

Great Things are Happening at Tyner Middle Academy

Working Hard Together: HCDE, PEF and Tyner

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. Tyner has made great use of this partnership:

- Principal **Wendy Jung** collaborates with other Hamilton County principals in regular meetings and annual leadership institutes.
- **Ms. Jung**, assistant principal **Greg Wilkey** and teacher **Elias Smith** have gained leadership skills through the Leadership Fellows program.
- As a result of HCDE/PEF's middle school reform initiative, instructional coach **Joyce Perdue** works hard to boost student success at Tyner.
- Through the reform initiative, members of Tyner'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 surveys.
- As part of a PEF-funded Networked Learning Community, Tyner leaders communicate regularly with leaders from Tyner Middle Academy, Bess T. Shepherd Elementary and Lakeside Academy to develop a plan for improving student success in math from kindergarten through high school.

Learn about 20 Excellent Teachers (including Tyner teacher **Erica Schmidt!**) 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.

2009 Report Card

Highlights

- Tyner Middle scored a 'B' on Value-added* measures in Science.
- 94.4% scored proficient or advanced in writing – up from 78.3% in 2008.
- 23.4% scored **advanced** in writing – up from 12.6% in 2008.

Achievement (NCLB)				
	Proficient & Advanced		Advanced	
	School	District	School	District
Math	87%	89%	24%	44.8%
Lang Arts	90%	90%	25.3%	39.3%

*"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.

“Tyner is the coolest & best school anyone could go to. We have an incredible staff & abundance of clubs & sports to participate in. We follow the rules & keep everyone safe. Tyner is cool!”

- Erika Ellis, Grade 6

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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, Tyner Middle 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, the number of graduates who enrolled in college from Tyner Academy, where many Tyner Middle Academy students are zoned, increased from 67.4% in 2004 to 80% in 2008. For more, go to www.pefchattanooga.org/TynerAcademy

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

