



Achieve

HARDEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

VOL. 8, NO. 3, SPRING 2010

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Hardeman County Schools is to prepare each child for the future by developing skills, nurturing talents, molding characters, and inspiring dreams.



Hardeman County Board of Education

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SCHOOLS

Bolivar Central High
731-658-3151

Bolivar Elementary
731-658-3981

Bolivar Middle
731-658-3656

Grand Junction Elem.
731-764-2841

Hornsby Elementary
731-658-5707

Middleton Elementary
731-376-0160

Middleton High
731-376-8391

Toone Elementary
731-658-5606

Whiteville Elementary
731-254-8013

A message from the HCS Director of Schools

By Dr. Donald L. Hopper

Welcome back to school! It's already been an interesting and exciting second semester despite missing several days of school for inclement weather.

Calling off school is not easy. It's very hard to predict just what we're going to get in the way of precipitation, when, and where. First and foremost, we must think about road conditions and the safety of transporting children to and from school whether their parents bring them, they drive themselves, or they use school bus transportation.

We monitor weather reports from the National Weather Service, and our personnel check roads in outlying areas. If we think for one minute there may be a safety issue involved, or we know for sure that snow or ice will hit Hardeman County, we call off school.

Beginning last year, we implemented a new calling system called Hardeman County Community Safe communications system whereby we are able, using a recorded message, to call everyone who has given us a landline phone number or cell phone number or both, so we can reach everyone who has children in the school system to inform them that schools will be closed. We also notify area radio and television stations, so we feel we have all the bases covered when it comes to getting the word out.

This system can also be used for other important messages that we feel need to be delivered expeditiously. It is important that you are kept informed.

We began school in January with our annual Hardeman County Spelling Bee. This year's winner was Jonathan Harville, a fifth grade student at Bolivar Elementary School. Congratulations, Jonathan! He will represent Hardeman County in the Mid South Spelling Bee in Memphis in March.

Second place went to Jessica Gibson, 7th grade, Toone Elementary School. Seth Graves, a 7th grader at Bolivar Middle School came in

third, and Amber Roberts was fourth place winner. She also attends BMS. All 24 students who participated are to be congratulated. It's not easy to get up in front of an audience of people and spell a word properly.

We also want to congratulate four of our high school students who will be the first from Hardeman County to attend the Tennessee School Boards Association Students Congress on Policies in Education (SCOPE). Representing Bolivar Central High School are juniors, Jaleesa Cross and Raven Chism, and representing Middleton High School are sophomores, Jenna Hall and Stacy Moore.

The Hardeman County Board of Education voted to approve sending two students from each high school to SCOPE. Thanks, BOE members, for your support of our students in their efforts to go beyond the borders of Hardeman County to learn more about the educational process and how our laws effect what we do. SCOPE will give these students an opportunity to look at education issues through mock school board meetings, group discussions, and debates with their peers.

SCOPE will be held March 12 at Tennessee State University in Nashville.

I want to personally thank all the members of the Hardeman County School System for their generosity in giving to the victims of the Haiti earthquake. Diane Hicks, coordinator of Coordinated School Health Programs, and Candice Woods, who works with Diane, wanted to do something for the Haitians. Diane went on the Internet and found out that they needed First Aid supplies. Our employees gave much more than Diane and Candice anticipated, and they say "Thanks!" They have taken their collection to the American Red Cross for distribution.



Dr. Donald L. Hopper

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'Preparing for the Future, One Child at a Time'

●A message from the HCS Director of Schools

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Thanks, Diane and Candice!

Our H.E.A.R.T. program continues to receive accolades statewide and nationally, and we are so proud of our reading program, which now includes math. H.E.A.R.T. is an acronym for Hardeman Empowering Achievement Response Team. It is our RtI, or Response to Intervention, which is a No Child Left Behind mandate. H.E.A.R.T. has been submitted by the Tennessee Department of Education's Special Education Division for an Exemplary Program Award, which was presented at the statewide Special Education Conference on Feb. 26th. We are so proud of the success of our H.E.A.R.T. program and all the hard work our teachers have put into the program.

We don't want to forget our men and women in uniform who recently left to serve in Iraq, some for the second time. On Feb. 5th, I was honored to represent the Hardeman County Board of Education at the sendoff at the 1/278th Armored Cavalry Regiment Deployment Ceremony at Camp Shelby, Miss. The 1/278th is the Tennessee National Guard unit headquartered in Knoxville; the local squadron is based in Chester County.

There are several of our staff who are either directly or indirectly affected by this deployment, and we want to salute them for their heroism and their continuing desire to serve our country and to protect our freedoms. Please remember the following as well as the rest of the some 3,000 men and women from Tennessee now serving in Iraq:

- Warner Ross II, principal, Bolivar Middle School and son of Janie Ross, a teacher at Bolivar Central High School
- Brian Mays, teacher at Bolivar Middle School
- Will Ross, husband of Rachel Ross, teacher at Bolivar Elementary School, and son of Janie Ross
- James (Jimbo) Anthony, husband of Patricia Anthony, teacher at Bolivar Elementary School
- Frank Freels, brother-in-law of Vicki Harris, teacher at Bolivar Central High School
- Adam Harris, son-in-law of Dr. Bruce Lewis, guidance counselor at Bolivar Central High School, and Martha Lewis, teacher at Bolivar Elementary School
- Scott Hammons and Doug Goodman, sons-in-law of Doris West, teacher at Hornsby Elementary School
- Kyle Hammons, grandson (by marriage) of Doris West
- Chris Richardson (1/230th), husband of Stephanie Richardson, administrative assistant at Toone Elementary School
- Amanda Frazier and Wesley (Wes) Frazier, niece and nephew (by marriage) of Nancy Foote, teacher at Bolivar Middle School

Work on the 2010-2011 school budget is underway. It's very difficult to work on a budget when you don't know for sure what you will be getting in the way of revenues. As you know, public education is free to anyone who wants it, and that means that we do not have the resources to generate our

own revenues. Of course, our schools can hold fund raisers, but even those are kept to a minimum.

It will be awhile before we know what we will receive from the state in the way of BEP money, which is based on the number of students we have and students who are actually in school in certain months. It's called ADM, or Average Daily Membership.

We are still waiting and watching to see if the State of Tennessee gets a Race to the Top grant that is being given by the federal government. The president has announced an initial \$4 billion for 10 states and has recently requested an additional \$1.35 billion. Tennessee is in the running to be selected, and the state should receive \$401 million academic grant dollars that is supposed to be given to school districts based on Title I statistics.

The announcement will come in April, and the winning states will be awarded monies to improve education in four areas: building and expanding the system of student assessment (already in place in Tennessee); preparing students for college and the workforce; recruiting, keeping, and rewarding productive teachers and principals; and providing effective intervention and intensive support for the lowest performing schools.

This will build on goals of the Tennessee Diploma Project as well as emphasize the state's readiness to implement necessary educational reform

Both the Race to the Top proposal and the Tennessee Diploma Project include a focus on strategic assessments which include early and regular evaluations of student learning. These assessments will be the key to providing teachers and principals with a dashboard view of each student. The TDP is committed to preparing students for some type of postsecondary education and training, mandating a greater focus on the skills needed for college and for the workforce.

Tennessee is in a good position to win the competition and move forward with the goals of the Tennessee Diploma Project.

In January, the Tennessee General Assembly held a special session to pass legislation that will make us even more competitive in our bid for a Race to the Top grant. The bill changes how teachers are evaluated and how the state will deal with failing schools. The new legislation requires all annual evaluation of teachers based on 50% student achievement data, 35% Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System, or growth data, and 15% from other student testing measures.

The bill also authorizes the education commissioner to take bold action to improve chronically failing schools by putting them in an "Achievement School District" aimed at turning the school around and returning it to its original district.

We will have Spring Break beginning April 2, Good Friday, and continuing April 5-9. Students return to classes on April 12. We have TCAP testing April 19-23. It is imperative that our children be ready for this very important test. Parents, please make sure that your children get plenty of rest and eat right so they can do their very best on the tests. The TCAPs are part of our AYP, or Adequate Yearly Progress of No Child Left Behind and the state Report Card. Please help us get your children ready to do their very best. Thanks!

Hardeman County 2010-2011 school calendar set

First Semester — 88 Days

August 2, 2010 (Monday)	Professional Development Day*
August 3, 2010 (Tuesday)	Administrative Day*
August 4, 2010 (Wednesday)	Administrative Day*
August 5, 2010 (Thursday)	Professional Development Day*
August 6, 2010 (Friday)	First Day of School (1/2 day for students)
August 27, 2010 (Friday)	Professional Development Day*
September 6, 2010 (Monday)	Labor Day
September 7, 2010 (Tuesday)	Parent-Teacher Conference (8-11 a.m. & 3-6 p.m.)*
	Professional Development (Noon-3 pm.)*
October 11-15, 2010	Fall Break
November 24-26, 2010	Thanksgiving Break
December 17, 2010	Dismiss for Winter Break (1/2 day)
	End First Semester
December 20-31, 2010	Winter Break

Second Semester — 92 Days

January 3, 2011 (Monday)	Professional Development Day*
January 4, 2011 (Tuesday)	Students return from Winter Break
January 17, 2011 (Monday)	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 4, 2011 (Friday)	Parent-Teacher Conference (8-11 a.m. & 3-6 p.m.)*
	Professional Development Day (Noon-3 p.m.)*
February 18, 2011 (Friday)	Professional Development Day *
February 21, 2011 (Monday)	Presidents' Day
March 18, 2011 (Friday)	Professional Development Day*
April 4-8, 2011	Kindergarten Registration
April 11-15, 2011	TCAP Testing
April 18-22, 2011	Spring Break
April 25, 2011 (Monday)	Pre-Kindergarten Registration Begins
May 23, 2011 (Monday)	Last Day for Students (1/2 day)
May 24, 2011 (Tuesday)	Administrative Day*
May 25, 2011 (Wednesday)	Administrative Day*

*Denotes No School for Students

Approved by the Hardeman County Board of Education — January 14, 2010

Pre-K registration for 2010-2011 school year begins April 19

Hardeman County Schools Pre-K registration for the 2010-2011 school year begins April 19, 2010 from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at all elementary schools. Students must be four years old by September 30th of this year. Parents or guardians must bring a certified birth certificate, child's Social Security card, immunization record and signed physical examination record, two proofs of residency (driver's license, utility bill, etc.), and income verification (paycheck stub, W-2 form, etc.). Children must register at the school in their residency zone. For more information, call Monica Shaw, Pre-K coordinator, at 658-2510, ext. 132.



Hornsby Elementary School would like to congratulate the following students for the participation in the countywide spelling bee: Matthew Edmonds, 8th grade; Kaleb McKinnie, 7th grade; and Adam Craft, 6th grade. Alaina Davis, 8th grade; Aaron Yates, 8th grade; and Kaleb McKinnie, 7th grade, designed ads for businesses in the county that were published in the Bulletin Times. The following students were chosen to participate in the county 4-H speech contest: 4th grade-Emily Mitchell, Paige Hampton, Keaton Sisk, and Kennedy Sisk; 5th grade-Hannah Pattat and Katelyn Emerson; 6th grade-Brianna Moore and Brint Lindsey; 7th grade-Jose Vasquez; Alaina Davis, and Shelby Hamburg. Alaina Davis place 1st; Jose Vasquez, 2nd; and Shelby Hamburg, 3rd, in the 4-H contest. The Hornsby Bulldogs will have a new baseball team that begins play in the spring. Stacey Majors, Taylor Sisk, Hannah Owens, and Kaleb McKinnie participated in TIPS on Feb. 6th.

Bolivar Middle School had 27 7th graders take part in Duke University's Talent Identification Program (TIP) this year. These students qualify based on standardized test scores achieved while attending elementary or middle school. Candidates took the ACT with high school students which allows them greater insight into their academic abilities. They also gain valuable educational benefits and resources that help them through their high school years while participating in TIP. Three BMS students placed in competition at this year's Technology Student Association (TSA) Regional Conference at Union University. Clay Jennings placed 2nd and Dustin Frost 3rd in Dragster Competition, and Jeremy Uselton placed 2nd in Graphic Design. TSA advisor is Cathy Carmichael.

Bolivar Elementary School students in grades 2-5 learned about George Washington from Rick Revel of Heritage Keepers of America. He gave a reflective view of our country from Valley Forge to Independence Hall. He spoke of the origin of the flag and gave his "Pledge of Allegiance" which incorporated the Preamble and Bill of Rights. BES students enjoyed a team of Chinese acrobats and an interpreter who enriched the program with facts about Chinese culture, customs, and school life. Reading Night was a big success. Parents and students rotated through a variety of activities ranging from an "idiom" puppet show to making pop-up books. Congratulations to Jonathan Harville who won the Hardeman County Spelling Bee and will represent our county in the Mid South Spelling Bee. Math Night brought parents and students together to solve many "real-to-life" problems. They shopped, measured, and demonstrated skills with 21 teacher-created activities. Science Fair winners were: 4th grade-Joshua Woods, 1st; Weston Wilhite, 2nd; and Shelby Parker, 3rd; 5th grade-Tanner Powell, 1st; Jonathan Harville, 2nd; and Briana Wing, 3rd.

Bolivar Central High School honor students were recently rewarded for their first semester academic achievement with two honor roll field trips. In February, about 50 juniors and

seniors and their chaperones went to The University of Memphis for a campus tour and lunch in one of the residence hall dining rooms. Students were shown several new facilities on campus such as the brand-new bookstore, university student union, expansive McWherter Library, and the impressive FedEx Institute of Technology. Following the U of M visit, students went to the Orpheum for a performance of the hit Broadway musical, *Jersey Boys*. In March, 100 students in grades 9-12 again went to Memphis to see a production of *The Miracle Worker* at Playhouse on the Square. Students and administrators thank GEAR-UP Grant Coordinator Tony Chapman for his help with both trips. Students can look forward to one more honor roll trip in May, when 100 students will again visit Playhouse of the Square for the musical production of *Oliver*.

Toone Elementary School is proud of Jessica Gibson, 7th grader, who placed 2nd in the Hardeman County Spelling Bee. Congratulations, also, to Hardeman County Middle School Basketball All-Tournament team members Shelby Jimmerson, 7th grade, and Monterio Williams, 8th grade. In addition to her athletic accomplishments, TES would also like to recognize Shelby and fellow 7th grader Cameron Elder for being selected to take the ACT through Duke University's Talent Identification Program. Eighth graders enjoyed a trip to the Tennessee Technology Center in Whiteville where they learned about study programs offered, as well as the importance of selecting appropriate high school courses.

Whiteville Elementary School honored its cafeteria and custodial staff with *Cafeteria Worker and Custodian Appreciation Day*. These essential staff members were presented with gift bags. Students in grades 2-8 took the Discovery Assessments tests online in the computer lab. Data will be used to guide instruction preparation for the TCAP. The 4-6 grades took a field trip to The Ned in Jackson to see the play, *Abracadabra, Aladdin*. The Black History program featured Mr. Evelyn Robertson Jr. who spoke about the experiences of Allen-White High School in Whiteville. He recently published the book, *Education and the American Dream: The Allen-White High School Story, 1905-1970*. He presented a copy of his book to Mrs. Mamie Polk, principal, and Mrs. Rachel Weir, librarian, for the school library. The 21st Century Learning Center Choir, under the leadership of Ms. Lurean Price, also performed at the program. Eighth graders will visit the Tennessee Technology Center at Whiteville. The Parent/Teacher Involvement Team met. The 2nd grade presented a program about black history and Presidents' Day. Mr. Robertson also spoke to parents at the meeting. Career Day was the last school day in February and involved grades 5-8. Guest presenters talked with students about career opportunities.

Grand Junction Elementary School celebrated Black History Month on Feb. 25th. Guest speaker was Pastor Jerry Crisp of Union Hill Missionary Baptist Church. We will be having our Spring Fling On March 12th. We are looking forward to having a great time!