

# Great Things are Happening at East Ridge Middle 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, and improving secondary education in Hamilton County. East Ridge has made great use of this partnership:

- Principal **Steve Robinson** collaborates with other Hamilton County principals in regular meetings and annual leadership institutes.
- **Mr. Robinson**, assistant principal **Sharlene Hargrove** and teachers **Israel Bobe**, **Wayne Dickson**, **Patty Arbuckle**, and **Mary Patterson** have gained leadership skills through the Leadership Fellows program.
- As a result of HCDE/PEF's middle school reform initiative, instructional coach **Laura Hamilton** works hard to boost student success at East Ridge.
- Through the reform initiative, members of East Ridge's leadership team have visited high-performing schools to observe effective practices and new achievement data have been made available to teachers to help improve instruction.
- 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.

Visit East Ridge online at [www.hcschools.org/erm](http://www.hcschools.org/erm)

## 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:

- 34% scored **advanced** in math – up from 25% in 2005.
- 32.6% scored **advanced** in reading – up from 26% in 2005.

Achievement (NCLB)				
	Proficient & Advanced		Advanced	
	School	District	School	District
Math	85%	89%	34.0%	44.8%
Lang Arts	89%	90%	32.6%	39.3%

“I used to hate science but my teacher made it fun, so now I love it!”

- Libby Worley, Grade 8

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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 Ridge 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, 54.2% of 2008 graduates from East Ridge High, where many East Ridge students are zoned, enrolled in college the following fall. For more on East Ridge, go to [www.pefchattanooga.org/EastRidgeHigh](http://www.pefchattanooga.org/EastRidgeHigh).

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

