

# Benchmarks

Noteworthy News about KCS



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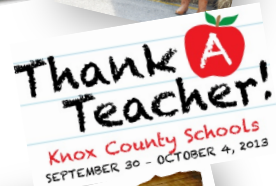


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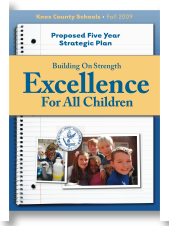
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## Strategic Plan Development Underway – Input Needed



The journey to provide [Excellence for All Children](#) began in 2008 with the creation of the Knox County Schools' ambitious five-year strategic plan. Five years later, the Knox County Schools is in the process of creating the next iteration of its strategic plan and vision, dubbed “**Knox Schools 2020.**” Critical to its success is the insight, input and feedback from teachers, students, parents and the community.



The Knox County Schools has scheduled a series of “Insight Sessions” to allow the public an opportunity to provide input into the strategic planning process. Over the next several weeks, the Knox County Schools will proactively reach out to stakeholders to specifically ask:

1. **What’s good?** How has the school district performed during the past five years, since the inception of the first strategic plan? Where were improvements made?
2. **What’s not?** Are there continual challenges or lack of progress in certain areas?
3. **What’s next?** What should the Knox County Schools focus and prioritize on in the next five years?

Insight Sessions are open to the public and are scheduled for the following dates and times:\*

- October 3 – 6 p.m. at South-Doyle Middle School (3900 Decatur Road)
- October 7 – 6 p.m. at Carter Middle School (204 North Carter School Road)
- October 15 – 6 p.m. at Farragut High School (11237 Kingston Pike)
- October 21 – 6 p.m. at Karns High School (2710 Byington-Solway Road)
- October 24 – 6 p.m. at Halls Elementary (7502 Andersonville Pike)
- October 29 – 6 p.m. at Austin-East Magnet High School (2800 Martin L. King, Jr. Avenue)

Child care and light refreshments will be provided for attendees.

Additionally, the Knox County Schools has devised ways to keep stakeholders informed about the strategic planning process – “follow” on Twitter at [@knoxschools2020](#) or stay updated on the web at [knoxschools2020.org](#). You may also email your thoughts and reflections to [knoxschools2020@knoxschools.org](#).

*\*Please note that two or more Board of Education members may be present at Insight Sessions.*

# Knox County Health Department's Flu-Mist Vaccination Clinics to Start September 16

*Submitted by the Knox County Health Department*

The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) will kick off this year's in-school influenza (FluMist) vaccination program Monday, Sept. 16. Vaccination clinics are scheduled in Knox County elementary and middle schools as well as some Head Starts, private schools and child care centers.



"Children are known to be the major transmitter of the flu to other persons, including those who could be at high risk for complications, like the elderly and infants," said KCHD Director Dr. Martha Buchanan. "This collaborative effort creates a healthier community and helps keep our children in school and schools open."



Approved by the Food and Drug Administration, FluMist is an intra-nasal influenza vaccine for use in children as young as 2. Children at the vaccination clinics who are under 2 years of age will receive a flu shot. No child will be vaccinated without a completed, signed and returned consent form. Parents or guardians may complete the form online at [zippslip.com/knox](http://zippslip.com/knox). Paper consent forms are available at the schools or online at [knoxcounty.org/health](http://knoxcounty.org/health). A schedule of the vaccination clinics is also available online at [knoxcounty.org/health](http://knoxcounty.org/health).

In an effort to sustain the program and remove barriers to vaccination for all children, KCHD is utilizing multiple funding methods, including billing insurance. If families have insurance, they may complete the insurance information on the consent form. KCHD will not charge co-pays or send a bill to parents; KCHD will only bill the insurance company. Another funding method to help cover the cost for children who do not have insurance is through donations by local organizations and individuals. KCHD has partnered with the Metropolitan Drug Commission (MDC), a 501(c)(3), to accept charitable donations for the vaccination program. Those interested in donating may do so on the MDC website, [metrodrug.org](http://metrodrug.org), or on the electronic consent form. All donations are tax deductible.

Children under the age of 9 who have not previously received the flu vaccine will need two (2) doses separated by at least one month. Phase two of the in-school flu vaccination clinics will be conducted December 3 - 18. If a child misses his or her school's clinic date, parents may take the child to any health department location for a flu vaccine.

For questions related to the school-based vaccination program, please visit [http://www.knoxcounty.org/health/flu\\_mist.php](http://www.knoxcounty.org/health/flu_mist.php) or email [SLVC@knoxcounty.org](mailto:SLVC@knoxcounty.org). For vaccine and vaccine records related questions, parents can call 215.5150 or 215.5063.

## Common Core: What Parents Should Know

This year, the Knox County Schools is fully implementing the [Common Core State Standards](#), a set of expectations that help K-12 students learn more deeply and apply knowledge more successfully. These standards are a roadmap to help ensure your children are ready for their futures after high school, whether that means college or career.



While Common Core focuses extensively on English/language arts and math, the standards also help our students learn to express themselves through effective writing and to read for understanding. The standards help them apply context from one subject, such as science, to other subjects, such as social studies and math, so the creative mind is engaged in making connections in the “real world.” They learn the valuable life lessons of critical thinking and creative problem solving, and they become better prepared to compete with peers from across the state and around the world.



### **What does this mean for a student’s day-to-day schoolwork?**

Parents might wonder how they can support their child (ren) as they, like their teachers, transition to a new way of learning.

Parents of children in elementary math will see that students are being asked to explain their thinking, draw pictures and diagrams and write about their answers. When children can talk and write about math, they are thinking deeply. Basic math facts will continue to be taught, but teachers also will be helping students explain how those facts apply to the problems they are solving.

In English/language arts, students will build knowledge through content-rich non-fiction; use evidence from text in reading, writing and speaking; and participate in regular practice with complex text. Also, in elementary grades, students will continue to learn foundational reading skills, and as they progress, they will read a balance of fiction and non-fiction. They will use their language skills to write in response to text, citing evidence.



**Common Core goals extend across most content areas.** For example, students in art not only will assess the merits of artwork, but they also will read text closely, make logical inferences and cite textual evidence to support conclusions. They also will determine central themes of a text and analyze and summarize development and supporting ideas.

Thinking critically and solving problems are two key goals of Common Core, and our teachers are using creative and effective methods to help students learn these valuable life lessons.

**Parents can help their students at home** by supporting the Common Core expectations of critical thinking and problem solving:

- Read what your child is reading and have focused conversations about it.
- Encourage your child to read and discuss the newspaper.
- Encourage your children to thoroughly express why they want something.
- As you reply to their requests, explain your decisions using “because” statements.
- Encourage questions and appreciate opinions.
- Discuss issues in your household, neighborhood and community and brainstorm solutions.
- Compare and contrast things in your child’s life: Movies, food, games.

For more ideas on ways to help your child, please visit these online resources:

[knoxschools.org](http://knoxschools.org)  
[math.knoxschools.org](http://math.knoxschools.org)  
[la.knoxschools.org](http://la.knoxschools.org)  
[tncore.org](http://tncore.org)  
[expectmoretn.org](http://expectmoretn.org)  
[corestandards.org](http://corestandards.org)  
[pta.org](http://pta.org)

If you have questions about how the Common Core expectations are expressed in your child’s curriculum, please speak with your child’s principal and teachers, and feel free to e-mail your questions to [commoncore@knoxschools.org](mailto:commoncore@knoxschools.org).



## Have You Purchased Your Coupon Books? Campaign Ends September 23!

The Original Knox County Schools Coupon Book is on sale through September 23 and is still only \$10. Buy one—or several—books from your favorite student or the main office of your local school.

This year, the Knox County Schools Coupon Book celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In addition to [43 new merchants](#) and a Sevier County family fun section, this year's book offers special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary offers from many of the merchants in the book. The offers can be accessed via a QR (quick response) code and by visiting [www.25.knoxschools.org](http://www.25.knoxschools.org).



The 2013 book contains money-saving offers from nearly 300 area merchants worth more than \$10,000, providing discounts on restaurants, entertainment, services, home improvement and shopping.

Students and schools will sell the coupon books through September 23, 2013. The 2013 campaign goal is 160,000 books sold, which will net \$1.4 million for classroom needs across the county.

Additional information and a list of participating merchants can be found at [www.knoxschools.org](http://www.knoxschools.org).

**SPOTLIGHT ON COUPON BOOKS:** See KCS-TV's [Spotlight Video](#) on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Original Knox County Schools Coupon Book! Video also available at [knoxschools.org](http://knoxschools.org).

## Campaign Kickoff: A Rootin' Tootin' Time, Partner!

The Knox County Schools officially kicked off its annual Knox County Schools Coupon Book Campaign Sept. 5 at West Haven Elementary School.

Many times, schools have fun with themes and contests during the coupon book campaign to raise awareness and sales of the book. At the kickoff, West Haven was more like the Ol' West, with students, teachers, principals and special guests, alike, dressed in bandanas and cowboy hats.

"We are so excited to be the site for the kickoff of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Knox County Schools Coupon Book," said Principal Kathy Duggan during the kickoff festivities.



Duggan, donning cowboy boots and a matching hat, along with Assistant Principal Lorie Johnson, kicked off the school's campaign with a fun Wild West-themed skit.

"The coupon book is more than just a valuable funding source," said Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools during the kickoff. "Perhaps more importantly, it represents the incredible support our schools receive from this community, and we cannot thank our community enough."

The Original Knox County Schools Coupon Book provides funds to meet school needs identified by parents, teachers and school administrators. Students sold 153,642 coupon books during the 2012 campaign, raising almost \$1.4 million for the schools. Since 1989, more than 3.2 million coupon books have been sold to raise more than \$27.5 million for students in the Knox County Schools.

"For the 25<sup>th</sup> year, the coupon book still costs only \$10.00, and this year because of additional efficiencies identified in the production of the book, \$8.00 from the sale of each book go to the school where the book is sold. This is the most profit ever given to the schools in the book's 25-year history," said Scott Bacon, Supervisor of Business Partnerships for the Knox County Schools.

Schools with greater economic needs share \$.70 from the sale of each book, and eBook subscriptions for all Knox County Schools' libraries are funded by \$.13 of the proceeds. The cost of printing is \$.63 per book, and \$.54 of the book's cost go to cover administrative and student incentive cost.

Students and schools will sell the coupon book through September 23, 2013.

## Thanks to sponsors:

The Knox County Schools thanks the book's presenting sponsor, U.S. Cellular, and corporate sponsors: Rusty Wallace Kia, Stanley Steemer, First Tennessee, Junk Bee Gone and Rusty Wallace Honda.





# Thank A Teacher Week – Sept. 30 – Oct. 4, 2013



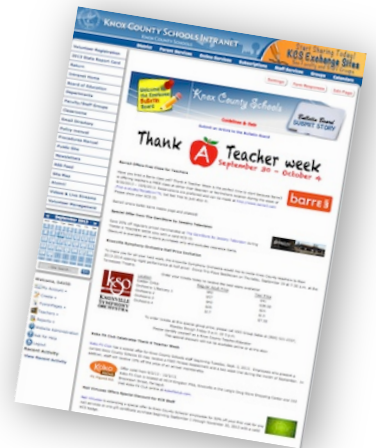
[Thank A Teacher Week](#), now in its second year, is Monday, September 30 through Friday, October 4, 2013. Join in the festivities of this week-long celebration to honor the work teachers do every day. This appreciation effort is a collaboration among the Great Schools Partnership, the Knox County Board of Education, the Knox County Schools, the Knox County Council PTA, the Knox County Education Association and the Knoxville Chamber.

Parents, students, community stakeholders, civic groups and businesses can *Thank A Teacher Week* in a variety of ways:

- Write personal thank you notes to the teachers and staff from

your family or organization.

- Deliver a basket of goodies to your teachers or a school nearby.
- Buy apples for each of your teachers and include a note of encouragement with each one.
- Display a poster or yard sign at your organization and help spread the news in your community.
- Plan a teacher luncheon or breakfast during the week by coordinating with the school's office.
- Visit the [Thank A Teacher Week Facebook](#) page and post wonderful things about your teachers or use the [#ThankATeacher](#) hashtag to share on Twitter.
- Extend a discount or special offer from your organization to all Knox County Schools' teachers.



*Teachers – check the “Bulletin Board” daily for special offers and discounts during Thank-A-Teacher Week.*



To request a *Thank A Teacher Week* poster or yard sign, or to let us know about a special offer from your business, please call the Great Schools Partnership at (865) 215-4501. You may also register online at <http://www.greatschoolspartnership.com/sign-up/>.

**Ahoy Mateys!**

## **Annual Parent Conference and Transition Fair Sets Sail October 12**

Annual Knox County Schools Parent Conference and  
Transition Fair  
Saturday, October 12, 2013  
Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.  
8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Central High School  
5321 Jacksboro Pike  
ParentConference@knoxschools.org

The Knox County Schools will offer its annual [Parent Conference](#) for all parents on October 12, and this year, to engage and serve more parents, the conference will be combined with the Knox County Schools Transition Fair for parents of students with disabilities. The event is free of charge, and childcare for ages 3-11 is provided at no cost with [advance registration](#).



To secure your place at the conference, please [register](#) early. Registration will close October 4, 2013, or when the event has reached capacity (whichever comes first).

### **What You Will Learn**

By attending the Parent Conference and Transition Fair, parents can become more effective school-home partners to strengthen student academic success. The event offers an opportunity for parents to gather to be motivated, informed and enlightened through engaging workshops, general session and keynote presentation to better support their children at home.



**Keynote Presentation:** Resilience: How to Give Kids this Key to Success

[Deborah Gilboa, M.D.](#)

**General Session:** All Aboard the Common Core State Standards Panel Discussion

## 2013 Workshops

- Anchoring Good Study Habits
- Feeling Marooned? Helping Your Elementary School Child with Homework
- Consulting the Compass: How to Help Prepare Your Middle School Child for College
- Argghh....How Social Media Can Affect Your Child's Future
- Raising the Sails: Helping Your Highly Proficient and Advanced Student
- All Hands on Deck: Working Together to Provide a Safe, Secure Learning Environment
- Ahoy Matey! Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Feeling Marooned? Helping Your Middle/High School Child with Homework
- How to Tell If a Child is a Bully, a Bystander, a Victim or a Plain 'Ol Scallywag
- Looking Through the Spyglass: Understanding Tennessee's Standardized Test Scores and Preparing for Change Ahead
- Anchors Aweigh! College Entrance Exam Testing 101(ACT/SAT)
- In the Galley: Quick, Easy and Healthy Meals, Snacks and Other Grub for Busy Parents
- Sports After High School...What is Required to Continue to Ex"sail"
- Hidden Treasure: Raising Smart Money Kids
- Moving from Rough Seas to Smooth Sailing: Helping My Struggling Learner at Home
- Changing the Tide of How Children Succeed
- Yo-ho-ho! Kindergarten Readiness and Beyond for Your Lil' Buccaneers
- Consulting the Compass: How to Help Prepare Your High School Child for College
- Shining a Beacon on Community Resources: For Students Who Will Function More Independently (T)
- Hold on, Mates! How Not to Lose Your Marbles in Times of a Tempest (T)
- Full Speed Ahead! Special Education: Preparing for Individual Education Program (IEP) Meetings (T)
- Navigating the Future: Understanding How to Access Services at the College Level (T)
- Shining a Beacon on Community Resources: For Students with Moderate/Severe Disabilities (T)
- Understanding the Role of VR Partner"ships": Vocational Rehabilitation Services (T)
- Sailing to Success: Creating a Meaningful Life (T)
- Unraveling the Mystery of Special Needs Trusts and Conservatorship (T)
- The Captain's Perspective: Student Panel Discussion (T)
- Mapping the Way: A Tool to Help You Plan Your Future! (T)
- Planning for the Voyage Ahead: Benefits Planning and Outreach (T)

(T) denotes workshops traditionally offered at the Transition Fair; although more suited for parents of students with special needs, these workshops are open to all parents.

Talleres/sesiones estarán disponibles para los asistentes de habla hispana. Workshops/sessions will be available for Spanish-speaking attendees.

Registration also is available by U.S. mail and by calling 865-594-9524. Questions? Contact [ParentConference@knoxschools.org](mailto:ParentConference@knoxschools.org) or visit [engagement.knoxschools.org](http://engagement.knoxschools.org).

**Interested in exhibiting at the Parent Conference and Transition Fair? Contact [ParentConference@knoxschools.org](mailto:ParentConference@knoxschools.org) by September 13, 2013.**

## School Technology Challenge Deployment in Full Swing

The deployment of computers and continuing training and support is in full swing for the eleven schools selected for the School Technology Challenge this year.

Teachers from each school received two weeks training this summer to prepare for the integration of the School Technology Challenge. The deployment of devices began in August and will be completed by October 1. Teachers have already received their device. Students will begin receiving devices this month.

“Principals and administrators have been thinking about how their facilities might be different,” said Theresa Nixon, Director of Instructional who oversees the project. Among the changes would be a help desk where a technician can help students with any technical problems. Schools also are considering topics such as digital citizenship and responsibility.

Students in grade K-3 will be using iPads. Students in grades 4-12 receive a MacBook Pro. The K-3 students will not have individual iPads but will have access to iPads as a class.

“There is a lot of excitement in the air, but we are being very logical about the process because there is so much potential for change,” Nixon said. “While we can envision what the classroom looks like when fully in place, we know that it can’t happen overnight. We are still figuring out how to make all the pieces happen; trying to manage the action steps to get there.”

Obviously, the deployment of 1,500 computers, their support, teacher training and their impact on classroom learning cannot be done overnight. The technology changes the way learning may take place. “There are different levels of adopters,” explained Nixon. “Some are prepared and ready to roll; others take more planning. We say we take it one *byte* at a time.”

To help make the move to 1:1 technology easier, the school system has hired eleven support technicians called “TPaCK coaches”. TPaCK stands for “Technology, Pedagogy, and Content Knowledge.” The eleven TPaCK coaches currently reside in each of the School Technology Challenge winning schools, but will also support the entire Knox County School system.



*Theresa Nixon  
Director of Instructional  
Technology*

## **STC SPOTLIGHT: Holston Middle School**



*Ashley Jessie  
Principal*

*Motivation, engagement, culture change, choice, voice, opportunities . . .*

These are key words that bubble from the enthusiastic excitement that [Holston Middle School](#) Principal Ashley Jessie can't contain when she talks about how the School Technology Challenge program will help Holston's students.

"This is going to change the culture of our students," she explains. "All of our students are going to have the same technology. Nobody is going to have anything 'one-up' on anyone else – ALL students will have the same opportunity."

The culture change that Jessie so excitedly talks about is the opportunity for the students to have a voice and a choice in learning. "It will be a project-based, student-centered classroom where students can take the lead," she said.

At Holston Middle School, being one of the winners of the School Technology Challenge means that EVERY student will have their own computer – in this case a MacBook Pro – and will no longer have to wait in line to use technology or to schedule time in a computer lab to work on a project. Students can work on individual projects over longer periods of time, and then share them with others using many different tools. Having technology allows students to work at their own level and for teachers to more easily differentiate learning.

"This allows us to take what the student knows and has learned and to produce it in a way that engages the student, that involves the student, and that shows their creativity," said Jessie. "There are endless possibilities."

### **Steering Committee:**

To help explore the possibilities the school has created a steering committee to help with the planning process.

### **Student Tech Experts:**

A team of 50 'Student Tech Experts' who are tech savvy will help other students. The students had to interview for the job and do a presentation. "These students will help other students as they roll out the program. They are already pitching ideas left and right," Jessie adds.

### **TFT Fridays:**

The staff spends has created "TFT" every Friday. TFT is Technology Focus Time which is 30 minutes every Friday spent learning a new computer application.

Parents and students will spend 1½ hours in a training session before they can pickup their computer.



*TPaCK coach Tiersha Adkins  
and Holston Middle School  
teacher Karen Pallesen work  
together during a TFT session.*

## Five KCS Schools Receive High Performing, Progressing Accolade

The Tennessee Department of Education recently released its annual list of [Reward Schools](#), which recognizes the top 5 percent of schools in the state for annual growth (progress measured by school-wide value-added data) and the top 5% for academic achievement (performance measured by overall student achievement levels) under the State of Tennessee's new accountability system. Each year, the Tennessee Department of Education recognizes Tennessee schools that have shown the most progress or performance year-over-year alongside the schools with the highest achievement or value-added data.

This year's Reward Schools list recognizes 70 schools in Tennessee for overall academic achievement, and 83 schools for annual value-added growth. The list also names 16 schools in Tennessee that earned both designations, rising to the top 5% for annual value-added growth while also ranking in the state's top 5% for overall achievement.

In the Knox County Schools, five schools were designated as Reward Schools:

[Sequoyah Elementary School](#) – Performance (Reward School for the second consecutive year)

[Powell Elementary School](#) – Progress

[Carter High School](#) – Progress

[Farragut High School](#) – Performance and Progress

[L&N STEM Academy](#) – Performance

“It is great to see several of our schools recognized for their performance and progress in being among the top five percent of schools in the state,” said Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools. “This is reflective of the overall hard work happening in our classrooms, the great work that our teachers and students are doing, and the support of our community so that we continue to see an upward trajectory in student learning and success.”

A complete list of Reward Schools is available at [tn.gov/education/accountability/reward\\_2013.shtml](http://tn.gov/education/accountability/reward_2013.shtml).

School-level achievement data is available at [tn.gov/education/tcap/index.shtml#School\\_Data](http://tn.gov/education/tcap/index.shtml#School_Data).

2012-13 TVAAS scores are available at <https://tvaas.sas.com/public.html?as=b>.



*[L to R] Knoxville Parent magazine publishers, Michael Kull and Eva Nations, present a check to superintendent of the Knox County Schools, Dr. Jim McIntyre, during the Partners In Education kickoff breakfast last month.*

## Partners and Educators Kick Off New School Year

The Knox County Schools is fortunate to have a large and enthusiastic group of businesses and community organizations that choose to partner with schools to support the ambitious goal of *Excellence for All Children*.

Nearly 250 partners and school representatives attended the annual [Partners In Education](#) kickoff breakfast, hosted by the University of Tennessee Medical Center this month, to celebrate existing and recognize new partnerships.

Scott Bacon, supervisor of Business Partnerships for the Knox County Schools, announced a generous show of support from [Knoxville Parent magazine](#), which donated \$10,000 to the Knox County Schools. The money supports parent outreach efforts, particularly the Parent Conference and Transition Fair on October 12.



# “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

*-Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa 1994-99*

This quote from Nelson Mandela hangs in her family’s living room:

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Lucy Greer, West High School senior and the Student Representative on this year’s Knox County [Board of Education](#), admits to having spent hours mulling over the words, simply thinking about their meaning.

“This truth is evident in everything from national education trends to my own family history,” she wrote in her application when being considered for the Student Representative position. “My grandmother grew up in rural South Carolina during the Great Depression amid a tangle of siblings and abandoned children whom her parents had taken in out of the kindness of their hearts, regardless of financial strain.”

Poverty was so universal in the low country of South Carolina that “Nana” didn’t feel the loss of wealth that a whole nation was experiencing. Nana became the first in her family to achieve a college degree when she received a full scholarship to Oglethorpe University for her academic excellence. She became a kindergarten teacher who taught hundreds of children across decades.

“My mom followed her footsteps,” said Lucy. “She became a teacher as well and used her education to help abused children in mental distress. The influence of education on my life is indescribable. I truly believe that I am where I am today because my family is exceptionally serious about education. The impact of education can alter generations.”

Unaware there even was a student representative on the Board of Education until West Counselor Sarah Bast encouraged her to apply, Lucy wants to revolutionize how students and the Board interact. “Many of my peers receive news through social media. I want to create a Twitter account and Facebook page to address my peers, making the news easily accessible and interesting for them to read without the usual taint of confusion.”

While Lucy confesses to being a deep thinker on her own, she recognizes that her role is to represent the students on the board. “I truly want to represent the students – to be their representative,” she said. She noted that when the board holds discussions, they are “talking about my everyday life.”

Lucy brings a lot of experience to the job because of her involvement in West High School’s Mock Trial program. She has spent three years on the Mock Trial team that won second place at the Regional Tennessee State High School Mock Trial Competition this year.



*Lucille Greer  
Senior, West High  
Board of Education  
Student Representative*



She also is pursuing an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma at West which is a very demanding program. Despite the demand on free time that the IB Diploma requires, Lucy makes time for other activities as well while maintaining a 4.32 average through the first three years of high school.

Lucy's future plans may include studying Law or even directing theater – or both. She plans to attend the University of Tennessee where she will continue to pursue her education and undoubtedly fulfill Mandela's promise that "education can change the world."



*Lynne Fugate  
Chair*



*Gloria Deathridge  
Vice-Chair*

### **Fugate, Deathridge elected to lead Board of Education in 2013-14**

The Knox County Board of Education elected a new chair and vice-chair for the 2013-14 school year at their September meeting. Lynn Fugate was elected Chair and Gloria Deathridge was elected Vice-Chair.

Both Fugate and Deathridge are entering the third year of their first term on the Board of Education. Ms. Fugate represents the fourth district and Ms. Deathridge represents the first district.

## Important Dates and Information

### **The Original Knox County Schools Coupon Book 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Sept. 5-23**

The Knox County Schools will officially kicked off its [25<sup>th</sup> annual coupon book](#) sale campaign on Thursday, Sept. 5 to help provide funds to meet school needs identified by parents, teachers and school administrators. Students sold 153,642 [coupon books](#) during the 2012 campaign representing a profit of \$1,355,122.44. Since 1989, over 3.2 million coupon books have been sold, raising more than \$27.5 million for Knox County students. The campaign will conclude on Sept. 23.

### **End 4 ½ Weeks Grading Period - Thursday, Sept. 12**

### **Community Schools Community Update – Wednesday, Sept. 25**

The Great Schools Partnership will host a Community Update meeting on Wednesday, September 25 from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Knoxville Family Justice Center located at 400 Harriett Tubman Street. All are invited to learn more about Knox County Schools' Community Schools and how to be involved. Please contact Virginia Babb at (865) 599-9707 for additional information or [click here](#) to register online.

### **Staff Development Day, Student Holiday - Friday, Sept. 27**

### **Celebrate Thank a Teacher Week – Monday, Sept. 30 – Friday, Oct. 4**

Celebrate the dedication and success of Knox County Schools' teachers on Monday, Sept. 30 through Friday, Oct. 4 during [Thank a Teacher Week](#) sponsored by the [Great Schools Partnership](#). [Click Here](#) to find out how you or your organization can be involved in honoring educators in our community.

### **Parent Engagement Luncheon – Monday, Oct. 7 at 11:30 a.m.**

#### **“Parents: The Core to Student Success”**

Parents can learn more about the Common Core State Standards and how best to help their child. Event will be held at the Teacher Supply Depot (709 North Cedar Bluff Rd. on the back side of the Cedar Bluff Preschool). Keynote speaker will be Jared Bigham, Director for College and Career Readiness at the [State Collaborative on Reforming Education](#) (SCORE). A light lunch will be served beginning at 11:30 a.m. and RSVPs are required to attend. Please RSVP by Oct. 2 to [unitliaison@knoxcountyppta.org](mailto:unitliaison@knoxcountyppta.org).

### **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Parent Conference “Discovering Treasures of Success” – Saturday, Oct. 12**

The Knox County Schools will present “Discovering Treasures of Success” at its Annual [Parent Conference](#) at Central High School located at 5321 Jacksboro Pike on Saturday, Oct. 12 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This year, to engage and serve more parents, the conference will be combined with the Knox County Schools Transition Fair for parents of students with disabilities. Lunch and childcare will be provided along with a variety of free materials to all parents and caregivers of Knox County Schools' students. Parents will have the opportunity to attend multiple workshops on topics identified through input from parents throughout Knox County Schools, such as homework help, resources for English language learners, special needs advocacy, college prep, and more!

For more information, please visit [knoxschools.org](http://knoxschools.org) or call (865) 594-9525.

**End First 9-Weeks Grading Period - Wednesday, Oct. 16**

**Fall Break- Thursday, Oct. 17 – Friday, Oct. 18**

Knox County Schools will be closed on Thursday, Oct. 17 and Friday, Oct. 18 for Fall Break.

**School Calendar**

The [2014-2015 Knox County Schools Calendar](http://knoxschools.org) is now available online in English and Spanish at [knoxschools.org](http://knoxschools.org)