



**CHRISTIAN COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
NEWSLETTER**

**2019**

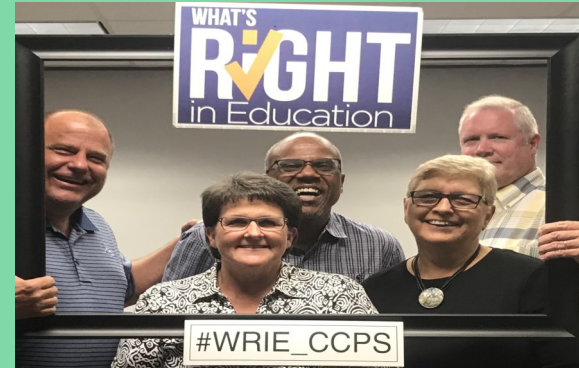


**Superintendent  
Mary Ann Gemmill**

The District financial position is contingent upon legislation and factors related to property taxation in conjunction with decisions made by the Christian County Board of Education. Recently, our Board Members made a bold decision and voted to support our students by levying a new tax rate for facilities (specifically for our high schools). I applaud them for having a vision for the future by providing better facilities and learning environments for teaching and learning.

School Board members also recently attended the Kentucky School Board Association Conference in Lexington in an effort to gain information that could impact our district. They work very hard to support all students in our district. Please thank them for all their hard work.

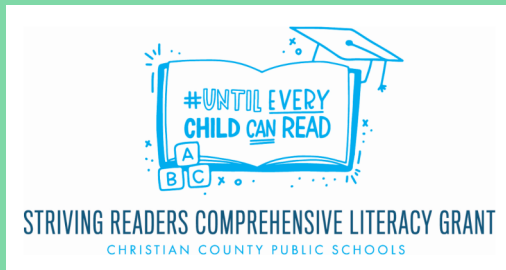
I also thank you for the great work going on in the district toward our efforts of "Continuous Improvement". Collectively, we are making a positive difference!



**CCPS Board Chair Linda Keller Talks Student Health**

Welcome to winter time in Kentucky. With our weather changing from 60° one day to 20° the next, I urge parents to dress your children accordingly. Please remind students to wash their hands often to help keep germs to a minimum. We want to keep students healthy and happy to help them get the most out of their education. Thank you to all of our nurses for their "extra hard work" during these winter days. I want to remind parents to stay engaged in your student's education and talk to them every day about what is going on in their classes. If your child talks to you about being bullied or someone that is being bullied, please go to our district website and click on the red stop sign (Safety Tipline Online Prevention) button. Someone from the district will contact you to discuss your problem.





## Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Grant

**Kadi Ralston**

The Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy (SRCL) Grant, a birth-to-12th grade professional learning grant focused on making sure all students are proficient readers, has already impacted Christian County Public Schools in many ways. Teachers and administrators are experiencing the intent of the grant through the implementation of literacy initiatives like Literacy Design Collaborative (3rd-12th grades), KY Literacy Intervention Project (6th-12th grades), Literacy Continuum trainings (Kindergarten-5th grades), and the Early Childhood Literacy Academy (preschool teachers and daycare providers). All schools have also formed School Literacy Plans and School Literacy Teams to guide and monitor the systemic and strategic implementation of balanced literacy instruction throughout each building. The value of the professional learning and positive teacher collaboration regarding best practices for literacy instruction can already be seen in classroom walkthroughs where a cross-disciplinary approach to teaching reading is valued and integrated. Additionally, the grant has brought teachers together to provide input for new phonics materials, as well as provide science leveled readers to elementary and middle school classrooms.

The SRCL Grant also focuses on providing information and resources to families of infants and toddlers in order to increase kindergarten readiness. Collaboration with community partners, including the daycares that feed into Christian County Public Schools, continues to inform and complement the work of the SRCL Grant by creating a literacy-rich community where reading is valued and encouraged.



## Girls Night Out Brings Students Together

Over 130 young girls attended the KERALOT Youth Service Center's Girls Night Out this winter. Held in the PAC on the campus of Christian County Middle School, the program featured author and motivational speaker Lisa Smartt. Ms. Smartt inspired the girls with a thought provoking talk about life, while using her wit to drive home

serious points. The night included dinner and door prizes as the girls connected with old friends and made new ones.

KERALOT YSC, led by Karen Kennedy, serves as the Family Resource and Youth Services Center at CCMS. Its mission is to enhance a student's ability to succeed through partnerships that remove learning barriers. KERALOT is a bridge over barriers.



## CCMS Choir Performs At KMEA

The Christian County Middle School Choir recently performed at the prestigious Kentucky Music Educators Association Conference in Louisville. The choir was one of three middle school choirs from across the Commonwealth selected for this honor. The choir is under the direction of Ben Stephens.

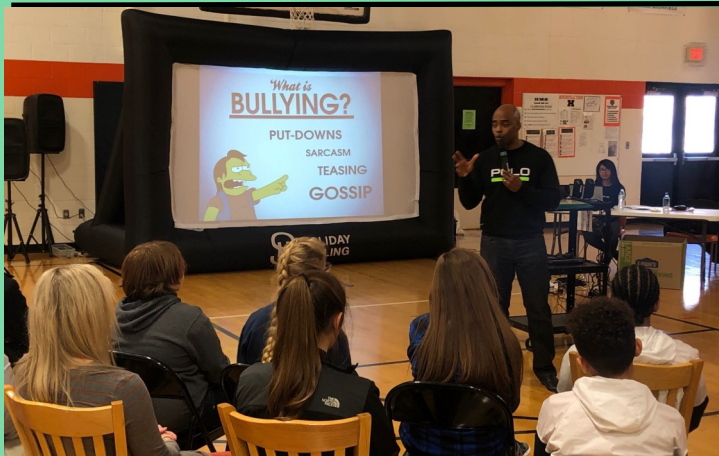


## Jane King Becomes Latest NBCT Teacher

Jane King, teacher at Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School, was recently named a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT).

National Board Standards are quite rigorous and are developed by committees of educators representing accomplished professionals in their field. Less than ten percent of teachers achieve NBCT certification.

NBCT teachers follow five core propositions: Teachers are committed to students and their learning, teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students, teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning, teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience, and teachers are members of learning communities. Congratulations Jane!



## Rachel's Challenge Comes to Hopkinsville Middle School

Hopkinsville Middle School hosted the organization *Rachel's Challenge* in January. Rachel's Challenge honors Rachel Joy Scott, (one of the students killed at Columbine High School), by leading students and community representatives in a culture changing workshop for students. The program helps schools become safer and more connected places where bullying and violence are replaced with kindness and respect. As a result, learning and teaching are awakened to their fullest.



## CCPS Administrators Meet With Legislators

(L to R) KY House Majority Floor Leader Bam Carney, CCPS Superintendent Mary Ann Gemmill, House Education Committee Chair Regina Huff, Representative Myron Dossett, CCPS Board Member Lindsey Clark

CCPS administrative staff met with members of the Kentucky House of Representatives to discuss education issues for the 2019 legislative session. 9<sup>th</sup> District Representative Myron Dossett hosted the meeting with House Majority Floor Leader John "Bam" Carney and House Education Committee Chair Regina Huff leading the discussion and fielding questions. Both Carney and Huff are former teachers and discussion centered on new and existing legislation in education and possible changes or updates in the current session.



## CCPS Marchers Honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Community members came together January 21st to honor and celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 90th birthday. The large group marched from the Boys and Girls Club on Walnut Street to Mount Olive Baptist Church on East Fourth Street. A celebration of Dr. King's life followed at the church. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary won the "Tom Bell State Farm Insurance School Challenge" for most school participants in the march and received the traveling trophy and a pizza party.



## Foti Wins AFJROTC National Championship

After winning the Kentucky All-Service State Championship in the Sporter (Rifle) Division for the second time in early February, Christian County High School AFJROTC cadet Daniel Foti won the 2019 Air Force JROTC National Championship at Port Clinton, Ohio February, 14, 2019.

The National Championship is a culmination of 125 AFJROTC shooters qualifying out of 2,200 participants

from across the country. Foti won the North Division championship with an overall score of 1185.7 with 31 “bulls-eyes” and defeated the South champion by 20 points and the West champion by 29 points for the National Championship.

Cadet Foti will now compete in JROTC All-Service Championship in Anniston, AL March 21-24. The All-Service Championship represents four branches of service; Air Force, Army, Marines, and Navy and is comprised of the final 144 shooters remaining from the original 12,000 participants.



## HHS Wind Symphony Performs At KMEA

The Hopkinsville High School Wind Symphony previewed its Kentucky Music Educators conference concert before a large crowd in the Performing Arts Center at CCMS on February 2nd. The group then performed the symphony at the prestigious KMEA conference in Louisville. Led by Conductors J. Seth Peveler and Grant Jones, the wind symphony’s performance featured world renown flute player Jim Walker as guest soloist.



## Kentucky Living Magazine Features Gateway Academy to Innovation and Technology

Kentucky Living Magazine featured Gateway Academy to Innovation and Technology in its February issue. Under Principal Penny Knight, Gateway has evolved into one of the preeminent career and technical centers in the Commonwealth. In the magazine article, Knight discusses the mission of the school and the new opportunities that lie ahead with the coming new school building. Knight also notes that most of Gateway’s teachers are occupation based, meaning their training comes directly from the type of industry they teach.

The article points out that Gateway students benefit from work co-op experiences, earn industry certifications and earn college credits. Business and industry representatives often serve as guest speakers, and students take field trips to specialized industrial plants where employees are using the skills that students are learning in their classes.

Pennyrile Electric is a partner with Gateway and nominated the school for the article.

Cover Photo Above: Jadyn Hicks & Madison Wilcox

Photo Right: David Lewis and Brett Stallons





### **Charlie Maddux is CCPS Student of the Month**

Charles Thomas Maddux is 11 years old and in the fifth grade at Pembroke Elementary School. “Charlie” is a member of the Student Technology Leadership Team (STLP) and carries a 4.0 grade point average. He loves science and math and is a member of the Chess Club. Not only is Charlie an avid reader, but he is also the author of six books. In his free time he enjoys

tennis and baseball, riding bikes on the farm, and watching Star Wars movies.

Charlie is the son of John and Jennifer Maddux and a brother to Anna and Solomon.



### **Megan Kidd Named To Pennyrile Child Advocacy Board**

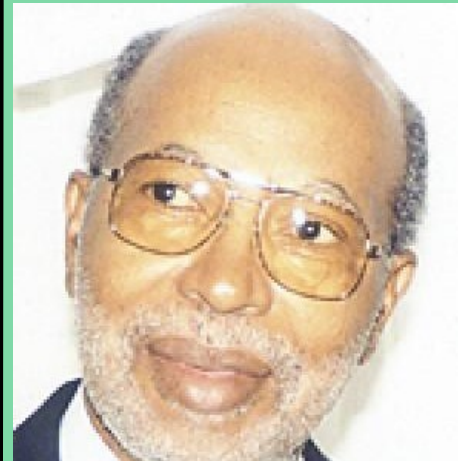
Megan Kidd was recently named to the Board of Directors for the Pennyrile Child Advocacy Center (PCAC). PCAC is a multi-disciplinary agency of professionals that work

jointly to advocate for the rights of a child. PCAC also offers services and support to victims of child abuse and their non-offending family members. Kidd is the Nursing Supervisor for Christian County Public Schools.



### **Jakerion Merritt Wins State Wrestling Championship**

Congratulations to Christian County High School wrestler Jakerion Merritt! Jakerion won the 2019 Kentucky High School Athletic Association State Wrestling Championship in the 132 pound weight class. The first place finish for the junior helped lead the Colonels to a sixth place finish in the team competition.



### **Levi Peterson, Jr. CCPS's First Black Administrator**

In celebration of Black History Month we honored Levi Peterson, Jr. Mr. Peterson was the first black school administrator at

Christian County Public Schools.

As a testament to Mr. Peterson's respect by the community, over 26,000 people viewed his profile! Mr. Peterson remains active in the community and is still beloved by his Tiger students!



## CCPS High Schools Participate in THE BIG READ

The Pennyroyal Arts Council sponsored our community wide BIG READ. Working through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, this year's book, *The Things They Carried*, is a compassionate tale of the American soldier during the Vietnam War. Author Tim O'Brien's book is part memoir, part fiction, and he wishes you luck figuring out which is which.

Many CCPS students and teachers are part of the Fort Campbell community, so it is important for us to understand the struggles soldiers and their families endure.

Students at Hopkinsville and Christian County High Schools along with Gateway Academy to Innovation and Technology are reading the book as part of their reading curriculum.

The Big Read broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book. Showcasing a diverse range of contemporary titles that reflect many different voices and perspectives, the NEA Big Read aims to inspire conversation and discovery.



**Gage Goble, Ashanti Banks, Austin Grant-Hall, and Bradley Roberts**

## CCHS AFJROTC Academic Team Set For Nationals

After earning top scores out of 440 Air Force Junior Reserve

Officers Training Corps Academic Teams, Christian County High School's AFJROTC has qualified for the 2019 U.S. Air Force JROTC Academic Bowl Championship. Team members Ashanti Banks, Gage Goble, Austin Grant-Hall, and Bradley Roberts were tested on their knowledge of JROTC curriculum, English, Math, and Science and will compete in the finals on the campus of Catholic University, in Washington, DC, June 21-25, 2019. This event is sponsored by the U.S. Air Force JROTC and is conducted by the College Options Foundation.

One of the main goals of the AFJROTC Academic Bowl is to prepare students for state exit/graduation exams as well as college entrance exams, such as the SAT and ACT.

The winner of the AFJROTC Academic Championship will compete against the winners of the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, and Navy JROTC Academic Bowls in the JROTC Joint Service Academic Bowl Championship.



# Christian County Public Schools

Our Mission: Creating an educational culture of continuous growth through shared partnerships and responsibilities.



200 Glass Avenue Hopkinsville, KY • (270) 887-7000 • [www.christian.kyschools.us](http://www.christian.kyschools.us)