

Great Things are Happening at Normal Park Museum Magnet School

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

The HCDE/PEF Leadership Initiative touches every public school in Hamilton County through training for principals and other school leaders. Other comprehensive initiatives have contributed to deep reform work in every high school, every middle school and 16 elementary schools throughout the district. PEF has contributed over \$50 million to Hamilton County schools in the last eight years.

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

[About PEF](#)

[Receive updates and podcasts on school reform](#)

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Reinventing Middle School Education

In the fall of 2008, Normal Park inaugurated its middle school program and became part of PEF and HCDE's middle school reform initiative, an \$8.5 million program involving all county middle schools. Funded by the Lyndhurst Foundation and the National Education Association 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. As a result of this initiative, students across the district are more engaged in their education, test scores are rising, and students leave middle school better prepared for the rigors of high school.

The Leadership Initiative

Through HCDE and PEF's partnership, the Leadership Initiative provides resources to help principals and teachers become strong leaders of deep change in their schools. Leadership institutes and literacy and math institutes create opportunities for teachers and principals from across the district to work together learning proven strategies for school improvement. Leadership Fellows provides training for aspiring school leaders. With funding by the Annenberg Foundation, the Leadership Initiative is building strong leaders to transform education in Hamilton County.



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Working Hard Together: HCDE, PEF and Normal Park

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. Normal Park has made great use of this partnership:

- Principal **Jill Levine**, assistant principal **Justin Robertson**, and principal trainees **Robin Cayce** and **Haley Brown** collaborate with other Hamilton County principals in regular meetings and semi-annual leadership institutes.
- **Ms. Brown** has gained leadership skills through the Leadership Fellows program.
- With funding from PEF, county-wide literacy and math leaders help teachers improve student reading and math skills and integrate those subjects into all areas of study.

Leaders and teachers at Normal Park are innovative, committed educators. They work hard to provide an excellent education for their students and eagerly seek better ways to achieve that goal. As a partner to the Hamilton County Department of Education, the Public Education Foundation is proud to support this dedicated group of educators.

Visit Normal Park online at
www.normalparkmuseummagnet.com

Student Achievement is Climbing

2008 TCAP Scores (K-5th grades, NCLB)

Math:

97% proficient or advanced, up from 71% in 2003.
57% advanced, an improvement from 22% in 2003.

Reading:

98% proficient or advanced, up from 73% in 2003.
62% advanced, an increase from 28% in 2003.

Value-Added (TVAAS) Scores* (K-5th grades)

Reading: A since 2004
Science: A since 2005
Social Studies: A since 2005

State Writing Assessment Scores

5th Grade: A since 2005

- 2006—Featured in Creating Meaning through Literature and the Arts, Claudia Cornett
- 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008—Magnet School of Excellence Award
- 2006 and 2008—Creative Ticket Award, Tennessee Arts Commission
- 2005—Ronald P. Simpson Award, Magnet Schools of America
- 2005—Featured in Creating Successful Magnet School Programs, US Dept. of Education
- 2008—John F. Kennedy Center School of Distinction Award (one of five schools in the nation selected)
- Partner in a three-year, \$500,000 grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences to further develop museum connections

*"Value-added" scores measure student progress within a grade and subject. A value-added score of A indicates exceptional growth, meaning that students in this school made significantly more progress in this subject than students in the average school in the state. Reported scores are 3-year averages.



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