

THE DIRECTOR'S VIEW

BRADLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS

February 2018

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VOLUME 3 ISSUE 6

Growing Students - Building Futures

The Power of Opportunity

Today's economy expects and demands a better educated workforce than ever before. New jobs in the field require more complex knowledge and skills than previous jobs. Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs use strategies to provide students with needed skills for employment and the knowledge to enter training or higher educational for ongoing learning (Partnership for 21st Century Skills, 2010). The current shift in CTE programs focuses on eliminating vocational ed programs that consisted of low-level courses, job training and single electives and replaces it with academically challenging courses with a course sequence and program of study (see Opportunity, page 6)



Bradley County Schools Career and Technical Director Arlette Robinson wins the Trailblazer Award as voted on by Tennessee State CTE Directors. Mrs. Robinson received the award at Legislative Breakfast in Nashville, Tennessee in early February. Story on Page 5.

Bradley County Comes Closer to Reaching ACT Goals

Bradley County's ACT Composite Score hits 20.3 - Highest in four years

Bradley County School's average composite ACT score is up to 20.3, the highest composite score in four years. Our goal is to achieve an average composite score of 21 by the year of 2020 because we know that students will have more college and scholarship opportunities with a higher ACT score. Many Business and Industries have also begun to look at ACT scores for those students who choose to go directly to the workforce after graduating from high school. We have seen our composite score increase from 18.8 in 2015 to 20.3 with our 2017 Graduating Class. Bradley County Schools also saw gains in all of the ACT Benchmark areas of English, math, science and reading as indicated in the chart below.

Year	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
2017 with highest scores	20	19.4	20.7	20.4	20.3
2017 ACT Report	19.3	18.9	19.9	19.8	19.6
2016 ACT Report	19.1	18.4	19.9	19.6	19.4
2015 ACT Report	18.4	18.2	19.3	19	18.8

We are grateful for our teachers who believe in our students and are working diligently to provide rigorous, high quality instruction. Our students begin preparing for ACT when they begin school as a Kindergarten student and continue learning through the years as most of the material on ACT is introduced before they even take the ACT test their junior year.

(See ACT, Page 5)

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Elementary News

Elementary students visit local High Schools



On Thursday, February 15 and Friday, February 16, more than 700 fifth grade students from 10 local county elementary schools headed to the campuses of WVHS and BCHS for a morning of interactive learning. Upon their arrival, students were led by high school student leaders and taken on a tour of the premises.

After the tour, students were divided into groups and shadowed classrooms from their pre-determined areas of interest. They worked on group projects, engaged with students individually, or were a part of the everyday happenings in a specific classroom. Some of the learning activities included performing CPR on human and dog dummies, drafting their own creation of a house, preparing and cooking food, or “working” in a hair and nail salon.

Many students left with a souvenir from the experience. Business teachers at BCHS had students market and sell popsicles to fellow students and teachers. They then used the profit from their sales to purchase items from the school store. Alan Bivens and Teresa Curvin, STEM teachers at WVHS, had students construct rockets and then watch them launch from a parking lot near the football field.

Students, as well as counselors and teachers, praised the experience. “It was a great event,” said Leah Walker, school counselor at Charleston Elementary. “Our students loved it and it offered a great opportunity to talk about college and career paths as well as, in the nearer future, electives for middle school!”

The schools hope to continue this experience every year.



Prospect, Santek raise funds and supplies for SPCA

From the Cleveland Banner

BEST Partners Prospect Elementary School and Santek Waste Services collected more than \$1,600 and 500 pounds of kitty litter for the SPCA of Bradley County last week.

BEST is an acronym for Business and Education Serving Together, and is sponsored by the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce.

Each year, the school and local business partner on a service project to meet the needs of a local charity. While Santek employees were gathering supplies, the school’s students were collecting pennies during a five-day, school-wide effort called Puppy Love at Prospect Week.

In addition to the penny drive, students and staff participated in a pet parade, paw party with tasting booths, a classroom door decorating contest, and a dog house construction competition.

Each event and day sported an animal theme during the week of Feb. 12. A school assembly was held this week to announce the winners of the pet parade and contests as well as the results of the supply and penny drives.

“We decided to partner with Santek to help the SPCA because it does so much to place abandoned and neglected dogs and cats in forever homes,” said Michele Dunkle, Prospect’s guidance counselor.

“The outpouring of support from our students and faculty was a great indication of our school’s love for pets and their welfare.”

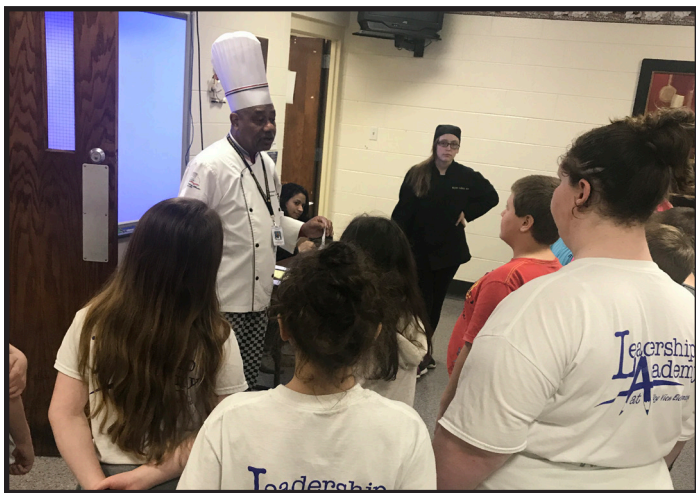
(see Santek, Page 5)

Secondary News

Bradley Central High School Celebrates FFA Week

During FFA Week, the week of George Washington's birthday, chapters organize events and learn about the past, celebrate the accomplishments of the present, and create plans for the future in FFA by living the FFA motto: Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve - [FFA New Horizons Website](#)

Bradley Central's week long activities included: "Dress up" days to promote agriculture, a display in Tractor Supply to promote FFA, and a "Kicked Off" as our FFA prepares for the spring plant sale. On Friday, over 30 FFA members came together long before daylight to cook our annual teacher appreciation breakfast!



Elementary students visit Bradley Central High School and Walker Valley High School during College and Career Ready activities in February.



Women Engineers: Walker Valley opens Society of Women Engineers chapter

From Cleveland Banner - by Christy Armstrong

To help encourage girls to consider going into careers in engineering, faculty at Walker Valley High School recently helped launch a student chapter of the Society of Women Engineers.

This school year, Walker Valley became only the second public school in Tennessee to launch a SWE Next club chapter.

The club, sponsored by engineering teachers Teresa Curvin and Alan Bivens, offers a variety of activities to encourage girls in their career-related studies.

"Typically, we women only account for a small portion of the workforce in engineering," said Curvin. "We're here to promote this field, to get young ladies to consider it. ... Honestly, I wish I had something like this when I was a high school student."

Students in the club get to take part in a variety of engineering-related activities, many of which involve exploring and discussing career possibilities.

Operating under the umbrella of the Chattanooga Area Section

of the Society of Women Engineers, students also have access to area professionals. So far, students have received visits from professionals from places like Lonza and Wacker.

Walker Valley senior Maddie Williams, the club's president, said she joined because she was excited about the opportunity to learn more from women working in the engineering field.

"Things have gone really well so far!" Williams exclaimed. "It's been really helpful to get their advice. We're getting to share what we're doing with younger girls, which is fun."

As students in the high school club prepare for their future careers, they are also helping pave the way for younger girls. They have been planning visits to local elementary schools to teach younger students about engineering.

During the fall semester, club members visited North Lee Elementary School to lead students in a model rocket building activity. As they took part in the activity, the younger students also learned a bit about what they could be when they grow up.

(see Women Engineers, page 6)

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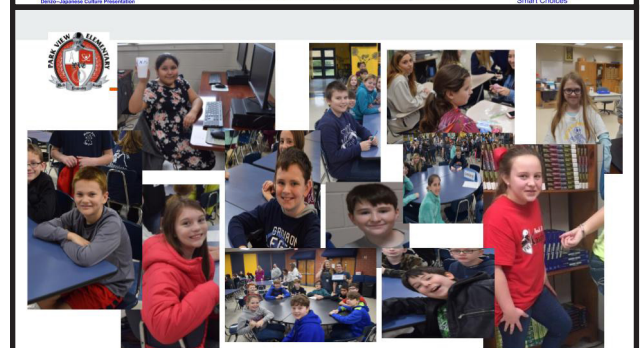
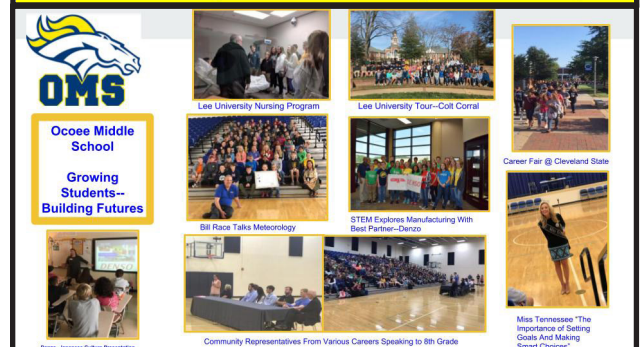
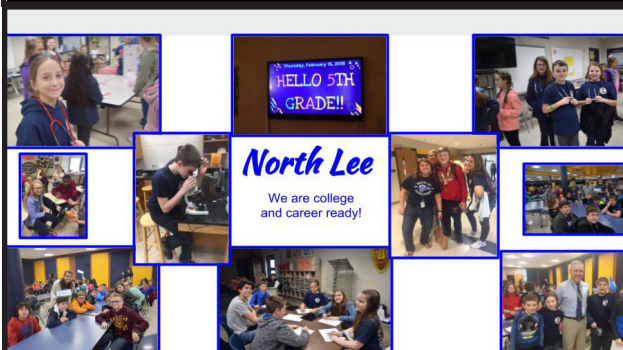
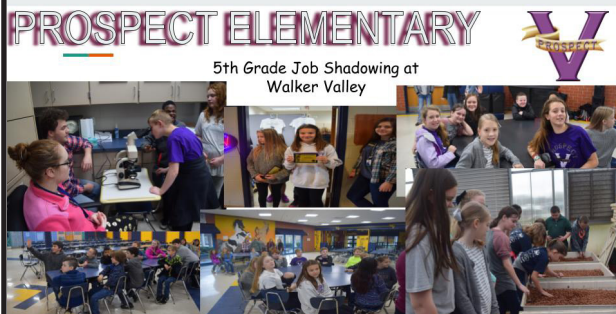


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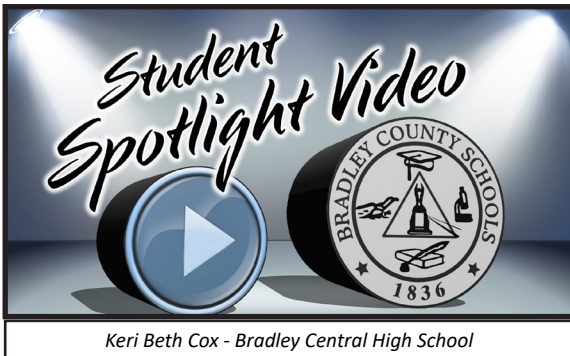
College and Career Ready



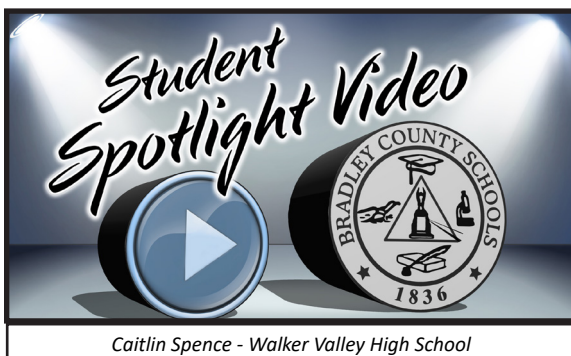
Oak Grove Celebrates Job Shadowing!



County Spotlights



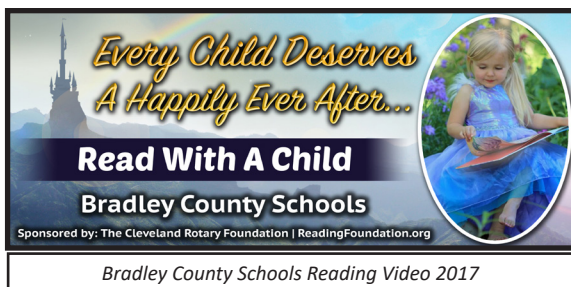
Keri Beth Cox - Bradley Central High School



Caitlin Spence - Walker Valley High School



LeAnn Klepzig - Walker Valley High School



Bradley County Schools Reading Video 2017



CTE Trailblazer Award



The department and the Tennessee Directors of Career and Technical Education would like to congratulate CTE directors who have been recognized by their peers for demonstrating extraordinary leadership in their home district and at the state or national level. The Trailblazer Award recognizes CTE directors with six or more years of experience, and the Pioneer Award recognizes CTE directors with five or fewer years of experience. Congratulations to the following award winners!

Trailblazer Award State Winner

Arlette Robinson, CTE director for Bradley County Schools, was recognized for her influential statewide leadership, creativity when planning program outcomes for students and the community, and collaborative mentorship and support for CTE directors throughout the state.

(From ACT, Page 1)

Bradley County provides students with many opportunities to prepare with ACT test prep classes, ACT Boot camps, practice tests and tutoring. Professional development has been provided to our teachers on ACT standards and test taking strategies.

Bradley County is glad to see the state providing more opportunities for students to take the ACT multiple times as research shows it usually results in better scores over time. To determine a district's average composite score, TDOE has now starting using a student's highest ACT composite score. All students take the ACT on the state testing date as a junior and are then provided another opportunity to retake the ACT their senior year. It is also now a graduation requirement that all students take the ACT.

For more information on ACT testing, please visit the following link.

[ACT Toolkit - Tennessee Department of Education](#)

(from Santek, Page 2)

Santek Executive Vice President of Marketing Cheryl Dunson said her personal experience with SPCA prompted her interest to fundraise for the organization because of its dependency on donations from individuals and businesses.

"When I presented the idea of partnering with Prospect to support SPCA, there was no hesitancy from school officials," Dunson said. "It's been a great fundraiser that I hope we can build upon in the years to come."

SPCA board of directors President Alana Haney said she was impressed with students' efforts and appreciates the combined effort between Santek and Prospect.

(from Women Engineers, page 3)

The club hopes to continue doing activities with younger students, maybe even reaching out to a local middle school.

"We would target the student that might be interested in engineering but are not sure if they can do it," Bivens said. "We want to blur that line a little."



Bivens noted middle school is a critical time for girls, as that is when they really start to decide how they will approach their future studies. In general, too many girls decide that math and science are not for them.

Currently, "less than 5 percent" of students in Walker Valley's mechatronics and engineering classes are female, Bivens said. The hope is that this outreach will encourage more girls to pursue careers in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

"I hope that we can let these girls see that they can do something like engineering," Williams said. "That's the thing; they need to know that they can do it."

WALKER VALLEY High School's new SWE Next Club, a student chapter of the Society of Women Engineers, poses for its first photo. The club is comprised of young women and men exploring careers in engineering. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The club president said she believes giving girls more opportunities to participate in STEM activities will help them realize they can excel in those areas.

Having discovered their own love for engineering, students in Walker Valley's SWE Next club say they have embraced the idea of being positive role models for the students who are younger than them — both boys and girls.

Bivens also noted that, though the club was started with young women in mind, young men can join as well. The club wrapped up its first semester with 25 members, four of whom are male.

"This club offers opportunities which are beneficial for any student with an interest in engineering," said Bivens.

These opportunities include chances to participate in design activities, tour area industries, vie for college scholarships and more. This is in addition to getting to interact with professionals in the field.

As the club heads into its second semester, faculty sponsors are looking for local women who work in engineering-related fields and are willing to talk to the group about their careers. Curvin said they are also looking into pairing students with some of these professionals for a mentoring program.

"I thought it would really help me out to hear from women doing what I want to do," Williams said of her decision to join the club. "It's been so neat to hear how some of these women got started in their careers."

Anyone who wants more information on how to get involved can email Curvin at tcurvin@bradleyschools.org.

(From Opportunity, page 1)

that leads to great job opportunities as well as a path for post-secondary education.

In Bradley County our current CTE programs provide students with opportunities to earn certifications that are required in today's workplace as well as training on critical thinking, collaboration, teamwork and communication. In order to complete the full program of study, many of the CTE programs offer job shadowing, internships or paid work experiences where students can apply their skills. In order to have well-rounded CTE programs, our schools rely on partnerships with local businesses and industry to collaborate and provide learning opportunities outside of the classroom. Employers provide information on the skills and competencies needed for future progression of students into jobs as well as becoming mentors for students. In this month's Director's View, Bradley County Schools celebrate our Career and Technical Programs and our partnerships with the community. We hope you gain new knowledge of the value of our CTE programs and the excitement that surrounds the great opportunities for students.

February is Career and Technical Education Month

February is Career and Technical Education Month. During this time we celebrate the life changing opportunities available in CTE. In Bradley County we have programs of study in fourteen of the sixteen national career clusters. Each program of study provides industry certifications and/or early college credits to prepare students for life after high school, creating future ready citizens. Here are a few facts about Career and Technical Education as outlined on the tndcte.org website:

Taking one CTE class for every two academic classes minimizes the risk of students dropping out of high school. Students who take advanced CTE courses in high school see higher earnings, including a 3.2% wage increase for CTE concentrators. 80% of high school students taking both CTE and college prep courses meet college and career readiness goals, versus 63% who are college and career ready through college prep courses alone. According to the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest growing occupations projected through 2022 require career & technical education.

There are success stories leaving the doors of CTE classrooms every day through the practical leadership opportunities found in Career Technical Student Organizations to the job embedded work related skills gained through industry certifications. To find out more about the CTE programs in Bradley County: Visit a CTE class at Bradley Central High School or Walker Valley High School and see how the class involves hands-on, relevant projects that incorporate skills needed for industry. Visit Bradley County Schools Think CTE Website for a complete listing on all Career and Technical Education Courses available at both high schools. - Thinkcte.org
[Bradley Central High School 2018-2019 CTE Course List](#) [Walker Valley High School 2018-2019 CTE Course List](#)

Career Exploration Across All Grades with WBL Grant

Bradley County Schools CTE department received a \$25,000 Work Based Learning Grant from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. This grant will support career exploration activities in elementary and middle school grades as well as complete the TVA CadNet Work Based Learning Program for Walker Valley High School. Funds will be spent on transportation for career fairs and job shadowing experiences, teacher externships, teacher industry tours, equipment for industry video projects, and equipment and supplies for Work Based Learning placements. Over the past two years the district has increased meaningful placements in practicum opportunities and paid and unpaid internships. The goal is for all students to leave high school with a diploma plus credentials or experiences that prepare students for the next steps.

Anatmage Open House Goes National



The National Association for Career Technical Education's Career Tech Update SmartBrief featured the Anatmage Open House story in the February 7, 2018 edition. Drew German, BCHS health science teacher, along with students Olivia Dillard and Mattie Jones demonstrated the new virtual dissection table during the open house and Pathways Bradley Partnership/Parent meeting. The SmartBrief highlighted the Times Free Press Article covering the full story. To learn more about this remarkable teaching tool check out the SmartBrief and the article:

Click here to view the article from the Chattanooga Times Free Press: [Bradley County Schools unveils state-of-the-art digital dissection tool](#)

