

# Great Things are Happening at Normal Park Museum Magnet School

## Working Hard Together: HCDE, PEF and Normal Park

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. Normal Park has made great use of this partnership:

- Principal **Jill Levine**, upper school site principal **Robyn Cayce** and lower school site principal **Haley Brown** collaborate with other Hamilton County principals in regular meetings and annual leadership institutes.
- **Ms. Brown** and teachers **Lindie Roden** and **Amy Willard** have gained leadership skills through the Leadership Fellows program.
- As part of middle school improvement efforts, county-wide literacy and math leaders help teachers boost reading and math skills and integrate those subjects into all areas of study.
- Normal Park educators have formed a book club to help focus on effective teaching methods. They are reading and discussing *Instructional Rounds In Education: A Network Approach to Improving Teaching and Learning*.

“I know what high quality work is – it’s Normal Park work. It’s work for excellence.”

- Chaz Whitten, Grade 5

*There are excellent teachers in every school in Hamilton County. Read about 20 of them and visit their classrooms 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:

- 55.8% scored **advanced** in math – up from 22% in 2003.
- 50.1% scored **advanced** in reading – up from 28% in 2003.
- Normal Park has won many awards, including:
  - 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 – Magnet School of Excellence Award
  - 2008 – John F. Kennedy Center School of Distinction Award (one of 5 schools in the nation selected)

Achievement (NCLB)				
	Proficient & Advanced		Advanced	
	School	District	School	District
Math	97%	89%	55.8%	44.8%
Lang Arts	97%	90%	50.1%	39.3%

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

\*“Value-added” scores measure student progress within a grade or subject. An ‘A’ indicates exceptional growth, meaning that students made significantly more progress than students in the average school in the state. Scores are 3-year averages.

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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, Normal Park 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 Normal Park online at [www.normalparkmuseummagnet.com](http://www.normalparkmuseummagnet.com)

## 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, the number of graduates who enrolled in college from Red Bank High, where many Normal Park Upper students are zoned, increased from 63.9% in 2004 to 76.9% in 2008. For more on Red Bank, go to [www.pefchattanooga.org/RedBankHigh](http://www.pefchattanooga.org/RedBankHigh).

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