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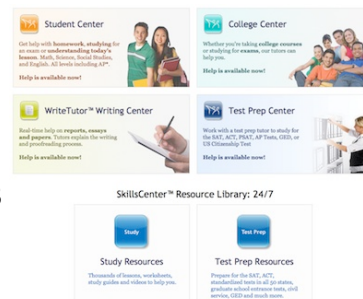
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Important Dates and Information



Superintendent to Deliver Third Annual “State of the Schools” Address

Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools, will deliver his third annual “State of the Schools” Address on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 6 p.m., at Hardin Valley Academy (11345 Hardin Valley Road). The event is open to the public.

The State of the Schools Address will provide an overview of academic progress in the Knox County Schools, give an update on implementation of the five-year strategic plan entitled *Excellence for All Children* and outline the educational goals and aspirations for the coming year.

The State of the Schools Address will be broadcast live on KCS-TV, Comcast Cable Channel 10 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99. It will also be broadcast live on WBIR’s 10News2. On the web, it will be streamed live at knoxschools.org, wbir.com. The Address can be heard on WKCS radio 91.1 and WKCS [Retro Radio](#).

Please note that two or more Board of Education members may be present.



Superintendent McIntyre Develops Action Steps for Teacher Support

Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools, outlined 11 action steps he will implement in support of teachers. Presented in a [memo](#) to the Board of Education in January, the action steps McIntyre developed are based on feedback from educators through various means, including community meetings, small group conversations, a Working Group on Teacher Professional Support and a survey of teachers.

“Through all of these avenues, I have heard many teachers express considerable frustration and anxiety resulting from the tremendous pace of change we have experienced over the past several years,” McIntyre said in the memo. “Based on listening carefully to feedback from our educators, I am convinced that it would be beneficial to make a few adjustments in order to better support our teachers in the terrific work they are doing in educating our children and to sustain the impressive gains in student academic success we have experienced in the Knox County Schools.”

The 11 action steps McIntyre will immediately begin implementing in support of teachers include these:

Assessment

- Decline to participate in the PARCC Field Test this spring.
- Decline to participate in the optional Writing Assessments this spring.
- Make Discovery Education Assessment a **choice** for teachers at the Professional Learning Community (PLC) level.

Evaluation

- In the 2014-2015 school year and beyond, give professionally licensed teachers the **choice** to have all classroom observation visits be unannounced or to have an equal number of announced and unannounced observations. (For professionally licensed teachers in TEAM schools this would mean one announced and one unannounced classroom observation visit.)
- In the 2014-2015 school year and beyond, give professionally licensed teachers in TEAM schools who earn a Level 5 summative evaluation score the **choice** to have one formal unannounced observation visit and two walk-throughs or to remain with the traditional observation structure. (This is allowed by TN DOE guidelines for teachers scoring Level 5.)
- In the current spring semester ONLY, allow professionally licensed teachers who have not been observed in January to be notified of the **month** in which their second unannounced classroom observation visit will occur. (This strategy is in response to the

unique circumstances associated with the current school year, and therefore would not be repeated in future years.)

Time, Feedback & Support

- Half of the February 17th In-service day will now be dedicated to teacher planning time in their classrooms.
- The school system will not administer the TRIPOD student perception survey in the primary grades (K-2) this spring. The administration of the survey will be completed for developmental feedback only in grades 3-12 this spring, and teachers with multiple classes will be given the **choice** to select which class completes the survey for this semester.
- Enhance the quality and frequency of professional development on the 19 indicators of effective instruction that are embedded in the teacher evaluation instrument (the “rubric”) for both teachers and observers/evaluators.
- Clarify guidance on Professional Learning Communities and take a different approach to the Conferences of Concern for performance reasons next year.
- The Working Group on Teacher Professional Support will serve as a Teacher Advisory Committee and meet monthly with McIntyre for the remainder of this school year. In particular, McIntyre will further explore the issue of teacher instructional autonomy and limitations on professional judgment. He will continue with a Teacher Advisory Committee structure next year and will develop a nomination/selection process this spring.

The action steps reinforce teacher professionalism by providing voice and choice in critical areas.

“I appreciate the talent and expertise that our teachers bring to the classroom and will continue to seek ways to include teacher voice in our decision-making,” McIntyre stated in the memo, “as well as continuing to embrace teacher leadership as a means of allowing outstanding educators to have a greater role in shaping our instructional work.”

While addressing many of the concerns from teachers, the 11 action steps do not compromise the Knox County Schools’ high standards and rigorous expectations for students and staff.

“We have collectively worked too hard, come too far and seen too much student academic progress to allow ourselves to slip backward,” McIntyre stated.

Career Magnet Academy at Pellissippi State Campus Preparing for Fall Opening

Progress continues on the Career Magnet Academy scheduled to open this fall on the Strawberry Plains Campus of Pellissippi State Community College (7201 Strawberry Plains Pike).

Students will be able to choose one of four specific career clusters: Homeland Security, Advanced Manufacturing, Teacher Preparation and Sustainable Living.



Students enrolling at the Career Magnet Academy at Pellissippi State Community College can expect a learning environment like no other. “Our goal is to cater our program to the needs of each student, ensuring that the student is involved in a culture of high expectations and high outcomes,” said John Derek Faulconer, principal. “Students will participate in a rigorous course load; however, the student can also expect high levels of hands-on learning opportunities coupled with highly trained staff dedicated to success.”

By attending the Career Magnet Academy at Pellissippi State Community College, students can earn up to 33 college credit hours in general education courses and specific fields of study associated with the pathway he or she chooses. Students must follow a specific course of study and meet the minimum requirements to enroll in dual credit or dual enrollment courses needed for the clusters in order to earn credits. The Career Magnet Academy at Pellissippi State Community College is proud to announce its industry partnerships with Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA), DENSO, and Republic Plastics. These partnerships may allow students opportunities to job shadow and to complete internships and field experiences. The school will continue to work with the Knoxville Chamber to identify future partners.

Knox County Schools Offers One Transfer Window for Magnet and General Transfers

Parents may request transfers to any school within the Knox County Schools for the 2014-2015 school year. The Knox County Schools offers one transfer window for requests for transfers to magnet schools and for general transfers. The transfer window is open through 4 p.m. on February 18, 2014.

Transfer applications are available [online](#) and at the Transfers and Enrollment Office (912 S. Gay Street). Magnet schools transfer applications also are available at magnet school locations. For more information about transfers, visit the Knox County Schools [website](#) and refer to the revised Knox County Schools [policy](#) or contact the [Transfers and Enrollment Office](#) at 865-594-1502. After the February 18 closing, the window for both magnet and general transfers will open again May 1-July 1, 2014.

The Knox County Schools has nine magnet schools:

Elementary Schools

- Beaumont Magnet Academy (1211 Beaumont Avenue)
- Green Magnet STEAM Academy (800 Townview Drive)
- Sarah Moore Greene Technology Magnet Academy (3001 Brooks Avenue)

Middle School

- Vine Middle STEAM Magnet School (1807 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue)

High Schools

- Austin-East Performing Arts Magnet High School (2800 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue)
- Fulton High School's School of Communications (2509 N. Broadway)
- L&N STEM Academy (401 Henley Street)
- West High School's International Baccalaureate Programme (3300 Sutherland Avenue)
- Coming August 2014: Career Magnet Academy at Pellissippi State Community College (7201 Strawberry Plains Pike)

For more information about magnet schools and for a list of dates about magnet-school open house events, please contact the Knox County Schools Magnet Office at (865) 594-1731 or www.choice.knoxschools.org.



ANONYMOUS Text-A-Tip

Improved Text-a-Tip Program Helps Students Anonymously Report Issues

Effective Jan. 1, 2014, the Knox County Schools changed its anonymous text-a-tip service provider from Tip411 to TipSoft, increasing the functionality and ease of use for students. The text-a-tip

program offers middle and high school students a way to anonymously report potential violence, drugs, bullying or other sensitive issues to school security and law enforcement. The initiative is a partnership between the Knox County Schools and the Knox County Sheriff's Office. TipSoft replaces Tip411 and is easier to use for students. It also offers more robust communications capabilities for authorities.

Remembering the text-a-tip number is easier than before, and the process is just as quick and simple. The new number is 274637 (spells CRIMES). Students simply text 274637, type the keyword "knoxschools" then a space, then input the tip. Additionally, there is a free app available for download on Android and iPhone mobile devices. Students can search "TipSubmit Mobile," and download the free app.

Free Online Tutoring Service Available for Students

A new online tutoring service, TutorTN, is now available free of charge to students in the Knox County Schools. Students simply visit www.tutor.com/TutorTN and enter their seven-character active directory login or their Knox County Public Library card numbers to connect with expert tutors for one-to-one homework help or tutoring sessions in online classrooms. The TutorTN pilot project in Knox County is available from 3-10 p.m., seven days a week. Students can use computers, mobile phones and tablets to access the system.

The image shows a grid of four service tiles for TutorTN. Each tile includes an icon, a title, a brief description of the service, and a 'Help is available now!' button. Below the grid is the 'SkillsCenter™ Resource Library: 24/7' section, which contains two tiles: 'Study Resources' and 'Test Prep Resources'. The 'Study Resources' tile mentions 'Thousands of lessons, worksheets, study guides and videos to help you.' The 'Test Prep Resources' tile lists preparation for 'the SAT, ACT, standardized tests in all 50 states, graduate school entrance tests, civil service, GED and much more.'

Once students log onto the service, they select grade levels and subjects. Students can post questions or upload problems to share with tutors who work with students in online classrooms where they can text, use interactive whiteboards, or share documents. Students who sign up for optional free accounts can share their sessions via email and review them later.

Since the TutorTN program began in September 2013, Knox County Schools students have engaged in over 1500 free tutoring sessions. In December alone, the service was used over 380 times by students. The majority of tutoring sessions in December focused on math, however, students also took advantage of science, social studies, english and citizenship assistance. Additionally, though nearly every grade was represented, students who identified themselves as 7th or 10th graders used the service most frequently.

Of students who took advantage of the Live One-to-One Sessions, 95 percent felt that the service helped them be more confident in their school work, 93 percent felt that the service was helping them improve their grades, and 94 percent would recommend the service to their friends. Students also provided helpful feedback regarding the tutoring site:

“I enjoyed using Tutor.com. It was very quick and easy and helped me in my homework. Thanks!! :D”

“My tutor was very encouraging and helped me figure out my problem without giving me the answer. They were wonderful.”

“My tutor really helped me use the knowledge I already had to think through this problem! Thank you!”

The new program is funded by the Tennessee State Library and Archives and is available to all Knox County students through the end of the current school year. If the program is successful, the State Library and Archives hopes to expand the service to all Tennessee students in fall 2014 through the [Tennessee Electronic Library](#).

Knox County Schools Institutes Background Checks for Some Volunteers

The Knox County Board of Education has adopted a policy on volunteers that requires background checks for certain volunteers.

Effective Jan. 1, 2014, the Knox County Schools began requiring background checks for volunteers who may have direct contact with students under limited or no supervision by school staff. These types of volunteers are expected to have completed a background check that returns no information that would restrict their activities. Volunteer background checks conducted by the Knox County Schools are free of charge for schools and prospective volunteers.

Interested individuals should pick up a Volunteer Consent Form and Volunteer Confidentiality Agreement from their respective schools. Once a prospective volunteer completes both forms, he/she should return the forms to the school or fax to (865) 594-1907 to begin the background check process. All volunteers who are receiving a background check will be notified of their status (either approved or not approved) once the background check is complete. If a prospective volunteer has previously had a background check completed, he/she must fill out the Volunteer Confidentiality Agreement and provide proof of a clear background check to the Knox County Schools by sending a copy of the background check to the Knox County Schools Office of Public Affairs; it can also be faxed to (865) 594-1907.

If parents have questions regarding this process, they may contact their school directly or contact Faye Boyd or Katie Edmiston in the Office of Public Affairs at (865) 594-1800.

Run for the Schools to Benefit the Knox County Schools



On Saturday, March 1, the sixth annual [Rusty Wallace Honda Run for the Schools](#) 5K Run/Walk will kick off at 8 a.m. at the Knoxville Zoo and Chilhowee Park. A minimum of \$5 of every registration goes back to the participant's school of choice.

The Rusty Wallace Honda Run for the Schools offers something for participants of all ages and varying fitness levels, including a 5K run/walk through Chilhowee Park and a one-mile family fun walk through the Knoxville Zoo. There will also be a 100-yard dash for participants who are 12 years or younger.

Registration costs before February 27 are \$15 for students and \$25 for others. During last year's event, participants helped raise more than \$9,000 for the Knox County Schools.



After the race, participants will receive free admission to the Knoxville Zoo and be able to enjoy music, refreshments and giveaways from area vendors. In addition to awards for each division, special prizes will also be given to the schools with the fastest principal, largest percentage of student participation and largest percentage of teacher participation.

For more information about the Rusty Wallace Honda Run for the Schools, visit www.runfortheschools.org or contact Kristina Howard at khoward@tvacredunion.com or (865) 599-2187.

Career Day Set for Feb. 20 to Welcome Eighth Graders, High Schoolers



Nearly 100 area employers and colleges will participate in the annual Knox County Schools [Career Day](#) for 8th-12th grade students on Thursday, Feb. 20, 4 - 7:30 p.m., at the Knoxville Expo Center (5441 Clinton Highway). The event is free and open to all Knox County Schools' eighth graders, high school students and their parents and guardians.

Career Day will provide an opportunity for students to become acquainted with employment opportunities in the area and interact with people in many different occupational areas. Students will have the opportunity to speak with representatives from a [variety of businesses](#) and professions, including healthcare, county government, construction, health and fitness, tourism, media, education and several others. Many businesses and organizations will offer hands-on displays to give students a better idea of what their businesses entail. Employers also will provide information on educational/certification requirements, salaries, employment outlooks and more.

In addition to employers, several area community colleges, universities and technical schools will have representatives on hand to discuss post-secondary education. There also will be representatives from each Knox County Schools high school to speak with eighth-grade students and their parents about the transition to high school and what each high school offers.

Please note that admission is not allowed after 7 p.m.; to take advantage of Career Day, please arrive before 7 p.m. The Knoxville Expo Center will offer concessions during the event. Parking is free, and the Knox County Schools provides buses from most middle schools to transport eighth-grade students to Career Day.

The 2014 Knox County Schools Career Day is made possible through the support of corporate sponsor AT&T and funds from the annual Knox County Schools Dine Out for Education event and the Knox County Schools Coupon Book.

Important Dates and Information

Transfer Window – Now through Feb. 18, 2014

The Knox County Schools now offers one transfer window for requests for transfers to magnet schools and for general transfers. The transfer window is open through 4 p.m. on Feb. 18, 2014. Transfer applications are available [online](#) and at the Transfers and Enrollment Office, 912 S. Gay Street. For more information about transfers, visit the Knox County Schools [website](#) and refer to the revised Knox County Schools [policy](#).

Partners in Education Regional Conference – March 3, 7:30 a.m. | 3:30 p.m., Sarah Simpson Center Great Room

Open House Events: Career Magnet Academy at Pellissippi State

The Career Magnet Academy at Pellissippi State will host Open House Events where prospective students and parents can meet the principal, John Derek Faulconer, and visit the campus. Each Open House Events will be held at Pellissippi State Technical Community College Strawberry Plains Campus, 7201 Strawberry Plains Pike, Knoxville, TN 37914, and will be from 6 - 8 p.m. The Career Magnet Academy, schedule to open August 2014, will offer coursework in advanced manufacturing, sustainable living, homeland security, and teacher preparation. A public input process to name the school will be assembled early next year.

Monday, Feb. 10, 2014

State of the Schools Address – Feb. 11, 6 p.m., Hardin Valley Academy

Presidents' Day, Student Holiday – Feb. 17

Inservice Day

Knox County Board of Education Mid-Month Work Session – Feb. 18, 5 p.m., Andrew Johnson Building, 1st Floor Conference Room

Career Day – Feb. 20, 4 - 7:30 p.m., Knoxville Expo Center

Free for all 8th grade and high school students. Employers from a wide variety of career areas will be on display throughout the exhibition hall. Colleges and universities will also attend to showcase their programs. Additionally, representatives from each of the Knox County Schools high schools will be in attendance to meet 8th graders. No admittance after 7 p.m.