



# THE VIEW



## JOINT USE AGREEMENT

The VBSD received 4 Joint Use Agreement grants, in partnership with the City of Van Buren, last year totaling over \$120k. Tennis courts received a resurfacing this summer to provide a safer and aesthetic surface to the city courts.

The Freshman Academy received a quarter mile concrete trail around the track to provide a place for students,

staff and community to exercise. Central Elementary is receiving a playground renovation with an added quarter mile concrete trail for exercise and an expanded area inside the trail to offer the community a place for youth league athletic practices. Finally, King Elementary will receive in the Spring of 2018, a quarter mile concrete trail around its playground with 5 exercise stations for students, staff and community to become more active. The VBSD is in great appreciation to the City of Van Buren for their partnership in this improvement to our facilities.



## TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The VBSD 2016 Teacher of the Year for each campus were celebrated at the end of the year convocation ceremony held in May 2017. Recognized and pictured left to right, Tammy Marr-City Heights; Judy Parks-King Elementary; Jenny Newman-Parkview Elementary; Dawn Nichols-Rena Elementary; Susan Kelley-Tate Elementary; Bonnie Duff-Central Elementary; Tracy Cline-Butterfield Trail Middle School; Emily McDaniel-Northridge Middle School; Penny Harris-VBHS Career Center; Heather Dillard-Freshman Academy; and Lisa Moose-Van Buren High School. Bonnie Duff was selected Elementary Teacher of the Year and Tracy Cline was selected Secondary Teacher of the Year for the district.



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Teacher of the Year 2017
- VBHS Teacher Jennifer Blakney recognized as Outstanding Foreign Language Teacher
- Student David Samson recognized for Warrior Dash
- Student Katelyn King, Miss Teen Crawford County



## BTMS: IGNITOR TEAM: TAKE TRIP TO FAIR

The Ignitor Team at Butterfield Trail Middle School went on a field trip to the Arkansas/Oklahoma State Fair, as a part of an Expeditionary Learning Unit, called, "What is in a State Fair?" Students learned about the many parts and all the hard work that goes into preparing different pieces of the fair. Students viewed exhibits, visited the farm animals, rode a few rides and enjoyed some great food while on their expedition at the fair.



## FRESHMAN ACADEMY: WATC TRIP

Freshman Academy students attended a field experience where they listened to Dr. Rink, the WATC director at University Arkansas Fort Smith, as he proudly showed off the automotive shop where students are able to learn about a career in automotive service and get practical hands-on experience working with the latest automobile technology.

*"Research in education has shown that we remember field trips long into adulthood."*

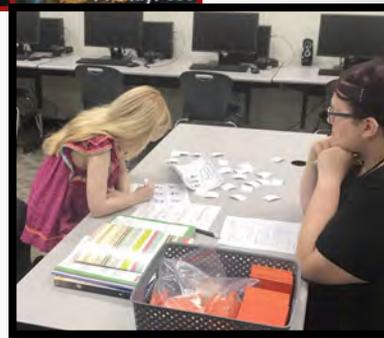
### LEARN ABOUT RVVA

River Valley Virtual Academy (RVVA) is committed to providing the most flexible, streamlined, and affordable K-12 education for your child. From the ground up, our flexible online curriculum is designed for students who want and need a different school experience. Premium online technology is available; your child will be able to access top-of-the-line educational materials provided by passionate, Arkansas certified teachers. The school is open enrollment, not limited just to students in the Van Buren School District. If you or someone you know in the home-school community might be interested in learning more about RVVA, please contact Jennifer Feeny at (888)221-3624, or visit our website for more details at [rivervalleyvirtualacademy.com](http://rivervalleyvirtualacademy.com)

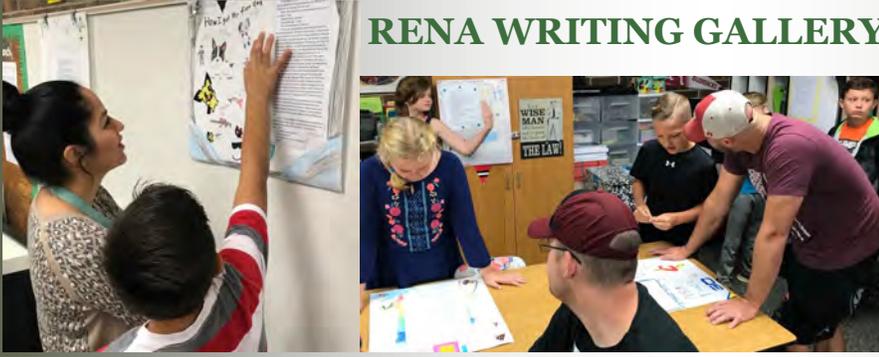


## RIVER VALLEY VIRTUAL ACADEMY: TAKES FIRST TRIP OF THE YEAR

The River Valley Virtual Academy (RVVA) opened its doors in August of 2017. Students enrolled at RVVA have the opportunity to participate in online learning as well as blended learning opportunities. The RVVA students took their first field trip of the year. The trip consisted of a tour of the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith Campus and an opportunity to volunteer at the Next Step Homeless Shelter.



## RENA WRITING GALLERY



Students in Mr. Dean's fifth grade class, at Rena Elementary, proudly displayed and shared their personal narrative writing in a Writer's Gallery Event held at the school for family and guests to enjoy.

*Speaking, Listening and Oral Language standards are of great importance. Student's learning through presentation of a project they have worked hard on encourages creativity and confidence.*

## PUMPKIN CONTEST

City Heights had their annual pumpkin "Walk of Good Character". Each class decorates a pumpkin and then they choose a positive quote to go with their decorated pumpkin. Students then walk around and look at the presentations and then vote on their top five favorite pumpkins. This year the winning pumpkin was Mr. McBride's class pumpkin, The Grumpy Cat.

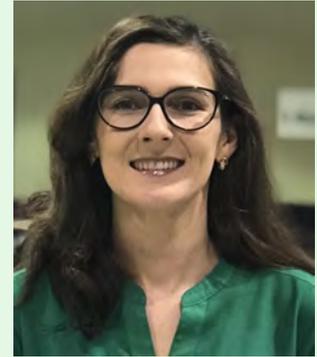


## GRANDPARENT'S DAY



Central Elementary celebrated Grandparent's Day on September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Students enjoyed shopping at the book fair, sharing their work, and sharing a snack with their grandparents. Many classes prepared presentations and songs to present. All grandparents got to participate in an activity with their grandchild and were able to take home a special keepsake from their experience. Pictured: Allison and Djuna Roden (left) and Sabri Qandil (right).

## POINTER PRIDE IN PROFESSIONALISM



Jennifer Blakney was named the Educator of Excellence by the Arkansas Foreign Language Teachers Association at their annual conference on October 6th. She was recognized for her constant positive promotion of language studies and her ability to place herself in the roll of student as well as teacher.

## PROFESSIONALISM: TEAM BUILDING



Teachers at the Freshman Academy participate in team building activities during professional development before the school year began in August. The activities were designed to encourage communication and problem solving through being an active and participating member of a team.

## UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS VISIT

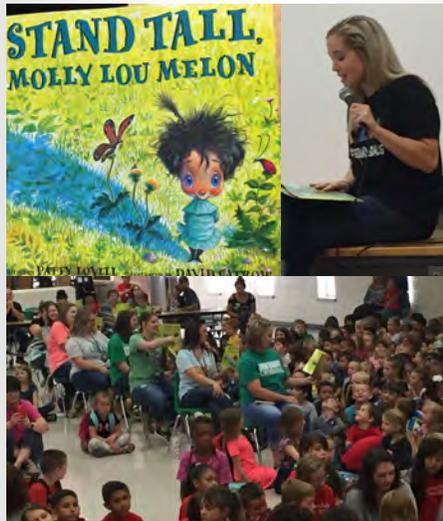


### WARRIOR DASH

David Samson, an eighth grade student at Butterfield Trail Middle School, recently participated in the 2017 Warrior Dash, a 5K obstacle course in Cabot, Arkansas. David joined Arkansas National Guard Sergeant Bryce Cobb in this event. David uses a prosthetic device on his left leg, due to being without his leg since birth. David does not let this slow him down. He runs track and cross country with the BTMS squads, as well as plays soccer. Sergeant Cobb competes in various events. He was connected to David through Hanger clinic, which makes licensed prosthetics. Regarding the competition, David said, "It will be my first run through the dirt and grass and all that, so I know it will be real fun, and maybe do more of this, have more opportunities after this."



Randomly selected Butterfield Trail Middle School students are joining other students from the Northwest Arkansas area to participate in a research project this school year. The goal of the project is to determine the impact of increased access to college information and on-campus experiences on student outcomes. The study hopes to find out which types of experiences were most helpful to students either visits to campus or just receiving information. The BTMS students who were selected to attend the campus visits during the year took their first trip to the University of Arkansas campus on October 3, 2017. They will go again, November 2017 and in April 2018, will attend a Red and White game.



### BOOK OF THE MONTH

This year, Central Elementary has started a school-wide Book of the Month Program. Each month, every teacher in the building gets a new copy of a picture book, chosen by the leadership team. The book is chosen based off the audience, kindergarten through fifth grade students, the "hot topics" in our school, and the district curriculum taught. The book is introduced and read aloud in Rise and Shine. All classes are then asked to work in a character lesson and activity using the book to reinforce our school vision and mission.

### COLLEGE VISIT



The student body of the Freshman Academy went on a college visit to the U of A: Fort Smith campus on September 20. Students were split into small groups with their STAR adviser to do a variety of activities. Students spent one rotation of time in the Reynolds Center visiting the UAFS Majors Expo. Students were given a list of information they needed to find the answers to which helped the students direct their conversations with these representatives. While some students were busy interviewing the different colleges, other students were touring the campus. Students got to see the dorms, classrooms, labs, library, and fitness center. The third group of students were able to hear about an exciting opportunity available to local high school students through WATC. They listened to a presentation to answer basic questions and then were led on a tour of the Baldor Building where WATC is housed. In the Reynolds Center, the admissions office set up a photo booth for students to have a little fun with props. Pictured: Ethan Brown, Caleb Ferguson, Hunter Laxson, and TJ Dyer.

## THAT'S HOW BUTTERFIELD DOES IT



Parents and students from Ms. Cobley and Ms. Myers' Team present on Parent Night.



Students from Mrs. Kinney and Mrs. Wesson's Team present to parents on September 14<sup>th</sup>.



Students from Ms. Jones and Mrs. Gregory's Team work on Expeditionary Unit.



Students from Ms. Nash and Ms. Neel's Team work on Expeditionary Unit.



*"The school-home connection is vital for student success. The offering of family nights is a special way to help parents feel involved in their child's education"*

## LITERACY NIGHT:

## FAMILY FUN



The IZARD Campus for Learning hosted their Fall Literacy Night and Family Fun Night. Arvest Bank volunteered at the event where they cooked and served hotdogs and provided sides for the event. At the end of the evening, students were provided with a free book and goodie bags. Students created book characters out of toilet paper rolls to present to those attending the event. Students and parents participated in games and literacy lessons presented by teachers to provide support for helping students at home with reading.



## PROJECT LEAD THE WAY: DISCOVERY LEARNING

### CELEBRATING STUDENTS



Katelyn King, seventh grade student at BTMS, was selected 2017, Ms. Teen Crawford County. Katelyn was also selected for the, "Good Heart" Award, for her volunteerism in her community.

### CELEBRATING STAFF



Central Elementary started a new award called the "Ewe" Make a Difference Award. It was started to build relationships and a positive culture among the staff. Each week, a staff member is chosen to receive the award by the previous staff member who received the award. They are presented with a stuffed ewe, and a sign to post on their door.

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First grade students, at Tate Elementary, build a PLTW communication device in the Light and Sound Unit.



Destiney Cherry a UAFS Education Student and Tanner Burns a U of A Engineering Student came to help kindergarten students at Rena Elementary with their PLTW activities, building beanstalks and houses.



*PLTW: Inspiring, Engaging and Empowering*



BTMS teacher, Eleanor Wallace, is teaching BTMS's first ever Design and Modeling Class, a PLTW course designed using an activity, project, problem-based approach in the classroom that typically involves teams of students working together to solve a complex problem or accomplish a common goal. All Science classes will incorporate PLTW topics at some point during the year. BTMS started PLTW last year with a Robotics Class, which is still taught by Mary Butler. Seventh and eighth grade students in the Design and Modeling Class started the semester creating a foot orthosis. More recently, they completed puzzle cubes, which took them from design, to sketch, to creation within the project parameters.



Students at Central Elementary, learn about using a compass and directions using a PLTW APP on the iPad.



The newly formed Freshman Academy PLTW Robotics Team is hard at work planning and creating their robots for competition. Team members are, Alexis Villines, Torey Sutterfield, Bina Guo, Tyler Pense, Luis Pirir, Seth Williams, Micah Lucas, Harrison Lehnen, Natalie Ophaso, Emily Saniseng, Noah Shipley, Noah Hendrickson, and Josue Vargas. The team is coached by Danna Fudge.



## ECLIPSE WATCH 2017



On August 21st, 2017, the world experienced a once in a lifetime, total, solar eclipse. The eclipse was streamed live for students to view and some science classes went outside to view the eclipse first hand. This event was an amazing learning experience for all our students and created an instructional opportunity using a real time phenomenon of our amazing world. There were many learning activities provided across the district for students to learn about the solar eclipse in a fun and interactive way. Pictured are Butterfield Trail Middle School students and IZard Center for Learning students.



*“The world around us can be the most amazing teacher, VBSD works hard to bring those experiences to life for our students”*

## FREEDOM WEEK POSTERS



Sixth grade students at Northridge Middle School participated in National Freedom Week. Students learned that everywhere we go, we are surrounded by the symbols of freedom made possible by the U.S. Constitution: American flags flying over buildings, newspapers on doorsteps, and the right to vote in

elections. Although these symbols may represent something different to each of us, collectively they remind us that, as Americans, we are afforded freedoms unlike any other people in the world. Through National Freedom Week students have the opportunity to learn what being an American Citizen is all about. The students created “What Freedom Means to ME” posters. This year’s freedom showcase pictured: left to right: Audrey Davis, Evelyn Ball, Gabriel Jones, Lizzy Gonzalez, Lily Belcher, JD Frederiksen, Meghan Hutchison and Lilly McCowan.

## Smarter Choices , Better Chances



School Resource Office, Cpl. Dewayne Richesin, conducted, Smart Choices, Better Chances Program at Northridge Middle School. The program covers topics of the Criminal Justice System, Youth Violence, Weapons, Criminal Gangs, Controlled Substances and the prison System. Students are being taught they are going to be held accountable for their actions legally and they see videos of people that will never get out of prison for their bad decisions they made in life here in Arkansas. The last day C.C.S.O. bring an emergency response vehicle to Northridge to tour. Students also were shown several tools Van Buren S.W.A.T. Team uses and some even were able to try on the gear.



COMMIT TO GRADUATE  
C2G



Ninth grade students at the VBHS Freshman Academy have their picture taken in a graduation cap and gown; as a part of the commit to graduate initiative that encourages students to set their next big educational goal as high school graduation. As part of this initiative, students signed a banner the first week of school, which now hangs in the commons area to serve as a reminder of their commitment to graduate.

## STUDENT COUNCIL RENAISSANCE RALLY



The Freshman Academy Student Council had the opportunity to go to a regional Josten's Renaissance Rally, in Conway, AR, to hear creative ideas to help students build enthusiasm and ownership for their own high school experience and to help inspire them to take the information back to share with their student body.

## FINS/CONSERVATION CLUB



Team FINS collect recycling in the drop off lane at BTMS.



FINS/Conservation Club first fishing trip of the year took place on October 10th.

The Butterfield Trail Middle School FINS/Conservation Club has been very active

already this year. In addition to their Spring fishing derby, they took a fall fishing trip to the Van Buren Municipal Park on October 10, 2017. Students in the group walked to the park after school and used their own poles that they brought to school or used fishing poles the club provides. Teachers Sheri Cobley and Eleanor Wallace sponsor the FINS/Conservation Club. The group is joining with teacher Jessie Beckham to kick start a new, improved recycling program at Butterfield. Once a week, parents can drop off recycled items from home with the FINS group that will be waiting at the parent drop off line to take the recycled items to our recycling bin. BTMS will participate in the Recycle Bowl from October 16th through November 17th. Their hope is they can lead the way in recycling and making the planet a better place.

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GO POINTERS



## BOOKSALE



Parkview Elementary K-Kids held their Annual Used Book Sale in September. Students bring gently used books from home and books are resold for fifty cents a piece. The money raised this year was donated to Arkansas Children's Hospital: Oncology Department, in honor of three brave cancer fighters and VBSD students, Timothy Moore, Bryson Keirseay and Saylor Wilkinson. This year the book sale raised over \$600.