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Clinton City Chronicles

Learning Every Day at South Clinton Elementary School

Anyone who has had the opportunity to spend time at South Clinton Elementary will tell you that it's most definitely a special place. Though you can't put your finger on the one thing that sets SCES apart, staff, students, parents, and community members will tell you that the school has a family atmosphere. At approximately 260 students with two classes per grade level, the school is just the perfect size to build and maintain lasting relationships. There is a perfect balance of high expectations and support. Teachers set high academic expectations for their students, but they also understand that student needs must be met first. Every morning, each student

who enters the building is greeted by name by multiple staff members. Students then have the opportunity to receive a free hot breakfast in the cafeteria. Students who have already eaten breakfast have the option to attend morning tutoring sessions or participate in Go Noodle activities in the gym to get moving and energized for the day.

Our staff members also set high expectations for themselves and are continually learning and refining their teaching practices to best meet students' needs. Teachers participate in monthly Professional Learning Committee meetings for both math and Reading/Language Arts with our instructional coaches. They also meet for monthly Intervention and Enrichment meetings to analyze

student data and decide the best approaches to take for students in order to optimize growth. Throughout the year, Kindergarten through 2nd grade teachers participated in Literacy Framework development; insuring a solid reading foundation for students by 3rd grade. Teachers in grades 3-6 have participated in a Universal Design for Learning training where they have focused on differentiating to meet the unique individual needs of each student in their classroom.



Principal
Leighann Bonesteel



Principal
Darlene Miller

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South Clinton Elementary has an engaging and student-centered environment. All students in grades 2-6 have their own Chromebook, and students in first grade will have their devices very soon! Students are engaged in learning activities through the use of programs such as Kahoot and Peardeck, and soon students will be submitting their writing electronically through Google classroom to receive immediate feedback from their teacher. If you walk into some of the classrooms, you may notice that instead of sitting in traditional chairs at desks, students may be seated on the floor, standing, or sitting on yoga balls. Many of our teachers at SCES have decided to utilize flexible seating. It is amazing how this has really helped some students to stay focused during instruction by simply offering a different seating option!

Several different after school activities for students are also offered. Running Club meets twice a

week and gives students an opportunity to discuss topics about healthy choices and participate in physical activity. Tutoring sessions are held three times per week to provide homework help and support for students. Open library times are available for families to come read together and give students extra opportunities to take AR tests. Sixth grade band also meets on Wednesdays and Fridays and is open to any student who is interested. It would be impossible to capture all of the wonderful things that are happening on a day to day basis in one short newsletter! SCES is a great place to learn!

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program at North Clinton Elementary

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) that is currently served at North Clinton Elementary is a federally assisted program providing free fresh fruits and vegetables to students during the school day. The goal of the FFVP is to improve children’s overall diet and create healthier eating habits to impact their present and future health. The FFVP helps us create a healthier school environment by providing healthier food choices, expanding the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience, and increasing children’s fruit and vegetable consumption.

Two years ago, the program which has been going on several years at NCES was expanded to 5 days a week. The kitchen staff takes great pride in creating a combination of



fruits and vegetables that not only taste good, but look good as well. A lot of planning and preparation that goes into the program; such as, finding new fruits and veggies for the kids to try and ensuring choices that are in season.



Kindergarten Germ Glow

Kindergarteners in Mrs. Melanie Gettelfinger's room at North Clinton Elementary School learned about hand washing techniques with School Nurse Nancy Denton. Mrs. Gettelfinger's students were first told to wash their hands as they normally would before eating. Then, Nurse Nancy put fake orange "Glow Germs" on the students' hands and asked them to rub it in. Students were then asked to wash the orange "Glow Germs" off their hands using soap and water.



After the students finished washing their hands and drying them with paper towels, Nurse Nancy used a flashlight with a built in black light, to show students germs that remained on their hands. The

students were amazed that the orange "Glow Germs" remained after handwashing. Nurse Nancy used this experiment to talk about how germs can't be seen on our hands and how important it is for the students to wash their hands thoroughly. As a tip, she told the students to sing the "ABC Song" to themselves while handwashing to help them understand how much time the process should take. She also discussed the importance of using another paper towel to turn off the faucet to avoid making contact with other germs.

Students in the primary grades across Clinton City Schools will be having hand washing classes taught by the school nurses:

Nurse Martha Foster at South Clinton and Nurse Ann Dew at Clinton Elementary. The purpose of this activity is to help increase student wellness and improve student attendance during cold and flu season.



Leighann Bonesteel – Principal of the Year

Mrs. Leighann Bonesteel is the 2017 Principal of the Year for Clinton City Schools. Mrs. Bonesteel has been with Clinton City Schools since 2004. She has taught 2nd grade and fourth grade and served as Assistant Principal of Clinton Elementary during the 2015-16 school year before moving to South Clinton Elementary School as Co-Principal. During her time in administration, she has set high expectations for student achievement while maintaining the level of collaboration and professional learning among teachers. She displays a true passion for educating young children and works closely with parents and community members. She consistently embraces new learning and makes decisions in the best interest of South Clinton Elementary School. Congratulations, Mrs. Leighann

Bonesteel. We appreciate all you do for Clinton City Schools.



Teachers of the Year

Clinton City Schools has set extremely high expectations for educators across the system. It is important that we provide a quality educator in each classroom. All CCS teachers are highly qualified and meet or exceed the state requirements on teacher evaluations. We are extremely proud of all our teachers!

Each year, staff members vote on a fellow colleague who they feel deserves the recognition of Teacher of the Year. This year, we are proud to announce that three outstanding educators won this award.



Kimberly O'Dell is our Teacher of the Year for Clinton Elementary School. She is a sixth grade teacher who instructs students in the area of math and science. She is highly trained in STEM education and has presented

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at several area and national conferences in the past few years. Her passion for making education meaningful and creative for students has created a unique curriculum map integrating science and math standards into a STEM centered classroom. Students love being in her room and work hard toward meeting her high expectations. Student enthusiasm and high test scores are evidence of her effectiveness as an educator.



Leslie Goins is our Teacher of the Year for North Clinton Elementary. She is the lead teacher in our special education Pre-K classroom. She currently serves three through five-year-old students, including some who have disabilities. Walking into her classroom is truly an amazing experience. She successfully implements individual learning plans to meet the specific needs of all her students. The level of engagement, enthusiasm, and compassion demonstrated in this classroom

is superb. Passion for young children is just one of her many wonderful qualities.



Abbey Kidwell is our Teacher of the Year for South Clinton Elementary. She currently teaches a self-contained fourth grade classroom. For the past two years, she has served on the Governor’s Teacher Advisory Council for the state of Tennessee. She is seen not only as a leader in our system, but also throughout the state. By embracing high expectations and research based instructional strategies, she teaches her students to use accountable talk where they cite evidence, defend their stances, and question other viewpoints. Her classroom is full of engagement, high expectations, and fun!

Congratulations to each of these fine educators. We appreciate their dedication and hard work for our Clinton City students. They make a lasting impact on all of the students they instruct!

World Read Aloud Day at North Clinton

On February 16th, North Clinton Elementary School students and staff joined millions of people from over 100 countries around the world in celebrating “World Read Aloud Day”. “World Read Aloud Day” calls global attention to the importance of reading and sharing stories.



Throughout the day, classes were visited by guest readers, including school board members, former teachers and administrators, central office staff, members of the community, and local celebrities such as DJ Ashley Adams from B97.5 and WATE-TV meteorologist Matt Hinkin. Each guest reader brought his or her favorite book to read to the students.

Students were also treated to a multicultural reading experience as Xue (Shirley) Razote, an instructional assistant, read Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? in her native Chinese, and School Resource Officer Marisol Hernandez read the same book in Spanish.



Child Find

Child Find is a legal requirement for all public school districts in the country. This is the process used to ensure that all children who have disabilities are identified and, if appropriate, have special education services provided to them. In the state of Tennessee, infants and children up to the age of three may be referred to T.E.I.S. (Tennessee Early Intervention Services) by their pediatrician, health department, daycare provider, or parent. If a handicapping condition or disability is identified, a service coordinator will organize services through the local T.E.I.S. office. As the child approaches the age of three, a transition meeting will be held with the zoned school system to determine the need for continued school based services. These services may include a pre-kindergarten classroom placement or therapy services to include speech/language, occupational or physical therapy provided at a local school site.

If a parent or guardian suspects that their child may have a disability which could impact their ability to be successful with school based expectations, contact may be made with the zoned school system to discuss the possibility of an evaluation. If an evaluation is determined to be necessary, one will occur and the need for any services will then be determined. If services are to be provided, an IEP (Individual Education Plan) will be developed by the school team assigned to work with the child.

Child Find does not require that every request for testing is granted by the school system, but it does require that a discussion and review of information occur upon request by the parent or guardian. Child Find applies to all children with disabilities from birth to the age of twenty one. In Clinton City Schools, the process may begin by contacting the administrator of your zoned school or by contacting our central office and asking for the Special Education Supervisor.

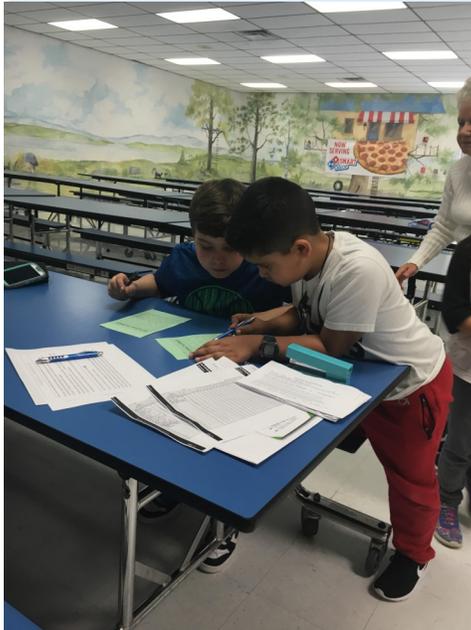
Did you know....

- That Mrs. Wetherington, 5th grade teacher at Clinton Elementary School, is a Nationally Board Certified teacher? That is one of the most rigorous certifications a teacher can receive!
- That Clinton Elementary Auditorium now has all new stage lighting and a new sound system?
- That all 6th grade students have the opportunity to attend a three-day environmental camp experience in the spring?
- That all students in grades K-6 attend weekly technology classes to learn fundamental and advanced computer concepts?
- We offer Safety Patrol to 5th graders who will be rewarded with a four-day trip to Washington, D.C. in June?
- All grade levels participate in Junior Achievement classes which teach financial literacy through real world activities?



Good Times and Good Health at Club CES

On Mondays, after school, at Clinton Elementary, you will find 30 or more students in grades 2-6 having a great time. These students are playing games, learning about nutrition, performing taste tests, reading food labels and exercising. These students are the members of Club Health, a group of students



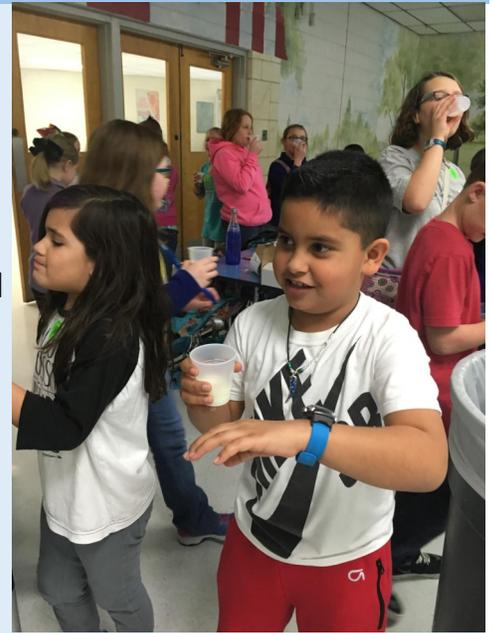
participating in “MicroClinic” through the Anderson County Health Department. “MicroClinic” is a research based program developed to help students learn about

healthy weight and proper nutrition.

Kathy Scruggs, health educator, along with several nurses lead the lessons each week. The lesson from the last Club Health class involved



taste tests. Students sampled whole milk, skim milk, and 2% milk and had the option to guess the type of milk they were drinking. Surprisingly, most students were not able to identify the type of milk correctly. A few students did mention that the skim milk was watery and had more liquid. The students learned about the difference in calories based on the type of milk, and that the body needs calories to function properly.



The staff from the Anderson County Health Department are doing a wonderful job engaging the students in learning about nutrition while having fun. CES will be offering Club Health for nine weeks with graduation scheduled on May 8th.



Digging For Fossils at CES

Clinton Elementary 3rd graders are working on the study of fossils. Students are exploring how fossils form, how paleontologists go about deciding the locations of fossils, and how to properly extract them. Most importantly, students are discovering the plethora of information that can be learned from fossils!



The students were challenged to simulate how a paleontologist extracts fossils from rocks and sediment by extracting chocolate chips from a cookie, using only a toothpick. They could only count the chips that were unbroken. There was a great amount of discussion about how careful they had to be, which helped them make connections about

the difficulty scientists encounter trying to work with rocky surfaces. Ms. Bulecheck states that, “Being limited to such a simple tool brought about some real ingenuity! It

was not only enjoyable, but a valuable learning experience for the students. The students will obtain data and graph the data for use in mathematics as well!” Clinton City Schools firmly believe that students learn best through hands-on learning experiences!

