2019-2020 WLHS Cheer, Dance Line, & Color Guard Team Members

WLHS Competition Dance Team

Lexi Lowman
Morgan Tucker
Brayleigh Rowland
Ansley Dorm
Kaylin Cherry



WLHS Football Dance Line

Brayleigh Rowland Ansley Dorman Shayena Patel Kaylin Cherry Maleigha Jessup



WLHS Competition Cheer Team

Alana Miller Cami Gay Haydn Harris Makayla Jackson Skylar Barella



WLHS Football Spirit Cheer Team

Macy Solomon
Alana Miller
Lexi Lowman
Cami Gay
Haydn Harris
Kaitlyn Warren
Morgan Tucker
Makayla Jackson
Jaylen Wilson



WLHS Color Guard Team

Lily Baird
Jasmine Buford
Cheyenne Clayton
Kiersten Boston
Katie Woodard
Amie Brantley
Ryleigh Horne
Kira Melton

De'Zhune Jackson

Freshman Runners: McKenzie King Elise Loyd





Blue & White Ball Kighlights...











(Lyle Dorman)



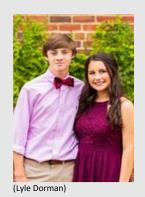


(Angie Slaughter)









(Angie Slaughter)



(Angie Slaughter)

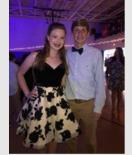






(Lyle Dorman)









Blue & White Ball Kighlights...

















More Pictures on the Laurens County School District Facebook Page.









What's Happening Around WLMS...

Ms. Hadden's 6th grade WIN group read Prisoner B-3087 by Alan Gratz. Another 100% passed the AR test!



Special congratulations are in order for Ansleigh DeLaCruz, a 7th grader at West Laurens Middle School. She was the ONLY student in the Laurens County School District selected to play saxophone in the 2019 South Georgia Region Honor Band on April 4-6 in Warner Robins. Way to go, Ansleigh!



RESA Winners & Banquet

Young Georgia Author — Ellie Ruth Mullis (RESA Champion)

Art — Annette Ngwyen and Kanyon Nix (2nd), Cate Cowart (4th)

Writing — Ansleigh DeLaCruz (2nd) Bryson Ortega (2nd) Audrey McClain(3rd) Benton Wood (3rd)

Math — 1st Place Teams in 8th and 6th. 3rd place Team in 7th. Sreeya Kavuri (2nd), Hudson Hadden (7th), Caitlyn Nesbitt (8th) Jenica Watson (7th), Rebecca Brantley (8th), Lily Collins (9th), Brayleigh Rowland (2nd), Jayden Wilson (5th), William Kellam (9th), Avi Patel (9th)



Our Amazing Special Olympics Representatives





The Easter Bunny Visits 8th Grade Science Enrichment



















Event: First Friday Concert

Date: 5/3/19

Location: Downtown Dublin

Cost: Free

Number: 478-272-2560

Event: Fishing Rodeo
Date: 5/4/19 @ 7:00 a.m.

Location: Southern Pines

Cost: Free

Summer Camp Registrartion

5/4/2019 @ 9:00 a.m.

Stubbs Park

Event: Challenger International Soccer Camp

Date: 6/3-7/19 @ 9:00-4:00 Location: Southern Pines

Cost: Go to www.challengersports.com

Event: DLAC Camp Auditions Begin: 6/3/19 Performance:6/28-6/29 Location: Theatre Dublin

Event: Lauren Daigle Concert

Date: 6/29/19

Location: Wild Adevntures

Time: 8:00 PM

Opening Monday, May 25....





Preparing for the GA Milestones

ELA Part 1 (Essay): Wednesday, May 8

ELA Part 2: Thursday, May 9

Math Part 1: Monday, May 13 Math Part 2: Tuesday, May 14

Science Parts 1 & 2: Wednesday, May 15 Social Studies Parts 1 & 2: Thursday, May 16



Test-Taking Tips

kidshealth.org & khanacademy.org

- 1. First, be sure you've studied properly.
- 2. Get enough sleep the night before the test.
- 3. Eat a healthy breakfast.
- 4. Listen closely to any instructions.
- 5. Read the test thoroughly.
- 6. Focus on addressing each question.
- 7. Relax.
- 8. Check back over your test.

Congratulations Kaci Butler! Won STATE Record Keeping Book For Specialty Animals



Congratulations Conduct of Chapter Meetings Team Placed 4th in State



Final Exam Schedule

5/28: Connections (regular schedule)

5/29: ELA & Social Studies (regular schedule)

5/30: Science (1st pd) & Math (2nd pd)

All Grades (6-8)



