

Central Academy of Technology and Arts

Cougar Chronicle

Volume 1; Issue 16
December 1, 2013



Photo by W. Wright

Central Academy Families

We hope that each and every student and family had a restful Thanksgiving full of opportunities to be thankful for the many blessings we each have. We return to school this week for a full week of school and we ask that you continue to get to school on time and ensure that attendance is a priority.

Seniors should visit the students page of CATA's website to register their senior quote for the yearbook. The due date has been extended to tomorrow, December 2nd, however, no quotes will be taken after that. The link is also available on the senior page in the Cougar Chronicle.

We are currently in the final grading period of this semester. Report cards for the second six weeks go home on Wednesday. Remember that each 6 week grade counts for 25% of your final semester grade, and the final exam itself counts for 25% of the final semester grade. Students should begin reviewing this month on their own for their exams and take advantage of all tutoring and review opportunities with teachers. The final exam schedule has been listed in the Cougar Chronicle, be sure to check it out. ALL students are required to take their final exams during finals week, and on the days scheduled. Trips will not be excused reasons to be absent and students not attending exams will receive a 0 for the exam, so please check the dates today. As another reminder, parents and students can access teacher gradebooks to gain feedback on progress, but you must stop into the main office at CATA to show ID to obtain your password. Thank you to the many parents that have already done this.

Basketball, Swimming, Winter Track, Cheer, and Wrestling are all underway and doing well. We had a very exciting men's basketball game the week before Thanksgiving. It was a great win for CATA! Young men and women interested in playing lacrosse should check out the athletics page for an informational meeting on December 4th. In order to successfully start a lacrosse program next year, we will need to have a full lacrosse club roster this year—so if you are interested in playing, or learning to play, please come to the meeting.

Juniors will be taking the ACT, a college placement test, in March. Resources have been placed on the Students page of the website so that students may begin preparing now. We will be announcing school opportunities to prepare soon.

The Cougar Chronicle, our Facebook page, in addition to our website, will be the main form of communication from school to home. At CATA we will continue to work toward Leading the Way so that your child can lead the way in the future! Go Cougars! - Mrs. Kim Fisenne, Principal

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600 Brewer Drive, Monroe,
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(704) 296-3088 (Phone)

(704) 296-3090 (Fax)

<http://cata.ucps.k12.nc.us>

Look for text that is blue and underlined. This text is hyper-linked to the corresponding information available on the web. Click on the text to be taken to the corresponding webpage.

~Class of 2014~Seniors



Graduation Day: Thursday, June 12, 2014 at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC
3:00 pm

Seniors! **It is time to choose a senior quote.** To submit your quote, go to the "students" page on the school website on, or after 11/19. All quotes must be turned in by December 2nd. Or [click here](#).

Scholarships:

- AXA Achievement Scholarship - One student from each state will be selected for this \$10,000 scholarship. Seniors must be a U.S. Citizen or legal resident, plan to enroll full-time in an accredited two-year or four-year college or university in the U.S., have demonstrated ambition and self-drive as evidenced by outstanding achievement in an activity in school, the community or the workplace, and be recommended by an unrelated adult who can attest to the student's achievement. Please visit their website for more information and for an application: <http://www.axa-equitable.com/axa-foundation/AXA-achievement-scholarship.html>. **Deadline to apply is December 15, 2013.**
- Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarship - The Elks National Foundation will award 500 four-year scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$12,500 to students who demonstrate financial need, leadership, and scholarship. Students must be high school seniors and citizens of the United States, but do not need to be related to an Elks member. For more information, and to apply, visit: <http://www.elks.org/enf/scholars/mvs.cfm>. **Deadline: December 6, 2013.**

College Visits: Go on line and check the college web site for the visitation dates. You may visit three colleges a year; bring something back stating you were involved in a college visit, and the days are excused.

Senior Honor Awards' Opportunities

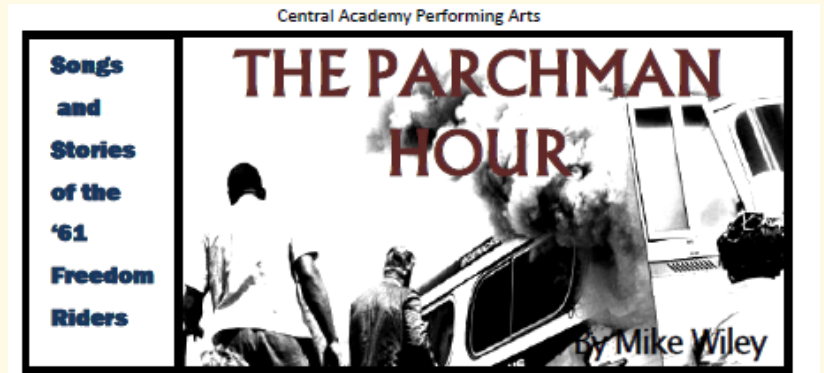
Seniors have the opportunity to be recognized at graduation for two UCPS honor programs. The first one is the *North Carolina Academic Scholars Program* and the second program is the *UCPS Global Scholars Program*. Both programs are similar in that students must meet the North Carolina graduation requirements and both award a special seal for the student's diploma, an honor cord, and recognition in the program at graduation.

With the *NC Scholar's Program*, students must have an over-all unweighted GPA of a 3.5. and take combinations of elective requirements including three extra honor or AP level courses in the student's junior and/or senior year.

To receive the *Global Scholar's Award*, the student must submit a proposal to the school's Graduation/Scholarship Committee outlining their plans for completing a Service Learning Project that will allow them to contribute to the local, national, or world community. The project must have a global theme and if approved, the student would present a written artifact to the committee. The student must also take a global awareness class and include two honor electives in recommended electives.

The specific requirements for each program can be found on page 17 and 18 in the *UCPS Program of Studies*.

Seniors, Check your email frequently for Counselor Information.



On Thursday, November 21st, students from the Theatre Academy at CATA took the stage in Greensboro to perform *The Parchman Hour* at the NCTC State Finals. Playwright Mike Wiley was in attendance for the performance as well.

CATA was one of sixteen schools to perform at the state finals after they advanced from the regional competition earlier in November in Pinehurst. Porter Ridge High School also advanced to the state finals from a different regional competition.

At the judging on Friday, *The Rimers of Eldritch*, which was performed by Northwest School of the Arts, was the judge's choice for Distinguished Play and *The Parchman Hour* was the audience's choice for Distinguished Play.

Both plays will now represent North Carolina at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Mobile, Alabama the first week of March.

In addition to the Distinguished Play award, the performance also earned the following awards: Chapin Silberquit earned an Excellence in Projection Design; Elijah Inuwa and David Moberg earned an Excellence in Music Design; Nkeki Obi-Melekwe earned an Excellence in Acting award, and Samantha Jackson was named as the female recipient of the Outstanding Achievement in Acting award.

This is the second time in three years that CATA's production has advanced to the Southeastern Theatre Conference and last year's performance of *The Crane Wife* was runner up at the state competition.

James Farmer	Nkeki Obi-Melekwe	Guitar	Elijah Inuwa
John Lewis	Alisha Hartley	Bass	David Moberg
Stokely Carmichael	Shidarius Barrett	Keyboard	Debbie Watwood
Freddy Leonard	Carlton Collins	Percussion	Jamari Massey
Lucretia Collins	Amina Faye	Lights	Jasmine Lesane
Mimi Real	Janiah Massey	Sound	Jason McGuire
Stephen Greene	Kevin Kent	Spotlight	Patrick Herring
Bill Svanoe	Morgan Miller	Projection/Set Design	Chapin Silberquit
Jim Zwerg	T. J. Schmidt	Stage Manager	Zack Thorpe
J.T. Mulholland	Jessie Sperry	Crew	Freddy Arcoraci,
Various Authorities	Samantha Jackson		Michelle Dearmore, Gaige Robinson,
PeeWee	Tyler Whitley		Collin Wilson, Kurt Williams
	Javin Hughes	Choreography	Bianca Morgan
		Technical Direction	Jeff Weis
		Musical Direction	Debbie Watwood
		Director	Larry Robinson

Produced by special arrangement with the author.
This play contains mature content and inflammatory language.
This is a memory play with various characters portrayed by the actors.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the production!



Thank you to Playwright Mike Wiley for your support!!



Central Academy - Cougar Spirit

Got Spirit??

Yes, We Do!!



Photo by W. Wright

Women's Basketball at Wingate vs. Catawba Game—Go Cougars!!



Be sure to check out this week's athletic schedules!!! Last week's games were exciting and we need that Blue Crew Spirit at home and away games!!!! Come out and Support your Cougars!!!!!!



Photo by W. Wright



COUGAR ATHLETICS

Winter Sports:

Any student athlete who is planning on trying out/participating in a winter sport needs to have a **current physical** and **insurance waiver** on file with their coach or with Coach Niessner. Students must have these forms on file before they can begin any offseason workouts. All forms can be found on the CATA website under athletics. If you have any questions you can email Coach Niessner at: jay.niessner@ucps.k12.nc.us

Varsity Results:

Wrestling: CATA 80 – West Montgomery 26, CATA Places 6th at Marvin Ridge Tournament

Men's Basketball: CATA 58 – Metrolina 50; CATA 87—Anson 63!!!!

Women's Basketball: CATA 51 – Metrolina 48; CATA loses to Anson



Men's and Women's Swimming: Men 1st, Women 1st @ Mt. Pleasant Meet

Upcoming Events:

Monday 12/2: No Events

Tuesday 12/3: AWAY Basketball @ Weddington (Varsity only -Approx. Start Times: 6:00, 8:00); Lax interest meeting at 3:30

Wednesday 12/4: HOME Wrestling vs. Cuthbertson @ 6:00

Thursday 12/5: Swim @ Stanly County YMCA

Friday 12/6: AWAY Basketball @ Marvin Ridge (Varsity only—Approx. Start Times: 6:00, 8:00); Swim @ Wingate University

Saturday 12/7: AWAY Wrestling at West Montgomery HS

Other Athletic News:

There will be a meeting for anyone interested in joining the men's and women's CATA lacrosse club on **Wednesday, December 4th, 2013**, after school. The meeting will last about thirty minutes. Please see Coach Niessner if you have any questions.

Dillon Hardy signed a baseball scholarship with Tusculum College this past month. Congratulations Dillon!

CATA Soccer Alumni Game
11-2013

A HUGE Success!!!!



Global Mural

At the end of the 2012-213 school year, the Globalization Committee held a Global Mural Contest. Students submitted designs to paint on the wall outside of the Guidance Office. Alex Alamos won that contest with a beautiful design which included famous buildings around the world. Alex started painting the mural over the summer and recently finished. He had some help throughout his endeavor. Kaylee Kirby, Camille Alvin and

Ms. Kopchick all pitched in at different times to help Alex with his mural. When asked why he chose the particular structures, Alex stated, "I wanted to choose awesome iconic buildings from all over the world and from different time periods. I chose the Burj Khalifa from Dubai as one of my buildings because it is currently the worlds tallest building and very modern. It was completed in 2010. The Great Pyramid of Giza was the tallest building when it was built around 2560 BC, and it held that record for over 3800 years. I chose the Eiffel tower because it also held the tallest building record when it was completed in 1889. The Parthenon in Athens, Greece has been very influential in modern architecture. I chose a Mayan pyramid built around 3000 years ago, because it is probably the most recognizable building in Latin America. Saint Basil's Cathedral in Moscow, built in the 1500s, has the interesting onion domes. It also marks the geometric center of Moscow. I chose the Sydney Opera House from Sydney, Australia, built in 1973, because it has a very unique design. Finally, the San Francisco bridge is a beautiful bridge and is located in the United States."





National Guard Armory Welcomes Transportation Academy

On Wednesday, November 20, 2013, the senior Transportation Academy classes took a fieldtrip to the Old Monroe Armory to learn more about the National Guard. The students had the opportunity to learn about a few of the weapons and vehicles that are used during conflicts. Two of the guns were the belt-fed automatic grenade launcher and a .50 caliber machine gun. These two guns are so powerful that the operators have to brace themselves against objects in whatever vehicle they are in. This is because of the extreme recoil produced by these weapons. Students also saw a few of the vehicles used in convoys. Students sat in humvees. They also went into one of the tanks to look around and see how things worked. Students also looked at a ten wheel carrier.

Written by J. Baucom

Central Academy Tech Tips

Have you visited the Technology page on the CATA Website lately? Please do visit for an updated page with a wealth of information for students, teachers, and families. [Click here.](#)



Important Reminder—Students are NOT permitted to use proxy's or "find ways" to get to unapproved websites, or download materials to their school laptops. This includes downloading movies. Remember that you must follow the UCPS rules for computer use. If you violate them, you may be restricted from internet access or computer use. The firewalls in place are for overall student safety. If a student thinks there is a website that should be accessible, speak to your teacher or our Technology staff. This is an important life lesson to be learned as all computer systems have safeguards put in, and at both college and in the workplace, you will need to abide by those policies. You can review those policies on the page above.

Cougar Pride

- * Congratulations to all groups participating in the Monroe Christmas Parade!! Special thanks to the Band of Blue, SADD Club, Transportation Academy, Parade Princess Paige Finney, and Miss CATA Pageant contestants for participating!!
- * Men's Basketball defeated Anson HS in an action-packed game!!!
- * Theatre Academy students for their production of the Parchman Hour at STATE Competition!! Parchman Hour wins Distinguished Play and will be competing in Alabama in February!! Way to go!!!
- * Paige Finney was recognized at a meeting of the John Foster chapter of the DAR for being CATA's Good Citizen, along with the 11 other Good Citizens from Union County's high schools. These students were selected by their teachers and peers as being an outstanding person who demonstrates qualities of a good citizen – dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism. Winners of the essay contest will be announce in the spring.



Yearbooks—Be sure to buy your yearbook!!!!
Yearbookforever.com

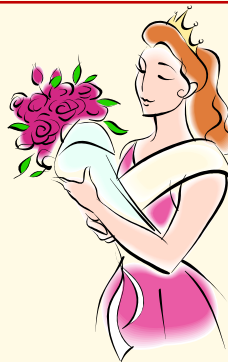
Student Support for All Students

Student Success in Advisory Period—students learn organizational, study skills, communication, time management, self reflection, and self advocacy goals through a series of activities created by CATA educators. Students learn these skills to help them to be more successful in both high school and college or career. See the students page of our website to take a peek at some of the activities.

Cougar Time—CATA staff are coming together to offer enrichment and tutoring during the school day. Students will be able to select enrichment opportunities if they are not assigned by a teacher to tutoring or enrichment. This is a fluid process designed to meet students needs each week. During this same time, groups of teachers called Professional Learning Communities are meeting to collaborate and analyze data to improve student learning. Professional Learning Communities are research based and are needed for increasing student learning.

5th Annual Miss CATA Pageant

The Dance Academy presents the **5th Annual Miss CATA Pageant**, Saturday, December 7th at 7:00 pm.



Around Campus... (for all home and away sports times, see Athletics section)

The CATA website Calendar is a great resource—please see that on the [main page](#).

December—NHS will spearhead a campaign to collect books for students at East Elementary School. NHS will then take the books to East, present/distribute them to the students, and read with them.

Monday, 12/2 am Students return to school after Thanksgiving Break; pm

Tuesday, 12/3— am NHS meeting (8:15); Cougar Time; WorkKeys exam for Early Graduates (required); pm—3:45 Hands Helping Others; NHS meeting

Wednesday, 12/4—REPORT CARDS DISTRIBUTED TODAY—am— 8:15—Beta Club Meeting; pm—3:30 Lacrosse Interest Meeting; Debate Team (Ms. Cochran's room); 3:45 Beta Club; Site Base Team Meeting; Student Council Meeting; 4:00 AP Art Studio(102); Beta Club; 6:00 HOME Wrestling Match vs. Cuthbertson

Thursday, 12/5—am 8:00 FCA Huddles (Sholar and Gundersen's rooms); Cougar Time; pm—

Friday, 12/6— am 8:15—SADD Club meeting; 8:15 **Club Leadership Council Meeting rm. 521**; 8:20 YCI meetings; pm—12:00 Superintendents Student Advisory; 4:00—Miss CATA Pageant rehearsal.

Saturday 12/7—Band at Barnes and Noble in Arboretum (10-2); 4:30—Call time for Miss CATA; 7:00 Miss CATA Pageant

Upcoming Dates:

12/23—Winter Break Begins

1/6/2014—Students Return to School

Final Exams: Exams will be given on dates listed below. Students may not take exams early and must be present, unless sick, for all exams.

Monday 1/13—Fourth Period Exam Tuesday 1/14—Third Period Exam

Wednesday 1/15—Second Period Exam Thursday 1/16—First Period Exam

Friday 1/17—Make up Exams

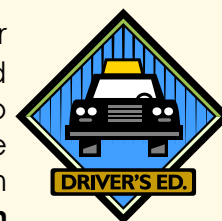
Second Semester Starts on Thursday 1/23/14

Driver's Education—Sign Up Now!! Driver's Ed classes must meet the minimum number of students or the class will be cancelled. Please sign up early so that classes are filled and do not have to be cancelled. If we have to cancel a class, the student will be moved to the next scheduled class. Refunds are not permitted. The fee is \$55.00. A student must be at least 14 1/2 years old on the first day of class. Classes will run Monday through Friday from 4:00-6:00 pm. To sign up please contact Ms. Tammy Tweed in the guidance office **as soon as possible**. The next class is Nov. 12th—Dec. 10th. Most Fall athletes should be able to take this class. After that: Feb. 18- March 14; March 17- April 9

UCPS Driver's Education Winter Break Class

UCPS will offer a winter break opportunity this year for Driver's Education at Sun Valley High School. Sports students are encouraged to participate in this class. Class will meet December 23, 27, 28, 30, 31, 2, 4. Class times are 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Classroom work will also require two hours of homework. Students cannot miss any days. Students that miss any days or do not complete homework will be given the opportunity to reapply at their home school for Driver's Education. Please register and pay online at: <https://sites.google.com/site/svhsdriversed/>.

<https://sites.google.com/a/ucps.k12.nc.us/driver-education/>



GUIDANCE INFORMATION

~Class of 2014~

PSAT results will come back in December. Students will get their scores and test booklets back at that time.

ACT—All Juniors will take the ACT in March. This is a college readiness exam and can help students to gain entry into college and qualify for scholarships. Resources to help students prepare have been added to the Students Page of the CATA website.



Sophomores - **The N.C. School of Science and Math** is now accepting applications for the class of 2016. If you have strong interest or abilities in science and math, please see Mr. Norris in the Guidance Office.

Students who wish to take **community college courses** while still remaining a student at CATA successfully registered for College and Career Promise classes on November 1st.



March 2 Success is an **online test preparation course** that provides help with standardized tests, and improving math, language arts, and science skills. This site is FREE and there is no obligation. To get started, visit: <https://www.march2success.com/index.cfm>



What do I want to be when I grow up?????

Guidance counselors would like to encourage you to have your child take the ASVAB. The ASVAB is an excellent interest inventory test that can help your child see what careers they are best suited for. It will be given on December 17th at CATA at 9:00 AM. It is free!!!! This is not a test for your child to sign up for the military; it is one of the best interest inventories to help them see where their strengths lie for a career choice.

10th-12th graders may sign up in guidance to take the ASVAB.

Summer Ventures offers a 4-week FREE residential academic program in science and math for rising juniors and seniors. The programs will be offered at ASU, East Carolina, NC Central, and UNC Charlotte. **Deadline to apply: January 31st.** Applications can be found online at www.summerventures.org. Stop by the Guidance Office for more information.

Need **information about a career or a college**? Stop in and make an appointment with your guidance counselor. **College Preparation Checklist** for Students and Parents of all ages: [Click here](#). And [Click here](#).

What should a junior be doing to prepare for college? [Click here](#).

How to get a great letter of recommendation: [Click here](#).

The low-down on extracurricular activities - how important are they??? Please go to this link to read about this: <http://www.princetonreview.com/college/extracurriculars.aspx>

Student Life

Club Leadership Council— NEXT MEETING—Friday 12/6 8:15 am, rm 521

ALL club officers should make sure they have a representative at Club Leadership Council meetings.



Club—spotlight—Speech Team

The Central Academy Debate Team is a growing club that competes in Debate events. The club has greatly increased in numbers this year under Ms. Cochran's leadership and is showing incredible promise. Speech and Debate Teams are great ways to get involved at school and help students meet new people, participate on a team, and earn great experience for college!! Congratulations to the entire Central Academy Debate team for all you did to prepare us for the Cougar Classic on Saturday, 11/23. Even if every team member could not be there in person, their encouragement, resources, and work on the topics were a huge help to our competitors and to our victories.

Thanks to Mr. Navey for all of the support and for judging on Saturday. We value all you do for us!!

The Cougar Classic had over 600 students participating from 31 schools in 3 states.

We had three entries: two in SPAR debate, and one in Public Forum. We received trophies in 2 out of the 3 entries. If we had entered one more student, we would have been in contention for the small school percentage trophy!! There were teams with 20 or more students who only got the number of trophies we did. Congratulations Cougars!!

Thomas McCorkle in SPAR won 2 out of four of his events and barely lost in another—way to go, Thomas, and so close to a trophy! Deyton Cook, in his first tournament ever, placed in SPAR and received a 6th place trophy. There were 23 entries in that category. Awesome to both of our SPAR contestants.

Thanks to Nidia Angeles for filling in at the last minute (on Wednesday) in the Public Forum. Nidia and Halen Mattison, who was in his first debate, ended up placing 8th (10 trophies given out) and received a really high compliment from a judge who asked if they shouldn't have been put in varsity over novice. The only loss was to the first team they debated and they beat that team in final scores. Proud of that 8th place finish when you consider there were 31 entries. What an awesome showing! We are on our way!

The team will be meeting again on Wednesday, December 4, to celebrate quickly before we begin working on our Laird-Lewis event Jan 3 and 4.

We are expecting GREAT things!!! Go Cougars!!!!

PTSO Are you looking to get involved at CATA? Join the Cougar Council, PTSO! We plan events for the teachers and provide resources for students. We would love to have you join us! Please fill out the [information sheet](#) on the PTSO website.

PTSO is continuing to sell CATA senior Yard Signs! Honor your senior CATA student with a great yard sign!!! Contact the PTSO at the email below for more information and GET YOURS TODAY !!!!!

Graduating seniors may be eligible to participate in the Cougar Council Senior Scholarship awards which will be given in the spring. The student, parent or guardian must be a paid PTSO member for the graduating senior to participate in the scholarship award.

We need new faces to help come up with new ideas and accomplish plans we already have. Please join PTSO and then join us for the meeting!

To contact the PTSO, please email us at thecougarcouncil@gmail.com. You may also call the school at 704-296-3088 and ask for Deb Christensen.

PTSO membership - \$10 per family (which includes the student and parents), \$5 per student, \$5 per staff
PTSO is seeking volunteers to help with hospitality/teacher events, and many other areas. Contact thecougarcouncil@gmail.com to sign up

Support CATA when you use your VIC card at Harris Teeter. Link your card to our school's account - #3612. [Click here](#) to re-link online or visit any Harris Teeter store. We appreciate your support!



Parent access to grades through the Parent Portal on PowerSchool

Parent access to grades requires a new Username and Password. To obtain the information, parent or legal guardian must bring photo ID to CATA. Parents may pick up their username and password during regular office hours, from 7:30 am—5:00 pm.

Please remember that you must show a photo ID to get the username and password. We will also be asking you to verify contact information when you come in, so if you have any changes to emergency contacts, please bring them with you.

Thank you to all who have already come in to collect their password. If you have problems with the account set up, please contact Ms. Penny Lewis at CATA. If you have a question about grades, please contact the teacher directly.

Grade Level Administrators—

9th grade—[Mr. Willie Howard III](#)

10th grade—[Mr. Jeff Pusser](#)

11th grade—[Ms. Deanna White](#)

12th grade—[Mr. Jeff Pusser](#)

The Cougar Canteen every afternoon from 3:30-3:45. Items for sale include Coke products, Powerade, water, chips, popcorn, cookies, and candy. The Cougar Canteen-located outside the gym-sponsored by the Band Booster Club at CATA!

School Safety Reminders

All visitors must enter through the front doors and sign in at the office.

Students coming to school tardy **MUST** enter through front doors only.

Remind your children to **NEVER** open exterior doors and to get an adult if someone comes to an exterior door.

In November, all students and staff participated in an important safety drill—a lockdown drill. Students and staff practice procedures that would be used in the event there was an intruder in the school building. The Monroe Police Department joined with CATA Administrators in overseeing this practice. The Monroe Police Officers were very complimentary of our students and staff and the efficiency of our procedures.

Lockdown drills are one of many safety procedures that we follow. We also conduct Fire and Tornado drills. In addition, this year our staff and students have made a concerted effort to ensure that all exterior doors are locked and secure during the school day. All visitors are required to enter through the main entrance and enter the front office to check in.

Information resources from Central Academy include:

Central Academy of Technology and Arts website at : <http://cata.ucps.k12.nc.us/>

Central Academy of Technology and Arts facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/CentralAcademyCATA>

Central Academy of Technology and Arts Twitter at: https://twitter.com/cata_monroe

Central Academy of Technology and Arts Athletic Twitter at: https://twitter.com/CATA_Athletics

Central Academy of Technology and Arts Band page at: <http://cataband.blogspot.com/>

Any other sites are not sites that are sanctioned by the school. We caution parents and families to get current and accurate information from the official sites listed above.

If a school club or school organization has an additional page, please notify Administration so that we can properly authorize the site. Thank you.

Want MORE info?? Go to the CATA website, click on Parents and Community, then click on link for the newsletters—the Cougar Chronicle. Past issues are posted there each week!!