

TEACHER LINKS



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Welcome Back!

Dr. Jerry W. Hale, Director of Schools

Welcome to the 2010-11 school year! We have gotten off to a great start, and I want to thank you for your efforts in making this happen.

I was honored to recognize our "Teachers of the Year" during the county-wide in-service on August 3 at Warren County Middle School. It was also a pleasure to offer my thanks to many of our teachers for their years of service to education. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented group of educators in our system.

This year, we welcome approximately forty new teachers to our ranks. Autumn Turner begins her first full year as principal at Centertown Elementary. Robin Phillips is joining us as staff attorney for our system. And, with the approval of our Race to the Top application, we were able to hire two data coaches, Janet Nunley and Michelle Lewis, an ESL instructional coordinator, Kim Henegar, and a new teacher induction coordinator, Christie Allison.

I am committed to continuing to improve communication throughout the school system and the community. Every *Teacher Links* issue includes

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information from various departments, as well as notes and information from administrative meetings. Our new "School Messenger" messaging system provides a means in which to contact teachers and parents with important announcements and reminders. New programming on Warren County Schools Television (WCS-TV) is continuing to expand. And, this year, instead of the monthly lunches with selected employees, central office staff will be joining me at your school to show our appreciation for your work, talk with you, and answer any questions you may have.

Again, thank you for making your classroom, your school, and our system a model of excellence. I am proud to serve as your Director of Schools.

Tennessee First to the Top

By Bobby Cox, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning

First let me say welcome back to all of you and I hope that your school year has started of very smooth. As all of you are aware Tennessee was one of two states to be selected to receive funding from the federal government under the Race to the Top reform effort early this year. Tennessee's application was titled First to the Top and instantly put our state and our schools under a national microscope. Information regarding First to the Top has been slow to trickle down to the local level but I would like to keep you informed of what is happening in our state as well as locally. In the summer a four year scope of work was developed and presented to the State Department of Education. The scope of work outlined how we

would use the Race to the Top funds in our system and comply with the federal guidelines. Part of the Race to the Top guidelines require transparency so that teachers, students, and parents can view and read information regarding this new education reform movement in our country. Please visit the below websites to learn more about Race to the Top and for Tennessee First to the Top. You can also view the Warren County Schools scope of work at our system website under federal programs. In closing I hope you have a great school year and if you have questions regarding any of the new programs in our state or system please do not hesitate to ask.

<http://www.tn.gov/firsttothetop/about.html>

August 3, System-wide In-service

By Bonnie Collier, Professional & Community Development Coordinator

Thanks to everyone who helped to make our System-wide In-service on August 3 a success! I have heard many positive comments and helpful feedback regarding the day. The following is a summary of the evaluation forms turned in at the end of the day:

	5 (Strongly Agree)	4 (agree)	3 (no opinion)	2 (disagree)	1 (Strongly Disagree)
Overall, this in-service was well-planned and organized.	238	128	20	10	2
I believe the topics covered will be of value to me as a teacher.	255	119	20	3	0
The morning presenters were knowledgeable and prepared.	340	55	4	0	0
The afternoon PLC meetings were organized and informative.	204	119	32	20	9
I will use the information I learned today in my job.	268	113	13	1	0
I like being able to visit with vendors during this in-service.	149	92	11	11	16



Grant Awarded to Special Education

By Linda Wilson, Director of Special Education

The Special Education Department is pleased to announce that it has been selected to receive a competitive grant in the amount of \$22,760.00 for the upcoming school year. The purpose of the grant, Project DRIVE (Determination of Specific Reading Intervention via Eligibility), is to improve the reading scores of the special education subgroup on TCAP and EOC.

As a part of all initial assessments and re-evaluations for determining eligibility, the grant will provide administration of a computerized reading analysis. Deficiencies in any of the five basic areas of reading will be identified and appropriate intervention strategies will be prescribed. As a result, each student's deficit area will be targeted for intensive

instructional remediation. Improved linkage between assessment and intervention is the primary goal of the grant, thus facilitating meaningful reading intervention for students.

The system's educational diagnosticians, Mrs. Melanie Smith, Miss Christie Zechman, and Miss Nicole Worzek, will be implementing the project as a part of their work assignments. Along with school psychologists and designated teachers, they will be participating in a one-day workshop this month to prepare for using the computerized tools for measuring reading fluency. The system is excited about this opportunity and will be evaluating the effectiveness of the grant on reading scores.

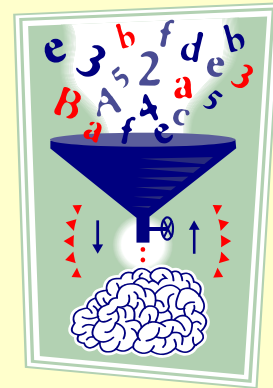
Tips from Technology

By Katrina Haley, Director of Technology

Brain Pop

www.brainpop.com
www.brainpopes.com
www.brainpopjr.com

Username and Password for all of the above websites is
warren.



Listservs

URLs to sign on to the listserv at your school:

Bobby Ray -

<http://lists.k12tn.net/mailman/listinfo/bobbyray>

Centertown -

<http://lists.k12tn.net/mailman/listinfo/centertown>

Dibrell -

<http://lists.k12tn.net/mailman/listinfo/dibrell>

Eastside -

<http://lists.k12tn.net/mailman/listinfo/eastside>

Hickory Creek -

<http://lists.k12tn.net/mailman/listinfo/hickorycreek>

WCHS -

<http://lists.k12tn.net/mailman/listinfo/wchs>

WCMS -

<http://lists.k12tn.net/mailman/listinfo/wcms>

West -

<http://lists.k12tn.net/mailman/listinfo/westelem>

Irving College -

<http://lists.k12tn.net/mailman/listinfo/irvingcollege>

Morrison -

<http://lists.k12tn.net/mailman/listinfo/morrison>

Warren Academy -

<http://lists.k12tn.net/mailman/listinfo/warrenacademy>



I hope you are having a wonderful school year so far! The Technology Department has two new staff members, Mark Bain and Don Guertin. Please let us know if you need assistance with Technology Issues.



United Streaming Passcodes

You will need this passcode to create a username and password.

FYI: West Elementary already had this program.

Bobby Ray - CC74-4E3D

Centertown Elementary -CC74-6455

Dibrell Elementary-CC74-E6DC

Eastside Elementary-CC74-A841

Hickory Creek Elementary-CC74-19A4

Irving College Elementary-CC74-1BEB

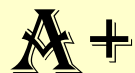
Morrison Elementary-CC74-69CF

Warren Academy-28CF-5A3B

Warren Co High School-5C4A-6ECC

Warren Co Middle School-AA4C-D6C8

PowerTeacher GradeBook



Hopefully everyone received the new instructions for the Power Teacher Gradebook setup that I sent out through your school's listserv. It's too long for me to include in Teacher Links, so e-mail me (haleyk@k12tn.net) if you did not receive these instructions. The main point is that E2 counts as 20% for Semester Exam or TCAP score or Gateway/EOC score, so grade setup must reflect this for grades 3-12. Grades K- 2 will do paper report cards this year, so 2nd grade will not submit grades through PowerTeacher gradebook.

Understanding Federal Programs

By Sherry Trotman, Director of Federal Programs

Title I, Part A is intended to help ensure that all children have the opportunity to obtain a high quality education and meet proficiency on state academic standards. Title I is the largest of our Federal Title Programs. It supports elementary and secondary education by targeting billions of dollars to high poverty districts and schools. Title I funds are only allocated to Title I schools. Each Title I school has a planning team or committee that meets to study their data and needs assessments and then decide how the money should be spent. Most of this money is used for salaries for additional personnel to improve the academic achievement of the disadvantaged. A percentage is set aside for Parent Involvement and the remainder is used for allowable materials and equipment.

Title II, Part A - Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting. This is where most of our professional development funds are located. These activities must be sustained and ongoing and be in core academic subjects to be allowable. Requests for travel must be filled in completely and submitted to Mary Sanders, Paula Smith or Anita Nunley who will take them to the Director of Federal Programs and the Director of Schools for approval. A copy of the travel request will be returned to the applicant stamped approved or denied. The final step in this process is the completion of a travel reimbursement form. It must be turned in to Mary Sanders as soon after the activity as possible. Failure to submit this form promptly could delay or prevent reimbursement. Forms are available at the Warren County Schools website <http://www.warrenschoools.com/warrenschoools/site/default.asp> next click on Staff and then click on Staff Resources.

Title II, Part D - Enhancing Education through Technology. Katrina Haley is the director of this program whose primary goal is to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology in elementary and secondary schools.

Title III - Title III is the portion of No Child Left Behind that serves English as a Second Language Students. Through Title III, students who have a primary language other than English receive instruction in English in a specialized setting. Dianna Zadeh is the director of this program.

Title IV, Part A - Safe and Drug Free Schools. This program is in its final year and receives no funding.

Title VI, Part B – RLIS Rural and Low Income Schools. This Education Initiative allows LEAs to use The Rural and Low-Income School Program authorizes LEAs to use program funds for teacher recruitment, professional development, educational technology, parental involvement activities, activities authorized under Safe and Drug-Free Schools, activities authorized under Title I, Part A and activities authorized under Title III.

Title X, Part C- Homeless Education - The Homeless Education Program is designed to facilitate the enrollment, attendance and success of homeless children and youth in Tennessee schools. All school districts in Tennessee are required to provide needed services to homeless children. The Tennessee Department of Education receives funding for the program through the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Grant Program. The Department distributes grants competitively to local education agencies that have developed programs that document effective collaboration among school districts and service providers to ensure that homeless children in that district receive needed services. Dr. Jane Allison is the Homeless Liaison for Warren County.

All Title Programs are Federal attempts to supplement state and local education and should provide educational opportunities and resources above and beyond the Basic Educational Program.

ESOL News

By Dianna Zadeh, Dir. of ESL, Testing, & Equity

Did you know?

- * Our system has almost 500 ELL (English Language Learners) students

- * We have 14 ESL teachers plus 5 assistants who speak Spanish that provide home-school communication (we have many many more students who speak and read English but whose parents don't and so need the help of these assistants as well)

- * State Board Policy (and state/federal law and court decisions) require these students to have special classes to learn English (thus ESL) and for classroom teachers to make modifications in instruction and evaluation

- * ESL has its own curriculum that the ESL teachers are REQUIRED to teach so they cannot help your students with their uncompleted classwork unless they have time for an open tutorial period.

- * ELL students (and thus ESL teachers) have MORE accountability than regular education students/teachers. How? In addition to meeting NCLB and AYP standards, there is an additional accountability test (ELDA) ELLs take and must show progress...for teachers, ELLs MUST show progress in learning English (4 areas: listening, speaking, reading, and writing) AND exit students from the program.

- * In some cases the ESL teacher can give the subject grade IF they teach those standards.

- * Just because a student is ELL does not mean he/she is "behind" academically. How well could you study science in Japanese, Spanish, or Chinese? Could you even read at a primer level? Put yourself in the student's place.

- * While having these students can be an additional challenge, most of the adjustments you make for them will benefit ALL your students: more visuals, focusing and strengthening vocabulary, breaking information down into manageable pieces, and making evaluation real and not just to determine a 'grade.'

- * Your ELL student brings the world into your classroom, and we do live in a global society. Embrace diversity and use it to strengthen your classroom

Race to the Top New ESL Instructional Coordinator

With the number of ELL students continuing to grow, the following needs exist: to reinforce the instruction of the ESL curriculum, to provide assistance to the teachers, to align the ESL standards with the core curriculum, and thus, to improve student progress in learning English to make them successful in the classroom and in meeting the AYP goals. With those challenges in mind, our system added an ESL Instructional Coordinator with Race to the Top Funds. Kim Henegar, former ESL teacher at Hickory Creek, is up to this challenge and more. Besides a wide variety of teaching experiences outside ESL, she also taught ESL in Murfreesboro thus bringing new ideas and new energy to our program. Please welcome Kim as she goes into the schools and be sure to ask her if you have any questions. Her phone number is 668-4022 x 241.



TESTING NEWS

IC and Dibrell get to experience the joy of NAEP this year. IC will also be piloting Writing Prompts this fall. How did they get so lucky?

Grades 3 and 7 will pilot the new CRA (Constructed Response Assessment) test this fall. There will be no results received this year from this assessment.

TCAP's Achievement results will count as 20% (25% in 2012) of the second semester grade. It's the law..now if we can just get the results in time.... Be sure to start informing parents of this new change.

Hot off the press (at 12:01 August 25, 2010), new EOCs include the Alg II exam and the new ELSAs (English Language Simplified Assessment) for Algebra I and English II this year. Please note while the ELSA test items were simplified to help measure the intended knowledge or skill, but the skill/knowledge WAS NOT made easier (simplified).

These tests cover the SAME content. ELL modifications are still available.

Also, ALL EOC exams are untimed now.

English III and the Alg. I MAAS will be piloted in May 2010 (students will take the exams but no scores will be reported).

Healthy Helpings from the School Nutrition Dept.

By Jean Wix, Director of Child Nutrition

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer vacation and may your 2010-2011 school year be off to a great start.

Good nutrition and learning go hand in hand.

The Nutrition Services department is made up of a team of food and nutrition professionals that are dedicated to students' health, well being and their ability to learn. We support learning by promoting healthy habits for lifelong nutrition and fitness practices.

Food Service Employees Receive Training during the summer

Nine Food Service employees, including cafeteria managers and Central Office staff, attended State Conference this year in Memphis, Tennessee. Training on various topics was received, including customer service, food sanitation, and nutrition education. Many new food items were presented for our viewing.

At conference, Melissa Livesay was installed as President of the Tennessee School Nutrition Association. Melissa has a passion for the School Nutrition Program and for our association and she has vision that will lead our organization toward a successful outcome. I know under her leadership our association will grow and strengthen.

During the summer, three Food Service Employees received School Nutrition Certification. They are Amanda Miller, Sonia Wilson, and Teresa Pedigo. The School Nutrition Certification Program is based on the standards of practice and indicators in the Keys to Excellence in School Food and Nutrition Programs that define nationally accepted standards for quality programs.

Summer Feeding

When the last bell of the school year rings, many of the children who rely on the Lunch, breakfast and snack programs throughout the year are left at serious risk of going hungry. Hunger is one of the most severe roadblocks to the learning process. Lack of nutrition during the summer months may set up a cycle for poor performance once school begins again. The Warren County Schools offer a summer meal program, serving a total of 8,487 lunches and 3,472 breakfasts.

Meals were served at BR during YSI, Morrison, West and MS during Summer School, and meals were satellite to Asbury Apartments, Partridge Meadows, Steven Rentals, and Skyline Apartments.

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August 25, 2010
Principal's Meeting

David Britton - dwbritton@blomand.net

County Safety Director presented a new package with the Supervisor's Report of Accident which will be available on line.

When submitting an accident form, check to see if it is filled in correctly and completely. Download form, have injured employee sign and send original to Barbara Austin at the School's Administrative Offices.

If employee refuses doctors on posted panel, that will stop the workman's compensation benefits. We are not obligated to pay the employee's bills if they refuse the panel doctors. If an employee is ordered off work, call David Sneed immediately.

Katrina Haley

The school system computers are not the employee's personal equipment. Remind them to refrain from loading software on the system's equipment.

Do not purchase routers or any other devices that hook to computers in rooms.

Computers have been purchased for school libraries.

New projector on market, Epson Bright Link \$1842.00 - representative will present new item next meeting

Attendance Clerks: very important to for all fields to be filled in. Some fields have been changed.

School Messenger: Please be sure to fill in the language spoken at home.

Melissa Orrick

Some bus routes have been changed and some changes are still being made.

Sherry Trotman

Please e-mail your emergency response plan to Joye. We will get them to Bobby Pennington.

Dianna Zadeh

ESL teachers will be helping more with monitoring.

Testing: Explorer and Plan tests - get dates to Dianna by September 1, the window is from September 20 to November 12.

USPS labels are furnished for mailing back tests.

November 9 - Constructive Response Assessment

OCR part I has been finished, work will start in November on part II

**August 25, 2010
Principal's Meeting**

Donnie Caldwell

Put the new safety data sheets in hazard notebooks (Handouts)

Robin Phillips

New law: Teachers need approval from their principal to take off personal days for the following reasons:

1. Parent/teacher conference
2. In-service or professional development
3. If 10% of the teachers are off
4. State testing
5. Day before or after a holiday

New law requires all sexual offenders to notify the principals. Upon notification, they are allowed to pick up or drop off students, but are prohibited to attend events of the school.

Bobby Cox

An earlier e-mail was sent with all pertinent information.

PLC meeting at WCMS September 14, 2010, at 9:00 a.m.

August 27, 2010 2:30 p.m. Conference room # 3
Evaluation Model - part of pilot for new evaluation model-please attend if interested

David Sneed

Student accident reports-send originals to David Sneed

Jean Wix

After school snacks are available for organized programs - contact the cafeteria manager

Homeless - please let Jane Allison know and she will notify School Nutrition Department

Dr. Hale

The graduation times are set by the principal.

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"Educate Every Child
 Every Day."



ATTENTION TEACHERS:

There will be a high school trip to Europe next summer and Dr. McGiboney would like to invite other teachers to join. The trip is for high school students and adults (younger children are welcome if accompanied by a parent or guardian). We will be traveling to London, Paris, Florence, and Rome. If anyone is interested they can view information about the trip at www.eftours.com. Our tour number is 602527. They also can feel free to contact Dr. McGiboney at 668-5916.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.warrenschools.com

September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	Labor Day- No School	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	Fair Day- No School	18
19	20	21	22	School Board Mtg. 6:00	Principal's Meeting 10:00	25
26	27	28	29	30		