



Pinto Press

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Moniteau County R-1 Schools



“Equipping today’s children for tomorrow’s challenges.”

www.californiak12.org

Refreshed, improved Tri-County conference

by Sam Smith

The Tri-County Conference, started in 1932, has changed a lot through recent years. In fact, according to California athletic director Rick Edwards, “over the time that I have worked here Southern Boone has joined, Tipton has left, Hallsville has joined, Warsaw has left, and Boonville has joined our conference.”

The conference that a school is in will depend on several different factors, one of which is proximity. Schools will try their best to stay close to the rest of their conference to cut down on travel time.

Another factor would be school size. Conferences are usually composed of schools that are very similar in size and have similar sports.

Having certain sports also impacts the conference that a school will be in as the required sports differ from one conference to another. The Tri-County Conference schools must have football, bas-

ketball, volleyball, track, softball, and baseball.

The required sports for the conference doesn’t mean that schools are limited to those few sports.

According to Edwards, “Plenty of schools will have sports such as soccer, tennis, wrestling, or golf. These schools will contact other schools in or outside of the conference to compete with them.”

Simply because a school is in a certain conference does not mean that they can only compete with other schools in the conference. Every season and in almost every sport, teams will reach out to schools outside the conference to expand their experience to new and different schools.

Schools such as Warsaw, who decided to leave a conference, make this deci-



Warsaw has left the Tri-County Conference, and the Boonville Pirates will fill their place in the conference and on the wall.

saw leaving. This opened up a good opportunity for Boonville to adjust.

According to California High School principal Sean Kirksey, “Superintendents will have the final say on whether or not the school will change or stay in the same conference.”

Kirksey thinks these changes in the conference are for the better for California as well as all schools affected by these changes.

“The athletic directors will put everything together for what decisions need to be made with the school and the conference, but the superintendents will give the final say,” said Edwards. “Everything in our conference has become balanced as best it can, and I don’t see another conference-changing decision being made in the near future.”

sion based on a few key things. Warsaw had a fair distance to travel to multiple schools within the Tri-County Conference. Also, they had become the smallest school in the conference making it even more challenging to compete.

Schools such as Boonville decided to come into our conference for the same reasons that Warsaw left.

Boonville was traveling all the way to Kirksville and became the smallest school in the North Central Missouri Conference. They then received an invitation from our conference due to War-

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		6 ES Title 1 Literacy Night 5-7 p.m. in CES cafeteria	7 ACT Workshop (Math/Science) 5:45 p.m.	8 HS Veterans Day Assembly 8:30 a.m. in gym	9 ASVAB for all Juniors	10 CHS Musical, <i>Mary Poppins</i> 7 p.m. in CPAC
11 CHS Musical, <i>Mary Poppins</i> , 2 p.m. in CPAC	12 No School (Teacher Professional Development) 7/8 Boys BB @ LSE, Boonville 7/8 Girls BB vs. LSE, Boonville	13 JV/V Boys/Girls BB @ Warrensburg	14 ACT Workshop (English/Reading) 5:45 p.m.	15 4th Grade Concert 7:00 p.m in CPAC 7/8 Boys BB @ Fulton 7/8 Girls BB vs Fulton	16 ES Movie Night 7:00 p.m. in the Gym	17
18 Lady Pinto Hoops Italian Dinner 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in CHS Commons	19 JV/V Girls BB vs. Clinton 7 Boys/Girls BB vs. Sedalia School Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. in CHS Library	20 JV/V Boys BB @ Sweet Springs JV/V Girls BB @ Centralia	21 Thanksgiving Break	22	23	24
25	26	27 7/8 Girls BB @ Blair Oaks 7/8 Boys BB vs Blair Oaks PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m. in CES cafeteria	28 ACT Workshop (Math/Science) 5:45 p.m.	29 7/8 Girls/Boys BB vs SoBoCo FFA Greenhand/Chapter Degree Ceremony 6:30 p.m. in CPAC	30	1
Tri-County Varsity Basketball Tournament @ Southern Boone						
2	3 JV/V Girls BB vs Warrensburg	4 9JV/V Boys BB @ SoBoCo 7/8 Girls BB @ Russellville	5 ACT Workshop (English/Reading) 5:45 p.m.	6	7	8 Project Graduation Vendor Booth Event in CHS gym
Osage Basketball Tournament --- Freshman Boys 3rd-8th & Eighth Grade Boys 4th-8th						
9 California Bands Winter Concert 2:00 p.m. in CPAC	10 7/8 Boys BB vs Russellville	11 9JV/V Boys BB @ Centralia 9JV/V Girls BB @ SoBoCo 7 Boys/Girls BB @ Warsaw	12	13 1st Grade Concert 7:00 p.m. in CPAC 7/8 Boys BB vs Osage 9 Boys/Girls BB vs Osage	14 ES Movie Night 7:00 p.m. in the Gym JV/V Boys BB vs Missouri Military Academy	15 Var Boys/Girls BB National Guard Shootout @ JC
8th Grade Girls Basketball Tournament @ Jefferson City			JV Boys Basketball Tournament @ Blair Oaks			

For athletic event times, go to the athletic calendar on www.californiak12.org

Ready to race

by Rebekah Farmer

The Tough Pumpkin Run is an annual event hosted by California Elementary School PTO. This year was its third year.

Ronessa Gunnerson, third year president of PTO, said the purpose of the Tough Pumpkin Run is “to provide a fun family activity, while raising money for our PTO.”

The event includes an obstacle course, bounce houses, and games for children. At the end of the event, medals are handed out to all Run participants. Sponsorships, community support, monetary donations, and anyone who volunteers make the Tough Pumpkin possible.

“I feel like parents are always looking for something fun for their kids to do. The Tough Pumpkin Run is different, afford-



able, and fun,” said Gunnerson.

The profits made from the event go directly to the school. School supplies, classroom grants, and movie licenses for movie nights are only a few of the expenses that the Tough Pumpkin Run helps cover.

“Thank you to everyone who is always so willing to support our PTO, to make PTO events possible. Thank you to the parents who bring their families out,” said Gunnerson. “Thank you to the teachers who give their time and the businesses who sponsor our events. Thank you to the committee members, volunteers, and fellow PTO officers.”

Pastries with parents

by Jesse Wingate

Muffins With Mom and Donuts With Dad are events held at many schools throughout the country. They are usually held once a year and can occur on separate days, giving each parent a separate but equal opportunity to have breakfast with their child.



First grader Nora Lootens is proud to have her mother Kate by her side.



These events usually serve normal breakfast foods such as pancakes, muffins, or bagels. California Elementary School serves biscuits and gravy.

These events are hosted at schools during one morning before school starts, giving parents a unique opportunity to have

breakfast with their child or speak with their teacher.

On Wednesday, Oct. 3, many mothers took time out of their morning to sit and have breakfast with their children at the CES Muffins With Mom. Likewise on the 10th fathers joined their children for a similar breakfast during Donuts With Dad.

“We take the time to invite parents to come into the school because we truly believe in the adage that it takes a village to raise a child,” said elementary school principal Gary Baker.

“These events give us the opportunity to build a relationship with the families of our students and get to know them on a more personal level.”

Lunch ladies at work

by Anthony Strauch

The elementary lunch ladies are hard working women that serve the elementary kids with foods like hamburgers, chicken patties, pizza, pork patties, and ribs.

Some serving restrictions can be what allergies the kids have towards certain foods and how much food they put on their trays.

“We give the portion by DESE requirements,” said Myra Lutz, elementary kitchen manager.

The ladies have good teamwork in the kitchen. The one pressure is “when food isn’t getting done in time for serving,” Lutz said.



Responsible for elementary lunch are Kate Klein, Judy Witt, Crystal Johnson, Myra Lutz, Tiffany Wilson, and Beth Admire.

When they pick what to serve to the kids, they look at what the kids liked from what they have served in the past.

Besides meat products, they also serve vegetables, fruit, and wheat. These can be peaches, spaghetti, corn, peas, carrots, or even strawberries.

A benefit of the job is “getting to see the funny kids,” said district food services director Kate Klein who spends time in all three buildings.

“I saw some of the kids at the high school on their very first day of kindergarten.”

A typical day begins at 6:15 a.m. They get breakfast ready before they cook everything for lunch time. Lastly they clean every tray and utensil and try to be done by 1:15 p.m.

The next day, it starts all over again.

In my room . . . Grellner’s independent story writers

by Hailey Tarrants

Three to four days a week Taylor Grellner’s kindergarten class spends a portion of their time doing Writers’ Workshop. This is a project where Grellner’s students choose a topic to write a sentence or two about and draw a picture to go along with it.

One reason she does this project is to help build independence in her students. It gives the children freedom in what they draw and write, which is one reason why the children enjoy the task. Another reason they enjoy it is they get to choose where they sit in the classroom.

“This is an opportunity for students to get repeated practice developing their writing skills,” said Grellner.

Grellner has always done Writers’ Workshop with her past classes but taught it in different versions and does plan on continuing with future classes. She takes



Adalyn Harkins prepares to write her Writers’ Workshop story by setting up her paper and pencil box in her chosen seat in the room.

inspiration from other teachers and adjusts it to the needs of her class.

“The way I facilitate Writers’ Workshop is based off of Lucy Calkins’ writing curriculum,” said Grellner. “I’ve also read blogs about how other teachers, such as DeeDee Willis, Greg Smedley-Warren and Tara West run Writers’ Workshop in their own classrooms.”

Grellner finds a lot of joy in watching her students grow and improve on their skills. Watching them put together words to make sentences gives her an “incredible feeling.”

4th grade presents:

School Daze

Thursday, November 15

7:00 p.m. in CPAC

Separated English, reading classes

by Lexi Binder and Hailey Tarrants

The California Middle School continues its separated English and reading classes for the sixth through eighth grades, which has been the practice for the past eight years.

Recently, Karen Distler was hired to teach sixth grade reading. Although she taught seventeen years at other schools, this is her first year in the California school district.

"The separation is to enhance the current reading focus, giving students more time to focus on specific reading skills in the Missouri Learning Standards," said Distler.

Missouri Learning Standards are guidelines for grade and course expectations within each department.

Krista Davis, California Middle School seventh grade science and reading teacher, said, "By separating the English and reading classes, we are able to have smaller class sizes. We are also able to have greater focus and more time spent on the state reading and ELA standards."

She points out that smaller classes make the teacher able to help students individually much easier.

Also, if a teacher can have one-on-one time with students, it can make developing a passion for reading much easier.

"We hope to cultivate a love for reading as well as develop students in their reading comprehension for both fiction and non-fiction literature," said Davis.

Students read in language arts just

as they read in math, science, and social studies. Additionally, the reading teachers offer plenty of fiction and non-fiction literature physically and technologically.

For reading, "technology has really assisted our students with special learning needs," said Distler, "there are online programs like ReadWorks or NEWSLA that adjust the reading level of passages so students receive the same content, but in their own Lexile Range."

Even though reading and English are



Karen Distler uses a picture book to introduce grade-level skills and as a tool for her sixth grade reading students to practice responding to text. (photo by Gaven McKee)

so much alike, "reading class focuses on skills such as visualization, prediction, inference, summary, comparison of text, and analyzing text," said Distler.

"English is focused on the writing process and the rules that govern the English language," said Davis.

While English and reading are both beneficial to learn together, they can be taught more in depth separately and help students learn and comprehend greater than before.

In my room . . . on a basic note

by Lexi Binder

In California Middle School, Mr. Tyler Edwards teaches sixth through eighth grade band.

The eighth graders are "starting to prepare music for concert and keep expanding their skills on their instruments," said Edwards.

Throughout the year the middle school band must work hard for their upcoming performances without getting off task. In order to keep students focused and work hard, Edwards said, "I try to get my students to want to feel proud about what they've accomplished and to want to do better than we've done before."

Band is not just about playing instruments and making music. Students also learn how to deal with "emotions and perceptions on a daily basis. We utilize self-critique and

constructive criticism every rehearsal, and they see immediate results from that feedback," Edwards explained.

Besides the basics of music, Edwards tries to teach a more deep and motivational message to his students, "to be better today than you were yesterday, to help each other, do what you're supposed to do and be where you're supposed to be."

Edwards said, "I am so proud of how much work the band students have put in and look forward to what we can accomplish in the future."



Mr. Tyler Edwards plays music along with his eighth graders to help them better understand the way the music should sound.

Let the Music Speak

by Alexis Binder

The middle school choir performs many concerts in a year. According to director Erika DeMoss, her goal for every concert is for her students to display skills and techniques they have learned over a period of time.

"There is something within every lesson that will benefit the students in their performances," said DeMoss.

"I have the privilege to work with great vocal music teachers in this district, and they have been gracious to give me guidance and construction on ways to better prepare students."

Choir concerts are typically performed in the Performing Arts



Center located at the high school, and many in the community come to watch.

These concerts "give the community, family members, and faculty members the opportunity to see what the students are learning. It also gives the students the opportunity to showcase their talents," said DeMoss.

The middle school choir practices hard for every performance. DeMoss tries to make sure they do their best and has plenty of great things to say about the choir.

This newsletter is a product of the CHS Mass Media class, taught by Mrs. Christy Heimericks.

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California MS/HS Bands Winter Concert

Sunday, Dec. 9 in CPAC, 2:00 p.m.

\$1 Book Sale before and after concert.

Proceeds benefit 2019 band trip.



Middle School Basketball
 Monday, Nov. 12th
 vs. Laura Speed Elliott
 Girls @ home
 Boys in Boonville
 6:00 p.m.
 Coaches - Robb Hartman
 Whitney Toosley
 Bryan Lawson
 Landon Porter
Season Opener

Helping students find their future

by Gaven McKee

With an astonishing 53 professionals on hand to talk to students, CHS held its fourth annual Career Day.

The purpose of Career Day is to raise awareness of various careers and most importantly to encourage students to think about their post-high school options. This is one of many tools counselors use to get students to think about what they want, to explore options they may not have known existed, and to broaden their horizons.

The event is organized by school counselors Kim Wilkins and Whitney Toosley.

Wilkins said, "there is more pressure each year for high school students to have a plan for their career when they graduate."

Guests were chosen by contacting local businesses and other representatives from popular careers.

"High school career days are

pretty rare in surrounding areas. I don't know of any schools that do it the way we do," said Wilkins.

This year each high school student did the Missouri Connections Career Cluster Inventory survey. Results were downloaded, and students were assigned two panels based on their top career cluster results.

The day began in a general session with three speakers: Dwight Sanders, superintendent; Daniel Toosley, Second Vice President of Commercial Lending for Central Bank; and Rebecca Welsh, Founder and CEO of HALO. Then students attended three panels.

For the second year, Jamestown



Ryan Newlon tells students from California, Tipton, and Jamestown about his Network & Systems Administrator IT for a CO-MO Electric Cooperative career and how they can pursue their own careers.

and Tipton sent some students to California's Career Day.

Wilkins said, "this event is beneficial to our students, so it only makes sense to let more kids benefit from it as long as we have room for them."

Veteran's Day Assembly



Thursday, Nov. 8

High School Gym

8:30 a.m.

Breakfast for Veterans in commons 8:00 a.m.

California is Top High School in Tri-County Conference

by Breezi Clark, Kayla Wehmeyer, Cole Brizendine

This summer, California High School found itself at the top in the conference as Niche.com, a research company, revealed its most recent rankings of Missouri schools.

According to the Niche.com website, "The 2019 Best School Districts ranking is based on rigorous analysis of academic and student life data from the U.S. Department of Education along with test scores, college data, and ratings collected from millions of Niche users."

Compared to other Tri-County schools, Niche.com ranked CHS as the highest in quality of teachers (A-), academics (B+), clubs and activities (B+), diversity (B+), college prep (B), and resources and facilities (B).

"Our ranking is something to be proud of, and it's not a surprise because we're a great school," said Sean Kirksey, principal.

"When you throw in that we are the highest ranked school in the Tri-County Conference and the only one that scored in the "A" range, that makes the recognition even more special," said superintendent of schools, Dwight Sanders.

Many have taken notice of the recognition. Sanders even said he received a comment from one of his high school

classmates that now lives in the state of California.

Missouri-wide, California ranked 63rd out of 505 high schools, 353rd out of 1,128 elementary schools, and 175th out of 481 middle schools.

Our district as a whole ranked 80th out of 454 districts in the state.

Other conference high schools to be ranked by Niche were Blair Oaks (79th), Boonville (106th), Osage (108th), Southern Boone (116th), Eldon (174th), and Hallsville (188th).

"The superintendent and I are extremely proud of all our school has accomplished, and we value the hard work our students and staff have done to continually improve," said Kirksey.

Sanders said, "With that being said, hard work pays off, and so I would just encourage everyone to continue to dedicate themselves to be the best students that they can be, and the positive results will follow."



College Bound

by Hayden Green

College Fair and Financial Aid night are held once a year at CHS. This year it was held on Wednesday, Oct. 17 with the College Fair in the commons and financial aid night in the Performing Arts Center.

"To put on a College Fair, we call and recruit schools to come," said CHS counselor Whitney Toosley.

About twenty colleges attended primarily to target juniors and seniors because they are the ones already looking ahead to college.

On the same evening, Financial Aid night was held for seniors and

their parents to learn the "ins and outs of Financial Aid," said Toosley.

This helped out many students who had questions about how they can pay for college.

The College Fair and Financial Aid night provide tremendous help for students by giving them the opportunity to talk to college recruiters and by showing them a path to take for college.

CHS Choral Department presents

Mary Poppins

Saturday, Nov 10 - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Nov 11 - 2:00 p.m.

California Performing Arts Center

Adults: \$10
Students: \$5
Pre-K: Free



Project Grad Vendor Booth Event

Saturday, Dec. 8 @ California High School
1:00 - 7:00 p.m.



Vendor and Food Booths - Santa for kids!