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Lanett City Schools

# Panther Tracks



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Small Classes. BIG REWARDS.

Fall Edition 2010

## Lanett City Schools Continue to Meet AYP Goals

Lanett City Schools made AYP for the 2009 -2010 school year, according to the latest report issued by the Alabama State Department of Education. AYP, Adequate Yearly Progress, is a measure of our schools'

progress under the No Child Left Behind law. Under the law, school systems must meet 100 percent of their annual goals in all student groups to be identified as making AYP. Lanett City Schools was one of the few systems in

this area to make the Alabama State Department of Education list as having made AYP. AYP is determined by scores on standardized tests in math and reading in grades three through eight and on the Alabama High School

Graduation Exam in the eleventh grade, as well as other indicators. Lanett City Schools' students, parents, teachers and staff members are justifiably proud of this accomplishment. Superintendent Johnson noted that while there is reason

for celebration, much work lies ahead. "As we progress toward the 100 percent proficiency goal for 2014, our students and staff must continue to have high expectations in order to sustain our momentum."

## Freshmen Required to Take JROTC Program Builds Character

The goal of the Lanett High School JROTC department is to develop good students and citizens. JROTC uses a unique but proven approach across the world to guide students toward success in high school, college, and beyond. The Lanett City School District requires all ninth graders to enroll in the class and often, students remain in the program as an elective through twelfth grade.

The curriculum is but one ingredient in the equation of achieving success. JROTC is part of the overall effort to build emotional and academic skills, as well as good character and citizenship. Cadets learn leadership skills by earning more demanding positions of leadership as they

rise through the ranks of the corps.

Through studies, activities, and service learning Cadets incorporate into their way of life success skills such as setting goals, developing winning habits, overcoming fears of failure, developing personal and social responsibility, and learning how to make decisions and solve problems. They learn to feel pride in a job well done. "We are proud of the Lanett High School JROTC program and continue to expect great success of the program" stated Lanett High School Principal Sanford Isom.



### Dear Community Member,

The 2010-2011 year marks the 113th year of Lanett City Schools. The district continues to provide innovative education for students in grades K-12 as indicated by the \$900,000 worth of scholarship opportunities awarded to the Lanett High School Class of 2010.

Surrounded by a once-thriving textile industry, the school system has adapted to the loss in manufacturing-based jobs and decreased community population to emerge as a state-recognized leader in enrichment opportunities by offering three Advanced Placement courses which provide college



credit, a JROTC requirement for all freshmen, an impressive elementary enrichment program and foreign language opportunities at each school within the district.

With just under 850 students district wide, Lanett schools

can offer the one-on-one atmosphere that can be found in private or church schools. Our teachers maintain high expectations both in academics and discipline which is noted through the implementation of school uniforms. Each school is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/AdvancED as well as maintains Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as measured by the Alabama State Department of Education.

Our staff invites you to visit one of the schools in the City of Lanett to see hard work in progress.

*Phillip H. Johnson  
Superintendent*



Lanett Schools are fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/AdvancEd.

# D.A.R.E.

The Lanett Police Department in partnership with Lanett City Schools D.A.R.E. program has been in existence since 1991, teaching more than 5,000 students the information and skills to live a drug and violence free life.

Lanett City Schools is very proud of our D.A.R.E. program and we continue to support ongoing proactive programs which prevent our youth from becoming involved in drugs, alcohol and crime.

The D.A.R.E. program has three main goals. First, D.A.R.E. seeks to provide students with a knowledge base on the effects of drug abuse that go beyond the physical ramifications and extend to emotional, social, and economic aspects of life. Secondly, D.A.R.E. aims to build decision-making and problem solving skills and strategies to help students make informed decisions and resist drug use, peer pressure, and violence. Lastly, an integral part of the D.A.R.E. program is to provide students with alternatives to drug use. We are making a difference one school, one classroom, and one student at a time.



## Grandparents Welcome at Lance Elementary



*Each year, Grandparents' Day is celebrated by Lance students and teachers. Grandparents tour the school and spend time in classrooms. To volunteer as a grand reading buddy, contact the school at 334-644-5915.*

## Art Instruction Essential for Self Expression

Whether students are creating self portraits, watercolor depictions, or chalk illustrations, fourth-sixth graders at Lance Elementary in Lanett take their daily art instruction seriously. Art Teacher Tawana Bradford sees talent in her students “My students are full of natural talent. I am able to give their God-given talent an outlet for expression.” Students compete in a variety of local and state contest and even brought home awards from the Alabama State Department of Education last year. Student work was displayed in the Alabama State Capitol and at Lanett City Hall. Student artists were also featured daily as weather artists in the Valley Times- News.



## Lance Students Enjoy Talking School Bus

Flashing lights and children’s laughter were evident at Lance Elementary as Buster the Talking School Bus demonstrated bus safety for kindergarten and first grade students. Buster, a fully animated remote-controlled school bus robot, looks like the real thing—only smaller. The presentation, facilitated by Bryan Nash, illustrated safety tips including a demonstration of the danger zone of a bus where the bus driver has limited exterior vision. First grade teacher Whitney Nolen said students loved Buster “My students listened to every word and loved the interaction between Buster, the teachers and fellow students.” Thank you to the following local businesses which provided sponsorship for the bus assembly: Chambley’s, Carolyn Lott, The Learning Treasure, Express Tax Service, Sandy’s Service Center and Sports Graphics.

# Lanett Jr. High Students Learn Spanish

Seventh and eighth grade students at Lanett Junior High are enrolled in Spanish class this year. They are using the Rosetta Stone computer program for Latin American Spanish lessons. Rosetta Stone is recognized as a premier language learning software designed to teach language through immersion. Lanett students advance through the program by grasping real-life images which allow for easier language acquisition. The interactive technology allows the student to speak as well as listen to on-line instruction. According to facilitator Glenda Brasfield, students enjoy the challenge “the kids like the technology and they like the challenge of learning a different language.” Pictured, l-r: 7th graders Alycea Sharpe, K’Nesia Jones, Vontica Core, Devonquavious Phillips, Savion Ware, Alvontrey James and Jatonio Carlisle.



## *LJHS Teachers Incorporate Peer Coaching Strategies*

Lanett Jr. High reading teacher Yashica Odom added a new responsibility to her role this year when she became the school’s new peer coach. Superintendent Phillip Johnson was so impressed with Odom’s ability to teach adolescent literature, he asked her to attend training to facilitate a peer coaching model that is promoted in ARI PALS( the secondary version of Alabama Reading Initiative). Odom continues to teach her seventh and eighth grade reading class which is in addition to a student’s language arts class, but her new role allows her to coach all teachers in innovative reading strategies. According to Superintendent Phillip Johnson, all teachers gain from this in-house professional development. “The theory behind our new program is all teachers, no matter the subject, can incorporate innovative reading skills in their classes. The social studies and science teachers, for example, can facilitate literacy-based instruction all day long. The teachers have been promoting reading strategies in the past, but with this new peer coaching, we can all be on the same page. A student should be able to recognize great teaching strategies in every classroom, every subject-- every day.” Principal Joan Gilbert says the program is working. “Ms. Odom coaches each Wednesday. She plans with her fellow teachers, models subject-specific reading instruction, and visits classrooms. As I visit classrooms, I can see the reading strategies in action in every class” added Gilbert.



**Lanett Junior High School staff members promised students a reward last spring during the Alabama Reading and Math test: make a Level III or IV in Math or Reading and become a member of the 3 Point Club. Members of the 3 Point Club would receive a pass to get into all LJHS and LHS athletic regular season home games. There were 17 students from last year’s 8th grade class that made a Level III or IV on the ARMT. Pictured: front row, l-r: Mikaela Booker, Adaja Tucker, Erin Boyd, Miranda Goss, Ariel Jennings; middle row, l-r: Alexis Ross, Jasandra Lynch, Chelsea Brasfield, Chelsea Carlisle, Miracle Mayo; back row, l-r: Ayana Williams, Kadeejah Dorsey, Antrenisha Holloway, Tobias Bonner, Ramir Hobbs. Not pictured: Megan Steele and Arneisha Morgan.**

# Advanced Placement Courses Give Lanett Students a Head Start on College Credit

Advanced Placement courses offer students the opportunity to take college level courses while attending high school. These courses follow a rigorous curriculum prescribed by the College Board and allow the students to take an examination that will award them college credit based upon their scores. The

challenge of taking an AP course allows students to stand out in the college admission process and learn classroom skills that will enable them to succeed in college. Lanett High School has offered AP courses in U.S. History, English Literature, and English Language (Composition). These courses

have been offered on-site to LHS students, but the school also sends classes around the state through the distance learning program via IVC. Additional AP courses are available through the ACCESS program via web-based

learning. Regardless of the method the students profit from the experience and often remark when they return to campus that college courses are easier than the AP courses. The teachers have received additional training

for the course through the University of Alabama and are members of the AP-ITP mentoring program for AP teachers sponsored by the State Department of Education and the University of Alabama.



## Lanett Students Learn with 21st Century Technology

*A report of technology integration in the Lanett City School District*

Students in the Lanett City School District have an opportunity to receive a high quality education through exposure to technological knowledge and skills necessary to become contributing members of society. Within the district, a wide variety of technology is available. All classrooms are equipped with one or more modern multimedia computers with internet access and at least one printer. All computer workstations in the district were replaced two years ago so the tech inventory at each school is of exceptional quality.

Students have access to state-of-the-art computer labs at each school. W.O. Lance's kindergarten and first grade students utilize the Earobics lab each day. Second through sixth grade students have a computer lab with twenty-nine computers which allows for integration across the curriculum. Junior high students in

grades seven through eight have access to a laboratory with thirty computers. During the summer of 2010, Rosetta Stone software was installed in the elementary and junior high labs and allows foreign language integration at each of Lanett's schools. Career/Tech students have a twenty-one computer laboratory used for web design and other high-tech lab projects. A twenty-eight computer laboratory is available throughout the school day at the high school for classes to utilize. Each of these labs is equipped with a network printer and various academic software packages.

Media centers within the district have electronic card cataloging and a number of computers available for student use. At the elementary and junior high, students make use of flextime to take Accelerated Reader and academic tests.

Classrooms are equipped with

Promethean interactive whiteboards and Active Expression student response systems. Forty percent of the classrooms at the junior high and nine classrooms at W. O. Lance have Promethean interactive whiteboards. At Lanett High School, all classrooms have a mounted LCD projector and pull-down screen and an ACCESS lab allows Lanett teachers to transmit their course offerings to other schools in Alabama.

Wireless internet access is available throughout the junior high and high school building.

Within the district, there has been an increase in the use of digital cameras and scanners.

Students are motivated when they are able to use computers. They gain a sense of empowerment from learning to control the computer and to use it in ways they associate with the real world.

## Lanett Boasts Teacher Advisory Panel for Students (TAPS)

The Teacher Advisory Panel for Students (TAPS) was instituted in Lanett High School to give teachers the opportunity to become a mentor for their assigned group of students. Monthly meetings of the groups are used to implement lessons for the students that would help them be more successful in school and in life. Some of the lessons centered on school policies such as calculating grades and athletic eligibility. Other lessons were developed to help students in the evaluation of their grades (progress reports and nine weeks grades), assessment of progress and ways to improve the grades or identify problems. The TAPS sessions helped students develop coping skills for adolescent problems like bullying, anger management, and self-esteem. Additional lessons centered on goal setting, opportunities for the future, and career exploration. An unexpected benefit of the TAPS program was the development of a sense of camaraderie among the members of the groups. The lessons which often included role playing and open sharing of personal experiences helped students realize that their problems were not unique and had a variety of solutions.