

Great Things are Happening at Orchard Knob Middle School

Working Hard Together: HCDE, PEF and Orchard Knob

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. Orchard Knob has made great use of this partnership:

- Principal **Maryo Beck** collaborates with other Hamilton County principals in regular meetings and annual leadership institutes.
- **Mr. Beck**, assistant principals **Ursula Greene** and **Blake Freeman**, instructional coach **Lucy Nealy** and teachers **Rachel Burgess** and **Teresa Kelly** have gained leadership skills through the Leadership Fellows program.
- As a result of HCDE/PEF's middle school reform initiative, model classroom teachers **LaShandra Rivers** and **Carlene Conway** work hard to boost student success at Orchard Knob.
- Through the reform initiative, members of Orchard Knob's leadership team have visited high-performing schools to observe effective practices, and students, parents, and teachers have had input into the reform process through yearly surveys.
- **Ms. Burgess** and **Ms. Kelly** have participated in the Osborne Fellows program to earn a Master's degree in urban education.

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.

“In Chattanooga, we are seeing gains across the board.”
- Harriet Sanford, President & CEO of the NEA Foundation, November 2008 press release

2009 Report Card

	Achievement (NCLB)			
	Proficient & Advanced		Advanced	
	School	District	School	District
Math	66%	89%	11.5%	44.8%
Lang Arts	67%	90%	9.9%	39.3%

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.

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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 or www.pefchattanooga.org.

Reinventing Middle School Education

Since 2005, Orchard Knob 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, 52.7% of 2008 graduates from Brainerd High and 52.8% of graduates from Howard, where many Orchard Knob Middle students are zoned, enrolled in college the following fall. For more on these schools, go to www.pefchattanooga.org/Brainerd or www.pefchattanooga.org/HSAT

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



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