

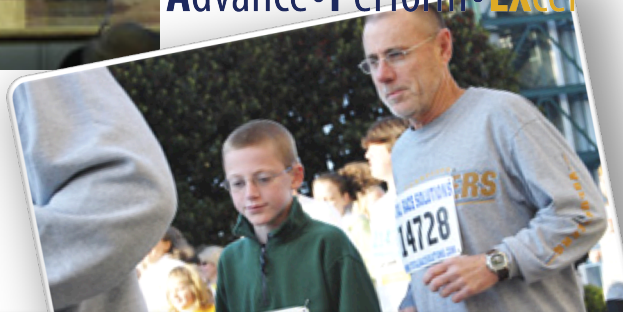
Knox County Schools

Benchmarks

Noteworthy News about KCS



FEBRUARY 2012



In this Issue:

State of the Schools Address, New KCS Merchandise Retail Sales and Licensing, Magnet Schools Information, Run for the Schools, Groundbreaking for new Southwest Sector School, Black History in Knoxville, Dates to Save

State of the Schools



Behind the Scenes



Career & Technical Education Students from Fulton, South-Doyle, Austin-East and Gresham worked behind the scenes with the KCS Public Affairs staff to help produce the event.

More than 400 guests attended the inaugural “State of the Schools Address and Report” given by Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools, at Gresham Middle School last month.

School Board Chairman Thomas Deakins, County Mayor Tim Burchett and [Great Schools Partnership](#) President Buzz Thomas also shared their perspectives on the importance of public education in our community.



The event was co-hosted by the [Knoxville Chamber of Commerce](#) and the [Knox County Council PTA](#). It provided an overview of academic progress in the Knox County Schools toward the goals outlined in its district-wide [Strategic Plan](#). The [Knox County Board of Education](#) approved the plan, entitled [Excellence for All Children](#), in 2009.



The report also highlighted the additional work necessary to provide our students with an excellent education in today’s increasingly competitive global

environment. The event provided attendees with information on how to best support public education in Knox County.

Continued on page 2

State of the Schools (continued)

Starts on page 1

Feedback from guests who attended included:

Mike Edwards

Knoxville Chamber of Commerce President and CEO

“We are pleased with the fact that both progress and remaining gaps were highlighted in the address. It was presented in the right way and got a great response from the community.”

Jennifer Evans, Vice President of Workforce Development and Education with the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, said, “The

message of we can do better was the right one and we are confident we can get there. The next challenge is to identify what it will take to get us there and how much that will cost. We all need to stand by the school system in this effort and support them however we can.”

Shannon Summer

Knox County Council PTA President

Shannon Summer, Knox County Council PTA President, said, “I thought the State of the School Address was a great opportunity for the our parents, teachers, administrators and community to hear what our school system has accomplished, what needs to be improved, and goals to accomplish it.

“The reception following was a great way for people with an interest in Knox County Schools

to get to know each other. I was very glad to see students involved in this event from music, video and catering,” she said.

“Now, as a community we must be willing to do our part by making sure that the school system receives the funds and additional support to make our school system the best possible school system for all Knox County Students.”

Jim Dickson, YWCA Chief Executive Officer, said, “I enjoyed attending the State of the Schools Address and remain encouraged by the community’s support of what everyone is doing to improve

the public education of our kids. I felt like it was very complimentary of what our teachers are doing to establish excellence.”

Achievement Gaps



Did you miss the State of the Schools Address?

If so, it’s not too late to see it. View it online at

www.knoxschools.org or tune in to KCS – TV on Comcast Cable Channel 10 or AT&T U-verse Channel 99 for daily rebroadcasts throughout the month of February at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.



Post Volunteer Opportunities online



“It was very easy to navigate, and it helps others throughout the community who are looking to give and/or volunteer with us.”

-Alison King
Project Grad Campus Manager
Dogwood Elementary School

KCS Volunteer Management System now active

Have a need in your school or classroom? The Knox County Schools recently introduced its new online volunteer management system.

“Our community is now able to access our school needs online and identify various needs that they may be able to assist with,” said Scott Bacon, partners in education supervisor. “We often get inquires at the district level, but until now we didn’t have a system to store them.”

Within 24-hours of its online launch, Alison King, the Project Grad Campus Manager with Dogwood Elementary School, received the first volunteer call from a University of Tennessee student looking to become a mentor.

“This is a great opportunity to utilize,” said King. “It was very easy to navigate, and it helps others throughout the community who are looking to give and/or volunteer with us.”

How to post Opportunities:

Logon the KCS Intranet and click on “Volunteer Management” in the left hand column. Follow the instructions there.

Needs of all sizes are welcome. Some of them range from volunteers needed to become mentors and others are for specific needs like art supplies. Those volunteers wishing to assist with students must be supervised by the classroom teacher or other school personnel.

The “Volunteer Registration” tab located on the top left column of www.knoxschools.org contains more information about how to post your classroom and/or volunteer needs in just a few clicks.

KCS Magnet School transfer period open through Feb. 20

The Knox County Schools Magnet Program is hosting several open houses where teachers, administrators, and magnet staff will be available to answer questions about specific programs available at each school.

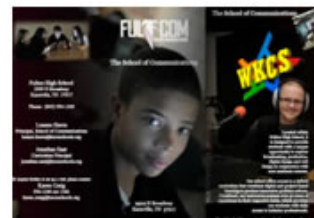
Magnet programs offer a choice in the educational process by presenting innovative and unique curricula integrated into everyday learning. Programs are committed to increasing educational opportunities for students while promoting students' interests, abilities and talents.

The Knox County Schools magnet program consists of [Beaumont Fine Arts & Honors Magnet Academy](#), [Sarah Moore Greene Technology Magnet Academy](#), [Vine Middle Performing Arts & Sciences Magnet School](#), [Austin-East Magnet High School](#), [L&N STEM Academy](#), and the [International Baccalaureate program at West High School](#).

The Knox County Board of Education recently voted to modify the magnet theme at [Greene Academy](#) from exclusively science and mathematics to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), while continuing to embrace its role as an “[Arts 360](#)” arts-integration school. The Board of Education also voted to designate the School of Communications at Fulton High School as a magnet program.

For more information about upcoming magnet school open houses, please visit the Magnet Schools page on our website at <http://www.knoxschools.org>.

Click for an online Interactive Book featuring Brochures



APEX: Always Going Up

Multiple measures for successful educators are key

Does a rock climber rely on a single-strand rope tied into a simple knot in order to scale a sheer rock face? No, every rope has multiple strands, and every knot is complex and checked more than once.

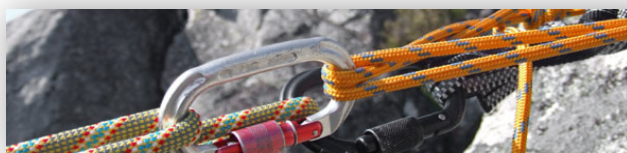
This is the strength of multiples.

When we want a precise measure of something, we look for more than one way to measure it. And then we combine those measures into a composite—a more “perfect” measure. This is the essence of multiple measures.

There has been much discussion about the use of achievement tests to measure students’ point-in-time performance, and in assessing student growth over a period of time based upon those test scores. Other measures for teaching effectiveness include evaluations based upon peer and principal observations within a specified rubric, classroom artifacts, student and teacher surveys, and teacher portfolios.

The point of multiple measures is that because no single measure is perfect, by combining several it is a more fair, reliable and meaningful approach to gauging success for educators, particularly when

it comes to high-stakes decisions impacting career growth and educator compensation. Studies such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s Measures of Effective Teaching Project seek to explore the available multiple measures and determine which, individually and in combination, most strongly relate to effective teaching.



You may ask yourself, “If education is about so much more than test scores, why do we spend so much time interpreting them?”

The positive side to test scores is that they quantify student achievement and provide a framework for analyzing it over time. The negative side to test scores is that they are not always the most reliable ways to measure student achievement. However imperfect, they are a valuable component of a system assessing student success and determining the role that teachers play in student outcomes.

Most systems of assessing educator effectiveness rely at least in part on student test scores. Ideally, the test scores are examined for both achievement (point-in-time) and growth purposes (over time). Rounding out any best-practices system of educator effectiveness should be other available measures that serve to “smooth out” any of the inherent imperfections that test scores may exhibit.

Advance • Perform • EXcel

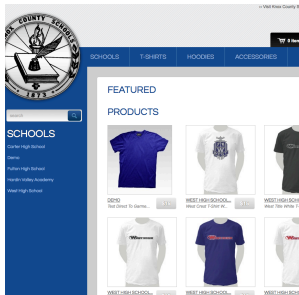


Knox County Schools receive first royalty check from retail sales of merchandise

Last year, the Knox County Board of Education voted to trademark and license apparel and other merchandise that displays school logos. As a result, the Knox County Schools receives a portion of the royalties generated from the merchandise sales that occur at various retail stores. School support organizations (such as PTAs and booster clubs) are exempt from paying licensing fees.

Walgreens was the first to issue a check of \$940 to Knox County Schools for the volume of merchandise it sold during its fourth quarter last year.

The Knox County Schools will soon launch an online store through its website at www.knoxschools.org.



Rusty Wallace Run for the Schools April 7, 2012

Date: April 7, 2012

5K run/walk: 8 a.m.

1 mile family fun walk: 8:15 a.m.

100 yard dash: 9:15 a.m.

Now the third largest race in Knoxville, Run For The Schools was established in 2007 to help promote healthy living and also raise money for local schools. Since its inception, The Run For The Schools has raised more than \$50,000 for participating schools, and hosted fun and entertainment for nearly 10,000 community members.

Schools raise money based on their participation. Upon registration, participants receive a t-shirt (designed by a Knox County art student that includes sponsor logos on the back) and a complimentary pass to the Knoxville Zoo following the race.

An art contest for the race t-shirt is held among art students of all ages. Art teachers submit student designs and the race committee votes on

the winning design which is featured on the front of every race t-shirt.

This year, Rusty Wallace has offered to contribute financially to sponsor the event in support of Knox County Schools.



The Rusty Wallace Race For The Schools will begin at 8 a.m. at Chilhowee Park and the Knoxville Zoo. Fun, family-friendly music sets the tone and vendors giveaway items such as: first aid kits, water bottles, bandanas and more! Kids enjoy dancing and face painting as they wait for the

race to begin.

Participants may select the 5k run/walk or the 1-mile family fun walk. The 5k is held through Chilhowee Park while the family fun walk is hosted by the Knoxville Zoo. Children 12 and under may also participate in the 100-yard dash.

For more information about how your school can be part of The Rusty Wallace Run For The Schools, please visit knoxshools.org or www.runfortheschools.org.



Ground broken for new Southwest Sector school

Knox County Schools Superintendent Dr. Jim McIntyre, members of the Knox County Board of Education, and Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett officially broke ground for a new elementary school in the southwest sector of the county on Thursday, February 2. The new school will be at 1889 Thunderhead Road (located in the Northshore Town Center).

The new 128,500 sq. ft. school will accommodate the current and projected population of school-aged children in this region of the county.

It is scheduled to open in August of 2013 accommodating approximately 1,200 students.



Board members Lynne Fugate, Thomas Deakins, Karen Carson, and Pam Trainor with Superintendent McIntyre.



February 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

February is Black History month

Celebrating Knoxville's impact on black history

Businessman, college president, journalist, poet, artist, lawyer, publisher, writer, educators, and civic leaders are only a few of the many roles being celebrated during this Month.

Our articles are compliments of Mr. Bob Booker whose research and subsequent writings over the years have become a treasure of black history in Knoxville. Much more about black history in Knoxville and Knoxville citizens' impact on national history can be found at the Beck Cultural Exchange Center, 1927 Dandridge Avenue.

People you will meet:

Dr. Henry Morgan Green served on city council from 1908 until 1912, but it would be another 100 years before the next black councilman was elected.

Laura Scott Cansler persuaded General Ambrose Burnside to let her open a school for free blacks in 1863. She named it "Burnside School" and became the city's first black teacher.

Ruth Cobb Brice, accomplished poet recognized in "1941 Poets of America", was a teacher at Heiskell Elementary. She was also an accomplished artist and painter.

Richard "Uncle Dick" Payne sold drinking water on the streets of Knoxville between 1844-1885 and became Knoxville's first noted black businessman. Harper's Weekly dubbed him "Knoxville Waterworks". Payne Avenue bears his name.

Save the Dates:

Knox County Board of Education Mid-Month Work Session

Monday, Feb. 13 at 5 p.m.

Andrew Johnson Bldg. – First Floor

Partners In Education Regional Conference

Wednesday, Feb. 15

Sarah Simpson Professional Development Center

Teacher of the Year Reception

Thursday, Feb. 16

Crowne Plaza

Presidents' Day - Student Holiday

Monday, Feb. 20

Knox County Schools Career Fair

Thursday, Feb. 23

Knoxville Expo Center

The Rusty Wallace Run For The Schools

Saturday, April 7

Knoxville Zoo



Important Personalities among Blacks in Knoxville

*Articles Compliments of Bob Booker (left)
Black Historian, Knoxville, TN*

Richard "Uncle Dick" Payne

*Businessman
1809-1888*

Mr. Payne is Knoxville's first noted black businessman. He sold drinking water on the streets of the city from 1844 to 1885. He got the water from different springs, filled the barrel on his horse cart and is said to have sold a million buckets of water during his lifetime.

Born a slave, he came to Knoxville February 12, 1843. He liked to mention that as a boy he lived next door to the future president of the United States, James K. Polk in Columbia, Tennessee. The Polk family members were friends to his mistress.

For 41 years he was the only extra water supply the city had and was portrayed in a Harper's Weekly magazine cartoon as "Knoxville's waterworks." The city honored him by naming the street he lived on "Payne Avenue."

Melvin J. R. Gentle

*Shoemaker, Elected Official, Civic organizer
1832-1902*

Mr. Gentle, a free man, came to Knoxville from North Carolina around 1857 and set up his shoemaking business on Central Street and was soon regarded one of the best shoemakers in the city. When slavery ended in 1865, he attended the Colored People's Convention in Nashville to get full rights for black citizens. He was elected chairman of the organization that was successful in getting black men the right to vote, sit on juries and to hold elective office.

On March 26, 1870 Gentle became the first black elected to the Knox County Quarterly Court, the forerunner of Knox County Commission. He served there for six years. In 1871 he helped to organize the Black Mechanics of Knoxville. He was elected to the city Board of Aldermen in 1875-1877 and was reelected in 1881. In 1880 Gentle became Knox County's first black deputy sheriff.

He was the Grandmaster of black Masons in Tennessee and due to his lucrative business was able to purchase several pieces of property. He and his wife often assisted black travelers with housing, clothing, and food when they passed through Knoxville.

William H. Franklin

*Preacher, College President, Journalist
1852-1935*

The young Mr. Franklin was able to attend school for just one month before the Civil War interrupted his education. He had barely learned to write his name. In 1864 he again was able to enroll during the occupancy of General Ambrose Burnside. In 1870 at the age of 18 he left Knoxville and began teaching in Hudsonville, MS.

In 1876 he enrolled at Maryville College where he was involved in a wide variety of civic activities including the effort to establish free public schools in Maryville. By 1878 he had become a prolific writer and contributed articles to the Knoxville Examiner, The Star of Tennessee, the New York Age and others.

He became the first black graduate of Maryville College in 1880, attended Lane Seminary in Cincinnati and became pastor of a Presbyterian Church in Rogersville, TN There he established Swift Memorial Junior College in 1883.

Webster L. Porter

*Editor-Publisher, lawyer, Community Activist
1888-1950*

Webster Porter was a student in the printing department at Knoxville College when he decided to publish his newspaper, The East Tennessee News in 1909. It began in a small print shop on north Gay Street just off Depot Avenue. It captured the essence of the black community with features on Austin High School, Knoxville College and local church activities. It put blacks in the society pages.

By 1925 the paper had subscribers throughout the United States. It was billed as the best selling newspaper in East Tennessee. Porter decided to attend law school at New York University and set up his practice here in 1938. He had served as a member of the Interracial commission of the South and was chairman of the Knox County Interracial Commission. President Herbert Hoover had appointed him as one of eleven blacks to establish a fitting memorial to black achievement in the United States.

In 1939 Porter was elected chairman of a committee to look after black interests with the Knoxville Housing Authority. In 1940 he resigned that position to become the first manager of the College Homes Housing project. Two years later he left that position and returned to his law practice.

Ruth Cobb Brice

Teacher, Writer, Artist
1899-1971



Ruth Cobb Brice attended grade school at Swift Memorial College in Rogersville where she also attended the Normal department and got her teaching certificate in 1918. In 1920 she taught 8th grade in Greeneville, TN before teaching in LaFollette and then coming to Knoxville and beginning her career at Heiskell Elementary School. During that period she took summer courses at Knoxville College and began to study art.

She began to write poetry and two of her poems appeared in "1941 Poets of America." They were "They Were My Wish," and "Our Fervent Prayer." Brice made history in 1948 when she became the first black woman to publish a significant booklet: "He Came.. . Saw. . . Conquered," the story of her pastor at Mt Zion Baptist Church. She had later publications and poems printed in national magazines.

Brice was a prolific painter who had at least 23 one man art exhibits across the country. Her works are in the hands of forty private collectors. She was the first black member of the Knoxville Art Center in 1954 and became the first black member of the Knoxville Water Color Society in 1968. She also taught at Maynard Elementary, and Sam E. Hill Elementary schools before retiring September 1, 1967.

Video: [Robert Booker speaks out about Ruth Cobb](#)

Ethel Benson Beck

Business Woman, Civic Leader
1896 —1970



Ethel Beck was born in Morristown, TN and got her high school education there at Morristown College. At age 17 she married James G. Beck in 1913 and moved to Knoxville. She took music courses at Knoxville College, but her business interests interrupted her studies.

She and her husband had invested in real estate and she operated the business alone. They bought private homes and business structures they could rent. Mrs. Beck was very involved in church and civic activities. In 1919 she was a part of the group that organized the Knoxville Colored

Orphanage on Brandau Avenue that later bore her name. She was elected president of the State PTA for black schools and Grand Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star organization.

Mrs. Beck was sports minded like her husband and for four years was superintendent of the Cal Johnson playground. In 1927 she played in a national tennis tournament in Bordentown, NJ. At the time of her death the Beck property was worth more than \$700,000.

[More about the Becks can be found at the Beck Cultural Exchange Center](#)

James Garfield Beck

Educator, Sportsman, Community Activist

1881 — 1969

James Beck graduated from Knoxville College in 1906 where he was a star athlete in baseball. He was active in drama groups and was an accomplished public speaker. He became principal of the black elementary school in Lonsdale and later headed the English department at Austin High School. He also taught night school at the YMCA.

In 1913 he became the first black postal clerk in Tennessee when he was hired by the Knoxville Post office. In 1919 he was one of the founding members of the Knoxville Chapter of the NAACP. He was a Sergeant-at-Arms at the Republican National Convention in Chicago in 1940. While an elder and treasurer of the First United Presbyterian Church, he was elected Moderator of the Presbytery November 7, 1942.

Beck was one of two black members of the Knoxville Community Chest. He was manager of the Knoxville jubilee Chorus that had more than 100 voices. In 1951 he was an unsuccessful candidate for City Council.

LAURA SCOTT CANSLER

Pioneer Educator, Civic Leader

1844 — 1926

Mrs. Cansler got her early training in the Quaker Community in Friendsville, TN. She also studied under the leadership of Rector Thomas Humes at St John's Episcopal Church. At age seventeen she decided to elope with Hugh Lawson Cansler in 1861. Her father thought she was too young to marry.

In 1863 when General Ambrose Burnside occupied the city during the Civil War, she got permission from him to open a school for free blacks. In that effort she became the city's first black teacher. She named the school "The Burnside School." It was located on Detroit Avenue in the University of Tennessee area. It later became a city school.

During a meeting here to organize the Women's Christian Temperance Union that drew 500 women, Mrs. Cansler was elected president of the organization. It was the first W.C.T.U. organized by black women in this area. The Canslers had eight boys and one girl. Most of them became educators.

A BRIEF GLIMPSE AT EDUCATION FOR BLACKS IN KNOXVILLE

Since there was no law in Tennessee prohibiting slaves from learning to read and write, one can see evidence of that in Knoxville's first newspaper the Knoxville Gazette which had ads to return runaway slaves, who "may forge a pass since he can read and write." Indeed, it was advantageous for slave owners who had skilled carpenters, brick masons and others who could read directions and figure.

Some were taught by the owner or his children, others and free blacks attended church organized schools that existed before the Civil War. Thomas Humes, rector of St John's Episcopal Church taught blacks, Maryville College taught blacks from the time it was established in 1819. The Creswell School was organized in 1864 and taught blacks until it merged with the McKee School of Nashville to form Knoxville College in 1875

The first city operated school for blacks was the Austin School at 327 Central Street that was organized by Emily Austin in 1879. The first Knox County school for blacks was the Fairview Elementary School on Dora Street in Mechanicsville that opened in 1875. The first high school class graduated from the 10th grade at Austin High School in 1888.

Austin High School

Austin High School was established at 327 Central Street in 1879 under the leadership of Miss Emily Austin, a white woman who had come to Knoxville in 1870 to teach black youngsters in church related schools. Believing that a grade school education was not enough, she returned to the North, raised \$6500 and asked the Knoxville Board of Education to contribute \$2000 to establish a high school for blacks.

By 1915 the Austin building had become overcrowded, dilapidated, and located in one of the city's worst vice districts. A new wing was added to the existing Green School on Payne Avenue to handle high school students and the name was changed to Knoxville Colored High School. By 1928 that building, too, had become inadequate so a new Austin High School was erected at the Corner of Vine Avenue and Preston Street.

It remained at that site until another Austin High School was built just a block away in 1952. The old building was renamed Vine Junior High School. In 1968 Austin High merged with East High to become Austin East High School.