

BTCS NEWS

Achieving college and career readiness through academic excellence



Spring 2024



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CTE Spotlight

CTE Month was celebrated in February

Fishing for Answers

As a student in the CTE Agriculture and Natural Resource Management program of study, Tennessee High School Senior Kaylee Johnson recently undertook an experiment that has not only enriched her academic experience but also contributed valuable insights to the field of aquaculture.

At the heart of Kaylee's project was an exploration into the rearing conditions of brook trout, a species in which the Erwin National Hatchery has noted a greater mortality compared to the other species of trout they raise. By adjusting the water temperatures in which the trout were raised, Kaylee sought to uncover the optimal conditions for their development.

So, what did Kaylee discover?



Fishing for Answers & CTE Spotlight continued on Page 8

In This Issue

Athletics	2
Be A Good Human	6
Be Present	7
Commencement Dates	3
Communities in Schools	4
CTE Spotlight	8
CTE State New Teacher of the Year	3
K & Pre-k Registration	3
Mental Health Matters	7
Solar Eclipse	7
Stone Castle Renovation	5
Teachers of the Year	6
Testing Dates & Tips	4
Virginia Duff Festival Highlights	5

Dates to Remember

March 18-22	Spring Break
March 27	Report Cards
March 28	Flexible Learning Day
March 29	Good Friday School Closed
April 4	Kindergarten/Pre-K Registration
April 8	Eclipse Early Dismissal
May 17	THS Graduation
May 18	TOPS Graduation
May 22	Teacher Work Day School Closed
May 23	Report Card Pick-Up



[Printable School Calendar PDF](#)

Outstanding Winter Athletic Achievements

Congratulations to our team and student-athlete accomplishments since last publication



THS BOYS' BASKETBALL

UPPER LAKES CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS



THS SWIMMING & DIVING



JONATHAN HELMS
9th Place State Diving

Other State Qualifiers:

- Eden Alsbrook (swimming & diving)
- Brianna Clouse (diving)
- Kaylie Cunningham (swimming)
- Zoe Hale (swimming)
- Molly Johnson (swimming)
- Georgia Simora (diving)
- Simon Hutchinson (swimming)
- Ian Jessee (swimming)
- Branch Sword (swimming)
- Cayden Williams (swimming)



THS WRESTLING



BEST OF BRISTOL REGION 1-A TOURNAMENT CHAMPS

MAX MINOR
3rd Place State
Class A 132 lb weight class

Other State Qualifiers:

- Eli Moore
- Kade Bible

TMS BOYS' JV BASKETBALL



CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT CO-CHAMPIONS

KINDERGARTEN & PRE-K REGISTRATION

Thursday, April 4, 2024
Drop-in → 4:00-6:00 p.m.



[Click for More Info &
To Complete Online Portion of Registration](#)



LOCATION

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

TUITION/TRANSFER

KINDERGARTEN students applying for tuition or requesting a transfer should register in the school they wish to attend. However, registration does not assure placement in that school. Only in-zone students are assured placement in kindergarten regarding a particular school. Parents will receive notification about acceptance before school begins. **PRE-K** students must live in the city limits. No pre-K tuition students are accepted.

- Completing the online process prior to April 4 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 4.
- All parents/guardians registering a child should attend the April 4 event.
- Children must be five (5) years old on or before August 15, 2024, to be eligible for kindergarten.
- Children must be four (4) years old on or before August 15, 2024, to be eligible for pre-K.

BREAKING NEWS



**JOHN
RICHARDSON**

Criminal
Justice Teacher
THS & TOPS

Tennessee Association for
Career and Technical Education

STATE

New Teacher of the Year!



COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

TENNESSEE HIGH SCHOOL
Friday, May 17
8:00 p.m.

**TENNESSEE ONLINE
PUBLIC SCHOOL**
Saturday, May 18
6:00 p.m.

Spring Testing Dates



After Spring Break, state standardized testing will quickly be upon us. Please see below for the assessment windows for Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) and End-Of-Course (EOC) Assessments and tips to help your child be prepared to do their best on test day.

April 15-30, 2024

Elementary TCAP Testing Window
(Paper-Based Assessment)

April 15-May 3, 2024

Middle & High School TCAP/EOC Testing Window
(Computer-Based Assessment)

How can your child best prepare for test days?



Get a good night's sleep



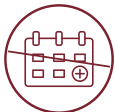
Charge computer nightly



Eat a healthy breakfast



Arrive at school on time



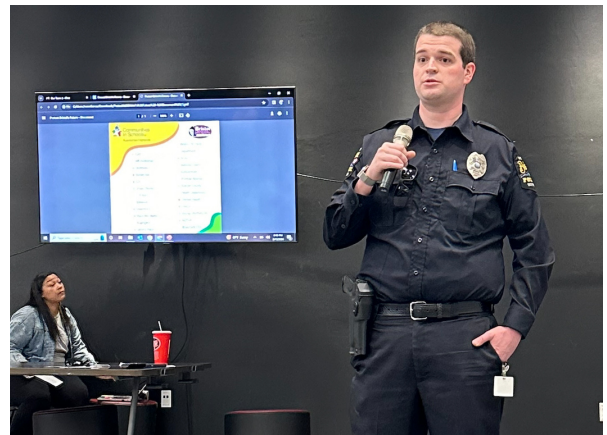
Do not schedule medical appointments during testing



Communities In Schools®

Appalachian Highlands

Special thanks to Communities in Schools of Appalachian Highlands for their partnership providing the Protect Bristol's Future Event on March 13.



Detective Dan Crowe with the Bristol Tennessee Police Department spoke to parents about social media safety.



Parents visited the Army National Guard Stashed Away Trailer, an experiential trailer set up to mimic a teenager's bedroom with hidden in plain sight examples of where kids may stash away drugs or drug paraphernalia in the home.

Historic Stone Castle Renovation

Visit our [website](#) to follow the progress of the Stone Castle renovation project.



Virginia Duff Fine Arts Festival

In February, the 9th annual Virginia Duff Fine Arts Festival brought a spectacular celebration of creativity and talent to our community! From awe-inspiring art displays to captivating musical performances, the event was a testament to the vibrant artistic spirit of our students across the district.



BTCS Children's Choir

B RISTOL TENNESSEE CITY SCHOOLS



SCHOOL LETTER GRADES

A 6 Schools

B 2 Schools

2022-2023

TVAAS

LEVEL 5

Composite

2022-2023

4

2022 ✨ 2023

REWARD SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

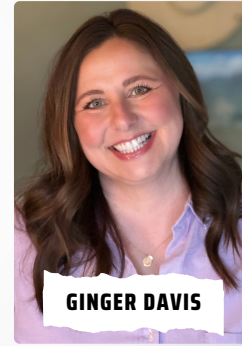
Teachers OF THE YEAR

[Read More](#)



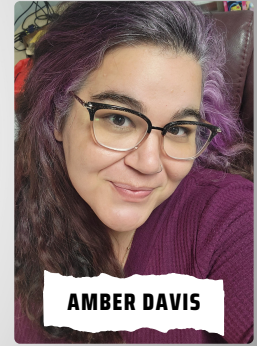
ANDREA POWELL

Avoca
Elementary
PreK-4



GINGER DAVIS

Tennessee Middle
5-8



AMBER DAVIS

Tennessee High
9-12

School

Viking Academy
Tennessee High

Fairmount

Holston View

Tennessee Middle

Haynesfield

Avoca

Anderson

TOPS

Tennessee High

Students

Elijah Myers (11)
Ryley Pender (9)
Landon Johnson (10)
Keeyanah Foote (11)
Ellyson Kovacs (12)
Tmayah Moore (K-2)
Mikael Valentine (3-5)
Ben Utsman (K-2)
Harper Bell (3-5)
Sophie Couch (6)
Charles Monroe (7)
Moses Ong (8)
Caroline Michaels (K-2)
Raven Jarvis (3-5)
William Skaggs (K-2)
Isis Miller (3-5)
Wyatt Harless (K-2)
Will Mancillas (3-5)
Dawn Sundown (9-12)
Lily Hughes (9)
Raige Geibe (10)
Anna Grace Hodges (11)
James Baker (12)

Educators

Steve Anderson
Matt Chandler
Tina Witcher
Heather Boatman
Jon McClain
Kim Gassiot
Melissa Thomas
Scott Lamie
Mike Mays

Support Staff

Melissa Ledbetter
Dyan Buck
Andrea Keesee
Teresa Rosenbalm
Holly Denton
Crystal Powers
Joseph Smithdeal
Chelsea Warren
Dawn Bible

BE A GOOD HUMAN

Each week the BTCS Educating for Equity (E4E) team celebrates a few of the many “good humans” of BTCS. We congratulate the following recipients during the last nine weeks.

District Support

Billy Hyatt
Solomon Jones
Collin Moore

Amber Morris
Lawrence Rhea
Barry Worley



Like us on [Facebook](#) to find out each week’s honorees.



Be Present!
On Time. Every Time.
All Day. Every Day.
For Your Future!

During February, March, and April, the district will recognize the schools that have the highest increase in attendance percentage and the highest decrease in percentage of tardies and early withdrawals.

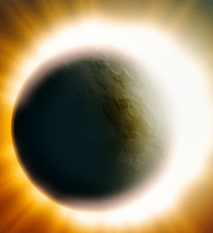
What should parents know about attendance?

- **Thank you!** Student attendance has improved in BTCS this school year.
- Good attendance is one of the most important things you can do as a parent to help your child succeed in school and in life.
- As your child’s most influential teacher, we need your help to ensure your child gets to school on time, every day.

#BePresentBTCS

SOLAR ECLIPSE

MONDAY,
APRIL 8



ELEMENTARY
 8:10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

TMS & THS
 7:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

EARLY DISMISSAL

[Learn more.](#)

Mental health matters

Counseling & Crisis Resources

Before we pause for Spring Break, it is important to know where to find mental health support away from school. The BTCS Counseling page not only shows the school-based resources, but parents can also find other resources for a mental health concern or crisis.

[BTCS.ORG>RESOURCES>COUNSELING](https://www.btcs.org/resources/counseling)

In addition to anonymous reporting, the **Safe School Helpline** also has live counseling support.



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.



Four Ways to Report to the Safe School Helpline

- 1 Call:** 1-800-418-6423 or 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-App Store or Google Play

CTE Spotlight: Fishing For Answers

... continued from Page 1

The findings of Kaylee's study were clear and have potential implications for fisheries management and conservation efforts: The tank with the lower temperature, 46 degrees, had a better rearing rate than the tank with the higher temperature, 52 degrees.

Kaylee's project was more than an academic exercise; it was a deep dive into the practical challenges facing today's aquaculture industry. "The amount of deformities in the warmer tank was significantly higher; I found that really interesting," Kaylee said. She further reflected on her observations, which included a startling range of spinal deformities among the trout. This hands-on research not only advanced her understanding of marine biology but also underscored the real-world impact of scientific research.

The support of educators like Lori Givney, teacher for the program of study at THS, has been instrumental in guiding students through such pioneering work. Givney, who has spearheaded the Trout in the Classroom program for more than 15 years, emphasized the importance of connecting students with projects that have tangible benefits for the community. "It's been a really good hook to get the students on board. It's actual research that the National Hatchery is probably going to take a look at and try to use what we've done to see if they can modify how they are doing things, which is much more impactful to students," Givney said.

Kaylee's aspirations extend beyond the classroom. Aiming for a Phd in marine science, she views this project as a foundational experience for her future career. "Working with fish and doing this experimental research is pretty important considering that's what I'll be doing for the rest of my life," she said, underscoring the project's relevance to her long-term goals.

As the chapter gears up for the 96th FFA State Convention in Gatlinburg, Kaylee will share her discoveries with students from across the state. She will also be presenting the results of her project to the Overmountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited, who sponsor our classroom tanks along with the Erwin National Hatchery.

This initiative is just one of many for the FFA chapter during its inaugural year. From landscape and forestry judging to leadership training and state competitions, the members have showcased their talents and commitment to agricultural education. Their active engagement extends to college visits, participation in a rodeo, and hosting industry leaders.



[Click for more CTE Highlights](#)

Other CTE Highlights

- HOSA regional competition: 1st place in CNA, Pharmacy Skills, and Nursing Skills; 2nd place in Vet Skills; 3rd place in Medical Math
- FBLA regional competition: Five students placed in online regional with a 1st, 2nd, 5th, and two 6th place finishes
- CareerQuest for Business: THS students earned 2nd place (\$1,000 prize) and two 3rd places (\$500 each)
- 14 students passed the PTCB Pharmacy Tech Exam: 100% pass rate
- 41 Health Science students earned CPR Certifications
- 14 students earned the Dremmel 3D Industry Certification: 100% pass rate
- SkillsUSA regional competitors: 1st place in Crime Scene Investigation; 3rd place in Cosmetology, Construction, and Welding
- CTE students have qualified for state competition in TSA, SkillsUSA, HOSA, and FBLA
- New state-certified pre-apprenticeship in Teaching as a Profession