

TEACHER LINKS



Warren County School System, 2548 Morrison Street, McMinnville, TN 37110
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Warren Co. Schools Leadership Institute

Dr. Jerry W. Hale, Director of Schools

Because we continue to recognize the need to identify, support, and train prospective leaders for our school system, we are beginning plans for the 2011 Warren County Schools Leadership Institute (cohort 3).

The institute will be held June 20-24, from 8:00-3:00. Additional sessions may also be held from 3:30-7:30 p.m. each quarter during the 2011-2012 school year.

Participants from Warren County who complete the institute will receive a stipend of \$500.00 (funded through our system's Race to the Top application). In addition, our school board has agreed to give preference to institute graduates for future administrative and leadership positions in our system.

A *tentative* outline of the institute is as follows:

June 20: pre-institute assessment; team building; the book, *Learning by Doing*, (which will be provided to selected participants and must be read prior to the institute) will be used to guide class discussion about leadership and the process of developing and sustaining professional learning communities. .

June 21: Battelle for Kids - use of data and assessments; Problem-Based Learning

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June 22: Panel Discussion - area principals/supervisors

June 23: Mock Interview; final preparations for PBL presentation

June 24: Team Presentations and a post-institute assessment

Those who wish to apply for the institute may go to http://www.warrenschools.com/163010325162523430/lib/163010325162523430/WCS_Leadership_Institute_Application_2011_application.pdf. Completed packets are due by March 18, with selected participants being notified by May 6. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Bonnie Collier at 668-4022, ext. 264 or collierb01@K12tn.net.

Leading in Professional Learning Communities

By Bobby Cox, Assistant Director for Teaching and Learning

(The following is an excerpt from an article written by Robert Eaker and Deborah Gonzalez)

The recognition that effective leadership is a critical element of effective schooling isn't a particularly new or novel idea. Virtually every study of effective schooling practices has noted the connection between effective schools and leadership (Marzano, 2003). As Larry Lezotte and Kathleen McKee (2006) write, "Whatever the model of school improvement chosen, the degree to which a school or district is successful in implementing positive and sustainable change depends on a very important factor: an effective leader" (p.xii). What then are the leadership strategies of those who have been the most effective in transforming their schools and districts into professional learning communities?

One: The Learning Leader

Leaders of professional learning communities sincerely and passionately accept *learning* rather than *teaching* as the fundamental purpose of schools.

To read this article in its entirety, please go to: http://www.warrenschools.com/16301017154751640/lib/16301017154751640/Leading_In_Professional_Learning_Communities_Eaker_Gonzalez.pdf

Congratulations to Warren County's Teachers of the Year!

By Bonnie Collier, Professional and Community Development

Monty Childers – PreK – 4th grade

Monty Childers is a 4th grade teacher at Morrison Elementary and has worked for the Warren County School System for 19 years. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Middle Tennessee State University and a Masters and Ed.S. in Instructional Leadership from Tennessee Tech.

Mr. Childers has conducted professional development workshops for Covenant Academy, served as a mentor for new teachers, and in September 2003, he received the Fox News Top Teacher Award. He is very active in the community and volunteers with many service groups and civic organizations.

Debbie Jennings – 5th-8th grades

Debbie Jennings teaches 6th grade science and reading at Warren County Middle School. She has been a teacher for 33 years and has a B.S. and Master's in elementary education (Tennessee Tech University) and an Ed.S. in administration and supervision, also from Tennessee Tech University.

Ms. Jennings has served as the director of the middle grades summer school program since 2008. She also coordinates the after-school AIM program for grades 6-8. Debbie was named WCMS Teacher of the Month in May 2009 and AAUW Educator of the year in 1990. She is very active in several school and community organizations including Project Graduation, Band Boosters, and Sister Cities.

Franklin Fisher – 9th-12th grades

Franklin Fisher teaches 9th grade world history at Warren County High School. He has been a teacher for 26 years. He earned a B.S. and Masters in health, physical education, recreation, and safety (Tennessee Tech University) and an Ed.S. in Educational Leadership, also from Tennessee Tech.

Mr. Fisher serves as chairman of the Freshmen Academy's social studies department. He has served as a mentor to new teachers and was awarded WCHS Teacher of the Year in 1990 and 2010. In February 2008, he was selected as "Inspirational Teacher of the Month." Franklin is devoted to his community and is actively involved in his church and in athletics.



Monty Childers, Debbie Jennings, Franklin Fisher



First row - Annette Robertson, Donna Williams, Angela Pyburn, Nancy McNeal, Tisha Cocke
Second row - Gail Curtis, Debbie Jennings, Desiree Hobbs, Carol Barrett, Leigh Hillis
Third row - Cindy Redmon, Brent Estes, Sara Lee, Franklin Fisher, Monty Childers, Rex Crabtree, Debbie Wilson, Cynthia Duncan (photo provided by James Clark, *Southern Standard*)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TEACHERS OF THE YEAR!!!!

Flu Vaccine for the 2010-2011 Flu Season

By Sonja Walker, RN, Director of Health Services



All people 6 months and older, who do not have a contraindication to the vaccine, are now recommended to receive annual influenza vaccination. This is a new and expanded recommendation for this season.

CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to expand the influenza vaccination recommendations for the 2010-2011 flu season. The recommendations are intended to remove barriers to flu immunization and protect as many people as possible against the dangers of flu.

The decision is supported by evidence that influenza vaccination is a safe and effective preventive health measure with potential benefit across all age groups. Even healthy adults with no previously identified risk factors can develop influenza-related complications, including adults ages 19-49 years old. They were not specifically recommended for vaccination in previous influenza seasons; however they were unusually affected by the 2009 H1N1 pandemic.

They're new groups of people who are considered at higher risk of serious flu complications this season. Morbid obesity is a newly recognized medical risk factor for influenza complications based on information from last flu season. Morbid obesity is defined as a Body Mass Index (BMI \geq 40). Also, last flu season, American Indians and Alaskan Natives were found to be at greater risk of complications from the flu.

There is a new type of vaccine available for seniors who are 65 years or older. **Fluzone High-Dose** is designed specifically for people 65 years and older. For more information, see [Questions & Answers Fluzone High-Dose Seasonal Influenza Vaccine](#).

Even people that got vaccinated with the 2009 H1N1 vaccine or last year's seasonal vaccine need to be vaccinated with the flu seasonal vaccine this year. This season's vaccine provides protection against other influenza strains that were not in either the seasonal or the 2009 H1N1 vaccine last season and besides, immunity from a vaccine gotten last year may decline over time.

You can get the flu vaccine from your health care provider, as well as public clinics. Health Services also has a limited number of doses still available as well. Please contact your school nurse if you are interested in receiving the flu vaccine.

Content Source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

WAY TO GO WEST ARCHERY TEAM!!!



On Saturday, January 29, nine archers from West Elementary participated in the 3rd Annual Van Buren County Archery Tournament. They came away with the 1st Place trophy for the Elementary Division with 1,021 points. Individually, Alexander Knox and Savannah Saylor earned 3rd Place medals in each of the Top Individual shooting categories.

Internet Sites to Share

By Katrina Haley

AUDIO VISUAL TOOLS

Audioboo <http://audioboo.com> Audioboo is an application for recording and sharing your voice with the world. This free version allows you to create audio up to 5 minutes in length and post that your own account on the web.

Scratch <http://scratch.mit.edu>

Tutorial <http://learnscratch.org> Scratch is a new programming language that it easy to create your own interactive stories, animations, games, music, and art - and share your creations on the web. It is designed to help young people develop programming skills. As they create and share Scratch projects, they will learn important mathematical and computational ideas.

Voicethread <http://voicethread.com>

Tutorial <http://www.schooltube.com/video/e1e037c3c14f0e8d40e3/Creating-a-VoiceThread> A voice thread is a collaborative, multimedia slide show that holds images, documents, and videos and allows people to navigate slides and leave messages.

Animoto <http://animoto.com> Create a movie in just a few seconds. Select backgrounds, import pics, select music and render. Share with others.

Voki <http://www.voki.com>

Tutorial <http://vodpod.com/watch/2762993-voki-tutorial> The Voki site provides you with personalized speaking avatars that can used in blogs, website, and in e-mail messages. You can select your character from a huge roster, customize the look, clothing, and avatar's accessories, select or add a voice, and choose a background.

Vozme <http://vozme.com/index.php?lang=en> Vozme is a free online application that can convert your text to voice. All you have to do is type the letter in text that you want to convert to voice and Vozme will automatically convert the input text to an .mp3 file that you can download and share with your friends. This is a great online tool that can help you when you need something to say or record but don't have a microphone, simply head to Vozme, type the text, convert to voice and download the mp3 voice file to distribute.

Juxio <http://www.juxio.com/beta/index.php> There is a complete tutorial under the help menu. Juxio is a new visual way to communicate. Individuals and businesses use Juxio to combine images, txt and more into mashable, visual streams called Juxes to share across social media and in print.

Empressr <http://www.empressr.com> Tell your story anyway you like. Add photos, music, and audio, and share it publicly or privately in an instant.

BOOKS ONLINE AND BOOK CREATORS

Storyline Online <http://storylineonline.net> Just pick a book and click to hear it read by a famous actor. These books are read by famous people who belong to the Screen Actor's Guild. There is music behind the reading, with sound effects, and even some animation.

Story Bird <http://storybird.com>

Tutorial <http://storybird.com/tourb> Storybirds are short, art-inspire stories you make to share, read, and print.

Librivox <http://librivox.org>

<http://librivox.org/2009/11/23/librivox-video-tutorial-1-intro-to-librivox/> Librivox is a site with free audio books. Volunteers record chapters of books and their goal is to make all public domain books available as free audio books.

Thought Audio <http://www.thoughtaudio.com> Just select a book and click to hear it read to you.

Dogonews <http://www.dogonews.com/> Dogonews' provides fun, safe and interactive environment to read and learn about real world news. There are short and simple articles that include photos/videos to help keep children focused.

COLLABORATION

iEtherpad <http://ietherpad.com/> iEtherpad allows multiple people to edit same document simultaneously, any changes are instantly reflected on everyone's screen with each participant edits in a different color. There is also a chat panel to message the other document editors.

Bubbl.us <http://www.bubbl.us/index> Bubbl.us is a simple and free graphic collaboration web application that lets you brainstorm on line. Create colorful mind maps online.

MIDDLE AND LOWER GRADE SITES

Starfall <http://www.starfall.com/> Great site for learning letters, sounds, and reading.

Kbears <http://www.kbears.com/> Fun programs for young learners.

Clipart <http://school.discoveryeducation.com//clipart/?pID=clipart>

Teaches Pet <http://www.tpet.co.uk/#/home> Free printable resources for teachers of three to eleven year old students.

What2Learn <http://www.what2learn.com> Offers more than two thousand educational games for middle school and high school age students. Teacher sets up account for students and the program keeps track of student progress.

How Does Warren County's SPED Statistics Compare to State Averages?

Linda Wilson, Director of Special Education

The Special Education Section of Warren County's Report Card has only recently been released. Based on the summary of 2009-2010 data, it revealed that our county performed well on some indicators but needed to improve on others. Here's a look at our performance.

	Warren County	Statewide
Percent of Students Receiving Special Education	16.00%	11.41%
Graduation Rate (Regular Diploma) of Students with IEPs	84.75%	67.90%
Dropout Rate of Students with IEPs	.72%	3.30%
Percent of Districts that Met AYP Target	Target Not Met	13.63%
Percent of Districts that had a Discrepancy in Rates of Suspensions/Expulsions for Students with Disabilities	Target Not Met	38.32%
Least Restrictive Environment Indicators		
Percent of students in the General Environment 80% or more of day	72.21%	62.22%
Percent of students in the General Environment less than 40% of day	8.27%	12.64%
Percent of students in separate schools, homebound or Residential Placement	.48%	1.75%
Disproportionate Representation by Race/Ethnicity by Disability	Target Met	Target Met
Percent of Students Evaluated within 40-Day Guidelines	97.30%	96.25%
Percent of Students Found Eligible and Have IEP Developed and Implemented by 3 rd Birthday	100.00%	98.83%

Overall, Warren County did very well on several indicators and showed good performance in the prevention of dropouts, provision of inclusionary settings, and meeting of evaluation timelines. Areas of focus, however, will be the improvement of achievement scores, lowering of suspension rates, and increased use of intervention (RTI) to lower disability over-identification.

AND SO IT BEGINS...

Dianna M. Zadeh, Director of ESOL & Testing

February begins TCAP testing for students in Warren County. February 1 is the **Writing Assessment** for students in grades 5, 8, and 11. For more information about these assessments, you can go online at the following address: <http://www.state.tn.us/education/assessment/writing.shtml>.

Your Building Test Coordinators are also in the process of completing Excel charts that will pre-code the demographic data on the Achievement answer documents for you (less bubbling required at test time). The weather has hindered this process but it will be completed in February for the April TCAP Achievement testing.

February is also the start of **ELDA** – ELDA is the State mandated assessments for ALL ELL (English Language Learner) students; we must have 100% students tested. This test determines if we are meeting two of the three Title III AMAO (Annual Measurement of Academic Objectives) benchmarks. I am proud of our ESL teachers because Warren County met both of the ELDA benchmarks: 1) Percentage of ELL students showing progress, and 2) Percentage of ELL students passing the ELDA and exiting from the ESL Program (direct services). These benchmarks increase each year. It should be noted that it usually takes 2-3 years for a student to master BICs (Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills – Social Communication) and often 5-7 years to master CALPs (Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency - academic language). However, the third AMAO – making AYP in the ELL subgroup – the district did not meet in Reading/Language Arts. While no school has enough students to have a sub-group at the school level.... cumulatively the district has an ELL/LEP elementary subgroup. This is a problem for ESL teachers. When an “n” of 45 is reached in a school or a district in ELL students, then the TCAP scores of T1 and T2 (transitional students who have exited the ESL Program and do not usually receive direct Title III ESL services) are added with the scores of the ELL students to determine if the AYP benchmark is met. This is done because to be honest...it would probably be a conundrum if an ELL student who was not proficient in English scored proficient on the R/LA section of the TCAP. Therefore students T1 or T2) who have exited have their scores added in to calculate AYP for ELL even though the ESL Program does not directly serve these students. Therefore it is up to the district through the schools to focus on the T1 and T2 students – to provide intervention to help improve these groups’ scores so the district can meet AYP in the ELL subgroup at the district level.

ESL Online Staff Development through Master Teacher Online (Profession Development) - To help meet this challenge and that of ELL students in the regular classroom, Title III and Title I have combined to provide professional development online to help further an understanding of these students and provide some teaching strategies for use with the students. Principals (and even ESL teachers through their principal) can recommend candidates for this limited number of slots/seats. Classroom teachers who have ELL and transitional students in their regular classrooms are the ones who might want to access this staff development. Principals/Evaluators can recommend these as part of their Improvement Plan or teachers who want to improve themselves in this area can get the principal to recommend them. There are 17 courses and each one counts an hour toward staff development. Each course consists of a pre-test, content, post-test and a certificate that can be printed. ***The availability of these courses are limited, and schools have been assigned a specific number of seats.*** Participants have to be willing to finish at least 80% of the courses. Please contact Kim Henegar (668-4022 ext. 241) for more information on this program. Remember, principals/evaluators must make the initial recommendation for participation.

Principal's Meeting Notes
1/31/2011

- Dianna Zadeh
 - TVAAS – Working to get access for teachers to see teacher effect data.
 - Packet of information for updates/corrections (phase 3 and 4)
 - Master Teacher ESL online training information packet – important since our system did not make AYP in ESL subgroup
 - Testing – writing assessment, February. 1; ELDA – will start Feb. 12 (please make adjustments in schedules and assignments, as needed)
 - Check website for new ESL information and forms
- Sherry Trotman
 - 8th grade counselors, please contact Tracy Risinger to schedule time for her to visit with 8th grade students
 - Packet of information for federal reporting – please review and make any corrections necessary
 - Attestation form – please review, sign, and return to Sherry
 - Please call Mary Sanders to let her know how you want your Title I money spent if not already done.
 - Needs assessment will be done after TCAP. Copy of results should be sent to Sherry.
 - Federal Inventory – laptops purchased with federal funds should be used for instruction
 - Be sure school committees decide how to spend federal money; keep agendas from those meetings.
 - ARRA money must be spent by June 30.
 - Summer School is scheduled for the 1st two weeks of June.
- Linda Wilson
 - Parent Seminars handout
 - SpEd statistics comparison handout
- Katrina Haley
 - Thank you for cooperation with new email migration.
 - There is a new device that can be put between a regular projector and a dry erase board that turns the white board into an interactive board. Still checking to see if it's a good product. Will keep you updated.
- Roy Pierce
 - Preliminary Report – please check the handout and make sure everyone on your staff is included with correct information (License numbers are correct on this list. Will help with information Dianna needs.)
- Donnie Caldwell
 - Wish lists due March 1.
 - Energy conservation – please check and make sure lights are off in the building at night.
 - Safety – 2011 fire drill records must be closely and accurately kept; Security Equipment is monitoring when alarms are used for drills.
- Robin Phillips
 - Red Cross – we are in the process of signing a shelter agreement with them. The Red Cross director will be contacting principals of those schools involved.
 - City vs. County lawsuit – if you have questions or if PTO's have questions, Robin will be happy to come and speak to any group.

Principal's Meeting Notes
1/31/2011

- Bobby Cox
 - Packet of information for teacher effect; will sign off the same way as in the past; Do not distribute until able to schedule meetings with Bobby. He will be sitting down with principals and each teacher to go over the information and explain. Teacher effect data is NOT public.
 - Race to the Top packet
 - Teaching and Learning meeting will be Feb. 8 at 9:00 @ WCMS
 - Battelle for Kids resources
 - Teacher Effect data – Level 1 (least effective teacher); Level 5 (most effective teacher); State requested names of Level 5 teachers; those teachers may be getting a call to participate in a state forum to share best practices
 - TCAP grading policy being revised
 - Algebra I grading policy
 - Highly qualified paperwork needs to be in by February 4. We are at 95.5% right now, but need to bring that up. New teachers to the system need to be sure their paperwork is filled out.
 - PLC handouts for notebooks
 - Higher-order thinking skills template – please share with staff
 - ThinkGate benchmark test dates:
 - March 1 – reading/language arts, 3-8
 - March 2 – math, 3-8
 - March 3 – science, 3-8
 - Miss Tennessee visit – if you want her to visit your school in May, let Bobby know.
 - County-wide Science Fair
 - Grades 6-8
 - Countywide fair on May 12 @ Bridgestone Learning Center, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
 - School fair will need to be prior to May 12
 - Same rules will be used at all schools
 - Please turn in PLC notebooks
 - Continue interventions
 - Math textbook caravan on Feb. 8; Will have to make a decision by April 1.
 - TCAP score for grades 3-8 used as a percent of student's report card grade – in effect for 2011-12
- Bonnie Collier
 - Leadership Institute application in February Teacher Links. Will be held 3rd week of June this summer.
 - Thank you for supporting the Teacher of the Year luncheon.
- Dr. Jerry Hale
 - School board is setting up sessions to review the evaluations you have done with your 2nd year teachers. Dates for this will be June 2 or June 9.
 - If you are holding elections at your schools, look carefully at procedures. Teachers whose children are involved in the election should not count the votes.
 - Field trips – paperwork must be completed by May 13.
 - Monitoring for compliance with state laws/rules/regulations (not the same as fiscal audit)
 - Snow days - the days taken from the February break give us two additional snow days
 - Review and discussion on other ways to add snow days

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“Educate Every Child
 Every Day.”

WE HAVE A WINNER!!

WEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 WAS SELECTED AS A
 “BEST PRACTICES IN
 CHARACTER EDUCATION”
 MERIT WINNER!

CONGRATULATIONS TO
 ALL THE STAFF!!!



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.warrenschools.com

February 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 Writing Assessment	2 3:00-4:30 2 nd -3 rd Year Tchrs. Meeting	3 3:00pm-4:00pm Dibrell Appreciation	4	5
6	7	8 9:00-11:00 Teaching/Learning Meeting (WCMS)	9	10	11	12
13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 6:00 School Board Meeting	25 10:00 am Principal's Meeting	26
27	28					