



Sumner County Schools News

Committed and Focused on Growing Learners

School Year 2017-18, November Issue

Quantum Learning, Eight Keys of Excellence, and Family Benefits

Bobbi DePorter, founder and president of Quantum Learning Network and author of *The 8 Keys of Excellence—Principles to Live By*, states, “. . . as parents and teachers model—or fail to model—respect and citizenship characteristics and goal-setting behaviors, children and youth observe these behaviors and begin to form their own specific goals.” To support the building of positive character and progressive goals for students, Sumner County Schools include the Quantum Learning Eight Keys of Excellence in various aspects of instruction and student advocacy. Families may reap benefits from the use of the Eight Keys as well. Family advantages would be to:

- * Foster a positive parent/guardian-child relationship.
- * Support each other's needs through joint problem solving.
- * Explore the power of praise: identify your child's strengths and celebrate successes.
- * Expand strategies for becoming an effective role model.
- * Develop effective study skills and environment.
- * Share the homework experience and create guidelines together.
- * Strengthen family bonds.

Families, if interested in more information on the Quantum Learning Eight Keys of Excellence Family Program, please use this link, <http://8keys.org/>, to register for the free program. It is an eight-week action plan for strengthening family relationships and deepening the feeling of connectedness. The website provides access to Eight Keys resources, videos, and a discussion board to interact with other families. The program allows schools and families to work together with common themes for the social and emotional development of children. **Sumner County Schools** values family-school relationships, believes Quantum Learning offers collaborative opportunities for student success, and knows “This is It!” for each of our students.



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WHS John Lasater

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SCMTCHS at Portland John Parker

SCS News District Editor Selena Elmore

Merrol Hyde Magnet shows Commitment

Merrol Hyde Magnet School (MHMS) is doing an excellent job promoting the Commitment key in community service. Principal Darren Frank challenged the middle and high school student body to complete 100 service hours each by the end of the year.

The first MHMS Community Service Fair was hosted on September 15th for all middle and high school students. More than 10 local agencies presented on their organizations. MHMS even had ninth grade student McKenna Brown sponsor her own service project on campus! Guest speakers from Capital Bank, YMCA, Samaritan Center, and the United Way spoke during an assembly on the importance of community service and how it impacts lives.



**START where YOU ARE.
USE what YOU HAVE.
DO what YOU CAN.
MHMS LEAD!**
Students becoming tomorrow's leaders
by serving others today!!!!



The fourth annual MHMS Mini-College Fair, with 20 colleges and universities represented, occurred September 19-21. MHMS continued exhibiting the Commitment

key when 100% of its 12th grade students applied to Tennessee Promise during National College Application Week. The school celebrated the achievement by hosting a college tailgate on September 22 with each faculty member wearing collegiate t-shirts with his or her alma mater. High school seniors wore t-shirts representing their future college choices.



MHMS upper elementary students continue to be creative with hands-on learning to explore academic topics. Third graders created food chain artwork demonstrating their knowledge of producers, primary consumers, secondary consumers, etc. Fourth grade students explored plant and animal cells in a microscope station. Afterward, they wrote and drew about their observations. Fifth graders researched Civil War topics, created presentation trifolds based on a learning rubric, and presented topics in first person in a schoolwide exposition.

Westmoreland High and Commitment: Making Your Dreams Happen

Westmoreland High School (WHS) implemented a new program in 2016 to recognize distinguished alumni for their contributions to the community and to society as a whole. There were 20 WHS former graduates recognized in 2016, and two alumni added to the roster in 2017. Principal Rick Duffer said, "We place a spotlight on former students and their stories of success. Within this time of celebration, we afford current students the motivation that gives them a realistic hope of obtaining the same success."



Alumni have been recognized from as far back as the Class of 1929 (Lucille Gilliam Black) and as recent as the Class of 2001 (Derrick Gregory). Honorees have made significant contributions in the fields of education, business, medicine, science, and industry. They are role models for current students.

WHS is proud to recognize those who have been a significant part of the school's history with the hope that their works inspire WHS students toward greatness in the future.



Twenty-Two of WHS Distinguished Alumni Honorees



Lucille Black 1929



Gordon Doss 1936



Gene Brown 1947



Mahalia Hughes
1956



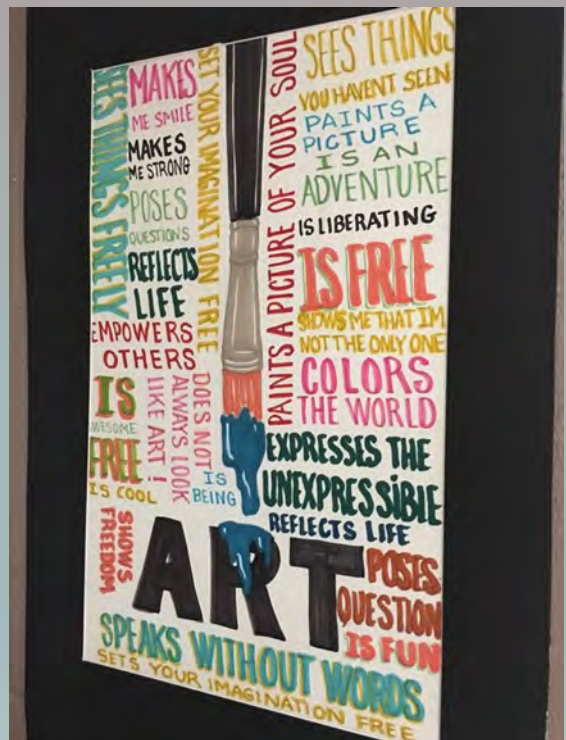
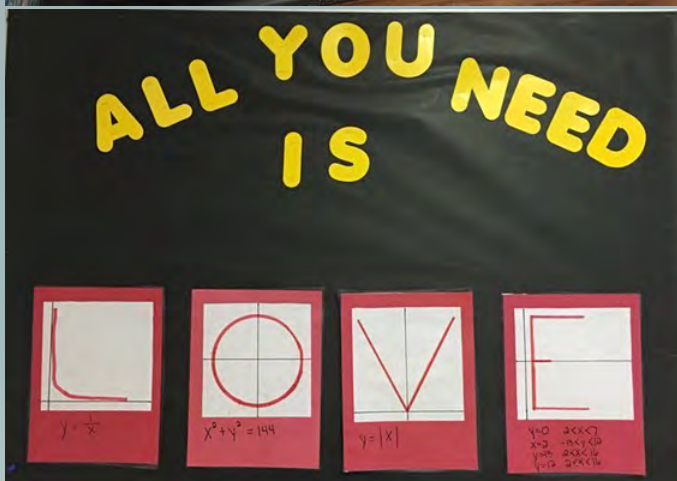
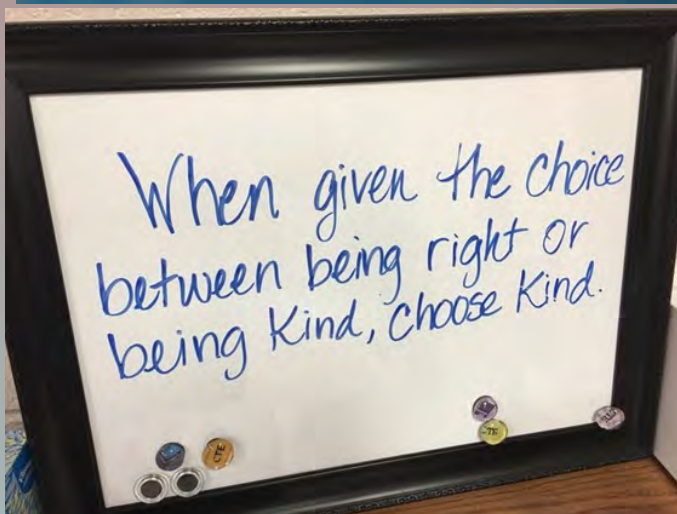
Mayo Wix 1943



Stacey Coates 1986

Hendersonville High and Integrity Key Displays

At **Hendersonville High School (HHS)**, the students, faculty, and staff live with Integrity. Check out some of the great quotes and signs HHS uses to remind everyone to show Integrity!



#iHERDthat Rucker-Stewart Middle is Speaking with Good Purpose and Accepting Ownership



Teachers and students at **Rucker-Stewart Middle School (RSMS)** are spreading the #iHERDthat mindset throughout the school and building relationships for a family/herd atmosphere. #iHERDthat is a constructive way to alert students to positive decisions they are making and to help them take ownership of their actions. When a teacher sees a student undertake an inspiring action or hears the student Speak with Good Purpose, the teacher responds with “I heard that!” to affirm the positive action.

To build capacity, RSMS is spreading #iHERDthat through advocacy group meetings. Eighth grade math teacher Sarah Christopher says, “Advocacy forms a family bond among students and teacher which we would not get in a regular classroom setting. We, as a group, are learning how to Speak with Good Purpose, appreciate each other’s values, and take Ownership of our actions.” Advocacy at RSMS is becoming a focal point of teachers and students allowing them to get into deeper conversations by not just speaking, but listening as well. Middle school coordinator Abby Brosche says, “Advocacy groups teach children to empathize, humanize others, and show our own stories, leading to more civil discourse.”

At the beginning of the school year, students are paired with teacher advocates to form RSMS advocacy groups. These groups will remain together throughout the students’ academic careers at RSMS. The groups are composed of students with different interests which allows them to realize while all have similarities and differences, they can debate issues with respect. Groups meet for 40 minutes every other Tuesday.

During the meetings, students are given topics and activities to generate discussions not usually occurring in the classroom setting. As a whole, RSMS is working to build a positive and respectful culture through strong, supportive relationships. The advocacy groups also provide students with an adult or teacher to discuss problems they may have and lead to open, encouraging communication.

Through advocacy, Speaking with Good Purpose, and accepting Ownership, RSMS groups build trust and respect throughout the school. Those qualities produce a feeling of connectedness and create an effective learning environment for students of RSMS.

Hawkins Middle School and the TCP Program Prove to be Key



While Quantum Learning's Eight Keys of Excellence are generally introduced to students in the elementary setting, **Hawkins Middle School (HMS)** is finding new and exciting ways to integrate and expand on them in the middle school arena. These important tools are being used in individual classrooms as well as in the schoolwide Total Commando Pride (TCP) program. Eight Keys of Excellence are principles that help students develop terrific life qualities and personal growth. The guidance system formed from the Eight Keys complements the TCP program at HMS beautifully.



The TCP program is a student advocacy curriculum covered with all HMS students. They meet in small group settings every few weeks with adult advocates who lead group discussions, facilitate activities, roleplay scenarios, and much more. The program gives HMS students a platform from which to develop and/or enhance abilities to deal with various social situations, work ethic, interpersonal skills, coping mechanisms, and time and stress management. It is

easy to see how ideals of TCP and the Eight Keys of Excellence go hand-in-hand.

HMS students are discussing each of the keys in small group TCP meetings over the course of this school year. One key in particular, Speak with Good Purpose, directly correlates with the values of the TCP program. HMS students are encouraged to speak honestly and kindly. Conversations focus on being intentionally positive and authentic with your words and your interactions with others. Part of being able to Speak with Good Purpose is having the discipline to think before you speak. This can be a challenging skill to acquire as a middle school student, but HMS students are learning words can be powerful and empowering. Eighth grade student Leila Seastrand elaborates, "Talking about the Eight Keys in our TCP classes has helped to create a more positive climate in our school." Fellow eighth grader Hailley Sebring adds, "It has also helped us as students to think in a different way and be the best versions of ourselves."



Knox Doss Middle: Building Strong Leaders



Knox Doss at Drakes Creek Middle School (KDDC) began this school year rocking and rolling to gear up students to strive for success inside and outside the classroom. At KDDC, the faculty believes the number one goal for them is to assist in the development of the whole child. Currently, KDDC incorporates Quantum Learning through many different avenues. The teachers and students come together to work on tenets of *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen Covey during the Olweus Bully Prevention Program, BRAND (Building Relationships and Nurturing Development). Subsequently, students and faculty focus on achieving great effectiveness in life and on treating others with kindness and compassion.

Additionally, the KDDC Student Council is concentrating on creating exceptional student leadership within the school. Members attended The Strongest Waves of Leadership workshop hosted by Brentwood Middle School. KDDC students had the opportunity to meet other students from Middle Tennessee and to experience mini-leadership workshops and sessions to help them grow as leaders. They were able to bring back ideas to utilize at KDDC. Administrators, faculty, staff, and students are very excited about what the student council plans for the school this year.

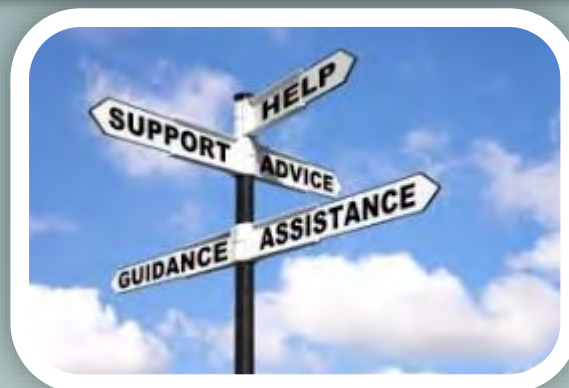
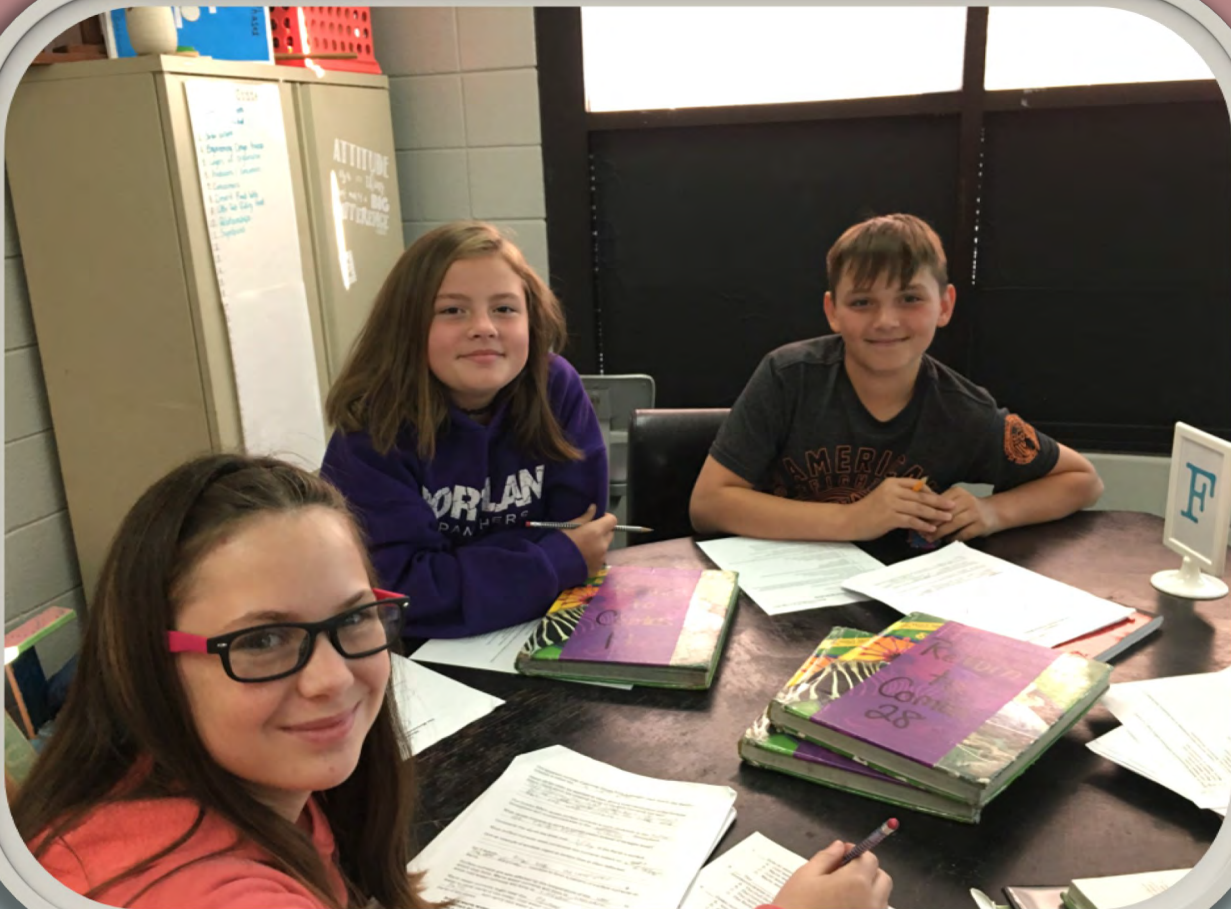


Furthermore, the collaboration among students in general education and CDC classes fully exemplifies the ability for students to take thoughtful leadership roles within the building. KDDC has incredible peer buddies who truly love supporting each other. From being an excellent example in the classroom to being a loving friend, the peer buddies at KDDC enjoy and appreciate their work together!



Portland East Middle Advocacy Groups are Reminiscent of Family

Often, students feel as if they do not have a voice or their concerns do not matter. Therefore, **Portland East Middle School (PEMS)** tries to ensure every student is heard, respected, and made to feel special. During Flex Time at PEMS, teachers meet with students and have guided discussions in advocacy groups. The primary principle considered in each Flex Time session is the Key of Excellence for the month. However, students may discuss anything that might be troubling them during these discussions. PEMS advocacy groups promote a feeling of family which is vital to students who may be struggling with life's difficulties.

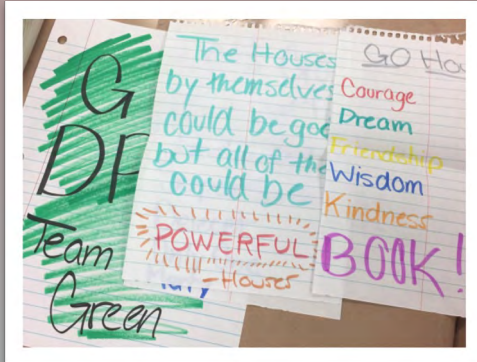


Portland Gateview Elementary and Mentoring Excellence



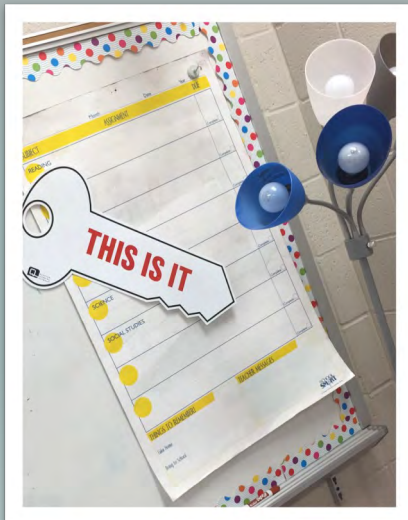
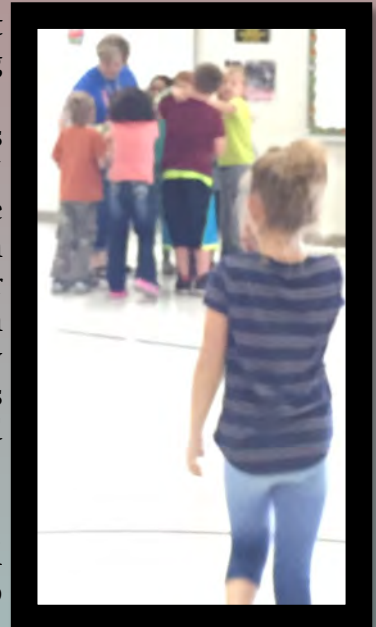
At **Portland Gateview Elementary School (PGE)**, the Quantum Learning Eight Keys of Excellence are taught using a mentor program. The program focuses on student reminders on how to exhibit excellence in life. At the inception of the mentor program, the PGE Leadership Team worked diligently to ensure all students were assigned an advocate. The team started by assigning each student to a “house.” From the house, students are assigned mentors. Tenets of the Eight Keys are guidelines for the mentors’ efforts with mentees. Faculty and staff members, including custodians, paraprofessionals,

cafeteria staff, teachers, and administrators, are paired with six to eight students in various grade levels.



Faculty and staff at PGE act intentionally to build strong relationships with students. Designated monthly meetings ensure that PGE mentors/ house teams are provided time to build relationships with students. Through the mentor program, students have an advocate that consistently monitors classroom and bus behavior, school progress and

growth, and family home/school connections.



Mentors at PGE also strive to instill Quantum Learning tenets into everyday activities for students.

They leave positive notes of encouragement for students in their classrooms or their teachers’ mailboxes. These focus on Ownership and Integrity. Subsequently, classes, such as Mrs. Thompson’s fifth grade class, offer evidence of Speak with Good Purpose through inspirational notes to others. All PGE mentors understand that This is It! for the students of PGE. Therefore, they work to create a positive environment to strengthen relationships, build character, and grow students!

H.B. Williams Elementary Lives Above the Line

Frederick Douglass once said, “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” This quote resonates in the hearts of the teachers and staff at **Harold B. Williams Elementary School (HBW)**. Each day is another opportunity to lay the foundation for strength, good character, and to Live Above the Line. This is easily done using the Eight Keys of Excellence from Quantum Learning. Each stakeholder at HBW maintains high expectations for students and persistently looks for ways to encourage positive behavior.



One of HBW's finest teachers, Valerie Grissom, uses the Eight Keys to build up students and to create scenarios which provide scholars the opportunity to do what is right even when no one is looking. Mrs. Grissom has reported playing the game Simon Says is one of her favorite ways to teach kindergarten students about the Quantum Learning key of Integrity. Most students are familiar with the game and know when they perform an action Simon does not say, then they are out of the game. Mrs. Grissom adds a twist to provide her students with the chance to practice doing the right thing. When a student performs the wrong action, she does not tell them to step out of the game. Instead, she lets the student take ownership and watches to see how it all unfolds. This simple childhood game can be turned into a powerful lesson on Integrity. Aside from playing Simon Says, Mrs. Grissom also taught her students the motions for each key. Research shows students are more actively engaged and able to remember things better if they can perform a motion to go along with it. Mrs. Grissom has done an amazing job implementing the Eight Keys of Excellence into her kindergarten classroom at HBW.

The goal for staff and teachers at HBW is clear . . . implementing the Eight Keys leads to strong, successful children who will grow into powerful, victorious adults. The line has been drawn, and HBW chooses to live above it.

Vena Stuart Elementary Pursues the Eight Keys of Excellence

Vena Stuart Elementary School (VSE) is dedicated to helping students, as well as faculty and staff, excel in many areas of life. One of the ways VSE strives to accomplish this task is through solid instruction and a strong focus on the Quantum Learning Eight Keys of Excellence. Guidance classes are specifically geared toward lessons that enhance learning the Eight Keys and the motions that accompany each. Every month, the VSE guidance counselor, Ms. Nancy Messer, teaches a 45-minute lesson to all students in K-5. The lesson is designed to guide students toward positive choices represented by the Keys of Excellence. Posters of the keys and their meanings are displayed in classrooms as positive behavior reminders for students. VSE Super Citizens are selected monthly based on criteria of the Eight Keys. Daily morning announcements include a recitation of one of the 25 VSE Virtues tied directly to the Keys of Excellence.



This year, VSE is incorporating the Ron Clark House System into its school community. Each house correlates to one of the Eight Keys. The relationships are:

- ♦ The House of Responsibility focuses on the key of Ownership. Be responsible and own the choices you make.
- ♦ The House of Respect encourages students to Speak with Good Purpose. Words are powerful. Think before you speak.
- ♦ The House of Perseverance relates to the Failure Leads to Success key. Don't give up! Learn from your mistakes.
- ♦ The House of Focus emphasizes the key This Is It! Focus your attention on the present moment. Keep a positive attitude.
- ♦ The House of Integrity naturally promotes the key Integrity. Match your behavior with your values. Demonstrate positive personal values in the way you talk, act, and treat others.

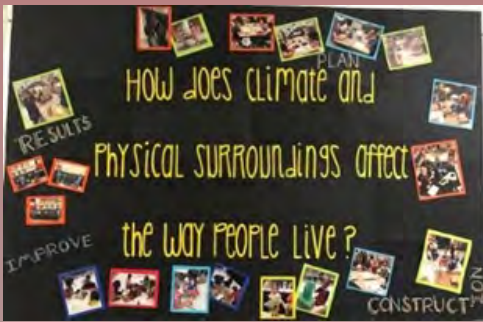
VSE is excited to place emphasis on the Eight Keys of Excellence for its students. It is also delighted with the positive impact the keys are already making in its school community.



Jack Anderson Elementary . . . Every Child, Every Day!



Jack Anderson Elementary School (JAE) began the school year with a renewed focus on the Quantum Learning Eight Keys of Excellence. The focus is on every child, every day. This is It! Teachers are finding ways to foster growth in students academically, emotionally, and socially through high expectations, rigorous instruction, student advocacy, and a team approach to educating young minds each and every day.



Weekly STEM challenges provide the perfect opportunity to exhibit Failure Leads to Success and Flexibility as students plan, create, observe, and test their theories. This year, students put the steps to work with the annual JAE Cardboard Challenge.



Students researched, planned, created, and presented designs directly correlated to Tennessee Social Studies Standards.



ROAR AWARDS

Recognizing the PAWSITIVE Influences of Students at JAE

R- RESPECT
O- OWNERSHIP
A- ATTITUDE
R- RESPONSIBILITY

When students exemplify extraordinary characteristics, they will be pictured on the ROAR Wall of Fame.

In an effort to recognize students for Living Above the Line, JAE also began awarding students with coveted ROAR Awards! Everyone at JAE is on the lookout for students who are deserving of the award. Traits, such as Integrity, Ownership, Speak with Good Purpose, and Commitment, are recognized. Students can be nominated

by any adult in the school. Students are celebrated with a special certificate and the excitement of seeing their names added to the ROAR board.



This fall, JAE helped students learn to Balance hard work and fun with a successful cross country season. This team of third, fourth, and fifth grade students met twice a week to train for meet competitions in September. Their efforts landed them at the Tennessee State Cross Country Meet on October 21, 2017, in Knoxville, Tennessee. The team finished strong with girls earning eighth place, and boys earning 13th place in the state!

Lakeside Park Elementary-Promoting Positive Behavior & Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence



OWNERSHIP – Take responsibility for actions

Be responsible for your thoughts, feelings, words, and actions. “Own” the choices you make and the results that follow.



Investing in student growth has been elevating to new heights at **Lakeside Park Elementary School (LPE)**. By incorporating components of Positive Behavior, LPE has enhanced its culture and community for both students and teachers. Schoolwide expectations, student and teacher recognitions, and reinforcements rewards are promoted to encourage students to pursue ownership and take responsibility for their actions. Students learn the value of positive behavior and making the right choices through Quantum Learning's living above the line. Faculty and staff support one another as well by participating in monthly nominations, shouts-outs, and special rewards. Expectations for each area of the building are posted and students strive to earn a Dolphin Dollar for various positive behaviors. The Positive Behavior Team collaborates to increase opportunities and support for students and teachers.



COMMITMENT – Make your dreams happen

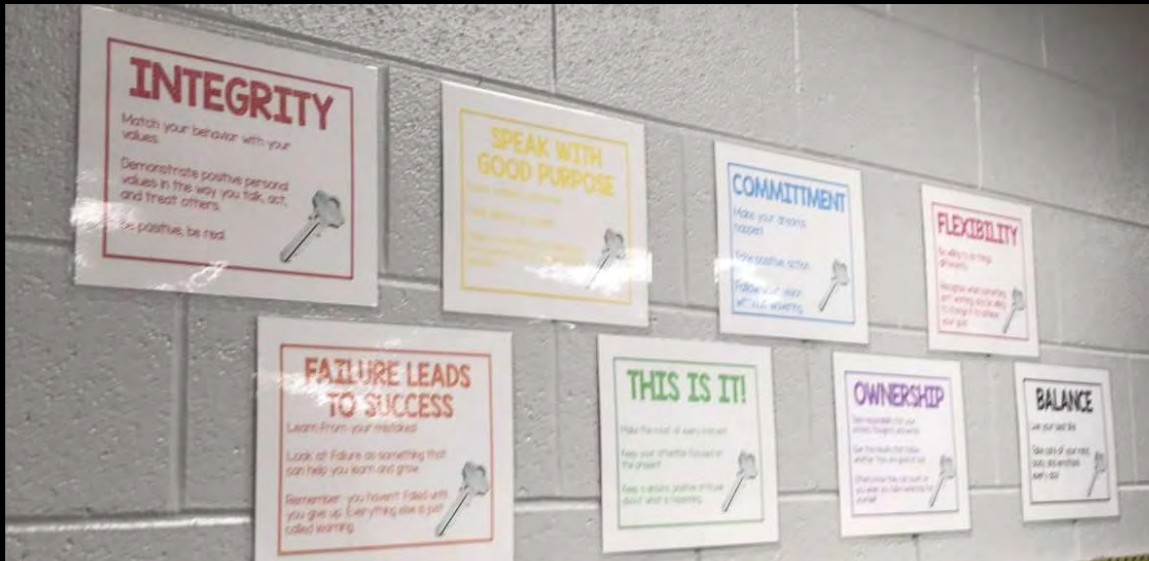
Take positive action. Follow your vision without wavering



Lakeside Park displays commitment to both students and the community. With 50 years of service to students, the vision and goals for student success continue to take priority. Teachers commit to student success and growth through positive actions.



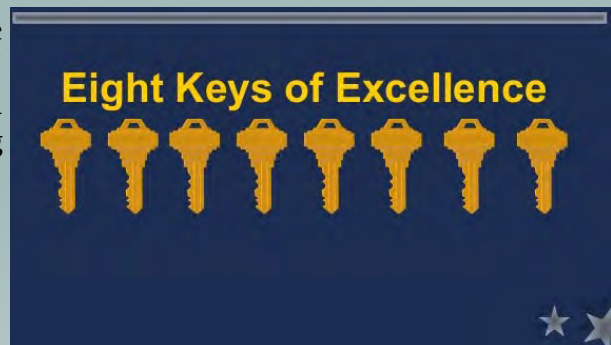
Related Arts and Eight Keys of Excellence at Walton Ferry Elementary



Walton Ferry Elementary School (WFE) teachers spent the first part of the school year teaching the Eight Keys of Excellence to students and establishing these characteristics as part of classroom culture. The keys are Speak with Good Purpose, Integrity, Failure Leads to Success, This is It!, Balance, Ownership, Flexibility, and Commitment. Beginning in October, the WFE Related Arts team will focus on a specific key monthly and began with Speak with Good Purpose.

For the remainder of the school year, the WFE Related Arts team will address a key each month in a way specific to each teacher's area of instruction. In P.E., WFE Wildcats will talk about how to Speak with Good Purpose in a competitive environment. With guidance, Wildcats will learn about the importance of speaking positively in making friends and character development. While in library, WFE students will analyze examples of book characters who speak with honesty and kindness (or not!) and apply the key to their lives. Finally, in music and art classes, Wildcats will examine and discuss the purpose or message of the "speaker" in song lyrics and visual expressions.

WFE faculty and staff believe when everyone has the same goals, the possibilities are limitless! The school is looking forward to witnessing all the positive changes that come from a year-long focus on the Eight Keys of Excellence.



Station Camp Elementary OWNS Its Bus Behavior!



Station Camp Elementary School (SCE) is applying the Eight Keys of Excellence to a new bus referral program that promotes Integrity and Ownership by students on a bus. SCE believes involvement creates ownership. The new bus referral program engages students in fun competition to determine which bus and students will go the longest without receiving discipline referrals.

Each day a bus and students do not have a discipline referral, the bus receives a point on its school bus poster. "Students are able to reflect upon their choices and overall bus behavior by looking at a display that tallies their days without a referral," explains Jennifer Mitchell, a fourth grade teacher at SCE who leads the new bus program. The competition encourages students to commit to good behavior on a bus, so they can reach a desired goal. When a bus poster is filled with good behavior points, its student riders get rewarded! Students who reached a first goal received ice cream from SCE principal, Dr. Holt.

To assist in reaching behavior goals, a bus coach is assigned to each bus. Throughout the year, coaches explain the new bus program to students while encouraging and motivating them to get as many points as they can. In addition, the coaches monitor bus behavior, mentor students who are having difficulty following rules, issue behavior referrals, and design rewards for each point goal reached. Any bus coach may give a referral when necessary, and points are deducted from the bus poster. However, if a bus loses points, the coach will encourage students to take ownership for their actions and learn from their mistakes. Students are also reminded they can earn back points through changing behavior and making better choices.

If students recognize problematic issues on a bus, they may talk with a coach for guidance. "Students take ownership of behavior and hold others accountable for their actions by reporting to a coach if they see unacceptable choices on a bus. The coach then decides what action to take regarding the report. This allows us to address an issue quickly," says Ms. Mitchell.

The new bus program encourages SCE students to take ownership of behavior, learn from their mistakes, and commit to a positive and safe environment on a bus.





Spotlighting Positives in Sumner County Schools

Indian Lake Elementary Runners Excel at County Cross Country Meet

Indian Lake Elementary School (ILE) students Andrew Carrigan (third grade), Jackson Chaffin (third grade) and Ford Proctor (fourth grade) excelled at the Sumner County Cross Country meet held Saturday, October 14, 2017. All three boys ran an amazing mile. Ford ran a 6:22 for 8th place. Jackson ran a 7:22 for 30th place, and this time was a minute faster than he has ever run! Andrew ran a 7:41 for 37th place. All three qualified for the Tennessee State Championship in Knoxville on October 21, 2017. ILE is very proud of these boys and their accomplishments!



Indian Lake Elementary gets a Playground Facelift

The last few years, **Indian Lake Elementary School (ILE)** PTO has been hard at work raising money to provide the school's K-2 and 3-5 playgrounds with much needed facelifts. They achieved this goal recently by adding some new play equipment, along with soccer goals, to the K-2 playground. In addition, the 3-5 playground had concrete poured for a four-square court, soccer goals installed, and a backstop for kickball added. Other items provided for students' use were sidewalk chalk, jump ropes, basketballs, footballs, and kickballs. ILE students are excited every day to use these wonderful items and are extremely appreciative of the time, dedication, and commitment that went into their renovated playgrounds. The students offer a huge "Thank you!" to ILE PTO, parents, and volunteers!



2017-18 Portland Lady Panthers Volleyball Team Wins TSSAA Class AA State Title



On October 19, 2017, the Portland Lady Panthers Volleyball Team (PHS) won four sets against the Knoxville Catholic Girls Volleyball Team to take the TSSAA Class AA state championship! This was the first state championship win for the PHS volleyball program. Sumner County Schools is proud of the team's hard work, dedication, and perseverance!

Sumner County Schools Named an Exemplary District by TDOE

Dr. Del Phillips, Sumner County Director of Schools, is pleased to announce that Sumner County Schools (SCS) has been named a 2017 Exemplary District. Under Tennessee's accountability system, districts must increase achievement levels for all students and show faster growth in achievement for the students who are furthest behind in order to reduce achievement gaps. Districts designated as exemplary are exceeding the growth expectation for the "all students" and in each of the "historically underserved student groups" categories.

"This is really exciting," Dr. Phillips said. "This is what we have been working toward as a district the past few years. This proves that all the efforts we have made over the past few years to expand educational opportunities for our students are paying off." Dr. Jennifer Brown, SCS Deputy Director of Schools, stated, "This designation, a first for Sumner County, is proof of the intentionality and strategic planning in which all of our schools continue to progress monitor, not only school successes, but the successes of each and every student."

Sumner County Schools is one of only 48 school districts from Tennessee's 146, with just four from Middle Tennessee, to receive this distinguished laurel. Dr. Brown was quick to acknowledge the collaborative effort of all SCS stakeholders in acquiring this coveted distinction. "This win is because of each and every one of the SCS employees," Dr. Brown praised. "This is a team win, and our teachers, principals, office workers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, nurses, and district leadership should all be applauded. We must not fail to mention our students, parents, and other community leaders such as our Board Members and County Commissioners. We are extremely blessed in Sumner County to have the best students, parents, and educational servants!"

Sumner County Schools All-County Eighth Grade Choir and Art Showcase



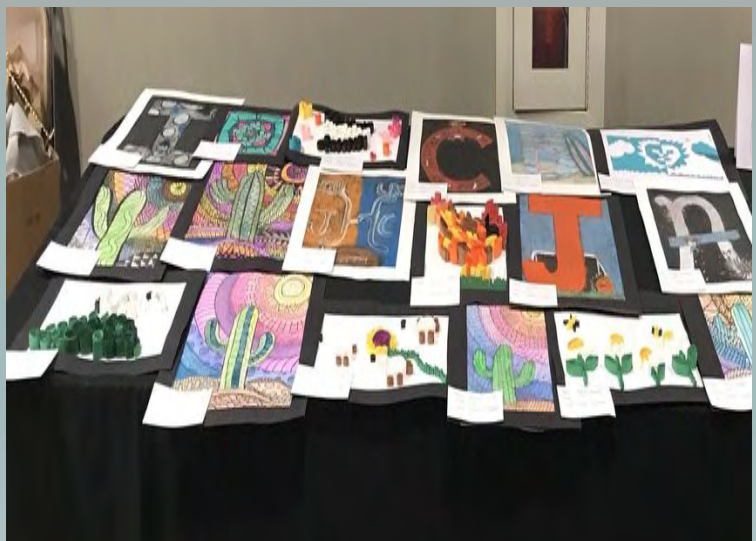
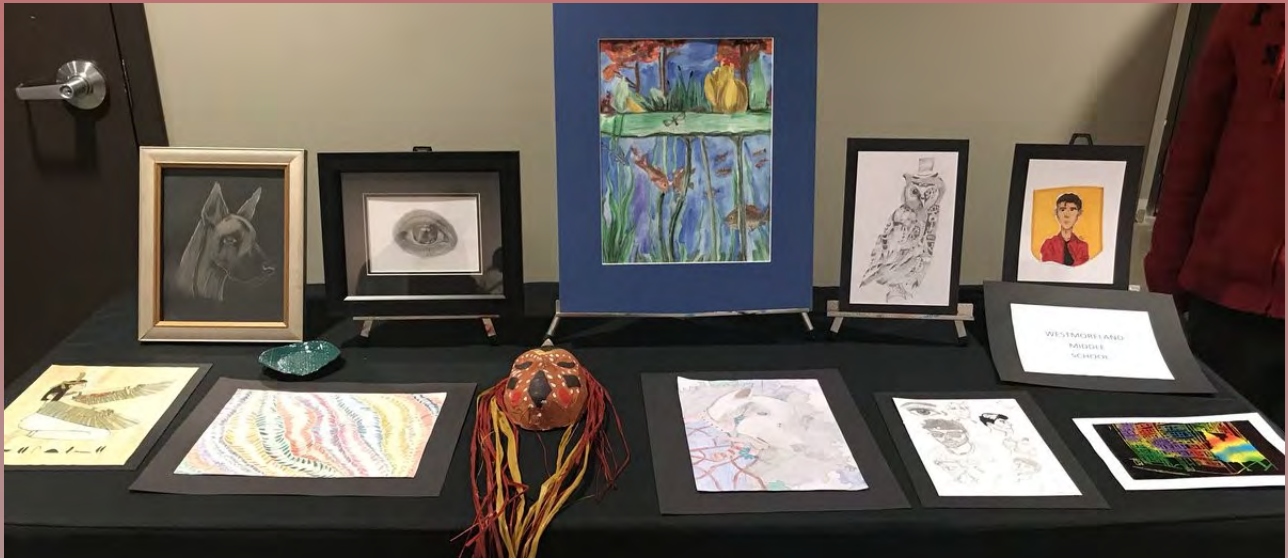
The second annual Sumner County Schools (SCS) Eighth Grade Choir and Art Showcase was held November 2, 2017, at Long Hollow Baptist Church. Over 300 students from 11 middle schools across the district worked with clinician James Wells to combine their voices on three selections each individual choir had previously studied. The day's work culminated in a community performance that evening. Prior to the musical performance, eighth grade student art from multiple middle schools was displayed for community viewing.

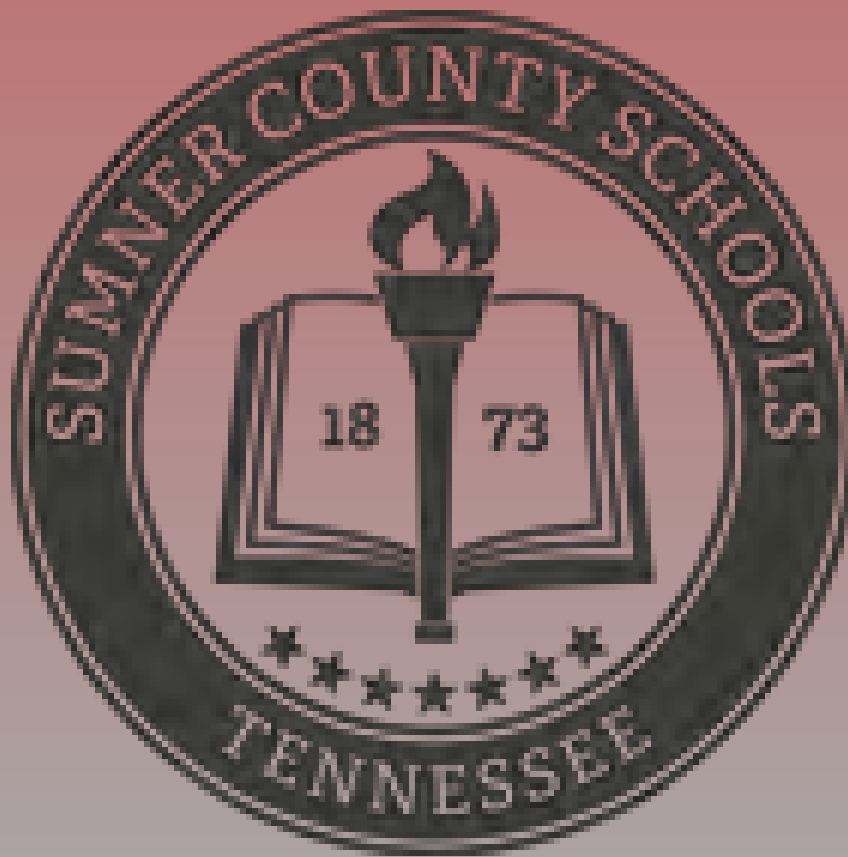


Sumner County Schools All-County Eighth Grade Choir and Art Show



Sumner County Schools All-County Eighth Grade Choir and Art Showcase





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.