

# THE SCHOOL REPORT

A MONTHLY CELEBRATION OF JACKSON-MADISON COUNTY SCHOOLS



Arlington hosts VEX IQ tournament,  
advances to state competition

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# C<sup>ontents</sup>

Vol. 1,  
Issue 4



Carpentry students at South Side are in the final months of a project to build a self-sufficient, solar-powered tiny house. The carpentry students built the Tiny House from their own original design. This is a win for the district! See page 10 for additional details.

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE Superintendent

Monday, February 27, 2023

The second semester is progressing at a swift pace. The School Report newspaper is an opportunity to...pause...and reflect on the many wins and accomplishments of our students and employees. For example, earlier this month Arlington Elementary was the site of a

regional tournament for VEX IQ Robotics. More than 100 students and STEM coaches were in the Hub City for this event. A five-member team of Arlington 4th graders qualified for the state robotics tournament based on their scores at the regional event! Stay tuned for more robotics and STEM events throughout the district.



The second semester is also a time to recognize the remarkable teachers who have been selected to represent their schools in the Tennessee Department of Education's Teacher of the Year competition. Three were selected from the pool of candidates to represent JMCSS in each grade band. You'll meet this trio in the pages of this newspaper.

The Teacher of the Year program recognizes outstanding teachers in Madison County and throughout the state. Each school recognizes a campus level Teacher of the Year.



A third note I would like to pass along is the exciting announcement of a district-wide theater performance. Students from our elementary, middle and high schools are teaming up with district drama teachers to perform "The Little Mermaid" this spring. This is an ALL JMCSS production; from the cast to the crew, our students and teachers are preparing to put on a memorable performance. Stay tuned to our district communications (Superintendent Chronicle, press releases, podcast, and social media) for more information and upcoming showtime information.

Yours always,

*Marlon D. King*

Marlon D. King  
Superintendent



# Arlington Elementary hosts VEX IQ tournament, advances to state robotics competition



## *Inaugural event highlights growth in STEM education*

Jackson-Madison County Schools and community partners across the Hub City teamed up on Saturday, Feb. 11th to host the inaugural Arlington Winter Classic, a VEX IQ robotics tournament composed of schools from across middle and west Tennessee.

Robotics team 47141B the “TN Titans” representing Arlington Elementary School has advanced to the Tennessee VEX IQ Elementary School State Championship. Chick-fil-A, Starbucks, and Lane College provided refreshments for the numerous volunteers necessary to host the all-day tournament. Several Advanced Maintenance Technician students from Jackson State Community College served as referees and judges. JMCSS was also represented by students from Denmark Elementary and Jackson Academic STEAM Academy (JASA).







# JEA partnership: LOOP 3.0 kickstarts careers for students

The Jackson-Madison County School System's celebrated trade-based career pathway, LOOP, has expanded to include one of the nation's most comprehensive public utilities. Jackson Energy Authority is the latest entity to March 2023



**Jackson  
Energy  
Authority**

partner with the district's Local Options and Opportunities Program

(LOOP 3.0). JEA is providing training and employment to JMCSS students this semester. Students participating in LOOP 3.0 complete academ-

ic work two days per week coupled with three days of training and work within JEA's Telecommunications Division. Students are also able to utilize online/virtual learning to provide the flexibility necessary for this non-traditional schedule.

Between LOOP 1.0 (Manufacturing), LOOP 2.0 (West Tennessee Health-

care), and LOOP 3.0 (JEA), a total of 31 JMCSS high school students are participating in career building and job placement opportunities this semester.



**LOOP 1.0 Manufacturing**



**LOOP 2.0 Healthcare**



# Jackson-Madison County Schools

# CHOOSE US



ANDREW JACKSON'S **ANGELINA HALSTEAD** NAMED DISTRICT WINNER

**Tamara Fortner (PreK- 4) Angelina Halstead (5-8) Alyssa Pearman (9-12)**

## — Teachers of the Year —

The Teacher of the Year program recognizes outstanding teachers in

Madison



County and throughout the state. Each school recognizes a campus level Teacher of the Year.

One is selected from

the pool of candidates to represent JMCSS in each grade band. Congratulations to Tamara Fortner, PreK-4th; Angelina Halstead, 5th-8th; and Alyssa Pearman, 9th-12th. Ms. Halstead was selected by our Teacher of the Year committee to represent JMCSS at the state level.

### Building Level Winners

#### Alexander

Jennifer Horner

#### Andrew Jackson

Angelina Halstead

#### Arlington

Tamara Fortner

#### Community

Lily Courtner

#### Denmark

Belinda Murchison

#### East

Jessica McClure

#### Isaac Lane

Devona Hollis

#### JCM High School

Jessica Plunk

#### JASA

Nicole Whitt

#### JCM Early College

Shelley Billings

### JCM Middle

Tekia Buntyn

### JCT

Michelle Maclin

### Liberty

Albert Riney

### Lincoln

Tranequa Harrell

### Madison

Tiffany Soriano

### North Parkway

Katie Spain

### North Side

Alyssa Pearman

### Nova Prek

Dr. Jeziel Ross

### Parkview Prep

Sam Davis

### Pope School

Tonya Rogers

### Rose Hill

Tara Brooks

### South

Mary Emison

### South Side

Stephanie Jones

### Thelma Barker

Joy Sanders

### West Bemis

Chastity Barker



### Northeast

Kathryn Harper



# North Parkway awarded \$15,000 New Leaders, Roberts Award Grant

One of ten schools across the U.S. to receive grants to fund student enrichment projects

**North Parkway Middle School's Club Day** experience to



Club Day experience and offer authentic career experiences for students,” Dr. Braswell said. This is Dr. Braswell’s 2nd year as principal at North Parkway and her 8th year with JMCSS.

The award helps school leaders respond to critical needs in their school communities. To date, the Roberts Awards have funded 78 New Leaders alumni across 13 states totaling \$2.26 million.

increase student interest and awareness in high-demand occupations and careers has received a \$15,000 boost thanks to a competitive grant from the Roberts Award for School Innovation and New Leaders alumna Dr. LaDonna Braswell. North Parkway is one of 10 winners from across the United States.

“College and career preparation is instrumental in preparing students to achieve their dreams and contribute positively to society. This grant will help fund our

March 2023

“The Roberts Award will also provide stipends for professionals to offer valuable opportunities for student engagement and for the purchase of academic content focused on high demand careers,” Dr. Braswell said. Instituted at North Parkway in 2021, Club Day offers a variety of concentrations to fit all



interests. 4-H, Web Design, Spanish, Business, Agriculture, Media/Press and STEM are just a few of the clubs offered to students.





Statewide recognition...

# Led by Miss Basketball finalist, top-ranked South Side enters postseason, wins district tourney

**The top-ranked** South Side Lady Hawks are riding a historic wave of momentum into the postseason.

Their perfect regular season (25-0) concluded with news of a significant honor for senior Ti'Mia Lawson.

**Lawson was named one of three finalists for the 2023 Class 3A Miss Basketball Award.** A statewide committee of sportswriters selected finalists based on performance during the 2022-2023 regular season.

"I was very excited to hear my name announced as a finalist because it's never been done in

girls basketball here at South Side. We're going to continue to do the small things right," Lawson said.



**TALENTED SENIOR TRIO**  
**Jakarra Anderson, T'Mia Lawson**  
**(middle) and Albany Collins**

surrendering just 32 ppg, on their way to a 6-0 record in district play this year. Along with Lawson, fellow seniors Albany Collins and Jakarra Anderson have been instrumental toward the team's success. **The Lady Hawks have been**

"She's probably one of the smartest kids that we've had here at South Side. She knows when to take over a game," said Brent McNeal, Lady Hawks head coach.

State runners-up in Class 3A a year ago, the Lady Hawks have averaged 62 points per game while



**DISTRICT 12-3A**  
**COACH OF THE YEAR**  
**BRENT MCNEAL**

**ranked No.1 in the state for the majority of the season,** which is year 12 for Coach McNeal at South Side.

This is the seventh time McNeal has been named district Coach of the Year. Several underclassmen have made significant contributions this year. "I think those kids getting that exposure will not only help us this year, but for the future as well," McNeal said.



**TOURNEY MVP**  
**Jaidynn Askins**



**ALL-TOURNEY**  
**Kimora Currie**



# SPORTS ROUNDUP

## Madison basketball averages 3.7 GPA during season



*The Mustangs had a combined grade point average of 3.7 during the fall, with 10 of 16 players maintaining a perfect 4.0! The team improved during the regular season and beat Adamsville in the opening round of the district tournament to earn a spot in the region tournament. Now that's winning! Great job, Coach Hicks and team!*

## Liberty Tech earns silver in District 12-3A

*The Crusaders pulled off a pair of upset wins in the closing stages of the regular season to earn a spot in the District 12-3 A tournament final. Liberty, led by Coach Lonnie Starks, beat South Side and split the regular season series with South Gibson by 3-points or less. The Hornets won the district crown, but Liberty took home the runner-up trophy and secured a home court advantage in the opening round of the Region 6 tournament.*

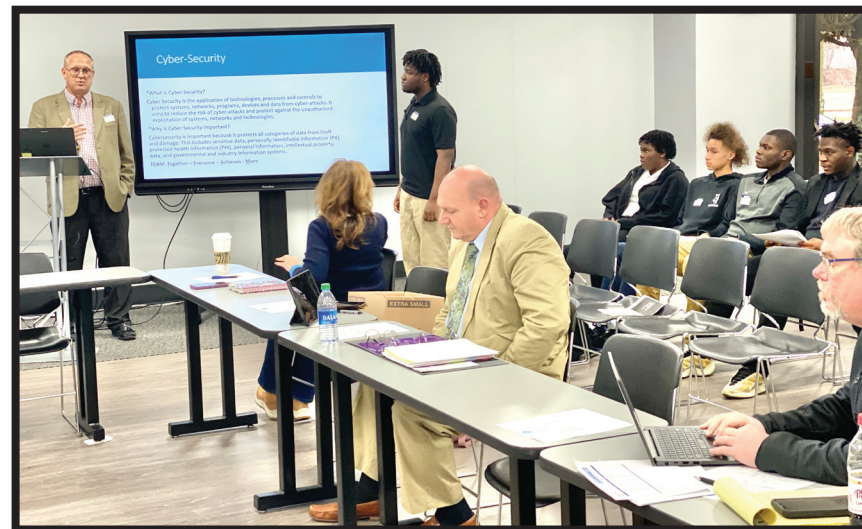


*Well done, Liberty Tech!*



# INNOVATION AND CTE

## Principal's challenge spurs Liberty's Cybersecurity class to action



Liberty Tech principal Jennifer Ballard issued a challenge to Cybersecurity students: analyze the check-in process at the school to determine how it could be improved. The Cybersecurity class, taught by Anthony Wallace, not only accepted the challenge but expanded it by assessing the security measures of the entire school. The class also evaluated security measures at other JMCSS schools. The students presented their findings and made several recommendations during a presentation to school board members. So proud of these students! #leadership #winning

## South Side students building tiny house

### Carpentry students at South Side

are putting their industry certifications to premium use. Powered by a grant from the Department of Innovation,



Bob Gordon's students are in the final months of a project to build a self-sufficient,

### solar-powered tiny house.

Automotive students assisted with wiring the

trailer brakes and putting on the wheels. The carpentry students built the Tiny House from their own original design! Serious bids could climb to \$40,000.00 or higher. This is work-based learning that multiples opportunities!



**SCAN QR CODE NOW TO SEE VIDEO TOUR OF THE TINY HOUSE**



# Local companies supporting community schools

# Community Partners



**JACKSON ACADEMIC STEAM ACADEMY**  
**\$2,500 STEM GRANT**

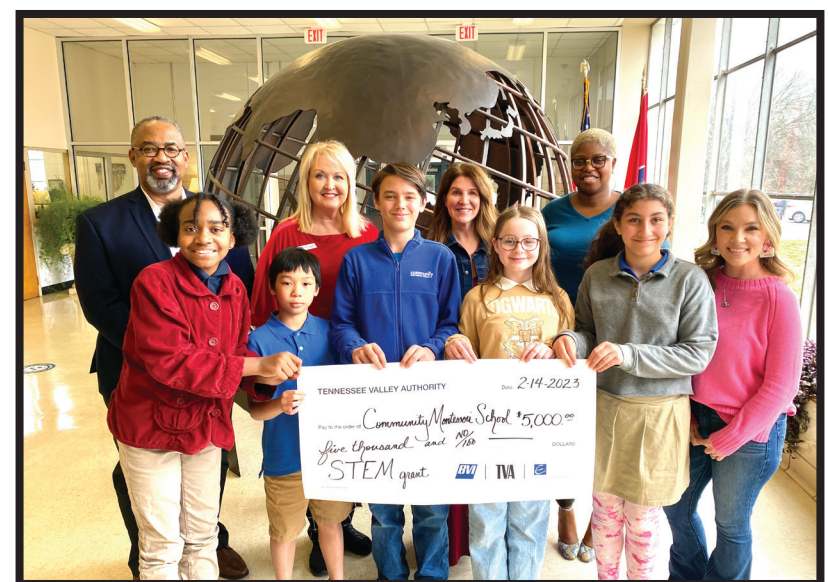


**ROSE HILL SCHOOL**  
**\$5,000 STEM GRANT**

Through a competitive STEM grant process funded through **Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)** and **Jackson Energy Authority (JEA)**, teachers from Arlington Elementary, Community Montessori, Jackson Academic STEAM Academy (JASA), and Rose Hill Elementary were awarded grant dollars to utilize within their classrooms. Over \$1 million in grants was given to educators in public and private schools to develop science, technology, engineering and math education projects across the Tennessee Valley and TVA's seven state service territory. Congratulations, JMCSS teachers and students!



**ARLINGTON ELEMENTARY**  
**\$1,500 STEM GRANT**



**COMMUNITY MONTESSORI**  
**\$5,000 STEM GRANT**



# Across the District!

## There's never been a better time to ChooseUS!



"This is Jordan's first year in choir. He was selected into All-West and I think that's actually boosted his confidence a lot. I have to give a lot of credit to Ms. Hayes. It's just more of a combination of the school system as well as the parents. If we can back each other, I think the kids can go very far in life."

-Brandi, Jordan, and Brian Crawford

"Alex is on the basketball team and they're doing really well there. He's made a lot of friends and a lot of the teachers are really great and helping him to succeed. I love all the opportunities they offer."

-Carrie, Alex, and Roman Antonidze



JACKSON-MADISON COUNTY SCHOOLS

MARCH 21  3PM - 6PM

**CAREER FAIR**

OMAN ARENA

JMCSS.ORG



#CHOOSEUS 