

Great Things are Happening at Chattanooga Center for Creative Arts

Working Hard Together: HCDE, PEF and CCA

Hamilton County schools and the Public Education Foundation are strong partners in providing training for teachers, helping principals become more effective school leaders, improving literacy in elementary schools, and improving secondary education in Hamilton County. CCA has made great use of this partnership:

- Principal **Deborah Smith** collaborates with other Hamilton County principals in regular meetings and annual leadership institutes.
- Instructional coach **Melanie Biederman** and teachers **Darlene Johnston** and **Kelly Kuhn** have gained leadership skills through the Leadership Fellows program.
- As a result of HCDE/PEF's secondary school reform initiatives, **Ms. Biederman**, math coach **Lydia Cordes**, and college access coordinator **Stacy Lightfoot** work hard to boost student success at CCA.
- Ms. Biederman** has also participated in the Osborne Fellows program to earn a Master's degree in urban education.
- With funds from PEF, CCA educators have formed a book club to help hone their effective teaching methods. Books include *Assessing Student Outcomes*, *Cooperative Learning Structures* and others.

Visit CCA online at www.centerforcreativearts.net

*There are excellent teachers in every school in Hamilton County. Learn about 20 of them (including CCA's **Allan Ledford!**), visit their classrooms and tell your own story at www.pefchattanooga.org/ExcellentTeachers.*

Good News! Tests will be harder!

Why is that good news? Because the state is raising its academic standards as part of the Tennessee Diploma Project (<http://tn.gov/TDP/>), beginning with tests taken in spring of 2010. Test scores are likely to dip at first, but they will rise quickly to meet the new standards, and Tennessee's students – your children – will be better prepared to compete for good jobs in our global economy.

2009 Report Card

Highlights:

- 66.8% of middle school students scored **advanced** in math – up from 29% in 2005.
- 69.3% of middle school students scored **advanced** in reading – up from 51% in 2005.
- 97% of high school students scored **proficient or advanced** in math – up from 45% in 2003.
- 100% of high school students scored **proficient or advanced** in English – up from 91% in 2003.

K-8 Achievement (NCLB)				
	Proficient & Advanced		Advanced	
	School	District	School	District
Math	99%	89%	66.8%	44.8%
Lang Arts	99%	90%	69.3%	39.3%

9-12 Achievement (NCLB)				
	Proficient & Advanced		Advanced	
	School	District	School	District
Math	97%	89%	44.3%	42.9%
Lang Arts	100%	96%	85%	63.1%

	School	District
ACT 3 yr composite	20.9	19.5
Graduation rate	93.3%	72.6%

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HCDE and PEF: Partners for Strong Schools

The Public Education Foundation (PEF) is a local non-profit organization that partners with the Hamilton County Department of Education (HCDE) to improve student achievement by improving public schools.

PEF contributes:

- Research into best practices
- Training for teachers and school leaders
- Opportunities for educators to share great ideas
- Fundraising to support this work

Together, HCDE and PEF are changing education in Hamilton County, and changing students' lives. Learn more at www.HCDE.org or www.pefchattanooga.org.

Reinventing Middle School Education

Since 2005, CCA has benefited from PEF and HCDE's middle school reform initiative, an \$8.5 million program involving all county middle schools. Funded by the Lyndhurst Foundation, this initiative focuses on helping each school develop its own individual plan to help as many students as possible score "advanced" in literacy and math.

New Initiatives

Teacher Residency - Like a medical residency program that provides "on-the-job training" for doctors, teacher residents will spend a year working with a master teacher in the classroom while also taking classes to earn a master's degree and a teaching certificate. Recruits will specialize in math, science, or other hard-to-fill subject areas.

Principal Leadership Academy - It's not easy being a principal! This year, HCDE and PEF will provide a series of workshops for 15-20 assistant principals to help prepare them to move smoothly into the responsibility of being a principal. HCDE, PEF, the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce and UT Chattanooga are currently developing a full-scale Academy that will provide more intensive training, mentoring and support for assistant principals who are likely to become principals.

College Begins in Kindergarten

PEF has recently merged with the local College Access Center - a long-standing partner in our college access work. With help from the Hamilton County Department of Education and the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga, we have placed part-time college advisors in every high school in Hamilton County, and are working to encourage students to start thinking as early as middle school about post-high school college or technical training.

Partly as a result of this work, the number of graduates who enrolled in college from CCA increased from 89.6% in 2004 to 97.4% in 2008.

Get info on helping your child go to college at www.pefchattanooga.org/CollegeAccess