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Clinton City Chronicles

Dream It. Do It. Comes to CCS

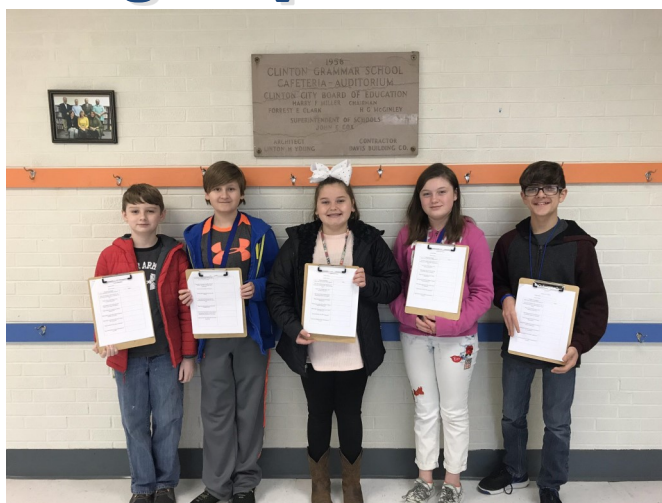
On February 1, all 6th grade students toured local industries in Clinton. Clinton Elementary students toured SL, and North and South Clinton Elementary Students toured Clayton Homes. During the tour, four groups of students were given an additional job; participating in the CCS "Dream It Do It" competition in collaboration with the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce.

Students entered the industries with a clipboard of questions, a 360 camera, and a digital camera. They asked a variety of questions and captured video footage of the tour. They explored a variety of areas including employment requirements, salary ranges, upward mobility, benefits packages, sick/inclement weather policies, company goals, and much more. Upon return, the groups will work during their 45-minute enrichment time to create an interactive website to market the industry. In April, each group will present their website to the Anderson County Chamber Board. The Chamber Board will determine winners of the competition. Clinton City Students will join Anderson County 8th graders at the Awards Ceremony at the New Hope Center in May.

You will be hearing more about the analytical and creative thinking that unfolds from these groups. We can't wait to see the end product of their hard work! Good luck to each team!

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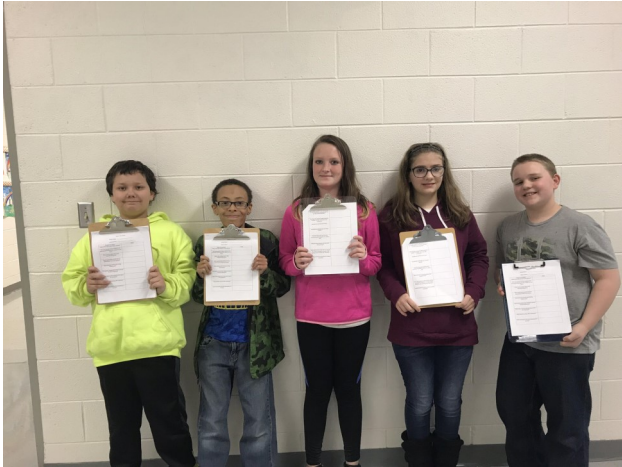
Team 1: Light Up the Future



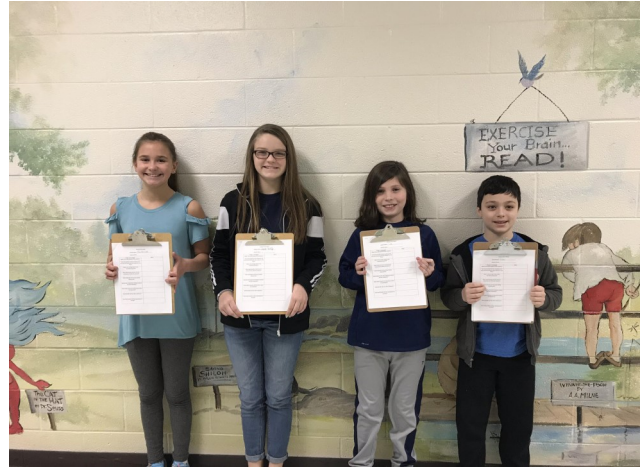
Team 2: Shining Lights



Team 3: Clayton Cougars



Team 4: Clayton Cool Kids



CCS Students Take on the Industries in Anderson County



Grandfamilies' Night



You might ask yourself, “What is a grandfamily?” A grandfamily is a family unit that involves grandparents, aunts, uncles, or other family members or friends that have

primary care of the children. US Census data from 2010 reported that 4.9 million children across the country live with their grandparents. That number represents one child from every 14 families. This number was double the number from the previous census, and the number continues to increase.

Grandfamilies are formed for a number of reasons including financial need, child abandonment by the birth parents, mental or physical illness, substance abuse, incarceration, unemployment, homelessness, domestic violence, poverty, and death.



Leaders of grandfamilies are heroes who step into a parent role to make life better for the children. Oftentimes, these individuals suffer from stressors with the challenges that come from raising children while battling financial hardships, poor health, advanced age or just the difference of raising children in the digital world.

Grandfamilies' Night will take place at North Clinton Elementary School on March 1st at 5:30 p.m. This event is open to any family across the school district. This night will be used to honor Grandfamilies, as well as provide information about school and community resources that are available to support them. A pizza dinner will begin at 5:30 and at 6:00 the informational program will begin. There will be opportunities to visit the speakers after the program to pick up information about interested programs. There will also be an opportunity to sign up for eligible programs and benefits using laptops with support from staff. An invitation is being sent in weekly folders to all students.

The following resources will be available that night, and CCS welcomes more community support groups: Mimi's Place, ACHD Dental, ACHD Nutrition, ACHD Health and Immunizations, and Omni Health. There will also be information about the Second Harvest Backpack Program and Counseling opportunities available at the school level.

Please contact Jamie Jordan at 457-0159 with questions or email jordanj@clintonschools.org if you are interested in setting up a booth or participating in the informational session. It is going to be a great event!

Student Success Through Personalized Learning

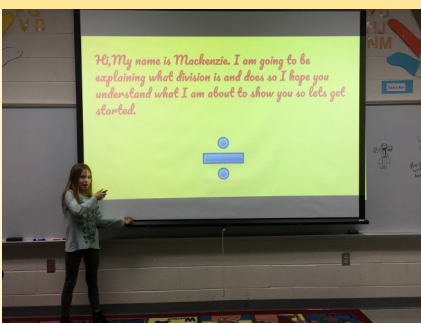
You are likely to see small groups of individualized learning occurring at any point in one of the three Clinton City Schools. While each grade level has a certain set of standards that must be mastered, students walk into the classrooms each day on different academic levels with a variety of needs. Each grade level has set aside a 45-minute period each day to address the individual needs of students. Teachers look at student data and observations to plan a specific learning plan for students during this time period. Instructional assistants and teachers use this time period to implement small group instruction that provides both intervention, remediation, and enrichment. This is a time period where “all hands on deck” are used to meet the needs of all



students. Observers will see students doing research-based intervention as well as project-based learning. Teachers regularly meet to analyze each student’s academic growth. Whether students are behind grade level or well beyond grade level, our goal is to grow students as much as possible through challenging, engaging learning activities.



Mastering Division Through Google Slides



Research indicates that learning is deepened when given the opportunity to teach the content being mastered.

Fourth graders at North Clinton Elementary are putting this research into practice! Over the past few weeks, students researched different ways to use division and created a Google Slide presentation to showcase their learning. They received an outline of expectations from both Mrs. Pack, classroom teacher, as well as Mrs. Patterson, technology

teacher. Students were responsible for creating their own presentation using math, technology, language arts, and creative skills. The students were extremely proud of their work as they presented their project in front of classmates, which supports speaking and listening standards. Teachers in Clinton City Schools work diligently to create authentic, engaging learning for students. They had a blast!



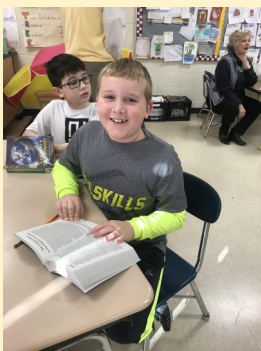
Water Flowing at Clinton City Schools

On January 10, second graders at North Clinton Elementary School were able to participate in the official ribbon cutting on the new water bottle refilling station. Clinton City Schools has recently placed water bottle refilling stations at each of the three elementary schools. This project was made possible with the financial assistance of United Way, Micro Clinic, Healthier TN, Active Anderson County, and Anderson County



Health Department. The Anderson County Chamber of Commerce helped celebrate by providing the ribbon cutting activities. To top it off, all students in the system received a free water bottle to use throughout the school day! Director Kelly Johnson stated, “This is a wonderful addition to our schools. Hydration is an important part of healthy living and being prepared to learn. We appreciate the positive partnerships that we have developed with the donors of the project. Great things happen for our students when we all work towards the same goal. The students and teachers are both excited that they now have a way to obtain filtered water throughout the school day.”

Clinton Rotary Gives Dictionaries to CCS Third Graders



The Clinton Rotary Club delivered a free dictionary to each 3rd grade student in Clinton City Schools. This annual event, sponsored by the Rotary Club, supports literacy in our community. After students were given the opportunity to write their name in the

dictionary, they were instructed to attempt to read the longest word in the English language. By the way, that word happens to be over 1900 letters long and takes up an entire page! The dictionaries contain many other references that will be used during the 2nd semester of school. At the end of the year, students will be able to

take their personal dictionary home. Clinton City Schools appreciates the generosity of the Clinton Rotary Club in providing this resource to students!



CCS Recognizes Teacher of the Year & Principal of the Year



Each year, the staff at each school nominate a fellow colleague to receive the Teacher of the Year award. This is one of the highest honors that a teacher can receive in our system. We are proud to announce the following winners, pictured below, for this year.

All Clinton City and Anderson County winners will be recognized at the Education Foundation's annual Teacher of the Year Banquet on Tuesday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. Event and table sponsors are now being accepted. Please contact Central Office at 457-0225 if you would like to support our efforts to honor great educators in our community.



Jodi McCoy:
Kindergarten at Clinton Elementary School



Joan Altobelli:
6th Grade at South Clinton Elementary



Melanie Gettelfinger:
Kindergarten at North Clinton Elementary



Monica Rael:
Principal at North Clinton Elementary

CCS Recognizes School Board

Clinton City Schools joined other school districts in saluting our local education leaders during Tennessee's annual School Board Appreciation Week from January 21-27, 2018. The week was designed to recognize the contributions made by all school board members, including the Clinton City Schools' School Board.

School boards are given the tremendous responsibility of ensuring the education of Tennessee's youth. School board members are elected by their communities to manage the local schools. They oversee multimillion-dollar budgets, which fund education programs for more than 997,893 students in approximately 1,833 schools across the state. Their personnel decisions affect more than 70,000 teachers, administrators and support workers.

These volunteer leaders are responsible for formulating school district policy, approving the curriculum, maintaining school facilities, and adhering to state and federal education laws. Legal concerns and the complexities of school finance, including budgeting and taxation, require them to spend many hours in board training programs and personal study to enhance their understanding of these issues. Our deepest appreciation is extended to the dedicated men and women who make it possible for local citizens to participate in education. Please join us by saying thank you to our school board members during Tennessee's School Board Appreciation Week!



CCS Teachers Leading Learning Across State

Clinton City Schools is very proud of two of our staff members who recently presented a session at the statewide Partners In Education conference in Nashville. Janice Ramsey and Shannon Cook, teachers at North Clinton Elementary School, presented the session "Technology Toolbox for Educators" to a packed room at the Music City Convention Center. The session highlighted real life examples of technology tools which can be used to enhance the educational environment and supplement the instructional "tools" many teachers already use on a daily basis both inside and outside of their classrooms to support positive learning outcomes. We have received many positive reviews of their information and presentation style.



We truly appreciate how well they represented our district at this conference and all they do for students in our schools!

One Director's Perspective: Embracing Mistakes

I love my kids with all my heart. There is literally nothing that I would not do for them. Rarely do you meet parents who feel otherwise. We want what is best for them. We always want to be there for them. If we could give them a gift that would almost ensure success, wouldn't we do it?

Mistakes. We all make them. We all dread them. We have all suffered consequences for them. As parents, we have all watched our children make them. Our responses vary:

- We become frustrated with our children and lecture (sometimes rather boldly) on how their decision was a terrible one.
- We attempt to come to their rescue. They mess up and it becomes our responsibility to fix. We maneuver and manipulate to relieve our children from feeling pain or consequences in the name of "loving" our children.
- We issue swift consequences in hopes to prevent another mistake.
- We set higher expectations and put fear in them if they don't achieve.
- We ignore and hope it will fix itself.

I know I have been guilty at one time or another of all the above. **But what if we took a different approach?** What if we changed our attitude towards mistakes. What if we looked at making mistakes as an opportunity to learn – to grow? What if we taught our children that making mistakes and experiencing failure was a part of life and necessary to grow emotionally and academically? Instead of reacting to mistakes, what if we sat down and reflected with our children on how they could use their mistakes as a learning experience to grow, mature, and define how they will react the next time?

Does this mean that we take away consequences? Absolutely not. Life always has consequences, even as adults. But we grow as individuals by taking risks, trying new things, exploring.... and yes.....even messing up. Life is messy. But if we teach our children to seek challenges and not fear failure, we will develop a growth mindset in our children that teach they are capable of doing far more than they ever anticipated. Growth mindset does not come naturally. It is taught and supported. Research has shown that people who have a growth mindset reach higher aspirations, surpassing many of the goals that they imagined.

We need to teach our children that they have great control over their life-much of it is mindset. Don't always take the easy road! Set high goals for them and tell them to fight hard. When they mess up, reflect with them on how they can "flip the switch" to turn the mistake or failure into something positive. Teaching strategies to bounce back from mistakes teaches resilience, which is a necessary life skill. Our reaction and viewpoint of mistakes will shape the mindset of our young ones. As adults, our role in shaping the mindset of children is great. IQ does not determine the person our children will become. Circumstances do not determine who our children will become. Mindset does. No one is perfect. Our kids will make mistakes. But tell them to go for it! Take risks! Our kids must be taught that mistakes and failures do not define an individual, but our personal reaction to them does.



Kelly D. Johnson
Director of Clinton City Schools