

Hawkins County Schools

Family Resources

WELCOME BACK!

Hawkins County Schools welcomes back students and teachers for another successful year. Several exciting changes are in store.

We opened the year with a new school, Church Hill Intermediate, for our 5th and 6th grade students in Church Hill. Clinch School opened the doors of its

new campus as well.

Changes are taking place in the classroom, as standards are being changed from kindergarten through high school. We are now in the second year of changes implemented by the Tennessee Department of Education. Now more than ever, parental involvement is crucial

for student success. Parents can help students during this transition to new standards by understanding changes and encouraging your child to do his/her best. Your child's school will offer many opportunities for parents to be involved. We encourage parents to take advantage of these opportunities and show your child you value education..

Raising the Bar in Tennessee

Bredesen Warns Tennesseans to Expect Lower Test Scores

Tennessee is changing what it requires from students and teachers in the classroom. Standards have been changed to include more rigorous course material.

In 2007, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce gave Tennessee an 'F' for lack of high standards and assessments in the classroom.

The following year, officials with the State Department of Education — led by Governor Bredesen, the General Assembly and the State Board of Education — responded by launching the **Tennessee Diploma Project** to work with local school systems to raise academic standards and implement more rigorous coursework.

Nationally, higher standards are viewed as critical in preparing high school students for graduation and then a career or college. Thirty-five years ago, just 28 percent of U.S. jobs required training or education after high school. Today, 80 percent of jobs

require some form of training beyond high school.

By stressing higher academic standards, Tennessee students will be ready for a career or college. This means mastering the basics like reading and math, and developing skills that colleges and employers value—like communication, problem solving and teamwork.

Higher standards also means harder tests, and initially lower test scores and grades. The State Department of Education is warning schools across the state to expect a drop in test scores. Parents are warned about the possible decline in test scores but are encouraged to continue to **EXPECT MORE** so your child can **ACHIEVE MORE**.

The 2009-10 school year was the first year in which the state's higher standards were fully in effect. In new TCAP reports tentatively scheduled to be released to parents in late-September or October,

any student who is rated "basic" or "below basic" may be at academic risk. Students who are rated "advanced" or "proficient" are on track, academically. In addition, parents must keep in mind that two major changes have been implemented for calculation of scores. First, the baseline year for comparing student achievement has been reset using 2009 test scores. Second, a new grade scale will be used. The scale used to determine all grades A through F has been dramatically revised, meaning scores considered to be an "A" proficient in years past may now be a "B" or "C".

Parents are encouraged to keep these changes in mind while reviewing test scores when they are sent home later this fall.

September 2010

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Consider these 3 steps if your child's test scores or grades are slipping:

Don't get discouraged.

Test scores and grades sometimes dip when schools put in place higher standards.

Ask for help.

Call your child's teacher and put together a plan for helping them improve.

Know the facts.

Understand why high standards are important to your child's future.

Working together, Tennessee, and Hawkins County Schools, will go "Straight to the Top".

"Short term, raising standards is about tougher courses and likely harder tests," said Commissioner Tim Webb, who heads the Tennessee Department of Education. "Long term, it's about getting Tennessee students ready for a career or college — and life."

Expect the Best

Setting high expectations for your child is a key to his success in school. Set the tone for a great year by letting your youngster know what you expect from him—and helping him see what he can expect from himself.

Be realistic

Match expectations to your child's abilities and interests. For example, if he's strong in math and science, you can expect him to earn good grades in those subjects. Then, consider overall standards, such as finishing his work on time, listening to his teachers, and doing his best. Finally, think ahead to

long term plans. You may feel it's important that your youngster go to college or volunteer in the community, for instance.



Hold high, but age appropriate expectations for your child.

Be clear

Remember to communicate your expectations to your child. You can weave them into everyday conversations. Examples: "We'll play catch after you do your homework" or "The science fair is coming up. I can't wait to see your project." Talk regularly about long-range expectations, too.

Your youngster will see himself as a future college student when you say things like, "You'll be able to learn more about that when you're in college one day."

Be supportive

Work with your child to help him meet your expectations. For instance, provide materials for his projects and help him set aside time to work on them. Let him know that you expect his best and that you're certain he can do it. You'll build his confidence and encourage him to make it happen.♥

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After School Chats

"What's in your backpack?" Greet your child with this question, and you'll discover a lot about what she does in class.

- Set aside time each day to go through her papers. Try to do it first thing after school when her day is fresh in her mind.
- Look over your youngster's work together. Help her feel proud by pointing out something specific that she did nicely. For instance, if she shows you a picture of your family,

you might say, "I like how you drew your brother playing chess and your little sister with pigtails."

- Have her talk through math problems or science experiments to show you what she's learned. She might explain how she finds the perimeter of a triangle or why ants dig tunnels, for example.♥

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A child who has someone who cares about their education is more likely to succeed in school.

Making Friends

A new school year brings opportunities to reunite with old friends and make new ones. Use these tips to help your youngster build friendships—learning to work and play with others will help her do better in school and enjoy it more.

Reach out. Encourage your child to be on the lookout for classmates who share her interests. If she enjoys making friendship bracelets and notices a class-

mate wearing one, she might strike up a conversation about her hobby. Or help her find an after-school activity (scouts, gymnastics) where she will meet children with similar interests.

Get in touch. Keep a class list handy, and let your youngster call to invite a classmate over. Before a friend visits, your child might brainstorm possible activities. When her guest arrives, she can

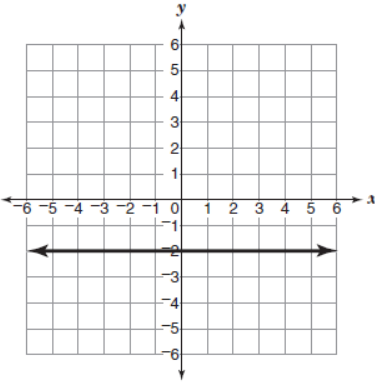
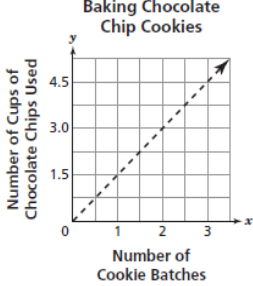


ask, "Would you like to do magic tricks or play a board game?" Having a plan will help playtime go more smoothly.

Note: If your youngster is having trouble making friends, talk to her teacher. She may be able to suggest a classmate who would be a good match.

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Tennessee Math Standards: THEN and NOW

THEN	NOW
High School Algebra 1	7th grade Math
<p><i>Test item taken from 2008 Algebra 1 Gateway Exam</i></p> <p>40 What is the slope of the line on the graph?</p>  <p> F -2 G -1 H 0 J undefined slope (correct answer = H) </p>	<p><i>Test item taken from 2009 NEW TCAP sample items</i></p> <p>18 Ms. Jimenez baked chocolate chip cookies for a bake sale. The graph shows the relationship between the number of cookie batches baked and the number of cups of chocolate chips used.</p>  <p> F the total number of cookie batches Ms. Jimenez baked G the total number of cups of chocolate chips Ms. Jimenez used H the number of cookie batches per cup of chocolate chips used J the number of cups of chocolate chips used per cookie batch (correct answer = J) </p>
<p>Notice – The skill of slope has been moved from High School Algebra 1 to 7th grade math. In the old Algebra 1 Gateway question, students must simply identify the slope. However, in the new 7th grade standards, the skill of slope is much more rigorous. The student must not only be able to calculate slope, but also be able to interpret slope from a graph representing a real world application.</p>	

School Based Health Clinics

Hawkins County Schools and the Rural Health Services Consortium, Inc. (RHSC) have partnered to provide medical services to students, faculty and staff through School Based Health Clinics.

The clinics are located at Volunteer High School and Cherokee High School. In addition, a mobile clinic travels the county to deliver services to schools on a rotating basis.

Access to the clinics makes it more convenient for parents and students and reduces lost time in the classroom and at work.

The following services are provided by a family nurse practitioner and a nurse:

- ✓ medical screening and treatment for minor illness or injury
- ✓ vision and hearing
- ✓ developmental and behavioral screenings
- ✓ sports physicals

Following use of the school based health clinic, medical information pertaining to services rendered will be sent to the student's primary doctor. If any referrals are

Clinic Hours	
High Schools	7:30am to 4:00pm
Mobile clinic	8:00am to 3:00pm

needed, this information will be sent home to you. Your child will be treated or referred to their personal doctor for any additional follow-up.

The clinics will bill private insurance for services. If a child does not have insurance, RHSC will work with the family on a sliding scale. No child will ever be turned away due to inability to pay. For more information, please contact Hawkins County Schools Coordinated School Health at 272.7629 ext. 154.

Hawkins County Schools

200 N. Depot Street
Rogersville, TN. 37857

423-272-7629



**Educate and Graduate
Each Student**

CHILD FIND

Local school systems provide services for special needs children and young adults, ages 3 years to 21 years, who reside within the system's district. If you have or know children who are currently not being served, please contact the Hawkins County Special Education Department at 272-2168.

Parenting Classes

Hawkins County Schools Family Resource Center provides free services to families. Services include:

- ♦ Parenting Classes
- ♦ Lending Library of parenting resources, videos, books, children's material
- ♦ Food Pantry
- ♦ Referrals to Community Agencies

For more information, call 921-9621.

Early Childhood

Learning Program - PreK

Hawkins County Schools currently has four PreK classes. These programs are offered at Mooresburg Elementary, Mt. Carmel Elementary, Joseph Rogers Primary and at the Colonial Road location in Rogersville.

The mission of the Early Childhood Learning Center is to provide four-year-old children of Hawkins County with essential skills for success in kindergarten and beyond.

For more information, please call Kim Cassidy at (423) 272-3628.

Adult Education

The Adult Education Department of Hawkins County Schools offers free services to adults including GED classes and test preparation. Day and evening classes are available. The Adult Ed Office is located behind Rogersville Middle school. For more information, please call 423-272-8345.

GED Classes:

Volunteer High

Monday & Tuesday 5:30—8pm
Rogersville Middle

Monday & Tuesday 3:30—7pm

Bulls Gap Baptist Church

Thursday 5:30pm—8pm

Adult Education, & GED Classes

Adult Ed. Office

Monday—Friday 1pm—3pm

English as a Second Language

Adult Ed. Office

Monday-Friday 12:30—2:30pm

Hawkins County Health Department

201 Park Blvd., Rogersville 272-7641
247 Silver Lake Rd., Church Hill 357-5341

Hours: 8:00am to 4:30pm

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Parent -Teacher Conferences this month!			1	2	3	4
5	6 Labor Day No School	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 End of 1st six weeks grading period	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Report Cards sent home	28 Parent-Teacher Conferences 1:00pm to 6:15pm	29	30		