

### FROM SUPERINTENDENT DR. MYERS

Superintendent Update: March 6, 2015

Quote for the week: "To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong."—Joseph Chilton Pearce

Take solace in the fact that "the creative process is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration."

#### Story highlights

- *Link between creativity and better mental and physical health is well established*
- *Passion protects us physiologically, allowing us to work longer with less stress*
- *Take time off and find ways to recharge your creative and physical energy, expert says*

There are many conversations taking place right now about creativity -- how our future depends on it, how our kids are losing it, how most schools are killing it, and how parents ought to be nurturing and encouraging it.

As a superintendent, father, and grandfather, I am very interested in what enables young innovators to flourish and perhaps even go on to change the world.

But I am equally interested in what reignites "old" innovators. That is, how can people well past what our culture defines as their prime awaken to mobilize dormant creativity?

Living a life of innovation needs no justification, but there are plenty of good reasons -- both pragmatic and otherwise -- to do so.

Creating helps make people happier, less anxious and more resilient, Amanda Enayati says.

The link between creativity and better mental and physical health is well established by research. Creating helps make people happier, less anxious, more resilient and better equipped to problem-solve in the face of hardship.

Studies say that the stress of work is consuming many of us. And that stress can lead to weight gain, elevated glucose levels, upper-respiratory infections and cardiovascular disease.

Confucius once said that if you choose a job you love, you will never work a day in your life. Confucius must have known then what science now confirms: Passion protects us physiologically, allowing us to work longer and harder than we would be able to toiling away at a job we hate.

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MARCH 6, 2015



#### Special dates of interest:

- \* March Board Meeting March, 20th
- \* Spring Break March 23-27

Imagining and creating give us a sense of purpose. If you lack those things, a pervasive sense of emptiness becomes the default. The great seduction later in life is that many people fill the vacuum with false friends, material things and medication, both legal and otherwise.

The first question to ask is: "Are you willing to settle for less money?" Obligations to family, children and mortgages lock many people into career paths that provide a certain income but far less satisfaction.

In Mountain Home we have Ph.D.'s from other fields of study who are teaching high school science, chemistry and other subjects. My personal analysis, although not substantiated, is that folks settle for less money but are much happier when they are in a field that is purposeful and fulfilling...a work they are passionate about!

More questions to ask yourself: Are you giving back? Are you making a difference? Are you following your passion when you're not working, or has working become an addiction?

The creative path can be an unconventional one, and choosing it may sometimes be a difficult pursuit. Tony Wagner of Harvard University offers some sound advice that can help guide the way:

**Shut out the noise.** At some point it's time to stop blaming family, friends and life circumstances. "Look inward," Wagner says. Ultimately the path to innovation requires a certain kind of inner strength, a spiritual discipline. It's important to cultivate the discipline of listening to yourself. Even if you have no support, the support that ultimately matters most must come from within you.

**Believe in yourself and your vision.** Begin by making a declaration of yourself and your intentions. Put a stake in the ground by making a statement out loud in front of a mirror. Write about your passions in a journal entry, even on a piece of paper. We all have ideas and perceptions, but you can't follow your dream and vision unless you can give it a voice.

**Continue to learn.** We are wired to be lifelong learners. "It's in our DNA," Wagner says. Is the spirit of curiosity still alive as you get older? Do you listen to your own questions, ideas and interests? Do you make time for them?

Wagner recommends continuing to study things that you care about and developing an area of expertise, inside or outside a formal classroom setting. Seek out teachers who are passionate about their subject. Make a sustained effort over time to master your own interests.

**Redefine failure and embrace iteration.** By now, you have failed -- and probably more than once. And if you haven't, you are probably playing it too safe.

Accept failure, Wagner writes, because though it "hurts to fail in public ... you will learn some of your most valuable lessons from

failure -- far more than from your successes."

We need to redefine "failure" as a society. "It has become a pejorative in our vocabulary," Wagner says. No one wants to fail, and yet you can't pursue passion and purpose without a great deal of trial and error and multiple failures.

Wagner prefers the term "iteration," a design concept which involves the continuous prototyping, testing, analyzing and refining of an idea or product.

**Have fun.** Creativity, imagination and innovation usually find us during moments of play. Take time off and find ways to recharge your creative and physical energy, Wagner suggests. Take walks, get regular exercise, spend time in nature, listen to music, study paintings and photographs, volunteer.

**Practice listening to many different kinds of people and ideas.** More people are choosing their source of news by only listening to those who reinforce their biases and points of view. This does you a disservice.

Experience another culture, Wagner suggests. Read a thoughtful opinion piece that is diametrically opposed to your own, read history and good novels, find investigative ways of understanding the world.

Wagner believes that travel is important as a way of expanding our view and upsetting our inclination toward equilibrium. But the type of travel matters. Are you engaging in just another form of consumption or undertaking a potentially life-changing learning experience? Do you immerse yourself in authentic experiences or wall off in a cocoon of the familiar?

Travel with the purpose of really understanding a culture, a way of life and being that is radically different from your own.

**Work hard at mastery.** By now, you are probably no stranger to discipline and hard work. In his book "The Outliers," Malcolm Gladwell writes about the importance of putting in 10,000 hours to master something.

There are no shortcuts to mastery for anyone -- young or old. Though this can mean double the workload for many of us who also hold a day job, you may take solace in the fact that the creative process is "1% inspiration and 99% perspiration" (so is genius, as inventor Thomas Edison famously said).

"You will likely need to develop a regular schedule and a routine for your work," Wagner writes.

**Engage in self-reflection.** Wagner emphasizes the importance of establishing a regular mindfulness practice, through quiet reflective times, writing in a journal, walking, exercise or other pursuits.

If the passion for and benefits of creativity are ageless, then imagination, creativity and innovation cannot just be a young person's game.

Young or old, Wagner says, "you must, first and foremost, be a creator."

**News for the Week:**

The Mountain Home Education Foundation raised over \$17,000.00 on Monday evening to support innovative teaching ideas and student scholarships. Thanks to all the kids, Foundation volunteers and director Mollie Morgan for once again devoting time and energy into supporting the excellence of education in Mountain Home Public Schools.

Shut out the noise for just one moment and enjoy this James Taylor rendition of "[Up on the Roof](#)".

Lonnie

Garrett Rucker is the Teacher Heart Award recipient this Month-



Lara Case received The Big Heart award this month-



**March 6, 2015**

**PARCC-Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers**

Mountain Home Public Schools will provide on-line annual student assessments for the first time this spring 2015. The on-line assessment is called Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). PARCC is a two part exam: Performance Based and End of Year.

What is Performance Based Assessment (PBA)?

Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) administered after approximately 75% of the school year. The English language arts/literacy (ELA/literacy) PBA will focus on writing effectively when analyzing text. The mathematics PBA will focus on applying skills, concepts, and understandings to solve multi-step problems requiring abstract reasoning, precision, perseverance, and strategic use of tools.

Calendar Window: March 9-April 10

Grade/Test	Unit Name	Time
Grade 3 PBA	ELA Unit 1	75
	ELA Unit 2	75
	ELA Unit 3	60
	Math Unit 1	75
	Math Unit 2	75

Grade/Test	Unit Name	Time
Grade 4 - 8	ELA Unit 1	75
	ELA Unit 2	90
	ELA Unit 3	60
	Math Unit 1	80
	Math Unit 2	70

Grade/Test	Unit Name	Time
Grade 9 - 11 PBA	ELA Unit 1	75
	ELA Unit 2	90
	ELA Unit 3	60

Grade/Test	Unit Name	Time
Algebra I Geometry PBA	Unit 1	90
	Unit 2	75

## What is End of Year (EOY)?

End-of-Year Assessment (EOY) administered after approximately 90% of the school year. The ELA/literacy EOY will focus on reading comprehension. The mathematics EOY will call on students to demonstrate further conceptual understanding of the Major Content and Additional and Supporting Content of the grade/course (as outlined in the [PARCC Model Content Frameworks](#)), and demonstrate mathematical fluency, when applicable to the grade.

Calendar Window for EOY: April 27-May 22

Grade/Test	Unit Name	Time
Grades 3 - 5 EOY	ELA Unit 1	75
	Math Unit 1	75
	Math Unit 2	75
Grades 6 - 8 EOY	ELA Unit 1	60
	ELA Unit 2	60
	Math Unit 1	80
	Math Unit 2	75
Grades 9 - 10 EOY	ELA Unit 1	60
	ELA Unit 2	60
Algebra I Geometry EOY	Unit 1	80
	Unit 2	75

For more information:

<http://parcc.pearson.com/>

go to test preparation then to tutorials and online student tutorials

Also, Parconline.org is another resource for students and parents/guardians.

For more information contact:

Darla Deatherage [ddeatherage@mtnhome.k12.ar.us](mailto:ddeatherage@mtnhome.k12.ar.us)

Leigh Anne Gigliotti [lgigliotti@mtnhome.k12.ar.us](mailto:lgigliotti@mtnhome.k12.ar.us)



**Northcentral Arkansas Education Service Cooperative**

**[www.naesc.k12.ar.us](http://www.naesc.k12.ar.us)**

**MARCH 2015 UPCOMING EVENTS**

Please register for these events at **[www.escweb.net/ar\\_esc/](http://www.escweb.net/ar_esc/)** (SESSION ID # in ESC Works)

3/2/2015: NAESC CGI Year Three – 8:30-3:30 – Debbie Gates – Batesville Eagle Mtn. Campus

3/2,3,4/2015: NAESC SCCM Training – 8:30-3:30 – Krissy Cross (241076)

3/3/2015: NAESC CGI Year Three – 8:30-3:30 – Debbie Gates – NAESC Training Room

3/5/2015: NAESC eSchool Scheduling Procedures Review Workshop – 9:00-3:00 – Sandy Harber (240183)

3/9/2015: NAESC L.D.C. Cohort 3 (Highland Group) – 8:30-3:30 – L.D.C. Team – Highland School

3/11/2015: NAESC Senior High Quiz Bowl - @ Ozarka College – Jill Clogston

3/11/2015: NAESC The Genius of Virtual Arkansas – 8:30-3:30 – Team Digital & Virtual Arkansas (243206)

3/17/2015: NAESC Reading Recovery Continuing Contact – 9:00-12:00 – UACCB – Rhonda Taylor (240600)

3/19/2015: NAESC Biology of Cancer + Healthy Lungs & Gums – 8:30-3:30 – Dr. Bob Burns (239193)

3/31/2015: NAESC APSCN FMS Contracts – 9:00-12:00 – Vicki Canard – (243247)



# Mountain Home Junior High

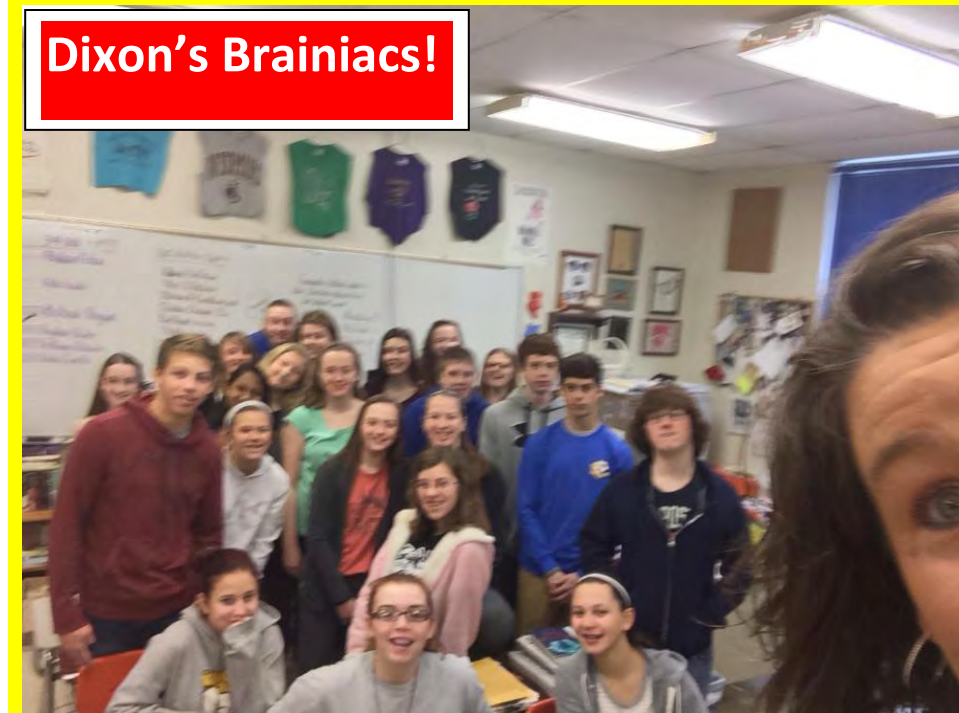
## Every Student, Every Time!

We believe in you!



Walker's and Jones' Techie Geeks

Dixon's Brainiacs!



Dement's Scientists

# Maze's Maze



Hickman's Einsteins



Hickey's Actors



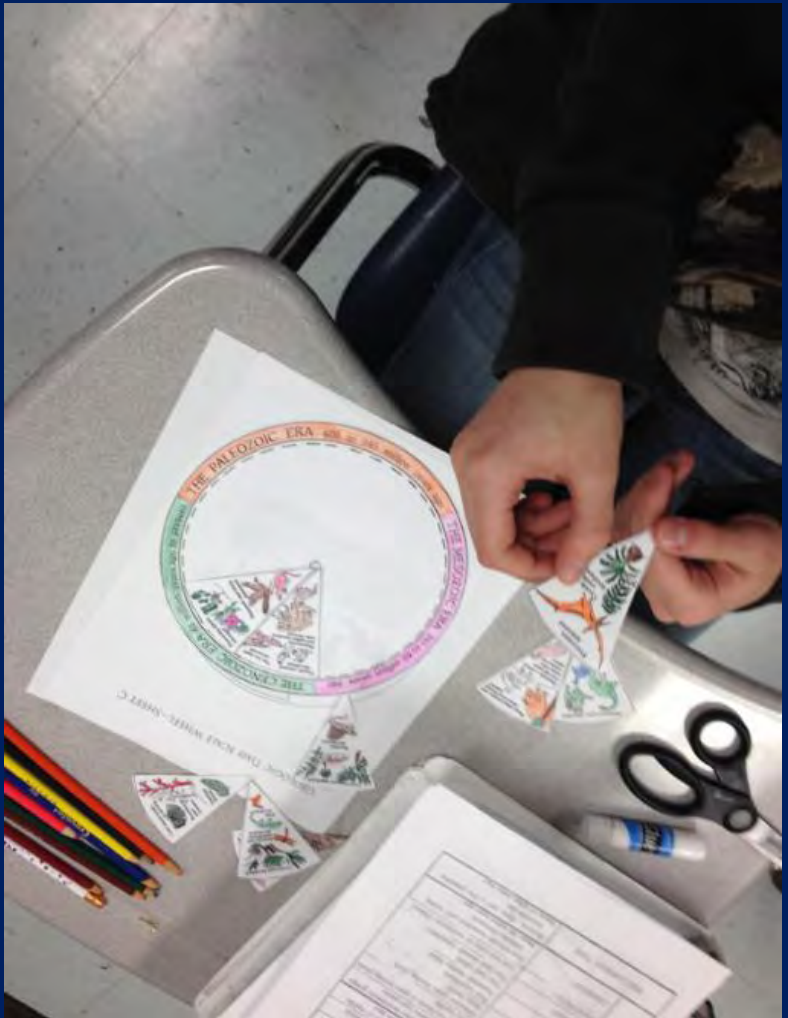
**Gatewood's  
Chemists**



**Quick's Future  
Pulitzer Prize Winners**

**We're all in  
this  
together!  
MHJH  
teachers  
love their  
students!**

# Mrs. Beaver's Junior Scientists created a geological Time Scale Wheel to observe the progression of life forms as time passes.



# Mountain Home Kindergarten

We celebrated Dr. Seuss this week at the Kindergarten. We honored the man by dressing up as some of the characters he used while writing. Like Cindy Lou Who and Thing One and Thing Two.



Green Eggs and Ham anyone?



Has your Horton Heard anything lately?



What about the Lorax?









March 12  
2015

# 3 ON 3 BASKETBALL



Pinkston Pasta Night!!

March 12, 2015 5:00-8:30

\$50 Entry Fee...Includes: Meal and  
Raffle Tickets!!

**Be** Creative with Your Jersey  
Design!

Limited Number of spots  
available,

**Eat some  
Pasta!!  
Play some  
Hoops!!**

# **Pinkston Pasta Night**

**Prize for  
best theme  
uniform  
tool!!**



## **3 on 3 Basketball**



**What: A FUN 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament**  
**Where: Pinkston Middle School**  
**When: Thursday March 12, 5:00-???? (Entry Deadline 3/10)**  
**Who: Anyone over 18 (Under 18 must have parent signed waiver)**  
**Cost: \$50.00 per team (includes Pasta Dinner and Tickets for Drawings)**

**Team Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Captain** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Team Members:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this completed for with payment to Pinkston Middle School  
by March 10, 2015.**

**Schedules and tournament information will be delivered to the team captains.**

**Any question call Jennifer Martens at Pinkston Middle School 204-2247**



# Hackler Intermediate School

During Law Enforcement Appreciation week, Jay Leach, from Leach Automotive, wanted a bumper sticker that promoted Law Enforcement as a whole. Jay approached his brother in law, Bubba Jones, and Bubba thought Hackler students would be the best for the job. Leach Automotive will pay for the winning bumper sticker to be printed to show their support for local law enforcement. Hackler students were happy to take part in this project, and everyone did a GREAT job!

## Bumper Sticker Winners:

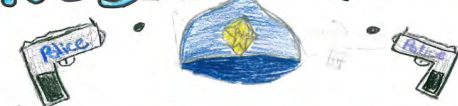


My Heroes wear a badge  
they don't wear capes

**3rd grade winner: Kayla Kirek**

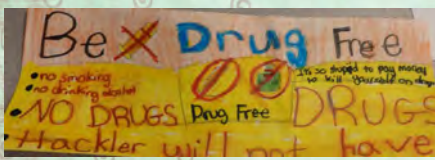
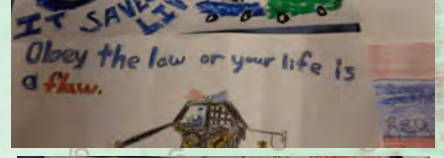
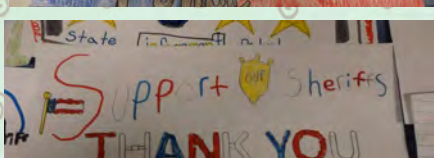
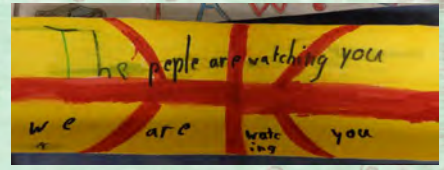
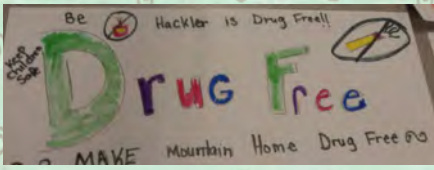
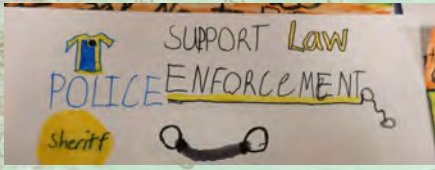
I thank you  
**LAW**  
**ENFORCEMENT**  
for risking your lives to protect ours!

**4th grade winner: Bailey Stockfish**

**RESPECT THOSE**  
  
**WHO PROTECT US**

**5th grade winner and OVERALL winner: Sami Seaman**

Here is a sample of the bumper stickers by Hackler students:



Thank you to the local law enforcement for allowing Hackler students to show our appreciation!



Officers: Bubba Jones & Eddie Griffin from Mountain Home Police, Jay Leach from Leach Automotive and Officers Danielle Campfield & Ralph Bird from Baxter County Sheriff's Department.

# Pinkston Middle School

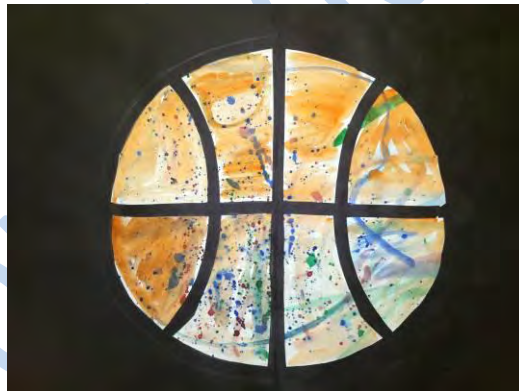


Week ending 3.6.15

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Olivia P. 7th



Dylan M. 7th



Alex J. 7th



## Congratulations Miss Lara!

Dr. Myers and Pinkston Middle School honored Mrs. Lara Case with the Big Heart award! ☺ We appreciate all that you do with and for our kids. The office can be a crazy place, but you always know what's happening and have a plan for success! Thank you!

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### Parents & Students:

All 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students will be taking the PARCC Assessment March 9<sup>th</sup> – March 20<sup>th</sup>. Students are encouraged to bring ear buds or headphones for the online assessment. Please know that they will be responsible for keeping up with their own ear buds or headphones that they bring. Headphones will be provided for any student that wishes to use school headphones.

Also, students will need to leave all cell phones and any other electronic devices in their lockers during testing times.

→



**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science students are identifying variables that cause different types of eruptions. Each group records the response for comparison.**



7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students in Coach Newsom's Health class volunteered at the Food Bank. Thank you to Jeff Quick for taking time out to come to Pinkston and teach kids about the food bank, nutrition, and community service! A special thank you to Coach Newsom, Mrs. Martens, and Coach Penka for putting making this opportunity a reality for our kids and our community!

For more information on the Food Bank of North Central Arkansas go to:

<http://www.foodbanknca.org/>





6<sup>th</sup> Graders, Emma and Gabby, are partnering with our kindergarten to bring an awareness to recycling and teach kids how to recycle. We appreciate Mrs. Vanessa Jones and all the kindergarten teachers for helping with the project! For more information on EAST go to <http://www.eastinitiative.org/>



**Pinkston Middle School @Pinkstonmiddle**

**EAST at Pinkston @AdunavanEast**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Promise @deniselauerman**

**DARE @campfield10**

**Pinkston Media Center @pmslibrary12**

## Upcoming Pinkston Middle School Events

- March 5 — P/T Conferences
- March 6 — 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Health Class Trip
- March 9 — PARCC begins
- March 12 — Pinkston Pasta Night
- March 13 — 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Ends
- March 19 — Report Cards go home
- March 23-27 — Spring Break



# ***Pinkston Pasta Night***

**March 12, 2015**

**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

## **Pasta Dinner Tickets**

**Early Bird Tickets - \$5.00 ends March 11th**

**At the door tickets - \$7.00**

**Children 5 and under eat free**

**Sorry no take out**



**Tickets may be purchased at the following locations**

### **Pinkston Middle School Office**

1301 South College Street Monday-Friday 7:30-3:30

### **Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce**

1023 Highway 62 East

**At the door**

**Choir Performance \* Band Performance Artwork display \* Literacy Fair  
Display Book Fair \* 3-on-3 Basketball \* Basket Raffle & more!**



Proceeds from this event will go toward the purchase of a new Audio/Visual system for the school Cafetorium.

If you have any questions please feel free to call the Pinkston Middle School Office at 425-1236.

# NELSON-WILKS-HERRON

## No More Snow Dancing.....



Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Stone, teachers at NWH, are being detained on charges of "SNOW DANCING". This has got to stop!! Mrs. Kressin and Mrs. McCord have taken matters into their own hands. Watch out "SNOW DANCERS" you may be next.

## Reading Is Fun Week with Dr. Seuss!



