



# Sumner County Schools News

## *Committed and Focused on Growing Learners*

*2014-15, Quarter 1, Issue 1*

Sumner County Families and Community Members,

Welcome to the first edition of our quarterly system newsletter for the 2014-15 school year. In this edition, we are unveiling our new district vision as well as the vision statements for our individual schools.

Having a cohesive vision is key to a successful organization because it helps define not only what our organization represents but also where it is going. "Where do we want to go?" "How do we want to move this system forward in a way that benefits all of our communities?" Those are the big questions we asked ourselves as we went through the visioning process.

That questioning helped identify several areas that we believe are vital to a strong school system: quality instruction, strong leadership, a collaborative culture and effective resource utilization. We have demonstrated our commitment to growing our system in each of these areas over the past several years in multiple ways.

We have implemented several district initiatives that focus on developing collaboration and growing strong leadership. We have developed our budget with particular focus on improving technology access at the school level and providing as many resources to our classrooms as possible. Our commitment to providing quality instruction is the driving force behind every decision that we make. We have implemented multiple district initiatives, including the development of our Teacher Leader and Lead Educator programs, aimed at developing strong classroom teachers.

Quality instruction, strong leadership, a collaborative culture and effective resource utilization are the four waypoints that we will use to guide us as we move our school district forward. I hope that all of you will find the path laid out for us by the vision contained on the next few pages as exciting as I do.

Proud to be your Director of Schools,

Del R. Phillips III, Ph.D.



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## Working on our Vision for Sumner County Schools



When you think of aspirations for our school district, Sumner County Schools, what words come to mind? Many of us might say continuous improvement, fastest growing, upward and forward motion, planning for growth, exhibiting a high-quality purpose, or progressiveness. Our anchor cities in Sumner County---White House, Millersville, Hendersonville, Gallatin, Westmoreland, Portland, and Goodlettsville---list many of these characteristics on their websites as what their citizens want for their cities as well. Consequently, as we move forward to ensure that our school system is meeting the academic and socioeconomic needs of our students, Sumner County Schools notes it is important to re-visit our vision and mission periodically while keeping these objectives in mind.

For several years, Sumner County Schools has committed to the vision of preparing graduates, engaging minds, and developing character. In the last few years, our state and district focus has grown to include new Tennessee standards that prepare our students to be college and career ready. While those tenets will continue to be an integral part of the mission of our school district, we want to focus on ensuring that all necessary components of need---quality instruction, strong leadership, a collaborative culture, and effective resource utilization---are addressed.

On August 20th and 21st of this year, a group of approximately one hundred Sumner County Schools' stakeholders gathered at the Larry Riggsbee Support Services Facility to begin work on expanding and improving the vision for our schools and students. This was a diverse group that represented all regions of Sumner County. Mayors, County Commissioners, School Board members, business leaders, Central

Office personnel, principals, teachers, and parents were invited to be a part of this critical process, and many participated.

The initiative of developing an improved, encompassing school district vision was facilitated by Dr. Michael Murphy. Dr. Murphy is a national education coach and consultant whose training draws from 36 years of educational experience. His primary work is in the areas of planning and implementing large-scale improvement initiatives and visioning.

The first day of teamwork included a two-part session. The morning session was a time of reflection and questioning for the stakeholders. Issues such as the assurance of high-quality instruction by our teachers with the professional learning support to offer it, purposeful preparation for students on whichever life path they choose, and increasing and promoting parent/guardian involvement in all children's education were discussed. The questions were then formatted into expectations. The group was able to share ideas and clarify thoughts through a multi-step process that began the identification of why Sumner County Schools do what they do and what they might need to do to become better. A consensus of important beliefs and views was reached and utilized for the next step of the process.

The afternoon session consisted of collaboration by a writing team to craft the communicated beliefs and views into a living, breath-





## SCS NEWS

### Working on our Vision for Sumner County Schools

ing vision document for Sumner County Schools. Statements were designed for the four most-mentioned components of need---quality of instruction, strong leadership, a collaborative culture, and effective resource utilization. Our school district's focus was renewed.

The following day, school principals, assistant principals, and the SCS instruction staff engaged in dialogue and revisions to clarify the statements to ensure they aligned with our schools' thoughts on their purposes and missions. Once this was determined, the statements were submitted to the district leaders for review and approval. Mutual consent and support of the vision was reached, and our new vision for Sumner County Schools was initiated.

The schools and Central Office departments of our district are now working with these statements to create visions specific to their needs. All have developed solid, starting points for what their students deserve and will receive. In the following pages of this newsletter, you will read and see samples of the commitment that our school district and schools are making to the children of Sumner County. It is our intent to meet those aforementioned aspirations of continuous improvement, high-quality purpose, and progressiveness with our tools in place.

*Sumner County Schools—Focused and Committed*



# **Sumner County Schools District's Vision and Mission**

**SCS Vision:** Sumner County Schools is a collaborative culture of high performing students, teachers, and school communities.

**SCS Mission:** Sumner County Schools commits to growing learners who are college and career ready through quality instruction, effective use of resources, building a collaborative culture, and strong leadership.

## **Quality Instruction**

Teachers deliver quality standards-driven instruction that is informed by student results.

Quality instruction provides students with self-directed thinking/learning experiences.

Authentic learning experiences allow students to be engaged in learning, to have opportunities to develop character, and to be prepared to contribute to the community.

Students receive quality feedback and equal access to differentiated instructional opportunities (enrichment/intervention) based on individual needs.

Teachers engage in ongoing, job-embedded professional learning to design and deliver quality instruction.



## **Collaborative Culture**

The diversity in thinking of all those who are invested in education is welcomed.

Structured opportunities are in place to promote collaborative discussion that include an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Collaboration is student-focused dialogue with a shared purpose.

Trust encourages the use of innovative and unique solutions.

Purposeful and intentional communication among all stakeholders cultivates a culture for results.



## **Leadership**

**Effective leaders understand the vision and consistently communicate and model it to all stakeholders.**

**Keeping the vision in the forefront, leaders involve all stakeholders in setting goals and improving their organization.**

**Leaders set high expectations and hold themselves and others accountable for results.**

**There is a commitment to building and growing leaders at all levels with an intentional focus on improving student learning.**

**Leaders grow other leaders by modeling transparency and by working collaboratively.**

**Leaders are strategic in making decisions based upon the examination and analysis of data.**



## **Resource Utilization**

**The district continuously recruits, develops, and retains exemplary employees.**

**There are access and equity in the use of facilities, materials, and technology for instruction.**

**Community and business resources are aligned to support student needs.**

**Resources are strategically utilized for collaborative learning among schools and across the district.**

## SCS Elementary Schools' Vision Statements



**LPE Collaborative Culture Vision Statement:** Lakeside Park Elementary School commits to becoming partners with parents and the community to improve the learning experiences of all students.

**GBE Vision Statement:** Gene Brown Elementary School is a collaborative learning environment committed to exemplary student, teacher, and community achievement.



**SCE Collaborative Culture Vision Statement:** Station Camp Elementary School parents and community members will partner with teachers to develop and support student engagement in self-directed learning that develops character and prepares them to contribute to the community.

**Parents, Students and Staff Working Together To Make a Difference in our School and our Community!**



## SCS NEWS

### SCS Elementary Schools' Vision Statements

**BBE Vision Statement:** Benny Bills Elementary School envisions high achievement among our students, increased active involvement of parents, and positive relationships with the community today and in the future. Believing, achieving, and **SUCCEEDING!**



**JAE Mission Statement:** An overarching mission of Jack Anderson Elementary School is to provide meaningful and enriching reading experiences for our students. This will be enhanced through parent volunteer programs such as JAE's Book Buddies. We are excited about the opportunity to see our students soar!

**WFE Vision Statement:** At Walton Ferry Elementary School, we are committed to...

**Working  
For  
Excellence!**



## SCS Elementary Schools' Vision Statements



**HBWE Vision Statement:** H. B. Williams Elementary School commits to the following: Every student will grow, learn, and mature in a safe, challenging, and enriching environment. We value the perspective of and input from parents and other stakeholders.

**NBE Vision Statement:** Nannie Berry Elementary School is an extremely effective school which produces very high levels of achievement with continuous academic growth where character is built, students are empowered, and discovery is valued.



**WHE Collaborative Culture Vision Statement:** Watt Hardison Elementary School is a school where ongoing, job-embedded professional learning is in place to promote student-focused, collaborative discussions. Also, intentional and student-focused communication and collaboration foster a culture of results and mutual respect.



## SCS NEWS

### SCS Elementary Schools' Vision Statements

**ILE Vision Statement:** At Indian Lake Elementary School, We...Imagine...Believe...Achieve...Excel! Parents and the community offer support and encouragement as teachers and staff communicate educational and instructional needs. Parents and the community share a mutual enthusiasm for communicating and celebrating student learning and growth.



**HES Vision Statement:** Howard Elementary School commits to growing learners who are college and career ready through quality instruction, effective use of resources, building a collaborative culture, and strong leadership.

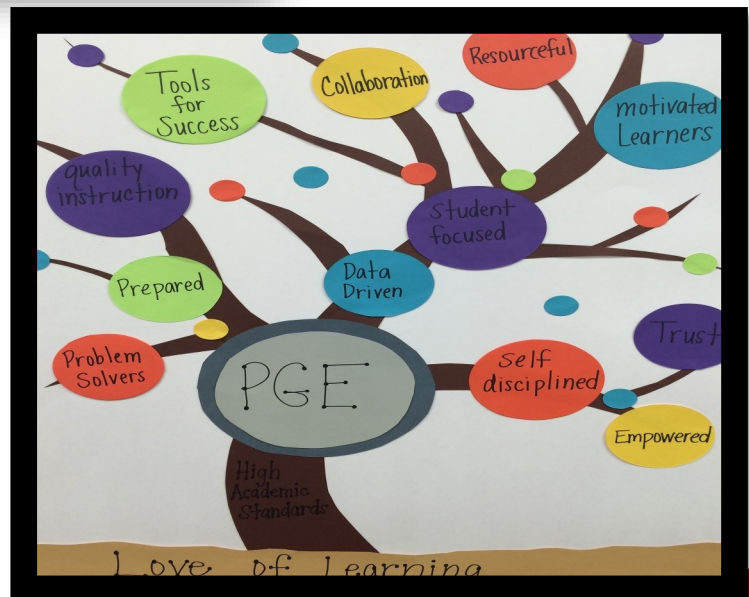
**PGE Vision Statement:** Portland Gateview Elementary School commits to:

**P**reparing Young Minds

**G**uiding Academic, Behavioral,  
and Moral Growth

**E**mpowering Students with  
a Foundation for ...

**SUCCESS.**



## SCS Elementary Schools' Vision Statements



**GES Vision Statement:** Guild Elementary School is a collaborative learning environment committed to exemplary student, teacher, and community achievement.

At Guild Elementary School, we are **Growing,**

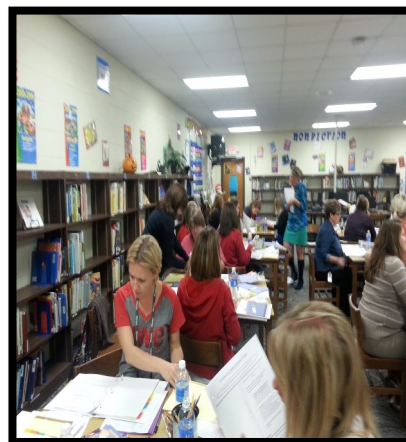
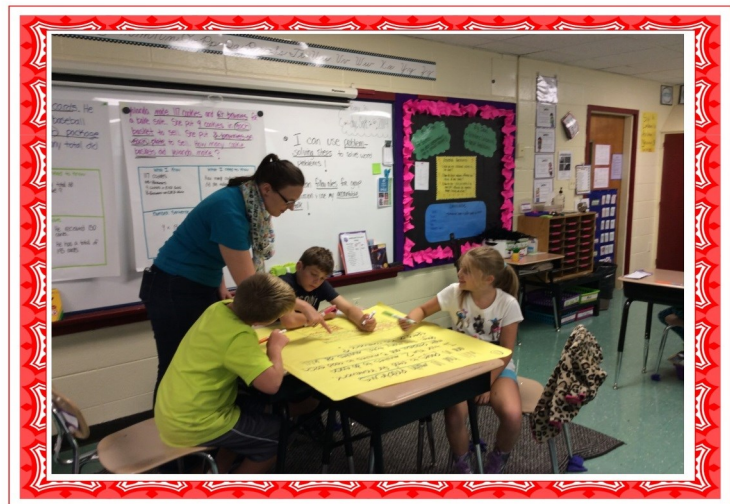
**Understanding,**

**Improving,**

**Leading, and**

**Developing.**

**CRE Quality instruction Statement:** Clyde Riggs Elementary School educators provide explicit differentiated instruction by engaging students in diverse academic opportunities which create analytical thinkers.



**GWE Vision Statement:** George Whitten Elementary School will have meaningful and intentional communication and collaboration between all faculty, staff, and administration to include diversity in thinking and differentiation in teaching.



## SCS NEWS

### SCS Elementary Schools' Vision Statements

**NSE Vision Statement:** North Sumner Elementary School commits to collaboratively providing students with knowledge and tools needed to succeed for lifelong learning and being positive contributing members of society.



**VSE Vision Statement:** The faculty and staff of Vena Stuart Elementary function in a collaborative environment with strong instructional leadership. Our resources, financial, human, and technological, are utilized wisely to benefit all learners. Parents and community members take an active role in supporting our school. Together, we foster and support the learning of children who will be prepared for entering college or who will be skilled to begin careers.

**BPE Mission Statement:** Bethpage Elementary School commits to nurturing learners with challenging instructional opportunities in a safe environment while instilling time-tested values.





## SCS Elementary Schools' Vision Statements



**MCES Quality Instruction Statement:** The teachers at Madison Creek Elementary School actively participate in local professional learning communities as well as high-quality regional and national professional development. Student experiences at MCE promote authentic learning, develop character, and encourage community contributions.

**MES Mission Statement:** Millersville Elementary School's mission is to provide all students with a rigorous and enriching education through strong instruction by a staff of leaders who believe every child can meet high expectations within a safe, supportive, and motivating environment. This will be done with the available resources, help, cooperation, and commitment of parents, community members, as well as the students themselves.



**BES Mission Statement:** The community and parents of students of Beech Elementary School combine to form a partnership which provides supplemental resources in support of ongoing endeavors.



## SCS NEWS

### SCS Elementary Schools' Vision Statements

**UES Mission Statement:** Union Elementary STEM and Demonstration School is committed to promoting high quality instruction to students with an emphasis in the provisions of the foundation of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).



**OES Collaborative Culture Statement:** The students are the driving force of the collaborative environment at Oakmont Elementary School. Fostering an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect is expected.

**JWWES Collaborative Culture Statement:** At J.W. Wiseman Elementary School, educators will work collaboratively with a partner school to plan and conduct professional learning opportunities.



## SCS Elementary Schools' Vision Statements



**WES Vision Statement:** Westmoreland Elementary School has chosen to use a Latin mantra to communicate its vision. The Latin phrase for the school is "Vigilemus facere, succedunt sine exceptione". The English translation is "Let us watch, do, and succeed, without exception".

## SCS Middle Schools' Vision Statements

**WHMS Vision Statement:** White House Middle School will strive to provide a positive and secure environment where students can:

**LEARN** academic skills and responsibility,

**ACHIEVE** individual potential,

**EXCEL** in meeting new challenges,

**SUCCEED** in becoming persons of integrity and confidence within a changing world.



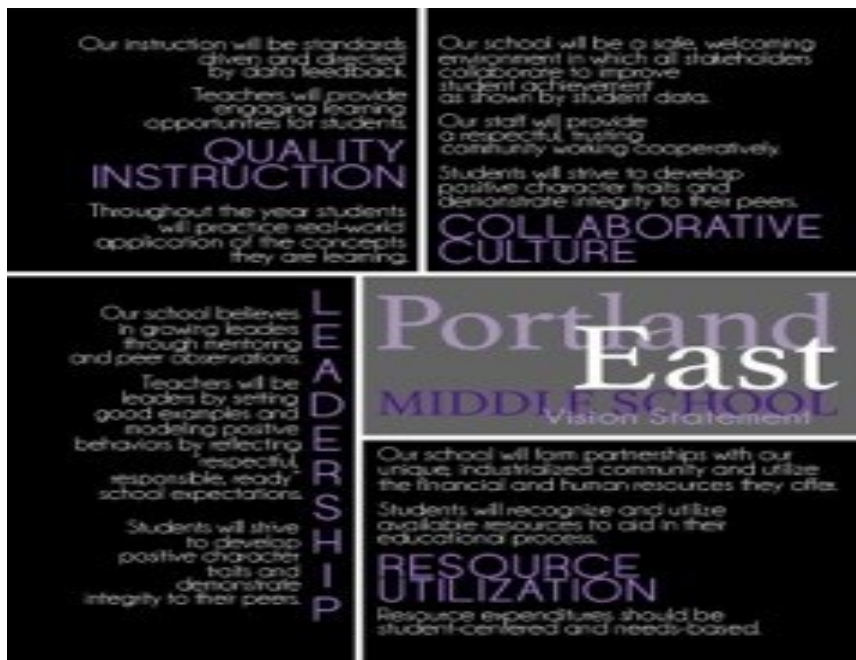
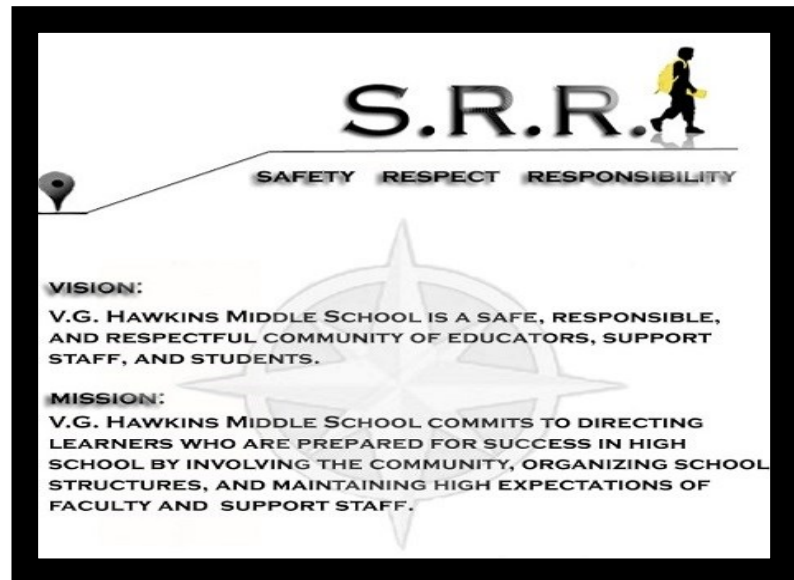
**TWHMS Collaborative Culture Statement:** T.W. Hunter Middle School's teachers and students aspire to be a community of trust and collaboration where all invested have a voice, where communication is open and intentional, and where parents, teachers, and administrators unite in the shared purpose of cultivating exceptional results.



## SCS NEWS

### SCS Middle Schools' Vision Statements

**VGHMS Vision Statement:**  
V.G. Hawkins Middle School is a safe, responsible, and respectful community of educators, support staff, and students.

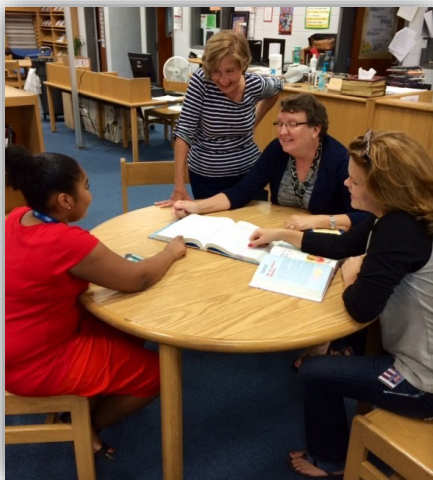


**PEMS Collaborative Culture Statement:** Portland East Middle School will be a safe, welcoming environment in which all stakeholders collaborate to improve student achievement as shown by student data.

**SCMS Vision Statement:** Station Camp Middle School is a collaborative culture of high performing students, teachers, and school communities.

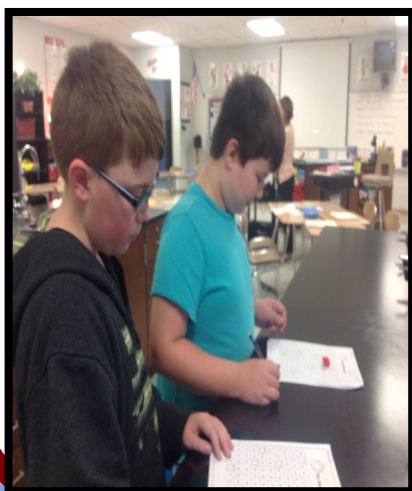


## SCS Middle Schools' Vision Statements



**RSMS Collaborative Culture Statement:** To create a successful learning environment, Rucker Stewart Middle School will work hand in hand with parents and the community to build positive relationships with students and provide a safe atmosphere that is conducive to learning and success.

**EMS Collaborative Culture Statement:** At Ellis Middle School, a collaborative culture is created by supportive relationships among students, parents, teachers, and the community. It is maintained by working as a team, involving and inviting different thoughts and opinions, and engaging in active problem solving.



**WMS Vision Statement:** Westmoreland Middle School teachers are engaging students in quality instruction by using the Tennessee Standards which have been clearly communicated.



## SCS NEWS

### SCS Middle Schools' Vision Statements

**JSMS Shared Vision Statement:** Shafer Middle School commits to pursuing academic excellence, developing personal motivation, and inspiring continued learning endeavors in preparation for the opportunities of tomorrow.



**PREPARE WORK MASTER SUCCEED**

**PWMS Vision Statement:** At Portland West Middle School,

**P=Prepare,**

**W=Work,**

**M=Master,**

**S=Succeed!**

**KDDCMS Vision Statement:** Knox Doss at Drakes Creek Middle School will provide a supportive learning environment to foster the growth of all students' social, emotional, and academic needs to prepare them to be lifelong learners.



## SCS High Schools' Vision Statements



**BHS Vision Statement:** Beech High School is dedicated to a student-centered collaborative culture that promotes excellence in literacy and mathematical processes to prepare our students for college and careers.

**PHS Vision Statement:** Portland High School commits to graduating college and career ready students who will serve as productive citizens for the community.

Portland High School will strive to engage learners through unique, diverse, and differentiated opportunities, connect students to lifelong skills and trades to enhance college and career readiness, and empower students and teachers to embrace leadership and service roles in their local community.



**SCHS Vision Statement:** Station Camp High School makes a commitment to building and growing leaders at all levels with an intentional focus on improving student learning by using available data to guide the decision making process.



## SCS NEWS

### SCS High Schools' Vision Statements

**GHS Vision Statement:** Gallatin High School commits to being a school that provides a diverse environment where students can take ownership of their learning and become well rounded, life-long learners with marketable skills that will enable them to become successful citizens.



**WHS Quality Instruction Statement:** Westmoreland High School develops curricula that addresses mastery of academic content and acquisition of life skills. The school creates a supportive environment that establishes student/staff rapport and fosters students' sense of community.

**WHHS Collaborative Culture Statement:** Teachers, students, parents, and administrators at White House High School will work collaboratively to improve school spirit by using multimedia such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (#bluedevilway).



## SCS High Schools' Vision Statements



**HHS Vision Statement:** Hendersonville High School—Striving for greatness everyday through quality instruction, a positive culture, and strong leadership.

## SCS K-12 Schools' Vision Statements

**RTF Vision Statement:** The mission of R.T. Fisher School, in partnership with parents, is to encourage and equip students with the emotional, social, and academic skills to successfully return to their home schools.



**MHMS Vision Statement:** Merrol Hyde Magnet School is committed to excellence in K-12 education by utilizing the Paideia philosophy of educating the whole child—body, mind, and spirit—while encouraging and nurturing a life-long love for learning.



## Sumner County Middle College High School Opens



In a collaborative effort with Volunteer State Community College, Sumner County Schools launched an alternative, non-traditional high school with an inaugural group of 50 students. These students will be attending all high school and college classes exclusively on the VSCC campus. This setting may be ideal for some of Sumner County's most creative, artistic, driven, and at-risk-for-various-reasons students.

At this time, Tennessee has approximately six other middle college programs. On average, 90% of middle college students transfer to four-year colleges or universities. The students typically do well on high school benchmark exams, and other colleges and universities seek out middle college students for enrollment.

Fundamental goals of the

Sumner County Middle College High School at VSCC are to encourage students to remain on course for high school graduation while preparing for a career, to provide an opportunity to pursue higher education degrees to those statistically underrepresented in this area, or to offer a one or two year boost toward college while creating an environment where students will be more college and career ready.

A student seeking to attend the middle college must have at least ten high school credits and be classified as a junior or senior in high school. He/She must have a composite ACT score of 19 or greater with at least a 19 in ACT sub-scores for math and reading. In addition, SCMCHS at VSCC will be the student's high school and participation in activities and sports at the previous school of zone will no longer be available.

Instead, the student will follow the VSCC calendar and be invited to participate in VSCC clubs and activities appropriate for students under the age of 18.

Students chosen for the middle college experience are those who are responsible and mature enough to function in a college environment while managing the freedoms and stress of college. If students are interested in SCMCHS at VSCC, they may apply early in the second semester of each school year. In preparation for the program, the students should take the ACT during the first semester of their sophomore year as well as have a discussion with their school counselor regarding the opportunity. For additional information, you may contact Betsy Hunter or Brad Schreiner (co-principals) at 615-230-3426.



## SCS NEWS

### Working to Meet Students' Needs — Non-Traditional High School Opportunities Available for Sumner County Students



E. B. Wilson High School

#### A Virtual School Experience — A Different Kind of Learning

Sumner County Schools is proud to offer students the opportunity to participate in a virtual school environment at E. B. Wilson Virtual High School. Through the use of electronic learning, students may complete coursework for high school graduation. Virtual classes are offered on a part-time or full-time basis.

Courses at E.B. Wilson Virtual High School are approved by the Tennessee Department of Education. The credits earned through the virtual school may be used for high school graduation and are transferrable to any Sumner County School. Students start classes on-site to become familiar with the pace and requirements for completing work before working independently. If a student chooses, he/she may complete much of the work on-site where a staff

member is available to assist the students in the use of the software, monitor progress, communicate with students and parents regarding learning goals and targets, and provide tutoring as needed.

Students who feel a traditional high school is not the best fit for them or who may be significantly behind in the number of credits needed to graduate may want to attend the virtual school full-time. Others may decide to enroll as part-time students. They may take a class due to conflicts in scheduled, required courses at their zoned schools or to participate in an advanced/enrichment opportunity not available on their home campuses.

If interested in learning more about E. B. Wilson Virtual School, students should discuss the option with a high school counselor who

will contact the virtual school. The student and parents/guardians will then meet with a representative from E. B. Wilson to discuss the program. Points to consider are that transportation is the responsibility of the student/family and there is a nominal tuition to attend the school.



E. B. Wilson  
Virtual High  
School

### Business Partnerships

#### Collaborating for the Students of Sumner County Schools



Sumner County Schools received a \$45,000 grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to finance our Power 4th program offered this past summer. As part of the company's mission of **Serving Others** for over 20 years, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation is proud to support initiatives that help others improve their lives through literacy and education.

The Power 4th program offered summer reading support to third grade students who would benefit prior to entering fourth grade. This summer, about 110 students took advantage of the opportunity. The learning focused on the Five Pillars of Reading with an emphasis on fluency and comprehension. Sumner County Schools and our Power 4th students say "Thank you!" to the Dollar General Literacy Foundation for helping us and over five million individuals take their first steps toward literacy or continued education.



## SCS Technology and Instruction Department News

Sumner County Schools understands that our goal of preparing students for college and careers encompasses the skills of critical thinking, effective communication, positive collaboration, and creativity. To acquire these skills, the SCS Instruction and Technology departments are supporting the use of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education and PBL (Project Based Learning) through professional learning for teachers. As the teachers' knowledge of the strategies grows, they will begin or continue the use of these valuable practices with their students.

Sumner County Schools began implementing STEM in the fall of 2007 by opening Union Elementary STEM and Demonstration School in Gallatin. In the fall of 2012, Sumner County piloted Project Based Learning activities in a few of our middle and high schools. By the fall of 2013, every middle and high school in Sumner County was implementing Project Based Learning activities as part of their regular instruction. Teachers from each school were able to participate in a three-day Project Based Learning professional training from Buck Institute (BIE). The integration of Project Based Learning has been crucial in engaging students in STEM education. This endeavor has reinvigorated a spark in students' desire to work with science and math and has shown academic growth through improved students' test scores. Some STEM and PBL examples follow:

**Gallatin High School** began an official STEM Academy this year. The academy will offer two pathways for STEM students: Health Science and Ag Science. GHS STEM Academies will provide great opportunities for students as they strive to connect what is learned in the classroom to real-world situations. Students also will have the opportunity to obtain certifications and/or college credit through these academies.

In 2013, the **Beech High School** STEM Health Science classes hosted a career fair. Student teams researched various healthcare careers and prepared presentation boards as well as speeches to share with the public. Throughout the day, members of the health science classes presented their career research to visitors from the community. In return, the students received valuable feedback on their presentation skills.



**Station Camp High School** offers two STEM focus academies. They are the Academy of Agriculture Science and the Academy of Marketing Research. Students in these programs are innovators who are learning to make meaningful connections between the school and their community.

Project Based Learning was used during the study of medieval times at **T. W. Hunter Middle School**. Seventh grade students created catapults, costumes, villages, etc. as part of the PBL unit. This medieval unit incorporated the subjects of mathematics, social studies, science, ELA, and art.

**Union Elementary School**, SCS first elementary school to primarily use a STEM focus in instruction, employs various lab areas to enhance the learning of the students. A recently constructed greenhouse is used by students to explore the growth of various plants. Also, an updated computer lab provides support for project based learning activities.

Sumner County Schools believes that the implementation of STEM and PBL is sustainable and necessary in preparing students for tomorrow's workforce. The support of parents and community stakeholders (e.g. local colleges that partner with our schools) has been and will continue to be a valuable asset in ensuring these programs are successful in Sumner County. Thank you for your help!



## Tennessee Promise for Tennessee 2015 High School Graduates

### Sumner County Seniors, Have YOU Applied?

Beginning with our Senior classes of 2015, the Tennessee Promise, a scholarship and mentoring program, will provide Tennessee high school graduates the opportunity to attend a community or technical college free of tuition and fees. The Tennessee Promise will provide students a last-dollar scholarship, meaning the scholarship will cover tuition and fees not covered by the Pell grant, the HOPE scholarship, or Tennessee Student Assistance Awards (TSAA) funds. Students may use the scholarship at any of the state's 13 community colleges (VSCC is one right here in Sumner County!), 27 colleges of applied technology (nearby locations are Hartsville, Murfreesboro, and Nashville), or other eligible institution offering an associate's degree program. Most associate's degrees will transfer to a four-year college or university for students working toward a bachelor's degree.

Aside from the financial benefits to this opportunity, the Tennessee Promise provides valuable support to seniors that might need help with the college admissions process. Trained mentors will be available to help find answers to questions and offer words of encouragement to the student. Another positive experience for the Tennessee Promise participants is the chance to learn about their communities by completing eight hours of community service per term enrolled in a college.

This scholarship\* can be yours, Seniors of 2015, if you complete the requirements on the following page AND maintain satisfactory academic progress (2.0 GPA) at the college you attend.

\*Please note that scholarship funds will be given directly to the college once a student's enrollment is confirmed. If a student does not complete all of the Tennessee Promise

program requirements and meet all the deadlines, he or she will not be eligible for Tennessee Promise funds.



<http://tennesseepromise.gov/>

Start the process here!



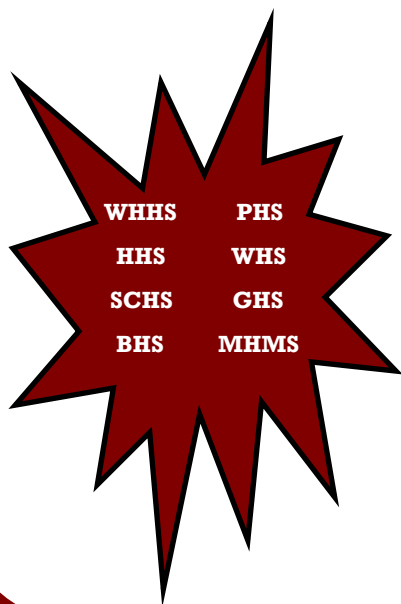
## SCS NEWS

### Tennessee Promise Requirements, Deadlines, and Challenge

To be eligible for the Tennessee Promise scholarship, students must meet the following deadlines and requirements:

- **Apply to the program by November 1, 2014.**
- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by February 15, 2015 at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). Also, file the FAFSA by Feb. 15 of every year that the scholarship is used. For families who have not yet filed taxes for the prior year, estimates can be used on the FAFSA and updated once taxes have been filed.
- Attend mandatory meetings, held at local high schools, with partnering organization between March 1 and May 31, 2015.
- Complete FAFSA verification, if required by the student's institution, by August 1, 2015.
- Complete 8 hours of community service for each semester the Tennessee Promise funding is received. The hours should be completed before the start of each term. That means the student must complete the first 8 hours the summer before enrolling in a community college or TCAT (summer 2015). Partnering organizations will assist the student in finding community service opportunities in his/her area.
- Apply to and enroll in an eligible institution. Some partnering organizations may ask students to apply to an eligible college program by February 15, 2015. Though this deadline is not an official requirement, it is highly encouraged.

Now, with this never-before-offered opportunity presented to you, we issue a challenge to our BHS, GHS, HHS, MHMS, PHS, SCHS, WHS, and WHHS seniors. The chart below shows the great scholarship accomplishments of the Seniors of 2014. Let's see if the Classes of 2015 can rise to or above these achievements due to the Tennessee Promise! We believe in you!



School	Number of Graduates	Total Scholarship Amount	Per Student Amount
<b>BHS</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>\$3.85 million</b>	<b>\$11,258</b>
<b>GHS</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>\$2.6 million</b>	<b>\$9,319</b>
<b>HHS</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>\$4.68 million</b>	<b>\$15,180</b>
<b>MHMS</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>\$3.08 million</b>	<b>\$59,239</b>
<b>PHS</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>\$3.5 million</b>	<b>\$14,523</b>
<b>SCHS</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>\$7.5 million</b>	<b>\$24,514</b>
<b>WHS</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>\$2.5 million</b>	<b>\$17,986</b>
<b>WHHS</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>\$2.28 million</b>	<b>\$13,654</b>

## SCS Title I Federal Programs School News

### Summer Reading Challenge



Sumner County Title I is partnering with myON Reader to give students access to over 7,000 full-length books through the use of a digital device. This program matches students and books based on interests and reading levels. An objective of the partnership is to promote reading at home as well as school.

For the summer of 2014, a myON reading challenge was issued to all fifteen Title I schools in Sumner County. The school with the most books read would win a SMARTBOARD for the school. The winner was **Gene Brown Elementary!** GBE students read 3508 books with myON this summer. (That is an average of 270 books per week). The top readers are pictured here. **Congratulations, Gene Brown Elementary Bobcats!**

### Howard Elementary's Annual Title I Meeting and Bubble Bash

**Howard Elementary School** held their annual Title I meeting on August 28. Over 453 parents/guardians and students were in attendance! This meeting was a time to introduce the Title I program and its staff as well as share how the program benefits the students of HES. In addition, the staff discussed the importance of what families need to know about reading and how to help their children at various ages.

Community outreach was highlighted through Howard Elementary School's partnership with Commerce Union Bank. Families were introduced to the Cubby Kids program, and students were invited to make deposits monthly. The finale of the event included more community members with the **Gallatin Fire Department creating a Bubble Bash** for the students. The GFD sprayed a 50-gallon drum of cherry soap on hundreds of happy students while parents/guardians cheered. Games and prizes were enjoyed with the Kona Ice truck being available for cool shaved ice treats. A wet and fun time was appreciated by all!





## SCS NEWS

### SCS Transportation News

Tennessee School Bus Driver Appreciation Week is October 20-24. We invite you to recognize and applaud your school bus drivers during this week. Sumner County Schools bus drivers work diligently to get students to school and home safely. This is a huge task with many children in their care on busy roads. Please take a moment and thank them for all they do. *Sumner County Schools salutes our drivers!*



### SCS Safe Schools, Healthy Students News



Sumner County Schools will be participating in the 27th Annual National Red Ribbon Week during the week of October 27-31. This year's theme is Keep Calm and Stay Healthy. WEAR RED Day will be October 30.

The Sumner County Drug Task Force partners with Sumner County Schools to share the message that the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs by our nation's youth is a problem that requires all of us working together to solve it. The Task Force provides red ribbons and posters to all schools to spread the message.



## Spotlighting "Positives" in Sumner County Schools

SCS teachers go above and beyond to meet their students' needs, and one educator has been recognized for it. Recently, during the 2014 TCTE Professional Development Institute Conference in Memphis, **Hendersonville High School teacher, Kimberly Coyle**, was elected as the President of the Tennessee Council of Teachers of English (TCTE). She will represent TCTE at the National Council for Teachers of English Conference in Washington, D.C. in November. Ms. Coyle will have the opportunity to make connections with English educators across the country and bring back ideas based on solid educational theories to fellow Sumner County teachers. Thank you for your commitment, Ms. Coyle!



Upon learning that human sex trafficking has affected more than 4,000 people in the Nashville area, a **Station Camp High School DECA team** began the initiative, "Justice 4 the Silent". In order to raise community awareness about this crime, the team has carried out multiple promotional activities including a billboard and a News Channel 5 interview. Their main goal for this year is to provide funds for End Slavery Tennessee's new Women's Resource Project for survivors of human trafficking. To raise money, they are hosting a **Tea 4 Hope** at First Baptist Church of Hendersonville on **October 18th from 2 to 4 p.m.** If interested in more information about the Tea 4 Hope, contact the group at [justice4silence@gmail.com](mailto:justice4silence@gmail.com).



## SCS NEWS

### Spotlighting "Positives" in Sumner County Schools



### Congratulations to 2014 Sumner County Reward Schools!

Sumner County Schools applauds our five Reward Schools for the school year 2013-14! Tennessee Reward Schools are the top 5 percent of schools for performance and the top 5 percent of schools for progress within the state. Schools are designated as Reward for performance for overall student achievement for a one-year success rate.

This is calculated by adding together the total number of proficient or advanced students in each subject and dividing by the total number of test takers for each subject. Schools are designated as Reward for progress for having high student academic growth. This designation is determined by a one-year TVAAS school composite. Our

2014 Reward Schools for performance are **Bethpage Elementary, Jack Anderson Elementary, Union Elementary, and Merrol Hyde Magnet**. Our Reward School in 2014 for progress is **Oakmont Elementary**. Congratulations on great achievement and progress, SCS students!

At **Westmoreland High School**, students in the work-based learning/transition class taught by Mrs. Melissa Cole collaborated with students in Mr. Kevin Anderson's carpentry class to develop a beautification project to pay tribute to classmates who have passed away. The students prepared the grounds for a garden by outlining the perimeters. Then, they planted and mulched greenery that would bloom throughout the year. The garden contains rose bushes, mums, crape myrtle bushes, lilies, and other plants.

The landscaping project added to the great sense of pride that the students and faculty/staff at WHS have for their campus. A welcoming atmosphere was created for parents and other community members while the work provided students with skills that may be put into use in other areas of the community or in future employment.



## Sumner County Schools News

### Dates to Remember for School Year 2014-15 Second Nine Weeks

#### *SCS District and Union Elementary*

October 15	Report Cards issued.
November 4	Election Day—no school
November 14	Progress Reports issued.
November 26, 27, 28	Thanksgiving Break—no school
December 17—19	Exam Days
December 19	Abbreviated day—last day of semester
December 22—January 2	Winter Break
January 5	Students return

