

# BTCS NEWS

#BTCSIGNITE



Spring 2023

## BTCS introduces new safety reporting system



### SAFE SCHOOL HELPLINE

BREAK THE SILENCE | PREVENT THE EVENT

**If you see something, say something!** The Safe School Helpline is a convenient, confidential way for anyone to anonymously report information about situations that might affect safety at our schools. The Safe School Helpline is free and available 24/7. Examples of threatening situations include but are not limited to the following: bullying, drugs, theft, thoughts of suicide, violence, or weapons.



### Four Ways to Report to the Safe School Helpline

1. **Call:** 1-800-418-6423 / 1-800-4-1-VOICE (Ext. 359)
2. **Text:** TIPS to 614-426-0240
3. **Online:** [SafeSchoolHelpline.com](https://www.safeschoolhelpline.com)
4. **Mobile App:** FREE on App Store or Google Play

In addition, trained counselors are available 24 hours per day to talk with persons seeking assistance in coping with suicide thoughts, depression, or feelings of loneliness and loss. Callers can press option '3' when prompted.



## In This Issue

Athletics	3
Attendance Matters	8
CTE Programs of Study	6
Kindergarten/Pre-K Registration	2
Mighty Viking Band	3
MySchoolBucks News	6
Now Hiring	6
Read Across America	8
Stashed Away Trailer	5
Summer School	5
Teachers of the Year	2
TMS Chorus Spotlight	4
United Way Celebration	7
Virginia Duff Fine Arts Festival	6

## Dates to Remember

<b>March 13-17</b>	<b>Spring Break</b> School Closed
<b>March 14-16</b>	<b>Spring Intersession</b> (for students pre-registered)
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Flexible Learning Day</b> (for students pre-registered)
<b>April 7</b>	<b>Good Friday</b> School Closed
<b>April 13</b>	<b>Pre-K/Kindergarten Registration</b>
<b>May 19</b>	<b>Tennessee High Graduation</b>
<b>May 20</b>	<b>TOPS Graduation</b>
<b>May 24</b>	<b>Teacher Work Day</b> School Closed
<b>May 25</b>	<b>Report Cards Available</b>

# Congratulations District Teachers of the Year



**Christy Boggs**  
Anderson Elementary  
PreK-4



**Amanda Varney**  
Tennessee Middle  
5-8



**April Trivett**  
TOPS  
9-12

## School-level Winners

<b>Joanne Johnson</b>	Avoca
<b>Margaret Wood</b>	Fairmount
<b>Allyson Dowdell</b>	Haynesfield
<b>Lori Brown</b>	Holston View
<b>Elizabeth Arnold</b>	Tennessee High

From eight district-wide nominees, three teachers were selected to represent Bristol Tennessee City Schools in this year's state Teacher of the Year award. The Teacher of the Year program recognizes and honors outstanding teachers in Tennessee. It is an opportunity to applaud teachers who devote their professional lives to enriching the lives of Tennessee students. All schools in Tennessee can nominate one teacher as a system finalist for grades preK-4, 5-8, and 9-12. The three teachers selected from Bristol Tennessee City Schools are as follows: Christy Boggs, grades preK-4; Amanda Varney, grades 5-8; and April Trivett, grades 9-12. [Read more.](#)

## KINDERGARTEN & PRE-K REGISTRATION

Thursday, April 13, 2023  
4:00-6:00 p.m.



Online registration opens March 27.



### LOCATIONS

#### KINDERGARTEN

Attend the event at the BTCS school your child is zoned to attend

#### PRE-K

BTCS Administration Building  
615 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd  
Board Room-Lower Level

- Registering online prior to April 13 will significantly reduce your wait time at the event. If you are unable to complete the process online and need assistance, you will receive help on April 13.
- All parents/guardians registering a child should attend the April 13 event.
- Children must be five (5) years old on or before August 15, 2023, to be eligible for kindergarten.
- Children must be four (4) years old on or before August 15, 2023, to be eligible for pre-K.

## MORE INFO



**Report Cards** for the third nine weeks will be available through the PowerSchool Parent Portal on Wednesday, March 22.

# Outstanding Winter Athletic Achievements

Congratulations to our THS winter athletic teams and athletes

## THS State Wrestling Meet

**AIDAN SMITH** 5th Place  
(TOPS Student)

**ELI MOORE** 6th Place



## THS Boys Basketball



**CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS**

## THS State Diving Meet



**JONATHAN HELMS** 7th Place

## Dale Burns Youth Sports Program

Thank you to all student-athletes, coaches, parents, referees, and the many others who contributed to the success of the second season of the Dale Burns Youth Basketball and Cheerleading season! Soccer season is up next. Be sure to come out and support our student-athletes!

**BASKETBALL** 373 Student-Athletes

**CHEERLEADING** 151 Student-Athletes

## SPORTS SCHEDULES

For up-to-date  
**SCHEDULES**

for THS and TMS athletics, go to

[btcs.org/athletics](https://btcs.org/athletics)

TMS springs sports are underway.  
THS spring sports begin March 13.



## Congratulations Mighty Viking Band



The Tennessee High School Mighty Viking Band earned straight superior ratings at the East Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association's Concert Assessment at Maryville College.

This achievement qualifies the band to receive the Tennessee Bandmasters Sweepstakes Award next year.



# Tennessee Middle School Chorus Spotlight

**The Tennessee Middle School Chorus program's focus this school year has been to build and promote a safe and inclusive atmosphere while having fun learning music!**



TMS Chorus students worked hard to prepare for their fall/winter program, which was based on songs about the seasons. Soloists for this program were Adisyn Nielsen and Brooklyn Gobble. Sixth through eighth grade students also performed at the TMS Veterans Day ceremony.

In November, TMS eighth graders welcomed Side Note, the Tennessee High School a capella group, for a private concert. Side Note members spoke with students about high school chorus classes and encouraged them to sign up for high school choir.

In December, TMS hosted the THS Madrigals for a mini concert to spread holiday cheer. The Madrigals serenaded the school and also encouraged students to sign up for the middle and high school chorus programs.

Eighth grade took a holiday caroling field trip to the district's central office where they sang for central office staff and principals. The group also went caroling throughout the school to spread holiday cheer!

In March, TMS Chorus Director LeeAnne Houston, THS Chorus Director Jason Whitson, and Side Note toured district elementary schools. Students enjoyed a mini concert and learned about chorus programs at the middle and high school levels.

Chorus students are currently working hard to prepare for the Virginia Duff Fine Arts Festival in March, awards night performances, and their big spring concert in May. One of the songs they will be performing at the spring concert, "Lean on Me," will feature a couple of surprise guest soloists!

## 22-23 Calendar Reminder

### May 2023 (Revised)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

The original 2022-2023 School Calendar included a day reserved for the Spring Race at Bristol Motor Speedway. Since the race was Easter Sunday and schools were already closed the Friday before for Good Friday, the day was not needed.

Therefore, the allotted day was moved to the end of the school year. **The final regular student day is Tuesday, May 23.** Wednesday, May 24, is a Teacher Work Day (school closed), and report cards will be available on Thursday, May 25. The district calendars are always available on our website under [Resources>Calendar](#).



# PARENTS:

## What are you missing?

### National Guard's Stashed Away Trailer



This is an experiential trailer set up to mimic a typical teenager's bedroom with examples of where drug paraphernalia may be stashed away in the home. This exhibit is free and open to the public but is limited to those 18 years old and older.

**March 22, 2023 ● 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**YMCA Parking Lot**

400 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd Bristol, TN

#### FOOD TRUCKS

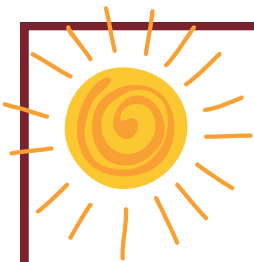
- Baked and Loaded
- Bristol Berry Bowls

#### VENDORS

- BTCS Family Resource Center
- Bristol Tennessee Fire Dept
- Bristol Tennessee Police Dept
- Frontier Health
- Sullivan County Anti-Drug Coalition

If you are unable to attend the Bristol event, the Stashed Away trailer will also be in Kingsport on March 21, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Dobyns Bennett High School parking lot.

These events are sponsored by Army National Guard, AveNew Drug Education & Prevention (a program of United Way of Kingsport), Bristol Tennessee City Schools, Healthy Schools powered by Healthy Kingsport, Kingsport City Schools, Sullivan County Anti-Drug Coalition, and YMCA of Bristol.

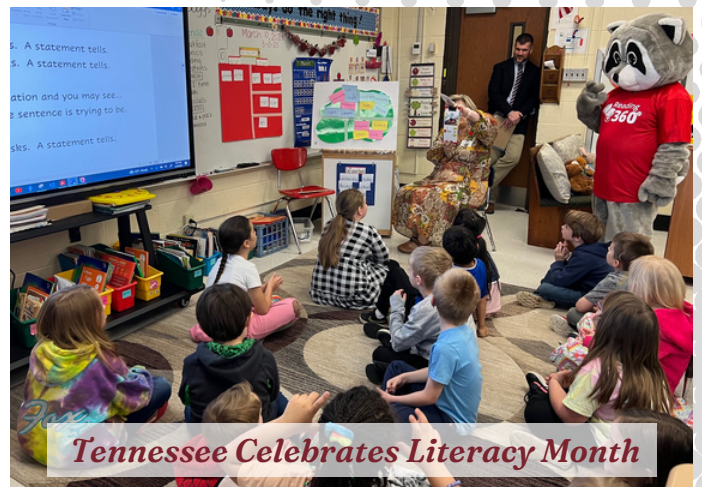


## Summer School Sneak Peek

**June 5-29, 2023  
Monday-Thursday**

Rising Kindergarten-9th Grades  
Located at Fairmount and Tennessee Middle.  
*More exciting info coming soon!*

*Final Summer School plan is pending school board approval.*



*Tennessee Celebrates Literacy Month*

Thank you to Riley the Reading Raccoon for visiting BTCS to celebrate Literacy Month! Kindergarten, first, and second grade teachers and students at Anderson Elementary demonstrated their amazing literacy skills to Riley and Dr. Lisa Coons, chief academic officer with the Tennessee Department of Education.

Celebrate  
Youth Art Month

8TH ANNUAL  
VIRGINIA DUFF  
FINE ARTS FESTIVAL



The community is invited  
THURSDAY, MARCH 23  
5:30-7:30 P.M.  
TENNESSEE MIDDLE SCHOOL

A districtwide, K-12 fine arts extravaganza, including:  
PROFESSIONAL STUDENT VOCAL AND  
STUDENT ART SHOW INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

The art show and musical performances will occur simultaneously, and attendees can move through the event as desired.

Grab dinner from one of the local food trucks.

Experience the event in Bristol's new state-of-the-art middle school.

# Discover Your Dream

Introducing a new online catalog of Tennessee High School CTE Program of Study opportunities.



Tennessee High School  
Career & Technical Education

24  
Programs  
of Study  
  
ENDLESS  
Career  
Opportunities

DISCOVER  
YOUR DREAM

## Note for parents who use MySchoolBucks

**MySchoolBucks: Unavailable for deposits March 30-April 3**



From March 30-April 2, MySchoolBucks, the BTCS online meal account management system, will be unavailable for deposits due to a software upgrade. If you utilize MySchoolBucks for purchases, please ensure your child has enough funds available for this time period by the end of the day on March 29. If there are no funds in the account, no a la carte purchases will be allowed. Deposits to MySchoolBucks can resume on April 3.

### NOW HIRING!

- Educational Assistants
- Substitute Teachers
- Custodial Staff
- Maintenance Staff



Convenient scheduling



Competitive salaries



Opportunity to help students

To apply, go to <http://careers.btcs.org>

# BTCS employees raise \$40,000 for United Way of Bristol TN/VA



Kay Ward, Dr. Annette Tudor, and Rebecca House accept the John D. Tickle Community Impact Award on behalf of BTCS employees at the United Way annual meeting.

*The hope cannot happen without all of us.*

Through the generosity of BTCS employees, our workplace campaign raised \$40,000 for United Way of Bristol. In fact, our campaign ranked fourth out of all workplace campaigns in Bristol, TN/VA for money raised. This is a testament to our employees' commitment to our students, families, community, and each other.

Our employees were further recognized at the 2023 United Way of Bristol TN/VA Annual Meeting when BTCS was presented with the John D. Tickle Community Impact Award.

"The award is being presented to an organization that is involved in many areas of United Way of Bristol's work," said Chris Lee, president of United Way Bristol TN/VA. "Their employees are truly engaged in our community, and they are always looking for ways to make our community better, especially for our children and families. They hold a seat on our Board of Directors, served as this year's Campaign Co-Chair, and they have employees that participate in many other United Way committees. Several of their staff are trained Poverty Simulation facilitators who help us as we work to educate our community on the struggles and barriers that the people we serve face every day. They developed the Reading Buddies program, and they play an integral role in United Way of Bristol's literacy efforts. They are one of our top five employee campaigns this year. They are a true example of how working together with United Way of Bristol, we can better serve our families and provide a more positive outcome for our children and their future. We are truly thankful for all they do for United Way of Bristol and our community, and we are excited to present them with this year's John D. Tickle Community Impact Award."

We would also like to thank the organizations who supported our campaign this year through donations. **Wendy's** and **Bojangles** provided incentive items, and we had auction items donated by the **BTCS Athletic Department**, **UT Baseball**, and **Warehouse 817**.



As this year's co-chair of the United Way of Bristol campaign, Dr. Tudor reflected on the campaign theme of "Be Someone's Hope" in the 2022 Annual Report, "Perhaps we will never know the lives we touched, or in some cases, we may. For all of us, we likely have coworkers, neighbors, and family members whose lives have been changed or enriched through the many programs and services of United Way. Your life may be one of those. Regardless, the hope cannot happen without all of us."





## How can you help your child?

Absences add up! If a student misses two days a month, they have missed the equivalent of 10% of the school year, which is defined as chronically absent. Chronic absenteeism is a leading, early warning sign of academic trouble and potentially dropping out.

### Consider the below research from the National Assessment of Educational Progress:

- Kindergarten and first grade students who are chronically absent are 81% less likely to read on grade level in third grade.
- By sixth grade, chronic absenteeism becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- Between eighth and twelfth grades, a student who is chronically absent is 7.4 times more likely to drop out of high school.

### What can parents do to help your child be at school, on time, every day?

- Make sure your child is in bed by a certain time each night and that an alarm is set.
- Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomachache or headache can sometimes be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to a teacher or a school counselor to discuss the issue and work together toward possible solutions.
- Identify a relative, friend, or neighbor who can take your child to school if you can't or if they miss the bus.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- Model good attendance practices for your child with your attendance at work and other important commitments.
- Always contact the school as soon as you know an absence is necessary.



BTCS kicked off Literacy Month last week in elementary schools with Read Across America. Thank you to everyone who made the celebration possible for students! **Check out the video to the right for a sample of the week's festivities**, and stay tuned to the end for a special message from Stan Tucker—author, literacy advocate, kindness ambassador, and children's show host—who visited three of our schools.

## GUEST READERS STAN TUCKER DRESS-UP DAYS

