

Great Things are Happening at East Ridge High School

Working Hard Together: HCDE, PEF and East Ridge

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 Ridge has made great use of this partnership:

- Principal **Ron Peck** collaborates with other Hamilton County principals in regular meetings and annual leadership institutes.
- Assistant principal **Sonja Rich** and teachers **John Wilbourn, Lon Eilders** and **Kim Brown** have gained leadership skills through the Leadership Fellows program.
- As a result of HCDE/PEF's high school reform initiative, college access coordinator **Mary Bryan** works hard to boost student success at East Ridge.
- Through the high school reform initiative, East Ridge developed a career-based Construction Academy and a 9th grade academy to make learning more engaging.
- As part of a PEF-funded Networked Learning Community, East Ridge leaders communicate regularly with leaders from elementary, middle, and high schools in the East Ridge and Lookout Valley areas to plan for improving student success from kindergarten through high school.
- A love of learning has led teachers and administrators to form a book club focused on honing their craft as educators. Shared book titles include: *Beyond Monet* and *Dealing With People You Can't Stand: How to Bring Out the Best In People At Their Worst*.

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:

- 94% scored **proficient or advanced** in math – up from 42% in 2003.
- 92% scored **proficient or advanced** in language arts – up from 81% in 2003.
- The graduation rate increased to 72.5% - up from 58% in 2003.

9-12 Achievement (NCLB)				
	Proficient & Advanced		Advanced	
	School	District	School	District
Math	94%	89%	41.8%	42.9%
Lang Arts	92%	96%	53.3%	63.1%

	School	District
ACT 3 yr Composite	18.4	19.5
Graduation Rate	72.5%	72.6%

There are excellent teachers in every school in Hamilton County. Learn about 20 of them (including ERHS teacher **Deidre Edwards!**) 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 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.

“Hamilton County’s public high schools have made considerable progress in the last five years as measured by a variety of important yardsticks.”

- *Chattanooga Time Free Press*
editorial, September, 2007

Visit ERHS online at: www.eastridgehigh.org

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 half-day 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, 54.2% of East Ridge’s 2008 graduates enrolled in college the following fall. HCDE, PEF and East Ridge High are working hard to increase this number so that all students have the opportunity to succeed in school and in life.

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