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# Generals 360

ALL AROUND INFORMATION

## Welcome to a New School Year!

Veterans' fearless principal, Mr. James Peek has big plans and goals for the school this year. Generals 360 staff met with Mr. Peek to get his thoughts about the upcoming 2011-2012 school year. He is happy to be starting his third year as principal at Veterans and he hopes that the students become more successful academically. Mr. Peek says, "I like the new changes this school year, like the new 5 Step Discipline Plan and the Interactive Notebooks." He feels that the Interactive Notebooks will help students stay organized with their thoughts as well as their information. Mr. Peek is also excited about the GEAR



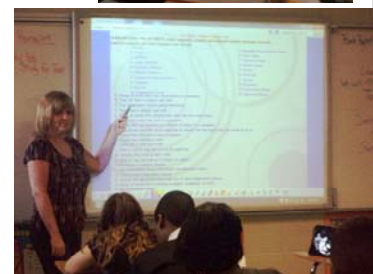
Program, "Generals Excited About Reading," Which will help students with their reading and improve STAR test scores. Mr. Peek has a message for new students as well as the returning students, "To the new students, excellence is a journey and not a destination. To returning students, continue to work hard." Last but not least, his message to the parents, "Get involved with the school in terms of your student's education." His goal for the year is to challenge himself to be the best school leader, and to encourage students to be well-rounded and focused to achieve success in all they do.

By Deanna Griffin and Kaiya Samuel

## Staff Spotlight: Mrs. Rachels

Few students realize how many hats Mrs. Jeanne Rachels wears as she comes to Veterans to work each day. This year, as well as teaching two eighth grade honors classes, and a seventh grade honors class, she is a part-time administrator in charge of sports, building maintenance, and testing assistance. When Mrs. Rachels' oldest son started middle school, it inspired her to get involved in the school system, so she began substituting. She realized she enjoyed it, and decided to pursue a degree to allow her to teach full time. She took classes at Mercer University, Troy University, and Lincoln Memorial University. She began teaching at Veterans when it opened in 2001. Her goal for her classes this year is that all students exceed the expectations of their current grade. She motivates her students by making learning interesting, and trying to get students engaged in learning. Mrs. Rachels says, "I love my job, especially when I see student success." Students describe Mrs. Rachels as interactive, understanding, and energetic. One of her seventh graders, Trent Whitmire, says "She believes her students are able to do anything they put their mind to."

In her free time, she enjoys reading, spending time outdoors, and traveling. She has three sons, two step sons, and two granddaughters, as well as a husband, who is a counselor at Eastside High School. Mrs. Rachels favorite quote is, "Give up only when you have nothing left."



By Baylee Friedman and Alyssa Ellis



## Generals, Let's Rock It!

"Let's go Generals, let's go!" This cheer can be heard all over the football field as the cheerleaders root for their team. Even though the school year has just begun, the Cheer Generals have been working hard at practice every week, Monday through Friday. They have been doing countless fundraisers since the team was announced, like car washes, yard sales, lollipops, ESPN Magazines, chocolate bars, bake sales, and more is to come. The first football game was on Wednesday, September 7 at Davis Middle School, at 5:00 and the first competition was on Saturday, September 17 at Morgan County High School. Mrs. Mansfield, the coach, is excited about the season and says, "This year, the squad consists of girls that are hard-working and eager to learn!"



By Hallie Mayo and Baylee Friedman

## Believe in the Red and Blue!

The Veterans football team this year is on fire! The boys are ready to fight and play hard to achieve victory against their opponents. There are a total of thirty-four players on the Veterans football team and a manager who makes sure the team has the right equipment, and everyone stays hydrated. The three coaches are Cliff Roberts, Kermit Robinson, and Buck Helm. Every one of these coaches works hard and long to get the players in shape. At practice, the coaches make sure they push the Generals as hard as they can and at game time, the boys give it their all.



This season there are six regular season games; three played at Veterans' awesome home field, and three away games, played at Cousins Middle, Heritage High against Davis Middle, and Liberty Middle. Whether players are in seventh or eighth grade, the coaches feel all players are coachable. Caleb Stinson, an eighth grade player, says "Tryouts for this season were easy, because we had trained and worked out all year." The players are encouraged to be leaders on the field and off. They must maintain high grades and excellent behavior. When players make poor choices in their behavior in school, the consequence might be a few extra laps to run or hills to climb at practice. "The season has had a rough start, but the players are getting

more comfortable with offense and defense and are watching game films help to correct their mistakes." says Coach Roberts. Coach Robinson is optimistic, and says " We undoubtedly have the best backfield in the league, but costly errors on special teams and mental lapses late in the game have hindered us. We don't take any team lightly, and we are continuing to work hard with the aspiration of running the table for the remainder of our schedule. This would not only provide us with confidence and motivation, but it would catapult us into the playoffs with an unparalleled momentum! We are far from done because Generals never surrender!"

By Brianna Devine and LeKendrick Williams

## Hit It, Rip It, Knock It Out!

It's the rattling of the cages and stomping of cleats. The Lady Generals are back with a new head coach, Mrs. Beth Bowman. Coach Bonnie Garvin is assisting her as they lead the Lady Generals this year. Coach Bowman says, "I think Coach Garvin will be a great asset to this team." Only fifteen girls were able to make the cut this year, but Coach Bowman feels the new team works well both on the field and academically. After eight games, the Lady Generals are off to a rough start. She says, "We got what we expected from the other teams. With a little work and harder practice I think we will have a winning record." Although Coach Bowman has been coaching softball for seven years, which is the longest coaching record in the school's history, this is her first year as head coach. She feels that working under different head coaches has taught her a great deal. This is also the first year the Lady Generals have practiced on their own field; in previous years, the team had to travel to practices at Turner Lake Park every day. The team has been raising funds for a game field for several years by selling Chic-fil-A chicken biscuits in the mornings. This year, they are selling them every other Tuesday. With all their hard work and determination, the team is hoping that next year, fans and students will be able to cheer on the Lady Generals on their very own home field. Go Lady Generals!



By Kaiya Samuel and Kayla Benjamin





## Getting It Together with Behavior

The teachers and administrators at Veterans Memorial Middle School are implementing a new plan to keep the students on the right track. The 5 Step Discipline Plan is posted in every classroom and in the halls to remind everyone to be on their best behavior.

Teachers feel this plan is a good way to keep students in school and out of trouble. "The five steps tell the student from day one that this is what is expected. It gives the children a chance for self correction, before we beat them over the head with punishment," Mrs. Ellis, a seventh-grade science teacher points out. Mrs. Mansfield, the cheerleading coach and seventh grade social studies teacher says, "It's a specific plan in place; the kids know what to expect and the teachers know what to do. Teachers can't use their emotions to punish you. For instance, if the teacher is mad and you do something little, they can't just write you up." "The first priority here at Veterans is to educate, not to play around," says head football coach and eighth-grade science teacher, Mr. Roberts.

Assistant principal Ms. Causey came up with the idea to create this discipline plan. She decided to make this plan for several reasons. "There was no plan last year, and teachers just wrote kids up. And we want our children to stay in school. It gives the kids the opportunity to stay in class, and to get an education." Parental involvement is a very important part of this plan. "The parents needs to know what is going on with their child. It gives them an opportunity to correct the behavior at home before a write-up at school," says Ms. Causey. Students may not like the rules in place, but it is for their own benefit. Teachers and administrators think it's a great way to keep students on the right track and help them succeed in school.

By Ebony Wilson and Bryce Willis

### 5 Step Discipline Plan

**First offense** - Conference with students in private and contact of parent or guardian.

**Second offense** - Conference with student in private, parent contact, assign team discipline. (Silent Lunch or detention)

**Third offense** - Conference with student in private, contact of parent, assign ISS, and submit a counseling referral.

**Fourth offense** - Conference with student, contact of parent, and set up team meeting to include the POI Administrator. Student will be assigned a school work detail.

**Fifth and following offenses** - Automatic office referral.

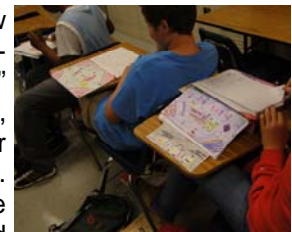


## A Revolutionary Way to Take Notes!

Interactive student notebooks are a new tool used in every academic class at Veterans. Mr. Rembert, a seventh grade teacher, who began using the notebooks with his classes last year, feels that the interactive notebooks



are great for students to remember everything they went over in class. When he teaches, he encourages students to write in the interactive notebooks, even if it is just to doodle. During his interview he said, "If I were sitting here drawing you, I would remember what you said more than if I were to just sit here." Kayleigh Wilkerson, an eighth grade student at Veterans, says the interactive notebooks make her classes easier and helps her understand the content in a different way. Seventh grade students Nalahshey Wright and Jessie Claiborne think the notebooks help them get organized



and make it easier to study. Mrs. Ward, who teaches math to students who might need extra help, feels the interactive notebook will help students pass simple quizzes, a test, or even the C.R.C.T. Sixth grade students Maddie Doyle and MarShaun Chevalier think the notebook is interesting and helps them to get outstanding grades.

Dan Mulligan, an extraordinary educator, who has been enlightening teachers through various seminars, came up with the idea of interactive notebooks. Mr. Peek, the principal at Veterans, decided that the interactive notebooks should be enforced, not just as a study guide but as an organizational tool. At Veterans the I.S.N.s will make a huge impact for the students and improving everything from report cards to the C.R.C.T.

By Kayrie Oliver and Carley Lively





## Six Star Generals

On September 2, the entire school met in the gym to celebrate the success of Veterans' students. Mr. Peek gave a warm welcome to all the students, and then he recognized the Six Star Generals. A Six Star General is a straight A student who maintains good behavior. During the assembly, the students who qualified from the last quarter of the 2010-2011 school year lined up and everyone cheered for their accomplishments. When these students wear their medal of honor, they receive privileges like having a universal hall pass and a "jump to the front of the lunch line-pass". The best privilege of all is free admission to games, dances, or sporting events like the 5 on 5 fundraisers. It has been said that with great power comes great responsibility. The Six Star Generals must meet this expectation every day by continuing to be model students.



By Gavin Norman and Trent Whitmire



## Publix Bags

One morning in August, every student at Veterans was surprised with a gift from Publix, a local grocery store. Publix was very generous to donate drawstring bags, which students can use however they wish. Some students have customized their bags in their own way with pens, markers, and other accessories. Mrs. Ellis' class has made a banner that each student on the red hall signed to thank Publix for the drawstring bags donation to Veterans.

By Jahliil Edwards and Michael Gray

## Big Changes at Veterans

When students arrived on the first day of school this year, they found lots of things had changed at Veterans. The first thing they noticed was that seventh and eighth grade hallways had switched. The administration moved the classes to improve class transitions and help eliminate disturbances during standardized testing. Another thing students may have noticed is that there are no classes in trailers anymore, and that the student population has decreased, resulting in the halls being less crowded during class changes. There was also a big change in transportation; since there are now fewer buses, afternoon dismissal is much quicker. This year GEAR, a focused student reading time is only during Enrichment on Tuesdays and Thursdays instead of every day in homeroom. Students were also introduced to the interactive notebook, a tool to help students be more organized. Everyone is excited to be waking up a little later since school now starts at 9:00, but the negative side is that it ends at 4:15. Instead of two days out for Thanksgiving break, students and staff have an entire week out, but the Christmas and winter break are still remain the same. Some of these changes are easier to embrace than others, but all of the changes have been made to improve the quality of students' experience at Veterans. Concerning these changes, Ms. Roach, an assistant principal, says, "The only thing constant in life is change. I always view change as an opportunity for growth."

By Anjahlia Dooley and Courtney Coon

## Meet the Staff

The Generals 360 newsletter is created by students in the Publishing Class, a yearlong class which meets every morning during enrichment in Mrs. Esguerra's lab. Students in the class have big responsibilities ahead of



them. The staff creates the school's newsletter every month by performing interviews, taking pictures, and formatting the articles in Microsoft Publisher. They also have deadlines for each article every month. Each month, the students of the staff are assigned different articles, and are paired with a different partner. There are twenty-one Generals 360 staff members who work on the Newsletter, with only three returning from last year. This class also creates the yearbook for the school. The newsletter has received great reviews since the first issue was sent out to subscribers in 2006. Trent Whitmire, a seventh grade staff member, says, "It is exciting being part of the staff. Just the fact of knowing

that you are part of something that plays a big role in your school feels great."

By Jahliil Edwards and Michael Gray





## Get Into G.E.A.R.

This is the time to get into G.E.A.R! Generals Excited About Reading, (G.E.A.R.) is sustained silent reading time for thirty minutes every Tuesday and Thursday during Enrichment. Mr. Peek,



Mrs. Roach, and Mrs. Coleman have been working very hard to promote G.E.A.R., but the students have a big part in this too. Their responsibilities lie in finding a book or magazine they enjoy and actively reading it. Every middle school in Newton County is involved in G.E.A.R. It's not just the students who are reading during G.E.A.R. Everyone, even the teachers and administrators are encouraged to read during

G.E.A.R. Mr. Peek even came in one Tuesday and sat and read with the Generals 360 staff in Mrs. Esguerra's class. Mrs. Coleman says, "There are too many good books out there to spend time reading one you don't like. Find that fabulous book."



By Emma Golden and Carley Lively

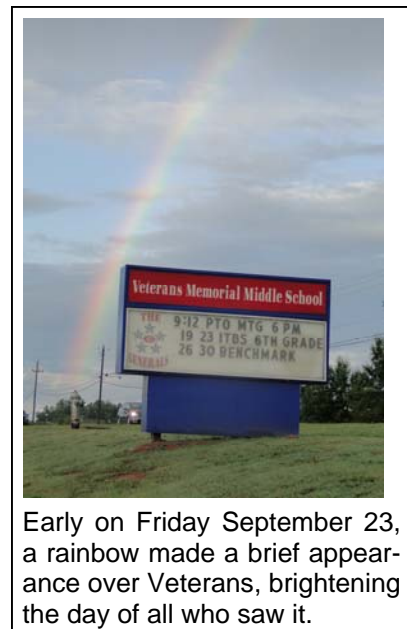
## Important Reminders

Students and parents need to be aware of some important issues.

- According to the Newton County school system, it is a priority to provide a safe and positive school environment. Dress code seems to be a problem at Veterans. Students should wear appropriate attire and exhibit good grooming habits every day. Here are some guidelines to remember. Shorts or skirts should be worn at waist level, should not show excessive skin or under garments, and need to be fingertip length. Clothing should not promote drugs, gangs, or violence. Pants should be worn at the natural waistline. Remember these guidelines to have a successful school year.
- Parents should check the school website regularly. Here they can find dates for athletic events, and links to check their students grades and progress, and even their schedule.
- Ms. Coleman, the Media Center specialist, says that students should get their reading logs signed everyday by a teacher and read at least 30 minutes on G.E.A.R. days. She also said that parents should go to Parent Portal and register in Home Connect so they can track their students reading progress.



By Natalie Carter and Hannah Hinton



Early on Friday September 23, a rainbow made a brief appearance over Veterans, brightening the day of all who saw it.

## FALL FUNDRAISERS

### School-Wide Fundraiser

September 23-October 6

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### Pennies For Patients GEMS Fundraiser

September 26 - October 14

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### Fun Day Fundraisers for Connections

Dodge Ball Game, Tuesday, October 18

3 vs. 3 Basketball Game, Friday, November 18