

Great Things are Happening at East Ridge High School

HCDE and PEF : Partners for Strong Schools

The Public Education Foundation (PEF) is a local non-profit organization that partners with the Hamilton County Department of Education (HCDE) to improve student achievement by improving public schools. PEF contributes:

- research into best practices
- training for teachers and school leaders
- opportunities for educators to share great ideas
- fundraising to support this work

The HCDE/PEF Leadership Initiative touches every public school in Hamilton County through training for principals and other school leaders. Other comprehensive initiatives have contributed to deep reform work in every high school, every middle school and 16 elementary schools throughout the district. PEF has contributed over \$50 million to Hamilton County schools in the last eight years.

Together, HCDE and PEF are changing education in Hamilton County, and changing students' lives. Learn more at www.HCDE.org or www.pefchattanooga.org.

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Reinventing High School Education

From 2001 – 2006, East Ridge was one of 16 Hamilton County high schools to benefit from \$14 million in funding from the Carnegie Corporation and other local contributors through PEF. This high school reform initiative helped each school develop its own individual plan to boost achievement in literacy and make classes more engaging and effective for students. Since then, high school reform work has expanded to include a focus on improving math skills and helping more students go to college.

These initiatives have brought strong results: test scores are rising, more students are graduating and more are going on to college.

Smooth Transitions

Students should arrive at East Ridge High School well prepared for a rigorous academic environment. Since 2005, East Ridge Middle has been working hard to increase rigor, engage students, and implement highly effective teaching strategies, thanks in part to HCDE and PEF partnerships. For more on East Ridge Middle, go to www.pefchattanooga.org/EastRidgeMid.



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Working Hard Together: HCDE, PEF and East Ridge

Hamilton County schools and the Public Education Foundation are strong partners in providing training for teachers, helping principals become more effective school leaders, and improving secondary education in Hamilton County. East Ridge has made great use of this partnership:

- Principal **Mark Bean** and assistant principals **Gary Lowery** and **Sonja Rich** collaborate with other Hamilton County principals in regular meetings and semi-annual leadership institutes.
- **Ms. Rich** and teacher **John Wilbourn** have gained leadership skills through the Leadership Fellows program.
- As a result of HCDE/PEF's high school reform initiative, math coach **Lorna Morris** and college access coordinator **Mary Bryan** work hard to boost student success at East Ridge .
- Through the high school reform initiative, East Ridge developed a career-based Construction Academy and a 9th grade academy to make learning more engaging.
- As part of a PEF-funded Networked Learning Community, East Ridge leaders communicate regularly with leaders from elementary, middle, and high schools in the East Ridge and Lookout Valley areas to plan for improving student success from kindergarten through high school.
- With funding from PEF, county-wide literacy and math leaders help teachers improve student reading and math skills and integrate those subjects into all areas of study.
- East Ridge teachers have access to a variety of professional development opportunities, including annual learning institutes for math and literacy.

Student Achievement is Climbing

2008 Scores

English Gateway:

96% proficient or advanced, an increase from 84% in 2003.

67% advanced, up from 39% in 2003.

Algebra Gateway:

69% proficient or advanced, up from 42% in 2003.

28% advanced, an improvement from 9% in 2003.

Graduation Rate

79%, up from 58% in 2003.

The East Ridge construction academy has won several national awards, including "**Academy of the Year**" in 2004.

Leaders and teachers at East Ridge are innovative, committed educators. They work hard to provide an excellent education for their students and eagerly seek better ways to achieve that goal. As a partner to the Hamilton County Department of Education, the Public Education Foundation is proud to support this dedicated group of educators.

Visit East Ridge online at www.eastridgehigh.org



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