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# Clinton City Chronicles

## The Building of Excellence

### A Brief History of Clinton City Schools

Achieving excellence does not simply happen. Successful institutions have a strong history of fighting for what is right, standing up for certain beliefs, and overcoming obstacles and strife. Today, approximately 950 students enter the buildings of Clinton City Schools where students, parents, and the community are assured that each child will experience a quality education because of the "Tradition of Excellence." To appreciate the benefits of Clinton's highly effective school system, one must have knowledge of the sacrifices and decisions that created the path to success.

Clinton City Schools was founded in 1895, but not without debate. The ordinance to create a municipal city school system ended in a tie vote by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen who voted three votes in favor and three votes opposed for opening a city school system. The mayor's vote broke the tie. At that time, the mayor had no idea the lasting impact his vote would have on the City of Clinton.

Clinton City Schools opened initially with one school, called Clinton Grammar School, which

housed a staff of approximately six employees and 200 students. At the time it opened, it was a segregated school where fifty to one hundred black students attended Green McAdoo, located behind Clinton Elementary School on Coward Street.

During the first years of Clinton Grammar School, heat was provided by coal stoves, pails of water were carried in daily, and kerosene lamps provided the light. At one time during the Great Depression, parents of students grew gardens to help provide fresh vegetables for lunch.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Clinton City Schools experienced a great amount of change. In 1955, North Clinton Elementary School opened with six teachers. In 1962, the old Clinton Grammar School was torn down and replaced with the current Clinton Elementary School. Finally, in 1965, the Board of Education voted to close Green McAdoo School and Clinton City Schools became desegregated. The South Clinton Elementary School building was completed in 1985 and was consolidated as part of Clinton City Schools.

Today, Clinton City Schools is comprised of three elementary

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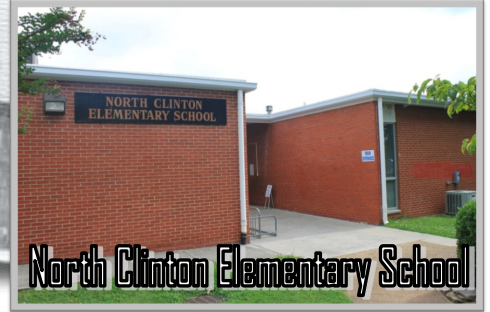


# Looking back...

Clinton Grammar School in the 1940's and 1950's



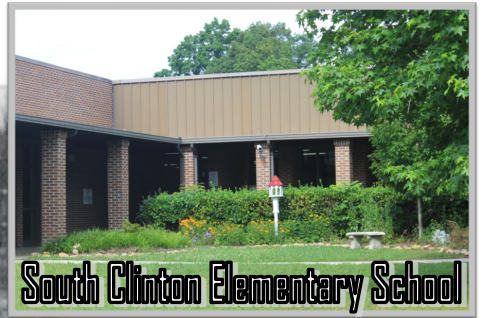
Tearing down the old school making way for the new one



North Clinton Elementary School



Construction of the new school building in 1963



South Clinton Elementary School



Completed building in 1963



2016

last five years. A recently implemented 1:1 technology program called "Technology for Learning" provides a Chrome Book to each 4th -6th grader. Truly, Clinton City Schools

is a school system and community that puts students at the forefront of decision making.

The road to success was paved by many outstanding individuals who dedicated their career to seeing Clinton City Schools soar to greatness. Proof of success is that third and fourth generation students come through the doors. With a focus and dedication to continuous improvement, Clinton City Schools honor the past and continue the strong legacy of a quality education for all students.

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schools that employ approximately 135 staff members.

Currently, Clinton City Schools motto is "Tradition of Excellence" which accurately represents both the past and present, and exemplifies pride in being a small school system that provides a personal educational experience for each child through high expectations and systematic support.

Being a Pre-K through 6th grade school system allows the

opportunity to focus on quality elementary instruction. Clinton Schools is consistently recognized as a statewide leader in academic achievement. Currently, the system ranks 2nd in Reading and Math out of the 20 surrounding districts in the region. When compared to the state, the system ranks 18th in Reading and Math in comparison to 144 Tennessee districts. Clinton Elementary School has had the honor of being a state recognized "Reward School" on four separate occasions in the

## T4L Program at Clinton City

*“Technology for Learning.”*

Clinton City Schools had the vision, and the City of Clinton was there to support it! The goal was to make the system 1:1, meaning that each student in the intermediate grades would have their own digital device to support learning the grade level standards. Less than two years later, Clinton City Schools has met the goal in grades 3-6, with the focus moving towards more devices in the lower grades.

In third grade, there is a class set of ChromeBooks that students use throughout the school year in his/her classroom. In fourth grade, a Chrome Book is issued to each student, and it becomes his/her device for fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. At the end of the student’s sixth grade year, the ChromeBook becomes their personal device and goes home. Yes, the students get to take them home to keep!

During the school day, visitors will see students participating in interactive lessons that are teacher initiated and controlled, creating power points and movies, researching topics, and writing essays. The possibilities are endless! Best of all, visitors will see students engaged and excited about learning. Teachers have received an abundance of training on using technology, specifically Google Apps for Education, to enhance the learning experience. Many times, students teach adults about computers!

This program would not be possible without the support of the City of Clinton. For many years, City Council has supported the sixth grade laptop program. They welcomed the opportunity to expand this program to include multiple grades, touching the lives of many more students for an extended time. There is no better experience than seeing students’ eyes light up when it is time to bring out their personal device. After all, Clinton is educating digital natives. Clinton City Schools recognizes that learners have evolved and efforts must continue to meet their individual needs to make them productive members of society.



### CCS Media Spotlight on ChromeBooks

During the week of August 29, WBIR and Fox 43 News aired a special spotlight on Anderson County. Clinton City Schools Technology for Learning Program (T4L) was one of the highlights. Aaron Wright, with WBIR-TV, spent 2 hours at Clinton Elementary School speaking with teachers and students about the benefits of incorporating technology into the learning process. Footage from this segment shows students interacting in various ways with ChromeBooks. This special broadcast can be viewed at the link below.

<http://tinyurl.com/htcdwfl>

**Photo on top of front page shows cameras in the classroom!**

# New Director of Schools!

## *Kelly Johnson*

Clinton runs through my blood. I am the daughter of a pastor and an elementary school teacher. We moved to Clinton when I was five and my father accepted the calling to be the pastor of First Baptist Church in Clinton. Several months later, my mother became a fourth grade teacher at Clinton Elementary School, and my brother and I were enrolled as students under the leadership of Director Jody Morrow.

Most of my childhood days were spent helping Mom in her classroom, hanging out at First Baptist Church, or riding my bike down Riverbend and Riverside to Lakefront Park. I remember the “green bridge” being silver, I remember when there were only two lane roads to Jaycee Pool, and I remember the community excitement when K-mart came to town! Each week at school, we would walk to the Clinton Community Center to swim or bowl. There were days that I left the house on my bike and wandered the streets of Clinton all day with no worries. My parents were assured it was a safe community. I’m sure these events bring back similar memories to those who had the opportunity to grow up in Clinton.

After graduating from Clinton High School in 1989, I attended Carson Newman College on a Presidential Scholarship where I received my Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. After graduating in 1993, I began working at East Knox County Elementary School, in Knox County Schools, as a Kindergarten teacher. A year later, I married Scott Johnson at First Baptist Church in Clinton and now have two wonderful children, Mallory and Andrew. In an effort to be closer to home, I transferred to Powell Elementary School in 1999 where I taught 4th and 5th grade.

Briefly, I took a position in pharmaceutical sales and quickly realized that my passion was in elementary education. With that realization, I went



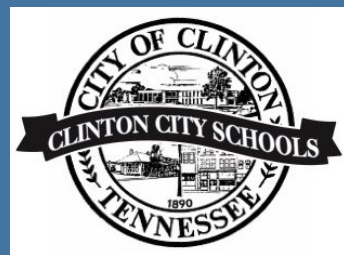
back to school to earn a Masters in Administration and School Leadership at Lincoln Memorial University. After graduating with a Masters, I served as Assistant Principal and Principal at Powell Elementary School as well as Elementary Supervisor for Knox County Schools for a total of seven years.

When the fortunate opportunity to come back home to Clinton City Schools in 2012 arose, I returned and have served as the Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, Supervisor of Federal Programs and Professional Development, and Assistant Director. Clinton City Schools was a special place growing up as a student, and now it is a special place to work!

There is something unique about Clinton City Schools. The focus on elementary education allows our work to be focused and personalized. Our expectations are high, but we provide an abundance of positive support. Rarely do you find a community that rallies around its school system to the same level as Clinton.

I am proud to be a product of Clinton City Schools, and honored to be given the opportunity to lead a system that has such a strong “Tradition of Excellence.” My goal is to serve our community through collaborative leadership and strong partnerships. Through continued improvement, Clinton City Schools will remain a leader across the state in academic achievement. Many say that your home is where your heart belongs, and it is certainly good to be back home!

Follow  
Clinton City  
Schools  
On:



Both of these images are hyperlinked to connect to Clinton City Schools' pages!

Clinton City Schools is everywhere!!! Follow on social media, and see all the wonderful things that are happening in elementary education!

Clinton City Schools' goal is to communicate to the community in a variety of different ways. Please join and watch the learning GROW!

Website: [www.clintonschools.org](http://www.clintonschools.org)

Facebook: Clinton City Schools

Twitter: ClintonCity\_CCS

## Meet The Board

**B**ehind every great school system is a school board that works diligently to keep students at the focus of funding, policies, and deci-

sions. Clinton City Schools is blessed to have six outstanding board members who support the work in each individual school. The Tennessee School Board Association has recognized the Clinton City School Board as a "Board of Distinction" since 2003, which requires meeting rigorous standards and expectations. Each board member has worked diligently to meet the requirements for this honor.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall, with the exception of October which is the first Thursday. During the months of September, October, and November, the board travels to each school library to hold its meetings. Each meeting is now televised on ACTV (Anderson County Government and Education



Board members include: Back Row: Dr. Tim Bible, Chair; Joey Smith; David Queener - Front Row: K. K. Webster; Merle Pryse, Vice Chair; Curtis Isabell

Television) and is replayed throughout the month.

Clinton City Schools appreciates the Board's commitment to students and teachers and are honored that they dedicate their time and efforts to assist in providing a quality education for all Clinton students.