

# THE DIRECTOR'S VIEW

BRADLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS

January 2017

WVHS Broadcasting Internship

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## Why is Focus Important?

We all have things that we want to achieve in our lives — getting into better shape, building a successful career, raising wonderful children, winning a contest, and the list goes on. For most of us, the path to those things starts by setting a specific and actionable goal. However, if we miss our goal we tend to get discouraged and set new goals. Our focus for Bradley County Schools centers on improving not only reading but literacy in all subject areas. We have made great strides already. Intertwined in improving literacy we have placed a focus on improving attendance and ACT scores. In doing so, we adopted systems and plans to reach goals that were set. Amazingly, as we follow the systems to meet the literacy, attendance and ACT goals, we are seeing vast improvements for our students.



(see Focus on Page 4)



Pictured above -Michigan Avenue Principal, Angela Lawson, and Ocoee Middle School Assistant Principal, Robbie Winters, with Tennessee Commissioner of Education, Dr. Candice McQueen, at the inaugural Governor's Academy for School Leadership.

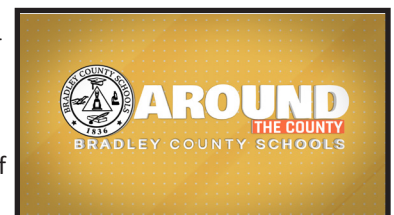
## Governor's Academy

**Local Principals selected to participate in inaugural Leadership Academy**

*"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." - John Fitzgerald Kennedy*

Twenty-four aspiring principals from across the state participated in the inaugural Governor's Academy for School Leadership (GASL). First announced by Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam in late 2013, GASL is a partnership between the state of Tennessee, Vanderbilt University's Peabody College, and local school districts to build a pipeline of highly-trained school principals and ultimately improve school effectiveness and performance and unlock educational opportunities for all students. Each assistant principal selected for the one-year fellowship has been paired with an experienced principal mentor. In addition to training sessions one weekend a month and a week-long summer institute at Vanderbilt, participants will intern three days a month at his/her mentor's school and receive six individual coaching sessions with a trained regional coach. Upon completion of the academy, participants will be expected to pursue placement as a school principal in their district or region.

Michigan Avenue Principal, Angela Lawson, and Ocoee Middle School Assistant Principal, Robbie Winters were recommended by Dr. Linda Cash and then went through a rigorous interview process to be selected. "I believe in providing opportunities for current and future leaders. The Governor's Academy for School Leaders offered a chance for some of our School Leaders to be involved in a ground floor leadership initiative from the State Department. I am proud of our opportunity to participate and proud of the leadership skills being developed for our own. They both passed a rigorous interview process and represented Bradley County well," states Cash.



For a preview of this month's Director's View - [Click Here](#)

### January Highlights

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Zyhrina Acebedo, 5th Grader, Charleston  
Jenne Wilson, Counselor, Hopewell Elementary  
Jeni Turner, ELA Teacher, Ocoee Middle School

# Elementary News

## Oak Grove's Great Kindness Challenge

Throughout the week of January 23-27, Oak Grove Elementary joined 8,022 other schools nationwide in the Great Kindness Challenge. To recognize the week, students and teachers participated in special theme days. For Team Kindness Day, everyone wore their favorite team sport attire. For Peace, Love, and Kindness Day, everyone came to school dressed as a hippie. On Ride the Wave to Kindness Day,



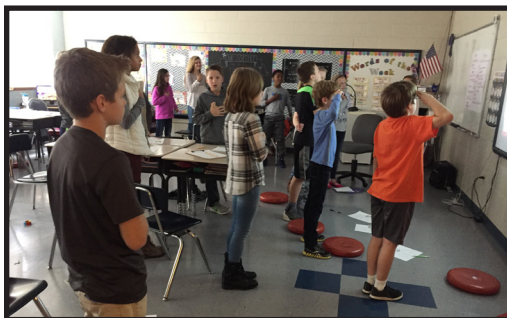
*Students at Oak Grove Elementary participate in the Great Kindness Challenge* everyone was encouraged to wear beach or surfer attire. On Crazy for Kindness Day, students and teachers wore crazy socks to school. And for Dream of Kindness Day, everyone came to school dressed in pajamas. Each morning, a student read a kindness quote to the entire school and Mr. Watson challenged all students with a Kindness Challenge of the Day. This was a great way to teach the importance of kindness throughout the school.



## Learning to Code

Michigan Avenue School students are learning to code and program in computer class with Mrs. Jennifer Hughes. Students spent the week learning to code and create computer programs. Check out more in the February 2017 issue of the Director's View which will feature technology and its use in the Bradley County School System.

## BIG National Current Events studied at North Lee



*Mrs. Schalk's 5th Grade Class stand for the National Anthem on Inauguration Day*

Fifth graders at North Lee stand for the National Anthem during the Inauguration Ceremony of the 45th president of the United States. These students completed two days of activities related to the inauguration including

vocabulary, a timeline of Inauguration Day, and finding inspirational quotes from former presidential inaugural addresses. They also watched intently as Donald J. Trump delivered his inaugural address in order to record the main idea with supporting details. Once the address was complete, students wrote an opinion essay about the new president's speech.

Our kindergarten classes took time to focus on the importance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Many of the students were unaware of the impact of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s work.

After reading books, watching videos, and sharing examples, our students now have a greater understanding of treating others with equality.



*Karra Withrow's Kindergarten Class participates in activities to learn about the importance of Martin Luther King, Jr.*



# Secondary News

## Your Skills Your Future



*Cleveland-Bradley Chamber of Commerce launch initiatives to meet today's workforce*

The Cleveland-Bradley Chamber of Commerce launched the Your Skills Your Future initiative on Friday, January 27. Developed by a team of industry leaders, educators, and chamber representatives, the initiative aims to create a well-qualified workforce to meet local industry demands by developing skills and passions into a successful and sustainable career.

YSYF provides Bradley County students and parents with resources available to pursue:

- Postsecondary Education
- Financial Aid
- Certifications
- Training
- Careers

Students can visit [yourskillsyourfuture.com](http://yourskillsyourfuture.com) to take a career quiz, get information about short-term training programs at local colleges, and to learn more about the types of jobs that need to be filled now in Cleveland and Bradley County.

## Blood Assurance @ WVHS

What a great day at WVHS!! Walker Valley did awesome! We saw 122 students on the buses, 71 of which were first-time donors (including Ms. Stone). We were able to collect 96 blood products. Thank you to all that participated!

## Senator Norris visits BCS

*Two members of the Tennessee Congress visit Walker Valley High School's CTE programs that help bridge the "skills gap."*

TN Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris recently visited Walker Valley High School's CTE program to see the Labor and Education Alignment Program (LEAP) in action. LEAP is a cooperative effort between government, education, and business to fill the "skills gap" in the local workforce, while increasing the number of Tennesseans with post-secondary degrees.

Senator Norris stated, "These impressive programs provide relevant education and job training through dual enrollment programs so students graduate certified or well on their way to earning credentials for advancement and employment."



*Walker Valley Career and Technical Education students show off their skills in robotics while Tennessee Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris and Representative Dan Howell visits WVHS in January. The members of the Tennessee Congress were visiting local systems to see the impact of LEAP programs.*

# County Spotlights



Student Spotlight - Zyhrina Acebedo,  
5th Grader, Charleston Elementary



Teacher Spotlight - Jenne Wilson,  
Counselor, Hopewell Elementary



Teacher Spotlight - Jeni Turner, ELA  
Teacher, Ocoee Middle School



## (Focus from page 1)

What I have realized is goals are valuable, but the method of reaching those goals is the most important in achievement. Being successful seems to come down to what system you use to achieve your goals. Establishing a focus and developing a plan to achieve the goals seems to be a better way to success.

### What's the difference between goals and systems?

- If you're a coach, your goal is to win a championship. Your system is what your team does at practice each day.
- If you're a writer, your goal is to write a book. Your system is the writing schedule that you follow each week.
- If you're a runner, your goal is to run a marathon. Your system is your training schedule for the month.

### If you completely ignored your goals and focused only on your system, would you still get results?

For example, if you were a basketball coach and you ignored your goal to win a championship and focused only on what your team does at practice each day, would you still get results? I think you would.

In schools, when students are asked to write, often their question is how many sentences do I need, or how many pages. In reality, we just want them to write and explain their work. So we create a system to break down the writing process.

Can you imagine if we told students your goal is to write a five page essay and to start? They would stress and might get a couple of sentences, but the goal of an essay would be overwhelming.

But we do this to ourselves all the time. We set a long range goal and place unnecessary stress on ourselves to lose weight or to succeed in our jobs. Instead, you can keep things simple and reduce stress by focusing on the daily process and sticking to your schedule, rather than worrying about the big, life-changing goals. Within the process of the system, there is a need to have periodic checks on your progress so that you can adjust your system if needed. In education the progress check has become a strong part of our system. Keeping everyone informed of student progress is a great asset to reaching the end goal. When you focus on the practice instead of the performance, you can enjoy the present moment and improve at the same time. None of this is to say that goals are useless. However, I've found that goals are good for planning your progress and systems are good for actually making progress.

Goals can provide direction and even push you forward in the short-term, but eventually a well-designed system will always win. Having a system is what matters. Committing to the process is what makes the difference. So set a goal, develop a system and remain focused on where you want to go.

*Excerpts of this article were derived from the book, Transform Your Habits by James Clear.*

## Coming in February

The newest addition to the Director's View, The Around the County Podcast is coming next month. The podcast will focus on the theme each month of the Director's View. February's theme is Technology. Next month, we will talk with a group of teachers and administrators who participated in the Future of Education Technology Conference (FETC) in Orlando, Florida. The podcast will soon be available in the iTunes Store and Google Play. Stay up to date with all the great things happening in the Bradley County Schools system with the Director's View and the Around the County Podcast.

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