



Superintendent to Deliver Second Annual "State of the Schools" Address



Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools, will deliver his second annual **"State of the Schools Report and Address"** on Thursday, January 17 at 6 p.m. at Powell High School (2136 West Emory Road). The event is open to the public and is sponsored by the Knoxville Chamber, Knox County Education Association, and Knox County Council PTA.

The State of the Schools Report and Address will provide 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 will also highlight the additional work necessary to provide our students with an excellent education in today's increasingly competitive global environment. In addition, the event will provide attendees with information on how to best support public education in Knox County.

Broadcast live

The State of the Schools Address will be broadcast live on WBIR's 10News2 on Comcast Cable Channel 21 and Charter Cable Channel 10, as well as KCS-TV on Comcast Cable Channel 10, AT&T U-Verse Channel 99. It will also be streamed live at www.knoxschools.org and www.wbir.com. The public can also listen live on WKCS-Radio 91.1 FM.

Leadership Academy empowers new leaders, improves education



Current Fulton High School Principal Rob Speas (left) was a member of the first Leadership Academy cohort. This interview is a look back at the impact the Academy had on his career.

The **Leadership Academy** is a collaborative effort between the Knox County Schools and the University of Tennessee for talented educators who aspire to be principals in the Knox County Schools. The experience is intended to significantly shorten the learning curve for the increasingly complex and demanding job of school principal. Teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders, counselors, assistant principals and others with educational experience and instructional knowledge are encouraged to apply.

Rob Speas, a Leadership Academy alumnus, shares about his experience in the program and his progression since graduating in 2011.

What is your current position and how long have you been with Knox County Schools?

I am currently the Principal at Fulton High School and have been with Knox County Schools for 8 years.

When did you graduate from the Leadership Academy?

As a member of Cohort One, I graduated during summer 2011.

In what ways did the Leadership Academy prepare you for the challenges you currently face?

The Leadership Academy provided a deeper look into instructional leadership through a holistic approach that exposed me to all facets of being a principal.

What was your most memorable experience in the Leadership Academy and how did it impact your abilities as an educator?

Working weekly with high level officials in the Knox County Schools has allowed me to build relationships with many central office personnel so that I can easily call on them for advice, support, and guidance when needed.

What essential skills did you take away from the Leadership Academy and how are you applying those in your current position?

One major takeaway for me was keeping my focus on student achievement. When I make decisions in my current role, I must consider how the results impact student achievement. Principals make many choices that have far reaching implications which should always be for the benefit of students. I also learned the importance of hiring quality teachers and the significance of being supportive ways that are meaningful to them. Just like all students respond differently, all teachers respond differently. Understanding how to push and support each teacher is the art of great school leadership.

Please give a brief description of your Capstone project. Describe how it helped to integrate the coursework during Leadership Academy with educational leadership.

My Capstone project identified 5 components of effective Professional Development (PD) for teachers. I chose this topic because one of the most important responsibilities of a principal is to provide teachers with quality PD. Through my Capstone project I gained a deeper understanding of why some PD opportunities are effective when other experiences fall short.

How has your cohort provided support since graduating the Leadership Academy?

Cohort one is a pretty close group. I often reach out to other members to bounce ideas, brainstorm, and play the role of critical friend.

Can you give a specific example of how collaboration with a cohort of peers has added value to your ability to be an effective leader?

Most recently, I collaborated with several members of the cohort regarding implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) in their schools then, used that information to build the PLC model here at Fulton High School.

What advice would you give to potential Leadership Academy fellows?

Manage your time wisely and remember the experience in the Leadership Academy is geared to improve you as an instructional leader.

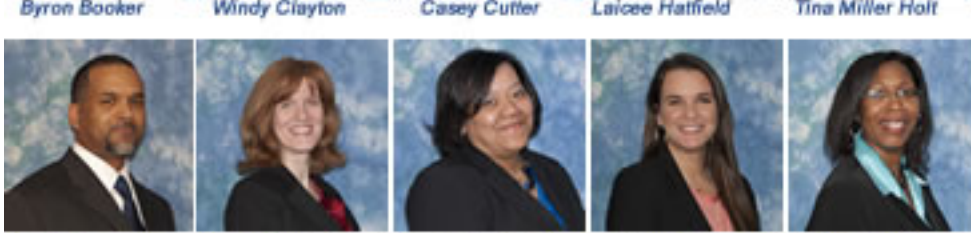
What one word best describes your involvement with the Leadership Academy?

Meaningful

Based on the knowledge and experience gained through the Leadership Academy, how are you personally making a difference in education for students in Knox County Schools?

Through my experiences in the Leadership Academy, I feel that I am better equipped and more prepared to support and guide teachers through the many changes occurring in education today. By supporting teachers with the resources and skills they need, students are receiving a better educational experience.

CURRENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY FELLOWS:



Knox County
Schools

**LEADERSHIP
CLASS
2012-13**

University of
Tennessee

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR NEXT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Applications are being accepted for the next Leadership Academy class which will begin May 30, 2013 and run through July 2014. Applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2013. Leadership Academy fellows graduate with a master’s degree or education specialist degree and Tennessee principal license.

Open houses scheduled for rezoned elementary schools



Several Knox County schools in the southwest portion of Knox County will host “Welcome to Our School” open houses for parents and students who have been rezoned to new elementary schools beginning in August of 2013.

Open Houses will be held at A.L. Lotts Elementary, Ball Camp Elementary, Cedar Bluff Elementary, Farragut Primary, and Farragut Intermediate School at the following times:

- Thursday, January 10, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. – general open house
- Tuesday, January 22, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. – information and school tour
- Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. – information and school tour
- Monday, February 11, 2013 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. – information and school tour

Meet the Principal

Additionally, a “Meet the Principal” meeting will be held for those parents and students who are zoned to attend the new school located in the Northshore Town Center in August of 2013 – more information will be coming soon regarding this event. Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools, recently appointed Susan Davis as the principal of the new school. Davis, previously principal at Cedar Bluff Elementary School, is transitioning into her new role during the coming weeks.



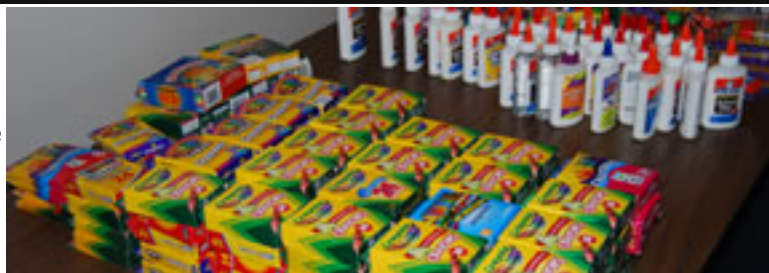
The Board of Education approved a provision for a "grandfather" transfer to permit rising 5th grade students and their currently enrolled siblings (to include rising kindergarten siblings of 5th graders) to apply to remain at their current school. The deadline for parents to request a "grandfather" transfer is February 18, 2013. All requests for a transfer of this nature will be granted, and children may remain at the current school though the school's terminal grade. However, the Knox County Schools will not provide transportation for students on a "grandfather" transfer.

For more information, or to view the approved elementary rezoning map, [visit www.knoxschools.org](http://www.knoxschools.org).

KCS Teacher Supply Depot open Saturday, January 26

The Teacher Supply

Depot provides Knox County Schools' educators with a variety of new and used classroom materials at no charge. Since the depot is driven solely by donations, it is a unique way for local businesses and community members to partner with the school system to provide



material support to teachers. All donated materials are used to enhance instruction and promote student achievement in the classroom.

More than 6,000 Knox County educators have received an estimated \$2.3 million worth of materials that were made possible through the support of local businesses and community members.

Located at 709 N. Cedar Bluff Rd. in the former Cedar Bluff Intermediate School, the Teacher Supply Depot is a joint venture between the Knox County Council PTA and Knox County Schools. Although donations are accepted year-round, the Teacher Supply Depot is only open on certain dates throughout each school year.

Additional information can be found at www.teachersupplydepot.org. Please note that two or more Board of Education members may be present.

PTA Clothing Center Update: Kids come in all sizes



Since 1931, the Knox County Schools Clothing Center PTA has provided new or gently used school clothes for children in need and helped improve the overall education for thousands of Knox County students each year.

Colder temperatures prompt many families to stock up on new school clothes but, for a growing number of families this is a luxury they just can't afford. The Knox County Schools Clothing Center PTA, located at **1000 N. Central Street**, has been providing school clothes to children in need for more than 70 years.



This service improves a child's self-esteem, leads to greater educational readiness, and builds a willingness to attend school on a regular basis. Referrals to the Clothing Center are made by school administrators who use the Federal Free and Reduced Meal program income requirements as a guideline.

If approved, Knox County Schools students enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 can visit the Clothing Center two times each school year. Students receive new socks and underclothing along with school appropriate attire. On average, volunteers serve nearly 2,000 students each year and distribute over 60,000 articles of clothing.

More than 500 families received new and used school clothes during the months of October and November. The Clothing Center also supports students in emergency situations such as a house fire or displacement. Every school in Knox County has at least one student that is served at the Clothing Center each year.

Funding for the Clothing Center is provided by United Way of Greater Knoxville, Knox County, Mynderse Fund proceeds, and private contributors. Through the support of Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett, the County recently offered additional space to the Clothing Center. This donation has improved the effectiveness of operations and the efficiency in which Knox County students can be served. Local PTA, PTSA and PTO groups also provide a large portion of assistance through clothing drives held twice each year.

The next Knox County Council PTA Clothes Drive is scheduled for April 8 through 12 though; monetary donations are accepted throughout the year. Please contact the KCS Clothing Center PTA at (865) 594-3791 or ccdirector@clothingcenter.org to make a donation or schedule an appointment.

AVID cultivates students for college readiness

AVID is a program that is focused on closing the achievement gap through college readiness success that is offered in ten Knox County Schools.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a college preparatory program that started more than 30 years ago in a California classroom. It is based on the Socratic Method of teaching where the educator encourages a dialogue with students by asking questions which will frame and support thinking skills relative to the lesson.



Research shows that AVID students are more likely to take Advanced Placement classes, to complete their college eligibility requirements, and to obtain admission into four-year colleges than students who are not in AVID.

The program targets students in the academic middle – those who have Grade Point Averages between 2.0 and 3.5 – and have a willingness to work hard towards a college path. It is a regularly scheduled class elective that meets during the school day to empower students to achieve academic excellence.

AVID students receive instruction based on the WICOR method: writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading. Their experience also includes cultural and college based field trips to further enhance their knowledge.

“In AVID, students have tutorials in small groups that help them learn how to collaborate,” said Heather Mounce, Knox County Schools’ District AVID Coordinator and Coach. “We encourage critical thinking skills which will help them be successful students, not only now, but also well into their college years.”

College students are regular AVID class guests who reinforce preparedness and expectations. This is a pivotal influence that helps middle and high school students with their own postsecondary plans.

AVID teachers are often Lead or Mentor teachers within their schools. They receive ongoing professional development to supplement their abilities to bring out the best in their students.

AVID is available in the following Knox County middle schools: Bearden, Cedar Bluff, Gresham, Northwest, South-Doyle, Vine Magnet Performing Arts School and Whittle Springs; as well as Austin-East Performing Arts Magnet, Karns, South-Doyle high schools.

Globally, AVID is in 4,500 schools in 47 states as well as the District of Columbia and 16 countries/territories including all U.S. Department of Defense schools. Large urban schools, small rural schools, resource-rich suburban schools, and struggling schools, all find that AVID meets their goal of successfully promoting college readiness strategies. Visit www.knoxschools.org for more about AVID.

South-Doyle Middle School students author books then share them with elementary school students



Students with South-Doyle Middle School recently showcased their books to students at Dogwood Elementary School to cultivate learning and their transition to middle school.

"This was my first time implementing an assignment like this into my class," said Beth Hudson, who teaches seventh grade Social Studies.

The customized book project that she tailored for her class allowed students to conduct their own research and write their own 'books' that reflected proper settings and literary devices for writing. It integrated social studies, language arts and reading.

First, students were instructed to identify major landforms and bodies of water like the Himalayas or the Sahara Desert. Then, to have a deeper understanding of these areas, students selected one for their book's setting. They conducted further research about it to include geographically correct details such as flora and fauna. Students used language arts guidelines and completed the assignment by illustrating their stories.



With Hudson, her students visited Dogwood Elementary School to personally read their books to the students who will one day attend South-Doyle Middle School.

"When we read the books to the kids we didn't just teach them about what was in our book, but we also showed them that when we get a challenge or a goal; we are able to achieve it," said seventh grade student Cassandra Severiano.

Benjamin Robinson, also one of Hudson's students, said he sprinkled sand on his book's cover because his story takes place in the Sahara Desert. Robinson shared, "It was fun reading to the kids at Dogwood. I think they might have learned something too. They asked questions and were all smiles."

The middle school students read their books to all grade levels at Dogwood, however they had a special message to the fifth graders.

"I told them that going to middle school will be a good change," said Robinson. "It's fun with more things to do because you're older."

Several of the middle school students also shared that not only was their assignment fun, but reading their books to elementary students also helped them feel more comfortable with public speaking.

Hudson added, "There is a push for performance, and I have realized that students perform better if they are engaged, happy learners. This assignment did just that. Now, when we go back to our traditional classroom setting, I think they will do well because we made learning fun."

Full calendar of community events to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday will be honored with several community events including a parade, several concerts, church services, training and education sessions.



Since 1982, the MLK Commission has been organizing a special celebration each year for the Knoxville area to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The week long celebration focuses on providing education and leadership training for adults and youth and promotes reconciliation through peaceful conflict resolution. Part of the celebration also includes stories of racial struggles with emphasis on non-violence, equality, and love.

This year's celebration will take on a special emphasis of education and will embody the theme of "Intelligence plus Character." The guiding light for 2013 will be Sarah Moore Greene, Knoxville's leader in the civil rights movement and in the education of all children. Ms. Greene passed away August 15th at the age of 102 but her spirit and legacy will be the stimulus for this year's celebration.

(Visit the [MLK Knoxville website](#) for the latest schedules, information)

<h1 style="text-align: center;">EDUCATION</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;"><i>"Intelligence Plus Character"</i></h2>		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
Wednesday, January 16	12:00 NOON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interfaith Prayer Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ First Christian Church
Thursday, January 17	8:30AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership Educational Symposium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Knoxville Marriott
	12:00 NOON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership/Awards Luncheon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Knoxville Marriott
Friday, January 18	5:00PM-6:30PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gallery of Arts Tribute <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Bijou Theater
	7:00PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Forum – Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Beck Cultural Exchange Center
Saturday, January 19	8:30AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher In-Service Training (8:30a.m. - 2:00p.m.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Beck Cultural Exchange Center
	9:00AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Symposium (9:00a.m. - 2:30p.m.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Austin East High School
	1:00PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y.W.C.A. Race Against Racism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ YWCA Phyllis Wheatley Center
Sunday, January 20	6:00PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Night With The Arts Tribute <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Knoxville College, Colston Center for the Performing Arts
Monday, January 21	10:00AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial March Parade (Line-Up 8:30a.m. / Step-Off 10:00a.m.)
	11:45AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Tribute Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Greater Warner Tabernacle AME Zion Church
	6:00PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration Concert, Knoxville Symphony Chamber Orchestra <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Tennessee Theatra