

Knox County Schools

Benchmarks

Noteworthy News about KCS

September 2012

Say "Yes" when asked to purchase a Coupon Book



Sept. 6 - 24



Focus on Student:

KCS Getting Results

Graduation Rate



Test results, state reports verify progress

English
Mathematics
Reading
Science
Social Studies

Knox County Schools Achievement

	2010-2011	2011-2012	Change
Grade 3-5 Reading/Language Arts	55.3	57.0	1.8
Grade 3-5 Math	47.6	52.7	4.9
Grade 3-5 Science	40.1	44.8	4.7
Grade 3-5 Social Studies	40.1	44.8	4.7
English-9	75.8	75.2	-0.6
English-10	70.3	68.4	-1.9
Algebra-1	46.7	48.8	2.1
Geometry-1	53.8	48.9	-4.9
Biology-1	40.8	40.7	-0.1
U.S. History	62.8	62.7	-0.1



Parents...Our True Superheroes



8th Annual Parent Conference

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Thank **A** Teacher!
Knox County Schools
SEPTEMBER 24-30, 2012



View on web, KCS-TV

New faces

Roddy Harris Husain





10 Knox County Schools designated as Reward Schools

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Education Commissioner Kevin Huffman announced 169 schools as the 2011-2012 Reward Schools, the top 5 percent of schools in the state for annual growth and the top 5 percent for academic achievement.

Many of the state's schools celebrated by tuning in for a special webcast featuring U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Haslam, First Lady Crissy Haslam and Huffman.

"Tennessee is leading the way in education reform, and these schools demonstrate two key focuses of education in our state: high levels of achievement and continuous growth," Haslam said at an event held at Kenrose Elementary School in Brentwood. "Job creation and education are inextricably linked, and continuing our momentum in education reform is important as we work to make Tennessee the No. 1 location in the Southeast for high quality jobs. We are proud of the teachers and staff at each of these schools and excited to recognize their efforts on behalf of Tennessee students."

Knox County Schools receiving the Reward School designation:

[Bearden Elementary School](#)
[Carter Elementary School](#)
[Corryton Elementary School](#)
[Gap Creek Elementary School](#)
[Powell High School](#)
[Ritta Elementary School](#)
[Sequoyah Elementary School](#)
[Shannondale Elementary School](#)
[South Doyle Middle School](#)
[Whittle Springs Middle School](#)

The South-Doyle Middle School staff were guests at a reception in their honor following Gov. Haslam's announcement of the state's Reward School winners.



In addition to Reward Schools, the state has also released Priority and Focus data.

Sarah Moore Greene Magnet Technology Academy was listed as a priority school by the state. Priority Schools are the lowest-performing 5 percent of schools in Tennessee, in terms of academic achievement. The school will work with the state on its plans for improvement.

Focus Schools:

The state also identified five schools – Austin-East Magnet High School, Beaumont Elementary, Fountain City Elementary, Inskip Elementary and Vine Middle Magnet School – in the category of "focus schools." Focus Schools are the 10 percent of schools in the state with the largest achievement gaps between groups of students, such as racial and ethnic groups, students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, students with disabilities and English-language learners. The department has named 167 schools throughout the state as Focus Schools.

A list of the schools can be found on the Department of Education website at www.tn.gov/education/accountability.

Knox County Schools meets all achievement targets

The Tennessee Department of Education recently recognized school districts across the state that significantly improved student performance and narrowed achievement gaps under Tennessee's new accountability system. Schools were designated as Exemplary, In Need of Improvement, or In Need of Subgroup Improvement.

The Knox County Schools met all of its Annual Measureable Objectives (AMOs) for the 2011-2012 school year, meaning it met the required percent of annual growth in the percentage of students scoring proficient and advanced on standardized tests. While the Knox County Schools met every achievement target, it did not meet the majority of gap closure targets. As a result, the Knox County Schools joined 57 other school districts across the state in being considered Intermediate. The school system will be receiving more detailed data from the Tennessee Department of Education in the coming weeks.

"The bottom line is our results show that we are continuing to make solid, steady academic progress, and we are grateful to our teachers, students, parents, and staff for their tremendous focus on academic achievement," said Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools. "There is much to be proud of in our 2011-12 academic achievement results, and a few areas to focus some additional attention. We will use these diagnostic data to inform our educational and instructional decisions in order to continuously improve, and achieve our ambitious academic goal of Excellence for All Children."

Knox County Schools announce gains in ACT results

ACT results are in for the Knox County Schools, and the outcomes are positive.

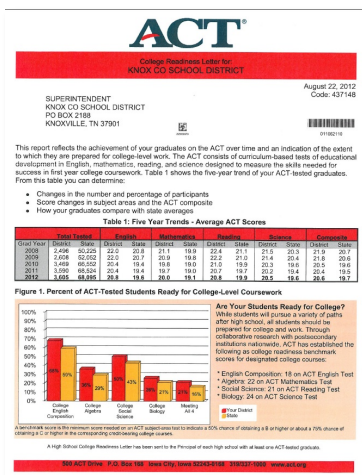
The Knox County Schools composite average ACT scores have increased from 20.4 for the class of 2011 to 20.6 for the class of 2012. Additionally, the school district experienced increases in the average ACT scores in all four-subject areas assessed (English, Math, Reading, and Science). The district is also testing more students in the ACT, with 3,605 students tested in 2012 versus 2,496 students tested in 2008.



The ACT consists of curriculum-based tests of educational development in English, mathematics, reading, and science designed to measure the skills needed for success in first year college coursework.

The Knox County Schools remain above the State of Tennessee averages in all subject areas:

- English 20.8 (19.6 State average)
- Mathematics 20.0 (19.1 State average)
- Reading 20.8 (19.9 State average)
- Science 20.5 (19.6 State average)
- Composite 20.6 (19.7 State average)



One Farragut High School student, Chris Buckman, scored a perfect 36 the first time he took the exam in the 2011-2012 school year.

“I am extremely pleased that our ACT scores are moving in a positive direction. Our students’ ACT scores have increased in every tested subject area, as well as showing gains on the district’s composite ACT average,” said Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools. “We now have about a thousand more students taking the ACT than we did just three years ago. With virtually all of our students now taking the ACT, we have a true picture of the college and career readiness of our students.”

State announces district achievement results

State of Tennessee has released [limited district academic achievement results](#) for the 2011-12 school year. Released data includes aggregate grade 3-8 scores on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) and End of Course (EOC) exams for school systems across the state.

Knox County Schools Achievement

	% Proficient/Advanced		
	2010-2011	2011-2012	Change
Grade 3-8 Reading/Language Arts	55.1	57.0	1.9
Grade 3-8 Math	47.6	52.1	4.5
Grade 3-8 Science	60.1	64.8	4.7
Grade 3-8 Social Studies	83.1	84.6	1.5
English I	72.9	73.2	0.3
English II	70.3	68.4	-1.9
Algebra I	46.7	56.8	10.1
Algebra II	51.8	48.9	-2.9
Biology I	60.6	66.2	5.6
U.S. History	97.8	97.2	-0.6

Highlights from the 2011-2012 data for the Knox County Schools include:

- Gains in overall proficiency rates for all four tested subject areas on the TCAP for grades 3-8 (reading/language arts, math, science, social studies)
- Gains in proficiency in 7 of 10 of the achievement measures (4 TCAP subjects for grades 3-8 and 6 EOCs) publicly released today
- A slight regression in the U.S. History EOC, where KCS's proficiency rate was over 95 percent*
- While gains were made in Algebra I and English I EOCs, there were slight declines in Algebra II and English II
- Preliminary data indicate an increase in proficiency in 3rd grade reading/language arts from 47.8 percent to 51.1 percent

"Our results show that we are continuing to make solid, steady academic progress, and we are grateful to our teachers, students, parents, and staff for their tremendous focus on academic achievement," said Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools.

"There is much to be proud of in our 2011-12 academic achievement results, and a few areas to focus some additional attention. We will use these diagnostic data to inform our educational and instructional decisions in order to continuously improve, and achieve our ambitious academic goal of Excellence for All Children."

District TCAP results come on the heels of Tennessee Education Commissioner Kevin Huffman's recent announcement of statewide TCAP results, which showed the largest growth in TCAP history.

The Knox County Schools Annual Coupon Book Campaign underway

The Knox County Schools officially launched its annual coupon book sale on Thursday, Sept. 6 at 10 a.m. at Belle Morris Elementary School.

The top-selling students from last year's campaign were recognized at the event. Representatives from the coupon book's seven corporate sponsors - U.S. Cellular, Rusty Wallace Honda, Rusty Wallace Kia, Junk Bee Gone, Stanley Steemer Carpet Cleaners, First Tennessee Bank and Comcast - were also be on hand.

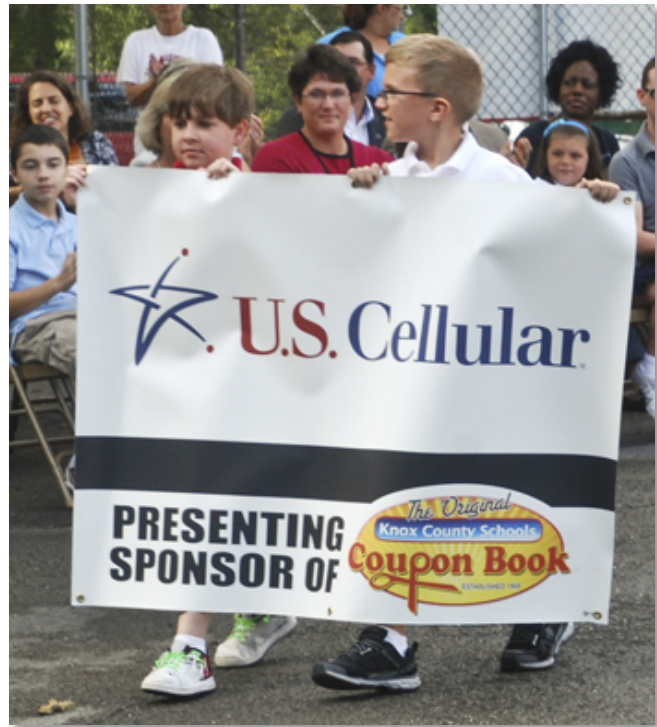
"The Original Knox County Schools Coupon Books" provide funds to meet school needs identified by parents, teachers and school administrators. Students sold 156,175 coupon books during the 2011 campaign representing a profit of \$1,382,148.75. Since 1989, over 3 million coupon books have been sold to raise more than \$26 million for Knox County students.

This year's book includes 45 new merchants and a Sevier County family fun section, which features popular attractions in Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg.

The coupon books cost \$10.00 with \$7.90 going to the school where the book is sold. Schools with a high number of economically disadvantaged students share \$.72



from the sale of each book. eBook subscriptions for all Knox County Schools' libraries is funded by \$.13 of the proceeds and another \$.07 funds the "Schooled for Success" program, an eighth grade career awareness initiative in each Knox County middle school. The cost of printing is \$.63 per book. Only \$.55 of the book's cost goes to cover administrative and student incentive cost.



“The Original Knox County Schools Coupon Book” contains money-saving offers worth more than \$10,000, providing discounts on fast food, fine dining, personal and professional services, as well as shopping and entertainment. Students sell the coupon books, which feature discount coupons for over 300 area merchants, in a two-week campaign conducted this year from Thursday, Sept. 6 through Monday, Sept. 24, 2012.



Additional information and a list of participating merchants can be found at www.knoxschools.org.



Last year's Top Seller Alexis Leek with Superintendent McIntyre at this year's kick off event. Top selling students get their photos on the next year's covers.



Roddy appointed Knoxville Area Resource for STEM (KARST) Project Manager



Former City Councilwoman Marilyn Roddy has been appointed as KARST Project Manager by a 9-member advisory board. KARST is the Knoxville Area Resources for STEM regional “hub” and is funded through the Race to the Top grant.

The KARST hub is a regional partnership of educational, business, scientific, and research institutions and organizations whose mission is to promote and support high quality STEM education in our region. It includes 19 school districts and 11 counties that surround Knox County.

KARST is part of the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network, where there are “platform schools” that connect partners in the region and establish best practices for STEM. The Knox County Schools’ L&N STEM Academy is

one of six platform schools across the state of Tennessee. She will be based at the L&N STEM Academy.

Thank a Teacher Week!



The Great Schools Partnership in conjunction with the Knox County Schools, the Knox County Education Association (KCEA), the Knox County Council PTA, United Way, and the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce is excited to sponsor Knox County “Thank a Teacher Week” September 24-30, 2012. It is an opportunity for the entire Knox County community to find ways to appreciate our Knox County teachers and educators for all the work they do.

This is a week-long initiative will be held the week of September 24-30, 2012 and will then be held again in May during National Teacher Appreciation Week to show our Knox County Educators that they are appreciated.

Here are some ideas to extend your appreciation to teachers:

1. Students can color (or draw) them pictures
2. Students can write a ‘thank you note’ expressing why their teacher makes a difference to them
3. Parents can send extra Kleenex or hand sanitizer to teachers for their classrooms
4. Parents can offer to volunteer in the classroom
5. Everyone can say, “Thank you!” when they see their teacher(s)

8th Annual Parent Conference:

“Parents...Our True Superheroes!”



The Knox County Schools, Knox County Council PTA, and Project GRAD Knoxville are partnering to present “Parents...Our True Superheroes!” at the 8th Annual Parent Conference.



The Parent Conference will be held at the Knoxville Convention Center located at 701 Henley Street on Tuesday, October 23, 2012 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with extended exhibitor hours through 3:30 p.m. A light, complimentary breakfast and lunch will be provided along with a variety of free materials to all parents and caregivers of Knox County Schools’ students.

“Parents and extended families are critical ingredients in educating our children,” said Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools. “This conference will provide a wonderful opportunity to support meaningful engagement for our most important allies in education. It will also provide access to valuable resources to help our children succeed academically and in life.”

Parents will have the opportunity to attend multiple workshops on topics identified through input from parents throughout the Knox County Schools, such as homework help, resources for English language learners, special needs advocacy, college prep, and more



Dr. Autumn Tooms Cypres, director of the Center for Educational Leadership at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, will present, "The 10 Best Things You Can Do To Make a Greater Difference in the Lives of Children" during the keynote lunch.

Space is limited to 800 guests, and registration is required by Tuesday, October 9. Registration can be completed online by visiting www.knoxschools.org or by calling (865) 594-1192.

Carpooling is encouraged. Complimentary parking and shuttle services to the Knoxville Convention Center will be provided by Knox County Schools to those who park at the Blackstock Parking Lot located at 640 Blackstock Avenue. Additional downtown parking options are available for those who wish to make alternate plans.



Exhibitors at the event will include a variety of local non-profit organizations, community-wide educational resources, along with colleges, universities and institutes.

For more information, please visit the Family and Community Engagement Department site at www.knoxschools.org.

Public meetings on elementary rezoning scheduled

The Knox County Schools will conduct a series of public meetings about elementary school rezoning that will result from the construction of the new school in southwest Knox County.



It is anticipated that the current attendance zones of A.L. Lotts Elementary, Farragut Primary, Farragut Intermediate, Hardin Valley Elementary and Cedar Bluff Elementary Schools will be primarily affected, although some other schools may experience a lesser impact. The meetings are designed to provide a zoning overview and garner parent and community insight prior to developing an attendance zone proposal.

Public meetings have been scheduled for the following dates and times:

- Hardin Valley Elementary School (11445 Hardin Valley Road)
Monday, Sept. 24 from 6-8 p.m.
- Farragut Intermediate School (208 West End Boulevard)
Tuesday, Oct. 2 from 6-8 p.m.
- Cedar Bluff Elementary School (705 North Cedar Bluff Road)
Tuesday, Oct. 9 from 6-8 p.m.
- First Baptist Concord Westlake Campus (9635 Westland Drive)
Thursday, Oct. 11 from 6-8 p.m.
Hosted by the A.L. Lotts and Blue Grass Elementary School PTAs

A series of follow-up meetings will be scheduled to discuss the attendance zones developed based on information garnered during these meetings.

Rezoning will only affect elementary schools located within the southwest sector of Knox County.



Back to School

Superintendent visits 22 schools in August

Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools, has already made 22 initial visits to selected Knox County Schools during the first three weeks of the new school year. He invited members of the Board of Education, as well as other elected officials and stakeholders, to join him as their schedules permit.

The Knox County Council PTA recently held its annual Education Forum - The 21st Century Classroom.

Ken Green from the Tennessee Department of Education shared information about [Common Core State Standards](#). Dr. Mark Edwards of Mooresville, N.C., who is from Knoxville, also presented. He is currently leading his district's laptop initiative, equipping more than 5,400 students with 21st century tools via laptops, interactive boards, and iPads.



Missed the Forum? Watch it on the web or on KCS-TV. The PTA Forum is available on KCS-TV. Visit knoxschools.org for its airtime listing. It is also available on the web at anytime.



Board of Education Welcomes New Members

Knox County Schools Board of Education recently welcomed its newly elected member, **Doug Harris**, who represents District 3. This begins his first year of a four-year term with the Board of Education.



Abdalla Husain, a senior at South-Doyle High School, is this year's student representative. He is a non-voting member that will provide student insight on various topics, serve as a liaison through student government groups, and report to students about the work of the school system.

