

# CREATIVE CONNECTIONS



April 2024

## The Arts are ALIVE in Martin County!

The participation of Martin County Schools' students and staff in "The Wizard of Oz" presented by the Martin Community Players was nothing short of enchanting. With dedication and creativity, both students and staff brought the beloved tale to life on stage, showcasing their talent and passion for the performing arts. Through their involvement in "The Wizard of Oz," Martin County Schools' students and staff not only showcased their artistic abilities but also demonstrated the power of teamwork and dedication in creating something truly extraordinary.

### We represent the MCS Guild!

We had over 30 Martin County Schools students and staff that performed in various roles for the Martin Community Players production of the Wizard of Oz! This required many months of late night rehearsals, set construction, runthroughs and three fantastic performances. We are very proud of all of our students and staff for their dedication to the arts in our community, and especially to the MCP director, Joey Griffin, who also serves as the theater teacher at Riverside High School.



## Read Across America Week

Our elementary schools enjoyed visits from the lead characters of the Wizard of Oz for Read Across America Week! We are very thankful to foster a relationship with the Martin Community Players to provide experiences like this for our students, and continue to grow in partnership in the future!

### Staff Spotlight- Joey Griffin

"The Wizard of Oz was my first Martin Community Players show as an actor in 1985, and now I've come full circle in 2024 as the director. I am very proud of the fact that so many MCS students and staff participated, and represented MCS well. As a graduate of Williamston High School, I am proud to return to my roots and give back to the community and schools that have given me so much."



# CREATIVE CONNECTIONS



April 2024

## Martin County 250th Anniversary

The student performances at the 250th Martin County Anniversary Celebration were nothing short of spectacular, capturing the essence of both tradition and innovation. With enthusiasm and skill, young talents graced the stage, infusing the event with vibrant energy and heartfelt emotion. With soul-stirring musical performances that resonated with the audience, each act showcased the depth of talent and dedication present in Martin County's youth.

### Williamston Primary School

To start off the MCS performances, students from grades K-2 at Williamston Primary School performed some of their favorite songs at the 250th anniversary event. Directed by Mrs. Wanda Hardison, WPS beloved and multitalented music teacher.



### Riverside Middle School Chorus

Led by Mrs. Kim Fay, the Riverside Middle School Chorus held their first performance at the 250th "Made in Martin" event. Mrs. Tara Woodard, Assistant Principal at RMS, accompanied the chorus on piano. The chorus had a wonderful first performance and we look forward to many more

### Martin County Drumline

Comprised of students from both Riverside and South Creek High Schools, this group came together at the start of the merge and set the example of what a team should be. The drumline performs at many events throughout Martin County such as convocation, football games, Christmas parades, and other other events as requested.



## Celebrating Friendship

Ms. Cardwell's High School Chorus class worked to create movements to the song "Count On Me" and perform with Ms. Hill's class for a sweet end to Music in our schools month. [Click this link to watch the video!](#)



# CREATIVE CONNECTIONS



April 2024

## Congrats to E.J. Hayes!

Laura Frye, Visual Arts teacher at E. J. Hayes Elementary School wrote a grant. Dominion Energy awarded her \$5000 to create a Pollinator Garden and Outdoor Classroom. "I took a PD class last year on Project-Based Learning and how it can put legs on learning for students. That class was really the 'brain child' for this idea. I was already combining core subjects with Art class to help my students to experience deeper learning, teaching about bees and butterflies as pollinators and how we depend on these busy workers for many of our foods. I also taught about the parts of a plant.

My mind began to churn and I wondered how can I take what I am already doing to the next level? This grant award will allow me to deepen learning for students by getting their hands dirty! Not only will they be studying these vital lessons; they will be planting the flowers, herbs and edible foods themselves and watching them grow!" Public Art is also a part of Frye's goals, showing students how to transform an unused patio into an outdoor classroom, using art to educate others.

[Read more about the grant here](#)



## MPA at Riverside High School

For the 3rd year, Riverside High School hosted the Eastern District Bandmasters Association Music Performance Adjudication. Over the course of 3 days, over 40 schools from Eastern NC traveled to RHS to perform for a panel of judges to receive a rating. Band Director Alisha Cardwell has served as the site host since 2022, and the site chairperson since 2023. Both our middle and high school bands performed and received high marks! The combined Martin Middle School Band directed by Kim Fay and Raven Cole received a stage rating of Excellent and a Superior in sight reading for an overall Excellent rating. The combined Martin High School Symphonic Band directed by Alisha Cardwell received an overall rating of Superior in both stage performance and sight reading. This is the equivalent to end of course exams for our band programs, and both bands were a great representation of MCS and our outstanding teachers!

## Cross Curricular Corner

6th grade students from Riverside Middle School visited Williamston Primary School during their study of Africa in Social Studies. At WPS, Mrs. Wanda Hardison led the students in an African Drumming Circle, and afterward the 6th grade students had the opportunity to teach about Africa to WPS Kindergarteners. Thank you to all the teachers who collaborated to give our students this awesome experience!





