

Great Things are Happening at Chattanooga School for the Liberal Arts

Working Hard Together: HCDE, PEF and CSLA

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

- Principal **Krystal Scarbrough** collaborates with other Hamilton County principals in regular meetings and annual leadership institutes.
- **Ms. Scarbrough**, instructional coach **Cindy Gaston**, and teachers **Melanie Commander**, **Diane Hoilman**, **Jane Varnell** and **Charlotte Vlasis** have gained leadership skills through the Leadership Fellows program.
- As a result of HCDE/PEF's middle school reform initiative, instructional coach **Cindy Gaston** works hard to boost student success at CSLA.
- Teacher **Karen Jones** has participated in the Osborne Fellows program to earn a Master's degree in urban education.
- Members of CSLA's leadership team have visited high-performing schools to observe effective practices; a consultant was hired to train and support teachers as they implement CSLA's Paideia philosophy; and new achievement data have been made available to teachers to help improve instruction.
- As part of a Networked Learning Community, CSLA leaders communicate regularly with leaders from Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences, Center for Creative Arts, and Sale Creek Middle/High to share ideas for school improvement in math and literacy.
- CSLA educators have formed book clubs for elementary and middle school teachers to hone effective teaching methods.

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.

“When you walk through those doors (at CSLA), you walk into your second family.”
Alec Singleton, Grade 7

2009 Report Card

Highlights:

- 62.8% scored **advanced** in reading – up from 57% in 2005.

Achievement (NCLB)				
	Proficient & Advanced		Advanced	
	School	District	School	District
Math	99%	89%	71.8%	44.8%
Lang Arts	98%	90%	62.8%	39.3%

	Academic Achievement
Math	A
Reading/Lang	A
Social Studies	A
Science	A

Learn about 20 excellent teachers (including CSLA's Charlotte Vlasis!) and tell your own story at www.pefchattanooga.org/ExcellentTeachers.



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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, CSLA 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.

Visit CSLA online at www.hcschools.org/csla

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 CSAS, where many CSLA students go to high school, increased from 92.3% in 2004 to 95.1% in 2008. For more on CSAS, go to www.pefchattanooga.org/CSAS.

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