

October 2010

TIDBITS

Tennessee Association of Middle Schools

Keeping in touch
with middle school...

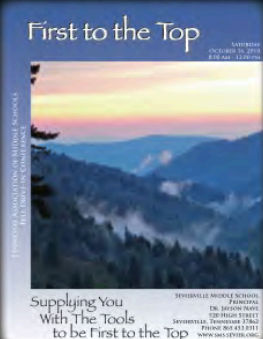
TAMS
P.O. Box 70748
Knoxville, TN 37938
www.tams.net

TAMS Member Mailing Information

FALL DRIVE-IN CONFERENCE INFO - SEVIERVILLE, TN - OCTOBER 16 - 8AM

**T.A.M.S.
FALL DRIVE-IN
CONFERENCE**

FIRST TO THE TOP



Supplies You
With The Tools
to be First to the Top

SEVIERVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
250 HIGH STREET
SEVIERVILLE, TENNESSEE 37862
PHONE 865 453 0311
WWW.SMS.SEVIER.ORG

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 16, 2010
8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Principal
Jayson Nave
865-453-0311
jayson.nave@powerofcu.com
www.tams.org
www.sms.sevier.org

FIRST TO THE TOP

Fall Drive In Schedule

7:00 AM - Registration
8:00 AM - Racing to the Top
Call or email Jayson Nave to register

jaysonnave@sevier.org
865-453-0311



REGISTRATION

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zipcode _____

School Name _____ Email _____

T.A.M.S. FALL
DRIVE-IN CONFERENCE
FIRST TO THE TOP

REGISTRATION by OCTOBER 1st
\$10 for Member • \$20 for Non-Member

Make checks payable to: TAMS
Mail to: Sevierville Middle School • Attention: Jayson Nave • 250 High Street • Sevierville, TN 37862
Please fee/free to copy registration form.

WHAT'S NEW IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?

Higher Standards: Why Do We Need Them?

<http://www.state.tn.us/education/>
<http://knoxschools.org/>

A recent U.S. Department of Education study showed Tennessee ranked 47th to 50th among states nationally for the rigor of its academic standards from 2005 to 2007.

On the 2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), Tennessee ranked:

- 42nd out of 50 states in the nation in 8th grade math
- 38th in the nation in 8th grade reading
- 43rd in 4th grade math
- 39th in 4th grade reading
-

Where we rank vs other countries:

A recent study by the American Institute of Research suggests that if Tennessee were a country, we would not be competitive in math and science education with excelling countries like Japan, Singapore and the Netherlands but rather we'd be in league with educationally challenged countries such as Lithuania, Slovenia, and Russia.

Higher Standards Timeline:

- 2007 - Tennessee schools get an "F" for truth in advertising
- 2008 - Tennessee Diploma Project launched to raise academic standards
- 2009 - Higher academic standards take effect in Tennessee schools
- 2010 - Legislature enacts landmark education law: First to the Top Act
 - Tennessee wins the federal Race to the Top competition
 - Tennessee students take first assessments under higher standards

What Higher Standards Mean:

- More rigorous curriculum & harder assessments
- Increased graduation requirements
- A new definition of "proficiency"
- \$501 million in Race to the Top funding
- An intense focus on high quality instruction and student learning
- Less favorable test scores in short-term
- Greater educational success in the long-term

Why does this matter?

- The success of our public schools will determine the knowledge, skills and competencies of our future workforce, entrepreneurs, and leaders.
- Our expectations must be ambitious if our students are to be successful in an increasingly complex world and an increasingly global economy.
- For our civic, economic, and cultural future to be bright, we need people who can think critically, learn continuously, and adapt quickly.
- Thinkers and learners develop through rigorous, excellent classroom instruction and educational experiences which foster 21st century skills.
- Rigorous standards and high quality instruction will enable our children to be academically successful, economically competitive, and personally fulfilled.





MEET THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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BECOME A MEMBER OF TAMS!

Benefits of Membership

- The TAMS Tidbits newsletter and Journal are mailed to active members to help keep you current on educational developments both statewide and nationally.
- Professional growth opportunities through regional and state conferences are available.
- Information regarding our three yearly conferences is mailed to members.
- Membership entitles you to discounted rates for both our Saturday morning drive-in conferences and the annual summer conference.
- Most systems extend in-service credit for annual and drive-in conferences.
- Members are eligible for special recognition through TAMS AWARDS.
- TAMS is recognized as a positive force for education.
- Join with your fellow educators who are actively working for quality middle level education for our students in Tennessee.

JOIN TODAY!

J. Paul Williams, Executive Director
 P.O. Box 70748
 Knoxville, TN 37938
 (865) 922-1248
jwilliams@gresham-ms.knox.k12tn.us

MEMBER APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Individual Memberships: \$20
 Student/Parent/Retiree: \$10 (Full-time students, retired educators, non-educator parents)
 School Group Memberships: 20 or more memberships from the same site, accompanied by individual membership forms and one check covering all memberships: \$12 per educator

Date _____ Renewal _____ or New _____
 Name _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone: Business (____) _____ Home (____) _____
 Email: Business _____ Home _____
 School _____ System _____
 Position Held: (circle one) Teacher Principal Asst. Principal Counselor
 Supervisor/Coordinator Librarian College/University Retiree
 Non-educator Parent Consultant Full time Student
TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP
 Individual _____ \$20 _____
 Group Rate (20 or more from one site) _____ \$12 each _____
 Student _____ Retiree _____ Non-Educator Parent _____ \$10 _____
 Send check payable to TAMS to above address Total amount of check _____

download membership form at www.tams.net

TECHNOLOGY BRIEF

The latest and greatest in educational technology!

As educators, we are constantly searching for ways to engage our students. I would like to share with you several new approaches that were introduced to me at a conference this summer.

Try these and please share others that you have by contacting me at the email address below!

Enjoy! :)

Using online polls!

This is an easy and entertaining way engage students using an opinion poll online. Your question is posted online and can be shown utilizing a projection device. Students respond to the question by using texting with their cell phone!

You just got them interested!
www.misterpoll.com
www.textthemob.com

Videos that aren't blocked!

Have you ever found a video clip that you wanted to share with your students only to try to access it at school and get the annoying message "this site is blocked"?

Try these sites designed just for educational purposes!

<http://www.schooltube.com/>
<http://www.teachertube.com/>

Get plugged
in to kids!



Games that work!

This site is full of educational games and vocabulary exercises. Click on middle school and then prepare to drill down to subject and objective specific games.

<http://bubbabrain.com/>

MOTIVATION CORNER

Words to motivate and encourage!

In preparation for this section of Tidbits, I asked a friend to share their favorite educational or teacher involved movie. She led me a website that lists the "Top 10 Inspirational Movies for Educators".

Ashli Miser, a counselor at Hardin Valley Academy, says "treat yourself to some popcorn and a great movie"!

Stand and Deliver
Dangerous Minds
Lean on Me
Mr.holland's Opus
Dead Poet's Society
To Sir With Love
The Miracle Worker
Renaissance Man
Music of the Heart
The Karate Kid

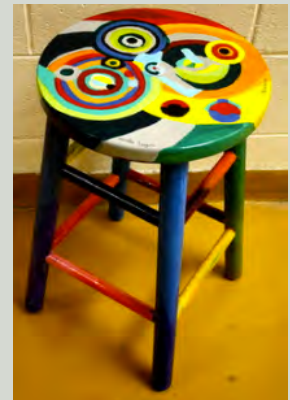


STUDENT SECTION

Highlighting students in Tennessee!

This section of Tidbits will be dedicated to the wonderful and talented students of Tennessee.

Please submit artwork, writing, and other forms of creative material to the email address noted below.



Art of the Chair
Halls Middle School Students
Knoxville, Tennessee
Lauren Adams & Michelle Ayres, Teacher

Tidbit Comments

Please email comments or ideas for publication to [Katye Clemmons at clemmonsk@k12tn.net](mailto:Katye_Clemmons@k12tn.net).