

Great Things are Happening at Lookout Valley Elementary School

Working Hard Together: HCDE, PEF and Lookout Valley

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

- Lookout Valley principal **Justin Robertson** collaborates with other Hamilton County principals in regular meetings and annual leadership institutes.
- Teachers **Bonnie Piatt** and **Kathy Campbell** have gained leadership skills through the Leadership Fellows program.
- Lookout Valley's successful reading instruction program is reinforced by new teaching methods that were proven highly effective in Hamilton County's elementary reform initiative.
- As part of a PEF-funded Networked Learning Community, Lookout Valley leaders communicate regularly with leaders from East Ridge High, East Ridge Middle, Lookout Valley Middle/High, Spring Creek Elementary, McBrien Elementary and East Ridge Elementary to develop a plan for improving student success from kindergarten through high school.
- With funding from PEF, Lookout Valley educators have formed a book club to hone effective teaching practices. They will be discussing *Rigor is Not a Four Letter Word*, *Rigor and Relevance Handbook*, and *Differentiated Literacy Centers*.

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:

- 31.7% scored **advanced** in reading – up from 28.4% in 2003
- Scored an 'A' on the 5th grade writing assessment for the past 5 years
- 82% scored **proficient or advanced** in language arts – up from 77% in 2008.
- 78% scored **proficient or advanced** in math – up from 73% in 2008.

| | Achievement (NCLB) | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Proficient & Advanced | | Advanced | |
| | School | District | School | District |
| Math | 78% | 88.9% | 30.6% | 44.8% |
| Lang Arts | 82% | 89.8% | 31.7% | 39.3% |

| Value-Added* | School |
|----------------|--------|
| Math | A |
| Reading/Lang | B |
| Social Studies | B |
| Science | C |

***Value-added" scores measure student progress within a grade or 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.

Great Things are Happening at Lookout Valley Elementary 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

Together, HCDE and PEF are changing education in Hamilton County, and changing students' lives.

Learn more at www.HCDE.org or www.pefchattanooga.org.

Elementary Reform

The Benwood Initiative is a nationally renowned, highly successful school improvement initiative that began in 2001 in Hamilton County's eight most challenged elementary schools. Lessons learned are being shared with other elementary schools, including Lookout Valley, through a principals' network and other types of professional development.

There are excellent teachers in every school in Hamilton County. Read about 20 of them, visit their classrooms, and tell your own story at www.pefchattanooga.org/ExcellentTeachers.

Exciting 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, 70% of 2008 graduates from Hamilton County high schools enrolled in college the following fall.

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