

THE DIRECTOR'S VIEW

BRADLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS

October 2017

Student Editor - Tori Freeman, BCHS

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3

Growing Students - Building Futures

Kindness is Contagious

We live in a world where our focus is on the next thing to do. Soccer practice, dance lessons, music lessons, school, work and the list goes on. Sometimes I look at the business of our lives and think about what we are modeling for our children. I believe we have to find a balance.

Even when as adults we feel too tired to take another step, we should strive to take an extra step to teach kindness, and

to serve others. Knowing you are doing something good for someone or supporting a cause is an emotional boost that can never be touched by the winning score or the perfect performance. When we are kind to people, it strengthens our connections; and often, we as the giver, receive more than those receiving the act of kindness or service.

(See Kindness, Page 3)



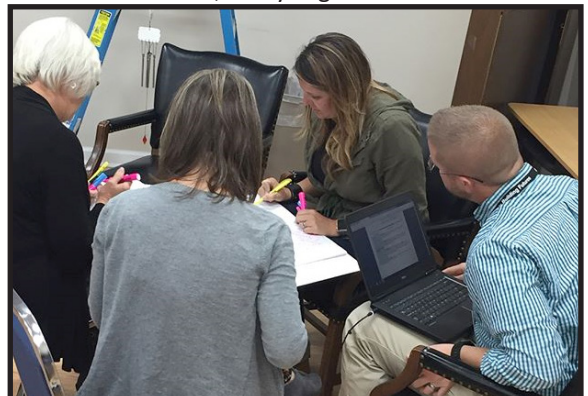
Pictured above - Math Team Leaders with Bradley County Schools Math Coordinator Beth Fugate continue to push district goals, align curriculum, and develop training sessions for all Bradley County Schools teachers.

Math Team Leaders

Math Leaders help teachers and students move BCS Math Goals

The district has selected fifteen Math Teacher Leaders to undergo intensive and purposeful training with Beth Fugate, the Mathematics Coordinator, throughout the year. These teachers were selected to represent their school and lead the way in supporting and delivering sound mathematical instruction. The district is excited to announce the members of this team: Kay Elder at Black Fox, Leigh Ann Burgess at Charleston, Makayla Grady at Hopewell, Jamie Seymour at Michigan Avenue, Kristi Schalk at North Lee, Abbey Duncan at Oak Grove, Angela Epperson at Park View, Jody Dockery at Prospect, Jenny Cole at Taylor, Chase Smartt at Valley View, Regina Edds at Waterville, Rita Flood at Lake Forest, Kim Bagley at Ocoee Middle, Angela Campbell at Bradley Central, and Emma Barnes at Walker Valley.

Math Teacher Leaders have a great responsibility to the district and their colleagues as they participate in aligning curriculum to state standards, analyzing data to collaborate on district-wide math goals, designing grade level curriculum pacing guides, organizing and developing common benchmark assessments, and hosting training sessions at their respective schools. These teachers meet together approximately once a month to receive training and to collaborate on the most recent district and state initiatives. Then, they train and collaborate with teachers at the building level.



Math Team Leaders hard at work developing grade level pacing guides for all of Bradley County Schools

October Highlights

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Charleston lives STEAM Lab dream

Black Fox News Now

The Power of Yet

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Do You Know Your EPSO?

PIE Center logo, Vision Statement unveiled

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Emily Harris, Bradley Central High School

Emma Barnes, Walker Valley High School

Make a Change Day - November 1st

Red Ribbon Week

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Elementary News



Charleston lives STEAM Lab dream

Written by Christy Armstrong
[Article from the Cleveland Daily Banner](#)

Charleston Elementary School now has a dedicated lab space where students can experience activities related to science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

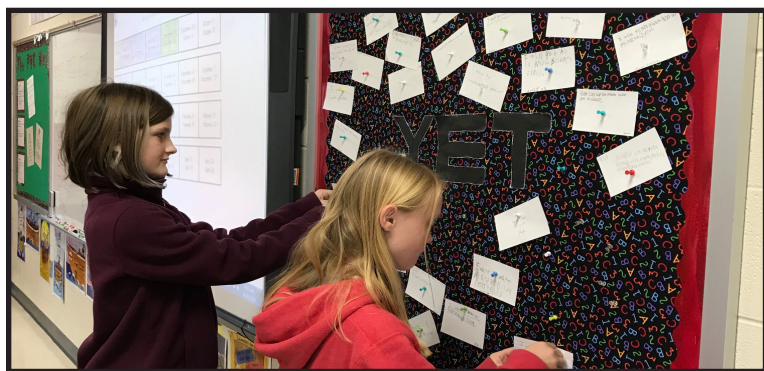
Educators and students recently held an event to show off the new Charleston Elementary STEAM Lab, which they said was the culmination of a dream.

"I am really excited about all the ways it can be used," Principal Candice Belt said.

Years ago, the building the elementary school is now using housed a high school as well. For years, portions of the building remained the

(See STEAM Lab, page 6)

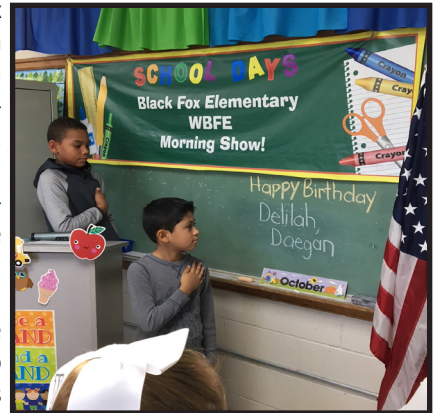
The Power of Yet



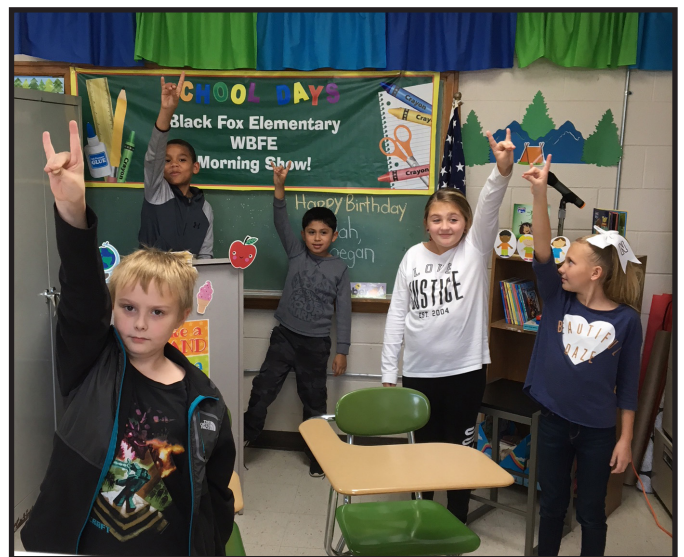
At Park View Elementary, we believe that hard work and developing good strategies can help our minds continue to grow. This year fifth-grade students in Mrs. Epperson's class have embraced The Power of Yet. Instead of saying, "I can't," or "I don't know," they add the word "yet" to the end of that statement. Students chose measurable goals they haven't reached "yet," wrote them on index cards, and pinned them to the YET bulletin board. When students reach a goal, such as I want to reach the 100 point club in AR or I want to get an A in math, they staple the goal in data notebooks and choose a new goal to pin to our YET board. Students are excited to reach their goals because they know the best is yet to come.

Black Fox News Now

In 1993, Black Fox Elementary began a school news program (WBFE). Then Principal, Herbert Lackey, realized the potential for a school news program, and began the implementation with his special education team as sponsors. The goal of WBFE was to involve ALL students in broadcast journalism and communicate with the entire campus. Since that time, Black Fox students and teachers have started their day with the pledge of allegiance, school news, and a moment of silence via WBFE. While the beginnings felt very modern in 1993, nothing compares with the technology innovations we now have in 2017.



This fall, WBFE excitedly moved into the digital age by removing their old analog televisions in the classrooms. By purchasing an iPad, Padcaster, and tripod, WBFE broadcast through a Twitter feed and the Periscope application. Parents and guardians are able to request access via the school news program's Twitter account: Black Fox News Now. Also, any stakeholder can request and follow their daily news program and learn everything from the daily lunch menu to the school's mission statement. Black Fox News Now allows our working parents to be more involved than ever in their child's school life. This is yet another way Black Fox is using technology to improve school life, learning, and communication.



Black Fox News Now Morning Show get an upgrade to broadcast digitally.

Secondary News

Do You Know Your EPSO?

The State of Tennessee declared October 23 -27, 2017 as EPSO Week. An EPSO is an Early Postsecondary Opportunity. An EPSO is a course or exam that gives students a chance to obtain college credits while still in high school.

Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) will have a new accountability measure called the "Ready Graduate" for individual high schools. The Ready Graduate is measured by the percentage of students who are earning a diploma from a Tennessee high school and who have met measures of success that increase their probability of seamlessly enrolling in college and entering the workplace or the military.

Students can earn the Ready Graduate status by:

1. Earning a 21 on the ACT
2. Completing 4 EPSOs
3. Completing 2 EPSOs and a state approved industry certification
4. Complete 2 EPSOs and meet a cut score for ASVAB (to be determined)

What are Tennessee EPSOs? How can students earn EPSOs?



Bradley Central High School offers courses in Local Dual Credit, Dual Enrollment, Industry Certification, and Cambridge International Examination.

Walker Valley High School offers courses in Local Dual Credit, Dual Enrollment, Industry Certification, and Advanced Placement.

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**PARTNERSHIPS IN
INDUSTRY & EDUCATION**

Partnerships in Industry and Education Innovation Center unveils new logo

New PIE Center logo unveiled

PIE Center Marketing Team introduced the new logo in October. Special thanks to Amanda Plecas from Waterhouse PR. Last month, the PIE Innovation Center Vision statement was approved:

The PIE Innovation Center Vision Statement

The PIE Innovation Center will create an innovative student experience through collaboration with business, industry and nonprofit organizations changing learning pathways, providing experiential learning in STEM, embedded work-based learning experiences and promotion of design thinking.

Bradley County Schools Mission Statement:

The mission of the Bradley County School System is to provide an educational opportunity for every student to excel.

Vision Statement:

Growing Students – Building Futures

We Believe:

By inspiring excellence, all students will realize their worth and potential.

By inspiring excellence in learning, all students will be college and career ready.

By providing an academically rigorous and relevant education, all students will excel.

By becoming a leader, all students will develop character and confidence.

(From Kindness, Page 1)

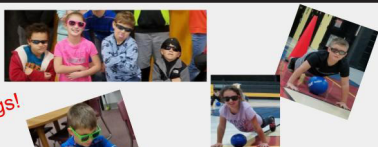
The exchange may not be the same for the kindness but the effort is often reciprocated. Often the return is from another who may have witnessed the act of kindness. Doing things for strangers, friends and family builds trust and a sense of safety in our communities. It also helps us see others in a positive light and builds empathy within all of us. These are the foundations of a thriving community which build strong citizens and fosters well-being all around.

Take time this month to purposefully foster kindness and service.

Red Ribbon Week

Taylor Elementary

Taylor students are "too cool" to abuse drugs!



Students and parents pledged to stay away from drugs. Our commitment is so big the pledges filled the wall.

Black Fox Elementary



Proud to be drug free!



Bradley Central High School



Prospect Elementary Staying Drug Free



OAK GROVE



At OGES, we are recognizing Red Ribbon Week with special "Spirit" days!

Monday: Proud to be Drug Free - Wear red to kick off Red Ribbon Week.

Tuesday: "Be All You Can Be...Join the fight against drugs and be Drug Free." - Wear camouflage.

Wednesday: "Oak Grove is too bright for drugs." - Wear neon colors.

Thursday: "Team up against Drugs" - Wear a team jersey or your favorite Oak Grove shirt or school colors.

Friday: "Be a Super Hero and be Drug Free" - Dress up as a Super Hero.



North Lee Elementary



Making Good Choices



Living Drug Free

5th Graders learned through the DARE Program and guidance lessons that KNOWLEDGE is POWER!



Hopewell Elementary

Students sign the live drug free banner! It's never too young to promote a healthy drug free lifestyle.



Bradley County Virtual School

Students signed the RED RIBBON PLEDGE and decorated our door with their pledge ribbon.



SIGNED THE RED RIBBON PLEDGE and tweeted - "I signed the RED RIBBON PLEDGE!"

Students were also challenged to ENTER THE 2017 RED RIBBON WEEK SCHOOL AND FAMILY CONTEST!

THEME DAYS

On Monday, students worked together to "decorate" our "school."

On Wednesday, students wore RED and will talk about why it is important to remain DRUG FREE with guest Scott Elam and Reba Terry from "The Bridge."



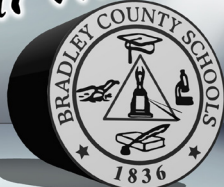
Walker Valley High School

Red Ribbon Week 2017



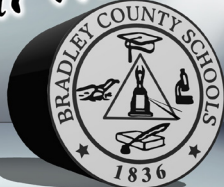
County Spotlights

Student Spotlight Video



Emily Harris - Senior, Bradley Central High School

Teacher Spotlight Video



Emma Barnes - Math Teacher, Walker Valley High School

*Every Child Deserves
A Happily Ever After...*

Read With A Child

Bradley County Schools

Sponsored by: The Cleveland Rotary Foundation | ReadingFoundation.org



Bradley County Schools Reading Video 2017



Think CTE

Bradley County Schools



Make a Change Day November 1st

Join us for this **ONE-DAY FUNDRAISER** for Bradley County Schools! This day **ONLY**, **ALL Bradley County Schools** will be collecting change in order to raise money for the SAC PAC program. This program provides snacks for 26.4% of children who live in Bradley County with the hope of supplementing their daily nutrition with kid-friendly, shelf-stable, nutritious snacks for the weekend. Because this program is supported by grants and donations, we are calling on all families to consider giving to this program that services all Bradley County Schools. Change will be collected on November 1st. Every penny helps! Schools will be totaling amounts the following day, and we will make a presentation to the Caring Place on Friday, November 3rd! Please help us by sending your change to school.

TEXT - Weekend TO GIVE @ 414444

(You will receive an immediate text message back with the link where you can put in your payment information)

(From Math Leaders, Page 1)

These teachers have already made great progress for our district in the conversation about mathematical fluency. Every mathematics teacher desires to produce students with solid number sense and confidence in attacking a math problem. Math Teacher Leaders have read and studied a plethora of research on the best ways to encourage computational and procedural fluency within student thinking and strategizing. They are implementing new instructional techniques in their classroom such as Number Talks and Numeracy Tasks, and they are challenging their students to demonstrate proficiency in a variety of ways. Furthermore, these teachers are experts in their grade level standards and have spent significant time studying and decoding the standards and ensuring assessments match the rigor of the standards. The district is excited to implement this new program and has high hopes for the impact it is going to make on student learning throughout all schools.

Bradley County Schools celebrate Red Ribbon Week

"Your Future is Key, So Stay Drug Free" was the slogan for this year's Red Ribbon Week! We just finished our second successful Red Ribbon Week in Bradley County. Why do we celebrate Red Ribbon Week? The Red Ribbon Campaign® was started when drug traffickers in Mexico City murdered DEA agent Kiki Camarena in 1985. This began the continuing tradition of displaying Red Ribbons as a symbol of intolerance towards the use of drugs. The mission of the Red Ribbon Campaign® is to present a unified and visible commitment towards the creation of a **DRUG - FREE AMERICA** (redribbon.org). Bradley County is committed to be a drug free school system!

Some schools "socked it to drugs" with sock drives and crazy socks day, while others chalked the walk with drug free messages. Students in elementary and middle school heard from the high school group UNPLUG on making positive choices. Classroom doors were decorated and red ribbons were hung! It was a great week of celebrating Red Ribbon Week!

(From STEAM Lab, page 2)

same as it had been then.

This included the school's science lab, which still had workstations with gas burners more appropriate for 17-year-olds than 7-year-olds.

Belt said it had been a "dream" of hers since taking the helm there to turn this outdated lab into a space that would be useful for students of all ages. Thanks to several community donors, that dream is now a reality.

The old lab tables and stools were removed and replaced with tables and stools which are more functional for younger students. The room was also painted and redecorated. However, the biggest changes came in the form of new technology.

Classes now have access to a cart of Chromebook laptop computers, a cart of iPad tablet computers, a MakerBot Plus 3D printer, and a 60-inch Sharp Aquos touchscreen display monitor.

"We are really excited for all this new technology and are still ordering more equipment and supplies," said Belt.

This lab is now available to classes on a sign-up basis, but Belt said she expects more teachers will be integrating the lab and its technology into their lessons.

Donors also got to hear educators talk about how this lab is already benefitting students.

Fourth-grade teacher Tony Womac stressed that the lab offers more space and technology that can be used for hands-on projects. By learning in this way, students can better develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

As the focus will be on STEAM-related activities, he also sees the lab as a good place to help students learn more about future careers.

"What you're providing here ... is an opportunity to grow beyond the classroom," said Womac.

Denise George, the school's media specialist, spoke about the fact that the school already one 3D printer, housed in the school library. George said she wanted the library to have this extra piece of technology, because she expected it would fascinate students and help them make connections to subjects like science in their reading.

Because she was able to see how just one 3D printer made learning exciting for students, she said she is "thrilled" to see how the new lab and its technology will encourage students to explore STEAM subjects.

"There's a lot going on in our classrooms and our library – and now, in our STEAM Lab," George said.

Ashley Clayton, a kindergarten teacher, said the STEAM Lab will be beneficial even to the school's youngest students.

While activities in kindergarten are usually guided by the teacher, Clayton said the new lab provides the space needed for activities which allow students to discover things on their own.



Charleston Alum and Kindergarten teacher Ashley Clayton speaks at STEAM Lab opening



Community Leaders celebrate the opening of the Charleston STEAM Lab

For example, kindergarteners have already participated in activities which have involved planning and building a fence for "Little Bo Peep's sheep" and using Skittles candy and water to learn about colors and color mixing.

"It gives them a little time to work independently," Clayton said. "They're being creative as they learn."

Guidance counselor Leah Walker also spoke of how the lab is beneficial for a variety of activities — not just regular classroom lessons.

Walker described how she had used the lab to teach students about anxiety and stress. She touched on the science behind these human reactions. While learning about healthy ways to handle anxiety and stress, students were able to make their own stress balls.

Belt said she likes that the new lab provides space where educators can connect the dots between the different subjects students are learning.

Pointing to Walker's activity, she noted students are often learning more than one skill at a time.

"My big focus has been connected learning," Belt said. "This will help us continue in that and look for new ways to connect what students are learning."

Guests also enjoyed remarks from four Charleston Elementary students: Amelia Debord, Sawyer Criswell, Bella Southerland and Braden Calton. Each spoke about his or her favorite lab activities so far.

All the educators and students thanked everyone who donated to help renovate and equip the new STEAM Lab.

Donors include: Olin Chlor Alkali, Wacker Polysilicon North America, Wright Brothers Construction, CS Foundation Inc., First Tennessee Bank Community Development Fund, Manufacturers Chemicals LLC, Nancy Casson, Town Squire Men's Wear, Carl Colloms, Southern Heritage Bank, Haney Meats, Lonza and Resolute Forest Products.

Ron Braam, chair of the Bradley Cleveland Public Education Foundation's business/corporate committee, echoed the thanks offered by the school's representatives. He added that the donors were "making an investment" in their community by giving.

Education is important, he noted, because it teaches students the skills they need for their future careers. He added this STEAM Lab will help with the school's educational mission, while also exposing children to technology at an early age.

"We hope that we can recreate this in other community schools," said Braam.