

# THE ANDERSON COUNTY COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Anderson County Schools  
Every Student, Every Day

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## ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

### Preparing for the new College & Career Academy

Over summer break, groups of Clinton Middle College and Career Academy Hawk Staff got together to visit college campuses with the primary goal of bringing back a sound understanding of what our local post-secondary institutions have to offer as Clinton Middle transitions into the first and only College and Career Academy middle school in the state of Tennessee.

On July 10, Hawk Staff toured and met with officials from Roane State and Pellissippi State Community Colleges. The following week, more of Hawk Staff visited Tennessee College of Applied Technology, which is more geared towards a workforce focus that so many of today's students need to now about. Finally, Hawk Staff paid a visit to Carson-Newman University located in Jefferson City. Clinton Middle College and Career Academy students will go on quarterly field trips throughout the year to these and other local institutions, all of whom have been so welcoming of the idea of college and career awareness at the middle school level.

On top of college visits, there have been new classes added to CMS, one of which is the Digital Arts and Coding class. This class incorporates the design thinking process within the creation of projects that includes digital photography, stop motion animation, web design, augmented reality, coding, and so much more. Students will get to explore their creative sides while learning the newest technology skills.

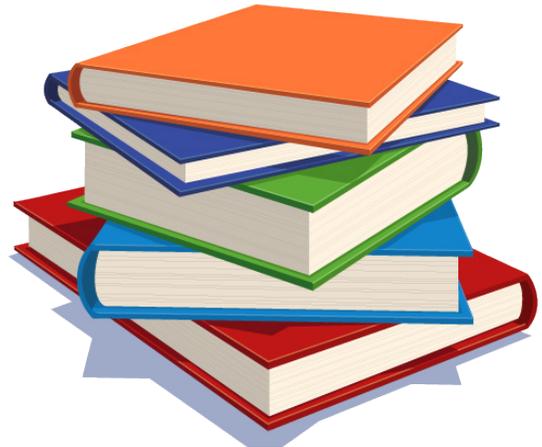


# AES Hosts Ready to Be Ready Camp

Andersonville Elementary school hosted a Read to Be Ready Summer Camp for thirty students. The camp participants consisted of first, second, and third graders. Each child received over \$200.00 in free books to keep at home. The month long camp was filled with reading, exploration, field trips, writing, and of course- fun! The entire program was at no cost to families and included breakfast, lunch, and snacks.

During the short month, AES educators saw a tremendous growth in the students' reading and writing abilities along with receiving positive

feedback from the campers' families. Educators involved were Haleigh Baker, Cheryl Butler, Lee Ann Fowler, Robin Jordan, Jamie Linkes, and Chris Nichols. The camp was directed by Tessa Bailey and Hope Holdaway.



# Clinton High School Alum Graduates from MIT

When CHS foreign language teachers returned to school this fall they found that the student had become the teacher. Dylan Stiles, a 2014 CHS graduate, is now writing programs for Duolingo, the world's most popular way to learn a language.

After graduating in May 2018 from MIT in Boston, the world's top university according to QS World University Rankings, Stiles had multiple job offers but chose Duolingo. "I interned with Appboy and I even have the code on my phone to change the lights on a Times Square building but I actually avoided the city. There are too many people there and the movies were expensive," said Stiles. "I thought education might be a better way to give back to society."

As humble as he is intelligent, Stiles offers this advice to high school students, "You can have a dream school but don't get your hopes up for a dream school. Apply to a bunch. Play the numbers game. I got into MIT and Princeton but not to Vandy and Duke. In high school, take AP and rigorous classes if you want a chance at a top school. Be involved in competitions in clubs, (Stiles was a state winner in FBLA and a competitor with First Robotics at CHS) because the playing field isn't equal at all high schools. My friends took 16 AP classes, CHS offered 3. While I don't think these are the most appropriate measures, they are the measures so be sure you have high grades and get good test scores if you want a chance at a top school."

While Stiles topped out at 36 on the ACT math, he could never score in the 30s on the reading subtest, but that didn't hold him back. He applied to MIT and other top schools through a program called Questbridge, which seeks to find high achieving students in low income areas. "Because MIT matches your demonstrated need 100% I actually paid less than I would have paid to attend the University of Tennessee," says Stiles.

When asked on her thoughts about sending her child off to a big unknown city, Dylan's mom, Beth Duncan said, "The worst words Dylan ever spoke to me were

'Mom, if I get in MIT, I am going.' These were also the best words. I had some anxiety until we visited with GEAR UP and I saw he was in his element. Parent meetings at the preview weekend helped me see that the campus was safe. We have to step back and let our children follow their dreams. My children were first generation college students and I knew nothing about college. I am glad I was able to step back and let them go."

Although he realized early on into his college career that he would not be coming home to work after graduation, Stiles says there is a possibility he may be able to return to Tennessee someday and work remotely. For now, he is in the Pittsburg area writing programs being used through Duolingo at Clinton High School as well as in countries around the globe.

As a college student, Stiles studied Japanese, German, and Chinese while earning his Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering. "I just thought language was interesting," he says. Now he makes it interesting for the next generation of students.



# Teacher Supply Depot

Saturday, August 4, was a special day for teachers across Anderson County. The Teacher Supply Depot opened its doors that morning to make thousands of dollars in free supplies and materials available to teachers. Thanks to the donations from many community businesses, churches, and individuals, the day began with full shelves and bins waiting for the crowd of teachers to make their way through the door. The Teacher Supply Depot is a collaboration between Anderson County Schools, Clinton City Schools, the Education Foundation for Clinton and Anderson County Schools, and the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce. The facility is open four times per school year to provide free basic education supplies, materials, and equipment to educators from the two school districts. In its inaugural year in 2017-2018, \$22,000 in school supplies were picked up by teachers for use in their classroom. Nearly 20 percent of Anderson County Schools' teachers attended the August 4 opening of the Teacher Supply Depot. This record turnout for Anderson County teachers resulted in thousands of dollars of supplies and materials going into classrooms to meet the needs of our students. These donated items defrayed expenses for

teachers, who reach into their own pockets on many occasions to take care of individual needs of students.

A special thank you goes out to all the donors who contribute to the program's success. The Teacher Supply Depot is also fortunate to have a partnership with the Education Foundation for Clinton and Anderson County Schools. The Foundation has made a commitment to generate funding to support the Teacher Supply Depot in addition to acting as the fiscal agent for financial contributions to the program. This will help ensure the long-term sustainability of the Teacher Supply Depot.

Another special thank you goes to the 120+ teachers who came out on a Saturday morning to shop for free items for their classrooms. These dedicated professionals, and their public education colleagues, provide incredible learning environments for children in Anderson County. Our schools and community are well-served by these people who have been called to educate our young people.

In the final analysis, the items secured by teachers from the August opening of the Teacher Supply Depot will make a difference in classrooms across Anderson County for weeks and months to come. By the end of the day on August 4, the shelves

that were once full were nearly empty of the stacks of school supplies that had graced those same shelves hours earlier. That's the way the Teacher Supply Depot is supposed to work. Free supplies and materials going into the hands of professional educators allows the community to touch needs throughout the county, matching donor resources with classroom needs.

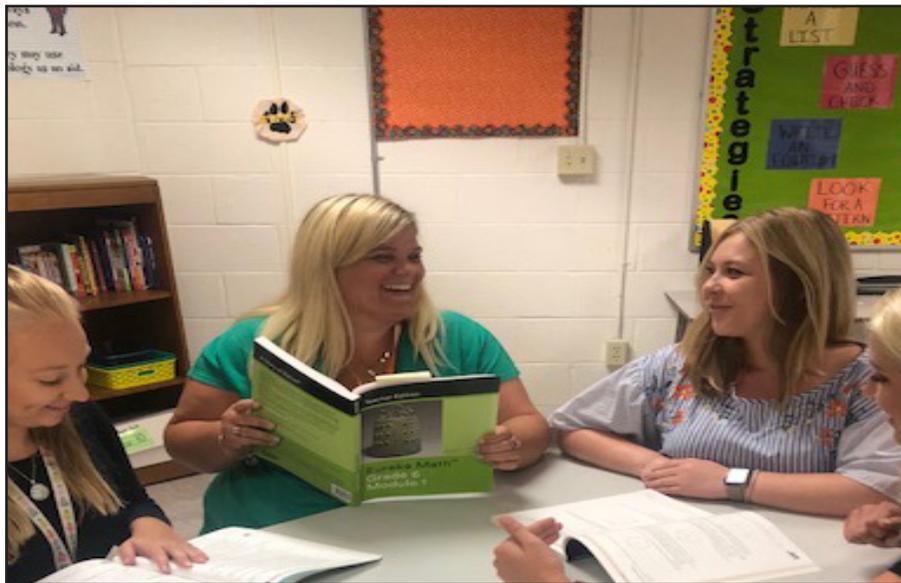
To make a donation, contact us at [teachersupplydepot@acs.ac](mailto:teachersupplydepot@acs.ac).



# Eureka!

All middle schools across Anderson County are well prepared and excited to begin implementing the Eureka Math curriculum this school year. Preparation for Eureka math began in the spring of 2018 when all math teachers attended professional development, led by Eureka trainers, that focused on implementation, teacher preparedness, and understanding the available resources that Eureka offers. Teachers will have another opportunity to meet again with their trainer from Eureka in the fall where they will focus on implementing strategies to improve fluency and overall number sense. In between training, teachers

have come together as collaborative teams to comb through the curriculum and support one another. Teachers are excited to be working with a top rated math curriculum that will also align with elementary math instruction in the county, and about the support that is being offered from our central office staff, technology department, academic coaches, and one another. With this well-structured implementation in place for a unified, high quality math curriculum, Anderson County is ready to welcome students back for a successful 2018-2019 school year.



## ACHS JROTC's Busy Summer

Anderson County High School's (ACHS) JROTC was busy this summer! Cadets enjoyed High Adventure Camp for one week in June. They also went white water rafting, practiced land navigation, High Challenging Outdoor Physical Exercises (COPE), Low COPE, zip line, 60 foot rock wall climbing, and other numerous activities. All ACHS cadets graduated and parents were invited to the graduation ceremony on Saturday morning. Additionally, three cadets attended one week Navy Leadership Academy at the National Guard Base in Smyrna, Tennessee. All three cadets graduated and received their Silver Leadership Academy Cords and will wear them on their uniforms this year. Anderson County High School is proud of their commitment and hard work!



# CHS JROTC Competes At Academic Bowl

Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Cadets from across the country competed in battles of knowledge and skill on the campus of the Catholic University of America June 22-25, 2018, during the JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl. Out of the 1,600 JROTC academic teams that competed from around the world, 68 teams earned top scores to advance to the National JROTC Academic Bowl competition.

After all was said and done, the team from Scripps Ranch High School in San Diego, California was named the winner of the competition. However, the Clinton High School AFJROTC academic team established a program first - finishing tenth among 900 plus Air Force Junior ROTC programs from around the country!

Besides being challenged with a weekend of mentally tough contests, Cadets also received advice from guest speaker Alex Trebek, host of the television gameshow

Jeopardy! During the opening ceremony, Trebek shared anecdotes from his experience on the gameshow as well as provided some advice for the cadets in the audience.

The JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl (JLAB) is a nationally recognized academic competition created exclusively for JROTC students. By participating, cadets learn the values of citizenship, leadership, academic competition, and college opportunity.



# GEAR UP Takes On Colleges

While many were using the last month of summer to relax, GEAR UP hit the road in July with upcoming seniors to tour local colleges. Students from ACHS and CHS had the opportunity to spend a day at East TN State, Carson-Newman, Lincoln Memorial University, Tennessee Tech, Milligan College, and the Tennessee College of Applied Technology at Harriman. CHS senior Christina Towners said, "I think going to visit all of these campuses is an extraordinary experience. We get a chance to meet with leaders of each school and learn about the opportunities

they have for us". ACHS's Caleb Wilhoit says it helps to look at a campus and see if you would like to live and learn there. Several parents and grandparents also participated in the college tours and information sessions. GEAR UP site coordinator says college visits are the best part of her GEAR UP summers. Students agree. "I really enjoyed it, it gave me a glimpse into what college life will be like", commented Logan Prater of CHS.



## NMS Heads to Chicago for Scholastic Event

In June of 2018, Tallitha Job, led a group of teachers to Chicago for the Scholastic Reading Summit. This one day summit was packed full of dynamic speakers that not only helped ignite the passion for teaching reading, but also created an environment in which educators could reflect on their approach to teaching in the divisive climate in which we live.

A member from the NMS team, Amy Horak, was able to tell Donlyn Miller, author of *The Book Whisperer*, how much her books have inspired her to cultivate a passion for reading her 7th grade ELA classes.

The team was able to enjoy a few sights in Chicago while they learned more about their profession from some talented authors and reading experts in the field.



## Hawks Helping Others

With the help and support of our community, Clinton Middle College and Career Academy students have hopefully had a healthier and happier summer this year. Zion Baptist has been instrumental in donating, sorting, and distributing food to our area children. With their help, Clinton Middle provided student homes with nine weeks' worth of food. Second Harvest donated 1000 snack packs that were able to feed our students for up to five weeks. We could not have provided this service without the many students, families, and staff that pulled together. This summer, CMCCA really showed demonstrated what the love and support of a community is all about.

