



# **Sumner County Schools News**

**Committed and Focused on Growing Learners  
School Year 2016-17, Issue 2**

Sumner County Schools (SCS) has a strong history of excellence in effective instruction and high student achievement. The pattern of excellence is reflected in the most recent Tennessee assessment data (2014-15) for third through eighth grade students who were ranked first for academic growth in math and ranked second for academic growth in literacy in the state. The pattern continues with 11 SCS schools being recognized in the past few years as Tennessee REWARD schools. In addition, SCS high school students continue to be successful as evidenced by increasing ACT composite scores and high graduation rates.

Collectively and individually, schools in the SCS district have earned the right to boast about their achievements due to the terrific work and results occurring throughout the district. This edition of *Sumner County Schools News* is the first of three issues to focus on academic and social development “bragging rights” for SCS students and schools. (If a school isn’t featured in this issue, it should be in one of the next two.) Please celebrate these accomplishments with Sumner County Schools!



## **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**

**BBE** Melody Stevens

**BES** Erin Oakes

**BPE** Donna MacFarland

**CRE** Dana White

**GBE** Michele Roddy

**GES** Kim Harkreader

**GWE** Ellona Shelton

**HBW** Joeli Humphries

**HES** Julie Strickland

**ILE** Jennifer McCay

**JAE** Jami Warren

**JWW** Allison Hester

**LPE** Vicki Shelton

**MCE** Shelby Shanes

**MES** Mycah Vaden

**NBE** Emma Lovell

**NSE** Ann Meador

**OES** Kimberly Reynolds

**PGE** Timberly Denning

**SCE** Vickie Moser and Kristy Raymond

**UES** Mel Delarosa

**VSE** Katy Cash

**WBE** Karen Jarratt

**WES** Kacie Gaw

**WFE** Michele Lampton and Latoya Newson

**WHE** Phyllis Gilman

**EMS** Adam Cripps

**HMS** Amy Knick

**KDDC** Rebecca Bene

**PMES** Kyle Roberts

**PMWS** Kelly Smith

**RSMS** Jamie Mckenzie

**SCMS** Joy Meade

**SMS** Patti Adams

**TWHS** Chere Jimison

**WHMS** Sandra Bauer

**WMS** Bridgett Summers and Susan Bellonis

**BHS** Alice McPherson

**EBW** Tanya Coleman

**GHS** Glenda Hart and Sarah Wolf

**HHS** Ray Henson

**PHS** Leigh Peterson

**SCHS** Josh Ray

**WHHS** Jennifer Moss

**WHS** John Lasater

**MHMS** Darren Frank

**RTF** Crystal Jacobs

**SCMCHS** Betsy Hunter and Brad Schreiner

**SCMTCHS at Portland** John Parker

## Station Camp High Senior Qualifies for National Merit Scholarship



Some may know **Station Camp High School (SCHS)** senior, Julia Knaggs, as a regional FFA officer or as a friendly, hardworking student at SCHS, but most may not realize she qualified as a semifinalist for the National Merit Scholarship this year. Julia started her high school experience without a sense of what she wanted to accomplish before graduation. Station Camp provided her with the opportunity to become involved in FFA, an organization that prepares students for a life in “personal growth, leadership, and career success through agricultural education.” Julia has since become a regional FFA officer, which gave her the chance to participate in workshops with other

students, work with state FFA officers, and even help with the end-of-the-year FFA banquet. In addition, Julia believes that her involvement in FFA has helped her gain confidence that she was lacking before joining the organization.

In academic areas at SCHS, Julia has been provided with rigorous class options, such as Advanced Placement (AP) and dual enrollment classes. These classes prepared her for college and helped her become a National Merit Scholarship contender. This scholarship is a prestigious award that takes many years for which to academically prepare. During Julia’s junior year, 1.6 million students took the PSAT/NMSQT®. This year in early September, each of those students was updated on his/her current application status. Julia was one of two students in Sumner County Schools to be chosen as a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist!

Julia is excited to represent SCHS in this scholarship challenge and will be notified in February if she is a finalist. When asked if she had any words of encouragement for upcoming SCHS students, Julia advised students to “get involved and take a risk.” She knows that doing so has enabled her to overcome her fears and strive for the academic success that is evident as a semifinalist for the National Merit scholarship.



## Sumner County Middle College High School at VSCC

**Sumner County Middle College High School (SCMCHS)** is a partnership between Sumner County Schools (SCS) and Volunteer State Community College (VSCC). The school is located on the VSCC campus and is for high school juniors and seniors from SCS high schools. All classes are taken at the middle college and are taught by VSCC college instructors in a college setting.

The possibilities for the students are as vast as the VSCC course catalog. SCMCHS students have a wide range of math and science classes available once they complete the required high school math and science requirements. In math, students may proceed to courses such as college Calculus, Linear Algebra, Differential Equations, or Calculus and Analytic Geometry III. In science, students have the opportunity to take Chemistry I and II on the college level as well as Organic Chemistry. Once students complete General Biology, they can also take Microbiology. In the area of physics, they may take Non-Calculus Based Physics or Calculus-Based Physics.

The wide range of opportunities not only applies to math and science, but to other areas such as the arts. In the arts, students can participate in college theatre and musical productions. There are also courses in computer information systems that lead to degrees with concentrations in Cyber Defense.

Students who are eager to get a head start on college have a great opportunity to jump start their post-secondary work at SCMCHS at VSCC. For more information, visit the school's website at <http://scmc.sumnerschools.org>.





## Hawkins Middle and "Tremendous" Accomplishments



**Hawkins Middle School (HMS)** had a tremendous start to the 2016-2017 school year! Two of its major accomplishments occurred last semester. HMS was awarded a \$10,000 *Shape the State* grant for its physical education (P.E.) department from BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee! The grant provided HMS with the nationally-acclaimed *Sports Play Recreation for Kids (SPARK)* physical education curriculum, along with teacher training and equipment. The focus of *SPARK* is fun, active games that all students may enjoy, regardless of their levels of athleticism, rather than traditional team sports. P.E. teachers and students at HMS were excited to receive this huge award, and the extra funding will be a great benefit to the students.

In addition, HMS SEARCH Team was awarded top honors of *Best Resolution* at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Tennessee YMCA Model United Nations conference! This conference offered students an opportunity to experience an introduction to the roles and responsibilities of the United Nations. The task for entry in this conference was to prepare resolutions for assigned countries. Each team had to find a problem its country currently faced and create a solution for it. The teams presented speeches, participated in a round of questions, and debated the pros and cons of the issue before being ranked by other teams. The top 20 ranking teams presented their resolutions in the plenary round in order to have their resolutions passed or declined by the other countries' teams.

HMS eighth grade students, Lexi Jones, Elizabeth Utley, Grace Koslofsky, and Kendall Giles, represented the country of Lithuania. As delegates for HMS, they chose to focus on the problem of sex-trafficking of young girls between the ages of 10-14. Their solution focused on prevention through education. Lithuania's resolution by the HMS team was ranked among the top 20 resolutions at the Model UN conference. In addition to ranking in the top 20, these students were recipients of the distinguished award of *Best Resolution*.

HMS is very proud of the hard work by its students and teachers. Students and faculty show Commando Pride as they strive for greatness daily!

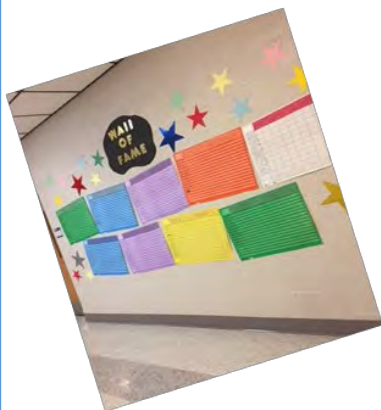
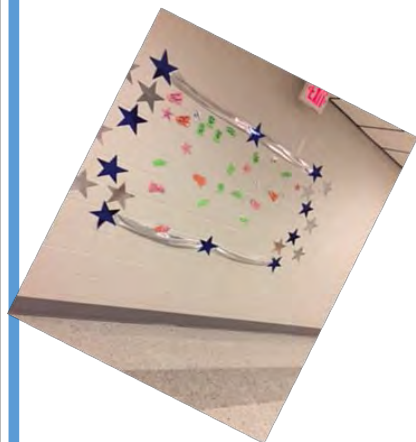
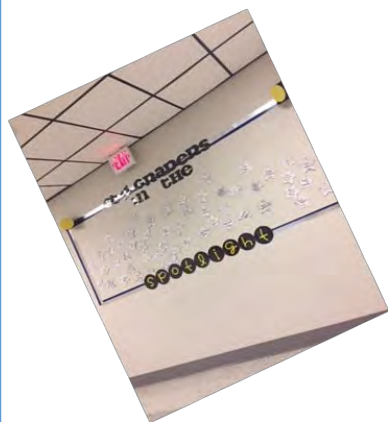
## Knox Doss at Drake's Creek Middle and Walls of Fame

As last school year ended, the faculty and staff of **Knox Doss at Drake's Creek Middle School (KDDC)** met to develop a better plan for recognizing students' accomplishments. Most schools have students that receive recognition for good grades, no behavior write-ups, or perfect attendance. However, what about students who work very hard academically and socially to be the best but still struggle? It was a concern at KDDC that those students tend to fall through the cracks at times. Therefore, KDDC decided to have a *Wall of Fame* in each hallway to showcase different students for a VARIETY of things, not just grades.

Once KDDC had a plan in place, each grade level sat down to decide how to proceed with its wall. While each grade level's wall is unique, the focus is to celebrate all students. Also, each grade level's goal is that by the end of the year, EVERY student will have been on the wall at least once. This means that teachers have to be diligent and intentional when looking for ways to recognize students. Sometimes, a teacher must look past the grades to see what a student is doing that deserves recognition. For example, on the eighth grade wall a student might get recognized for artistic expression of retelling "The Tell-Tale Heart," while on the sixth grade wall a student might receive recognition for showing improvement in classroom behavior. All teachers, academic subjects or related arts, are encouraged to place names on the wall.

Since the walls were created, there have been interesting conversations in the hallways. As a student passes by and realizes that his/her star or name is on a wall along with the reason for it, there seems to be an immediate sense of pride. Students begin to purposefully walk by the wall to point out their names/stars to peers and faculty alike. Teachers have begun to notice academic and behavior changes in KDDC students. Even though these may be small changes, they are changes nonetheless. Some changes occur for a student who might otherwise "not care," but who now realizes that they ARE being seen and noticed, as well as celebrated for successes no matter how big or small. These walls have encouraged many students to take an interest in their work or grades. They seem to try harder.

Walls of fame or data walls might not be the perfect answer to reaching all students. However, at KDDC, it has been amazing, as well as fulfilling, to see the change in students all because of a little recognition!



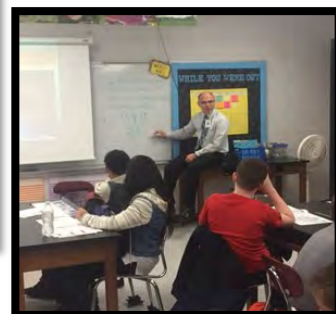
## Rucker-Stewart Middle and Ram Pride



**Rucker-Stewart Middle School (RSMS)** has much to boast about this year. The Rucker-Stewart Academic Team is the top ranked middle school team in Tennessee and placed 16<sup>th</sup> in the national rankings! This team meets after school for one hour and fifteen minutes weekly. The members are given tasks for the week that include individual assignments on historical topics, current events, and a variety of academic questions that cross all academic curriculum as well as music and art.

The top rankings for RSMS Academic Team came from the competition in a nationwide computer tournament. The tournament consisted of a timed challenge in which teams were asked questions from various subject areas. The team worked together to determine the correct responses. A time period of ninety minutes to complete over 200 questions was allotted. The questions involved visual images, maps, charts, graphs, and an audio portion. The Rucker-Stewart Academic Team is coached by Elizabeth Rocha and Alison Robinson who helped lead the students to an excellent academic victory!

### Project-Based Learning (PBL) Success!



RSMS sixth grade students worked together for a successful Rainforest/Biomes Web-Quest, with the support of Mr. Ben Bruce, SCS Instructional Technology coordinator. Each subject area had subject-specific assignments to study various topics that are included in the sixth grade Tennessee Academic Standards. RSMS students excelled and enjoyed the cross-curricular projects!



## Shafer Middle Emphasizes Reading and Community Service

The first semester at **Shafer Middle School (SMS)** was very exciting. ELA teachers and students committed to the *Forty Book Challenge*, a goal to read 40 books by the end of the school year. Everyone at SMS is reading, and library book check outs have exploded! Two SMS eighth grade students, Bethany Marsh and Erin Barrett, have read over 50 books already! Teachers use 20 minutes of "sacred reading time" in the classroom to promote the activity. Teachers engage in reading during this time to model the importance of taking time to read every day.



SMS is implementing a program to increase school attendance and family engagement using the Restorative Practices Model for Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) conferences. The underlying premise from Restorative Practices founder, Ted Wachtel, is "people are happier, more cooperative and productive, and more likely to make positive changes when those in positions of authority do things with them, rather than to them or for them." SMS faculty decided to put the practice model in place after one SMS teacher attended a four-day training on restorative practices this past summer and shared the model with the family engagement team. The model is designed to place the decision-making powers back in the hands of the student and the family. The process will allow parent/teacher conferences to be streamlined because more responsibility and ownership will be placed on the family and student. Additionally, the process allows families and students to become actively engaged in the school and its processes. Ultimately, this engagement reinforces self-control and regulation for all.

Community service was a big part of the first semester as well. SMS Student Council, along with Mrs. Hogan's Intro to Social Health class, collected food for the needy. Mrs. Hogan's class collected the food as part of the *GREAT* program taught by SRO Scottie Hobbs. Through these efforts, over 2500 food items were donated to the Sumner County Food Bank just before the holidays when the demand for food assistance is high.



Mrs. Grinder's sixth grade ELA class, along with Mrs. Merryman's ELA class, collected items to send to troops in Iraq for Christmas. Short stories and letters to the troops were included in the packages. Once the packages were received by the troops, SMS students skyped with the troops. During the Skype session, students were able to ask questions of the troops in Iraq. This entire endeavor generated positive feelings for both students and U.S. troops.

Mr. Govin's CDC class collected items to donate to *A Safe Place for Animals*, a no-kill animal shelter in Sumner County. Everyone at SMS participated and over 280 items were donated to the shelter.



Mrs. Hogan's Intro to Social Health classes learned CPR so that students are prepared for an emergency. The school nurse at SMS, Felisha Jackson, taught the CPR classes.



A goal at SMS is for all students to leave ready to be responsible, productive, and educated members of the Sumner County community. Teaching students to be charitable and industrious members of society benefits everyone.

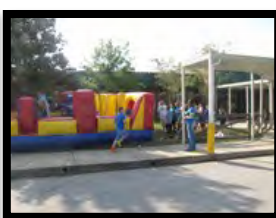


## Bethpage Elementary and a National Blue Ribbon Award

In 2016, only 254 schools in the United States were chosen as *National Blue Ribbon Schools*. Four of those schools were in Tennessee. One of them was a Sumner County school—**Bethpage Elementary School (BPE)**! This prestigious award has been received twice by BPE in the past five years.

The faculty and staff of BPE believe it is important to strive to prove and maintain an excellent reputation. They are proud that the *National Blue Ribbon* recognition is based on high achievement and data that shows the school has been able to close the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged and non-economically disadvantaged students.

In November, BPE principal, David Woodard, and teacher leader, Cheryl Young, attended a conference in Washington, D.C. to receive the banner proclaiming the school to be a *National Blue Ribbon School*.



After receiving the award, celebrations began formulating to honor students, faculty, and staff

for their achievement. Students were rewarded with a schoolwide viewing of *The Jungle Book*. Other celebrations included all BPE students being treated to ice cream courtesy of the school district through the support of Dr. Phillips and Dr. Brown. Another activity was bounce houses set up on the lawn for students to enjoy. Community members joined in the recognition as well. Blue Bell Ice Cream gave vanilla ice cream cups to each child and donated a book to the library.



BPE faculty and staff were honored too. One fall day, representatives from SCS Central Office provided lunch for the BPE group with a special meal and tables draped in white. In addition, the Sumner County School Board honored BPE educators with certificates of recognition, and the Sumner County Commission proclaimed a resolution of recognition for the academic excellence at BPE. All BPE educators were honored at the meeting while Commissioner Alan Driver, who represents the Bethpage area, read the proclamation. BPE knows that hard work and perseverance helped it reach this goal as a *National Blue Ribbon School*!



## Guild Elementary and the Five Houses of Guild Council Leaders

The Five Houses of Guild are in the second year of implementation at **Guild Elementary School (GES)**! This initiative, modeled after proven practices from Ron Clark Academy, is showing very beneficial improvements for the GES school culture. With the momentum building, GES embraced the transformative techniques learned at the academy and is adding several new components this year. House Council is one of those new additions that GES is excited to brag about!

GES House Council is comprised of one representative from each fifth grade classroom for each house. This provides five GES House Council leaders for each house and a total of 25 for the school. These leaders applied for the position and were chosen by their classroom peers to serve as leaders throughout the school.

While the council leaders support all GES students, a mentoring opportunity arises when they partner with kindergarten students who need extra support with letter names and sounds. Mentoring continues at the *Be More Awesome* assemblies where the leaders help younger students feel at ease as they sit with their houses and lead the house chants. In addition, GES House Council leaders greet and welcome visitors to the school and volunteer to help at parent events.

At present, the council is filming infomercials that showcase reading strategies that may be implemented at home. The infomercials will be viewed by families at an upcoming family engagement event. GES faculty and staff love to hear the younger students now aspiring to be a House Council leader when they reach fifth grade!





## Union STEM receives *Good Sports Always Recycle™* Award



*Good Sports Always Recycle* (GSAR) encourages and honors schools across Tennessee for their efforts in bringing environmental programs into the schools and communities. Each year since 1993, GSAR has recognized schools for environmental programs by inviting school representatives to a University of Tennessee home game, where they are recognized on the field. This year, one of Union Elementary STEM School's very own teachers, Mr. Collins, was invited to receive this award....exciting!

### Grant Writing Helps Enhance Learning At Union STEM

Through grant funding, **Union Elementary STEM & Demonstration School (UES)** has added a number of opportunities for learning that are not county funded. Without grants, these opportunities would not be possible. They played a major role in helping Union earn its STEM certification. The administration, educators, and even parents have procured many grants that have helped in the improvement of the campus and academics. The library, technology, and greenhouse have benefited greatly from grant writing as well.

UES educators are most creative and resourceful individuals. Their innovative ideas center around growing learners. When funds are limited for bringing ideas to life, they seek grants. UES encourages others to do the same. The funds are there. It may take a little research and time, but being awarded the funds and seeing things happen for the benefit of students makes it all worthwhile!



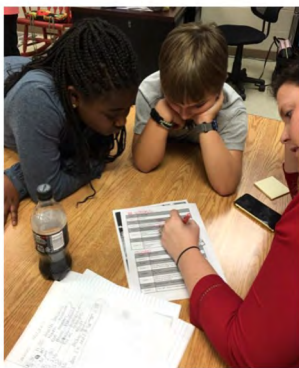
## Station Camp Elementary and a Fantastic A-Team



**Station Camp Elementary School (SCE)** is proud of its A-Team and the passion with which they learn life skills to become equipped for success. A-Team is an appreciation team that has become part of the culture at SCE. A-Teams are built using guidelines from the Utrust Employee Appreciation program. The guidelines help students learn to show appreciation of the work of others, such as school and district employees. At SCE, the primary purpose of A-team is to teach students the importance of giving back to others and how to simply say “thank you for all that you do for us!”

Every year, SCE offers fifth grade students the opportunity to apply for A-Team membership. SCE decided to make this team specific for fifth graders to allow them potential leadership roles in developing necessary life skills by planning, preparing, and executing special appreciation days on a monthly basis.

SCE usually has approximately 50 applicants for A-Team, but is only able to accept about 20 members. A-Team is made up of three sub-teams known as the creative team, the paparazzi team, and the action team. Students are placed on a sub-team based on their individual interests. The creative team is in charge of making crafts and posters. Paparazzi members are the tech gurus! They make sure each appreciation activity is documented using pictures, videos, and interviews. The action team members are the performers of the group. They practice songs and skits for the activities.



Each month when preparing for an appreciation day, these students meet before or after school with a team of teachers to decide what A-Team will do to recognize an honored group of school employees. Recognition includes acts of appreciation, songs, skits, and letters from the student body. In addition, celebrated recipients might get gifts, lunch served, or assistance in taking care of daily responsibilities.

The work of the SCE A-Team has been a big success. For the employees that are recognized, it brings smiles and happiness. For the students, the work leaves them with an understanding of how and why to give back to the community. SCE students are

growing into people who notice the work others put into making the school day a success.

## Jack Anderson STEM and Robotics Club



**Jack Anderson STEM Elementary School (JAE)** currently has 125 second through fifth grade students enrolled in the JAE Robotics Club. This exciting, hands-on experience of learning to design, build, and program robots of increasing complexity can greatly boost students' teamwork and problem-solving abilities.

The use of Cubelets sparks engagement by students to both enjoy and learn with them! Cubelets snap together magnetically to form an autonomous robot capable of movement in tune with its environment as indicated by its sensors. Putting cubes together to form a functioning robot requires young kids to use procedural thinking to develop systematic strategies for solving problems.



## Lakeside Park Elementary and “Heart Goals”

The students of **Lakeside Park Elementary School (LPE)** are some of the most fortunate children in the state of Tennessee. They attend a public school that wraps its arms around the whole child. The principal, teachers, and support professionals at LPE care deeply about the children they serve. They have academic goals and “heart” goals for making sure that students are happy, healthy, and ready to succeed at the next level. However, while the faculty and support staff are proud of their students, they don’t feel that they, themselves, are doing anything exceptional. Perhaps it is part of the character of educators to praise others instead of taking credit for success. These educators are humble. Each has a generous spirit and quiet self-confidence.

Due to the modest natures of LPE educators, Principal Vicki Shelton is willing to brag *for* them. LPE and its students have been recognized repeatedly over the years for high achievement and high growth. The school’s performance reflects the hard work and dedication of the faculty, staff, and students receiving these awards:

*August 2015      **Reward School for Progress***

*May 2015      **Value-Added Achievement Award***

*January 2014      **Reward School Cusp – Performance and Progress***

*November 2012      **Reward School Cusp – Performance***

*November 2005      **State of Tennessee General Assembly Award No Child Left Behind***

*July 2003      **Incentive Award Program for superior performance– cash award***

*April 2000      **Incentive Award Program for superior performance– cash award***



Student success depends on caring for the whole child by the entire family of educators. Each faculty and support staff member is humble of heart when it comes to self. All believe that they play only a small part in this wonderful learning community by teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic, while also incorporating music, art, clubs, and physical education. These professionals have earned their bragging rights!



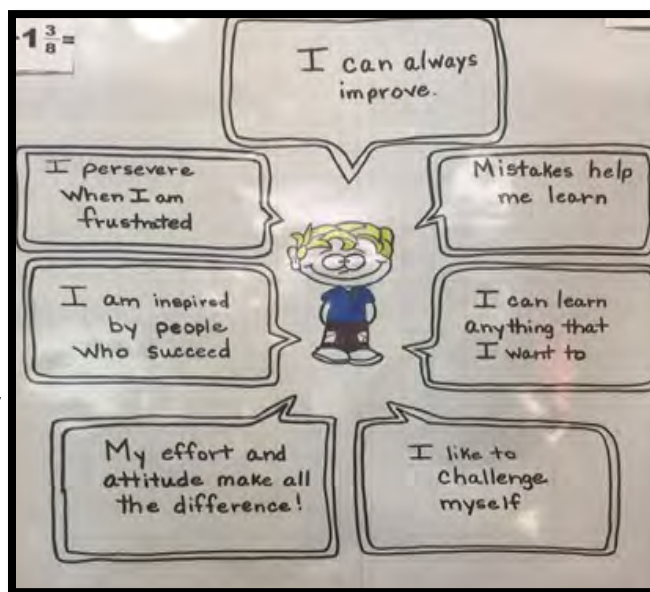
## Beech Elementary Promotes a Growth Mindset

Erin Oakes, **Beech Elementary School (BES)** librarian, shares, “Your mind is a powerful thing. The stories you tell yourself and the things you believe about yourself can either prevent change from happening or allow new skills to bloom. More often than not, the biggest challenge is sitting between your two ears.”

This year, teachers at BES have been learning more about the link between beliefs and behaviors. A growth mindset is a belief that one can become smarter through hard work and practice. This means that struggling with something difficult does not mean you are a failure. Instead, it is a chance for you to grow! This concept was developed by psychologist, Carol Dweck, and popularized in her book, *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*. In recent years, many schools and educators have begun utilizing Dweck's theories on mindset to help reach students.

Angie Cabler, fifth grade teacher at BES, heard of a growth mindset last year from former BES teacher, Terry Newbill. Ms. Cabler says, “I like this type of teaching because it puts the learning back on the student. They are more invested, so they are motivated to do better.”

Fifth grade teacher, Tabitha Allen, along with a BES teacher from each grade level, are attending district-led *Visible Learning* training. The training will assist teachers in facilitating a growth mindset with students. “All grade levels are represented at these meetings—elementary, middle, and high school. This is a type of teaching every teacher can use,” states Ms. Allen.



5th Grade Growth Mindset Poster at BES

One strategy that teachers use to help students develop a positive growth mindset is through data folders. Data folders are kept by each student to help track his/her progress. For example, fifth grade students are monitoring their progress in math, specifically multiplication. Students are responsible for working on this skill independently. They visit the progress data folders weekly to determine how they are moving forward or what interventions might be needed. According to teacher, Krista Steelman, “When students can see their growth, it helps learning become more tangible, and they are further motivated to improve.”

Ms. Cabler stresses, “This type of learning creates a culture of ‘it is okay to make mistakes.’ Students are learning to take constructive criticism from teachers and peers. I have seen my students’ grades improve.” An additional positive for a growth mindset is shared by Mrs. Steelman, “I think that students are learning how to do things themselves and become less dependent on the teacher as the one with all the knowledge.”

## George Whitten Elementary and Math and Movement Program

At **George Whitten Elementary School (GWE)**, movement is the name of the game! The reason is GWE students and teachers are buzzing with excitement surrounding a unique program, *Math & Movement*. The program is a new approach for the school in the practice of math facts.

Teacher training and mats for *Math & Movement* have been funded with a \$5,000 grant from Lowe's *Toolbox for Education*. A subsequent grant has been awarded by Dollar General to fund a *Math & Movement Family Fun Night* scheduled in February. This family engagement opportunity will showcase the new math initiative.

The purpose of *Math and Movement* is to facilitate physical activity to enhance mathematics skills in elementary grades pre-K through 5th grade while guiding students to meet the mastery learning expectations of the Tennessee Academic Standards. In addition, the program should assist in reducing RTI<sup>2</sup> costs, increasing student engagement, integrating math practice throughout the day, and increasing students' ability to focus. *Math and Movement* offers differentiated instruction, supports equity, helps boost self-confidence in students, and reaches kinesthetic learners. An added positive is that the program increases P.E. minutes, physical fitness, and combats obesity.

GWE shares that *Math & Movement* grants can be obtained through NMF, a non-profit organization that assists with grant writing for teachers wishing to use *Math & Movement* materials. If schools are interested in the program, they may email Suzy Kootnz at [suzy@suzykoontz.com](mailto:suzy@suzykoontz.com) or Marcia Wade, at [Marciawade12@gmail.com](mailto:Marciawade12@gmail.com). The students and teachers of GWE believe it will be worth the time and work to help students become proficient in math facts.



## Gene Brown Elementary and a Giving Spirit

**Gene Brown Elementary School (GBE)** had many students who shone brightly during the fall of 2016, but some of the brightest shining stars chose to focus their generosity and compassion on others, not themselves. GBE has a history of doing for others in times of need. Whether helping fellow teachers and staff or meeting the needs of students' families, the faculty, staff, and students come together as one to offer support.

That philosophy has carried over to the GBE Student Council as well. The student council, made up of fourth and fifth graders, is guided by Mrs. Patricia Rodgers and Mrs. Julia Munday. Here are a few ways that the organization is working to make a better community:

- In the month of October, a *Socktober* event was sponsored. The goal was to provide 500 pairs of socks for the homeless who visit the community, some GBE students, and a local community group whose purpose is to help others. The council also sponsored *Trick or Treat Street* for teachers this year.
- In November, members of GBE Student Council honored veterans of GBE families with a recognition program. Each veteran was recognized, given a token of appreciation for his/her service, and treated to a reception.
- In December, the council returned to two senior citizen homes that they had visited previously. The students did not go empty handed either! They provided fruit and small gifts to the 143 residents and spent time listening to their stories of childhood. These treasured citizens always share a little advice for students. Hence, the students leave with a renewed spirit of giving because they have received more than they gave.



One of the sponsors of GBE Student Council, Mrs. Rodgers, says, "Our mission is to provide an opportunity for leadership among the students of our school, to empower the students to maintain an active role in schoolwide programs and events, and to foster a desire in other students to participate in programs that are devoted to the betterment of the school, community, and world. Our pledge is to encourage and respect others, to create a safe and positive environment where students are given opportunities to become better leaders, and to lead by example by taking responsibility in making a difference in our school and community." Stakeholders at GBE believe the school is shining brightly, giving to others, and making the community a better place to be!





## Spotlighting the Positives in SCS

On Tuesday, November 1, 2016, Sumner County Schools (SCS) held the first-ever All-County Eighth Grade Choir and Art Showcase at Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tennessee. The 270-member choir, representing 10 middle schools, was directed by guest clinician, Dr. Brian Russell. Dr. Russell is the Chair of Fine Arts at Stewarts Creek High School located in Smyrna, Tennessee. Before the choral performance, artwork from 119 middle school art students was showcased in a formal art exhibit. There was also a special guest appearance by the Gallatin High School Choir directed by Mr. TJ McLaughlin. At the evening concert, more than 1200 family members and friends were in attendance. The students provided a thrilling performance, and the entire event was a great success for all middle school fine arts programs. SCS and the community offer a thank you to middle school choir directors and art educators in the district for their hard work in preparing students for this event!

