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# Clinton City Chronicles

## *Academic Excellence Continues to be a Tradition at Clinton Elementary School*

Ask around and anyone will tell you that Clinton Elementary School is a wonderful place. Parents, staff, and students agree that the culture of high expectations which takes place at Clinton Elementary School is what sets it apart. With approximately 520 students, the staff at CES strive to make learning individualized for each student by providing an educational path that will enhance student growth and achievement at all

levels. Clinton Elementary has been repeatedly recognized as a Reward School, placing it in the top 5% of all schools in Tennessee. This honor has been achieved because of the collaborative learning environment that we have created.

We have adopted a “Growth Mindset,” where students at CES are taught that intelligence is not a fixed trait. Students are given daily encouragements such as “continue to practice to make progress”

and that “challenges grow our brains”. Teachers at CES attend weekly PLC meetings that are facilitated by academic coaches or administration. These meetings provide resources, build on best practices, and analyze student data in order to develop the next step to student learning. Teachers have data discussions and academic conferences with



Principal  
Jenna Sharp



Assistant Principal  
Monica Rael

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each individual student regularly. Teachers communicate student learning goals. Student success is often celebrated through the following actions: class and building-level incentives, morning announcement “shout-outs”, and in monthly assemblies! Additionally, CES builds a unique relationship with students, families, and stakeholders that focus on the importance of working together to meet student needs for both academic achievement and social/emotional health.

The students’ well-being must be a priority before they can learn. Clinton Elementary School provides a free, nutritious breakfast as one way to meet this need. A student running club meets after school, two times a week, where the students learn healthy habits and

exercise. CES recognizes a “Student of the Month” from each class for possessing characteristics such as kindness, responsibility, and perseverance. The students learn about a variety of life skills; including conflict resolution, bullying, and personal safety. Clinton Elementary partners with The Anderson County Chamber of Commerce to learn about career exploration by attending Biztown and a Career Day in the spring. A lunch bunch meets periodically to focus on study habits and friendship. While students are at CES, the staff commits to providing a healthy, safe, engaging, supportive, and challenging learning environment. These are just a few of the reasons that Clinton Elementary is such an amazing place to be! Come see great learning occur!

## CCS Partnership with Clinton Public Library Boosts Reading!



Clinton City Schools’ partnership with the Clinton Public Library through the Regional eBook and Audio Download System (READS) has been a tremendous success! Through this partnership, students gain access to thousands of digital eBooks that they may download to their computers both at home or at school.

Since the students were introduced to the program in November, we have seen a significant increase in usage for both students and adults. In January, the READS system had 3,348 downloads with 864 of these being

students. Circulation has increased among our students by over 800 books since November. Currently, the Clinton Public Library ranks 4th in the state for the largest number of books in circulation; thereby, creating additional opportunities for our students to have access to high quality pieces of literature. If you want more information regarding this program, or need to get your child’s access information, please contact your child’s principal.

Research indicates the best way to become a better reader is to simply read! In the words of author Tomie dePaola, “Reading is important because, if you can read, you can learn anything about everything and everything about anything.”

## Third Graders Receive Dictionaries from Rotary

An annual event which brings excitement to all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders across the district is the Clinton Rotary Club personal dictionary donation to all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students. In January, members of the club visit each 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom and hand deliver a dictionary to each student. Eager students immediately put their name in the book and begin to look

CES Principal Jenna Sharp & Luke Hatmaker



through the dictionary to find words. Principals challenge the students to discover a new word and its meaning to “trick” the principals. Students excitedly take on the challenge to learn new words to teach their principals. While technology has

eased the process of finding meaning for unknown words, dictionary skills still remain a standard in elementary school. We appreciate the support of the Rotary Club and know that the dictionaries will be put to good use both in and out of the classrooms!



Mrs. Dungan's 3rd grade class at SCES: left to right are Leighann Bonesteel, Kelly Johnson, Jo Suggs, Dean Knight, & Lindsey Dungan.

## Spelling Bee Winners

Each year, Clinton City Schools holds a system-wide Spelling Bee to determine the top spellers in our district. This is a highly competitive contest where difficult words are introduced for the students to “attack.” The runner up for the 2016-17 Spelling Bee is Sarah Boundy, a 5th grader at Clinton Elementary



School. Our winner for the 2016-17 Spelling Bee is Riley Webb, a 6th grader at



South Clinton Elementary School. Riley will move forward to the Regional Spelling Bee and represent Clinton City Schools. He spelled 49 out of 50 words correctly! We know that he will represent our system well, and wish him the best of luck as he proceeds to the next level. We are very proud of both of these students for their accomplishment!

## Teachers Receive Tenure

At the January School Board Meeting, nine Clinton City Schools teachers received tenure status. A few years ago, state law changed, making tenure a very difficult honor to achieve. In order to achieve tenure, a teacher must have taught in Clinton City Schools for five consecutive years. In addition, they must have maintained an overall level of effectiveness of a 4 or 5 (out of 5) for the past two consecutive years. Given the fact that a level 3 is considered highly proficient, this is not an easy bar to reach. We are proud of each of these teachers for achieving tenure with our district. Having nine teachers receive this honor is proof that Clinton City maintains high expectation for providing an effective educator in each classroom. It also proves that Clinton City has the ability to recruit and maintain educators who effectively grow students

academically. We are honored that these teachers choose to teach with Clinton City Schools. Congratulations to each of them!



Left to right: Kelly Johnson, DeAnna Sparkes, Mindy Wilson, Wendy Williams, Caitlin Simmons, Patty Shoemaker, Laura Roop, Stephanie Brock, Abbey Kidwell, Dr. Tim Bible and Lynn Neal

## Partnering with ORAU for New CCS Brochure

Clinton City Schools has a great number of business and community partnerships which help make our system so successful. Recently, CCS partnered with ORAU (Oak Ridge Associated Universities) to create a Clinton City Schools brochure. The purpose of this brochure is to highlight the many wonderful things that are happening in the three schools. When families are looking to relocate to Clinton, this brochure will give them a snapshot of what makes CCS so unique. ORAU donated the time and talents of their graphic design team to help make this new brochure a success.

ORAU is a tremendous supporter of Clinton City Schools. This year, they have donated more than \$11,000 to our three schools in the form of mini-grants. We consider them a valuable partner in education and appreciate their support! We would love to get a brochure into the hands of anyone that is interested! Give us a call if we can provide you or your business with copies!



## Did you know....

- That CCS has a 3-D Printer?
- That CCS has a Coordinated School Health Program that provides dental, vision, hearing, and health screenings to students for free?
- That Abbey Kidwell, a fourth grade teacher at SCES, serves on the Governor's Teacher Advisory Board? She is one of twelve teachers across the state to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity.
- That we participate in the Universal Breakfast Program, which allows all students to eat breakfast for free?
- That all three schools offer Healthier Life Running Clubs to students after school?
- That each school offers before and after-school tutoring and enrichment opportunities to students?
- That band is offered to 6th grade students at all three schools taught by an in-house band instructor?

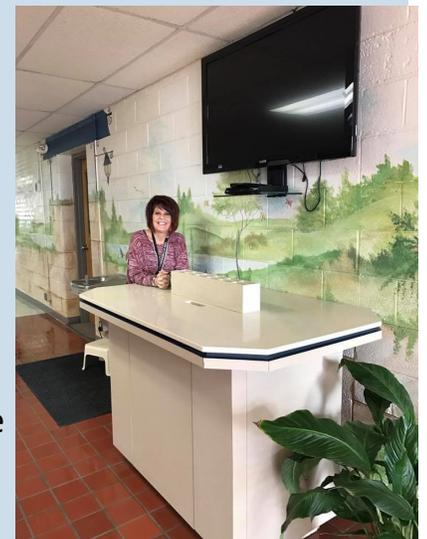


## ORNL Credit Union Donates Furniture



ORNL Credit Union is currently undergoing a renovation in Clinton. They were generous enough to donate 3 offices of furniture to Clinton City Schools. These desks will be used to replace old teacher desks throughout the system. They also were gracious enough to give us a tall,

granite countertop table which has been placed at North Clinton Elementary School. This table will serve as a Parent Resource Center. Parents will be able to retrieve



information on a variety of community services and learning resources at this location. All of the items donated will be put to good use. We truly appreciate ORNL contributing to Clinton City Schools!

# North Clinton Students Coding with Dot and Dash!



Dash to move correctly through the LEGO Bricks path without bumping into the borders! This enrichment activity allows students to problem solve and develop critical thinking skills while learning the basic concepts of computer coding. Students experience such a sense of accomplishment when they successfully “code” their robot to maneuver the LEGO Bricks path with success. A great amount of learning is taking place while having a tremendous amount of fun! It is amazing to see what young minds can create and how they can implement vast problem solving skills when given the opportunity. Clinton City

Schools has three sets of Dot and Dash, so computer coding will be seen in all three schools!

If you were to walk into Mindy Wilson’s room at North Clinton after school, you might think that students are playing with LEGO Bricks. You would be partially right! However, there is great learning taking place.

Meet Dot and Dash. These are two robots which can be programmed to move in certain directions through something called computer coding. An iPad is used to program the robots to move in the appropriate direction. Students work to build a path with the LEGO Bricks. They must then use their coding skills to program Dot and



## Where Are They Now?

### Highlighting Former Clinton City School Alumni

Meet Dr. Jordan Fuhrman - a former Clinton City Schools' student. He is currently completing his residency in North Carolina. To his credit, he delivered the first baby of 2017 in the city of Morgantown where he practices. Jordan's ultimate goal in life is to help treat those underserved and living in poverty.

Jordan attended Clinton City Schools throughout his elementary school years. He was lucky enough to have been taught by the late Kay Sampson and Lea Ousley. Jordan's mom, Judy Fuhrman, shared a special memory about Mrs. Sampson giving Jordan an opportunity to retake his math test after school because she felt that his test grade did not reflect what he really understood.

Ms. Fox was another important teacher in Jordan's life as she encouraged him to pursue his life's dream of working in the medical field. Jordan also fondly remembers the positive influence of Iris "Cookie" Green who works as an instructional assistant for Clinton City Schools. Another special person was Mr. Alfred, the custodian, who would save the day by letting Jordan back into the school in the evenings to retrieve forgotten books or folders.

Jordan graduated from Clinton City Schools and went on to great success at Clinton Middle and Clinton High Schools. He was the recipient of the Tennessee Titans' Scholarship and went

on to major and graduate in Science/Pre-Med at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Upon completion of his Bachelor's Degree, he applied to the Debusk School of Medicine at Lincoln Memorial University. Jordan received other valuable experiences working with Dr. Jose Malagon, from Clinton Family Physicians, through various internship opportunities.

In his application to LMU, he responded to a question about persevering through trials in life. He wrote about his experiences of playing football for four years through high school and only winning one game each year for a total of four games. To his delight, the Dean of the College personally called him stating that an individual with that type of perseverance would make an excellent doctor and accepted him to the program.

Clinton City Schools is proud to call Dr. Jordan Fuhrman one of "our own". We are so proud of his accomplishments and are excited to hear about his future contributions in the medical field.

