



*Engage Every Child. Every Day.*  
Department Head News and Updates  
February 17, 2017

**Important Dates**

February 20

Presidents' Day

**Superintendent's Office**

Dr. Kirk Kelly

**Campus Support**

Dr. Lee McDade

**Chief Academic Officer**

Jill Levine

**Curriculum and  
Instruction**

Dr. Justin Robertson

**Asst. Supt. of School  
Operations**

Zac Brown

**Elementary Operations  
Director**

Karen Hollis

**Elementary Operations  
Director**

Neelie Parker

**iZone Operations  
Director**

Sheryl Randolph

**Secondary Operations  
Director**

Robert Sharpe

**Secondary Operations  
Director**

Learndrea Ware

**Innovation**

Keri Randolph

**Finance**

Christie Jordan

**Human Resources**

Stacy Stewart

**Superintendent's Office**

Dr. Kirk Kelly

**HCDE Students Help Bring 'The Blue Trees' to Chattanooga**

Students from Brown Academy, Calvin Donaldson Environmental Science Academy and Howard School students took part in a project that joined together the arts, environmental consciousness, and social action this past fall.

They took part in artist Konstantin Dimopoulos's 'The Blue Trees' art installation. The goal is to highlight the importance of trees by coloring them a vibrant ultramarine blue.

The artist, and about 300 volunteers, painted trees all across the Scenic City bright blue with a non-toxic mixture of chalk and water that will not harm the trees, nor artists working on them.

[Check out the video here.](#)

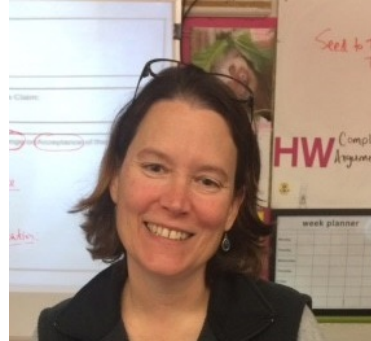


## Congratulations to the 2017 Hamilton County Teachers of the Year!



Elementary (Grades K-4):  
**Shellie Gibson** –  
 Wallace A. Smith Elementary School  
 Grade K

Middle (Grades 5-8):  
**Kristin Burrus** –  
 Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences  
 Grade. 7, Science



High (Grades 9-12):  
**Jessica Hubbuch** –  
 The Howard School  
 Grades 10-12, Chemistry and Physical World Concepts

### Cafeteria Choice Goes No GMO

Mayfield Dairy announced this week its TruMoo Flavored Milk will now only include non-genetically modified organism (GMO) ingredients. A GMO is an organism whose genetic material has been modified, especially by genetic engineering.

GMOs are used mainly in the production of pharmaceuticals, gene therapy, and agriculture. Biology-online.org reports there are ethical issues concerning their use and production.







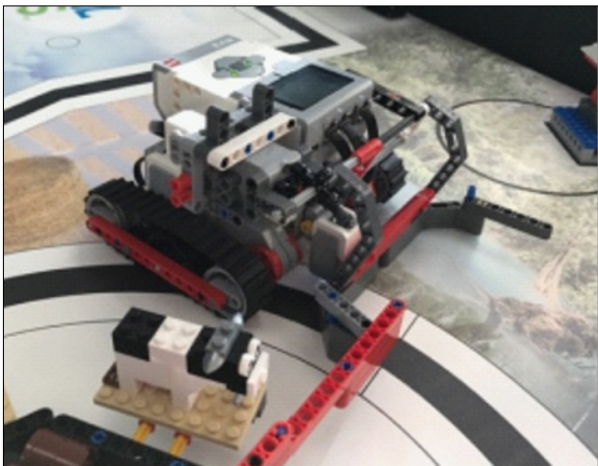
### Spotlight on Lookout Valley Elementary's Robojackets

Lookout Valley Elementary's First Lego League robotics team recently came back from Georgia Tech with a very impressive win.

The LVE Robojackets won second place overall for the Champion's Award at the FLL Animal Allies Tournament at Georgia Tech! That means they are heading on to the World Competition. It will be held in Arkansas, Texas, or England!

The Lookout Valley Robojackets and their robot the ZomBeeBot have had an impressive showing at all levels of competition.

The team won first place for Project Presentation during the Regional competition. After that, the LVE Robojackets won first place for the Champion's Award at the Super Regional Competition at Red Bank Middle School. That win allowed them to advance to the Georgia State tournament.





## HCDE Employees Join in on the Father Daughter Dance Fun

Several HCDE employees took part in the fun Friday evening at the annual Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department Father Daughter Dance.

It took place at the Chattanooga Convention Center from 7-10 p.m. Friday Feb. 10, 2017. In addition to photos and dancing, attendees were treated to light hors d'oeuvres and a dessert buffet.

Thank you to all of the fathers and daughters who attended this yearly event!



## VEX IQ Robotics Challenge This Weekend at SMMHS

The robots are coming! Signal Mountain Middle High School hosts the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation VEX IQ Challenge this weekend.

The current challenge is called "Crossover." Robots work together to score as many points as possible on a 4' by 8' rectangular field.

This weekend's event is one of the more than 40 Robotics Education & Competition Foundation events sponsored by TVA that fosters the development of teamwork, critical thinking, project management, and communication skills in a fun, hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) environment.

The VEX IQ Challenger provides elementary and middle school students with exciting open-ended robotics and research project challenges. The fun kicks off Saturday morning (Feb. 18, 2017) at 9:30 a.m. in the Signal Mountain Middle High School gym.





### District 5 iZone Meeting Focuses on Improving Schools

District 5 School Board member Karitsa Mosley Jones held a community meeting Monday evening to give an update on both the great things happening across District 5, but also an update on the progress made in Hamilton County's five Innovation Zone (iZone) schools.

Ms. Mosley Jones first announced some of the amazing accomplishments of District 5 students, including the many Dalewood Middle School students who will be inducted into the Junior National Honor Society, the great turnout at Woodmore Elementary School's Muffins with Mom and Doughnuts with Dad events, and the graduation success stories from Washington Alternative School. She also updated attendees about one of the projects on the HCDE facilities priorities list, and that a new Harrison Middle School would be built in District 5, as the districts are currently drawn.

Hosting Principal Uras Agee took the floor to update the crowd about just a few of the great events happening at Brainerd High School, including the recent rise in TVAAS scores from all 1s to all 3s, Monday's visit to the state capital by members of the BHS leadership team and the upcoming trip for select seniors to see *Hidden Figures* and then take part in a panel discussion about the film.

HCDE Interim Superintendent Dr. Kirk then gave attendees an update about Hamilton County's five iZone schools. He explained the number one way to make sure students score well on upcoming tests is to make sure they attend school and are engaged in learning. He also briefly explained the state's Achievement School District (ASD) tracks for consistently under-performing schools.







## HCDE Students Sign Letter of Intent During Chatt State CTE National Signing Day

More than 40 students from across southeast Tennessee signed letters of intent during the first-ever Chattanooga State Community College National Career and Technical Education (CTE) Signing Day event!

Students from Brainerd, Central, Ivy, Sequoyah and Tyner Academy all took the stage to don a Chattanooga State ball-cap and sign two letters of intent, one copy so the college guarantees their spot, and the second for their own records.

The football scholarship-type signing day event welcomed in the new class of diesel mechanics, computer systems, cosmetology, and welding students (just to name a few!)

Students heard from a host of speakers including Chattanooga State Interim President Debbie Adams, HCDE CTE Director David Cowan, and Tennessee Association of Manufacturer's President Tim Spires before the signing ceremonies began. Both Spires and Cowan commented how CTE students have the best job placement rate as soon as they graduate. Congratulations to all signees!

## Vanderbilt University's Tennessee Education Research Alliance Compares iZone vs. ASD

Teacher turnover plays a critical role in Tennessee's ambitious efforts to turn around its lowest performing schools, according to a new Vanderbilt report. Examining data from the 2012-13 school year through 2014-15, the study focused on teacher retention in the two largest efforts to turn around Tennessee's priority schools—locally-run Innovation Zone (iZone) and Achievement School District (ASD.)

The report found annual teacher turnover rates were much higher among ASD schools than among iZone schools. Turnover rates naturally will be high in a school's first year in a turnaround reform, given the requirement that teachers in turnaround schools must reapply for their jobs at that point. But in the year following that procedure, the ASD experienced a teacher turnover rate of 50 percent among its first cohort of schools, and 49 percent for its second. Among iZone schools, the corresponding rates were 40 percent and 23 percent, respectively.

[Find the entire report here.](#)





### Red Bank Middle School Students Learn about Artificial Intelligence

As a second World Reading Day event, HCDE Interim Superintendent Dr. Kirk Kelly taught Dr. Elbakidze's students at Red Bank Middle all about Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Wednesday. Dr. Kelly read from a *Computer World* article that explained every day uses of AI, and the difference between Narrow and General AI. Narrow AI refers to Artificial Intelligence designed for one purpose, like IBM's Deep Blue, the computer that beat chess champion Garry Kasparov. General AI refers to Artificial Intelligence that can reason like a human being.

Dr. Kelly talked about a real-world application of AI. He explained that by using AI-generated input for an algebraic equation, he can determine what ACT score a current 8th grader should get in the future.



### Visiting a Welding Course at Hamilton County Mechatronics Akademie at Volkswagen

The students spend their mornings perfecting their welding skills with lessons in beading, joining, and cutting with an oxy-acetylene torch. What a great hands-on way to Engage Every Child. Every Day!





### School-Wide Kindness Week Event at Harrison Middle

Every student at Harrison Elementary School celebrated Kindness Week on Thursday with a special school-wide project. They spelled out the word “KIND” on the baseball field to create a school-wide picture. School counselor Patricia Russell planned out which students formed which letter, and with the help of the teachers (and a professional photographer) the new school-wide picture was taken.

Each of the students was encouraged to wear purple or gray, to show their Harrison pride. Congratulations Harrison Elementary! Now we all know how seriously you take being kind!



### First Annual BETA Club and National Honors Society Induction at East Ridge High School (story on next page)



Seventy students at East Ridge High School were inducted into BETA Club, with thirty of those students also qualifying for National Honors Society. The ceremony was held at the high school on Feb. 6.

More than 100 parents and family members attended the induction ceremony hosted by the student BETA Club and NHS officers. Students inducted into these groups must maintain a high GPA, have an excellent discipline record, and are required to complete ten hours of community service for each club.

Club members are currently working with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to raise money to aid cancer research. In the past, the groups have partnered with the middle and elementary schools for various fundraisers and have helped raise money for the Angel Tree Project at East Ridge High School.

Congratulations to these students for all of their hard work!



### Hamilton County Mayor Joins Dr. Kelly for Tour of Signal Mountain Schools

Hamilton County Mayor Jim Coppinger joined Interim Superintendent Dr. Kirk Kelly and District 2 School Board Member Kathy Lennon Thursday morning for a tour of the new \$5.2 million addition to Nolan Elementary School.

Guided by Principal Shane Harwood the group toured the new classrooms, facilities and playground meeting teachers and students along the way. Following the tour's completion, Mayor Coppinger and Dr. Kelly dropped by Signal Mountain Middle/High School to meet with Principal Todd Stinson and visit one of the schools seventh grade STEM classrooms.

### Sequoyah High School Hosts Welding Competition Saturday

The student chapter of the American Welding Society holds a welding competition.

Industry and business partners will be on hand as secondary and post-secondary students compete for certifications and prizes. This event usually draws in contestants from three states.

**8th Annual AWS 2017**  
**Welding Competition**  
**Sequoyah High School**  
**Saturday Feb 18, 2017**

TEST TIME LIMIT  
2 hrs - Pipe  
2.5 hrs - Plate

Bring Your Own  
PPE, Welding Gear,  
Chipping Hammer,  
Wire Brush, &  
4" - 6" Grinder

For More Information and  
Contact Details Contact:  
**ROBIN DYKES**  
rdyk@sequoyah.k12.tn.us  
**Chris Renfro**  
Brentwood, TN 37027  
423-463-4797 ext. 2556

RSVP by Jan 31, 2017

Sign In from 8:00-9:00 am EST.  
Last Day for Registration:  
January 31, 2017

**Cash Prizes**  
1st, 2nd & 3rd Place

\* High School Instructors Must Attend \*

AWS & Hamilton County Schools  
are not Responsible for  
any injuries or accidents.

Sequoyah High School  
9517 West Ridge Road  
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379





## Ooltewah High School Students Visit Volkswagen Chattanooga

A group of Ooltewah freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors visited Volkswagen Chattanooga Friday morning. The goal was to show the students what options are available to the students who want to train to become Volkswagen employees they graduate.

Chattanooga State teacher Ralph Gwaltney showed the students a 150-second-long video that shows the entire process to create a Passat, start to finish, right here in Hamilton County.

He also then took the students on a tour of the classrooms and hands-on learning areas used by both Hamilton County Mechatronics Akademie at Volkswagen, as well as Chattanooga State's Volkswagen Academy.

HCDE in the News this week:

<http://nooga.com/175191/mindfulness-in-hamilton-county-schools-a-significant-step-toward-creating-a-wiser-generation/>

<http://newschannel9.com/news/local/brainerd-high-and-gps-students-attend-county-commission-meeting>

<http://www.wdef.com/2017/02/14/golden-apple-robert-millsaps/>

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/local/story/2017/feb/13/boys-girls-club-recognizes-young-leaders/412516/>

<http://www.wdef.com/2017/02/13/winter-wishes-soddy-daisy-high-school/>

<http://newschannel9.com/news/local/east-brainerd-elementary-tells-us-what-love-is>