

Literacy

by: Leah Clevenger and Claire Covington

Lafayette county school district superintendent Mr. Jay Foster thinks "Literacy is the ability to read. It helps to learn new information and have pleasure." Literacy for the past few years has trailed behind math on state tests at Lafayette. Our superintendent Mr. Foster has set goals for our school's academic literacy to get at the same levels as the other subjects. He said it all starts by getting the students to read with love.

He states that our math assessments are more advanced than our ELA. He thinks that if we prioritize the teachers, principals, and even other staff, then we will grow over all in literacy as a school. Mr. Foster thinks if we extend our knowledge in literacy, then it will help with math, history, and science test scores.

Different people have different learning abilities, but can your home life and background affect these skills? We asked Mr. Foster if your background can affect your ability to learn literacy. He said "The more you're exposed to, the more you learn. If you take a kid to the zoo and they see a porcupine. Then they come to school and learn about it, then they will already have that knowledge of what it looks like, how big it is, and etc. It is the same with literacy. If you are around it you will get a better knowledge of it." Mr. Foster believes that if children are constantly around literacy then they will learn it better.

"Right now I am reading *The 5 Levels Of Leadership*" Mr. Foster said after we asked him, what are you reading right now? He is reading this book because his job revolves around leadership. He recommends this book and wants to encourage you to continue reading and growing your literacy skills, too.

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Leah and Claire after interviewing Mr. Foster

Character Counts

By Annabelle Allen and Ehan Brassell



Mrs Gray, our school counselor, is continuing with the character education program in Lafayette Middle School. Character education is the teaching of values or morals that we use every day.

“ I would say there are two main focuses. First would be educating students on positive character traits, but the second would be recognizing students for positive behavior/character,” Mrs Gray said.

The program starts with the morning announcements where students can listen and participate in the different activities and contests throughout the year. This makes it very accessible to students and staff around campus or who tune into the morning announcements.

“I am constantly looking for more ways to motivate and get the students involved. Next month we will begin recognizing our Students of the Month and also have a new student recognition program called ‘I See You’ that I will introduce in a couple of weeks,” Mrs Gray said.

All students and teachers are encouraged and welcomed to take part in the education program. Character education is for everyone and will hopefully teach everyone a thing or two at home or school or into the real world. “ Good character will carry you far in life. I hope that our students leave our building better than when they entered it,” Mrs Gray said.



Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there.

-John Wooden



LMS ELA



by: Madisyn Mitchell and Lila Mooney

Language arts, “the study of grammar, composition, spelling, and (sometimes) public speaking, typically taught as a single subject in elementary and middle school.” Language arts over the years has become an important part of child development and education. Imagination, curiosity and creativity are some of the main traits our society features. The need to communicate and express these traits as well as other things over time has become an important factor in our day to day life. “It’s just being able to relax and read when we’re not working,” said Joe Ben Hill, an 8th grade student at Lafayette Middle School.

Language arts provides an outlet for students to wander away into a new reality or just enhance a new side of them that

reality doesn’t depict. It also allows students to express themselves and let out any thoughts or feelings they have been holding in. “I think I get to know my student on a deeper level because we talk about so many things like themes, and kids get to share with me struggles they have had in the past,” said Mrs. Heather Bynum, 7th grade English teacher at Lafayette. Students at LMS have been focusing on writing memoirs and poems about themselves and their identity. “This activity not only helped students get back into the routine of writing, but it also helped me learn all about my new seventh graders,” said Lily Null 7th grade English teacher.



LMS English Teachers



Example of student memoir

Science Overflows at LMS

by: Ava Thweatt and Alyssa Sansing

Dr. Kelle Sumrall and Mrs. Cynthia Willard both teach science, and they were interviewed today for the LMS newsletter. "We are going to do a few partner projects and currently we are discussing the water cycle. We may set up a project outside to watch the rainfall and how evaporation takes place," Dr. Sumrall said. Mrs. Willard has many projects planned including making a model of DNA. Mrs. Willard's students did a gummy bear lab and they learned which solution made the gummy bear change the most. "They loved watching and waiting for the shape of their bears to change." Mrs. Willard said. Dr. Sumrall's students did a coloring project to see how much they already know about science. "Projects don't really start until later in the school year," Dr. Sumrall said. Mrs. Willard's students will get a major grade for the organization and placement of work in their binders. They were asked what they really like about their students. Mrs. Willard said, "I love how polite and goal oriented they are." Dr. Sumrall loves that her students are having a lot of fun and they seem to enjoy being at school. "They get along really well with each other," said Dr. Sumrall, "This school year started out really well, and I feel like we are on a good path to having a great school year."



Stella Akins and Jayda Nichols are working on their gummy bear project.



Peyton Allen and Anthony Vasquez are having fun after finishing their gummy bear project.

LMS Upcoming Events

by Tommy Grosskopf and Alli Bek Hinton

Coach Everett, the LMS principal, is planning multiple events. These events include a Constitution Day (for 8th graders), a pep rally for Football, and a student dance near Christmas time. He hopes that students will be on their best behavior and respectful to the guest speakers for Constitution Day. "I want us to be a good representation for Lafayette Middle School," Coach Everett said. He has been in education for twenty-two years so far. "The biggest thing I am excited about is that kids are getting back to school," Coach Everett said. There are four September LMS Football and Volleyball games, and the dates are as follows:

Football	Volleyball
Sept.05	Sept.05
Sept.11	Sept.19
Sept.18	Sept.21
Sept.26	Sept.26

All athletic events/games for September can be found on the [school website](#).

Amazing art

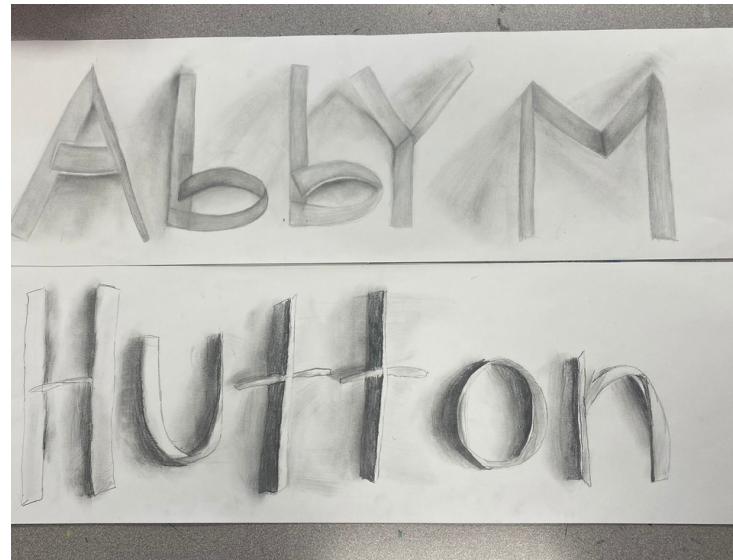
by: Camdyn Saxton & Leah Woy

Mrs. Megan Patton has chosen two extraordinary art pieces completed by her Art II students. Each class had a minimum of three periods to complete the project. To begin this project students cut out strips of paper to spell out their names and then glued them upright to a poster board. Next,



Art teacher Megan Patton

the students used a new piece of paper and drawing pencils to create the shadow of their names. In order to create good lighting, the overhead lights were turned off and two lamps were used instead. "Art is everywhere you look," Art teacher Mrs. Patton said. It's even in something as simple as a name.



Art by Hutton Hogue & Abby Moore

TEACHER/STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Click on the image to open a link and spin the wheel to learn about LMS staff and students!

by: Carlynn Bolen & Madeline Williams



KICKING OFF THE SEASON

by: Ella Ruth Smith & J'Kiah Cohran

“My goal for this season is to just go out and play hard. We need to come out with a bang, and like I said, play hard,” said Coach Helm.

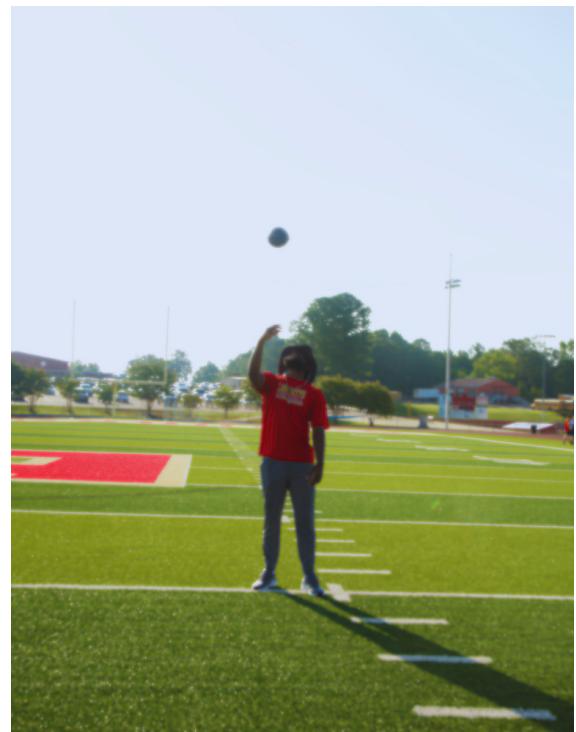
To kick off this year’s Lafayette Middle School football season, they went against South Panola and lost. We interviewed assistant middle school football coach, Dillion Helm, and asked him how practice had been going.

“Practice has been going pretty good so far, besides the heat. It’s really hot out there on the field.”

Coach Helm also explains his perspective for the LMS football team this year. “We’re kind of young in some spots, but I think later during the season we’ll get better.”



LMS football team stretching
for practice



Coach Helm warming up
for practice

A note from our advisor . . .

The LMS Yearbook class is a new print journalism class that will be producing the 2024 Lafayette Middle School Yearbook as well as digital newsletters throughout the year. The Yearbook class has named the LMS newsletter *Opening Dores* because we want our newsletter to be an open door in which you get a glimpse into some of the great things happening at our school. As we learn more about writing, photography, and designing the newsletter, you can expect some things will change. Let us know what you like or what you would like to see us add in the next newsletter. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy the first edition of *Opening Dores*. *Mrs. Holt*