

THE DIRECTOR'S VIEW

BRADLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS

October 2016

Katy Champion, Publisher, BCHS A/V Production

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

Project Based Learning "MAKE A DIFFERENCE"



Over the last decade or so, policy-makers, business leaders and educators have pursued adding more STEM curriculum to children's education. The need of more science and technology came from the realization that the future economy needs many more people who are knowledgeable in the STEM fields. In addition to the content of the subjects themselves, STEM education is essential to developing problem-solving, critical thinking, innovation, among many others. The addition of the Art created the acronym STEAM which reflects the understanding that the best problem solving and critical thinking requires creativity, imagination, emotional intelligence and many other abilities developed through art. We see the mixture of the Art in STEM daily just by looking at our phones. Our current phones are a prime example of the power of the Arts and Sciences. Yes, STEAM topics can be learned by reading textbooks and taking notes during a teacher's lecture.

However, the learning will not be full circle. Perhaps more than any other subject matters, STEAM education is most successful when children learn by doing.

As a thought experiment, imagine a child who learns how to build a structure out of blocks by reading a manual. Imagine another child who actually builds the structure. The building process probably includes a few failed attempts where the blocks fell or did not fit together the right way. After successfully building the structure, the child then takes it apart and starts to build something new from her imagination. The process of building, knocking it down, starting over is evidence that as children play, they are learning the processes of science and technology and shaping the brain. If we allow children to play and students to directly experience the planning and trial and error of building, the brains will develop intellect, and allow for more creativity. Children are naturally drawn to STEAM topics. If we allow our students to experiment hopefully we are building a future student that is more resilient in failure and more determined to look at different outcomes.



In conclusion, author Matt Brown reports on a story detailed by Stuart Brown, PhD in his book entitled *Play, How It Shapes the Brain, Opens the Imagination and Invigorates the Soul*. The short version is that the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), perhaps the premier aeronautics company in the world, had a major problem. Engineers hired in the late 90s were not capable of certain types of problem solving essential to performing at the highest levels, yet their counterparts from the 60s and 70s were. After exhaustive research, they discovered that how the engineers played as children directly correlated with their performance in the company. Now, when JPL interviews potential candidates from the best universities in the world, they explore how much they built, tinkered, explored and otherwise played and learned using their hands and imaginations. So as you can see, play develops stronger thinkers, creative minds and great problem solvers.

Excerpts of this article were developed by Matt Brown from *Simply Fun*.

October Highlights

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- Education Celebration!

Elementary News

Fall Break Family Reading Day

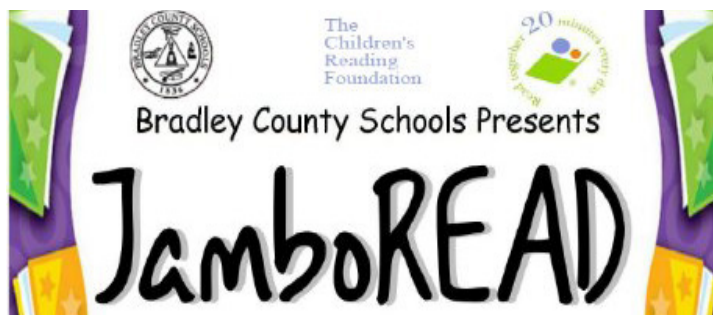
Waterville Community Elementary School is addicted to reading! We currently offer an afternoon and evening Family Reading Night during the week, in which families may bring students to read and take Accelerated Reader tests on the computer. We have experienced great success with our weekly Family Reading Nights.

As a way to encourage families to read over Fall Break, we held a Fall Break Family Reading Day. On Wednesday, October 12 the school library was open from 10:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. During this time families were able to read and test as well as return and check out books. As an added incentive, a large inflatable obstacle course was outside the library and students could earn time on this inflatable with every passed test. The turnout was incredible! We had a total of 44 families in attendance and 129 AR points were earned at this event!



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Elementary News (Continued)



In September, Bradley County Schools hosted their second Jamboread event to promote the Read 20 initiative. This was an evening of family reading time with flavor. Each elementary school was hosted by a local restaurant that offered discounted prices on dinner for families that attended and read with their child. We were fortunate to have several high school students from both Bradley Central and Walker Valley visit some of the restaurants dressed as their favorite book character or super hero and visit with the families. The evening was a huge success in promoting the importance of reading as well as encouraging families to spend time together.



Secondary News

Bradley Central High School National Technical Honor Society

An inaugural event took place at Bradley Central High School on Tuesday evening, October 18, as Pathways Bradley launched the Bradley Central Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society. In a celebration of Skill, Honesty, Service, Responsibility, Scholarship, Citizenship, and Leadership Bradley Central High Students in the Pathways Bradley Youth CareerConnect Program were inducted into the Chapter.

Students were chosen based on the following criteria:

- 3.0 GPA
- Discipline
- CTSO Member
- 95% attendance rate
- Pathways Bradley Cohort Member
- 3 Instructor Recommendations

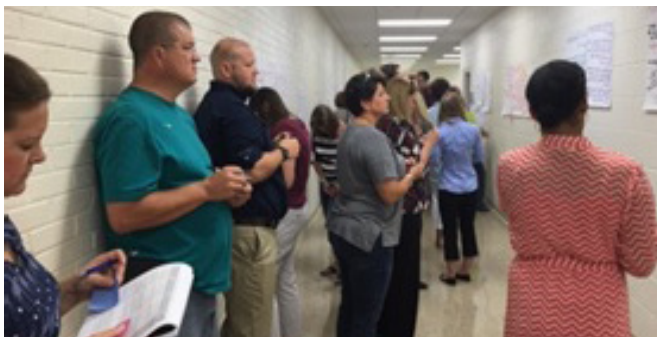


Teachers, administrators, family members and business partners were present to see 18 seniors and 15 juniors inducted. In addition, seven business partners were inducted as Honorary Members based on their partnership with the school and Pathways Bradley. Those included: Cormetech, Inc.; McKee Foods, Inc.; Signature Health Care; Check Into Cash; Wacker Chemie; and Tennova Health Systems. Representatives from the businesses were present to be recognized and receive their Honorary Membership Pins. After the Induction Ceremony, guests and Inductees were honored with a reception prepared by the Bradley Central Culinary Arts Department and sponsored by GEAR UP TN – Bradley.



Buck Institute – Project Based Learning Training

In the Academy Programs at Bradley Central and Walker Valley, one of the focus and strengths of the academies is to provide teachers ways to work together on interdisciplinary projects and give students real world experiences in the classroom. On August 27 – 29, Pathways Bradley YCC Grant partnered with Buck Institute to provide training to 33 teachers for Project Based Learning (PBL). Buck Institute is renowned in this field and partners with schools across the country to bring training to educators. Cleveland State hosted the training by providing meeting space and technical assistance all three days. Teachers worked together in interdisciplinary groups to learn and develop a PBL Unit for their Academy. Several of the PBL Units have been implemented at the schools since that time such as the STEMAISSANCE Project at WVHS. The students were excited and engaged as they worked together.



Secondary News (Continued)

STEMaissance Day at Walker Valley High School



On Friday, October 7th, the STEM Academy of Walker Valley held their "STEMaissance Day". Building on last year's theme of "STEM Wars", STEMaissance Day was an entire day of project-based lessons that were student driven and student created. The projects that were created were inspired by the Renaissance period and how concepts from Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics influenced the many great advances of that time. Nicole Gober, a STEM Academy lead teacher stated, "The most amazing thing about this day is that our students designed and built all of these great projects! It is fun to see how ideas that have been discussed for weeks can become a reality through teamwork and effort." Teachers throughout the academy designed lessons that allowed students to work in groups to create real-life examples of the topics they had been covering in class. Many of the projects were the culmination of a unit and students were assessed by how well their project performed. A few examples of projects included trebuchets by the Mechatronics/Robotics classes, bows and arrows created from PVC pipes by the Physics classes, catapults created by several Math classes, and a jousting arena set up by history and PE classes. All of these demonstrations were set up in a Renaissance Fair atmosphere that included a petting zoo, a Maypole, time-period music and many other events.



Other District News

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

For students to succeed in school, they must attend school. Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. The Bradley County School System has set a goal of reducing our number of chronically absent students this year. In Tennessee a student is considered chronically absent if she or he has missed at least 10% or 18 days of school. Historically, overall attendance has been good in Bradley County and we have focused our attention on those students who have unexcused absences and who may be truant. Now, for all students to be successful, we are looking at all absences – excused and unexcused.

Too many absences – excused or unexcused – can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. For each day that is missed, students miss out on critical instruction that you can't get back just by doing make-up work. How many absences are too many? 10% of the school year – that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month – can knock students off track. Did you know?

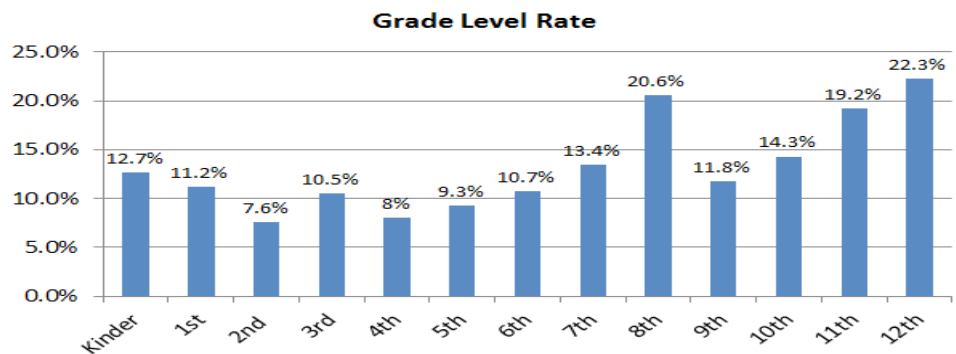
- By the end of third grade a student who is chronically absent in kindergarten misses 80 days of school and is significantly less likely to read on grade level.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of the 3 signs that a student may drop out of school.
- Students can be chronically absent if they only miss a day or two every few weeks. This time missed would add up to a month of lost learning time.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

During the 2015-2016 school year we had 13.7% of our students who were chronically absent. That is 1,463 students had up to a month or more of lost learning time. It is especially important for students to be present in the early grades, as this is when they develop foundational literacy and numeracy skills that serve as the building blocks for their success in later grades. Last year, 12.7% or 185 Kindergarten students were chronically absent. 20.6% of our 8th grade students were chronically absent which makes it hard for them to stay on track for graduation.

The chart below breaks down the rates of chronic absenteeism by grade level.



**Rates of Chronic Absenteeism by Grade
BCS 2015-2016**



So what can you do?

Make school attendance a priority.

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day, make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental or medical appointments during the school day.
- Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick.
- Talk with your child's teacher.

Our mission in Bradley County Schools is to provide opportunities for all students to excel. Students who are chronically absent have missed opportunities.

*For more information visit www.attendanceworks.org

Other District News (Continued)



- Nurse Karen Watson, Hopewell Elementary, received a \$1000 grant from Wal-Mart
- Medical Center Pharmacy provided 347 flu shots and 3 pneumonia shots to faculty and staff in the district
- Cooke's Food Store Pharmacy provided \$30,000 worth of FREE vitamin vouchers to all schools within our district.
- The school based Dental Prevention Program donated over \$21,000 worth of dental screenings, sealants, and fluoride treatments to our students
- The Ronald McDonald CareMobile and TeleMedicine are still up and running at our schools. Be sure to see your school nurse for details and information
- Coordinated School Health provided over 1000 health screenings this month in

grades K.2.4.6 and 8. HOSA students from BCHS and WVHS help with screenings. We appreciate the help and it offers a venue for practice for the nursing students. We also use help from nursing students at CSCC and Lee University.

Stand Out, Stand Strong and Stand United



Bradley County Schools is continuing to Stand Out, Stand Strong and Stand United in the fight against drugs. Throughout the week of October 23rd-31st students and staff in Bradley County Schools will be campaigning and celebrating what it means to be drug free by participating in Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is a way for people and communities to unite and

take a visible stand against drugs. Each school has a unique week planned. Stay tuned for November's edition to see how students took a stand and pledged to remain drug free!



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL BRADLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS

- 6th (Sun) - Daylight Saving Time Ends (adjust clocks backward one hour "fall back")
- 8th (Tues) - Stockpiled Staff Development/No School for Students/Election Day
- 10th (Thurs) - BCS Board Meeting (Central Office @ 5:30PM)
- 11th (Fri) - Progress Reports
- 23rd (Wed) - 25th (Fri) - Thanksgiving Break - Schools Closed

BLACK FOX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 16th (Wed) - Breakfast with Pastors (7:10AM)
- 18th (Fri) - Musical Performance (6:30PM tickets required)

BRADLEY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

- 1st (Tues) - TN Promise Scholarship Application Deadline
- 3rd (Thurs) - Musical Performance (7:00PM tickets required)
- 4th (Fri) - Musical Performance (7:00PM tickets required)
- ACT Registration Deadline for December 10 Test Date
- 5th (Sat) - Musical Performance (7:00PM tickets required)
- 6th (Sun) - Musical Performance (2:00PM tickets required)
- 7th (Mon) - CSCC Presidential Honors Scholarship Meeting (Library @ 1:15PM)
- 10th (Thurs) - 12th (Sat) - Musical Performance (7:00PM tickets required)
- 13th (Sun) - Musical Performance (2:00PM tickets required)
- 17th (Thurs) - FAFSA FRENZY!!! (FAFSA Completion Event)
- 18th (Fri) - Bradley Film Festival (FACT @ 8:15AM - 3:30PM)
- Lee University Info Session (Library @ 1:15PM)

Watch Weekdays on WTNB
Charter Channel 5

VOX NEWS
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF
Bradley Central

THE SPILL
WVHS NEWS

@ 2PM, 5PM & 11PM

BCS Spotlights



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
Noah Jones
5th Grade Student
Hopewell Elementary School



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
5th Grade
Beta Club Students
Park View Elementary School



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT
Kristin Rader
Music Teacher
Black Fox Elementary School



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT
LuAnn Carey
Ag Science Teacher
Bradley Central High School

UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED...

HOPEWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 3rd (Thurs) - Health Screening (Kindergarten, 2nd Grade & 4th Grade)
- 17th (Thurs) - Character Lunch

MICHIGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 10th (Thurs) - Family Reading Night (Each Tues & Thurs @ 5PM-7PM)
- 15th (Tues) - Thanksgiving Lunch (K, 2 & 4)
- 15th (Tues) - Family STEAM Night (Grade 1-5 @ 6-7:30PM)

NORTH LEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 1st (Tues) - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 3rd (Thurs) - Honor Choir (6:30PM)
- 5th (Sun) - Beta Club Induction (5:00PM)
- 9th (Wed) - Recycle Drop Off
- 10th (Thurs) - Thanksgiving Lunch (K, 2 & 4)
- 11th (Fri) - Thanksgiving Lunch (1, 3 & 5)
- 22nd (Tues) - AR Pajama Day
- 30th (Wed) - Christmas Pictures

OAK GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 1st (Tues) - Make Up Picture Day
- 3rd (Thurs) - School Wide Mock Election
- 14th (Mon) - 18th (Fri) - Parent/Teacher Conferences (Grades 3-5 @ 4:00PM)
- 14th (Mon) - 18th (Fri) - Santa's Workshop (Library)

PARK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- (Each Tues & Thurs) - Family Reading Night (@ 5PM-7PM)
- 3rd (Thurs) - Honor Choir-Chorus
- 10th (Thurs) - AR Pool Party (3-5)
- 18th (Tues) & 20th (Thu) - Family Reading Night
- 25th (Tues) & 27th (Thu) - Family Reading Night

PROSPECT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 4th (Tues) & 18th (Tues) - Family Reading Night
- 25th (Tues) - Family Reading Night
- 27th (Thurs) - Student Led Conferences

VALLEY VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 4th (Tues) - Parent Teacher Conferences (4PM)

WATERVILLE COMMUNITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 4th (Tues) & 6th (Thurs) - Family Reading Night
- 18th (Tues) & 20th (Thu) - Family Reading Night
- 25th (Tues) & 27th (Thurs) - Family Reading Night

If you have an article that you would like to be published in the Director's View Newsletter, please submit it with photos to gshroyer@bradleyschools.org before the following deadlines.

October Issue - Tuesday, October 19th
November Issue - Tuesday, November 15th
December Issue - Tuesday, December 6th



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This project is funded under an agreement with Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development