

Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

May 25, 2007

Three MNPS high schools among best in the nation

For the second consecutive year, three MNPS high schools have made the Top 1,200 in America as rated by *Newsweek* magazine's annual survey – with Martin Luther King Jr. at 23rd, Hume-Fogg at 55th and Hillsboro at 424th. MNPS was the only district in Tennessee to have schools in the top 100 on the list.

The ratings are based on the number of Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) tests taken by all students in a particular school, divided by the number of graduating seniors at that school.

MNPS joins Vanderbilt for innovative program

Thirty-three students from Metro Nashville Public Schools have been invited to attend a part-time science and math high school this fall hosted by Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

A collaborative project of VUMC and MNPS, the School for Science and Math is supported by grants and other sources outside the MNPS budget. It is designed for students who enthusiastically seek an advanced, challenging curriculum that will prepare them for 21st-century careers.

Participating MNPS students will be in grades 9 and 12 next fall, with classes starting the week of Aug. 20. For more information about the school, visit www.scienceoutreach.org/school.

Have fun and support Metro schools

The Nashville Alliance for Public Education and the Country Music Association are making beautiful music by partnering to provide music education and instruments in Metro Nashville Public Schools. Last year, CMA contributed \$378,000 to the Alliance for musical instruments and equipment for our schools.

Help the CMA support our schools by purchasing tickets to the upcoming Summer Music Festival. If you attend Saturday night June 9, you'll be there with 400 Metro school children, whose tickets were provided at no charge to any student.

The Summer Music Festival is June 7-9. You can join us by clicking on <http://www.cmafest.com/2007/> to order tickets for yourself, your friends and family.

These employees are tops at their jobs

Leroy Hamer of Dan Mills Elementary School and Michael Thomas of Dodson Elementary are this year's winners of the Metro Beautification and Environment Commission's annual School Custodian of The Year contest.

Both men were honored by the Metro Beautification and Environment Commission (MBEC) at an awards ceremony held May 22 at Metro Public Works. The annual award recognizes school custodians for their daily work and dedication to maintaining schools and promoting a positive environment for learning.

Schools collect information and comments about their custodial staff from students and faculty throughout the year and submit their recommendation for the award. For more information, and comments from faculty and students about Mr. Hamer and Mr. Thomas, go to <http://www.nashville.gov/beautification/custodian>.

Our community partners continue to help Nashville children

This year's project for the Middle Tennessee Chapter American Culinary Federation has been combating child hunger. As a part of that effort, the Chapter presented a donation of \$3,000 May 21 to the MNPS Homeless Children program. MNPS is grateful to have such excellent support from community members who care about children.

Outstanding MNPS educator represents Tennessee

Newt Rowland, a technology teacher at Stratford High School, has been selected to represent the state of Tennessee at the Cisco Networking Academy's 10th Anniversary Celebration in Washington this fall.

The expense-paid trip will recognize the extraordinary impact of Rowland, who has worked with Cisco to create an academy at Stratford for students who want to study information technology. While in Washington, Rowland and the other honored teachers will meet with media and government officials to share their success stories.

Still time to sign up for summer camp

The registration deadline for the first Summer Forensics Camp has been extended to June 20. Sponsored by the MNPS Visual and Fine Arts Department, the camp is set for July 23-27 and open to students who will be in grades 7-12 in the 2007-08 school year.

The program is a five-day comprehensive overview of forensic debate and speech arts categories. For more information, go to www.mnps.org and click on "summer camps" in the Quick Links column.