

Oak Ridge Schools

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



2014-2015

OAK RIDGE SCHOOLS ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2014-2015

OAK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Two ORHS students earned a perfect score on the ACT national college admissions examination.

ORHS had 11 semi-finalists for the National Merit competition who scored in the top 1% in the state and 11 Commended scholars through National Merit who were in the top 2-3% in the state. Nine of the eleven semi-finalists were named as finalists. Seven students were selected and attended the 2015 Boys' and Girls' State.

Two ORHS seniors won the Tennessee Junior Science and Humanities Symposium and advanced to the national competition.

ORHS also had two seniors competing for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award. One was a state finalist and the other student earned Honorable Mention.

At the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair, Senior Division competition, students from Oak Ridge High School placed 3rd through 5th in the competition. Seven students received local and national special awards. One of these students received a summer research internship with the National Institute of Health.

Eight students spent the summer of 2014 as student researchers in various assignments through the Math Thesis program.

Three students qualified for the American Invitational Mathematics Exam by placing in the top 5% in the nation on the American Mathematics Competition exam. In Regional testing for the TMTA State Math Contest, ORHS students placed 7 in the top 10 in Algebra 2 and 5 in the top 10 in Statistics. They also placed 1st through 9th in Precalculus and 1st through 10th in Calculus and Advanced Topics.

One student participated in the International Supercomputing Competition as a member of the team from the University of Tennessee that placed 2nd in the nation.

At the UT-Pro2Serve Math Contest the Math Bowl team placed 2nd. Five students placed in the top 50 on the Fermat Exam and two of those students were in the top 10, earning scholarships to UT.

Four seniors are members of Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honorary Society. During the past 3 years at Mu Alpha Theta State Convention, one senior won his level of ciphering, one won his level of Chalk Talk, one won third in mental math, and one was a member of the math bowl team that took a 1st place and a 2nd place at consecutive conventions, and 2nd place at the UT Fermat Math Competition.

ORHS had one of the national winners and four State winners of the Computer Aspirations Award in computing from the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT).

Students in AP Chemistry placed third in the nation in Chemistry for the National Science League.

The ORHS Science Bowl Team won the Walton Invitational Science Competition as they competed against 30 teams from across the Southeast.

Twenty students participated at the North American Invitational Model United Nations in Washington, DC. This was Oak Ridge High School's 50th year to participate. Selection as a delegate is a considerable honor for an ORHS student. These students are part of a proud ORHS tradition.

Student members of the Gay Straight Alliance coordinated and produced the second annual East Tennessee Youth Pride Festival. This is the only festival of its kind known to exist in the Southeastern United States.

ORHS English students placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd with submissions in the Tennessee Mountain Writers competition, the Old Grey Cemetery Poetry Contest and Knoxville Writers' Guild Young Writers Prize.

The World Language Department reported that ten French students received national recognition on the Grand Concours (the National French Exam).

The Technology Student Association had one senior who placed 1st at State and ranked 3rd nationally in Biotechnology Design. One senior placed 1st at State and ranked 7th nationally in Career Comparisons. Two students placed 1st at State in On Demand Video and Digital Video Production. Two seniors placed 1st at State and ranked 6th nationally in Chapter Team. One senior placed 1st at State in Extemporaneous Presentation. Three students also placed 1st in the state division and 8th in the national division in the Test of Engineering, Aptitude, Mathematics, and Science or (TEAMS) and all 5 students received the Bronze, Silver and Gold Achievement Awards.

The Performing Arts Groups of Oak Ridge High School, Band, Orchestra, and Chorus had a combined total of 59 musicians selected for All State East and a total of 18 students selected for All State. The ORHS Band received superior ratings at the ETSBOA Concert Festival and the Orchestra received an excellent. The Orchestra also received gold and silver ratings at the Maryland National Orchestra Competition.

Several students in the Visual Arts Department competed and were recognized in the East Tennessee Arts Regional Student Art Exhibition and TVA & I Fair Art Exhibit. Senior art students pursuing art in college were awarded over 50,000 dollars in scholarships from over 5 colleges and universities. Several students also received dual credit for their work in the arts.

The ORHS Robotics Team were instrumental in creating a can stealing, tote stacking robot that would be the pride of any manufacturer. The Wildbots first competed in the Bayou Regional competition, then locally in the Smoky Mountain Regional event. As a result, they earned the Engineering Inspiration Award sponsored by NASA and an invitation to the World Championship. This was the fourth year in a row in which the Wildbots have been invited to the World Championship. Competition was tough and ORHS was selected by the #1 seeded team and was the first team from Tennessee to advance to the final competition.

OAK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STAFF

Allen Etheridge was selected as the PrepXtra Boys Cross Country Coach of the year.

Kayla Gass, English teacher, had previous research published in National Council of Teachers of English that was reworked and has been approved to be published in the Journal of Negro Education titled: ""Can I Make Any Difference?" Gang Affiliation and the School-to-Prison Pipeline."

Julie Golden is serving as President-Elect of the Tennessee Foreign Language Teacher's Association and

Leah Bailey was elected to the Board of the TFLTA.

ORHS Social Studies teachers Parker Jarnigan and Aaron Pickering have earned certification from the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) for their work with the organization in Spring 2015. Both are now alumni of the program for teaching East Asian history and geography.

ORHS Athletic Director and teacher, Mike Mullins was honored by winning the 2015 Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association Distinguished Service Award. This is the third award that Mike has won in the last five years. In 2014, he was recognized by the National Interscholastic Athletic Association by winning their prestigious, State Award of Merit. This national award is given to one athletic director in each state.

Doug Phillips earned his A.B.D status at Boston University and was named to the Editorial Board of the Tennessee Musician Magazine. Mr. Phillips also authored a research article titled "Reciprocal Tutoring in Middle School Orchestra" published and made the cover of Tennessee Magazine.

Whitney Schmidt presented a session on The Heroic Journey Narrative: A study and practice of Author's Craft with use of Web-based Technology Tools" at this year's TCTE Annual Institute on "Bridging Reading and Writing: Balancing the Core" in Memphis, TN.

Dr. Sharon Thomas had a paper published in *Genetics*. The title of the paper is: "Sisters Unbound is Required for Meiotic Centromeric Cohesion in *Drosophila Melanogaster*."

Dr. Elaine Vaughan, Math Department teacher, has been selected as one of the five state finalists in mathematics for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Dr. Vaughan has been selected as a Tennessee State Teacher Fellow. There are 30 Teacher Fellows that will be focusing on Teacher Voice. Dr. Vaughan was also a presenter at the Regional National Conference of Teachers of Mathematics in Nashville on Common Formative Assessment and reinforcing Common Core Math Standards.

ROBERTSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The regional MATHCOUNTS competition was held Feb. 28, 2015. Due to the changing of the date, it was a smaller competition than normal. There were 4 schools there as well as a homeschool group. There were about 40 total students participating. The RMS team received *second place* in the team component. One student received *1st place* in the individual component and another student received *3rd place* in the individual component. Both of these students qualified to go on to state MATHCOUNTS competition.

RMS participated in the TMTA State Mathematics Competition at Roane State. This is a regional competition with lots of participants. In the Algebra I Division, two students placed in the top 10. In the Geometry Division, three students placed in the top 10.

The annual Pellissippi State Math Contest was held on Friday May 8, 2015. There were 680 students from all around the region. RMS has five students who placed in the top 20 of the competition.

The Robertsville Middle School chapter of the Technology Student Association (TSA) had an outstanding showing at the Regional Conference held in Knoxville. Middle and High Schools from across the upper east region participated at the conference. RMS TSA members competed in 12 events, and they brought home 11 trophies. The Robertsville Middle School TSA attended the 2015 Tennessee State Conference in Murfreesboro on March 5-7. RMS had the largest chapter in attendance with thirty 7th and 8th grade students competing. This was the second year in a row that all our chapter's students finalized in every event that required multiple rounds of judging. The RMS Chapter earned 1st place in seven events, nine 2nd place trophies, and five 3rd place trophies.

The Robertsville music department continues to be recognized as a distinguished program winning top awards at festivals and competitions. The RMS Orchestra had 7 students selected for ETSBOA Junior Clinic Honors Orchestra in the fall. In December, the 8th grade orchestra enjoyed a tour of retirement homes in Oak Ridge where they played Christmas carols for the residents. In the spring at the Music Showcase Festival in Cincinnati, OH, the 7th and 8th grade Orchestras received Superior ratings, and 7th grade won first place as well as two "best soloist" awards. The 5th & 6th grade Orchestra additionally received Superior ratings at the Music Showcase Festival Concert Competition at Dollywood.

The RMS Band had twelve students selected for ETSBOA Junior Clinic for 2015. RMS Varsity Band received a "Superior" Rating at the TSSBDA Concert Festival in the spring. All Four Bands received "Superior" Ratings at the Music in the Parks Competitions, winning trophies for 1st place in their classes and first place overall.

The RMS 7th and 8th Grade Chorus participated in the Music Showcase Festival at King's Island and was awarded 1st Place with a rating of "Superior" among all Middle School Mixed Choirs and also received the Overall award (highest score) for middle school choirs.

ROBERTSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF

Cathy Ginel, 7th grade science teacher, was selected as a member of the first Governor's Teacher Cabinet. There are 18 teachers from across the state in the cabinet. The cabinet meets quarterly with Governor Haslam and Education Commissioner Candice McQueen to share real-time information from the classroom, advice on policy considerations and provide a direct line of communication to schools and communities.

JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

The JMS 7th & 8th Grade Chorus, combined with the RMS chorus, received a rating of “Superior” and took First Place in the Music in the Parks Choral Festival in Cincinnati, Ohio, in April 2015.

The JMS Chess Team Elementary Division (5th and 6th Grade) placed 2nd place at the Regional Team Chess Qualifying Tournament. They earned 12th place finish over all at the 2015 State Team Scholastic Chess Finals. The JMS Chess Team Junior High Division (7th and 8th Grade) placed 1st at the Regional Team Chess Qualifying Tournament. They also finished first in the Secret City Scholastic Chess Tournament.

Jefferson Middle School 2015 Fitness Awards: We had 24 students, 5th-8th grade, score at or above the 85th percentile on all fitness tests to earn a GOLD Jefferson fitness star. We had 77 additional students, 5th-8th grade, score at or above the 50th percentile on all fitness tests to earn a SILVER Jefferson fitness star.

In a very close competition, the JMS Science Bowl team, coached by Jill Williford, came in 2nd place at the East Tennessee Regional Competition held in February at Roane State.

The Math Enrichment Club, coached by Rosa Faulkner, traveled to Muscle Shoals, Alabama to join more than forty other middle schools in an eastern regional math tournament. JMS placed first in both 5th grade and Pre-Algebra categories.

At the Mathcounts Chapter competition at the University of Tennessee, the JMS Team won the first place qualifying to represent Oak Ridge and the Knoxville Chapter at the State level competition in Nashville. The team had the highest score among competing public schools and took the second place in the State level. They lost the first place to an independent private school by only five points.

JMS participated for the first time in the National MATHCON competition sponsored by the University of Illinois. Fifteen JMS students received honor certificates and a special invitation for a final round at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

The Math Enrichment Club closed up the school year by participating in the Pellissippi Regional Math Tournament winning the first place in 8th grade category and the second place in the 7th grade category.

JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF

Brian Smith, 7th grade Social Studies Teacher served as a Tennessee Core Coach: providing six 2015 summer training sessions in East Tennessee for the Tennessee Department of Education focusing on Social Studies standards, assessment, strategies, and resources. Mr. Smith was a presenter for the Tennessee Geographic Alliance Summer Workshops: Geography and History, Making it Work-Content, Writing and Testing, July 2015. Mr. Smith was the ESRI ConnectED 2015 Grant writer and awardee: Leading a cohort of 12 teachers to engage students with Story Maps that develop geographic literacy.

LINDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A Linden 3rd Grader won 2nd Place in University of Tennessee-Cultural Attractions Committee Poetry Contest for 3rd - 5th Grade students for her poem "Ew! Ew! Ew!"

A student at Linden won First place in The Dogwood Art Show, 4th grade division.

Linden held its Sixth annual Family Art Night.

A Linden student was a District 1st place winner of Choose Not to Use (Tobacco Free) art contest. The winner received an iPad/\$100 gift card.

A student also was a District 2nd place winner of Choose Not to Use contest and won a \$75 gift card.

7 student artist winners were chosen to illustrate The Home for Carley story for TORCH/Homeless Awareness.

LINDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF

One Linden teacher received an ORAU grant for \$1060 to purchase LEGO More to Math Kits. She also received an ALTRUSA/ ROTARY CLUB grant for \$1500 to purchase Kindle eReaders for a summer reading program to serve underprivileged students.

One teacher received a grant for \$2,200 for Camp Invention scholarships from the Oak Ridge Education Foundation.

One teacher was chosen to attend Space Camp for Educators, STEMcon. This teacher was one of 43 attendees out of hundreds of applicants from 5 states.

One teacher won a free screening of "Finding Kind" a documentary aimed to stop girl bullying in middle and high schools. Over 200 girls and parents showed up to the event.

WOODLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dogwood Arts Student Art Exhibition - This is a juried show for K-12. Two students had their pieces chosen by the judge and both pieces were framed. This show is for all of East TN.

Fifteen students had their work shown at Through the Visions of Children, Oak Ridge Student Art Exhibition at the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge.

Eight students participated in the Trinity OutReach Center for Hope Book and Art Show: Illustrations for the book "A Home for Carley" were put on display and made into a book.

Chess Awards: 2 groups went to the Regional Tournaments; one for the Primary Group and one for the Elementary Group. The Primary Group placed 2nd in the Regional Tournament and went on the place 8th in the State. The Elementary Group placed 6th in the Regionals playing against Middle Schoolers.

Science Fair- May 2015-Woodland had 13 third and fourth grade participants resulting in a total of 7 awards. (3 first place awards, 2 second place awards, and 2 third place awards).

WOODLAND ELEMENTARY STAFF

Leigh Marlar, school counselor, received a PhD from The University of Tennessee.

Melissa Blalock, assistant principal, also received a PhD from The University of Tennessee.

Woodland STEM coaches Kim Howard and Evan Parker received a \$750.00 Grant from UCOR to support STEM lessons.

GLENWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Two Glenwood students received the distinct honor of having their artwork accepted by the Dogwood Arts Student Art Competition and put on display during the Dogwood Arts Festival.

A 4th grade student was the winner of the 4th grade art category at the Da Vinci Art and Science Fair.

Glenwood's First Annual Art Show was a huge success with all 365 students represented and over 350 people in attendance.

Glenwood received a CCLC grant in the amount of \$87,500 for extended school hour programs.

Glenwood won first place in the tent decorations contest at the Oak Ridge Dragon Boat Race. The Glenwood Gliders rowing team won first place in the Dragon Boat Race Schools Division and third place overall.

GLENWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF

Congratulations to Glenwood third grade teacher, Jacob Passmore, on the completion of his Masters Degree.

Altusa/Rotary Clubs awarded Gwen Harrell \$1,996 for technology in our reading specialist classrooms.

Molly Chance, Glenwood art teacher, had two pieces accepted and exhibited in the Tennessee Art Educator Association Art Show.

Oak Ridge Education Foundation awarded Marlene Sumner \$1,233.50 for headphones to use in her listening center.

Oak Ridge Public Schools Foundation awarded Amelia Bell and Gwen Harrell \$5,000 for summer STEM Camp.

UCOR awarded Amelia Bell \$500 for STEM Cooking Camp.

CODE.org awarded Aleshia Wensell \$10,000 for Hour of Code.

WILLOW BROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Tennessee Arts Commission awarded Willow Brook with a Student Ticket Subsidy Grant in the amount of \$2599 to send our kindergarten through second grade students to see the Oak Ridge Jr. Playhouse production of “Cinderella” and our fourth grade students to see Classic Productions for Students’ production of the “Freedom Train.”

Willow Brook was presented a check in the amount of \$5,462 from Belk’s Adopt-A-School program.

Willow Brook provided 363 students with before and after school programs funded through the State 21st Century Community Center grant of \$87,500. This was the 2nd year of the three years of funding in this grant cycle. Willow Brook has been the recipient of this grant for the past 13 years.

The Oak Ridge Schools Education Foundation awarded Willow Brook with four grants totaling \$6871.40. These funds were used to purchase the following:

- Bluetooth Listening Center for kindergarten classroom
 - \$ 500.00
- BeeBots (programmable floor robots) to be used to introduce Kindergarten students to coding skills and enhance cooperation, collaboration, logical thinking, and communication skills.
 - \$ 600.00
- Math and Movement Mats to enhance the materials purchased earlier in the school year.
 - \$1,970.00
- MakerSpace STEM equipment to enhance the Willow Brook STEM library which supports STEM projects in grades K-4.
 - \$3,801.40

One 3rd grade student had their Picasso Portrait accepted into the Dogwood Arts Festival Student Art Exhibition at the Thompson Center for the Arts on Maryville College campus. This student’s portrait won overall for their age group.

Fifteen students had their art displayed at the Children’s Museums exhibit entitled, “Through the Visions of Children” which featured art from every Oak Ridge School. Six of these student had their artwork submitted for the DaVinci art show. One student won an award for their submission.

Six students in the A.R.T. Club had their photography displayed at Roane State Community College.

Willow Brook Elementary was awarded a AAA School Safety Patrol Advancement Grant for \$500 from the AAA Foundation of Traffic Safety and AAA. This grant will enable the Willow Brook Safety Patrol to expand its program.

Willow Brook Elementary’s Kindergarten team received a grant from Target in the amount of \$500 to take their students on a fieldtrip to The Muse in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Willow Brook Elementary received a grant from Altrussa and Rotary Club of Oak Ridge in the amount of \$1200 to enhance our Early Literacy Intervention program.

Willow Brook was awarded \$200 from Food City's School Bucks Education Program.

Our Readers and Leaders program had 36 reading volunteers who tutored students and logged in 651 hours of reading time.

Willow Brook's Family Impact Center provided twenty-two parenting/family activities and workshops throughout the year.

The Family Resource Center networked with over 200 professional, medical, and social service providers and linked 987 families with information and referrals for services.

WILLOW BROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF

Willow Brook's Math Specialist was awarded the ORAU 2014 Education Grant in the amount of \$2,500 for Math and Movement Mats to support our Math Intervention program.

Two of our 4th grade teachers were awarded the Prestige Cleaners Project Classroom Full Cycle award in the amount of \$2,500. These funds were used to update existing gardening equipment and expand the 4th grade gardening program to include all grade levels.

