

Opening Doors

LMS Newsletter

Running for First

by Madisyn Mitchell and Madeline Williams

The Lafayette Middle School cross country teams are excelling on the trails this season with their coaches high expectations of them. This group of runners has experienced success because they push each other to achieve their goals.

“This year, it seems as though our teams really work well together and push each other to become better runners,” said Lafayette Middle School Cross Country coach, Tracey Varner.

Based on the first 5 runners to cross the finish line, the Lafayette Middle School team took the top spot at the TCPS Twilight Meet, with Anthony Vazquez being first overall. “I think we’re successful because the kids really like what they’re doing, so they enjoy running with each other,” coach Austin Howell said when talking about the team's success.

“It started as helping me in soccer and then it came overall to get better. It ran in my family so I decided I wanted to do it too. I also just want to get better in general,” said Kiplin Loprinzi, Lafayette Cross Country runner, when asked why he joined the cross country team.

The runners have a lot of passion for what they do. “They’re friends and they’ve become close, and when you like something you can be really good at it,” Coach Howell said.



Anthony Vazquez running to the finish line



Jovie Loprinzi running to the finish line



The Boys' Cross Country team showing off their first place trophy

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Creative Writing

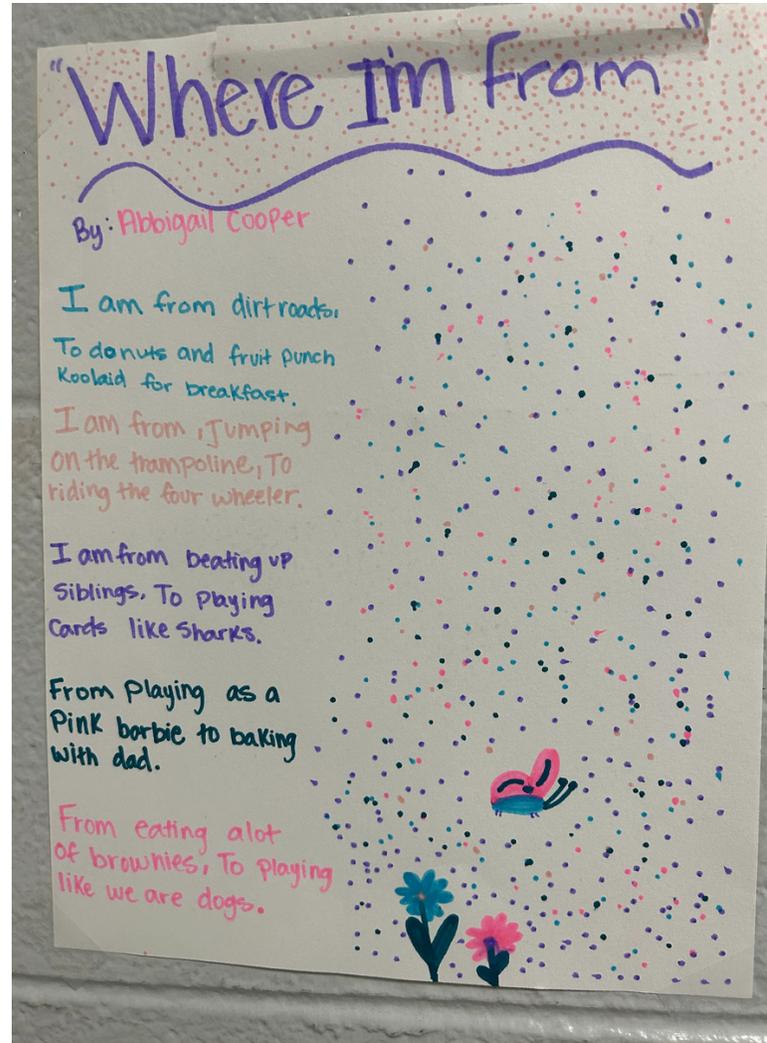
by: Annabelle Allen and Alli Bek Hinton

The creative writing class at Lafayette Middle School writes a lot. According to Ms. Hetterich, the creative writing teacher, students mainly write poems, short stories, all the way up to a novel.

“Primarily the goal is to give students a space where they’re not really subject to taking tests or giving a very strict limit of what we can do. Instead focusing on what we could do,” Ms. Hetterich said.

Some of the things happening in creative writing include an independent famous author project. This project students research the writing style and little details that make their author’s work unique. Another one is the “Where I’m from Poem” which is one that is featured this month. In November Ms. Hetterich plans on having her students take part in National Novel Month where they will write a novel in thirty days.

I like to make it a more open ended type of class, lots of room for creativity.” “Something that like I hope students find is a place where they’re feeling safe and comfortable and able for them to have a little bit of fun,” Ms. Hetterich said



Where I’m from by: Abbigail Cooper



OCTOBER RIDDLE

**CLICK ON THE IMAGE FOR A RIDDLE!
ALL CORRECT ANSWERS WILL BE
ENTERED INTO A DRAWING FOR A
SMALL PRIZE!**

October Riddle

Riddle for October!

Cyber Story



by: Carlynn Bolen and Leah Woy

The seventh grade cyber foundations classes created a project called the If/Then Story. The If/Then story is a Slides project that requires students to use Google Slides to make a story with multiple endings. For example there are two options: to either walk down the path or go to sleep. If the reader chooses to walk the path one of the endings might be they get attacked by a bear. If the reader chooses to sleep they wake up feeling energized in the morning and continue on their quest.

Mr. McLarty is a Cyber Foundations teacher and has been teaching in Cyber Foundation at Lafayette for 3 years. "Cyber Foundations is important because in today's world technology is everywhere, whether you would be a doctor or lawyer, farmer, mechanic or welder you have to have some knowledge of technology to do those jobs today." said Mr McLarty.

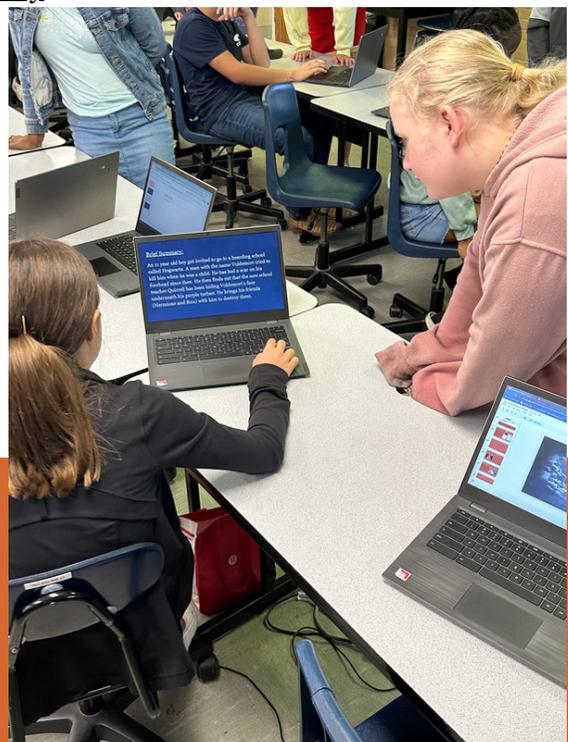
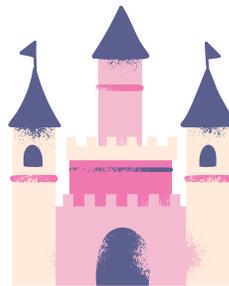
Mrs. McLarty is a Cyber Foundations teacher at Lafayette and has been teaching in cyber foundations for 4 years. "I wanted to showcase how to do a Powerpoint on Google Slides and allow them all to learn how to link stories in Google Slides." Mrs. McLarty believes that students need to work hard in order to achieve their goals. "My favorite part of the project was to see students learn how to connect individual slides to other slides and then be able to see how their story unfolds." Mrs. McLarty loves teaching Cyber Foundations and seeing how much her student's knowledge grows. "Cyber Foundations helps people in the future because it will teach how to problem solve." - Mrs McLarty.

"I wanted to make a story based off of a movie I watched, it was called Narnia. This project helped me by helping me learn how to use slides and to use my creativity better." Said 7th grader student Sarah Calderwood

[Click the castle to see Sarah Calderwood's If/Then story](#)

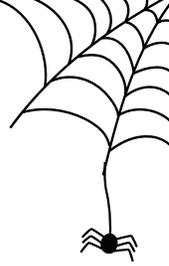


Mccayla Price showing Lucy Deaton her If/Then Story



Eleanor Todd showing Brylee White her If/Then Story

Studies Of the ‘Sip



by: Lila Mooney and Ella Ruth Smith

“I think we need to know about our past and study about it in order to know how far we’ve come,” said Mrs. Holly Bynum, the eighth grade Mississippi Studies teacher.

Eighth graders are learning about the Great Depression, and how Mississippi was affected during this time period. Mrs. Bynum explains how she thinks this subject informs students, and why she thinks students should be educated on this information.

“I think it’s important that students need to know how much prices have increased over time, and the reasons why prices have become so inflated,” said Mrs. Bynum.

Mrs. Bynum explains how she tries to make this subject more interesting so that all of her students can try to enjoy this subject.

“I really try to spark my students' interests by starting a conversation at the beginning of the class that they can relate to or that interests them,” said Mrs. Bynum.

We also asked multiple eighth grade students about their perspective on learning about this course.

“I don’t necessarily like Mississippi Studies because of all the studying and memorizing we have to do, but I do enjoy talking about the things I’m interested in,” said an eighth grade student.

“I do like Mississippi Studies because it really brings out what America used to be and how it is today,” said an eighth grade student.



STUDENT/TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Click on the image to open a link and spin the wheel to learn about LMS teachers and students!



Keeping Up With The Clubs

by J'kiah Cohran and Ava Thweatt

Lafayette Middle School's Student Council and Beta Club are planning several upcoming events, and have a lot of responsibilities to their school and themselves.

Their advisors, Ms. Smith (Student Council) and Mrs. Guest (Beta Club), have a lot of goals for their upcoming students. The two groups are hosting the 3rd Annual Fall festival on October 20th, "[I am] Super excited for the fall festival. It's just a good wholesome way for kids to get out and have fun on a Friday night," said Ms. Smith. Beta Club will also be providing pre-sold food for students at the Fall Festival.

In October Beta Club students will have an upcoming group trip for a Leadership Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. Students will be competing in competitions such as thinking outside the box and a poster project. There will be speakers who will talk to the students about leadership. This month Beta Club did "Bring a Buck" Each student in Beta Club brought a dollar to support Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.

In the next few months Student Council is hosting the second annual Winter Formal. "We are very excited about that! It was a great time last year. . . a time for everyone to get dressed up and dance and just let loose, and have a great time," Ms. Smith said.

The leaders care a lot about their students and would love to see them do great things. "[I would like] For this group to become leaders in this school, for this group to show the other students how to do service projects and serve other people in the community and help out where they are needed," Mrs. Guest said.



Beta Club Students



Reading Booms At LMS

by: Camdyn Saxton and Alyssa Sansing

Eighth grade students at Lafayette Middle School created independent reading projects to wrap up the first nine weeks in their English classes.

Students were asked to choose a book from the library that was interesting to them and create a project on it. Mrs. Hetterich's inspiration for the project was to get students to find books that were fascinating to them. The requirements were choosing a book close to the students' reading level, a chapter book, and a book that matched students' interests.

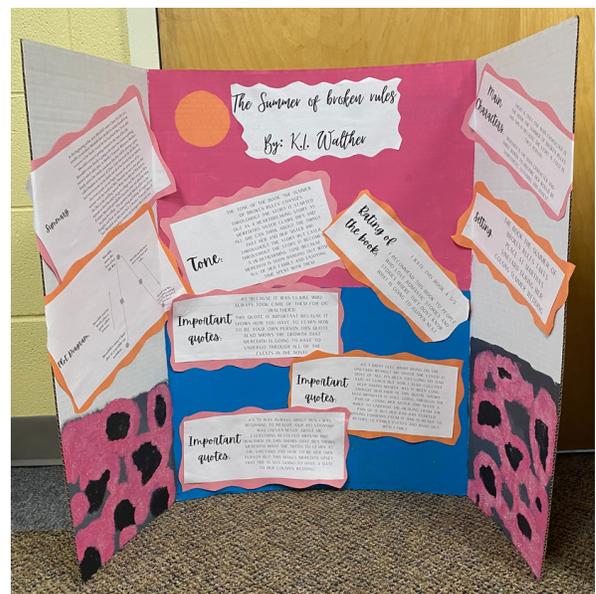
Emma Rodgers, a student at Lafayette Middle School had already been reading a book before it was announced that students had to do this project, so she, "saw it as an opportunity to get a head start."

Eighth grade ELA teacher Mrs Thomas said, "Students need to learn how to manage their time in order to successfully complete the project." Rivers Rikard said, "I would do a longer time span," so students would have enough time to complete the activity.

Emma liked that she had more layout options to choose from depending on how much time she had to work on her project, such as creating a tri-fold, designing a cereal box, and making a slideshow. Coach Everett, principal at Lafayette Middle School thought the projects were great. "I was able to watch them present their story boards and I was very impressed with the students and the organization by Ms. Hetterich and Mrs. Thomas. Activities like this are great ways to bring instruction to life for students." Coach Everett said.



A cereal box project



A tri-fold project

Volleyball Victory

by: Leah Clevenger And Claire Covington

The Lafayette Middle School Volleyball team had a successful season. The team was coached by Coach Micah Mooney and Coach Meghan Bidy. According to Coach Mooney volleyball is like a community and it is very important for her and also the players. “Volleyball is the most fun sport to play and the most addicting to watch. Being on the team is like joining a new family,” Coach Mooney said. She thinks even if girls have never played the sport they can always try out and still get hooked.

The middle school teams have had a very good season and Coach Mooney thinks this is due to “Both teams having matured, overcome many obstacles, and worked hard throughout the summer practices and during the season.” Along with that she said that they have very high skill levels because more girls are now exposed to volleyball. Taking advantage of the chances of having close friendships is very beneficial for communication and also just being comfortable in the community of the sport.

Raleigh Jones, a 7th grader on the LMS Volleyball team said, “You never know your last play, so use up all the opportunities you have.” Mackensy Peterson, an 8th grade player on the LMS Volleyball team said, “I have learned to work hard when you play for the glory of God.”

“I didn’t really need to teach the 8th grade team because the girls have an instinctual aspect of the game. Sometimes it is hard for me to take credit for teaching them because I am still learning more and more everyday,” said Coach Mooney. Both the coaches hope for another amazing season next year.



photo by Toni Ewing

