



Achieve

HARDEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

VOL. 8, NO. 2, WINTER 2009

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

P.O. Box 112
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Bolivar, TN 38008
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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

*Please join
the Hardeman County Board of Education
for its annual Holiday Open House.*



*Time: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Dec. 15, 2009.
Place: Central Office, 10815 Old Hwy. 64,
Bolivar, TN.*

*Program: Meet our staff,
enjoy refreshments,
and special entertainment
presented by our children.*

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

A message from the HCS Director of Schools

By Dr. Donald L. Hopper

This message to you marks the end of the first semester of the 2009-2010 school year. The first semester has gone well, and I am very pleased with the response from our communities to our school needs. I think that parents, individuals, and businesses are looking at Hardeman County Schools as a tool to the success and growth of Hardeman County as a whole.

Last month, the state released the 2009 Report Card. You can view the Report Card online by clicking on the Report Card link on the Hardeman County Schools' district website home page.

We were already prepared for the new benchmarks. The method of calculating scores and the scale used to determine letter grades have been revised to allow for a transition to the new standards and assessments required by the Tennessee Diploma Project.

You have heard me talk about the Tennessee Diploma Project before. Tennessee is one of 35 states to join the American Diploma Project. The ADP was created in 1996 by the National Governors Association and business leaders in an effort to help states raise academic standards and to prepare all young people for postsecondary education and the workforce.

Tennessee joined the ADP network in 2007. The state's goal is to increase graduation requirements beginning with the class of 2013 in an effort to better prepare them for higher education and for the more demanding technical skills required of today's workforce.

The Tennessee Department of Education is in the process of aligning curriculum so our students, parents, and teachers are prepared for the higher standards.

During this school year, the TDOE is implementing new curriculum, assessment standards, and education requirements. To demonstrate student progress towards these higher expectations, it was necessary to revise the formula used for grades on the Report Card.

The baseline year for comparing student achievement was reset from 1998 to 2009. The scale used to determine all grades A through F was dramatically revised, meaning scores considered to be an "A" in the past may now be a "B" or "C." These changes don't reflect a loss of learning but a change in the scale. Also there is no way to compare previous years for Value Added data and Achievement data. Schools and parents must compare their scores to the state average to understand how well our students are doing.

What effect does all of this have on Hardeman County Schools' Report Card? As expected, the new formulas have resulted in lower grades for some schools and for the district; however, our students still have made progress. At the same time, we are very aware of the higher bar that has been set and the fact that we have to meet the higher standards and do better. We also have new and higher standards under the federal law, No Child Left Behind, every two years until the year 2014 when all public schools across the nation must be

100% proficient in math, language arts, science, and social studies, and we must meet certain graduation and dropout rates.

We have several programs in place to help us meet those goals. You have heard me talk about our reading program, HEART. This year, we have introduced math. We have our high schools on 4x4 block scheduling to help our students meet the new and increased graduation requirements. We have grants to help us work with our children in reading and math, two key academic areas for our students and their futures. And we have GEAR UP TN, a 100% grant that enables us to work with our middle and high school students to prepare them for postsecondary education or a world of technology.

Incidentally, our writing assessment scores for 5th, 8th and 11th graders were excellent — mostly A's. I am very proud of our students, and their parents and teachers, who are working hard and doing so well.

We are living in a decade of changes in our world, and we must learn to adapt to these changes. No matter what field we are in, we face challenges to do better. Education is no different. Technology and the ability to communicate better and faster, have made our world smaller. We must compete globally with students from other nations. I have no doubt that we are up to the challenge.

I want to thank all the parents who work with their children and their child's teacher or teachers to cultivate good learning habits. We have some of the best kids, parents, teachers, administrators, and all the others who work tirelessly to make our school system just a little bit better.

The 2009 Report Card is a bit of a wake-up call. It is sending us a message that we must meet the new challenges placed before us. We are prepared to do so, and we ask for your help. Your children are not only precious to you, but they are precious to us as well. We want to see them succeed — and they will with all of us working together.

Just a reminder: Our 2010 Hardeman County Spelling Bee is Jan. 25, 2010. Schools with grades 4-8 will hold their spelling bees before the Winter Break. Please work hard and try to place in your school spelling bee so you can compete in the county wide spelling bee. The winner of the Hardeman County Spelling Bee will represent the county in the Mid-South Spelling Bee in Memphis in March 2010.

We are quickly approaching the Holiday Season. It is a very special time of the year for all of us. It is a time to spend with family and special friends.

We at the Hardeman County Board of Education wish you and your family a wonderful Holiday Season. Have a wonderful time, and please be safe. We'll see you on Jan. 5th!



Dr. Donald L. Hopper

The history of education in America and Hardeman County

Did you ever stop to think about education in early America? In the very early days, children didn't have schools. Learning took place at home. When children in Colonial America began going to school houses, the environment was very primitive. They might have had a hornbook, a primer that included reading, writing, simple math, poems, and prayers. The three most commonly used books were the Bible, the primer, and the hornbook. Because paper and books were scarce, students recited their lessons until they knew them by heart. There were no notebooks in which to take notes as the teacher lectured. There were no computers to find anything you wanted to know on any subject.

Despite the scarcity of textbooks, the literacy rate in the Colonies during the 17th and 18th centuries was relatively high especially in New England. Boys studied more advanced academic subjects; girls learned enough reading, writing, and arithmetic to read their Bibles and to be able to record household expenses.

In the rural South, educational opportunities were not as great. The children from wealthy families had greater educational opportunities than those from poor families who usually took on an apprenticeship, learning instead a trade that would provide them with the means to earn a living.

Many of the middle Colonies' schools were sponsored by religious denominations. In the later Colonial years, school districts were established so that education could be expanded to more people. Schools taught reading, writing, and arithmetic. There was very little participation from females in schools, and there was no minority participation. Schools were crude, one-room buildings, and students brought wood to heat the classroom during the winter months. Discipline was very rigid.

By the 1700s English grammar schools came about because of the demand for secondary education as a result of the growth of middle-class businesses. Commercial subjects were taught more than religion. Music, art, and dancing trained students for socializing. English grammar schools were the first secondary institutions to accept female students. Girls in the Middle Colonies had better educational opportunities than elsewhere due to the larger number of schools. Quakers and Christian leaders were concerned about the education of women in certain areas as well as African Americans and Native Americans.

By the latter part of the 18th century, English Grammar Schools began admitting women. Following the abolition of slavery in New York City, African Free Schools became the primary means of education for African Americans for nearly 50 years. For Native Americans, it was up to missionaries within the tribes to provide education. Education included Christian religion and morals as well as reading, writing, and arithmetic.

By the 19th century, education went from being completely private to being available to establishing common-school systems. By 1840 organized systems had been established by education reformers like Horace Mann and Henry Barnard in Massachusetts and Connecticut. These systems soon became statewide common-school systems. Their purpose was to pro-

vide opportunities for all children and to create common bonds among a very diverse population. Mann and Barnard also felt that education could promote social stability and prevent crime and poverty.

By 1918 laws existed in all states establishing public schools that would be held accountable to local school boards and state governments.

The first schools in Hardeman County were established in 1823. Edwin Crawford and Henry Thompson are credited with being the first school teachers. In the early days, academies were recognized chartered schools. Prior to 1873, there were six academies in Hardeman County, chartered by the state legislature and set up as a corporation with a board of trustees. Funding to operate the academies came from the sale of public lands, lotteries and tuition fees.

A public school system in Hardeman County was established in 1874. During this time, and up until 1891, there was a gradual change from academies to consolidated schools established by an act of the state legislature in 1873.

In 1914, the county court established county high schools. Eight high schools were established in 1914-15 — Bolivar Central High School offered four years; Whiteville, three years; and all the others two years. By 1930, the county had high schools for white children and two high schools, Allen-White and Bolivar Industrial, for African Americans. In 1935, there were 82 schools in Hardeman County, mainly one- and two-teacher schools. By 1939, there were 51 one-teacher schools, six two-teacher and 14 schools with three or four teachers for a total of 71 schools.

Allen-White High School was established in 1933 and closed its doors in 1970 when integration went into effect. One of the most widely-known black schools in the nation, Allen-White's first actual campus was made possible by money borrowed from Whiteville Savings Bank with a match from the Julius Rosenwald Foundation. James Herbert White became principal in 1928. Allen-White developed as a county and community school receiving support from the Hardeman County Board of Education as well as black and white citizens of the community who gave private donations.

Bolivar Industrial High School was established about 1915 on a site east of the present Bolivar Middle School. It also was funded through the Julius Rosenwald Foundation and was known as Bolivar Industrial School, grades 1-9. S.T. Combs was the first principal. In 1928 Lorenzo Miller became principal. In 1936 BIS became a two-year high school, and in 1961 the school graduated its first class. In 1970, BIS graduated its last class when integration went into effect. Today, BMS houses grades 6-8.

In 1962, there were 18 schools left in Hardeman County as the population shifted from rural to urban and school consolidation resulted in population changes. With consolidation came improvements in education in Hardeman County.

In 1969, under a federal court order, schools were integrated, and all high schools were eliminated except Middleton High



Bolivar Central High School's clinical students, taught by Gina Jordan, recently assisted Ms. Diane Hicks, coordinator of Coordinated School Health Programs, with required screenings such as vital signs, height, weight, musculoskeletal assessment, vision screenings, and much more. Students were divided

into groups of 3 and were scheduled to work 5-6 of the 20 scheduled vision/health screenings. They traveled to all of the county schools to complete screenings. Mrs. Jordan said she has seen a lot of progress in them since the work experience began. They are confident and much more professional, and the experience has been very beneficial to the students.

Toone Elementary School says thanks to all who helped make its Harvest Festival a tremendous success. TES students also celebrated Fall by visiting Falcon Ridge Farm. Children enjoyed the corn maze, petting zoo, playground, and pumpkin patch. Thanks to the Gilmers for making this possible. The TES Jr. Beta Club recognized members and their parents in a special ceremony Nov. 17th. The club also attended the Jr. Beta Convention in Nashville. Members will also be delivering fruit baskets to citizens in the community. TES' Who's Who has been announced. Congratulations to Laura Ann Higgs, Miss TES, and Monterio Williams, Mr. TES. The following 8th graders also received recognition: Lindsey Russell and Devin McKinnie, Most Studious; Sara Grantham and Justin Navarro, Most Athletic; Laura Ann Higgs and Devin McKinnie, Most School Spirit; Shelby Thurmond, Monterio Williams, and Zach Sanders, Most Courteous; and Kayla Thornsberry, Rodricus Morrow, and Johnathan Watkins, Best Personality.

Bolivar Elementary School teacher Deana Sain recently received the Association of Childhood Education International Classroom Teacher of Excellence Award. She was nominated by Dr. Carrie Whaley, professor at Union University. Grandparents' Day at BES was a huge success. Grandchildren shared lunch with their grandparents. Students sang songs, read stories and made games with their grandparents. Leslie Brown's science classes hatched frog eggs and watched as they matured into adult frogs. Since they were studying animal habitats, they searched and found the appropriate habitat at the pond at Bolivar Middle School. Red Ribbon Week was celebrated with a variety of activities. The theme was "Being Drug Free Comes in Cans — I Can, You Can." Students collected food for Loaves and Fishes. There was "A Brick Wall Against Drugs" in each building. Students and faculty purchased paper bricks for 25 cents, signed them and pledged to remain drug free. Money collected went to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Bolivar police visited with the drug dog. The week ended with inspirational speeches from Rev. Jerry Crisp and the BCHS basketball team. Deana Sain's and Carol Taylor's reading classes paired with Union University students and read *Crispin*. All correspondence was via e-mail until the end of the project when

BES students visited the Union campus and met their partners who treated them to lunch. More than 500 students and parents attended the annual Science Night and engaged in many science enrichment activities. The *Energized Guyz*, a troop of professional actors based in Minnesota, presented a program on energy efficiency and green energy decisions for a better world.

Hornsby Elementary School held its annual Meet the Teacher night on Aug. 11th followed by a PTO meeting to elect new officers and set the date for the annual Harvest Festival which was held on Nov. 7th. The school would like to thank the parents, faculty, and staff for a very successful Harvest Festival. Bulldog and Lady Bulldog basketball began Oct. 29th against Pickwick Southside. Hornsby Junior Beta Club spent time getting ready for its annual trip to the State Junior Beta Convention in Nashville on Nov. 23rd and 24th. Kaleb McKinnie, a 7th grader, was running for state secretary. On Dec. 4th HES held its spelling bee. Pictures with Santa will be Dec. 14th, and the Christmas luncheon will be Dec. 16th.

2009-2010 College Prices

There's no escaping the rising costs of a college education; however, a college education is still the most affordable choice for most families.

The average cost of a private four-year college is \$26,273, up 4.4% from last year. A four-year public institution is \$7,020, up 6.5% from the previous year.

A public two-year college will run about \$2,544, up 7.3% from last year, and students will pay, on average, from \$377-\$420 more that last year for this year's room and board, depending on the type of college. And the average surcharge for full-time, out-of-state students at public four-year institutions is \$11,528.

There is good news, according to College Board. There is more than \$168 billion in financial aid available. Fifty-three percent of students attend four-year institutions with an annual tuition of just under \$9,000. After grants, the net cost for the average undergraduate is much lower than published tuition and fees.

The history of education

Continued from Page 3

School and Bolivar Central High School. The county was divided into school zones, and peaceful integration was accomplished.

Today, Hardeman County students are served by six elementary schools and two high schools with an enrollment of about 4,300 students, and 350 teachers and administrators. Local educators take great strides to develop and implement the best curriculum available to encourage further education beyond high school.

For the latest information on Hardeman County Schools, go to www.hardemancountyschools.org

Achieve is published quarterly during the school year by the Hardeman County Schools' Communications Department. Inquiries may be directed to Anne Ingle, Coordinator of Communications & Public Relations, P.O. Box 112, Bolivar, TN 38008, telephone: 731-658-2510, ext. 146; e-mail: inglea@k12tn.net