

# THE FOCUS

The Obion County School System Newsletter



## A Message from Mr. Watkins

### A New Year

Happy fall to everyone. I'm sure everyone is ready for the change of seasons and the cooler weather that it promises to bring.

I have been extremely impressed with the work that I have been able to witness in the classrooms throughout the district so far this year. It seems to me that student engagement is occurring at a high level in all grades and subjects. I see teachers stepping outside of comfort zones to try new approaches in instruction. I see students excited about what they are learning. These observations let me know that we are growing our students and moving OCS forward. Another piece of evidence that shows that great things are happening in our schools, is the increase in student attendance compared to previous years. Increased attendance shows that students want to be at school. Thank you to the faculty and staff for make our school environments positive and welcoming. I want to challenge our students and staff be better each day than they were the day before and to exceed any expectations.

As I write this, it occurred to me that I am in my fourth year as director. It seems like yesterday that I was sitting in the OCCHS library interviewing. I can truly say that I am blessed and more excited about the future of OCS than when I began.

Fall break is a week away. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to some time off. I hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe break and returns ready to achieve at higher level than before the break.

Thank you for everything you do to make Obion County Schools a truly special place to be.

*- Tim Watkins*

Director of Schools

### Monthly SPOTLIGHTS

Board Office Updates

Special Features

Important Dates



"The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet."

- Aristotle



### Communications Director Lauren Kendall

#### What is New?

A new, permanent item has been added to the Obion County Schools' Board Agenda! Every month, Obion County Schools will recognize an Obion County School's alumnus, a student from the school that the board meeting is being held at, and staff whose family works for the school system. The three recognition programs are titled Outstanding Alumni (nominated by the community), Student Spotlight (selected by the principal), and It Runs in the Family. Those who were recognized will then be shared on the districts' social media platforms on the three Mondays that follow the meeting.

If you haven't had the opportunity to do so, check out the Obion County Schools' website and the new app that has been released on both the App Store and the Google Play Store. You can find the app by searching "OCS".

### Special Education Supervisor Alisha Hedge

A group of special educators across Obion County took a trip to Memphis for the West Tennessee Special Education Conference to learn more about their area of expertise and to collaborate with fellow special educators in our area.

Alisha Hedge, Special Education Supervisor, said that Michael Bonnor, the guest speaker, was so great to listen to and that everyone who attended really did enjoy what was said!



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## September Recognition



### Outstanding Alumni: LeEllen Smith

LeEllen graduated from Obion County Central High School in 1980. LeEllen began OUTsideIN in 2013 in response to an alarming rate of unemployment in our county in excess of 11%. Currently, they are making plans to expand to a residential program that will allow us to come alongside even more women and give them the opportunity to break free from the destructive cycles that have held them back.



### "It Runs in the Family"

Jon Kerr- Black Oak Principal  
 Kathryn Hays- Hillcrest Music Teacher  
 Jennifer Kerr- Hill rest History Teacher



### Student Spotlight: AJ Dunnagan

AJ, a 5th grader at Black Oak, has been given this award because he is always looking for ways to help others regardless of the task. From carrying things to the office, library, and cafe` to assisting teachers as they bring their school materials into the building, AJ is offering a helping hand. He is very polite and he is a friend to everyone. AJ brings a smile to everyone's face each time he sees them.

**THE FOCUS**

September Recognition Sponsors

**Outstanding Alumni Sponsor**



**"It Runs in the Family" Sponsor**



**Student Spotlight Sponsor**



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# Ridgemont

FUN WITH STEAM IN MS. LINDSEY'S CLASS.



WHEN YOU MATCH YOUR STUDENTS, IT'S A GREAT DAY!



MISS GARCIA'S CLASS IS LEARNING ABOUT THE LETTER M AND R. THEY DISCUSSED REAL WORLD CONNECTIONS WITH THE ALPHABET AND WORDS.



CROSS COUNTRY TAM RELAXING POST-RUN.



RIDGEMONT LADY SOFTBALL TEAM!



SUMMER LEARNING FUN!

# THE FOCUS

# Lake Road



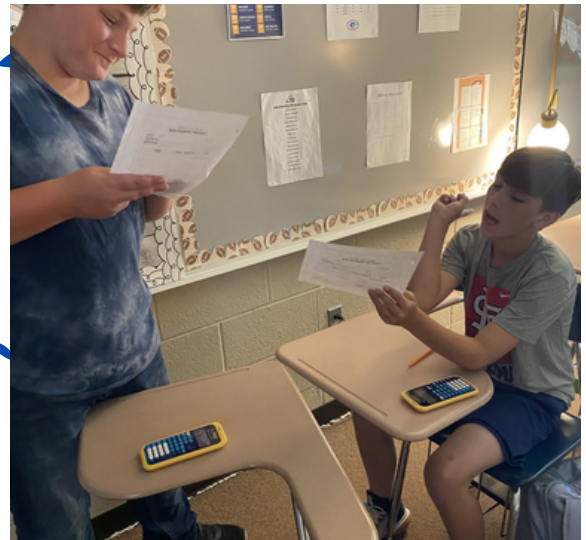
KREIGH PUTTING APPLES IN TEACHERS' MAILBOXES/



OUTSIDE LEARNING IS A HUGE FAVORITE WITH THE KIDS.



AINSLEY SADLER- CLAIMED THE TITLE OF STATE CHAMPION.



LILLY MOORE, HAD HER CLASS IMPLEMENT WHAT THEY RECENTLY LEARNED ABOUT CALCULATING SALES TAX AND GRATUITY



LAKE ROAD SECOND GRADE STUDENT GARRETT COFFEY (LEFT) CASHED IN HIS HARD-EARNED DOJO POINTS FOR A DAY IN MRS. ANTOINETTE & MRS. KELLY'S PRE-SCHOOL CLASS.



MS. LILLY'S 7TH GRADE CLASS IS SHOWING THEIR SPIRIT FOR LRS!!

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## Hillcrest



HILLCREST STUDENTS SETTING UP THEIR NEW DEVICES.



BETHANY PATTERSON'S FIRST GRADE CLASS AT HILLCREST EARNED A SURPRISE TREAT!



HILLCREST KINDERGARTENERS CELEBRATED NEARLY 140 OF THEIR GRANDPARENTS DURING LUNCH.



SOME OF MRS. SHILOH'S FIFTH GRADERS ENJOYED READING OUTSIDE ON THIS BEAUTIFUL DAY.



MRS. LONNA'S KINDERGARTENERS TOOK IDEAS FROM "MOLLY LOU MELON" AND MADE HANDMADE PLATE PUPPETS.



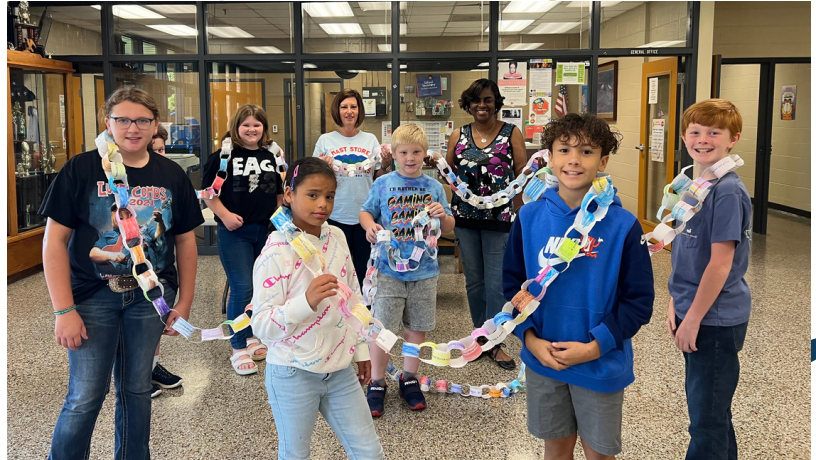
THESE SWEET BOYS WERE CAUGHT PICKING WEEDS FROM THE SCHOOL FLOWERBEDS AFTER SCHOOL LET OUT!

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## Black Oak



**BLACK OAK CAFETERIA TIED OUT A NEW HASHBROWN CASSEROLE RECIPE AND IT WAS A HUGE HIT WITH THEIR STUDENTS!**



**OCPC PREVENTION LINK MADE BY BLACK OAK STUDENTS**



**LIFELINE BLOOD SERVICES VISITED BLACK OAK ELEMENTARY TO TALK TO STUDENTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING BLOOD**

**AT THE TMSAA SECTIONALS RACE AT THE TROY GOLF COURSE, BLACK OAK HAD THREE QUALIFY FOR STATE.**



**STUDENTS ENJOYED A WONDERFUL ANIMAL SHOW TODAY, COURTESY OF THE PTO AND LIBRARY, PRESENTED BY MR. TARTAR FROM ANIMALOLOGY!**

**THE CAFETERIA HELD A "FAIR WEEK" DURING THE WEEK OF THE FAIR AND OFFERED FAIR FOODS FOR THE WEEK**

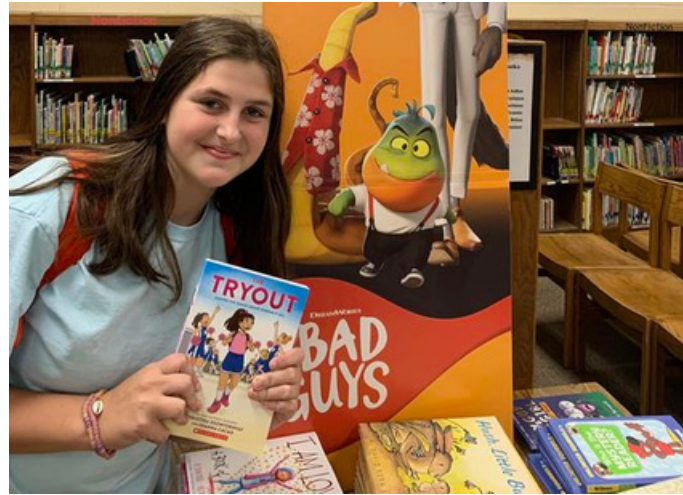




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## South Fulton Elementary



GOODIES WITH GRANDS WINNER KIERAN SMITH



SOME SPECIAL GREETERS THIS MORNING AT SFE!



AR TOP READER AWARDS!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, MR. SHAWN JOHNSON OUR CUPS RUNNETH OVER NOW THAT YOU ARE HERE!



MS. MORANDA WAS SURPRISED WITH SOME GOODIES THIS MORNING FROM MSHN!

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# Obion County Central High School

ART STUDENTS WHO PLACED IN THE HIGH SCHOOL ART DIVISION AT THE FAIR.



OCCHS HOSTED A VISIT FROM THE OBION COUNTY PREVENTION COALITION AND GUEST SPEAKER, FOREST QUILLEN. QUILLEN.

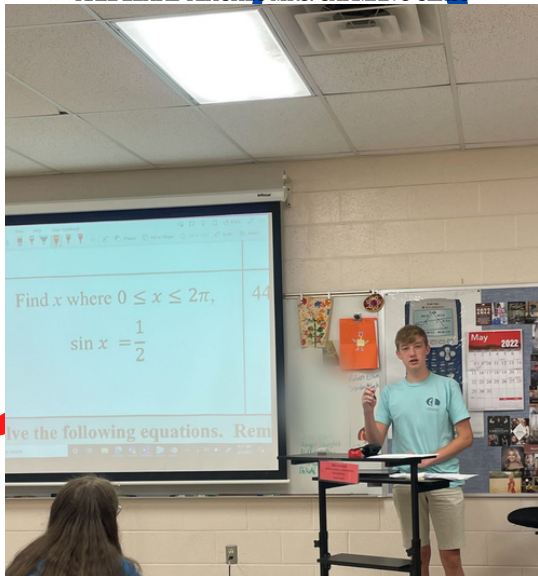
SHARA MOBBS'S AP CHEMISTRY CLASS WENT TO THE LAB TO TEST OUT A NEW EXPERIMENT.



ART CLASS STUDENTS AND THEIR PROJECTS.



KAIL LEAKE TEACHES MRS. CARMAN'S CLASS



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2022 HOMECOMING ROYALTY.



# THE FOCUS

## South Fulton Middle & High School



**SFHS VOLLEYBALL GIRLS!**



**GOLF SUPERSTAR MADDIE GRAY POSING WITH MEDAL!**



**STUDENTS ENJOYING THE FAIR!**



**SFMHS SENIORS!**

# THE FOCUS

# Partnerships

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American Heart Association®



**\*\*THE OBION COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO THE LOCAL BUSINESSES THAT CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EDUCATION AND STUDENT SUCCESS IN OBION COUNTY. YOUR SUPPORT IS NOTICED AND APPRECIATED. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO IN OUR COMMUNITY.\*\***