

We now have a symbol that our rivals find unbearable. It is a gigantic bear's paw-print on the hill outside the cafeteria. Now if you haven't seen it yet then next time your in the cafeteria or driving by in a vehicle look up on the hill. The print is huge! It spans 120' wide and 80' long and took 5 tons of egg block coal to fill in.

The paw print is just another beautiful addition to our wonderful high school. Over the past four years we have seen the many plans for a new sports complex, ball fields, etc... But now we are seeing them actually take place not only has the paw print been finished but the baseball and softball fields are nearing completion, and the football complex is now under construction. These additions will most likely be completed in the very near future and we will have the best campus in the state!

When I corresponded with Principal Bob Howard about the paw project he said "I thought the idea up. I was actually going to put two paws going up the mountain over by the river end. The more I look at the space and the road. I thought one big one that could be seen from Hwy 119 would suffice. I started work laying it out on a grid and pattern back in June. It was hot and almost got to me going up and down the hillside. I pretty much knew I had to wait till JROTC got back in the building to help with it. It turned out to be a huge job. I appreciate the

JROTC department headed by Maj. Mac and 1SG. Long for their efforts.

Our very own "Black Bear Battalion" Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) worked on it for three weeks with 195 cadets. Now many will ask why did it take so long and the answer is less than half worked on it for just two hours a day due to the heat index for August. School service isn't the only thing JROTC does in the community we have uniform days once a week, we do parades, fundraisers, color guard, spirit team, air rifle, and also our Security team does parking for home ball games and events such as the Black Bear Festival. This years staff leaders are Cadet LTC. Amanda Jones battalion commander and Cadet Maj. Jonathan Franklin XO.

