



# Renovations Revitalize Saraland Middle School

**By Hallie Rowell, Zach Hardman, & Vinayak Nair**

Our school has changed so much in the past few months. A new gym, locker rooms, and restrooms are just the beginning. The 3.8 million dollar renovations have changed the school and the students' way of learning.

The renovations have been going on since mid May and are planned to be finished at the end of this month.

Construction crews have worked extremely hard over the summer to make the school look

brand new.

The school has a remodeled gym, locker rooms, classrooms, restrooms, and library.

The exterior and the interior of the school have been painted. The flooring in each room has also been replaced. The roof was restored, and the awning looks great!

Smartboards have caught our school up with present technology. Interactive lessons and educational games help the

students enjoy learning.

Mr. Wright says, "I'm still learning, but it holds the students' attention and enhances my teaching."

After all the work, Mr. Crane says that he is extremely happy with the improvements and the positive impact they will have on students.



*Fox 10 News Chief Meteorologist Jason Smith visits with the 6th grade in the newly remodeled library.*

## Journalism Introduces the *Spartan Times*

**By Kiara Johnson, Alyssa Garcia, Jahdia Feurtado & Makenzie Farmer**

In your hands you're holding the first edition of *Spartan Times*. This newspaper will spotlight all the good things at Saraland Middle School.

The cost will be 25 cents or two box tops, and we sell it the last Friday of each month.

"I think that the students will enjoy reading the newspaper and seeing themselves in it," said Kayleigh Johns, a

reporter for the paper. "I think it will help boost the school's spirit and pride."

If you have a story idea for the *Spartan Times*, be sure to share it with Mrs. Hughes or one of the staff reporters.

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### Announcements

- Be sure to arrive on time for school each day! The take-in bell rings at 7:25. Students are late after 7:30.
- Uniform reminders— a black belt and black or white socks are to be worn. Students may donate gently-used uniforms to the office. Ladies, make sure your skirts are an appropriate length.
- Guys' Basketball tryouts are Saturday, October 13. See Mr. Harmening for details.

# SPARTAN SPORTS

## Spartans End Chastang's 42 Game Winning Streak!

By Jack West, Hunter Tangle, & Connor Nitteberg

On Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Saraland Spartan football team took on one of their most challenging feats yet.

Saraland squared off against Chastang Middle School, who had a winning streak of 42 games.

Starting out, everything went



*Number 4, fullback Deminio Williams, shakes the Chastang defense.*

At the start of the second half, Chastang received the ball. From then on it was all defense. We finally secured the ball in the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and ran the clock out.

We took home a win, 22-16, keeping the halftime score, snapping Chastang's 42 game win streak, and extending ours to 2-0 this season.

When asked how it felt beating Chastang, Coach Miller said, "It felt great! It was one of the biggest wins Saraland Middle School has ever had."

Bryant Browning stated, "It felt as if I was on top of the world!"

back and forth. Chastang practically mimicked every move Saraland made.

Just before halftime, Bryant Browning threw a touchdown strike to Wydale Flott taking a slight lead.

*Quarterback Bryant Browning eludes a tackle as he launches a pass against a tough Chastang defense.*



## Volleyball Builds Confidence On and Off the Court

By Kennedy Gill, Kayleigh Johns, & Melanie Lens

This volleyball team has improved a lot since the beginning of the year. Their record of this year is 7-3. Coach Grosz states that she loves being the coach of the team, because she loves seeing the girls improve. She says they are improving not only on the court, but also at school!

The team went to camp this summer in Birmingham, Alabama. Coach says it was a great experience, and not only did they learn the knowledge and concept of volleyball, but also how to come together as a team.

Coach states, "When we win, I feel like a little kid in a candy store, who just bought a Snickers!" They placed first in the Silver division at Gulf

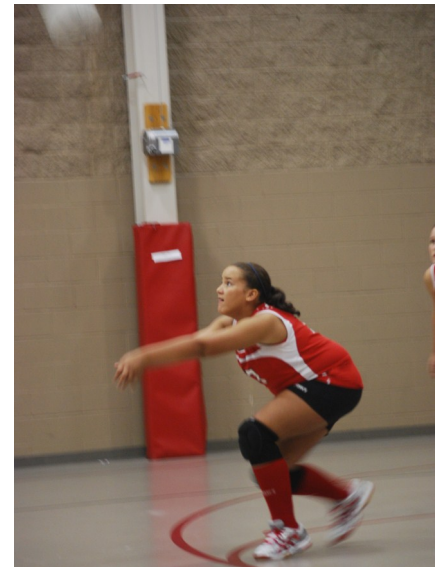
Shores. Good job, Spartans!

Mariah Stuart, a seventh grade member of the SMS volleyball team says, "Coach helps me get my serves over the net and encourages me. I don't get nervous when I serve because I have confidence in myself."

With these amazing players on their team, they are destined to have a successful year!

Megan Hart, an eighth grade member of the SMS volleyball team says, "I get nervous when I see the ball coming my way because I don't want to make a bad pass and let my team down."

Megan also says that her favorite part of being on the team is the wonderful group of girls and her passion for playing volleyball. The Lady Spartans know where it's at!



*Summer Payton bumps the ball up for a teammate to return.*

# SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT

## FCCLA Competes in World Competition

By **Summer Dyas & Kirk McDonald**

You'd be surprised how cool FCCLA really is. FCCLA is Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. This is a nonprofit, national career and technical student organization for children through 12th grade. FCCLA has been around since 1945!

In July, this summer, SMS went to nationals, in Orlando, with over 100 students in Alabama. This organization serves over 220,000 students, and Alabama has over 8,000 FCCLA members.

Dawson Skoglund and Korie Wilson received silver for "Focus on

Children," their project was "Team Up Against Bullying."



*Isaiah Mapp-Donagan, Bryce Stacey, Mrs. Patterson, Korie Wilson, Dawson Skoglund, and Jackson Miller proudly represent S.M.S. in Orlando.*

Korie Wilson said, "The competition was definitely competitive. There were about 6,000 people from around the US. It was crazy!"

Bryce Stacey and Isaiah Mapp-Donagan won silver for "Food Innovations." They developed a salsa recipe. Jackson Miller also won silver for "Recycle and Redesign." He designed an old t-shirt into a knap-sack.

This finish was awesome since this was Saraland's first year to have a FCCLA!

## Congratulations to the new Student Council Officers

By **Melanie Lens & Kennedy Gill**

Congratulations to those students voted to serve as our 2012-2013 SMS



student council officers. Pictured are Chaplain Donovan Hughes, Vice-President Thomas James, Historian Taylor Gill, Treasurer Landon McNellage, and President David Miller.

*"I really hope to accomplish some good goals this year," said Student Council President David Miller.*

Not pictured is Secretary Hannah Hall.

David Miller said, "I am very thankful to be elected. I hope to give ideas to our principal for ways to make money for our school."

## Duke Talent Search Participants

According to the Duke TIP website, the Duke 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Talent search, "...identifies academically talented seventh graders based on standardized test scores achieved while attending elementary or middle school. Candidates are invited to take the ACT or the SAT college entrance exam as seventh graders, which allows them greater

insight into their academic abilities."

Students from Saraland Middle were selected based on last year's test scores. Not pictured are Zach Hardman and Jeremy Murrill.







**Students of the Month  
and the Teacher  
Pat on the Back**

**SEPTEMBER STUDENTS**

**6TH GRADE: MORIAH DEARMON  
GARRETT DIXON  
7TH GRADE: CELESTE GRIGG  
JUSTIN HARPER  
8TH GRADE: KIMBERLY GLENN  
TOMMY VICE**

**TEACHER  
MRS. BEVERLY MUSIAL**

*“The vision of the Saraland City School system is to build a world class educational system for our children.”*

# Creative Corner

*We have reserved this space to highlight creative work from our talented students. You may submit original art, poetry, or comic strips. Turn in your entries for consideration to Mrs. Hughes.*



Left– Kayleigh Johns shows the sculpture she created for Mrs. Musial’s language arts’ class.



Pictured to the right– Tristan Smitherman, Hunter Wright, and Bailey Preston get into the Spartan homecoming spirit by dressing up for Western day.

**We’re on the Web**  
**[www.smspartans.com](http://www.smspartans.com)**

## PTO Fall Fun Day Planned for October 26th

May Day celebration was a huge success for Saraland Middle School last year, and the PTO would like to re-create that success with a new event – Fall Fun Day.

There was a great turnout of students and everyone had a fun time last May while helping raise money for our school. The standardized test dates this year have been moved to May, so we thought we’d welcome fall with our Fall Fun Day on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

We need the help of everyone to make it a huge success. Parent volunteers are needed to help work the booths and concession stands. We also need donations of 2 liter drinks, cakes for the cake walk, nail polish, tattoos, and decoration items such as mums,

pumpkins, and hay.

This will be the big PTO fundraiser for the fall semester. “We are trying to avoid fundraisers by doing fun days like the one planned on October 26,



Luke Middleton, Maddox Copeland, Andrew Landrum, and Hunter Hall sport their camouflage for homecoming week.

Fun Day, to create memories for our students,” said Mrs. Miller, PTO President.

“The dunking booth was a lot of fun because we got to dunk the teachers,” said Kaetlynn Sterling, an 8th grader who attended the May Day celebration last year.

Courtney Woodham also enjoyed the photo booth, which will be at the Fall Fun Day. “It was fun to have pictures taken with my friends, to make faces, and to have souvenirs from our seventh grade year.”

The obstacle course was a favorite of Jennah Lee. “I liked it because I’m very competitive and it gave me a way to be active and have fun with my friends.”