

News & Views

The 10,000 Hour Rule



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Have you ever heard of the 10000 hour rule? I just read about it this fall in an interesting article. The theory has been around since 1970 but has become more widespread due to a book written by Malcolm Gladwell, entitled *Outliers*, written in 2008.

What this rule refers to is the premise that it takes 10000 hours of deliberate and concentrated practice to master a skill. Whether that skill is brain surgery, playing a musical instrument, writing, playing sport, this rule states that it takes this length of time before mastery can occur.

Using this calculation, it would take 10 years of practicing 3 hours a day to become a master in your subject. It would take approximately 5 years of full-time employment to become proficient in your field.

The reason I find this interesting is that Tennessee's tenure law now says that it takes 5 years for a teacher to become eligible for tenure. (This article had nothing to do with tenure.) For those of us who have worked over 5 years, do we feel that we have totally mastered our profession?

What about athletics and the arts?

What about those who have natural talent in some area? It is still proposed that natural talent may eliminate some of 10000 hours, but that a true "master" in a field dedicates over 9000 hours. It purports that nurture over nature provides for true mastery.

Outliers references the years of practice the Beatles had completed and how long Bill Gates was behind a computer before fame came.

Congratulations for a job well done to all who were part of the production of "The Grinch Stole Christmas". Ms. Love and her drama class did an excellent job, with the help of Mrs. Ross and Mr. Bernard and their students. What an excellent cooperative work of our fine arts department!



New Board Policies

New policies will be presented for first reading at the January board member to stay in compliance with new legislations. These policies support new laws on teacher evaluation, student promotion and retention, separation for classified employees, home schooling and bullying.

There are not any great changes that will be impacted by these policies except for a few exceptions. The new retention/promotion policy states that a child cannot be promoted from 3rd grade without mastering 3rd reading skills unless the child has an IEP or has participated in a board approved researched-based-intervention program prior to the next year. Third grade intervention programs are to be annually evaluated by the Director.

There is an important additional to the existing bullying policy. Cyberbullying is now included as a form of offense that can be punished at school. As the law specifies, any online bullying or harassment, even though it will most likely take place off campus, is to be treated as on-campus bullying if it creates a "hostile educational environment or otherwise creating a substantial disruption to the education environment or learning process."

More information about these policies will be given to you when their approvals are finalized.



January Birthdays

Delisa Hughett	1/1
David Mays	1/1
Sandie Martin	1/4
Lila Puckett	1/6
Kendra Whittenburg	1/7
Debbie Creech	1/13
Deborah Terry	1/14
Carilyn West	1/14
Ann Sexton	1/15
Rose Welch	1/19
Verna Wright	1/19
Brandi Smith	1/21
Lisa Thomas	1/22
Tim Owens	1/23
Robin Newman	1/31



January News

January Events to Remember:


January 16 School Holiday	
MLK Day NO School	
Other January Events	
4	Trivia Day
5	Bird Day
8	Elvis's Birthday
10	Peculiar People Day
16	Robert E Lee's Birthday
17	Ben Franklin's Birthday
18	Winnie the Pooh Day
19	Popcorn Day
20	Hat Day

O.M.S. and O.H.S. girls and boys basketball teams have busy schedules for this month. Check the schedules and come and support our players. Oneida teams played during the holidays in McCreary County, Kentucky, Harriman and Union County. Both high school teams won their tournaments. Jake Wright was named MVP at the Union County Tournament and reached his 1000 point during tournament play. Cole West



received recognition as part of the all-tournament team. OMS JV girls also sponsored a holiday tournament and played in the semi-final round.

GEM Award Winners



Elementary: Tonya Crabtree
Middle School: Robin Newman
High School: Stacy Love

School Board Appreciation Week January 22-28

Tennessee celebrates "School Board Appreciation Week" during the week of January 22-28. I want us to show our Board how much we value what they do for us and the children we serve.

I have had the opportunity in the last six months to spend lots of time with our board members, and I honestly did not know how involved their jobs are as members until now. First of all, I know how concerned they are for the students and teachers in our system. They get numerous calls and visits from parents, community members, and us (educators) on all types of complaints and concerns. Believe me, they act on those communications because I hear about it!!!

They are required to complete numerous trainings and workshops in order to stay current on policies relevant to our school. The scheduling of these events is not easy since the members have other responsibilities, such as demanding jobs, families and children. They receive a great amount of information and reports to read and study in order to have the necessary knowledge in setting policy and making decisions. They are present at as many school events as they possibly can attend.

Please try to incorporate an activity at your school or with your class to show appreciation to our board members. Some suggestions include:

- Recognize them at a ballgame
- Have a bulletin board with their pictures and bios.
- Write thank you notes to the members.
- Invite them to the school to:
 - Read to students
 - Discuss their roles as members
 - Have lunch with students

I have developed a deep appreciation for our board members. We are fortunate to have members who are as dedicated to our school system and put children first. Many systems do not have this type of situation. So try to find some way to let them know that they are appreciated for all their service and commitment to us.