

Johnson City Schools

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Johnson City Public Schools Foundation Funds Teachers' Wishes

The Johnson City Public Schools Foundation is granting teachers' wishes. Founded in 1990, the Foundation was established to fund innovative programs and activities in our schools. Through BEST! Card sales and with the help of local PTA's, the Foundation has raised \$31,600 in the last two years. Half is returned to PTA's and the Foundation funds teacher grants with their portion. Forty grant requests totaled \$33,000 the past two years, and the Foundation was only able to fulfill 15 of those grants.

Good news for future grant cycles: Through the success of our BEST! Card sales and the generous donation of a \$10,000 grant by the Mooneyhan Family Foundation, the JCPS Foundation will be able to fulfill many more teacher requests. If you would like to donate to fund more teacher grants, please email: foundation@jcschools.org for more information. Your donation is tax deductible.



Cherokee Elementary School - Habit Ruff Reading Program



“Habit Ruff Reading Program seeks to enhance the learning process by creating an atmosphere in the classroom that allows children to experience the unconditional acceptance of a dog,” as stated by the program itself. Several of the classrooms at Cherokee Elementary School are taking advantage of this wonderful idea and the students love it. Some students who would not normally read aloud are thrilled to get to read to their captive “dog” audience. Teachers are ecstatic to see their hesitant students participating while also seeing growth in reading skills. Cherokee plans to continue to make use of this wonderful program.



Fairmont Elementary School - The Paperless Classroom

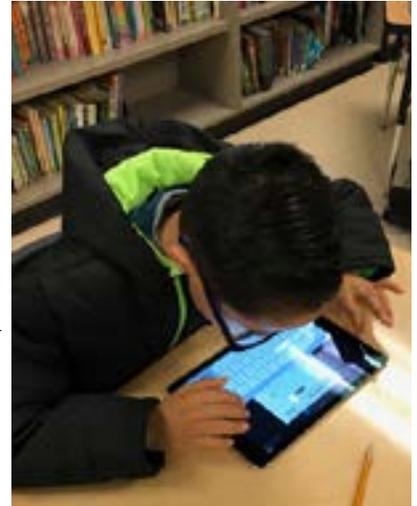
With one-to-one devices, teachers are finding new ways to engage students. A paperless classroom helps teachers receive and grade student assignments all without using any paper. Some of the platforms we use are “Showbie” and “Seesaw.”

What is Showbie?

Showbie is an online tool to turn your students’ classroom assignments into a paperless portfolio of assignments. This platform gives you options to control your classroom assignments all through tablets, laptops, and PC devices. You can annotate, record audio, and add PDFs through a very kid-friendly application.

What is Seesaw?

Seesaw is an online portfolio application that can enhance the typical paper journals used in the classroom. With Seesaw students can capture images, create digital documents, and upload other media to an online journal. Students can access that journal in the classroom or at home on any device.



Lake Ridge Elementary School - Coding Club



Lake Ridge’s technology lab teacher, Stephanie Elliott, has been working with fourth-grade students before school in “Coding Club” on Fridays. The program was created as a result of student interest generated from participating in the “Hour of Code” initiative last year. Students are engaged in activities that address a variety of skills: mouse control, basic computer programming, higher-order thinking, logic, multi-step problem solving, creativity, teamwork, and perseverance. Ms. Elliott primarily uses the site “code.org,” which uses popular games such as Angry Birds, Minecraft, Star Wars and Moana to provoke student interest in coding. The site differentiates for all levels and languages, so that students can progress at their own pace. In addition to this particular website, students also have access to two Dash robots, which allows

students to take their coding from the abstract concept on the computer site to the concrete concept with the robot. Next up for our Coding Club is the inclusion of a third grade group with plans for our fourth graders to serve as mentors.

Mountain View Elementary School - Code-A-Pillars

In the Library Media Center, all students (K-4th) use iPads to scan QR codes, visit websites, listen to books, learn about landmarks, work on maps, and complete other Social Studies activities.

Mr. Johnson’s fourth graders have been using laptops to check for understanding during and after math lessons. They have been using Kahoot and Spiral.ac for review and for formative assessments. Students also practice their individual math skills on FrontRowEd.

Through the use of Seesaw (a digital communication tool), the parents of Ms. Seaver’s kindergarten students have been digitally informed of what is going on in class. Students are assigned a QR code that allows their parents to view their Seesaw page.

Ms. Seaver’s class is also using www.code.org for plugged (on the computer) and unplugged activities to learn computer coding. This class also uses two Code-A-Pillars to solve problems. The parents and students are enjoying these resources!



North Side Elementary School - Relay Recess



There are lots of new exciting things that are happening around North Side that are keeping all of us very busy. In the physical education world, Coach McDonald has been a busy bee making sure that our students are working toward a healthier, more wiser them. Coach Mac has worked hard for months and organized fundraising for the American Cancer Society's Relay Recess. During the Relay Recess, students will be rotating through stations that promote good health and bring awareness to various cancers. Our goal, as a school, is to raise \$2,250.00 to donate toward the American Cancer Society. We are hopeful in being able to raise money for this wonderful fundraiser and look forward to our students learning valuable information that will last them a lifetime.

South Side Elementary School - Caring Coins

Recently, a family at South Side School was hit with some hard news. They were told that they were "going into battle" at St. Jude's Hospital. Second grade sprang into action and wanted to let the family know that South Side supported them through their journey, and try to offset some of the costs they are going to incur. From January 10th -20th, All students were asked to look for coins in their cars, couches, under washing machines, or anywhere coins could hide! As part of their math curriculum, 2nd grade students counted all of the coins. Each cup represents a dollar. In total South Side collected just over \$900. We are so excited with the amount of support we received and wish this family the very best! Thank you for helping us show this family how much they are loved!



Towne Acres Elementary - Cents for Sevier County



In late November, the Gatlinburg area was ravaged by a wildfire that left families across the area with nothing. After hearing about the devastation, the Towne Acres community decided to take action. Led by third grade teacher Karen Bunch, the school began a week-long drive to collect "cents" for Sevier County Schools. Students brought in a different coin or dollar amount each day of the week to donate to the cause. It was exciting to see students so eager to clean out their piggy banks to help kids like them in need. In the end, the coin drive raised \$2,602.11! A portion of the funds directly

helped students and teachers who lost their homes in the fire. The remaining money will be distributed to different schools to further help meet the needs of students impacted by the fire. The photo above shows Karen Bunch presenting the check, along with a banner signed by all the Towne Acres students, to Dr. John Enloe, Assistant Superintendent of Sevier County Schools. Watching students respond to a tragedy in such a powerful way was inspiring. Their generosity serves as a reminder that we can work together to endure and overcome difficult times.

Woodland Elementary - First Grade Laptop Initiative

At the beginning of the 2016-17 school year, Woodland Elementary was selected to pilot a one-to-one laptop initiative in first grade. Each student in Mrs. Carter Brown's and Mrs. Penny Reece's first-grade classrooms received a Dell Latitude 3150 laptop computer. Students now use these devices throughout each school day in all subject areas. Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Reece utilize a variety of websites to provide differentiated content and adaptive learning experiences, thus allowing students to receive online instruction at their current skill levels and further enabling them to learn at their own paces. In addition, students are using the laptops to gain familiarity with and submit assignments via Canvas, a vital platform used extensively in upper-grade levels in elementary schools and throughout intermediate, middle, and high school grades in Johnson City Schools. Students are also positioned to learn and refine keyboarding skills through daily use, including typing spelling words, reading through MyOn, completing Accelerated Reading (AR) tests, and generating PowerPoint presentations based on their individual and group research findings.



Indian Trail Intermediate - The ITIS Press



Last year was the first for the student-created school newspaper, *ITIS Press*. Even the name and slogan, "It IS good news!" was created by students. Distributed monthly, the publication solicits writing from all 5th and 6th graders and includes important school announcements. Students first apply for a position as a writer and must exhibit not only an ability to write, but also an adherence to deadlines. If accepted, the student chooses from a variety of options, or chooses one himself. Examples include opinion essays, fictional stories, poems, sports features, current events, jokes, horoscopes, advice columns, and interviews. ELA teacher Ashly Garris puts together the newspaper, edits it, and then prints one out for teachers to post in their classrooms. Students get excited to see their name in print and share their creative ideas with classmates. As "payment" for

the contribution, the student writers receive a gift card for a restaurant like Chick-Fil-A, donated by local businesses.

Liberty Bell Middle - "ADOPT-A-VET"

Under the direction of our school counselors, Patriots are taking advantage of opportunities to give back to the community. Mrs. Donna Wilkinson, Mr. Seth Johns, and Ms. Morgan Poff organize a yearly event to honor our veterans and help our students experience the feeling of giving to others. "ADOPT-A-VET" was developed by Mrs. Wilkinson almost 5 years ago, and initially involved only her teams. It has now expanded to include the entire school, and all three counselors help lead the program. Any homeroom can volunteer to adopt a veteran and purchase holiday gifts for them. The homerooms appoint two students to travel to the Veterans' Administration and deliver the gifts. Students readily admit that spending time with the veterans was their favorite part. Hannah Gilliam remembered that one of the veterans even got Mrs. Wilkinson to dance! "I just remember it was great, and the veterans were so funny!" Ms. Poff's favorite memory sums up the experience for all. She recalled a very happy veteran leaving the party and exclaiming, "That's the first time I've opened a gift in eighteen years!"



Science Hill High School - First Online Classes

Coach Tim Vanthournout, Jessica Schiwitz, and Kiki Garman Diamond have worked closely creating Science Hill High School's first online classes. Personal Finance (available now), AP US Government (Fall 2017), and AP English Language (Spring 2018) are the first three courses to be launched. Following Best Practice guidelines, it is top priority for these classes to maintain a "human touch" through online discussions and the availability of Chat, both of which are conveniently accessible through Canvas. These teachers agree that integrating purposeful videos and images to keep students highly focused is also essential to maintaining personal investment in a virtual classroom. The program relies on Modules, a method that allows for the organization of the class by units; students must successfully complete modules in chronological order to be able to move on to the next one. This structure creates an environment that is similar to the instruction students would receive in a brick and mortar classroom. Allowing students the opportunity to take an online class and meet with their instructor during flextime offers the best of both worlds, online convenience and face-to-face instruction for questions if they arise.



For Your Information!

Just a reminder that Spring break is scheduled March 13-17.



The Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH) has issued the following immunization requirements for students entering 7th grade.

Students must show proof of two immunizations:

- **Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis booster ("Tdap")**
- **Verification of immunity to Varicella (chickenpox) – two doses or date of disease**

Please provide documentation of these immunizations on an official Tennessee Certificate of Immunization. This documentation can be faxed directly to the Office of School Nurses at 218-0544 or delivered to the office at Indian Trail Intermediate School by May 25. Your child will not be able to attend the first day of 7th grade without this documentation.

Please contact your primary care physician or the Johnson City/Washington County Health Department to schedule an appointment.

District E-Newsletter is published by the Johnson City Schools Communication Department.

For address corrections or to be removed from our mailing list contact the Communications Department at (423) 434-5233; e-mail:burdm@jcschools.org, or write to Johnson City Schools, P.O. Box 1517, Johnson City, TN 37605