



*Engage Every Child. Every Day.*  
Department Head News and Updates  
February 24, 2017



February 28

**Important Dates**



Mardi Gras

**Superintendent's Office**

Dr. Kirk Kelly

**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**

Leandra Ware

**Innovation**

Keri Randolph

**Finance**

Christie Jordan

**Human Resources**

Stacy Stewart

**Howard School and Chattanooga Community Mourn Loss**

It is with great sadness we report on the passing on legendary Howard School basketball coach Henry Wesley Bowles. The 80-year-old passed away Sunday after a lengthy illness.

Coach Bowles' career spanned 39 years, 29 of which he served as basketball coach at his alma mater, Howard. During his career, Coach Bowles racked up 616 wins. That was the second most wins in state history at the time of his retirement in the late 90s. He was inducted into the TSSAA hall of Fame in 2003.

The gymnasium at the Howard School is named in his honor. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family, friends, and the countless lives touched by Coach Bowles.



## SMMHS Hosts Inaugural VEX IQ Robotics “Crossover” Challenge

Signal Mountain Middle High School hosted the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation inaugural VEX IQ Challenge this past weekend. HCDE Interim Superintendent Dr. Kirk Kelly was among those in attendance, cheering on the teams. During the "Crossover" Challenge, students' robots had to work together to score as many points as possible on a 4' by 8' rectangular field.

The VEX IQ Challenger provides elementary and middle school students with exciting open-ended robotics and research project challenges. It's just one of 40 robotics challenges sponsored by TVA to encourage STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education.



## Sequoyah High School Hosts AWS Welding Competition

Sequoyah High School recently played host to the 8th Annual American Welding Society Welding Competition. Forty-five student welders from across the southeast came to compete in the secondary and post-secondary group.

If the students meet code requirements, they earned a certificate stamped by a welding inspector at the end of the competition. The welding students also had the opportunity to network with possible future employers, since company owners and business leaders also attended Saturday's event. Congratulations to everyone who competed!



## OHS Awarded Verizon Grant to Host STEM Nights

Ooltewah High School was recently awarded a \$15,000 grant from Verizon to host two STEM Night events.

The first happens Mar. 1 at 6 p.m.

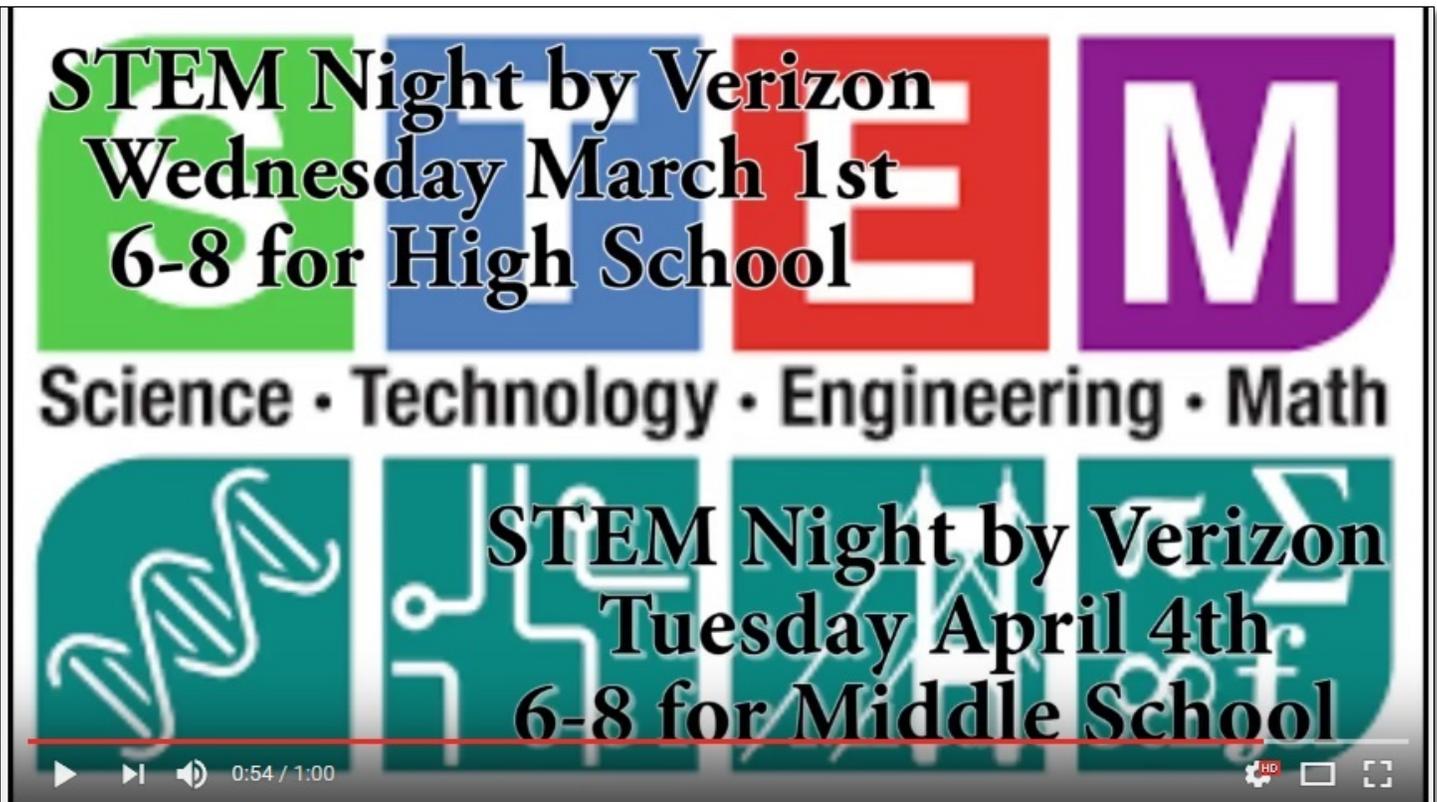
Business and college reps will be on hand for informational sessions. Attendees will also enjoy STEM activities and refreshments catered by OHS's culinary arts classes. Free Verizon t-shirts will also be given out.

The second night will be for middle school students during the month of April.

[The OHS media team put together a commercial for the two Verizon STEM Night events.](#)

So the students know how much food to prepare, if you plan to attend, please be sure to register here:

<http://ow.ly/VR7z3096TG>.



## Hamilton County Commission Honors Hixson Middle School Student

Miss Wheelchair Tennessee 2017, Liberty Barnum, was recognized this week by the Hamilton County Commission.

District 3 Commissioner Greg Martin gave the presentation.

The Hixson Middle School student told the commissioners about her platform, accessibility in government buildings.

After thanking Miss Barnum for coming to meeting so they could honor her, each of the nine commissioners, County Attorney Rheubin Taylor, and Mayor Jim Coppinger each shook Miss Barnum's hand.

She was presented with a special certificate thanking her for work as Miss Wheelchair Tennessee.



## 2017 Hamilton County Teachers of the Year Compete at Regional Level

Three Hamilton County Department of Education teachers were recently named as the 2017 Hamilton County Teachers of the Year.

Kindergarten teacher Shellie Gibson from Wallace A. Smith Elementary won for grades K-4, 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher Kristin Burrus from Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences won for grades 5-8, and 10-12<sup>th</sup> grade Chemistry and World Concepts teacher Jessica Hubbuch from The Howard School won for the high school level.

The teachers and their principals will be recognized at a special luncheon at the Chattanooga Hotel on Friday, Mar. 3.

Ms. Gibson strives to prove everyday her belief that all students can learn, regardless of status or situation. She constantly finds ways to improve as a teacher and life-long learner. She helped her current school develop a curriculum map to improve instruction and promote collaboration so that every student can benefit from a tightly aligned, standards based curriculum both students and teachers can embrace. Ms. Gibson also serves as Smith Elementary's Grade Level Chairperson, Spelling Bee Coordinator, Cross County/Track Coach, and on the Curriculum Mapping Committee. She is also very involved in the community with her church and the Alzheimer's Association.

Ms. Burrus believes that when students can rely on their strengths to demonstrate learning, they become more confident. She cites an important lesson she learned at a leadership seminar about a decade ago: teacher efficacy was the number one factor in determining student success. She now focuses on meeting her students wherever they are academically, and then doing whatever she can to lead them to success. As a STEM Fellows Program member, she now works to include critical thinking and problem-solving in every classroom lesson. Ms. Burrus is also a cabinet member participant in the CSAS Shared Leadership Team, a presenter at the National Paideia Conference and Magnet Schools of America conference, and the facilitator of the CSAS Earth Club.

Ms. Hubbuch believes it is critical for teachers to model professional behavior and work ethic at all times. She believes student engagement is key to success, so she continually works on ways to engage every student through her lesson plans. One success story Ms. Hubbuch points to is the Science Genius program, which merges scientific concepts and hip hop music. The program was initially organized by Chattanooga State, and although it no longer has community partners, Ms. Hubbuch is continuing the program first in house and then against other schools to promote engagement of students with lyrics infusing scientific terms and theories. Ms. Hubbuch also won the first ever Teacherpreneur competition hosted by the Public Education Foundation, is a member of the Science Leaders Network, and is co-founder of The Howard School's Outdoor Leadership Club.

Currently, all three teachers are competing at the regional level.

## CSAS 10<sup>th</sup> Graders Get Lesson on Safe Driving

The 10th graders at Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences got a special visit Tuesday. The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office LAWS (Law Enforcement Actively Working in Schools) program delivered a message about safe driving to the students.

After hearing from Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond and Judge Russell Bean, some students took the stage to role play as a car of speeding teen drivers and the law enforcement officials pulling them over.

The Sheriff's School LAWS Program focuses on cultivating lines of communication between students and law enforcement. The guests speak to students about the mission of the HCSO as well as the importance of being law abiding citizens and staying in school.



## Orchard Knob Elementary Students Learn Video Production

Future film stars from Orchard Knob Elementary learned video production at TechTown Chattanooga on Wednesday.

The students visited the space dedicated to robotics, circuitry, software development (coding), film and performing arts.

TechTown has year-round after-school programs and summer camps for children across all skill levels and demographics from ages 7-17.

The ultimate goal is to inspire the next generation of innovators.



## Bess T. Shepherd Creative Discovery Museum STEAM Family Night

Bess T. Shepherd Elementary recently held a "Creative Discovery STEAM Family Night." The event Tuesday evening highlighted the fun activities that center around Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math.

As part of Family Nights, the Creative Discovery Museum provides all the materials for nine activities serving up to 300 participants. It's full STEAM ahead at Bess T. Shepherd!



## Bessie Smith Cultural Center Holds 2017 Art Contest

To help celebrate Bessie Smith's birthday on Apr. 15, the Bessie Smith Cultural Center wants to hold an art show of works created by Hamilton County students.

All of the artwork will be on display in the Vilma Fields Atrium at the BSCC during the entire month of April. **March 17 is the deadline to submit!** Winners will be selected from K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. The artwork submitted must represent the life and talent of Bessie Smith. All mediums are accepted, but the size limit is 20x30, and all entries must be hang ready. [Check out the entry form here.](#)

# BESSIE SMITH 2017 ART CONTEST



**April 15 is Bessie Smith's Birthday!**  
**In celebration, the Bessie Smith Cultural Center would like to sponsor an Art Show. The show will be on display in the Vilma Fields Atrium in April. All work will be created by Hamilton County students.**



### Unum Partners with Big Brothers Big Sisters

Every Thursday morning, Orchard Knob Middle School students travel downtown to spend some quality time with their Big Brothers and Sisters from Unum.

The mentorship program allows the students to interact with the professionals who get dressed up and drive to work every morning. In addition to games and activities, the students attend career days once a month.

Unum has long been a strong partner to HCDE. In 2008, Unum began funding various school programs and identifying volunteer opportunities in our schools.

Thank you Unum for mentoring our students!



### Learning Rocks for Spring City Elementary School Students!

The Creative Discovery Museum paid a visit to Spring City Elementary on Thursday. The daytime outreach trip focused on rocks with hands-on lessons all about rocks.

The students learned about the three different types of rocks, all about percolation, and even a lesson in fossils, complete with a fossil dig to find both plant and animal fossils.

Part of the lesson on rock types included making metamorphic rocks with crayons and a flatiron.

The Creative Discovery Museum offers 35 different lessons for students from pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.



## Living History Lesson for Normal Park Students at Bessie Smith Cultural Center

Ninety-two Normal Park students visited the Bessie Smith Cultural Center for a living history lesson on Thursday.

The students got to meet Booker T. Scruggs and other members of the Howard School Class of 1960 for a special Black History Month event.

After watching a documentary about the sit-ins and protests in Chattanooga, the Normal Park students got to ask the distinguished guests questions about what it was like to change history.

One guest talked about her experience taking part in a sit-in protest at a Chattanooga five and dime lunch counter. She and her fellow Howard alumni planned their protests for after school hours, so they would not miss any of their classes.

The speakers explained that the stores all closed because the owners were afraid violence may break out between the protesting Howard students and the white Kirkman School students. Twelve students were arrested during the protests that forever changed Chattanooga.

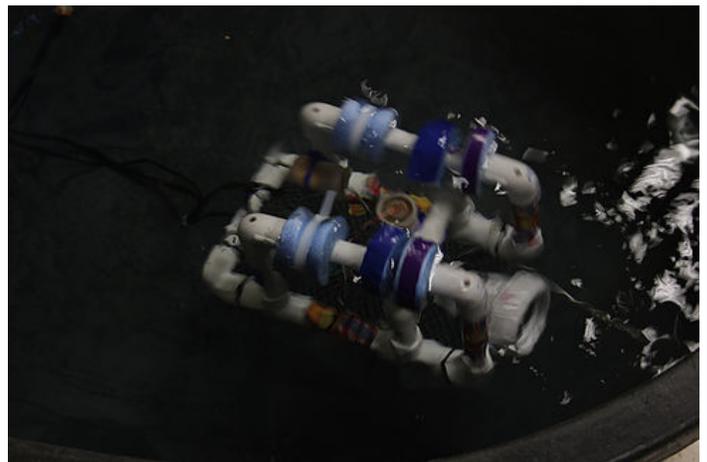
## Soddy Daisy High School News Highlights Students' Trip to Rhode Island to Build R.O.V.

The student run online newspaper at Soddy Daisy High School features an article detailing a once in a lifetime opportunity for two SDHS students.

Journalism student Ashton Nelson explains how the SDHS engineering students traveled to the University of Rhode Island to learn more about marine biology.

The senior and junior built an underwater remote operated vehicle (R.O.V.) that picked up rings from the bottom of the University's swimming pool.

[Read the whole article here.](#)





HCDE in the News this week:

<http://www.wdef.com/2017/02/20/lookout-valley-elementary-art/>

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/local/story/2017/feb/22/hamiltcountys-science-sparks-pilot-program-pr/414107/>

<http://www.chattanooga.com/2017/2/21/342402/2017-Hamilton-County-Teachers-Of-The.aspx>

<http://www.wrcbtv.com/story/34578458/cca-the-only-school-in-hamilton-county-to-opt-for-tready-online-test>

<http://newschannel9.com/news/local/hixson-high-school-launches-new-teaching-program-for-students-of-all-abilities>