

- *Students TN Ready*
- *NCES Reward School*
- *Ace of Shakes*
- *Google Sheets and Skittles*
- *Just Hanging Out*
- *CES STEM Night*
- *Did You Know?*
- *Coding and Spanish*

Clinton City Chronicles

CCS Students Prove Ready for TN Ready



Students across the state of Tennessee took the first TN Ready test in the spring of this year. Test results were somewhat delayed this year as new cut scores were set, so districts have just recently received the full picture of student performance.

The TN Ready Assessment was created to align with the new rigorous standards in ELA (English/Language Arts) and Math. Four new proficiency categories were named: Below Expectations, Approaching Expectations, On Track, and Mastered. Due to the rigorous nature of the assessment, “On Track” and “Mastered” percentages dropped across the state. This does not mean that students across the state went backwards in performance. This simply means that the state of Tennessee is more accurately reporting student performance that aligns closely with college and career readiness in relation to national norms.

Districts receive reports in two areas: student growth (TVAAS) and student achievement. CCS is proud to report the following:

- Districts are rated on a scale of 1-5 in terms of student growth. CCS is proud to report a district composite growth score of 5 meaning there was statistically significant evidence that students exceeded more than one year’s growth.
- CCS “On Track” and “Mastered” percentages of student achievement exceeded the state average.
- In ELA and Math achievement, CCS improved the relative ranking in both subjects and is currently in the top 20 districts across the state of TN.

Each district receives ratings in four levels: In Need of Improvement, Progressing, Achieving, and Exemplary. Clinton City Schools was ranked as an Exemplary District in terms of achievement, and ranked as a Progressing District in terms of subgroups (Economically Disadvantaged, Special Education, and

Continued on Page 2

Black/Hispanic, Native American). Combining the two categories together, Clinton City Schools was labeled an Achieving District.

New annual measurable objectives were set based on this data for the upcoming school year. Director Kelly Johnson said, "I am thrilled that the hard work of our teachers and students has been validated by these scores. Every system has areas of strength and areas

to strengthen. We will certainly celebrate this good news, work towards increasing our subgroup performance, and strive diligently to meet the new goals set before us. Our work is of most importance, and our teachers are among the best. They are some of the most dedicated, knowledgeable professionals in the field of education. Through differentiation and a personalized approach to education, we hope to see continued success."

North Clinton Elementary is Awarded Reward School Status

The Tennessee State Department of Education has awarded the top 5% of schools in achievement and student growth across the state the title of Reward School. Clinton City Schools is proud to announce that North Clinton Elementary School has been named a Reward School for student growth. This means that students at NCES made academic growth that was in the top 5% of schools across the entire state of TN.



This is one of the highest honors that a school can receive. CCS attributes this to several factors including high quality teachers, instructional differentiation, research based intervention, parental involvement, and

opportunities that develop well-rounded students. The staff was informed of the Reward School status last Thursday.

NCES is a wonderful school, located on top of a beautiful hill on Beets Street. It is a Pre-K through 6th grade school that houses approximately 170 students. It is a community school who holds high expectations of students and uses growth mindset as the foundation of all learning.

The Tennessee State Department of Education will be presenting a Reward School banner to NCES soon. This banner will proudly

Continued on page 4

Students Ace the Shakes

Ask any business or corporation what is lacking in today's workforce. It won't be long before you hear the word "soft skills" mentioned. First impressions matter. Attendance and punctuality are essential. Interpersonal skills are key. In an effort to develop well-rounded students, CCS 4th grade students are participating in a program called Ace of Shakes in partnership with CNS.



Lt. Campbell, with Clinton Police Department, kicked off the program by teaching students the meaning of soft skills and strategies for shaking hands and introducing themselves to other individuals: eye contact, firm hand grip, smiles, confident stance, strong voice, etc.

Students will now have several practice opportunities each week. Students practiced in their classroom for 2 weeks before implementing these strategies on other adults. This past week, they practiced with staff members in the building. Over the next few weeks, they will



have additional opportunities with business/ community leaders, elected officials, and media personalities.

At the end of November, they will participate in an Ace of Shakes graduation and receive a medal. Students will have additional opportunities to practice these skills during their time at Clinton City Schools through field trips, BizTown, job shadowing, and a Career Fair. Soft skills will soon be hard-wired into students as CCS strives to develop confident, competent individuals!



be displayed for a community of teachers, students, and parents who have worked so hard to achieve distinguished academic growth. Come visit us at NCES and see the

great things that are happening! It is a wonderful learning environment!



Google Sheets and Skittles



Do all packages of Skittles have the same number and color combinations? CES fifth and sixth graders set out to answer this question using Google Sheets.

The activity started with each student receiving a bag of Skittles. Students separated their candy and grouped them by color. Using this data, students created a table in Google Sheets to show the amount of each color they received. Google sheets allows the students to organize, edit, and analyze different types of information. We discussed cells properties, cell ranges, inserting and deleting content, copy and pasting cells, and the use of fill handles. Once the

table was created, we formatted the data by changing fonts, font sizes, font color,

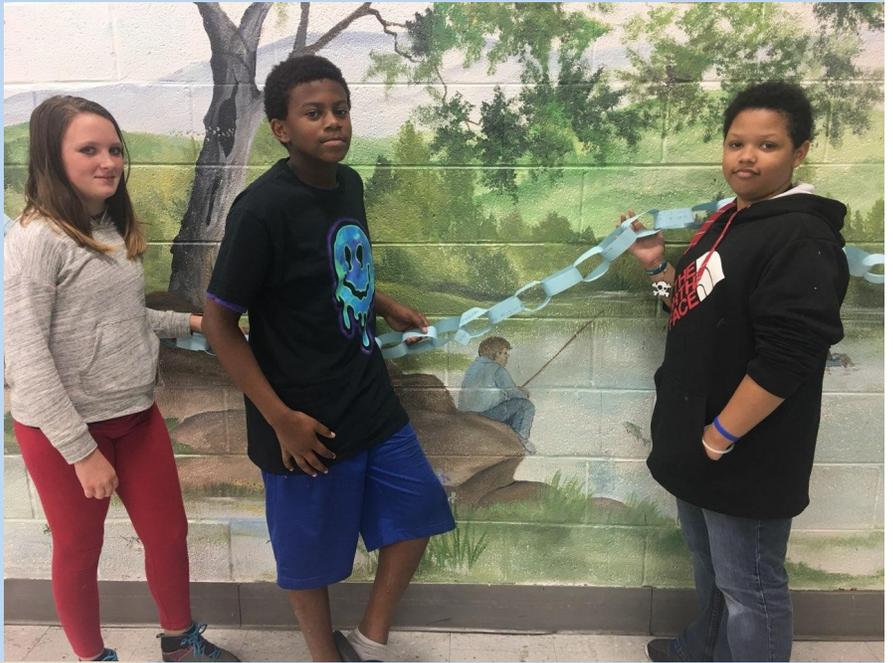


background cell color, date and number formats, etc. Next the students were tasked to visually represent the percentage of each Skittle color. The students converted their tables into graphs, specifically pie charts, to best illustrate their results. They customized their pie charts with the chart editor by changing colors, fonts, font sizes, titles and even creating a legend. It was a fun way to showcase their results in a variety of ways. Once completed, students proved that each bag of Skittles contains a random number of each color. It was a fun project to teach students how to use data to create and manipulate spreadsheets and graphs.

Just Hangin' Out

Who loves to hang out with friends and do good things for the community? Sixth graders at North Clinton Elementary do! Students hang out after school for homework help, cooking, crafts, working out, and leadership opportunities.

Red Ribbon Week occurs in October and focuses on making good choices and being kind to others. The students in the Sixth Grade Hangout at NCES wasted no



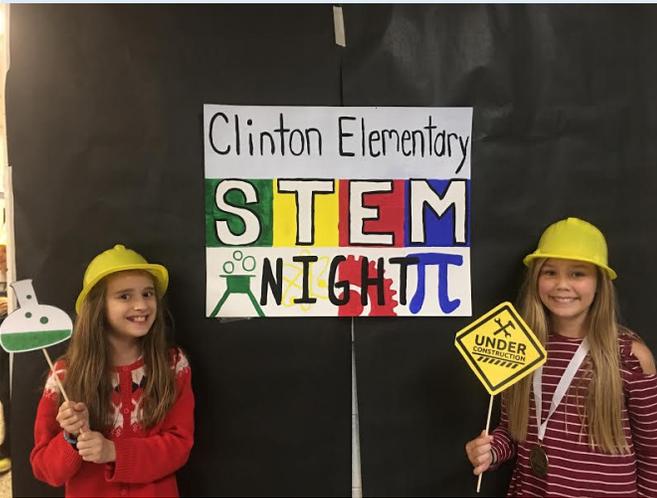
students to spend time with friends and be leaders in their community!

time making posters with inspirational statements and a kindness chain for students school-wide to write down kind things being done at school. The students also read messages each morning during announcements about ways to make good choices in life. What a great opportunity for



CES Hosts Annual STEM Night

Clinton Elementary School hosted their annual STEM Night on October 24th. Students worked together with their families to become a “STEM Genius” by completing activities that were guided by their teachers. CES partnered with the University of Tennessee and the Clinton High School Robo Dragons to provide an evening



of hands-on learning for science, technology, engineering and math. Over 300 projects were completed using an engineering design process to solve problems! The STEM workstations focused on topics such as Biomedical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, and Robotics. CES staff and the Clinton Community were able to work together to make this a wonderful learning opportunity for students and their families!

Did you know....

- That CCS has a new kiln and all students are currently working on a pottery project to benefit Second Harvest?
- That CCS has a new 5th and 6th grade basketball team called The Blaze for both boys and girls? The season has started!
- That students have access to several online instructional programs to use at home including iReady, Big Universe, Think Central, Social Studies Weekly, Moby Max, and Study Island?
- That NCES offers a 6th grade Hangout after school that provides enrichment and leadership activities to students?
- That students can take Spanish at SCES as an after-school enrichment?
- That the 6th grade Yearbook Club is creating the system-wide yearbook?



Coding and Spanish at SCES

Students at South Clinton Elementary school are participating in several different enrichment opportunities in after school clubs this year. One of the opportunities being offered is an after school “Coding Club” for 5th and 6th grade students. Coding Club meets once a week and is led by 5th grade teachers Erin Collier and Rebecca Sharp. At the end of the 2016-

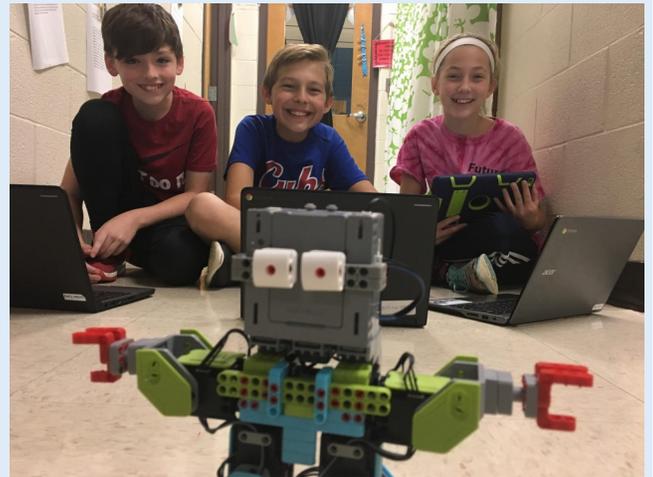


2017 school year, Mrs. Collier applied for a grant from ORAU for a set of iPads and robots in order to get this project

started. She received five iPads and five robots for a total of \$2,400 worth of equipment! 5th and 6th grade students were so excited about the opportunity to participate in the after school club that it filled up quickly! Imagine students being excited to stay after school on a Friday afternoon! Each

Friday, students in coding club use the iPads to program the robots to do a variety of different actions and perform different tasks.

Another after school enrichment opportunity that is currently being offered is Spanish Club. Spanish Club is offered for students in grades 2nd through 4th grade. Spanish Club also meets once a week on Monday



afternoons and is led by 3rd grade teacher Lindsay Dungan. Spanish Club sign ups received a great response that there are students on the waiting list. In Spanish Club, students learn basic Spanish vocabulary, geography, and Hispanic culture. Students at South Clinton Elementary are taking advantage of many different after school opportunities!