

# Great Things are Happening at East Lake Academy of Fine Arts

## Working Hard Together: HCDE, PEF and East Lake

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. East Lake has made great use of this partnership:

- Principal **LeAndrea Ware** collaborates with other Hamilton County principals in regular meetings and annual leadership institutes.
- **Ms. Ware**, assistant principal **Andrea Edmondson** and teachers **Michael McKamey** and **Henry Billen** have gained leadership skills through the Leadership Fellows program.
- As a result of HCDE/PEF's middle school reform initiative, model classroom teachers **Jessica McKittrick** and **Tandra Garrett** work hard to boost student success at East Lake.
- Teacher **Crysti Wilson** has participated in the Osborne Fellows program to earn a Master's degree in urban education.
- As part of a PEF-funded Networked Learning Community, East Lake leaders communicate regularly with leaders from Calvin Donaldson Elementary, East Lake Elementary, East Side Elementary, Orchard Knob Elementary, Clifton Hills Elementary, and Howard School of Academics and Technology to develop a plan for improving student success from kindergarten through high school.

*There are excellent teachers in every school in Hamilton County. Learn about 20 of them (including East Lake teacher **Michael McKamey**!) and tell your own story at [www.pefchattanooga.org/ExcellentTeachers](http://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:

- 17.5% scored **advanced** in math – up from 14% in 2005.
- 14.8% scored **advanced** in reading – up from 10% in 2005.
- 87.1% scored **proficient or advanced** in writing – up from 80% in 2007.
- 23.3% scored **advanced** in writing – up from 20% in 2007.

Achievement (NCLB)				
	Proficient & Advanced		Advanced	
	School	District	School	District
Math	77%	89%	17.5%	44.8%
Lang Arts	82%	90%	14.8%	39.3%

“Some schools allow students to give up but East Lake cares.”

- Victoria Gray, Grade 7

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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](http://www.HCDE.org) or [www.pefchattanooga.org](http://www.pefchattanooga.org).

## Reinventing Middle School Education

*Since 2005, East Lake Academy 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, 52.8% of 2008 graduates from Howard, where many East Lake students are zoned, enrolled in college the following fall. For more on Howard, go to [www.pefchattanooga.org/Howard](http://www.pefchattanooga.org/Howard).

**Get info on helping your child go to college at [www.pefchattanooga.org/CollegeAccess](http://www.pefchattanooga.org/CollegeAccess)**

