

Great Things are Happening at Sequoyah High School

Working Hard Together: HCDE, PEF and Sequoyah

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. Sequoyah has made great use of this partnership:

- Principal **Todd Jackson** collaborates with other Hamilton County principals in regular meetings and annual leadership institutes.
- As a result of HCDE/PEF's high school reform initiative, college access coordinator **Karen McGhee** works hard to boost student success at Sequoyah.
- Through the high school reform initiative, Sequoyah developed career-based learning academies—Actively Improving Mankind Academy (Health Sciences Education, Cosmetology, Early Childhood Development), an Academy of Communications and Technology, a Transportation, Engineering, Automotive & Manufacturing Academy, and an Integrated Construction Technologies Academy—and a 9th grade academy to make learning more engaging.
- As part of a PEF-funded Networked Learning Community, Sequoyah leaders communicate regularly with leaders from Soddy Daisy High, Loftis Middle, Soddy Daisy Middle, Daisy Elementary, Falling Water Elementary, North Hamilton County Elementary, McConnell Elementary and Allen Elementary to develop a plan for improving student success from kindergarten through high school.

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:

- 37% scored **advanced** in math – up from 13% in 2008.
- 49% scored **advanced** in language arts – up from 43% in 2008.

9-12 Achievement (NCLB)				
	Proficient & Advanced		Advanced	
	School	District	School	District
Math	91%	89%	36.8%	42.9%
Lang Arts	90%	96%	49.2%	63.1%

	School	District
ACT 3 yr Composite	15.2	19.5
Graduation Rate	63.8%	72.6%

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

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

