



THE DIRECTOR'S VIEW

BRADLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS

February 2016

Joeli Poole, WVHS A/V Productions, Editor

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College and Career Readiness

"MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

The bar is being raised on high school graduates. If they are to meet new college- and career-readiness standards, experts say it will take teachers who are prepared and administrators who create an environment for success for every student beyond the academic courses. If



we want to increase the chances of high school success for students, we must help them build bridges for post high school. Most high school students have no vision for what they want to do beyond high school. Therefore, it is important for the community and the schools to work collaboratively

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February Highlights

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Stephen May, BCHS CTE student
Stan Green, Ocoee Middle School
Pat Auberry, Parent Volunteer - Oak Grove
Jodie Grannan, Park View Elementary

March Theme - March Madness



Around the County with Joeli Poole - February's Theme is College and Career Readiness. This month, Joeli talks with Danny Coggin about Shmoop, the online training tool to aide with ACT, Student Internships at Cormetech and Check into Cash, Charleston Elementary gets a 3D printer, and Hopewell Elementary celebrates with cap and gown pictures. [Watch February's Around the County Video.](#)

Special videos: [Internship Program at Cormetech](#) [Externship Videos - Life Care](#) [Olin-Cormetech](#) [SkyRidge](#)

National CTE Month

Bradley County Schools CTE getting students College and Career ready

The hope, the dream, the end result for every child in our system is one day he or she will have a career enabling the child to contribute his or her talents to improve our community and be a productive citizen. In Career and Technical Education we have the privilege to equip students with knowledge and skills in technical Pathways related to the National Career Clusters preparing each student for entry into the workforce and college. During the month of February as we celebrate Career and Technical Education, Bradley County Schools CTE department proudly introduces our website: thinkcte.org. Adopting our BCS CTE brand, Think CTE relays our thoughts for the different focus areas of our programs.

Think Workforce Development: The large

skills gap continues to widen in the United States. Skilled trade workers in welding, machining, information technology, advanced manufacturing, engineering, transportation and healthcare professions are in high-demand, pay high wages and are experiencing shortages. High school CTE programs play a critical role in training students for entry into these careers with program opportunities in each of these areas and others.

Think Leadership Development: The high school experience would not be complete without extracurricular activities.

The student organizations of CTE give students the ability to develop the soft skills needed for the workforce and life. Communication skills, problem solving, technical skill mastery and performance,

(See CTE page 4)



Elementary News

Michigan Avenue Beta Club raises over \$200 for charity

Written by: Hannah Morris, BETA Club Secretary

Michigan Avenue Elementary School BETA Club raised money and donated items to New Hope Pregnancy Center. This was their spring social service project. The boys raised money



for at risk families in plastic baby bottles, and raised over \$200. The girls had a "baby shower" and brought baby gifts for families who needed things like diapers, wipes, and baby clothes. Everyone was happy to pitch in and do their part for our community!

Cleveland State COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2016 STEM CAMPS

(Director's from page 1)

to prepare students for work beyond the high school doors. By increasing opportunities for engagement and planning for interactions with businesses, we can give students vision for a future. One initiative that has been a success is the advisor/advisee program. Advisor/advisee programs involve teachers meeting with small groups to find a focus and an identity. These opportunities are typically designed around career opportunities, course selection and guidance and mentoring activities. Often test taking skills are addressed as well as strengthening study habits. Providing students with guidance and support and work based opportunities beyond the school can lead to self-discipline, life skills, and the vision for future prospects.

Schools leaders who truly desire to help students stay engaged in school must intentionally build a culture that fosters and builds bridges from the school to the community. Making students aware of the power of being successful in high school creates a winning next step for graduates, parents, post-secondary schools and future employers.

Join the Team!
LIVE TOBACCO FREE

Coordinated School Health in partnership with Bradley Co. Health Department

Bradley County Schools

Kindergarten Rocks!

You are invited to bring your
Upcoming Kindergarteners
to visit Elementary Schools

Thursday, March 17 @ 5:00 p.m.

To enroll students in kindergarten parents
will need their child's birth certificate,
Social Security number, and proof of immunizations

**Registration ★ Meet the Teachers
View the Classrooms ★ Tour the School**

For more Bradley County Schools Good News - Click Here

This month, two Michigan Avenue students score perfect 4s on TCAP writing assessment, Tim Lowry's story time at Hopewell, Walker Valley's Mustang Mentors, OMS teachers visit local businesses, and more.

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Students on the Case

Park View Elementary dedicates 'STEM Night' event to CSI theme

A beloved school pet- a bearded dragon - had gone missing, and Park View Elementary students and their families were tasked with finding out who might have abducted him. They put their detective skills to work during their CSI Night, which was this year's STEM Night event. "This allows the kids to explore STEM to solve a mystery," Principal Jodie Grannan said. "We want them to be excited to come to school, and they have been." Scamper lives in the main hallway for all the students to see but he went missing about a week prior to the event. The kidnapper left behind a ransom note, a foot-print, and a powdery fingerprint. Second grade teacher, Heather Hayes, who was the event coordinator, said this "was the biggest turnout ever for a STEM event." They're having to work together and use critical thinking to solve this mystery.



Students dusting for fingerprints at CSI Night

(See CSI Night page 4)

Secondary News

What is all the fuss about ACT?

At no time in the history of our country has education been so important to the employability of our current and future students. But, even more so never has education been more important to the lives of our current and future students. Opportunities for growth are all around us and we, as educators, as parents, as a community and most importantly as students must take advantage of these opportunities. One of those growth opportunities is the ACT.

The ACT is a standardized test that compares what our students know to what other students know across the country. This test is not just an 11th grade test, but a test that measures a student's aggregate knowledge. This helps us understand where we as a system can support our students by looking at these scores to find deficit areas or areas



of need. The ACT is an accurate predictor of college success but it is also an accurate predictor of career success.

Each student in Bradley County Schools deserves the best from us every single day. We are here to build an educational foundation for students that will last a lifetime. The ACT is a part of that foundation. On April 19th of this year all students in the 11th grade will be taking the ACT. This is a testing opportunity that is provided by and required by the State of Tennessee. First, let me say it is extremely important for your child to be there on April 19, 2016. Let me also say there

are opportunities for your child to prepare for the test ahead of time. The website ([Click here to visit the ACT Website](#)) gives an incredible amount of information to the student and offers practice opportunities for them. Each of our high schools, our middle schools, Goal Academy and Virtual School also offer and provide access to Shmoop. Shmoop is a great learning tool that is interactive and provides a great opportunity to prepare for the ACT. If your child has not received their password for Shmoop please have them see their school office.

One way we can help each student prepare for the ACT is reading. Currently our system is in the midst of a concerted effort,

(See ACT page 4)

GEAR UP

Helping get BCS students College and Career ready

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP). GEAR UP is all about college and career readiness. Bradley County Schools receives \$167,200 in GEAR UP TN grant funds to support the cohort of students from Lake Forest Middle School that began in the 7th grade and will graduate high school in 2018. It also follows these students into their freshman year, 2019, of college. Seniors at Bradley Central and GOAL Academy are also served with this grant each year through 2019. The GEAR UP TN Cohort students are currently in the 10th grade at Bradley Central. Cohort students and seniors each year receive a variety of services to show that early intervention helps students get on the "college/career" track. We find that students and parents are not aware of all that is available to them and this grant program helps not only with the message but with actual hands on support to get the information out. Some of the initiatives GEAR UP

TN sponsors are:

College/Job site visits

ACT Prep

FAFSA Completion support

College applications support

Academic Signing Events at both GOAL and Bradley Central

Parent Advisory Counsel at Bradley Central

Professional Development for teachers

Academic Field Trips

Financial Aid Nights for parents and students

Cambridge Program events



YCC Grant

Preparing students in Health Science, Information Technology, and Advance Manufacturing

Bradley Central and Walker Valley are in Program Year 2 of the Pathways Bradley – Youth CareerConnect Grant. Pathways Bradley targets students in the focus areas of Health Science, Information Technology, and Advanced Manufacturing. Through the grant we are able to provide a number of support services for students to prepare them for careers, college and beyond. Each school has a dedicated career counselor to work with the Pathways Bradley students to counsel with them and navigate selecting courses and helping them get involved in the many opportunities that are listed below. Currently we are serving a total of 225 students at each school and provide them with Dell Venues that are assigned to the student. Career counselors make students aware and sign students up for job site visits, college visits, mentoring by someone in their desired career field, job shadowing, field trips, paid and unpaid internships, industry credentials, college credits, summer camps and the opportunities are growing. Some of the students that have participated in internships are featured in this issue.

Teachers are also a part of Pathways Bradley as the grant provides professional development, training, equipment, curriculum, and supplies that are costly and needed to support instruction in the classroom. Last summer 21 teachers were a part of Externships

(See YCC Grant page 4)

County Spotlights



Student Spotlight - Will Kinney, WVHS
Stephen May, BCHS



Teacher Spotlight - Stan Green
Ocoee Middle School



Parent Volunteer - Pat Auberry
Oak Grove Elementary



Administrator Spotlight - Jodie Grannan
Park View Elementary

(CSI Night from page 2)

They are also getting exposed to different careers."

The suspects were narrowed down throughout the week based on clues to include, SRO Russ Henry, P. E. Coach Johnny Hayes, school counselor Shannon Nelson, and instructional coach Stephanie Rountree. The four suspects were interrogated all night by the students. They were helped by Detective Zech Pike from the Bradley County Sherriff's Department (BCSD). The students loved getting to speak with real detectives along with other STEM professionals throughout the night. The students dusted for fingerprints with Detective Brandon Edwards (BCSD). Edwards stated, "This teaches them about the kinds of things we do on a regular basis." They matched handwriting samples with computer engineer Edwin Plank. Chemical engineer from Lonza, Emily Calhoun, helped students identify a mystery substance, and Douglas Caywood with Lewis Group architects and Annette Moore with Tennessee Valley Authority were with students as they made models of the suspect's shoeprints.

Sherriff Eric Watson (BCSD) was present throughout the night to monitor the crime scene. At the end of the night, video surveillance was found that proved Officer Henry was the "kidnapper". Sherriff Watson was able to apprehend the suspect, and Scamper was returned safely.

(CTE from page 1)

teamwork, attendance, all are demonstrated in the competitive events, camps, and leadership events of our programs such as Business, Marketing, Agriculture and others.

Think Beyond Graduation: CTE Graduation Plus expects our students to graduate high school with a diploma plus a credential or experience contributing to advantage when applying for college or career. Examples include industry certifications, internships, practicum experiences such as this A/V practicum, portfolios, capstone projects, and more. Check out all of the opportunities on our website...[Think CTE.](#)

(ACT from page 3)

Read 20, which is geared toward building the reading skills of each student. This is not just an elementary school program; it is a program for all students. The ability to read is the single most important skill a student can possess in order to help them build their future. All sections of the ACT are dependent on reading. We are here to help each child do well on the ACT and we believe that reading is the key to a life that is built on a solid educational foundation.

[For more Bradley County Schools Good News - Click Here](#)

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(YCC Grant from page 3)

into local businesses and many more will participate this coming summer.

Video links of the teachers' experiences are within this article. Please view to see what teachers learned!

Outcomes expected from Pathways Bradley are that students will: Improve academic performance and attendance, Increase CTE course credits and dual enrollment credits earned, demonstrate "work readiness," earn industry credentials, be employed or enter college, occupational training or apprenticeships at the completion of the program, and be successful in life.

Pictures on Left: Pathways Bradley Grant Students from Bradley Central High School (top) and Walker Valley High School (bottom)

