


## Mentors Ink

One aspect of The W.R.I.T.T.E.N. Initiative is Mentors Ink. All high schools in Berkeley County have a school newspaper staff. These high school students are encouraged to volunteer at elementary schools participating in The W.R.I.T.T.E.N. Initiative to assist students in preparing their writing for publication. Younger students will benefit from having a writing mentor, and high school students will pass on their knowledge to a new generation of writers.

## Curriculum Connections

 Language Arts: Writing with purpose (inform, persuade), following the writing process, practical application of grammar and spelling, oral communication (ie. conducting interviews)

 Mathematics: Conducting surveys, organizing data, creating and explaining graphs to show data (line, bar, circle, etc.), basic operations (add, subtract, multiply) to manage newspaper sales

 Social Science: Freedom of Speech, history of newspapers, current events, entrepreneurship (newspaper sales teach supply and demand, resources, budgeting, and profiting)

 Technology: Use of the following Micro-soft programs - Word (type articles), Publisher (create newspaper layout), and Excel (develop graphs)

For more information

Smoke Signals  
Tomahawk Intermediate School  
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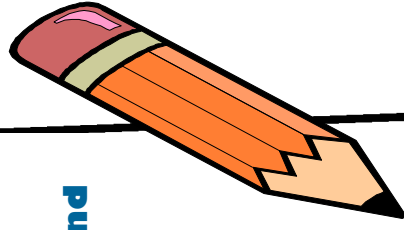
Web: <http://boe.berk.k12.wv.us/bcschools/s215/>  
[www.mrssonauge.com](http://www.mrssonauge.com)

Smoke Signals of  
Tomahawk Intermediate

Invites your  
school to join...

**The**  
**W**riting,  
**R**eporting, and  
**I**ntegrating  
**T**echnology  
**T**hrough  
**E**lementary  
**N**ewspapers  
**Initiative**

Of Berkeley County!



## The W.R.I.T.T.E.N. Initiative

The goal of The W.R.I.T.T.E.N. Initiative is to establish student created newspapers within the intermediate grades of Berkeley County Schools. W.R.I.T.T.E.N. stands for **Writing, Reporting, and Integrating Technology Through Elementary Newspapers.**



Participating schools will receive a reproducible student guide and additional resources throughout the year, as well as the distinction of being a part of a unique network of classrooms working to make writing an authentic experience.



Staff members of Tomahawk Intermediate's 2006-07 Smoke Signals are selling their school newspaper.

## Why a School Newspaper?

Wouldn't you be excited to see a story you had written about your school ...in print? The obvious is this: having students publish a school newspaper will improve their writing skills, as well as a host of other subject areas (see Curriculum Connections). What schools newspapers also do is improve student confidence in public speaking, adhering to a schedule, and developing teamwork.

Writing for a school newspaper is a real world experience. Students are able to experience a "career" they might like to have someday using their writing skills. They also experience the business side of running a newspaper if they choose to sell their publication.



School newspapers also allow students, parents and the community to read about all the positive events and experiences occurring in our schools in Berkeley County. They allow the **students** to report to those supporting our schools what is happening in their classrooms.

## What is Smoke Signals?

Smoke Signals was created in the fall of 2006 at Tomahawk Intermediate School. This is the first school newspaper at Tomahawk and the pilot newspaper of The W.R.I.T.T.E.N. Initiative. The newspaper staff is composed of 15 fifth grade staff writers, a student council reporter, and a student photographer. All students at Tomahawk are encouraged to submit writing to the school newspaper for publication. Smoke Signals is published on a bi-monthly basis.



Staff members of Tomahawk Intermediate's 2006-07 Smoke Signals at their "Black, White, and "Read" All Over Lunch with Crystal Schelle, Maria Lorenson, and Diana Bell of The Journal.