



November 2016
Volume 3, Issue 1

Stallion Status Newsletter

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are having a fantastic first semester of school! As we approach the holiday season, I want to let all of you know that I am encouraged by the effort, cooperation, and hard work I have seen from students so far this year. This hard work is the kind of effort each of them must maintain to be College and Career ready. I am also equally pleased by the hard work and dedication of the educators here at Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts to ensure that instructional lessons are rigorous, engaging, and differentiated for all learners. I value you and the expertise that you bring to our learning environment! All stakeholder contributions assist us in meeting our overall goal and the vision of our district. Our goal is to make sure our students are prepared for excellence, which prepares ALL students to live and compete successfully in a global society.

Acclimating our students to testing conditions is a valuable part of this program and to that end our teachers are working diligently to be certain that your child has acquired the skills and knowledge necessary to do well on upcoming high stakes assessments. A formative assessment calendar has been prepared by each academic department to determine instructional modifications based on the data derived from these assessments. Additionally, student performance on the ACT/SAT is an important indicator of College Readiness. While these scores figure less prominently in the admissions process than they once did, they are still highly important as the evidence from research illustrates. One of the best ways to prepare to perform at a high level on the end of year summative assessments is through rigorous lessons and explicit instruction. This is not only a district priority, but also a priority for us here at the Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts.

As we prepare to wrap up the first semester of the 2016-2017 school year, I look forward to building and fostering positive relationships with more of you. Thank you for everything you do to support your students, the teachers, and our school community!

Sincerely,

Michael Robinson, Ed. D.
Principal

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**MEDIA CENTER
MINUTE
BY MRS. VLASTNIK**

There is a new face in the M. E. Stilwell Media Center! Stilwell welcomes **Mrs. Michele Williams-Lee** as our new media para-professional. Mrs. Williams-Lee comes to us from West Clayton Elementary School. Please join me in welcoming her to the Stilwell family.

We are also very excited to announce several new eBook initiatives that provide countless reading opportunities for our students. The first program, **Open eBooks** which launched at the end of the school year, is a joint offering between First Books and the Digital Public Library of America which provides students access to thousands of books online to read from their phone, tablet or desktop computer. Students may pick up a free username and access code for **Open eBooks** in the media center.

We also continue to build our Stilwell eBook library. Our eBooks may be accessed from any personal device both in school and at home by going to **www.destinydiscovery.com**. The student password is **CCPS1234** and their username is their student number including the leading "o"

Also, we are very excited about the addition of the **One Search** tool to our Destiny catalogue database. When researching a topic on the Media Center's catalogue, students can now access encyclopedia articles on that topic from the One Search button found on the upper right corner of the catalog home page.

Our Little Free Library (LFL) initiative continues. Please, encourage your student to "Bring a Book to Share and Take a Book to Enjoy." In addition to the new books in our LFL, the Media Center will add dozens of new print and eBooks to the permanent collection with our upcoming annual order. Many of these titles are student and teacher requests so look for the new titles after the first of the year. Remember to continue to add your requests and recommendations to our Consideration List.

On December 9th, the Stilwell Media Center will host the Science Fair. Please plan to stop by to view the display of tri-fold boards and papers illustrating the experiments and research conducted by our students for their projects.

As always, we have been very busy in the media center making every effort to meet the technology and instructional needs of our faculty and students by offering opportunities for collaboration, instruction and technical assistance when needed. Please continue to consider the media center and its personnel as a resource and know that our goal is to serve all students and teachers.

We look forward to your visits.



FROM THE AP'S OFFICE

BY MR. PRINCE T. BOWIE



Testing

Parents, we begin our Georgia Milestone Assessment (GMAS) Testing April 24, 2017 through May 10, 2017. We also will be administering Advanced Placement (AP) Exams beginning the week of May 1st, 2017 through May 12, 2017. The last week of school we will administer Final Exams. That schedule will be forthcoming.

For each student taking a GMAS test, it will account for 20% of their overall grade. Students taking an AP Exam have the opportunity of receiving college credit for the course if they score a level 3 or higher on the exam. Last, final exams also will account for 20% of the students overall grade in the class.

During this testing window from April 24, 2017 through May 23, 2017. We ask that you please ensure that students are using this time to study, get proper rest, eat properly, and most importantly make it to school on time. If students get to school after testing has begun, they will not be allowed to test. It is our goal that all students will test and do well. Proper planning is key.

If you have any questions regarding testing please feel free to e-mail Assistant Principal, Mr. Prince. T Bowie at prince.bowie@clayton.k12.ga.us



College Symposium

April 12, 2017 we will have our College Symposium part II. This forum will be designed for students and parents to speak and ask questions to current and recent college graduates about college life: Dorms, Classes, Internships, Roommates.

In part 1 of the College Symposium we had over 150 participants and the conversation was great. We gave information on how to apply for financial aid and college admissions. Representatives from Clayton State University's office of Admission, and Financial Aid Department facilitated. During part II we will have representatives from various colleges and universities across the country. This will be a time to get real life and relevant information on college life.



Attendance/Tardy

Parents and students it is important that students are on time and present every instructional day. The best way for students to learn is to be physically in class to receive instruction from teachers. We ask parents to assist us in the matter. Please see below for our policy that is a part of the contract each student/parent signs upon entry to Stilwell.

Attendance: No more than 8 unexcused tardies to school.

No more than 5 unexcused absences to school.

Failure to meet this expectation will result in the student being placed on probation for the remainder of the current school year. The student/parent will be required to provide an excuse for all subsequent tardies or absences. Students who fail to meet this expectation will be dismissed from the program.

Prince T. Bowie

Assistant Principal

Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts – "Pursuing Excellence through the Arts"

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

BY MRS. BARBARA STANFIELD

Vision

The vision of the Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts counseling department is to develop students into productive citizens through their involvement in the arts.

Mission

The mission of the Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts counseling department is to create an environment where each student receives a well-balanced education that includes academic, personal/social, college and career readiness opportunities enabling them to become competitive in the global market place.

Academics – November 10th will begin the last 4 ½ week grading period for the fall semester. Now is the time to re-evaluate the progress being made in your classes. Utilize a planner, develop study schedules, review courses nightly, and make academics a priority. Remember that all teachers offer after school tutorial sessions. The 13.5 week progress reports are anticipated to be distributed shortly after November 16, 2016. Final exams will take place at the end of the semester in December and final grades will be available in January 2017.

10th Grade Parent Night – The 10th Grade Parent Night will be held on Thursday, December 1st, 2016 and will begin promptly at 6pm. Sophomore parents please place this date on your calendar. We are looking forward to seeing you at this event and providing you with great information.

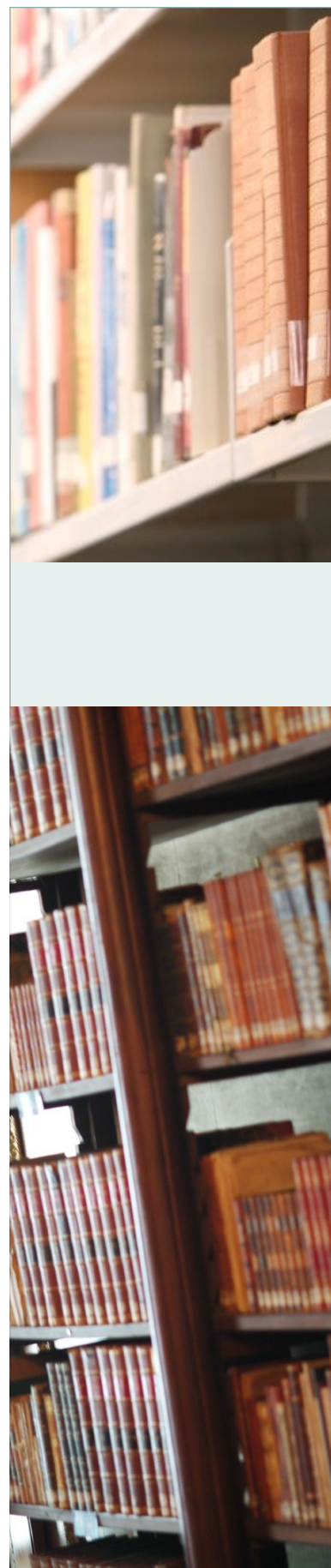
Schoolwide Parent Teacher Conferences – Thanks to everyone who attended the October Schoolwide Parent Teacher Conference night. The next Schoolwide conference night will take place on Tuesday, March 28, 2017. The conferences are by appointment only and in March 2017 parents can sign-up by accessing the school's website and following the *Sign-Up* link.

2017-2018 Course Requests – Course advisement has begun for our rising sophomores and rising seniors. When we return from the winter break course advisement for our rising juniors will take place. Parents please review the 2017-2018 course advisement forms with your child and return the signed forms to the appropriate counselor as soon as possible. Remember if a student requests an **AP course** there are several items to be considered: 1) Does the student have a grade of 90 or higher in their first semester subject matter course, OR 2) if not has the student requested their teacher's recommendation to take the course, OR 3) is the student listed on CollegeBoard's AP Potential report to take the AP class, AND 4) have we received the AP Parent Permission form indicating the parent's understanding of the rigor involved in AP classes.

MOWR – Move on When Ready gives students an opportunity to take college level classes that can be counted towards their high school graduation credits. Log on to the gafutures.org website for more information or see your counselor. The deadline to submit your MOWR paperwork to your counselor for the 2017-2018 school year is April 1, 2017. This includes MOWR courses being taken over the summer.

Career Fair – March 2017. Preparations for our Spring Career Fair are underway. Once again we will provide our students with an opportunity to interact with representatives from various career fields. Parents if you would like to represent your career field please contact Ms. Simmons.

Seniors – Monitor your grades in preparation for mid-year reporting to colleges. Continue applying to colleges and researching scholarship opportunities. Use the Thanksgiving and winter breaks wisely to further your research—remember to APPLY!





SENIOR CLASS

BY MS. LAUREN COVINGTON

Greetings Stallion Supporters!

The 2016-2017 school year has jumped to a powerful start for this year's graduating class.

The Year resonates in every senior's mind as their final months at the infamous Stilwell School of the Arts narrows down to the big



day: Graduation! The Senior Class Council has been working diligently to plan and prepare for the numerous events in store for our senior Stallions! However, I would be remiss if I didn't first introduce my team of council members who work tirelessly to ensure that the voices of our class are heard. We have Ms. Tina Conner as the Senior Class Sponsor, Denise'Ann Shields as the Senior Class Vice President, Kristian Clemons-Freeman as the Senior Class Secretary, and me, Lauren Covington, the Senior Class President.

Now, let's take a look at what's going on with the Class of 2017. The Class of 2017 recently attended a college fair that included over 50 colleges. Our seniors were eager to gain as much knowledge as they could to prepare for the admissions process to their desired college or university. The fair was a success even resulting in various seniors applying for scholarships and admissions on the spot.

As the senior class president, the past months have been busy, busy, and even busier. My team and I have been planning various senior trips and activities for the class to participate in as a whole. Our first trip as a class will be to see the Hawks Game on December 13th, 2016. We have also been working on finalizing the class apparel and various logistics of the activities to ensure that our seniors are gaining the most from their senior year. As an officer on the Senior Class Council, I am also a member, along with the other officers mentioned above, of the Prom Committee. Spearheading the Prom has been a tough process but with the teamwork of the council and select juniors who serve on the committee, the process has been clean and smooth. We look forward to a great year with our Stallions and we plan to continue to work hard for our class, putting 110% effort into every task we complete. Be sure to keep a look out for more information coming soon concerning the Class of 2017! Go Stallions!

Lauren Covington
Senior Class President

INSTRUCTIONAL FACILITATOR NEWS

BY MRS. TOMEKA CRUM

Curriculum Nights

We are hosting Curriculum Nights at Stilwell School of the Arts. A Curriculum Night is an educational open house hosted at Stilwell School of the arts. It is an opportunity for parents/guardians to engage in the core content curriculum and expectations for the year. It is our way of bridging the connection of the instructional process between school and home. Please plan to attend.

The schedule for the 2016-2017 Curriculum Nights is listed below.

Math	November 3, 2016	Cafeteria	6:00 PM
Social Studies	December 7, 2016	Gymnasium	6:00 PM
Science	January 19, 2017	TBA	6:00 PM
English Language Arts	February 15, 2017	TBA	6:00 PM

WORLD LANGUAGES

BY MRS. OPHELIA RIVERA

On October 14th Stilwell marked Principal Partner's Day with a celebration and performance of the best of Stilwell Con Sabor to entertain our visiting partner from the local Rotary Club, Ms. Judith Bennett.





ORCHESTRA

BY MR. MATTHEW BAGGARLY



“Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best.”
~Henry Van Dyke

Stilwell String News Letter

Greetings Parents and Students! As the director of the orchestra at Stilwell School of the Arts, I am excited about the direction of the program for the 2016-2017 school year. In September, the orchestra performed a joint concert with M.D. Roberts Middle School. Ms. Bridget Long and I worked collaboratively to strengthen the relationship between the two fine arts programs in the county. In October, the students participated in GMEA Round I All-State auditions. Stilwell is sending ten students to Round II audition in January. The students are Christian Harvey (bass), Joe Dunn (bass), Kendall Wyatt (bass), Jasmine Watkins (cello), Camille Johnson (cello), Anthony Hong (violin, viola), Jewel Johnson (viola), Brian Raiford (violin), Carissa Walker (violin), and Thompson Phan (violin). We have a number of exciting events taking place in the upcoming months. On Tuesday, December 6, the orchestra will host holiday concert in Stroud Hall at the Performing Arts Center at 7:00PM. On Wednesday, December 7, selected members of the orchestra will play at the Governor's Mansion Holiday Tour in Atlanta. In January, the orchestra will collaborate with all fine arts department for the annual musical. This year's selection is The Who's *Tommy*. At the end of January, the orchestra will perform at the GMEA 2017 In-service Conference in Athens, Georgia. Only two percent of the state's applicants are accepted to perform at this prestigious event. This is a tremendous honor for our program. Thank you all for your continued support!

CHORUS BY DR. KAY PACE

The Choral Department sings with Peach State Opera Company in Grand Opera- On September 25, 2016 our Stilwell Chorus sang with the Peach State Opera Company in a moving performance of the opera TOSCA by Giacomo Puccini at the CCPS Performing Arts Center. Complete with staging and costumes, 45 choral students participated in this exciting production and got a first-hand glimpse into the world of opera. The event was sponsored by the CCPS Fine Arts Department in conjunction with Peach State Opera.

The Choirs of Stilwell will sing at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City-The Choirs of Stilwell have been invited to sing the Vivaldi GLORIA in David Geffen Hall (formerly Avery Fisher) of Lincoln Center in New York City, May 26-30, 2017. The invitation came from Distinguished Concerts International of New York. 59 Choral students are scheduled to sing under the baton of Dr. William Powell in this gala event.

22 Choral Students from Stilwell Represented CCPS in District VI Honor Chorus-Twenty-two Stilwell choral students were selected to participate in District VI Honor Chorus on October 17-18 which was held at the CCPS PAC. District 6 Honor Chorus includes the best choral students from Fayette, Coweta, Clayton, Henry, Spalding, and Pike Counties in two choirs: 9th/10th Mixed Chorus and 11th/12th Mixed Chorus. Stilwell participants were as follows: 9/10 Mixed Chorus—Myrical Beasley, Royal Brown, Kaitlyn Gilbert, Deon Griffin, Matthew Hollis, Zoe Hilton, Lauryn Oliver, Reginald McCollum, Lindell McFadden, Zakiyah Simms, Antone Wells. 11/12 Mixed Chorus—Talia Carter, Dayjon Bacon, Christian Jackson, Nathanael James, Antonia Hardin, Ethan Kearney, Shanyce Taylor, Jaya Thomas, Zacchaeus Paul, Ralin Williams, Alexis Wilson.

11 Choral Students were selected to participate in the Spivey Hall Honor Chorus at Clayton State University Clayton State University hosted its annual Spivey Honor Chorus on October 20-23, 2016. This continues to be one of the most prestigious events in the southeast for high school choral students and this year was no exception. In addition to other choral numbers, the Honor Chorus sang the Mozart REQUIEM, one of the great works from choral literature. Our Stilwell choral participants were: Lloyd Burkes, Edward Weaver, Kristian Clemons-Freeman, Celeste Walker, Zakiyah Simms, Lauryn Oliver, Shanyce Taylor, Talia Carter, Victoria Epps, Brittney Wilder, Jesse Lay.

Upcoming Events: The Chorus sings a Holiday Concert at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum on December 7 at 11:00 am. The concert is free and open to the public.

The **Annual Winter Choral Concert** takes place on **December 8** at 7:00 pm in Stroud Hall of the PAC. This will be a benefit concert to help support the Stilwell New York Choral trip. Adult tickets will be \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Student tickets will be \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door.



Stilwell choral students perform with the District 6 Honors Chorus October 18, 2016 at the Performing Arts Center





PIANO DEPARTMENT

BY MRS. JENNIFER WILSON

The piano department is excited to announce that two students have been nominated for the Governors Honors Program. **Ethan Kearney and Kalissa Hernandez** will compete against other students throughout the state in piano, in hopes of being selected to study piano at Berry College in Rome, GA next summer. Please join us in congratulating them on this nomination.

Piano majors will participate in the Georgia Music Educators Association Piano Performance Evaluation next semester at Clayton State University. This evaluation consists of two contrasting piano solos, scales and cadences, as well as sight-reading. This will be the first time that Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts has participated in this event. The piano students are currently working hard to prepare for this event.

The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls.
~ Pablo Picasso

DANCE

BY

MR. JUSTIN PASCHALL

The Dance Department would like to introduce the newest member of the Stilwell family, Ms. Wiggins. Ms. Wiggins is a 2015 graduate of Brenau University and comes to us with much experience and excitement!

Currently the Dance Department is working on choreography for our fall concert "An Evening of Artistry." The concert will be Thursday November 17th at 7pm at the Performing Arts Center. Our concert will showcase the talents of levels 1-4 and all of their hard work they have done in their Ballet, Modern, and Jazz classes. Please come out and support the Dance Department. Tickets will be \$5 in advanced and \$7 at the door.



Stilwell dancers perform at the best of Stilwell Con Sabor.

VISUAL ARTS

BY MR. JEREMY LEMAHIEU

The visual art department has been busy with all sorts of great things. Our Advanced Placement Studio Art scores have been returned from last year and have received 100% passing. That means *all* of our class of 2016 qualified to receive college credit for the tremendous work they did during our classes. In an effort to connect our school with the community, we have partnered with the Clayton County Water Authority to create an interactive art show at Melvin L. Newman Wetlands Center that will be on display throughout February. We also will show our work November 17 and December 8, from 7-9 at the Clayton County Performing Arts Center. Work will be available for purchase. This past semester we had the opportunity to visit the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia where students were able to see a great exhibition of Georgia photographers and a show by Masud Olufani whose work raises awareness of locations around Atlanta that formerly housed slave auctions. Our competition season is gearing up, with the first due date of December 9, for the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition. This is arguably the most important competition of the year, because it allows students to compete on the national level. Last year we had 3 different works of art place in the top 1% of work across the country. We fully expect even stronger results this year.

BAND BY MR. DERRICK JACKSON

Please congratulate the following students for being selected for the state-wide jazz clinic held December 3-4 at North Georgia College, Dahlonega, Ga: **Rashuan Nauth-** Guitar, **Malik Barnes-** Tenor Saxophone, **Michael Barriteau-** Tenor Saxophone, **Kevin Kindred-** Baritone Saxophone, **Tiffany Johnson-** Piano, **Derrick Rucker-** Trombone, **Zach Paul-** Piano.

During this honor state wide clinic, the students will perform in a big band setting being instructed and lead by the best jazz professors Georgia has to offer. These students represent the top percentage of jazz students in the state of Georgia and five of these students will also, be auditioning and competing for a spot in the all-state jazz band that will perform in Athens, Ga during the Georgia Music Educator's Association's conference in January. Thanks again for your support of the band program here at the Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts!

Stilwell Bands set to perform for the National Council of Teachers of English Conference Stilwell band program has been invited to perform for the National Council of Teachers of English Conference on the weekend of November 18-19th. So far, there are over 15,000 people registered for this event. Please congratulate our M.E. Stilwell Band students on this great accomplishment.

Stilwell Band students earned band scholarships to Valdosta State University and Edward Waters College, Micah Lindsey, flute (Valdosta State University), **Caitlyn Cloud-Morton,** flute (Edward Waters College), **Malik Barnes,** tenor saxophone (Valdosta State University), **RaShaun Nauth,** guitar (Valdosta State University)

Stilwell Band student earns a seat in the Metro Youth Symphony Orchestra Please congratulate **Caitlyn Cloud-Morton** for auditioning and being selected for the Metro Youth Symphony Orchestra for the 2016-2017 Season. This is prestigious ensemble made up the best orchestra and band students across the Atlanta area. Caitlyn is a great flutist and diligently working hard to improve her performance in all areas. She also, had the honor of performing in Italy over the summer with a number of other top musicians throughout the United States and abroad. Our kids are globally competing and Caitlyn should be congratulated for such an accomplishment

Stilwell Woodwind/Cello Trio performs at the Price Performing Arts Showcase!! Newly formed student group, M.A.C. performed at Bannaker High School for the Price Performing Arts Showcase reception. 300 spectators enjoyed the beautiful sounds of the two flute and cello ensemble. The members of the group are Micah Lindsey- flute, Caitlyn Cloud- Morton- flute and Abriahna Fambro- cello. Micah Lindsey has made All-State, District Honor band, the Clayton County All-County Band, and has participated in various summer music programs. Abriahna Fambro is a member of the Stilwell Orchestra and Band, playing cello and bass clarinet. She has also made District Honor Band and the Clayton County All-County Band. Caitlyn Cloud- Morton has made District Honor Band and traveled to Italy this past summer with the Orfeo program playing flute.

Stilwell Jazz Combo entertain the Principal and Partners of Clayton County! On October 25, the Stilwell Jazz Combo I performed at Clayton State University for the principals of Clayton County Public Schools and their partners. This is an annual event which promotes closer relationships with our schools and also, our donors and supporters of our programs here in Clayton County! 200 people were in attendance. Our newest jazz members, Joseph Dunn-Bass, Tiffany Johnson- piano, and our vocalist- Karis Motte made their performance debut with the ensemble!

Stilwell Jazz Combo showcase for the first lady of Jamaica at On an early Sunday morning, the Stilwell jazz combo traveled to Villa Christina to perform for the prime minister of Jamaica's wife! This event was very exclusive with lots of representatives and businesses across the Metro- Atlanta area. The group was very professional and also, were applauded for their great solos and mature sound! The first lady was impressed with the group also!

Stilwell's Zaccheus Paul and Malik Barnes jam for the Rainbow Push Coalition banquet- On last Friday evening, the Rainbow Push Coalition organization here in Atlanta had their annual banquet at the Hilton Airport. Zaccheus Paul and Malik provided entertainment for this event. Several state representatives were in attendance. Zaccheus was also able to promote his recent extended play cd TWLG!

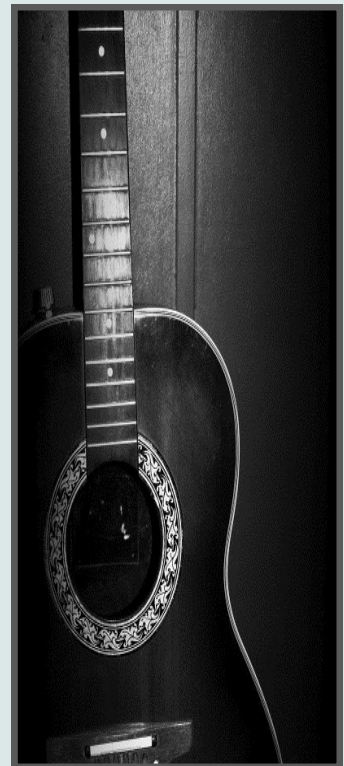
Stilwell Student auditions for the 2017 All-High School Grammy Band! Please congratulate, Malik Barnes for his recent audition for the 2017 All- High School Grammy Band! Good Luck!!!

GUITAR

BY
MR. PHIL MCPHERSON

This fall we welcomed 22 students into Beginning Guitar I. They have been learning note locations on each string and putting that knowledge into practice as they sight-read and perform class repertoire. We are happy they have chosen to begin their musical journey with us.

Returning students have been learning new repertoire for this year's performances, in both large and small ensembles. The entire guitar orchestra played in the October school performance hour, and presently is preparing for our 8th grade recruitment show and parent night show, Nov. 14. Our advanced students are preparing to play in this year's guitar-based school musical, *Tommy*, Jan. 14-15, which will feature our guitarists and student talent from all of Stilwell's Fine Arts departments.



The Stilwell Theatre
Department would like to
applaud our
Amazing
Parents and Students.

We have been extremely
busy and your support is
appreciated. Please sup-
port the upcoming Musical
Theatre Cabaret perfor-
mance December 9th at
7:00pm at the Performing
Arts Center in Tarpley
Hall.

Tickets are \$3.00 at the
door.



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT BY MRS. SABRINA ISDELL

The 2016-2017 M. E. Stilwell Science department

is elated to have your students enrolled in science courses this school year. Our goal is to increase your child's ability to think critically and to use science to solve real world problems. We will use numerous hands-on activities including lab investigations through the use of argument-driven



inquiry (ADI). Students will be exposed to real-world guiding questions about natural phenomenon. Students will be asked to design investigations, collect and analyze data, and use the evidence to justify their claims to answer questions.

The science department welcomes Ms. Rebecca Brown, our newest member to our team. Ms. Brown is an enthusiastic and passionate science teacher and is a recent graduate of Clayton State University. She is currently teaching Biology and Anatomy & Physiology. Currently, Anatomy students are studying Unit 2: Skeletal and Muscular System and have their ADI Lab Report on Bones due November 11th and the Bone Song Project due November 18th. In biology students are currently working on Unit 2: Cells with an emphasis on biochemistry and enzymes. Ms. Brown's tutorial times are on Thursdays from 4-4:30PM in room 221.

We have two instructors for chemistry this year. Ms. Maisha Humphrey and Ms. Shana Martin. Ms. Humphrey's chemistry students are currently studying Unit 2 – Finding Patterns (Electrons in Atoms, The Periodic Table, Ionic Compounds and Metals, Covalent Bonding, The Mole). Students will have their Unit test on Dec. 9th and 12th. Ms. Humphrey's tutorial times are Tuesday and Thursday from 4-4:30PM and on B-days (morning tutorials by appointment only) in room 323. Ms. Shana Martin's chemistry students are studying Unit 2 – Periodic Table. Upcoming projects and due dates: Science Fair Nov 28th. Ms. Martin also teaches AP Chemistry and the students are currently studying Unit 2 – Atomic Structure and Periodic Trends. Ms. Martin's tutorial day and times are Mondays-Thursdays from 4-4:30PM in room 320.

Ms. Rajini Sundararaj teaches Physics and Physical Science. Currently in Physics, the students are working on Unit 2 - Types of friction, Gravitational forces, Structure of Matter and the universe. Upcoming projects or due dates include the ADI lab report due on November 16th. For Physical Science, students are studying Unit 2-Doppler effect in real life applications, Properties of Electricity and Magnetism. Upcoming projects or due dates include the ADI lab report due on November 16th. Ms. Sundararaj's tutorial times are Tuesday and Wednesday, 4: 15-5:00PM in room 311.

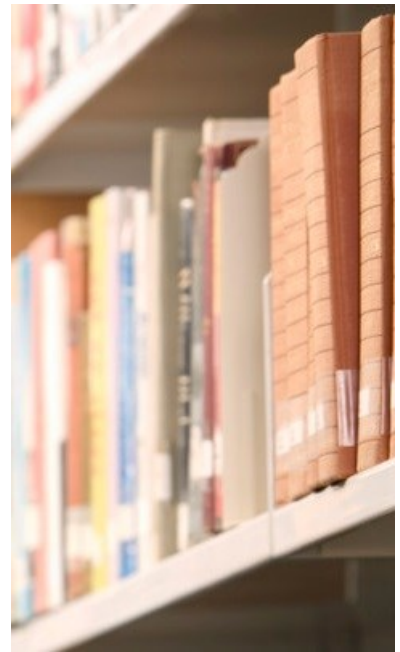
Ms. Sabrina Isdell is the department chairperson and teaches Biology and AP Biology. Biology students are currently working on Unit 2: Cells with an emphasis on biochemistry, enzymes, and homeostasis and the plasma membrane. Upcoming labs include Toothpickase (enzyme lab), Osmosis and Diffusion labs. In AP Biology, students have completed Big Idea 1 on Evolution and now are moving into Big Idea 2: Energy and Homeostasis. Upcoming projects and labs include Catalase Enzyme Lab and Water Potential lab observing osmosis in living cells. Ms. Isdell's tutorial times are Wednesday and Thursday from 4-5PM in room 219.

The Science Club lead sponsor is Ms. Rajini Sundararaj. All meetings take place in room 311. The remaining meeting dates for the year include: 11/17, 1/12, 2/16, 3/23. Meeting topics and upcoming events include: Science in Civil Engineering presentation, Scratch projects, Georgia Tech Robotics and Intelligent machines field trip. We will also feature science guest speakers from Clayton State University.

The science department will host our annual school science fair in the Media Center on Friday, December 9th and Monday, December 12th from 9AM-4PM.

Science Curriculum Night is scheduled for January 19, 2017 from 6-7PM in the Gym. This event will feature information pertaining to science courses offered at our school and how to best select the science course to prepare your child for college and future science related professions. Students will also demonstrate their science knowledge skills by generating student-led investigations in a gallery walk to expose their parents/guardians to the science concepts they have learned throughout the year.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS BY MR. CHRIS PRINCE



The English Language Arts department took a trip to see *The Tragedy of Macbeth* at the Shakespeare Tavern, just in time for Halloween. The students were treated to a wonderful performance of the "Cursed Scottish Play" featuring witches, greed, and murder. Seeing a performance of Shakespeare's work first-hand brings the brilliantly beautiful and complex poetry to life, adding meaning and depth to the language that just isn't there when reading off a page.





MATH DEPARTMENT

BY MR. EARL LEWIS

The goal of the Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts mathematics department is to equip each individual student, despite deficiencies upon entering the program, with an acceptable level of proficiency in order to ensure they are college and career ready at the time of graduation. Further, we strive to accelerate the learning and increase the understanding of those students who enter the program with a strong mathematics foundation by adding rigor and critical thinking tasks to the normal curriculum.

The math department completed a successful Math Curriculum Night on November 3rd where parents and students were informed of our school's mathematical standing in relation to the county and the state. Parents were also given a chance to show their math aptitude with games covering the same content with which their student is enrolled. Additionally, parents and students were made aware of a pervasive problem across all math content levels at Stilwell, which has been identified by all teachers. This problem is the absence of fundamental mathematics skills in a large majority of the student body. This deficiency is crippling to the overall advancement of our school in terms of moving students forward mathematically.

Students that lack these basic skills in the 9th grade struggle

to truly **UNDERSTAND THE CONTENT** partly because they are working so hard to complete basic calculations stemming from remedial content instead of using those efforts to advance their knowledge with the current content. This leads to a snowballing effect that begins with students scraping by in the 9th grade not mastering the standards presented and therefore not being able to transfer the required prerequisite skills onto the next grade level content.

The math department has implemented pre-enrollment (8th-9th grade) interventions and summer interventions for all current students in order to inform of the prerequisite skills required to be successful in the upcoming course. Additionally, the department is currently implementing an intervention that will monitor and gradually increase knowledge of basic skills throughout the school year. These interventions will only work as they are designed if all stakeholders, students, parents, teachers and administration, take part in ensuring every individual student is mathematically competent. Thank you for your assistance in this endeavor.

SOCIAL STUDIES

BY MS. KRISTINA GRAVES

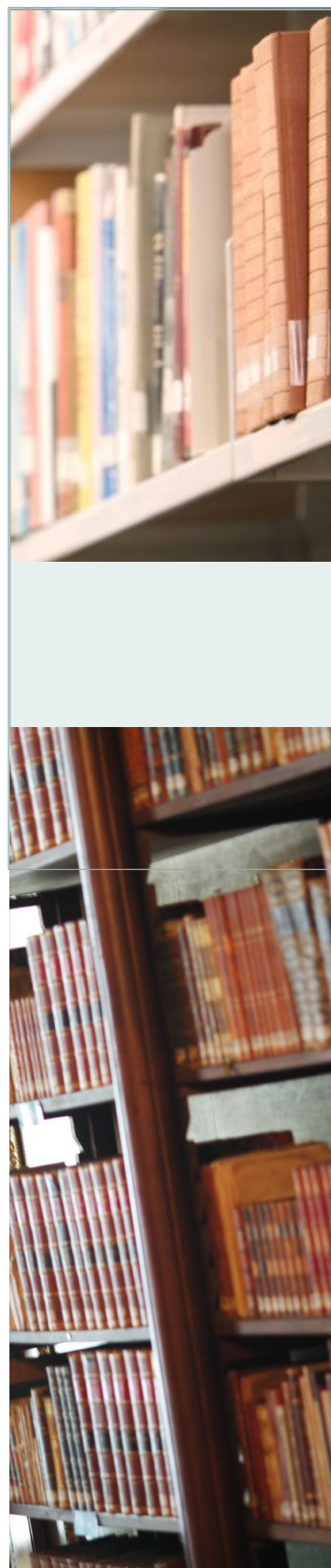
World History classes are currently studying Africa and Islamic Empires. The next unit will be on the medieval period, the Byzantines, and the Mongols. Students are also reading A History of the World in 6 Glasses to look at history from a broader world perspective. Currently, students are working on research projects for the Social Studies Fair. The school-wide social studies fair will be held in January 2017.

Freshmen current issues have spent the semester studying the history of American voting rights and the 2016 presidential election. Students organized the mock election for the entire school and also held a mock debate prior to Election Day. Currently, students are analyzing data from the results of the 2016 presidential election. They will begin presentations on international elections in the following weeks. Next semester, students will read The New Jim Crow and begin a unit on Race in America.

Government classes have been studying the election process—particularly the Presidential Election Process and how our country elects a President. With the National election on Tuesday, November 08, 2016, this is a timely educational opportunity to follow current events and academic content as they converge in this important election. Students have been analyzing the latest poll data and completing Electoral College maps with the states that are solidly aligned politically with one party or candidate and identifying the “swing” states which will ultimately determine the election. After the election, students will be discussing the implications for the future of the U.S. government and public policy as the new President-elect takes over in January. AP classes are prepping for the AP Exam in May.

US History classes are currently studying the expansion of the United States in the early half of the 19th century. Students are creating maps of this expansion—including the Louisiana Purchase, the route of Lewis and Clark to the Pacific Ocean, and the infrastructural improvements such as the National Road and the Erie Canal which promoted population growth and commerce in the Midwest ultimately leading to the consolidation of the Northeast and the Midwest politically and economically. (This will ultimately lead to sectionalism and the division of North and South which culminates in the Civil War). After this, students will analyze the industrial revolution with the rise of factories and the emerging concept of Manifest Destiny—the belief that the United States was destined to control the territory between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Students are also working on projects that will be eligible to compete in the Stilwell Social Studies Fair in early January. AP classes are prepping for the AP Exam in May.

Economics just completed unit 2 macroeconomics. As we studied this unit students watched presidential debates where they compared and contrast each nominee economic policies and discussed who they thought would be best to grow our economy, reviewed the state of the economy before President Barak Obama took office and present status of the economy. The economic classes will visit the Atlanta Federal Reserve System on November 18 to take a tour of the facility and speak with an economists concerning past and present monetary policy. Our next unit of study is international economics. Students heard a lot about NAFTA during the debate, which they were introduced to the free trade agreement in American Government and reviewed in American History. The economics class will concentrate on NAFTA and other free trade agreements.



HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

BY MS. YOLANDA JENKINS
AND MR. COREY THOMAS

Personal Fitness-Ms. Yolanda Jenkins

Hello from Ms. Jenkins,

Parents after Thanksgiving break, the Health and Physical education department will be administering the Georgia mandated Fitnessgram assessment to your student enrolled in a Personal Fitness class. Personal Fitness is a required course for graduation and each student must participated in the physical fitness assessment. Clayton County Public Schools use the Cooper's Institute Fitnessgram assessment program. Information can be found at www.cooperinstitute.org/youth/fitnessgram

The following assessment is used as the student's physical fitness "report card". Fitnessgram is a health-related youth fitness assessment that utilizes evidence-based standards to measure the level of fitness needed for good overall health

Students will be assessed in health-related fitness areas, such as

Fitnessgram

The FITNESSGRAM assessment does not compare your child to anyone else, nor does it measure skill or athletic performance. Rather, it compares your child to health standards that have been established by researchers as the level of fitness all students should reach in order to attain health benefits.

After your child has completed the FITNESSGRAM you will receive a student report that includes the following:

A brief explanation of each fitness assessment

Details on the importance of each assessment

The child's actual scores and the Healthy Fitness Zone (HFZ) for the child's gender and age



IMPORTANT DATES:

11/28

Fitnessgram Post-Testing begins

11/14

"How to Save a Life"-
CPR/First Aid unit in Health

12/1

Health Public Service Announcement Project starts

12/14-16

Final Exams





“The family is the nucleus of civilization.”



Ways to help prepare your child for Fitnessgram testing

A few ways to support your student include:

Stress the importance fitness has on feeling good!

Give your child equipment that encourages physical activity.

Help your child identify a time and place for daily physical activity.

Spend less time watching T.V. and playing video games.

Be a role model for your child.

Praise and encourage your child to be active.

Health-Mr. Corey Thomas

Hello from Mr. Thomas,

Fall semester students were able to learn a variety of concepts on physical, social, and emotional health. We discussed concepts such as the meaning of health, effective communication, violence in society, alcohol and drug awareness and learning to read a food label.

Students will be participating in the American Heart Association CPR Anytime “Hands Only” CPR course in December. This course familiarize student to life saving techniques needed to help in cases of emergency. Please feel free to sign your student up at local chapter if they desire official CPR certification. You can find more information at www.shopcpranytime.org or call 1-877-AHA-4CPR.

If your student is ready to drive with a Class D driver’s license, the HPE department will administer the ADAP course during their 9th grade

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