

THE DIRECTOR'S VIEW

BRADLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS

January 2018

Student Editor - Aubree Jones, WVHS

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 5

Growing Students - Building Futures

Building the Foundation

Typically in January we are usually ready to do the "fresh start", but this year has been unique. We entered a few days late due to weather conditions, but our teachers and students came back with a great spirit and our students were ready to roll. Building on last semester our students have a good foundation moving into the spring. I know they will buckle down and make up for the days we lost for instruction. Our focus on math and reading has instilled in our teachers, staff and students that hard work and dedication equals success. But more importantly, in the past semester we have celebrated student



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BCHS National Technical Honor Society's Maker Faire at Cleveland State Community College was a huge success. Elementary students from across the district participate in STEAM activities. Read more in the Elementary section of the January Newsletter.

Making the Grade

Wrapping Up Assessment Data for 2016-2017

Bradley County Schools is committed to growing students and building futures. In order to be effective, we must analyze all available data to guide instructional decisions. TNReady data is one data set that we utilize. During the 2016-2017 school year, we saw increases in our test scores at the EOC level in almost every subject area and were above the state average in all areas. We now have 2 years of TNReady data at the high school level that help us determine if we are making the instructional shifts that are required to meet the expectations of this more rigorous assessment. We have identified areas that we need to focus on and are putting steps in place to support those areas.

Last year was the first year that Tennessee was able to complete TNReady Assessments in grades 3-8. This baseline data will allow us to focus on instructional strategies that will allow us to grow our students. In reading, math and science, we were above the state average in grades 3-8. Our second grade students also participated in the TDOE assessment for reading and math and were above the state average as well. After analyzing our data further, we have determined that we need to focus increased attention at the middle school level and provide our students more opportunities for growth.

Another data set that we analyze is from ACT and we now have an average composite score of 20.3. Our district goal is to reach 21 by the year 2020 and we are almost there. We are excited about this data and have seen our scores increase over the past few years in all areas – English, Math, Reading and Science.

(See Data, page, 5)

Elementary News

Elementary students explore at 'Maker Faire'

By Christy Armstrong - Cleveland Daily Banner

Students from Bradley Central High School's National Technical Honor Society recently teamed up with several local companies to teach younger kids about science, math and other subjects.

On Saturday, January 20th, they hosted a "Maker Faire" on the campus of Cleveland State Community College. Students from all the Bradley County elementary schools were invited to participate in a variety of educational activities and games.

"We wanted to be able to reach every student in elementary school and allow them to learn in a hands-on way," said Donna Mitchell, technology coach for Bradley County Schools. "We were excited to have a great turnout and to see so many students having fun."

The National Technical Honor Society at BCHS is a group for students who are involved in the school's career and technical education programs. In addition to academic excellence, this group promotes values like community service.

Last year, the high-schoolers held a fundraising event to raise money for two big projects. They wanted to fund scholarships for middle school students to attend summer camps at Cleveland State and also host an event for elementary school students.

They succeeded on both counts and later began planning the event. With help from school district staff, they developed a Maker Faire, based on similar STEM-themed events which have taken place across the country.

When some of the school district's business partners caught word of it, they decided to get involved, too. The event was sponsored



by Bayer, Brooks Screen Printing, Cleveland State, Denso and Wacker Polysilicon.

"This turned out to be bigger than we thought it would be," said Madeline Jones, one of the BCHS students. "It's been cool to see all the kids coming through."

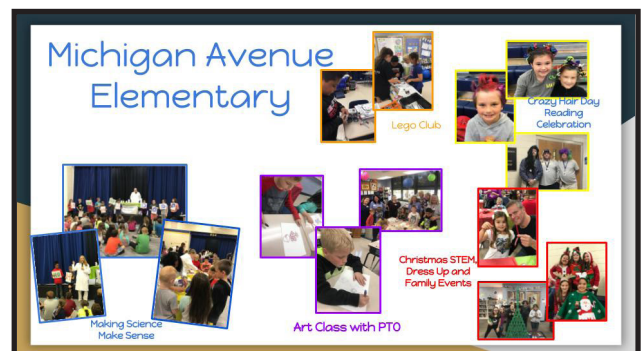
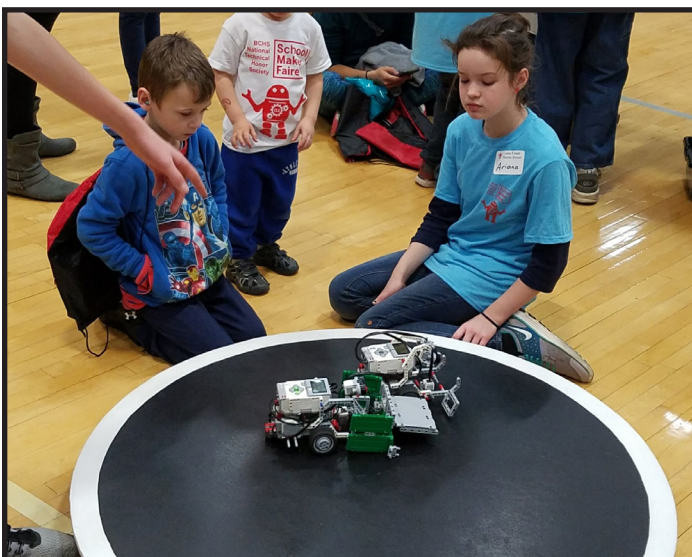
At the event, the kids and their families could visit a variety of stations to learn about the "STEAM subjects — science, technology, engineering, art and math. Activities included everything from programming robots to building model bridges.

These stations were led by representatives of the sponsoring companies, students from BCHS and both county middle schools and county school teachers.

Arlette Robinson, career and technical education supervisor for Bradley County Schools, said she was thankful to everyone who helped make the event a success.

"I'm proud the community's coming together to promote a love for these subjects and promote creativity," Robinson said. "That's what this is about — teaching students they can be "makers" and solve problems with their ideas."

She added more events are in the works to continue to promote the STEAM subjects among elementary students.



Secondary News

Bradley Central Cosmetology Competition

Bradley Central senior Cosmetology students competed in a God and Goddesses Creative Fantasy Total Look Competition against Cleveland High Cosmetology. They created avant-garde hairstyles, prosthetic makeup and handmade fantasy costumes. More importantly students worked together as a team for a common goal while displaying amazing support for each other. They were each other's #1 fan! Each student had a mentor from the community, such as Cosmetology professionals, former Cosmetology students, BCHS teachers and parents, that participated in preparation for the competition. Students saw first hand that when they are successful we as a community are a success! Bradley Cosmetology won the Audience Choice award, 3rd and 2nd place in the competition.



Bradley Central's Cosmetology competes in a God and Goddesses Creative Fantasy Total Look Competition in December 2017.



Math Teacher Leaders leading the charge

Math Teacher Leaders across the district have been working hard to ensure sound mathematical instruction and success for all students. On January 2nd, 6-12 Math Teacher Leaders helped host a round robin mathematical in-service training. Math teachers selected from sessions such as Kagan in the Math Classroom, Common Assessments, and Making Geometry Fun. Each of these sessions included practical ideas for the classroom to help hold students accountable and engage all learners. On January 3rd, all elementary mathematics teachers participated in a workshop learning how to write assessment items aligned to the standards, and Math Teacher Leaders are continuing this work at their individual schools to help create grade level assessment suites in preparation for the TNReady tests.

In February, K-12 Math Teacher Leaders will come together to drill down to the focus of the standards and the coherence of the standards. This training will help everyone understand how standards build the student learning progression from grade to grade. Furthermore, Math Teacher Leaders are leading the way towards implementing grade level common assessments at each school. This process helps track student mastery of the standards and drive classroom instruction so that we as a district can be sure our students are ready for TNReady!

(See Math Leaders, Page 6)

(From Foundation, page 1)

leadership, positive attendance, family nights and community involvement.

The most valuable part of our District is that we all work together to provide the best opportunities for our students. In this newsletter you will find articles that celebrate the past semester and a preview of things to come. I welcome you in joining us as we make 2018 a great year for Bradley County Schools.

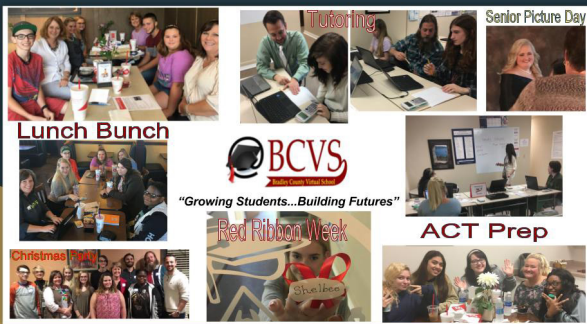
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Celebrating our Successes



Learning has been fun at Taylor Elementary!

Walker Valley High School



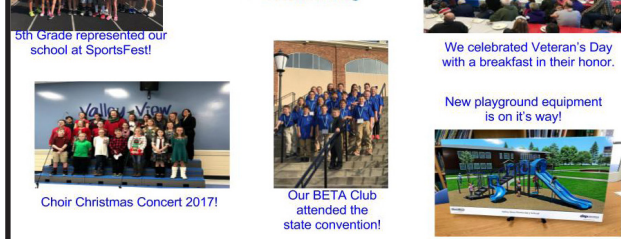
READING



LEADING



Valley View Cub Elementary



County Spotlights

Student Spotlight Video

Luke Hayden, 3rd Grade, North Lee Elementary

Teacher Spotlight Video

Donna Mitchell and Jason Viviano - Maker Faire BCHS NTHS

*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



(from Data, page 1)

Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS), scores that measure student growth over time, are reported for the district and for each school in the following areas: Overall Composite, Literacy, Numeracy, Literacy/Numeracy, Science and Social Studies. "I am thrilled to report that our District Level Overall Composite score is a level 5. This shows that we are on the right track during this transition to TNReady," stated Dr. Linda Cash, Director of Bradley County Schools. "A score of '5' is the most effective where there is significant evidence that students are making substantially more progress than the Standard for Academic Growth. We are growing students and building futures."



Sheena Newman, Terri Murray, and Traci Blackburn celebrate Bradley County Schools article about Open Court from McGraw-Hill Education

Open Court Reading from McGraw-Hill Education helps students in Tennessee catch up in reading proficiency

By DA Custom Publishing District Administration, December 2017

Educators in Bradley County Schools in Cleveland, Tennessee, were faced with some staggering numbers: 48 percent of third-grade students were reading on grade level. That meant five out of every 10 were not.

"We were above the state average of 43 percent," says Terri Murray, supervisor of Federal Programs/Media Services for the district where 10 of 11 K-5 schools are Title I. "But still, 48 was not good enough for us."

She and her district colleagues set a goal of 90 percent of third-graders reading at grade level by 2021, and investigated programs to help get them there. They chose Open Court Reading from McGraw-Hill Education, which had proven successful in a Washington State district they had contacted. After one full year of using Open Court Reading in all K-2 classrooms, Bradley County

(see Open Court, page 6)



The Future of Education and Technology Conference in Orlando, Florida is the largest independent technology conference in the world with over 11,000 educators, vendors, and specialists taking part in the conference. Find out more about FETC in February's Director's View.

(from Open Court, page 5)

has seen gains in those three grades, says Traci Blackburn, the district's ELA coordinator of K-12 education. Third grade was added to the district this year, and fourth and fifth grades are scheduled to follow, to ultimately cover all 4,300 students in K-5.

Predictable patterns

"We chose Open Court because we needed consistency," Blackburn says. "When students go from one classroom to another, they know the routines and procedures. The foundational skills and the rigor of the text have been key."

Systematic instruction routines are taught and modeled using predictable patterns that students can identify and remember. The K-5 reading, writing and language arts curriculum includes differentiated instruction, English language learner support, and an inquiry/higher-order thinking strand and writing strand.

"Open Court starts with phonemic awareness and foundational skills and then goes right into letter names and letter sounds," Murray says.

"We're actually teaching kids spelling patterns and sound spellings and how to spell different patterns of words," adds Blackburn. "And they use them in their reading and writing. The text is very challenging. The vocabulary is very challenging."

Following the first full year of implementation, the district looked at the percentage of students at or above the 50th percentile, the district's indicator of reading proficiency. "We had gains at all grade levels except for third grade, which had not yet implemented Open Court Reading as its core instruction," Blackburn says.

Measurable gains

One example of gains can be seen in kindergarten, where, in the fall of 2016, 64 percent of students were at or above the 50th percentile; in the spring, that number grew to 71 percent, according to MAP, which is a nationally normed assessment. RIT scores also showed growth, ranging from 15.5 points in second grade to 23.9 points in kindergarten—exceeding district expectations, Blackburn says.

"Trying to keep everyone on board was the biggest hurdle last year," Blackburn says. "But once teachers saw the growth we were getting—according to midyear data—they could see the benefit of what we were doing."

The district also involved parents, community and the state education commissioner, inviting them to a celebratory program highlighting student leadership and introducing the district's new reading goal, says Sheena Newman, supervisor of elementary education and creator of the district leadership program.

"One of the most important things we do is teach our students to read, because all other skills rest on this skill," Newman says. For more information, visit www.mheonline.com/results

(From Math Leaders, Page 3)

I am also proud to announce three of our Math Teacher Leaders were chosen as building level teacher of the year! Congratulations to Mrs. Jenny Cole at Taylor Elementary, Mrs. Jody Dockery at Prospect Elementary, and Mr. Chase Smartt at Valley View Elementary!

