

Great Things are Happening at Red Bank High School

Working Hard Together: HCDE, PEF and Red Bank

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. Red Bank has made great use of this partnership:

- Principal **Gail Chuy** collaborates with other Hamilton County principals in regular meetings and annual leadership institutes.
- Teacher **Elaine Harper** has gained leadership skills through the Leadership Fellows program.
- As a result of HCDE/PEF's high school reform initiative, college access coordinator **Brenda K. McEntyre** works hard to boost student success at Red Bank.
- Through the high school reform initiative, Red Bank developed career based academies—Health Careers; Math, Science, Technology; Education; Humanities & Fine Arts; Leadership; and Communications—and a 9th grade academy to make learning more engaging.

*There are excellent teachers in every school in Hamilton County. Read about 20 of them (including Red Bank teacher **Elaine Harper!**), visit their classrooms, and tell your own story at 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.

Visit Red Bank online at: www.rblions.com

2009 Report Card

Highlights:

- 86% scored **proficient or advanced** in math – up from 79% in 2003.
- Red Bank's graduation rate increased to 75.9% - up from 66% in 2003.

9-12 Achievement (NCLB)				
	Proficient & Advanced		Advanced	
	School	District	School	District
Math	86%	89%	33.5%	42.9%
Lang Arts	93%	96%	57.4%	63.1%

	School	District
ACT 3 yr Composite	20.4	19.5
Graduation Rate	75.9%	72.6%

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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.

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, the number of graduates from Red Bank High who enrolled in college the following fall increased from 63.9% in 2004 to 76.9% in 2008.

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