



Sumner County Schools News

Committed and Focused on Growing Learners

School Year 2016-17, Issue 4

BRAGGING RIGHTS

. . .

are defined as the prerogative to praise oneself for an accomplishment. While educators are usually modest and unlikely to sing their own praises, the news request for this edition, and the past two, asked for them to do just that. Praiseworthy and exciting information about the schools in the district came from this request.

When questioned, residents of Sumner County often state that they move here for the great schools. Sumner County Schools (SCS) is respected as a district of effective teachers, high-achieving students, and supportive stakeholders. Collectively and individually, schools in the district have earned the right to boast about their achievements due to the terrific work and high quality results produced daily. This third edition completes the bragging rights series. SCS hopes the opportunities to share the great things happening in its schools brought smiles to the faces of all SCS stakeholders!



A Lifelong 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.

2016-17 Sumner County Schools News School Contributors

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GES	Kim Harkreader	PGE	Timberly Denning
GWE	Ellona Shelton	SCE	Vickie Moser and Kristy Raymond
HBW	Joeli Humphries	UES	Mel Delarosa
HES	Julie Strickland	VSE	Katy Cash
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JAE	Jami Warren	WES	Kacie Baldwin
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RSMS	Jamie Mckenzie		
BHS	Alice McPherson	PHS	Leigh Peterson
EBW	Tanya Coleman	SCHS	Josh Ray
GHS	Glenda Hart and Sarah Wolf	WHHS	Jennifer Moss
HHS	Ray Henson	WHS	John Lasater
MHMS	Elizabeth Dorris	SCMCHS	Betsy Hunter and Brad Schreiner
RTF	Crystal Jacobs	SCMTCHS at Portland	John Parker
SCS News District Editor Selena Elmore			

R.T. Fisher Alternative—Applause for Teachers

R.T. Fisher Alternative School (RTF) recognizes Jessica Noll as RTF's Teacher of the Year for the 2016-2017 school year. Ms. Noll has been at RTF for five years and is the elementary teacher for the BLAST program. She is a special education teacher who works with students with behavior difficulties. The main goals for students who are in the RTF BLAST program are to learn self-control and how to use coping strategies that they can take into many areas of their lives.

While at RTF, Ms. Noll's students learn life skills to deal with daily stressors. The purpose of this new learning is for students to internalize the skills and be able to apply them when they return to their home schools. Once students are able to appropriately use these approaches to life issues, they are able to gain more learning time and make academic progress.

Another proven practice facilitated within Ms. Noll's classroom is differentiation in instruction. She ensures that each student's learning style is met through a variety of strategies that address visual, auditory, and kinesthetic needs. "Our students get creative with spelling words and reading stories as well as solving math problems," says Ms. Noll. She finds that students who are able to have fun with learning are more engaged in understanding concepts and retaining the information.



Ms. Noll believes that yearly SCS training for special education teachers helps her be a more effective teacher. "There are a lot of different opportunities for professional learning each year. Some of those are AIMSweb and data usage, BLAST/WWT programs, EasyIEP/EdPlan, reading and math interventions, and classroom management. The trainings are specific to students with special needs, but may be applied as necessary with any student and learning environment." A primary implementation from these trainings that Ms. Noll uses is the review of AIMSweb data to determine and support present levels of student performance and to help drive appropriate goals for students who are on individualized education plans. AIMSweb assessments are performed to expedite interventions and academic success for students as they re-enter their home schools.

Gallatin High—A Wave of Academic Accomplishments

Congratulations to Gallatin High School (GHS) students who are “Earning the G” with their academic accomplishments! GHS and SCS are proud of their work and commitment to excellence!



Congratulations to these three students for being accepted into the 2017 Tennessee Governor's School!

Pictured from left to right: Shayla Lile – Governor's School for Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Hannah Dooley – Governor's School for the Musical Arts at Middle Tennessee State University, and Gracie Hill – Governor's School for the Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

GHS also offers congratulations to Cole Stivers for placing in the Middle Tennessee SkillsUSA Architectural Drafting competition. This qualified Cole for the state competition in Chattanooga.



R. Ellis Middle—Integrating Academics and the Arts

Robert E. Ellis Middle School (EMS) faculty has a prioritized goal to comprehensively integrate academic content areas and the arts. This goal is set to illustrate the importance of each content area and how each contributes to success later in life. Several successful EMS events were accomplished during the first semester of the 2016-17 school year to provide students the opportunity to experience firsthand this comprehensive integration. A few examples are below:

Veterans Day Program—Last semester, EMS hosted a Veterans Day program for Hendersonville and the surrounding communities. Veterans from various counties and states attended. The program was developed through collaboration among the social studies, visual arts, and music classes at EMS. The program contained a number of musical performances, art displays, and ceremonial activities lead by the EMS Student Council. The goals for this event were for students to develop a deep sense of appreciation of veterans, to showcase student talent, and to demonstrate to veterans the honor that they deserve. Here is an email providing feedback for and a photo of the event:

Mr. Cripps,

"I feel compelled to email you and express how in awe I am of the Veterans Day program you and the others put on today. This wasn't your typical "Let's have the band and chorus sing a few tunes, say the Pledge of Allegiance, and thank the veterans for their service" type of program . . . which would have been lovely. On the contrary, this was a heartfelt, well thought out, and expertly executed tribute that one could barely expect at the collegiate level let alone from a middle school in little ol' Hendersonville, TN. From having all musical ensembles, not only playing individually but together WITH narration (sorry about the mic mishap), color guard, keynote speaker, the delicate presentation of the "missing" table, and on and on. This shows not only a dedication to veterans, but it demonstrates an overall climate and culture at Ellis that is not seen in many schools today."



Cross Content Integration with the Visual Arts—EMS seventh graders learned about Tennessee's various state symbols by creating unique works of art. Each student used colored pencil techniques to create either the state bird or a bird that is common in Tennessee. Students also created printing stamps by carving a floral design onto Styrofoam. The floral designs were either the state flower or a wildflower. The birds and printed flowers were put onto maps of Tennessee. Photos of this project can be found here: <http://www.artsonia.com/museum/gallery.asp?project=1249132>

EMS teachers tied social studies and art together in another seventh grade project as well. The focus was folklore and mythology of the Middle Ages. After learning about dragons and what they represented during the Middle Ages, students created their own dragon eye by drawing with colored pencil techniques. The drawings may be viewed at <http://www.artsonia.com/museum/gallery.asp?project=1177229>

Station Camp Middle—Teamwork brings Results

At Station Camp Middle School (SCM), teachers are always looking for the best way to use assessment to drive instruction. This year, the eighth grade math teachers share how they use student data to make informed decisions that lead to effective outcomes.

Math teacher, Leah Tomlinson, explains:

Our eighth grade math department meets weekly to plan. We use data from our mid-term exams to focus our daily math on topics where the students showed need. We use weekly tasks to review students on systems of equations as this continues to be a common student weakness. We plan together what lessons we will teach, and we collaborate to create and/or share resources to support the curriculum. We give students a teacher-created pre-test and post-test for each math unit. The data collected from the pre-test is used to guide instruction and to show students the areas on which they need to concentrate their studying. The post-test data shows growth and reveals any remaining weaknesses.

We let the students use the scores to measure their own academic growth. We celebrate growth in the math standard more than focusing on the assessment grade. The students enjoy charting their learning growth and identifying the correction process for any mistakes that they made. This has resulted in a deeper level of ownership for the students, a deeper level of understanding of the material, and higher test averages overall. Students take home the pre-tests on the day they are taken and are allowed to keep it for a study guide for the post-test. This practice helps to alleviate the "unknown" factor of the test regarding number of and type of questions. We believe this approach is helping us become better teachers as we really lean into and unpack the standard to plan our instruction. This process is hard work, but the level of ownership and mastery is worth every minute that we spend in preparation.

Mrs. Tomlinson appreciates the collaboration with her planning team, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Spence. She says, "They are AMAZING to work with, and I feel honored to be alongside them in the journey." SCM shares that this is only one example of the great work that is occurring with all its teachers and in all its classes!



Westmoreland Middle—Junior Beta Club Academic Convention

Westmoreland Middle School (WMS) Junior Beta Club had 47 members attend the 26th annual Tennessee State Junior Beta Club Academic Convention. The convention was held at the Opryland Hotel and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee. This marked the 19th year for WMS to be represented at the state meeting. Accompanying the students were 31 chaperones including parents, teachers, guests, and club sponsors. The students and adults were part of the 7600-plus attendees from 186 Tennessee clubs at this year's convention.

WMS had another successful year at the convention in a variety of competitions. The club captured four awards including second place in *Spotlight Your Club*, fifth place in *Scrapbook*, fourth place in *Banner Design*, and fifth place in *Handmade Wreath*. WMS Junior Beta Club was also honored with the *Gold Key Club Award* and named a School of Distinction with the National Beta Club organization.

Junior Beta Club members participated in a variety of academic and creative competitions. WMS student teams took part in *Quiz Bowl*, *Book Battle*, and *Visual Design*. Individual students participated in language arts, math, poetry, science, and social studies events. Reagan Hill finished in the top ten for the language arts category.

"Westmoreland Middle School is always well represented at the state convention," stated Dr. Tim Copeland, the club's sponsor. He added, "In our second year, we placed third in the *Tennessee History* competition. Over the past 19

years we've continued to place in a variety of competitions especially in *Living Literature* and *Scrapbook*. We hope to continue our success on the national competition level as we have the past three years."

Students attended three general sessions during the convention. Session one consisted of introductions of national and state officers and officials. All candidates running for a state office were required to give a campaign speech and perform a skit, similar to a commercial, that would help students remember the candidate when it was time to vote. The second session was devoted to special talent and guest entertainers, "Voices of Lee." The final session was an award ceremony and the announcement and installation of the newly-elected state officers. WMS Junior Beta Club members represented the school well and enjoyed themselves while doing it!



North Sumner Elementary— Growing and Showing What Can Be Done

North Sumner Elementary School (NSE) congratulates five of its educators who recently attended the Ron Clark seminars in Atlanta, Georgia. Michelle Gray, Sarah Barie, Sarah Borders, and Jennifer Parker, along with Lead Educator, Amanda Rippy, had a wonderful time and came back with a “truckload” of enthusiasm and ideas. One of these ideas was the creation of school teams to involve all students in the challenge to be the best. The teams created were Honestium (honesty), Ductu (Leadership), Beneficium



(kindness), and Arbitrium (determination). Students on each team support one another and develop team strategies for academic success.



The NSE vocal ensemble, *The Tiger Tones*, performed several times this year outside of school. This group, along with other elementary schools, helped with the Portland Tree Lighting Ceremony. *The Tiger Tones* also went to The Bridges of Highland to sing carols and other seasonal songs with the residents. During a field trip to the Country Music Hall of Fame, the ensemble had the opportunity to meet Tony Bennett who was in Nashville performing with the Nashville Symphony.

NSE students are being successful academically and socially. Students have shown great gains in learning as they progress through the school year. The result of each benchmark assessment is a wonder to behold! Students' random acts of kindness at NSE are abundant and highlighted throughout the hallways.



J. W. Wiseman Elementary—Dream Makers and Life Changers



Mrs. Sammie, one of JWW's amazing educational assistants, hugs the necks of JWW students as they return from summer break.

"Down in their hearts, wise men know this truth: the only way to help yourself is to help others." Elbert Hubbard

Teachers are in the business of helping others. Investing in young lives is what educators do each and every day. When identifying one thing that makes J.W. Wiseman Elementary School (JWW) stand out, there is no question . . . the people and the school culture are what make JWW so special. Not only do the faculty, staff, and families of JWW help students, they also support each other. These people are dream makers, life changers, and those worthy of bragging rights!

When walking the halls of JWW, one sees and hears positive attitudes, shared leadership, lots of laughing, and a family-like atmosphere. Evidence of hardworking teams of teachers and staff putting their minds together for the sake of students is everywhere. At JWW, collaboration is expected, and professional feedback is valued. Teachers freely seek advice from others because they know there is no greater resource than that of a fully-equipped and well-prepared teacher. There is shared ownership for students and their success. The people and culture at JWW are top-notch!

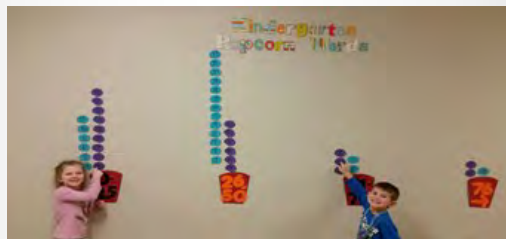
One example of an outstanding JWW teacher is Tiffany Wilkinson. She was recently chosen as the *Elementary Teacher of the Year* for Sumner County Schools. Mrs. Wilkinson leads by example, academically challenges students, seeks professional feedback, and provides instructional support whenever opportunities arise. She is exactly the type of person who contributes to the positive school culture and makes JWW the special place that it is. JWW is thankful for Mrs. Wilkinson and all of its faculty and staff that "pour their care" on students on a daily basis.

Portland Gateview Elementary—Working to be a Reward School Daily

In the most recently-documented TCAP data, Portland Gateview Elementary School (PGE) placed sixth in Tennessee for growth in math and had a 9.2% growth rate for R/LA. PGE also earned a Level Five in TVAAS in the following areas: literacy, numeracy, literacy and numeracy, science, and composite. To continue this excellent progress, PGE holds high expectations for its students and makes teaching and learning visible. The teachers participate in collaborative planning, peer observations, modeled lessons, focused walkthroughs, lesson studies, and a demonstration classroom. Working to have a growth mindset, teachers focus on seeing learning through the eyes of students. PGE believes that allowing students to track their achievement helps them determine and understand progress and goals.



The hands pictured above are the loving hands of teachers and staff at PGE. These dedicated individuals work diligently to teach with rigor. They participate in training that will help them prepare students to face the challenges of each new grade's curriculum. A foundational goal for PGE faculty and staff is to continue Tennessee Reward School status through standards-based instruction and the use of best practices daily. The plan to accomplish this is to teach student by student, standard by standard, and skill by skill. PGE knows this can be accomplished with continued support by the school system, parents, and community.



Kindergarten students track progress of sight words.

First graders track the learning of 500 Fry sight words.

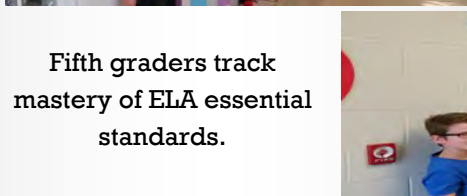


Second graders track growth of individual reading levels.

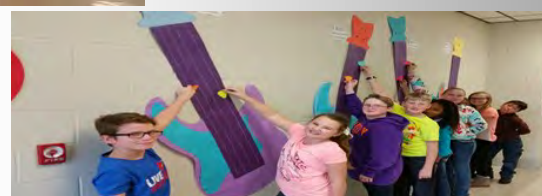
Third graders track mastery of multiplication facts.



Fourth graders track mastery of ELA essential standards.



Fifth graders track mastery of ELA essential standards.



Vena Stuart Elementary—ABBIT and Art



VSE ABBIT Society (As and Bs because I Try)

The ABBIT Society at Vena Stuart Elementary School (VSE) is for third, fourth, and fifth grade students who achieve all As and Bs on their report cards. Every nine weeks, VSE students who receive this honor are given an ABBIT member honorary card, receive a special treat for hard work, and their families receive congratulatory letters. At the end of the school year, students who have achieved ABBIT status every nine weeks receive a special certificate. At the end of the recent grading period, approximately 162 students at VSE were members of the ABBIT Society.

VSE at the Frist Center

Last semester, students from VSE had artwork displayed at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. The artwork remained on display for almost a month, so many Frist patrons were able to enjoy it! Participating were the following VSE student artists and their grade levels: Dawson Hamblen (First), Gavin McGuire (First), Bianca Alvarez (Second), Ashley Castellanos (Second), Mia Bohuslavicky (Third), Laila VanPelt (Third), Emma Cantrell (Fourth), and Remi Bohuslavicky (Fourth). Below is a picture of the students with VSE's wonderful art teacher, Ms. Yates.

VSE is proud of its
ABBIT and art stars!





Spotlighting Positives in SCS

2017 Sumner County Schools Teacher of the Year Luncheon

In March, 2017, Sumner County Schools, in partnership with COMPASS, celebrated its principal and teachers of the year with a luncheon and awards presentation. The luncheon was held at the EPIC Event Centre in Gallatin and hosted by the following COMPASS partners (Sumner County officials are identified with the letters, SC):

Tyler Lawrence, Horace Mann Companies

Melissa French-Rhodes, Allstate Insurance

Chef Christopher

Sarah Andrews, SC School Board

Tim Brewer, SC School Board

Cindy Briley, SC Register of Deeds

Patricia Brown, SC School Board

Jeff Cordell, SC School board

Paul Decker, SC Commissioner

Mike & Beverly Fussell, COMPASS

Melissa Gay

Paul R. Goode, SC Commissioner

Glen Gregory, SC School Board

Ferrell Haile, TN State Senator

Jim Hawkins, Attorney at Law & SC School Board

Tammy & Jonathan Hayes, SC School Board

Anthony Holt, SC Executive

HYPE

Jay Ingram, Phillips & Ingram, Attorneys at Law

John Isbell, SC Property Assessor

Bill Kemp, SC Clerk

William Lamberth, TN State Representative

Debra Maggart, COMPASS

Courtney Rogers, TN State Representative

Len Silverman, Huntington Learning Center

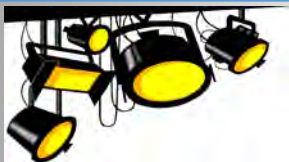
Dr. Bill Taylor, SC Commissioner

Taylor Walker, Wilson Bank & Trust

Terri Lynn Weaver, TN State Representative

*Thank You
for Your Support !*

Dr. Del Phillips, Director of Schools, welcomed all esteemed guests to the event. An introduction of the guest speaker and closing remarks were provided by Dr. Jennifer Brown, Deputy Director of Schools. The special guest speaker, Dr. Jimmy Sites, spoke with praise and encouragement to all educators in attendance. The event closed with each teacher of the year and Mr. Cam MacLean, principal of the year, receiving deserved recognition from the audience as well as an award presented by Dr. Phillips and Dr. Brown.



2016-17 Teachers of the Year for Sumner County Schools

JAE **Kristen Goodfellow Cudd**

BBE **La'Sonya Rudolph**

BES **Jessica Burmeister**

BPE **Valerie Pelletier**

CRE **Crystal Ball**

GBE **Jamie Fleming**

GES **Kelly Koch**

GWE **Dawn Niedermeier**

HBW **Misty Wright**

HES **Theresa Inman**

ILE **Timothy J. Koly, Jr.**

JWW **Tiffany Wilkinson**

LPE **Faustin Haskins**

MCE **Reed Clapp**

MES **Kali Cornell**

NBE **Elizabeth Sizemore**

NSE **Amy Marie Oliver**

OES **Melissa Farmer**

PGE **Amy Williamson**

RTF **Jessica Noll**

SCE **Pamela S. Andrews**

UES **Jennifer Arnold**

VSE **Amanda Dotson**

WBE **Brittney Gillihan**

WES **Nicholas Brown**

WFE **Jonna Jenkins**

WHE **Julie Abraham**

EMS **Laura Cason**

HMS **Emily Thompson**

KDDC **Traci Overholser**

PEM **Julie Williams**

PWM **Leanne Utley**

RSM **Loren J. Helbig**

SMS **Rachel Payne**

SCM **Megan Hester**

TWH **Katie Baker**

WMS **Amanda Templeton**

WHM **Melanie McCreary**

BHS **Patricia Daniels**

GHS **Adam Correll**

HHS **Jessica de Araujo Jorge**

MHM **Samantha Wilson**

PHS **Deborah Miller**

SCH **Robert Frech**

WHS **Dennis White**

WHH **John Hill**

Sumner County Schools

Principal of the Year

Cam Mclean

Portland West Middle

WAY TO GO!



Spotlighting Positives in SCS

Dr. Phillips, Director of Schools, and Dr. Sites, guest speaker for SCS Teacher of the Year Luncheon, present awards to the district-level honorees.



Mr. Cam MacLean
2016-17 Principal of the Year



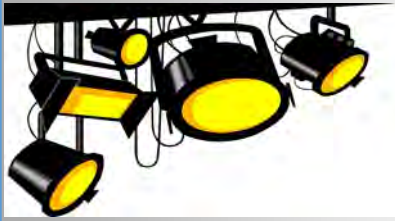
Mrs. Tiffany Wilkinson
2016-17 Elementary Teacher of the Year



Mrs. Leanne Utley
2016-17 Middle School Teacher of the Year



Mr. Adam Correll
2016-17 High School Teacher of the Year



Spotlighting Positives in SCS

SCS Special Olympics

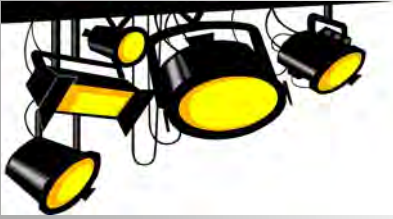
"Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

—Special Olympics motto

On March 31, 2017, over 335 athletes, numerous parents, faculty and staff, and student peers soared with the annual Sumner County Schools (SCS) Special Olympics at Station Camp High School. The track and field athletes represented eleven elementary schools, nine middle schools, seven high schools, and the Habilitation and Training Services (HATS) program in Sumner County.

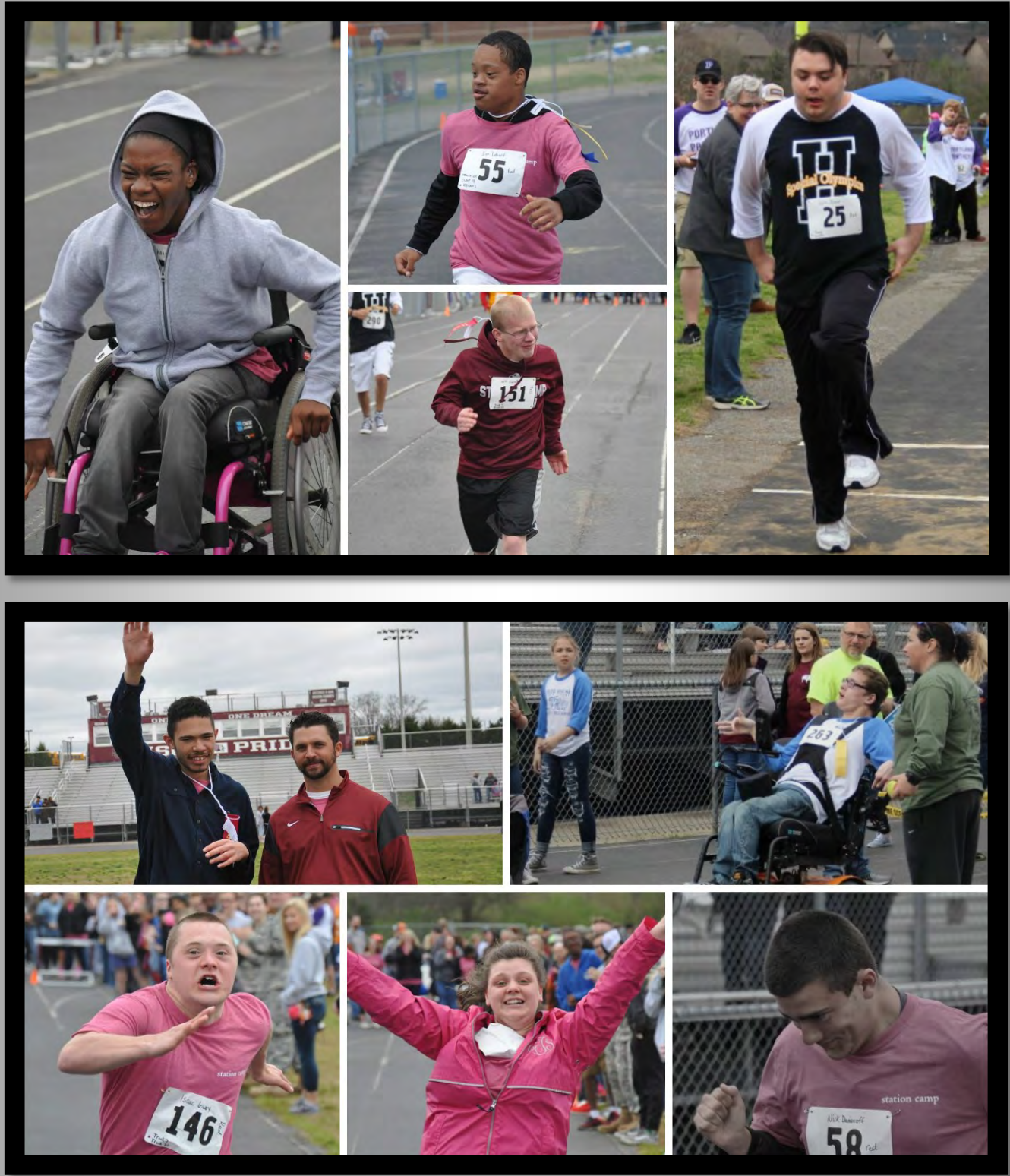


The Sumner County community came together to assist the athletes in making the day fun-filled and successful! Under the direction of Dave McAndrew, Gallatin sponsor, Gap Inc., brought 50-plus volunteers to set up events, register athletes, and facilitate the games. Even though the temperatures and wind were cold, smile after smile, encouraging words, high fives, and hugs were abundant as the athletes put forth their best efforts. These SCS athletes excelled in every aspect of the true meaning of Special Olympics—doing their best and emphasizing abilities, not disabilities.



Spotlighting Positives in SCS

SCS Special Olympics





Spotlighting Positives in SCS

SCS Special Olympics





Spotlighting Positives in SCS

Sumner County Schools and Tennessee Titans Spelling Bee

Sumner County Schools (SCS) students from eleven middle schools and the magnet school earned the opportunity to compete at the 2017 Tennessee Titans Regional Spelling Bee held in Nashville at Nissan Stadium on March 11, 2017. The twelve students who won their individual school's spelling bee then participated in an online spelling and vocabulary test. To compete at the regional level, a student had to score as one of the top 70 of all Middle Tennessee students on that test.

Spelling bee winners from individual schools were recognized for their accomplishments at the March School Board meeting. Winners are pictured below.



School Spelling Bee Champions

Reese Mitchell – Station Camp Middle School
Aysha Patel – Shafer Middle School
Camelia Pele – Hawkins Middle School
Jasmin Sando – Portland West Middle School
Rana Saleh – Ellis Middle School
Cade Hickson – Rucker Stewart Middle School
Bryanna Wylie – Westmoreland Middle School
John Hutchinson – Portland East Middle School
Brayden Wilt – White House Middle School
Laurel Watts – T. W. Hunter Middle School
Anna Carneal – Knox Doss Middle School
Hattie Grace Martinek – Merrol Hyde Magnet School

Dr. Bill Taylor, Just 4 Kids Teeth, sponsored the SCS spelling bees. This is the second year for the partnership between Dr. Taylor and SCS. His generous sponsorship included celebratory posters for all individual school winners, championship trophies, and competition shirts for the 2017 Tennessee Titans Regional Spelling Bee.



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