Education That Engages

Volunteers from the University of Arkansas Fort Smith (UAFS) Spring Cohort, directed by Dr. Deebe Milford, assisted in painting the United States map on a concrete surface at Central Elementary School. Students will be able to use the map throughout the school year while studying U.S. History and Geography in units of Western Expansion. Central Elementary School hosts a spring and fall cohort of pre-teachers each year. The program is a collaboration between UAFS and Van Buren School District to provide real world teaching and learning opportunities to college students prior to their student teaching.

Fifth grade students in Jeff Dean and Nancy Schneider's classes at Rena Elementary hosted, an event titled, Back to the Future: Science Through Time Museum. Students portrayed important scientists and inventors throughout history and told the story of their life to attendees. The event was made possible through a grant from the Van Buren Education Foundation.

Nov. 2007– June 2015
1,073.96 Tons

Featuring the students, staff, sponsors, and programs that contribute to the success of the Van Buren School District.
Physical Activity Encouraged

Did you know statistics show children involved in extra-curricular activities have a greater chance of completing high school? The Van Buren School District encourages students to stay active and teaches the importance of team building and healthy competition. VBSD provides numerous opportunities for students to be involved. Please look for information coming home with your student about how to get your child involved in extra-curricular activities.
Robert Childers, Principal at Tate Elementary School, received his Doctoral Degree from Harding University, May 6th, 2015. Congratulations Dr. Childers.

Butterfield Trail Middle School Teachers, Cindy Leslie, April Evans, Ashleigh Gillespie and Tracy Cline have been accepted into the Teacher Leadership Academy for the 2015–2016 school year. Tracy Cline was also accepted into the Arkansas Declaration of Learning Program, starting the summer of 2015 at Crystal Bridges Museum. Ashleigh Gillespie also received a grant to participate in the summer 2015 Newseum class, which is an interactive museum of news and journalism in Washington D.C.

Teachers from the Van Buren School District took part in Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) math. Through this week of training, teachers were able to study how students solve math problems and ways to instruct to promote exploration. Teachers learned strategies to better group students and identify students needing one on one time to become better problem solvers. Pictured are teachers from Central Elementary School, Alicia Hesson, Tia Smith, and Tabitha Lawrence.

Jason Moore, Assistant Principal at the Freshman Academy, received his Doctoral Degree from Harding University, May 6th, 2015. He is pictured here with his wife, Manessah. Congratulations Dr. Moore.
The VBHS Softball team is pictured here singing the Alma Mater after a win at the state tournament. The high school softball team finished the season 24-5. They took second place in the 7A/6A Central, with a record of 11-3 the team advanced to the state semi-finals for the second time in school history.

Fourth grade students at City Heights Elementary were excited about sharing their published work with community members. Students wrote four chapter informational books to teach their readers all they had learned through their research on the American Revolutionary War.

Mattison Griffin represented Arkansas at the “Breakfast on the Hill” Event, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington DC. Mattison presented a monolog of Ann Clayton Parker, the daughter-in-law of Judge Isaac Parker. The title of her performance, “Judge Isaac C. Parker: The Lasting Legacy of a Frontier Judge”.

Top Cougars from City Heights Elementary. Students receiving this honor are fifth grade students showing academic excellence, good citizenship, good attendance and models of good character and integrity.
Students in Ms. Skelton’s Family and Consumer Science Class at VBHS completed 3-D shadow boxes.

Seventh grade students in Ms. Little’s class at NRMS participated in the first annual Engineering Fair, thanks to a grant provided by the Van Buren Education Foundation. Students researched planned and constructed prototypes, which were tested for function, durability and endurance. Students were able to choose between several projects. Category winners will go on to compete in the STEM Olympiad, which will be held at Arkansas Tech University.

Students from King Elementary school participated in Earth Fest. A celebration of the Earth held on Earth Day. Each class rotated to different stations to learn from a community member about the role they play with protecting the Earth. At other stations, students play games to learn about the Earth. This year students had their faces painted, played recycle shoot out and had their picture taken like a recycling hero. Participating community members were, Project Learning Tree, GreenSource Recycling, Lake Fort Smith, TC Long and Ducks Unlimited.

Students in Ms. Brewer’s tenth grade class at VBHS, completed the “Cold Case: Julius Cesar” project. Students portrayed Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) Agents. Each student had a specific task to complete, such as the illustrator, evidence collector, examiner describer or note taker.
Students in Ms. Carlson’s New Tech Biology class ended the year by studying field or creek ecosystems to determine what the abiotic factors were and how they interact.

Students at the Freshman Academy participated in the book club, “Day by Day Armageddon”, and were surprised with a conference call from the author, J.L. Bourne. Bourne is a Naval Officer that grew up in Black Oak, Arkansas. He said he began writing after 9/11, as an outlet to deal with what he had witnessed during his six hundred combat hours in the Middle East. The Van Buren Education Foundation funded the grant, making opportunities like this one possible for the book club.

Butterfield Trail Middle School Choir students performed the musical Willy Wonka Junior for their spring performance.
Van Buren Alumni, Tyler Spoon was recently drafted by the Boston Red Sox Baseball Team. Tyler just finished the College World Series with the Arkansas Razorbacks. Tyler was a three sport athlete growing up in Van Buren. He played football, basketball and baseball grades seven through twelve.


May 22nd, BTMS students and staff gathered outside the school to plant a tree in honor of Cierra Powers, a student that passed away earlier this school year. The family of Cierra was presented with pictures of Cierra from the school year. Pictured: Left to Right: Meagan Reece, BTMS Counselor, student Holli Nauman and family members, Taylor Powers, Sarah Powers and Amber Powers.

NRMS National Jr. Honor Society sponsored Flip Flops for Families, a flip flop drive to provide an inexpensive pair of shoes to someone in need. The entire school participated. Students and teachers brought over 500 pairs of flip flops. The flip flops were donated to the Community Rescue Mission.
Van Buren High School Theatre

Neil Simon’s
Barefoot in the Park

April 22-23, 2016  7:00 p.m.

Van Buren School District
Fine Arts Center
centerforfinearts.org

Upcoming Events

2001 Pointer Trail  Van Buren, Arkansas
Season and Single event tickets available (479)471-4017