

# THE ANDERSON COUNTY COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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**Anderson County Schools**  
Every Student, Every Day

## ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

### ACCTC students complete first Roane State Cybersecurity competition

Anderson County Career and Technical Center students competed in the first Roane State Cybersecurity competition. Roane State and Anderson County Career and Technical Center students teamed up to solve mock cybercrimes and track down the culprits during the community college's first cybersecurity competition.

The brainchild of this competition is Roane State Computer Science Professor Dr. George Meghabghab. The event had students uncover and resolve cyberattacks by mock adversaries who left digital traces of their tampering. Participants also showcased their skills at coding, or programming, and encryption, or keeping others from reading private messages. The competitors were asked to solve six fictional scenarios in five hours. In one, the five teams probed the disappearance of suspect "Ann Dercover" after she posted bail. They were tasked with analyzing information intercepted by the Oak Ridge Police Department and using it to find what the suspect emailed and where she went.

Pacing back and forth in front of a Roane State computer lab, Meghabghab urged the cyber sleuths to relax before they began their computer-based efforts. "Breathe!" he said. "Take your time. Discover what you know, what you don't know." "It's a little friendly competition," said Markus Pomper,

dean of the college's division of Mathematics and Sciences. He urged the students to "think about why cybersecurity is important."

Roane State student and cyber competitor Dylan Tipton is staying in college to obtain a second associate's degree, this time in computer programming and cyber security. The reason? "After taking Programming 1 with George (Meghabghab), I loved it," Tipton said. Cybersecurity, he said, "is a very profitable field." Another Roane State student, Amy Lawler, said she signed up for the competition "because it looks like fun." She said cybersecurity is a profession with a promising future. Eric Anderson is an adjunct history professor at Walters State Community College who said he's in his second semester in Roane State's cyber defense program. Anderson said he's taking the courses in anticipation of a career change.

Four students from the Anderson County Career and Technical Center participated in the competition. Assistant Principal Nathan Wade said his school is starting a cybersecurity curriculum soon. During the lunch break, Meghabghab reiterated the importance of the competition.



## DVES Had an Exciting December

Students at DVES had a very busy and exciting December. Early in December, all students at DVES were treated to brand new backpacks loaded with school supplies, hygiene items and treats. The staff was also treated to gift cards to Walmart to help them offset the cost of supplies they buy for their classrooms. The backpacks and gift cards were provided by Meadow Baptist Church in Comer, Georgia. This is the second year in a row that Meadow Baptist has visited the students at DVES and provided this service.

On the last day of classes in December, all students also received gifts from West Hills Baptist Church and Salem Baptist Church. The churches partnered together to provide an afternoon of fun and excitement to the students. Each student was provided a free school hoodie, a bag of wrapped gifts that included toys, clothing, shoes and winter wear. The students came together in the afternoon to have a Christmas party in the gym and receive their gifts and thank the volunteers that put the

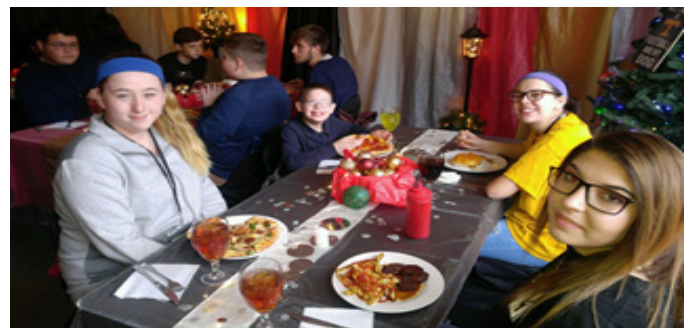
event together. Santa also visited DVES on this day, which added to the excitement. Two of the school system's SRO's had to "protect" Santa and had to have their picture made with him as well.



## Clinch River Community School Christmas Spectacular

Christmas Spectacular: Multiple groups in the community (Anderson Co. Sheriff's Department, churches, businesses, individuals, teachers, and other Anderson County School employees) donated money and agreed to sponsor a student at our school guaranteeing that all of our students had something for Christmas. Travis Freeman - Santa Claus, Andrea Russell - Elf and Allen Russell - Elf also pitched in to make the Christmas magic happen. Y-12 and The Clinton Citivan Club wrapped most of our gifts.

Level Three Cafe: This is a special four course meal provided by Sweet Cafe for free to all of our Level 3 (Leadership Level) each 9 weeks. Students of the 9 Weeks are students selected by CRCS staff to be the absolute best academically, behaviorally and from a leadership standpoint for the latest 9 week period. We have a sponsor each 9 weeks that provides each student with a \$100 gift card to Walmart. This last group was sponsored by a family in Rocky Top that requested to remain anonymous



# ACS Early Head Start Breaks Ground

The Anderson County School system is breaking ground on a new Head Start Facility. The facility will serve teen moms from pregnancy to birth as well as facilitate child care while the mother and father attend high school.

This project integrates Early Head Start with adult education in support to pregnant moms and teen parents. The combination of early education, family services, and adult education targets breaking the cycle of generational poverty. The adult education and family services support young pregnant moms and teen parents to complete their education, receive technical training for a career, and receive support navigating the job market. The Early Head Start Services will increase school readiness for the children while also providing parenting education to the young parents. The project targets breaking the cycle of generational poverty at the critical period of young pregnancy.

The project addresses a current service problem related to teen parents. This need is reflected in the program’s CA which shows that low wage and lack of available jobs are critical problems in the Anderson County community. One of the program’s CA goals address this problem: Parents will become better educated so that they can make a living wage to support families. The program currently serves Early Head Start families including pregnant mothers and teen parents. Current EHS caregivers’ schedule must be adjusted to support teen mothers enrolled in Anderson County Schools’ high schools. These teen parents need EHS to extend mornings and/or afternoons so that they can drop off their children and arrive to class on time and attend the entire high school day. Current schedule adjustments create staffing challenges that affect the instructional day, which affects increasing school readiness for children. A high school or equivalent diploma is crucial in order to receive training or college credit. Young mothers and fathers must complete high school. Having an EHS center at the Anderson County Career and Technical center, which serves both of the county’s high schools, will support high school students with children in achieving this goal. The project allows the program to more effectively serve pregnant mothers and teen parents in order to support them with obtaining a high school diploma. The program will relocate to Clinton

EHS classroom to Anderson County’s Career and Technical Center (ACCTC). This facility serves career and technical path students from both Anderson County High Schools.

The ACCTC includes cohorts of high school students studying child development and early childhood education. The early childhood education program is already a partner with Anderson County Schools’ Head Start and Early Head Start. The location and that partnership will benefit both programs. Serving pregnant moms and teen parents in this facility also better supports teen parents staying in school. The relocated classroom will serve 8 EHS families including pregnant mothers and teen parents. The program is working closely with Anderson County Schools’ Central Office Administration, and Principal, Robbie Herrell. Mr. Herrell provides on-site coordination for facilities personnel and contractors conducting assessment and planning in support of the project. Principal Herrell understands that teen parents are highly at risk of entering into the cycle of generational poverty. Completing education is paramount to breaking the cycle. As a career and technical school principal, his school has close partnerships with industry in the county. He knows the training and education adult students need for employment in area companies and business. In meeting with Mr. Herrell, he stated that if we combine the Early Head Start services to parents with adult education provided through Anderson County Career and Technical Center, “The possibilities here are endless.”

Project costs — \$310,000 Funding From Office of Head Start, Anderson County Schools Contribution is \$55,000 — Total Cost \$365,000



# Teacher Supply Depot

The Teacher Supply Depot for Anderson County and Clinton City Schools educators opened on Monday, January 14, for teachers to shop for items for their classrooms. Fifty-four teachers from the two school districts attended. The January opening is always a critical one to help meet the needs of students as they begin the new semester.

The Teacher Supply Depot is a free resource for teachers in Anderson County and Clinton City Schools. Basic education supplies, equipment, office items, arts and crafts materials, paper products, and other items fill the shelves at the facility located on the Anderson County Career & Tech Center campus. The items are either donated or purchased from funding contributed from businesses and other community organizations. There is no charge to educators for any items they take from the Teacher Supply Depot.

The project is a collaboration between Anderson County Schools, Clinton City Schools, and the Education Foundation for Clinton City and Anderson County Schools. The Education Foundation is the fiscal agent for the project, so financial gifts are accepted through the Foundation and designated for school supply purchases. To make a financial contribution to the Teacher Supply Depot, go to the Education Foundation's website at [theeducationfoundation.info/donate/](http://theeducationfoundation.info/donate/).

The Teacher Supply Depot has been the recipient of school supplies generated through supply drives held by businesses, churches, and other community groups. Any individual or organization wishing to donate supplies, materials or equipment, can e-mail the Teacher Supply Depot at [teachersupplydepot@acs.ac](mailto:teachersupplydepot@acs.ac). We will gladly coordinate pick-up or delivery of the donation.

The teachers of Anderson County and Clinton City Schools are appreciative of the support of the community in making this project a reality. The Teacher Supply Depot not only defrays expenses for teachers but also helps meet specific needs of students in classrooms in the area.



# Norwood L.E.A.D's the Way!

**N**orwood Student Council members and 5th Grade L.E.A.D. Students participated in the Oliver Springs Christmas Parade on Dec. 13, 2018. They walked in the parade with Anderson County Sheriff's Officers and Sheriff Russell Barker. The Norwood Student Council consists of 12 students from grades 3-5 that are elected to represent their grade in the governmental process. These students will visit Governor Bill Lee in the Spring and serve as Pages in the House of Representatives for Lt. Governor Randy McNally. The 5th Grade LEAD Students participate in a 10 week drug prevention and positive living course with the School Resource Officers provided by the Anderson County Sheriff's Department. These students were proud to partner with the Sheriff and the Anderson County Sheriff's Department to help spread some

holiday cheer and give back to their community!

This holiday season students at Norwood Elementary School collected over 1,100 non-perishable food items for the Oliver Springs Food Pantry. The students participated in this food drive to honor our Superintendent, Dr. Tim Parrott and his commitment to our school community.

Pictures below are Student Council kids packing food bags for Christmas Break for their fellow students. We send home roughly 60 bags a week and over 200 for the holidays. The Student Council packs those bags as their community service to their school.



## CMS Brings Families Together

**A**fter a record-setting food drive at Thanksgiving for Clinton Middle School's long-time community service club, Hawks Helping Others, the club worked with CMS families to put together 25 non-traditional food baskets this year for students in need. The idea was to put together a couple of fun meals that families could make together and enjoy. Reese Rittenberry, a 7th grade Hawk, created a pizza meal and chose ingredients that were kid and budget-friendly. Her mother, Robin Rittenberry, created an easy-to-prepare chicken casserole recipe and helped select items for the baskets. Hawks Helping Others put the baskets together. Families were invited to come in and pick them up the week before Winter Break.

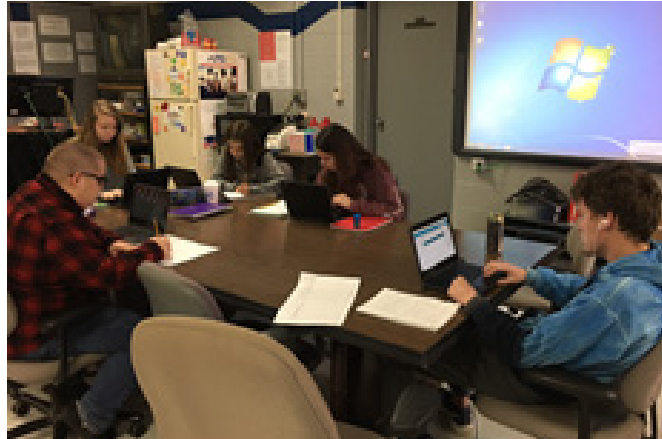


# Big Accomplishments at Innovation Academy

December was a busy, exciting month for Innovation Academy. JTG (Jobs for Tennessee Graduates) students wrapped many presents for the Head Start class. Bridge Academy students earned 54.5 credits. Six students graduated in December, 3 from Bridge and 3 from ACOLA! The new year has started off with a bang! Bridge Academy student Alex B passed the CompTIA IT Fundamentals exam, which is an industry certification. We have 6 new ACOLA high school students, 6 new ACOLA middle school students, and 3 new Bridge students, with more applications to process. We also started the semester with 13 Opportunity Credit students, which is quite a few more than we usually serve.

The picture to the right shows some of our new ACOLA high school students at their

orientation. They spent two days on campus learning the Odysseyware curriculum, how to log times, and other procedures. Now they are ready to successfully learn at home.



## Seniors Attend Miss Business

Twelve Seniors represented Clinton High And Anderson County High at the 3rd Annual Junior Achievement Miss Business Conference held November 13 at the Downtown Knoxville Marriott. Callie Archer, president of Junior Achievement of East Tennessee says, "The day long event is designed to connect our future leaders with successful professional women eager to share what they love with the next generation". Nominees were chosen as part of 100 young ladies in East Tennessee representing promising leaders. The day included several speakers such as Patricia Bible, owner of Ka-Tom Restaurant supply. Each girl also participated in a dining etiquette workshop presented by the 5 O'Clock Cotillion's Mindy Coulter. "The best part of the day was realizing I can be an independent successful woman," said Clinton High's Christina Towner. The trip was chaperoned by CHS Business teacher Karen Campbell and sponsored by GEAR UP.



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BUSINESS  
helping young women design their career & life path!