



Wilson County Schools

Monthly Newsletter/August 2007

What's Happening in Wilson County Schools

Welcome Back to Wilson County!

Welcome back to what promises to be an exciting and rewarding year in the Wilson County School System. This year will be filled with challenges and new beginnings as we continue to grow and expand the learning opportunities for our students. I especially want to welcome all of the new students and staff members to Wilson County and ask them to join with me as we explore our new surroundings and make new friends. While this may be a year of transition for those of us who are new to the community, it will also be a time for building new relationships and lasting friendships.

Our school year kicked off with teachers attending some excellent professional development activities and preparing their classrooms for the arrival of students on the first day of August. Student registration encountered some delays due to changes in the student management software (SMS) and we certainly do appreciate everyone's patience during this process. However, we are exploring a more simplified and user friendly program that expedites the collecting of student information in the future.

The contractors have been busy during the summer finishing up several new building additions throughout the school district. Students at Watertown Elementary School enrolled in grades PK-3 will attend school in a brand new building located behind the existing elementary school. The Rutland Elementary Rockets will occupy their new classrooms in about three weeks, which should relieve the over-crowding and prevent the need to install re-locatable classroom units. Stoner Creek Elementary School has just undergone a renovation that now provides nine additional classrooms. The gym will be completed in the next few weeks and is a welcome addition to the Stoner Creek Campus. The Wilson Central Wildcats will have to wait until after fall break to move into their new spacious quarters consisting of an additional cafeteria and over 71,000 square feet of instructional space. The school auditorium received a much needed facelift during the construction and the additional athletic facilities have already been completed and are ready for action. Construction on the new Mt. Juliet High School is proceeding on schedule and will be ready for the Golden Bears next year. WOW! What a campus?

During the upcoming year we will begin the process of exploring the installation of a distance learning program throughout the Wilson County School System. We are already using e4TN and are currently serving 70 students with 15 different courses through this program. For more information please visit the e4TN site at www.e4tn.org. We will also be exploring new ways of expanding our curriculum and provide additional learning opportunities for our students.

Mike Davis
Director of Schools

Your Three Most Important Decisions

We should all hold the goal of becoming superb teachers and finding the experience tremendously rewarding and satisfying. We need to know that there are three personal decisions we can make that will go a long way toward making being an educator all it can be for us.

- 1: We must believe that we are vitally important to students—and that they need us. We must believe that our efforts are contributing constructively to the lives of students.

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James M. (Mike) Davis
Director of Schools

Meet Mr. Davis

Mike Davis is a life-long educator and a life-long learner. He has been a classroom teacher, K-12 principal, and superintendent/director of schools for the past thirty-five years. Mr. Davis began his career in education in 1972 in the Knox County, Kentucky, School System where he taught math and science in grades 5-8 for four years. In 1976 he was named Principal of the Barbourville City School consisting of grades K-12. Mr. Davis moved to the Superintendent's position of the Barbourville Independent School System in 1987 where he served for eight years. In 1995, he was selected to lead the Knox County School District, from which he retired in 1999 and moved to Tennessee to become the first appointed Director of Schools for Scott County, TN. On May 17, 2007, Mr. Davis was selected by the Wilson County Board of Education to serve as the Director of Schools for the Wilson County School System and began his 20th year as a superintendent/director of schools with a total of 35 years in elementary and secondary education.

Mr. Davis received his Bachelor's Degree from Cumberland College, located in Williamsburg, Kentucky, and his Master's Degree from Union College located in Barbourville, Kentucky. He earned his Rank One (Master's degree plus 45 hours) from Eastern Kentucky University, located in Richmond, Kentucky. Mr. Davis is also a graduate of several military schools, including Military Police School, Officer Candidate School, Infantry Officer Basic and Advance Courses, and the Command and General Staff College.

In 1998, Mr. Davis was presented the Superintendent's Leadership Award (Superintendent of the Year) by the Kentucky Educational Development Coop, which represents fifty-one school districts and Morehead State University. He was also presented with the award of merit from the Kentucky School Media Association that same year. In 2007, Mr. Davis received a National Laureate Award from Computer World for his leadership in implementing distance learning throughout the Scott County School System.

Mr. Davis served in the Kentucky National Guard for 32 1/2 years and retired at the rank of Colonel in 2004. Several of the units that he commanded have or are presently serving in Iraq.

Mr. Davis has served on a number of boards during his career, including the Kentucky Purchasing Alliance Board, the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Scott County, The Board of Directors for the Children of the Cumberlands, and the Board of Directors Clinch Powell Coop. He is a member of the American

1: We must believe that we are vitally important to students—and that they need us. We must believe that our efforts are contributing constructively to the lives of students.

2: We must be a vital part of the entire school team and resolve to work with and get along with those we work with—and help young people take advantage of every opportunity offered by our schools.

3: We must decide to believe that problems provide possibilities and opportunities—and also believe that problems can be overcome.

Good teachers know that being successful and being happy are not automatic for any professional. They are both hard work. Both success and happiness require commitment to a professional mindset, to our work, and to understanding and working with people. —*The Master Teacher*

Kentucky Purchasing Alliance Board, the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Scott County, The Board of Directors for the Children of the Cumberlands, and the Board of Directors Clinch Powell Coop. He is a member of the American Association of School Administrators, Oneida First Baptist Church, and the Oneida Kiwanis Club of which he served as president.

Children First

Let us remember, our children are on loan to us...growing into the thinkers and doers of tomorrow. They belong to the future. Give them all they need to begin the journey, wiser than their predecessors.

Teach them first the ABCs of living.
Adventure is all about life-long learning.
Believe in something bigger than yourself.
Character exemplifies integrity.
Do the 'right thing'—it is never wrong.
Excellence is a choice.
Find your passion.
Give more than you get.
Hold on when everything seems impossible.
Ideas mean you are thinking.
Judge intention.
Know who you are.
Laugh at yourself.
Make a difference.
Never fear.
Own your thoughts, your words, your actions.
Plan your future; don't just let it happen.
Qualify your actions...know why you do what you do.
Read everything you can get your Hands on.
Search for your dream.
Truth is what you are striving for.
Use knowledge for the betterment of mankind.
Vote...it's your choice.
Work is the only way to get from here to there.
X is the unknown, waiting to be comprehended by a curious mind.
Yes! Say yes to life!
Zest for living makes every day new.

Spotlight on Watertown Elementary

Each month in the newsletter a different Wilson County School will be spotlighted, focusing on the school's history and other pertinent information:



Principal: Anita Christian
Assistant Principal: Cheryl Ellison
Number of teachers: 61
Number of students: 857
Grade levels: Pre-K through 8th
Mascot: Purple Tigers
First school on this campus originally built in 1959



Watertown Elementary School is located in a rural area of eastern Wilson County, TN. It was named after the community of Watertown, the municipal where the school is located. The school's history dates back to 1909, when the two communities of Watertown and Cherry Valley joined together and built a school at the present site of what is now Watertown High School. The school officially opened in 1911 with 325 pupils in primary through high school. A special school district was created in 1921, which separated Watertown from the rest of the Wilson County School System. In the late 1970s the Watertown Special School District, once again, merged with the Wilson County Schools.

The present Watertown Elementary School building was established in 1959. Originally, it was an African American elementary school, but it was later integrated. In the seventies, it housed the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. The elementary school, K through fifth grades, was still located on the same campus as the high school. In 1981, K through eighth grades were added to the original building to house these grades. Then in 1983, the seventh and eighth grades were moved back to the high school and the present building housed only K through sixth grades. Due to overcrowded conditions, a

Wilson County Fair School Exhibits

Each school in the Wilson County and Lebanon Special School District, plus Private and Home Schools, will be showcased at the 2007 Fair in the Little Red Roof School House, located North of Fiddlers Grove.

Entries have been collected and displayed by repre-



the original building to house these grades. Then in 1983, the seventh and eighth grades were moved back to the high school and the present building housed only K through sixth grades. Due to overcrowded conditions, a separate new building was added in 1995 to house the fifth and sixth grades. As Watertown continued to grow, the need for additional space in our schools was again realized. This new building was constructed to house Pre-K through 3rd grades and the 7th and 8th grades joined Watertown Elementary once again as the existing building was renovated to house grades 4-8.

Tell us your school news!



What's Happening in Wilson County Schools will be published each month of the 2007-2008 school year for Wilson County employees.

Please send me any school news you might have that can become a part of each month's newsletter—awards, recognitions, special events, etc. We want to make our county schools aware of each other's accomplishments. Please send to:

edwardst@wcschools.com

Terry Edwards

collected and displayed by repre-



sentatives from each school. Those representatives are also responsible for picking up the exhibits and returning them to school. All students with an entry will receive participation ribbons.



Make plans to see the spectacular achievements of our students!

