

# Hawks Free Press

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## Hunter students shine in talent show

By Owen Kreuger,  
Cameron Legge &  
Anshul Patel

The Hunter Middle School talent show is always a good way for students to express themselves. This year's talent show was held in the gym on Friday, April 22.

Many students tried out for the talent show but only 15 acts made it. Students showed off their special talents that they don't typically get to show here at school.

According to assistant principal Mrs. Cox, "the talent show

was good because students were given a creative outlet to express themselves, and I am curious to see what students at Hunter have to offer."

Acts at this year's talent show included singing, dancing, instruments and impressions. Sixth-grader Greyson



Sixth-grader Isaac Mitchell won the talent show with his performance on the drums.

Photo by Mrs. Barrett

Pendergrass participated with a magic-trick routine

"The talent show lets students express themselves," Pendergrass said.

The winner of the talent show was sixth-grader Isaac Mitchell, whose instrumental

talents on the drums led him to the victory.

"When I won the talent show, I felt very happy because it was a big opportunity," Mitchell said.

Eighth-grade teacher Mrs. Kesley and sixth-grade

teacher Mr. Browder hosted the talent show and did their own act. Mrs. Kesley also organized the talent show and said she wished it could have been even longer.

"I dislike the time because not everybody is able to show their talents," Mrs. Kesley said. "Our school is filled with talents but only some people get to be in it."

Mrs. Kesley and Mr. Browder did their own acts throughout the talent show to keep everyone in the crowd pumped up.

They did interesting acts such as singing the "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" theme song, dabbing, and having some old school surprises.

Overall the talent show was successful, thanks to the efforts of participants, sponsors, and teachers.

## TNReady issues affect student schedules

By Ina Henderson, Jordan  
Lowe & Carys Oppedisano

Many students at Hunter Middle School have different opinions on TN Ready testing.

This year, the state of Tennessee changed the test from TCAP to TN Ready in certain subjects. Because of technical difficulties with Part I, students had to hand-write the test instead of typing the test on computers.

The state then decided to cancel Part II completely due to continued difficulties in obtaining the test materials.

Hunter testing coordinator and guidance counselor Mr. Jacobs believes that the decision to cancel Part II was a

wise one.

"It was good," he said. "I feel like it was better for our kids. I think it's better for the kids to just have one test, at least until they can iron everything out and make it better."

Overall, students feel that TN Ready is both a good thing and a bad thing.

Many students feel that the state should have been more prepared.

Eighth-grader Whitney Tryon said, "I think it is unprofessional that we had to wait for them to get the test prepared."

According to the Tennessee Department of Education website, TCAP was changed to TN Ready in 2016 because it will provide all of us – edu-

cators, parents, and students – with better information about students' progress toward college and career readiness.

However, many students have different opinions about how well TN Ready prepares them. Some feel that the test will help their preparation for high school and college.

Sixth-grader Chloe Achata said, "I think it's a good thing that we have TN Ready because it tells us how much we already know."

However, some students like seventh-grader Devon Cook said they prefer the old method of testing.

"TCAP is better because it is multiple choice and if you

don't know the answer, you can just bubble it in," Cook said.

On the other hand, students and administrators feel that TN Ready is better at testing students' knowledge. Mr. Jacobs said, "I think TN Ready is probably somewhat necessary because it is a test that kind of lets us see where our kids are at in their education and skills."

In conclusion, many students have different opinions on TN Ready and how it is prepared. Overall, TN Ready is a test that can help students improve their skills and their thinking, but more changes may be in store for next year after the many difficulties with this year's testing.

# Lunch times a source of complaints

By Chelsea Childress,  
Adrianna Morgan &  
Emilia Pastusic

Over the past several years, there have been many changes to Hunter’s lunch schedules.

Many students believe that the lunch schedule is not ideal. A common complaint by most students is that their lunches are too early or too late, and they get hungry throughout the day.

“My lunch starts at 11:40, and I feel like it’s too late, so we should be allowed to have snacks in class,” eighth-grader Devon Haney said.

Most students agree that snacks should be allowed in classes, which according to Mr. Alford is completely up to the teachers.

“I would be open to students having snacks as long as it’s not anything messy and they don’t leave food on the floor, because that attracts ants and roaches,” seventh-grade teacher Mrs. Underwood said.

Cafeteria manager Mrs. Kelley explained that the process of having to make food for

several hundred children affects the lunch schedule.

“It takes seven workers two-and-a-half hours to make enough food for about 400 kids,” she said.

A lot of students complain about not having enough food.

However, some kids should try and bring their lunches if they want any more.

Another lunch issue is that many eighth graders are unhappy with the two teams having to eat separately.

Administrators say the reasoning behind that is mainly the noise.



Seventh-grade students enjoy their lunch in the cafeteria. Many students have complaints about the different lunch schedules.

Photo by Chloe Johnson

“Mr. Alford decided to split the eighth grade teams up because he was once in the art room observing during eighth grade lunch period, and he couldn’t hear anything in that classroom other than the lunchroom noise,” said assistant principal Mrs. Cox.

Overall, many students and even some teachers have decided that they do not like the

new lunch schedules and times. Many people also think we should have snacks during classes, and administrators of the school agree.

Either way, lunch times and schedules are most likely going to keep changing and having new effects on Hunter’s students.

# Spring candy-bar fundraiser a success

By Julia Arnhart, Brooke  
Bledsoe & Jordan Parks

The candy bar fundraiser this March was very successful. The money that was raised was used to pay for additional chrome carts and necessary items for the school.

During the fundraiser, the school made a lot of money that went toward important supplies for the school. “We made a profit of \$15,000,” Hunter bookkeeper Mrs. Frick said.

Instead of awarding prizes to the top overall sellers, for this fundraiser there were three drawings.

The winners of the drawings were Harlee Keith, who won \$100, Anshul Patel (\$50) and Chandler Cate (\$25).

Students who participated earned rewards based on what they sold or donated. When a student sold one box



Harlee Keith, Anshul Patel and Chandler Cate were the winners of the cash drawings from the candy-bar fundraiser this spring.

Photo by Mrs. Barrett

or donated \$25, he or she received a Superfly pass, Chattanooga Zoo ticket, Sticky Fingers \$5 giftcard, pucker powder, lazy day dress down for month of March, and had their name put in the \$25 drawing.

The rewards for selling two boxes or donating \$50 were electronic lunch on Fridays, a portable charging pack, and a \$50 drawing, in

addition to all the level one rewards.

The highest reward level was for selling three boxes or donating \$75. This earned students a Superfly field trip (90 minutes to jump and lunch), a \$100 drawing, plus everything in levels one and two. The top 25 sellers also got a Mellow Mushroom Pizza Party.

Seventh-grader Madelynn Bryan stated that candy bars were a good item to sell because everybody loves them and wants to buy them.

“My grandmother was my top seller,” Bryan said. “She bought \$25 worth of candy bars.”

There were many students who participated in the fundraiser. Eighth-grader Jordan Lowe said that she donated \$25 because she knew she couldn’t sell all the candy bars in a box, but she wanted to wear blue jeans.

For some students, including many eighth-graders, donating money instead of actually selling items was a popular choice.

“(Selling items) is a lot of work, and when you add all that work to the homework we already have, we would rather just donate money if we have the option,” eighth-grader Emily Childress said.



# Student Life

## Eighth-grade-itis strikes again

**By Emily Childress,  
Hunter Hill, Chloe Johnson  
& Emily Matlock**

Across eighth grade, students at Hunter Middle School have caught a serious disease called eighth-grade-itis. Eighth-grade-itis is a condition eighth graders usually get toward the end of the year that makes them drowsy and gives them anxiety.

Another symptom is that some eighth graders get so tired that they end up falling asleep in class, which causes discipline problems. Sometimes the main contributor to all of the eighth-grade-itis is homework. Most of the time students stay up late to finish their work on time, but Hunter principal Mr. Alford has a remedy for that aspect of the disease.

"Don't procrastinate, and get your work done on time," he said.

Eighth grade has its downsides, but also has its upsides. Nevaeh Ben-Moshe said, "The experience was good with friends and to create groups of friends and figure out who you want to be with."

Eighth grade also has more freedom than in any grade in middle school. However, some students get carried away because they have not been exposed to this kind of freedom before, which leads to them not doing their homework. But it's also easier to do homework because some of it is online through Quia or Google Drive.

Another aspect of a student's final year at Hunter is the activities that only eighth graders get to participate in.

In the first semester, students can take a field trip to Washington D.C. Second semester has the eighth-



*Photo by Mrs. Barrett*

Eighth-graders try to stay focused in class as the end of the year approaches.

grade dance and beach bash, which is like a field day with pizza and drinks, and students also get to finish school a few days early because of promotion.

Eighth grade teachers and students have some advice to give to the upcoming eighth graders. Mrs. Graininger said that you need to do what your teachers ask, do not procrastinate, and do not try play the catch-up

game. Chandler Cate said that you need to be careful who you hang out with because if you get in the wrong crowd it could affect you. Another huge thing to make sure you do is get enough sleep.

Overall, your eighth-grade year will probably have its ups and downs, but it will be a great experience, except for maybe a slight case of eighth-grade-itis.

## Rain forces Spring Fling indoors again

**By Jaxson Antuna, Tess Kendall, Tiana Lockhart,  
Lauren Mullins**

As you may know, it rained on the day of Spring Fling and forced the activities indoors, but that didn't stop the event from being fun.

Before Spring Fling, students had questions about what might be new for this year's event. PTA president Mrs. Gaddis said, "There will be a lot of new stuff this year." The activities included bungee jumping, human hamster balls, inflatables, gyro ball, tiki truck, and lots of food.

After Spring Fling, students shared opinions about how they thought it went. Eighth-grader Skylar Kay said, "I think it went okay; it was long but fun," and eighth-grader Abby Waters said, "I think it went good for everybody; we all had lots of fun."

This year was the sixth graders' first Spring Fling, so Parker Absence shared what his first impression was.

"I think the sixth-graders had fun because some told me they thought it was pretty fun, but the only thing

they were upset about was the fact that we didn't get to go outside," he said.

All students had different opinions about having to move Spring Fling indoors. Seventh-grader Abby Richards said that she didn't mind it, but eighth-grader Abby Waters said, "It would've been more fun outside."

Sixth graders also said that they prefer spring fling outside because they would have space to run around and do whatever they want to do.

Since many of this year's activities were new, students also had different opinions about what their favorites were.

Seventh-grader Connor Moser said, "I think the inflatables and the hamster balls were the most fun."

Eighth-grader Abby Waters said, "having our electronics made it more enjoyable because we could take pictures and use our phones."

In conclusion, the 2016 Spring Fling went well and everybody had a good time.

## Hunter BETA Club inducts 117 new members

**By Madelynn Bryan, Devon Cook & Madison Johnson**

This year Hunter Middle School's Beta Club inducted 117 new members in a ceremony held in the school gymnasium on April 6. Beta Club is one of the most popular organizations for students at

Hunter to join. The club offers several activities for students to enjoy. The most-talked-about event is the annual trip to the Beta convention.

Sixth grader Sarah Pirtle said that she looks forward to going on the Beta trip,

which takes place every year around Thanksgiving. At the convention, the students have many contests that they can participate in.

Beta sponsor Mrs. Sodergren said, "There is a poster contest, a talent contest, written competition, poetry

contest, and the Battle of the Books."

For students who are interested in joining next year, the qualifications for Beta are having a 93 average and all S's in conduct.



# Hawks Athletics

## Spring sports roundup

### BASEBALL

The Hunter baseball team ended the season with a strong 14-5 overall record. The Hawks finished the regular season in second place, and were the runners-up in the HCAC East Division Tournament.

Four Hunter players were named to the All-County team. Those players were Justin McGill, Aedan Novelli, Andrew Merriweather, and Andrew Zettel.

Coach Barth said he enjoyed coaching this year’s baseball team.

“This was a fun, goofy, but talented group of boys to be around,” he said. “I’ve had the opportunity to coach many of the eighth graders for three years now, and I wish them nothing but the best as they move into high school.”

### GOLF

The Hawks golf team played its home matches at The Bear Trace, and finished the regular season with a 6-4 record. The team’s only losses came against Signal Mountain, East Hamilton, McCallie, and Baylor.

Golfers Jacob Daniels, Parker Abstance, Owen Kreuger, Daniel Zeliski, and Conner Ingram made it to the District Tournament at Brainerd Golf Course.

Abstance and Kreuger made the cut at district to qualify for the HCAC Invitational at Moccasin Bend.

“We had a great year, and I’m very proud of this team,” Coach Shattuck said. “It should be a very exciting year next year too.”



The Hunter baseball team finished with a 14-5 record this spring. *Contributed Photo*

### TRACK

The Hunter boys’ and girls’ track teams both had outstanding seasons with a number of top-three finishers in every meet.

All members of both teams who were injury free qualified for the All-County Meet, and 11 student-athletes qualified for the finals.

Eighth-grader Aaron Thomas earned a medal at the All-County Meet with a second-place finish in boys discus.

“Coach Fairbanks was a welcome addition to the track and field coaching staff this season,” Coach Bacon said. “I was extremely pleased and very impressed with the heart, work ethic, and coachability of both teams this season.”



Hunter had 11 track & field athletes qualify for the finals of the All-County Meet.

*Photo by Mrs. Barrett*



The Hawks golf team had a strong season this year, finishing with a 6-4 record against tough competition. *Contributed Photo*