

W I N T E R 2 0 1 4

the Erb Garden

Academy of Plant and Animal Systems

Happy New Year!



As the second semester begins, I wanted to take this time to say how blessed I am to be a part of the Academy of Plant and Animal Systems. Over the course of the last semester, I have had the pleasure of watching students in a variety of situations showing off their skills and knowledge in the field of Agriculture. I know that there will be more opportunities for students to become involved in the future and I look forward to seeing their growth over the next four years at Montgomery Central!

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Agriculture Engineering Constructs Popular Backyard Game

This semester, the senior Agricultural Engineering class conducted a fundraiser in which they built and sold the components for the popular backyard game Cornhole. Cornhole or Corn Toss is similar to horseshoes except you use wooden boxes called cornhole platforms and corn bags instead of horseshoes and metal stakes. Contestants take turns pitching their corn bags at the cornhole platform until a contestant reaches the score of 21 points. A corn bag in the hole scores 3 points, while one on the platform scores 1 point (ACA, www.playcornhole.org). 2 Cornhole platforms and beanbags were sold for \$100 per set. The platforms were customized to the customers' wishes. The fundraiser was a success and I am hoping we are able to have it again next year! For more information on the rules of Cornhole visit: www.playcornhole.org



Save the Date!

No School
MLK Day
January 20

Presidents'
Day
February 17

Parent-Teacher
Conferences

February 20

Report
Cards

January 13

4th Annual CMCSS 8th Grade Career Day

Each year over 2,000 8th graders from across Clarksville-Montgomery County come to Austin Peay's Red Barn for the opportunity to learn about the various career paths open to them after high school. This year with the addition of the Career Academies, each high school was also represented. Career Academies were asked to answer questions about the courses in the academy, typical 9th grade schedules, clubs and student organizations, and what it is like being part of the Academy at their school. The representatives from Montgomery Central were: Ashleigh Hosea, Cody Vincent, Miles Wilbur and Lane Coulter. Also present: Mr. Danny Boner, Mr. Will Ferrell and Mrs. Bethany Erb.



Changes to the Agriculture and Horticulture beginning 2014-2015

When registration time begins around February/March, I will be talking to students about graduation requirements, diploma types and their choice of classes for next year. Part of that discussion will include the changes to the Programs of Study in their Focused Elective. The State spent the past year or so working on changes to provide students with more continuity in the courses included in a Program of Study. For our Academy, this included changes to courses that will be offered starting next year. The changes will not affect a student's schedule this year and current Academy students will continue to the 2nd course in the sequence next year. They will **not** have to start over. Incoming 9th grade students for 2014 will begin the new sequence starting with Agriscience as shown below.

<u>Agriculture</u>	
9-Agriscience	11-Large Animal Science
10-Small Animal Science	12-Vet Science

<u>Horticulture</u>	
9-Agriscience	11-Greenhouse Management
10-Principles of Plant Science and Hydroculture	12-Landscaping and Turf Science

For more information go to:
<http://www.state.tn.us/education/cte/AgricultureFoodNaturalResources.shtml>

Navigator Assessment December 4-5, 2013



This semester each 9th grader took the Navigator Assessment through their Wellness or JROTC class. Students also took this assessment in 7th grade in CMCSS. This assessment is designed to help students determine the Career that they may be interested in pursuing in the future. It is also designed to assist discovering skills and education needed to pursue these career fields. Each student has a log in and password for the website. However, parents can also create accounts to access their student's results and learn about the career they are interested in. You will need the following information to view your student's account: www.planningyourdreams.org

USERNAME (this should be firstnamelastnamelast3ofLunchID) Some students used other combinations for their user IDs, so check with your student to be sure.

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

DATE OF BIRTH

Keep in mind that if a student is part of the Academy, but their Navigator indicates that they may be interested in a different field that is OK. My advice would be to explore both options and see why that interest may have come up. It could be that an interest in Business and being part of the Academy could lead to a degree in Agribusiness in college. If you have any questions about the assessment or how to understand the results, contact Bethany Erb.

Supervised Agriculture Experiences

Each student in Agriculture and Horticulture has been working on an Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) this past nine weeks. Some of the SAE placements include the Co-Op, local Veterinary Offices, dairy or poultry farms or even their own homes. Students were required to have an SAE contract detailing their tasks and assignments in which their employer/trainer and the student signed. They were to keep up with expenses and any income earned as well as a journal and pictures of their work. As students continue through the Academy, some of their SAEs may develop into Internships or even job placements.



Agricultural Education Mission

MCHS Academy Mission

Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

The mission of the Academy of Plant and Animal Systems at Montgomery Central High School is to prepare students for post-secondary opportunities in 21st-century agriculture-supported industries.



MCHS FFA Opening and Closing Ceremonies Career Development Event (CDE) team members and their positions:

Levi Grubb-Vice President	Destiney Speight-Treasurer
Samuel Byard-President	Lucas Wilson-Sentinel
Rachel Garvin-Student Advisor	Ashliegh Hosea-Secretary
Cody Vincent-Reporter	

Also pictured: Miles Wilbur who read his Land Proposal at the CTE Advisory Board meeting

In October, MCHS FFA Opening and Closing Ceremonies Career Development Event (CDE) team members were asked to lead an FFA meeting for the CTE Advisory Board. The Advisory Board is comprised of members of the community. Also in attendance, that evening, were CTE representatives from Central Office. As a part of the meeting, students described each of the important FFA symbols and explained their significance to the organization. Students were also asked to talk about their experience thus far in the Academy. A couple

of students read their Land Proposals from the Dirt on Dirt Challenge. In addition to participating at the CTE Advisory meeting, the Opening and Closing ceremonies CDE team competed in the Middle TN Regional Opening and Closing Ceremonies at TN State University (see picture below). Some of the 9th grade students along with Ms. Ashlyn Fussell (MCHS Agriculture Teacher) attended the Middle TN Regional FFA Greenhand Conference this semester.



FFA Competitions

MCHS won the team portion of the Montgomery County Soil Judging CDE and placed 19th in the Middle TN Regional Soils CDE.

Health Greene (11th) was the overall high scorer of the Montgomery County Soil Judging CDE

There will be a number of FFA CDE's in the Spring Semester for students to compete including: Public Speaking, Mechanics, Poultry Judging, Dairy Judging, Livestock Judging, Envirothon. Some top students may be invited to attend the FFA State Convention in Gatlinburg.

Understanding the High School Transcript

The most important document that students will receive from high school besides their diploma is the High School transcript. The transcript is a record of each class a student has taken in high school and their semester grade. It will also include a student's Grade Point Average (GPA) and their Cumulative Percentage (the average numeric grade a student received). In January of their senior year, once a student has been ranked, their senior ranking will also appear on the transcript. Some valuable things to remember about a transcript are:

ALL CLASSES ARE REPORTED, EVEN IF THE STUDENT FAILS THE COURSE. Repeating a course does NOT erase the failing grade. The failing grade is averaged in with all the other grades on the transcript.

THE ONLY GRADES REPORTED ON THE TRANSCRIPT ARE SEMESTER GRADES. Nine weeks grades are not listed on the transcript. However, they are used in the calculation of the semester grade and are still important.

GRADES EARNED IN CREDIT RECOVERY, SUMMER SCHOOL and VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL WILL BE LISTED ON THE TRANSCRIPT. Credit recovery grades are listed in the semester that the credit recovery grade was earned. Summer School grades are listed with SS out to the side. Any new credits earned virtually (not credit recovery) are listed with VHS out to the side.

STUDENTS WISHING TO PLAY COLLEGE SPORTS SHOULD NOT PLAN ON TAKING ANY CREDITS THROUGH VHS. NCAA does not want students to earn credits through Virtual High School. Student-Athletes should plan to earn ALL credits in the classroom. Also, the NCAA has a requirement of 2.3 GPA. While Counselors will help students to become NCAA eligible by providing information, ultimately it is NCAA that makes the determination of whether a student is eligible. For more information on NCAA requirements, go to <http://montgomerycentral.weebly.com/ncaa-eligibility.html>

TN Scholars Requirements

- **4 English**
- **3 Laboratory Science** (Biology and Chemistry are required and one additional lab science, Physics strongly preferred)
- **Personal Finance** as required by TN
- **1 Fine Arts**
- **4 Mathematics** (Algebra I, Algebra 2, Geometry, and one higher level math)-Bridge math will not count toward TN Scholars
- **3 Social Studies** (Must meet requirements of the TN Diploma Project)
- Must meet **State requirements for health and physical education**
- **2 Foreign Language** courses in the same language

Additional Criteria –Choose at least two credits from the following: (These courses can be a combination of two or two in the same category). These additional courses cannot count toward requirements for TN Scholars.

- Career Technical Education
- AP courses which are not already grad requirements
- Online course not used for basic requirements
- Fine arts (Such as music, art, dance, drama, production, etc)
- Dual credit / dual enrollment courses which are not already used for basic requirements
- Workforce Development Skills Requirements

- **80 hours of Volunteer Service to the Community** (See website for non approved Volunteer hours).
- **Maintain a “C” Average minimum** in all Tennessee Scholars courses.
- **95% Attendance Required.** (Cannot miss more than 36 total days in 4 years of high school)
- **No out-of-school suspensions**



Visit the website!

The
**Academy of Plant
& Animal Systems**
Montgomery Central High School

<http://montgomerycentral.weebly.com/academy-of-plant-and-animal-systems.html>

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