

Great Things are Happening at Apison Elementary School

HCDE and PEF : Partners for Strong Schools

The Public Education Foundation (PEF) is a local non-profit organization that partners with the Hamilton County Department of Education (HCDE) to improve student achievement by improving public schools. PEF contributes:

- research into best practices
- training for teachers and school leaders
- opportunities for educators to share great ideas
- fundraising to support this work

The HCDE/PEF Leadership Initiative touches every public school in Hamilton County through training for principals and other school leaders. Other comprehensive initiatives have contributed to deep reform work in every high school, every middle school and 16 elementary schools throughout the district. PEF has contributed over \$50 million to Hamilton County schools in the last eight years.

Together, HCDE and PEF are changing education in Hamilton County, and changing students' lives. Learn more at www.HCDE.org or www.pefchattanooga.org.

[About PEF](#)

[Receive updates and podcasts on school reform](#)

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The Leadership Initiative

Through HCDE and PEF's partnership, the Leadership Initiative provides resources to help principals and teachers become strong leaders of deep change in their schools. **Leadership institutes** and literacy and math institutes create opportunities for teachers and principals from across the district to work together learning proven strategies for school improvement. **Leadership Fellows** provides training for aspiring school leaders. With funding by the Annenberg Foundation, the Leadership Initiative is building strong leaders to transform education in Hamilton County.

Smooth Transitions

Students should leave Apison well prepared for the rigors of middle and high school, where they will find major transformations occurring. Since 2001 Ooltewah Middle School and Ooltewah High School have been working hard to increase rigor, engage students, and implement highly effective teaching strategies, thanks in part to HCDE and PEF partnerships. For more on these schools, go to www.pefchattanooga.org/OoltewahMid or www.pefchattanooga.org/OoltewahHigh



Public Education Foundation
Partners for strong schools.

pefchattanooga.org



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Working Hard Together: HCDE, PEF and Apison

Hamilton County Department of Education and the Public Education Foundation are strong partners in providing training for teachers, helping principals become more effective school leaders, and improving literacy in elementary schools. Apison has made great use of this partnership:

- Apison principal **Ronald Hughes** collaborates with other Hamilton County principals in regular meetings and semi-annual leadership institutes.
- Teacher leader **Jeana Turner** has gained leadership skills through the Leadership Fellows program.
- Apison teachers have access to a variety of professional development opportunities, including annual institutes for math and literacy
- Apison's successful reading instruction program is reinforced by new teaching methods that were proven highly effective in Hamilton County's elementary reform initiative.

“Collaboration and communication are evident throughout Hamilton County schools.”

—Reducing the Achievement Gap Through District/Union Collaboration: The Tale of Two School Districts, National Commission on Teaching and America's Future

Student Achievement is Climbing

2008 TCAP Scores (NCLB)

Math:

97% proficient or advanced, up from 83% in 2003.
66% advanced, an increase from 33% in 2003.

Reading:

94% proficient or advanced, an improvement from 86% in 2003.

56% advanced, up from 38% in 2003.

Value-Added (TVAAS) Scores*

Math: A since 2007

Reading: A since 2007

Social Studies: A in 2008

Science: A since 2006

State Writing Assessment Scores: A since 2004

*"Value-added" scores measure student progress within a grade and subject. A value-added score of A indicates exceptional growth, meaning that students in this school made significantly more progress in this subject than students in the average school in the state. Reported scores are 3-year averages.

Leaders and teachers at Apison are innovative, committed educators. They work hard to provide an excellent education for their students and eagerly seek better ways to achieve that goal. As a partner to the Hamilton County Department of Education, the Public Education Foundation is proud to support this dedicated group of educators.

Visit Apison online at www.hcschools.org/apison



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