



State of the Schools Address gives report, vision on education priorities for Knox County Schools

Hundreds of educators, elected officials and community members attended Knox County Schools' second annual State of the Schools Address on Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at Powell High School.

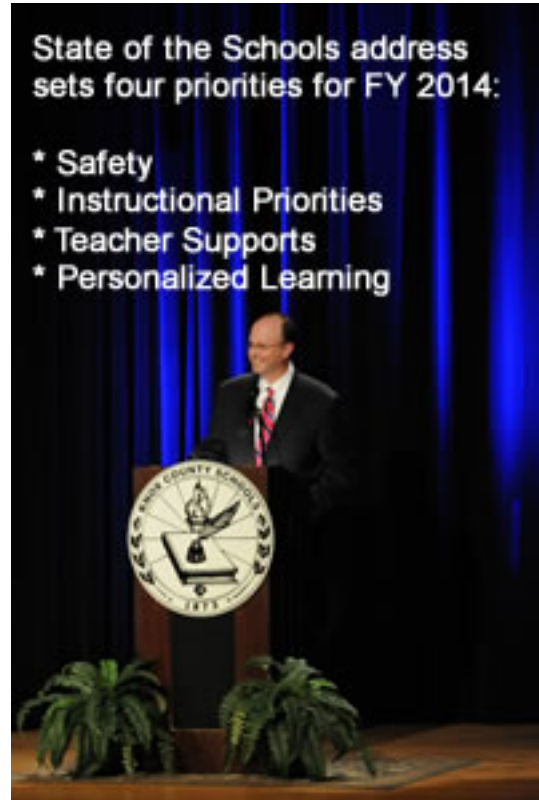
Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools, shared the district's progress report on the academic progress being made in Knox County – the state's fourth largest school district that has more than 56,000 students.

He also shared four areas which he will specifically focus on for fiscal year 2014 budget which include:

School Safety – In light of the Sandy Hook Elementary tragedy, and based on feedback from parents, teachers, and staff, Dr. McIntyre has publicly called for the Knox County Schools to have at least a foundational level of school security resources at every school, including:

1. A current-generation video camera system,
2. A school access control strategy (camera/buzzer system, secure entry vestibule, and/or keyless entry system), and
3. An armed, uniformed School Resource Officer or School Security Officer at each of our schools.

Instructional priorities – Continue focus on early literacy efforts, teacher supports and professional development along with magnet and community schools. Enhance interventions, tutorial services and academic enrichment for students because they are proven to be successful in cultivating positive gains in student outcomes.



State of the Schools Video

[Full Text, Additional photos, documents](#)

Teacher Supports – Build the structure throughout the district for teacher compensation so it is more competitive regionally. Currently, Knox County Schools is ranked 37th in the state for teacher compensation. Knox County’s teachers can, and often do, go to surrounding school systems and immediately make as much as \$8,000 to \$9,000 more.

Personalized Learning Devices – Access to technology that will be a tool for both students and educators to accelerate learning, close achievement gaps, and ensure that each and every student in Knox County Schools is given the same opportunity for academic success. (This will also be in preparation for the 2014-15 school year when Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) testing, which will replace the TCAP, will be administered exclusively online.)

As the district moves forwards with its plans for the future, Dr. McIntyre also announced plans to rollout a “School Technology Challenge” where ten schools within the district will pilot a one-to-one technology initiative where one technology device will be provided to each student and each teacher. This endeavor will allow the Knox County Schools to demonstrate the power and importance of instructional technology in schools and give the district and community real life examples of how technology can positively impact instruction and student achievement.



SAVE THE DATES:

Upcoming Community Forum Meetings on Budget, School Safety

Community Forum on School Safety – Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools, will join Knox County Sheriff Jimmy “J.J.” Jones and Knoxville Police Chief David Rausch to hold a Community Forum meeting centered on student safety and school security. The Community Forum will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 6 p.m. at Amherst Elementary School located at 5101 Schaad Road. The meeting will be streamed live at knoxschools.org and broadcast live on Comcast Channel 10 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99. Please note that two or more Board of Education members may attend.

Budget Community Forum – Thursday, March 7, 2013

Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools, will host a Community Forum on Thursday, March 7 at 6 p.m. at Fulton High School.

The Community Forum will provide attendees with an update on student performance, as well as a discussion regarding the relationship between student achievement and investment of resources. Parents and community members are also welcome to discuss other issues they may have regarding public education in Knox County

The meeting will be streamed live at knoxschools.org and broadcast live on Comcast Channel 10 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99. Please note that two or more Board of Education members may be present.

Summers in Knoxville helped shape poet Nikki Giovanni



Nikki Giovanni was born on June 7, 1943, in Knoxville. She is a prominent poet and writer who first caught the public's attention as part of the Black Arts movement of the late 1960s. Although she grew up in the Cincinnati area, she often visited Knoxville in the summers to see family, especially her maternal grandmother. After graduating with honors from Fisk University in 1967, she returned to Cincinnati and established the city's first Black Arts Festival. Giovanni also began writing the poems that are included in her first self-published volume, *Black Feeling, Black Talk* (1968).

By the mid-1970s, Nikki Giovanni had established herself as one of the leading poetic voices. She won a number of awards including Woman of the Year from *Ladies Home Journal* in 1973. Giovanni also made

several television appearances, including the African American arts and culture show, *Soul!*. During the 1980s, she continued to publish and spent much of her time touring to attend speaking engagements. Giovanni also found time to teach at College Mount St. Joseph and Virginia Tech University.

(Source for the following two articles: "Two Hundred Years of Black Culture in Knoxville, TN" by Bob Booker)

James Mason

Established the first school for black deaf children in his home in 1879.

James Mason played a great role in getting a school for black deaf children in Knoxville. Although he was born a slave, young members of his master's household taught him to read and write. After he was given his freedom, he worked and saved his money with hopes of buying the freedom of his wife, Betty Fountain.

Since emancipation freed his wife, he used this savings to buy a house and lot on West Cumberland Avenue between Central and State streets. This was in 1866. Mason had become Knoxville's first black taxpayer. In 1879 he opened a school for deaf black children in his home.

Mason was also a charter member of Shiloh Presbyterian Church and was one of the city's early black policemen, joining the force in 1884 and serving for eighteen years.

Knoxvillian William H. Hastie was first black federal judge

William H. Hastie was born in Knoxville in 1904. He graduated from Amherst College in 1925 and Harvard Law School in 1930. He became the first black federal judge in the United States when he was appointed for the Virgin Islands. He was appointed Civilian Aide to Secretary of War Henry Simpson in 1940. He became Governor of the Virgin Islands from 1946-49. In 1949 he was appointed by President Harry S Truman to a federal judgeship on the Third Court of Appeals in Philadelphia.



Calendar celebrates Tennessee African-Americans



Black History Month at Karns Middle School

In recognition of Black History Month, Karns Middle School, students Lauren Fletcher (left) and Symphony Buxton (center) look at a **Tennessee African American History** calendar with Eighth Grade English Language Arts Teacher, Mary Lynn Tollison (right). More than 4,000 of these calendars were donated by AT&T to middle school students throughout Knox County Schools because it highlights several successful African Americans that have roots in Tennessee. The Tennessee African

American History Calendar can also be viewed online at: <http://www.tnafricanamericanhistory.com>

Fifth Annual Rusty Wallace Honda Run for the Schools on March 2 to benefit education in East Tennessee



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How many races get you face to face with an elephant while you support education in East Tennessee? Just one – the Rusty Wallace Honda Run for the Schools on Saturday, March 2.

The Rusty Wallace Honda Run for the Schools features a 5K run/walk and a 100-yard dash in Chilhowee Park and a one-mile family fun walk inside the Knoxville Zoo. The event includes fun for the whole family, with music, refreshments, vendor booths and prizes. All participants even receive a complimentary day at the Knoxville Zoo following the race.

Day-of registration for the race is 6:30-8 a.m. The 5K run/walk begins at 8 a.m., winding through Chilhowee Park and down Linden Avenue; the one-mile family fun walk begins at 8:15 a.m. After awards are presented at 8:45 a.m., the fun-filled morning will conclude with the 100-yard dash at 9:30 a.m.

Proceeds for the Rusty Wallace Honda Run for the Schools benefit local public and private schools in East Tennessee. Students, their families and community members can run for a specific school to raise funds. Schools raise money based on participation in the race, so the more runners for a school, the more money the school receives! Last year, Run for the Schools gave back more than \$9,000 to participating schools in the region.

“We want to encourage a healthy lifestyle for East Tennessee students and their families all while helping students raise money for their own schools,” race director Kristina Howard said. “Our goal is to bring schools and their communities together. We want to engage local communities to support their schools.”

Pre-registration deadline is February 22: Students are \$10, adults are \$20, and children age 2 and under are free. Registration after February 22 is \$15 for students and \$25 for adults.

Sponsors for this year’s Run for the Schools include presenting sponsor Rusty Wallace Honda, the Knoxville Zoo, Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union, Panera Bread, Costco, Pilot, B97.5 and WBIR.

For more information or to register for the Rusty Wallace Honda Run for the Schools, visit <http://runfortheschools.org>.

New Common Core Standards

Common Core Standards have been adopted by the State of Tennessee to accelerate a higher set of academic standards. These standards are for Math and English/Language Arts and were adopted by 45 states across the nation to help

ensure every student graduates high school better prepared for college or the workforce. This shift in curriculum will better prepare students for the higher demands found in our modern-day college and career settings. It will result in a workforce that will supplement economic development throughout the community.

The logo for Tennessee's Common Core Standards, featuring the letters 'TN' in blue and 'Core' in red, all in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

Instructional time will have a greater emphasis on thinking, problem solving, and creativity. This will better support future assessments that will give students, parents, and educators quality information about college- and career-readiness based on performance beyond multiple-choice tests. The transition will enrich the quality of instruction that students receive, and there are ways that you can help them embrace their learning.

In Mathematics:

Teachers focus on a set of major math concepts and skills. Students will have time to master the identified concepts and skills in a format which will provide greater coherence throughout various grade bands. This will accelerate rigor so students will be better engaged in problem-solving skills.

Ways you can help your student at home in math:

- Stay connected with your teacher to monitor your student’s progress.
- Be aware and help your child with challenges. Motivate them to master skills because its instructional content will build into future lessons.
- Use real-life scenarios with your child as much as possible so they can embrace how they are used. For example, calculate your expenses at the grocery store as you add items to your cart or by cooking up special recipes in the kitchen to exercise measurement skills.

In English, Language, Arts (ELA):

Students will further integrate reading selections that are saturated with nonfiction and informational texts. This will help them better identify evidence from text for facts and background knowledge which will also create better outcomes in all subject areas like science and social studies. Integrating more complex text will cultivate stronger vocabulary skills.

Ways you can help your student at home with ELA:

- Read with your child as often as possible and discuss the content in an open dialogue.
- Encourage your student to journal. Personal journals are often a very helpful way to practice writing skills outside of the classroom traditional setting.
- Let your child see you reading books, magazines, etc. It sets a good example and gives them encouragement.

To learn more about Common Core in Tennessee, visit www.tncore.org or if you seek information specific to Common Core in Knox County Schools, visit www.commoncore.knoxschools.org.

Parents are encouraged to discuss the new Common Core standards with their child's teacher, or you can email the Knox County Schools at commoncore@knoxschools.org.

Common Core Implementation Timeline:



TAP: Connecting instructional priorities with academic results



The System for Teacher and Student Advancement

Teachers and students across Knox County Schools are seeing remarkable improvements in the classroom due, in part, to the emphasis placed on instructional priorities and the TAP particularly. Master Teacher, JoLea Behrens, describes how the TAP Program is providing growth opportunities for both students and teachers.

The power to be successful lies within the opportunities we are given. Emphasis on instructional priorities such as early literacy, magnet and community schools, enrichment programs and professional development helps Knox County Schools meet the challenge of providing opportunities for excellence to every student and teacher.

The TAP system is a school reform model that focuses on opportunities for professional growth and it has proven results in Knox County Schools. Implementation and expansion of TAP, formerly known as Teacher Advancement Program, presents teachers with possibilities for improvement, leadership roles, peer collaboration, accountability, and strategic compensation to develop their teaching skills and achieve greater academic outcomes for children. What began as a two year pilot program for a few Knox County Schools in 2006 has expanded to eighteen schools and become the default evaluation instrument for the entire state of Tennessee.

TAP focuses on four elements: Multiple Career Paths, Ongoing Applied Professional Growth, Instructionally Focused Accountability, and Performance-Based Compensation. These elements play a critical role in the recruitment and retention of high quality educators. TAP incentives are a progressive tool for attracting talented teachers to high-need schools therefore, reversing past trends that left a negative impact on many communities. Using value-added achievement analysis, the academic growth of the same student over a period of time can be measured and the impact of teacher performance is more accurately assessed. Additionally, in 2010, a survey of TAP teachers agreed or strongly agreed that TAP has created a collegiality within their schools, according to the TAP website.

JoLea Behrens, Master Teacher, collaborates with her colleagues at South Doyle Middle School to prepare lessons, shape quality instruction, and maximize learning. The role of a Master Teacher is to work closely with the principal, lead cluster groups and provide demonstration lessons, coaching, and team-teaching to other teachers. Master Teachers focus on leadership team participation, research, cluster group planning and implementation, individual growth plan management, evaluations and conferencing, and classroom follow-up. They also spend, on average, two hours per day teaching students.

With thirteen years experience in education, Behrens has taught in a variety of different settings but now admits, "no matter where I go or what I do, I will always want to be affiliated with a TAP school, nothing less." She was introduced to TAP at Northwest Middle School as a career teacher where she later became a mentor teacher. "As a good teacher people brush you aside as not having any needs however, with TAP everyone is supported and pushed to the next level," describes Behrens. There is always room for improvement with TAP and it gives support to allow growth in all teachers.

Behrens moved into a Master Teacher role at South-Doyle Middle School where TAP was brand new. She says, "It has been exhilarating to watch the teacher's level of growth from one year to the next." After the first year of implementation, South-Doyle Middle went from a Level 1, high priority school, to a Level 5, rewards school and Behrens believes TAP was highly instrumental in the level of success the school received. She goes on to say, "TAP is equipping both our teachers and students to be not only front-runners and competitive with the highest achieving schools in the county but leaders in the county!"

TAP is just one way Knox County Schools is connecting its instructional priorities with academic results for students and teachers alike.