



May 13, 2008

Dickson Middle principal honored by state

School had top academic gains 3 straight years

*BY PATRICIA LYNCH KIMBRO
THE DICKSON HERALD*

Johnny Chandler was honored by the state Monday.

But the Dickson Middle School principal said all the honor should go to the school's staff, students and parents.

"I'm just a bystander," Chandler said.

Dickson Middle received top academic achievement gains for the past three years and ranked in the top 10 out of 755 middle schools statewide in an education-focused organization's grading system.

Dickson Middle was measured by the Education Consumers Foundation's Tennessee's Value-Added Assessment System. The foundation, using the TVASS, recognized 19 principals statewide for excellence.

The winning principals each receive a certificate, a banner and a cash award for the school: \$3,000 for first place, \$2,000 for second place and \$1,000 for third place. Chandler said he would use the money for "academic incentives."

Charlie Daniel, director of Dickson County Schools, had a different perception of Chandler's achievements.

"Anybody who knows Johnny Chandler knows that his entire focus is on doing good things for students whether it be in the classroom or in extra-curricular activities," Daniel said.

Daniel said Chandler is an intense competitor who realized earlier on test scores would be the major factor in measuring school progress by the state, at the federal level and by the public.

"(Chandler) surrounded himself with a staff that was willing to accept the challenge to do whatever they could do to stress academic excellence in the school," Daniel said. "He has done that and has succeeded on a grand scale.

"In this day and age, any principal deciding to ignore the importance of accountability as determined by their students' performance on the state testing program, will find the results disastrous and the image of their school will not be what is desired," Daniel added.

The winners were selected from the more than 1,300 public elementary and middle schools statewide. Based on three-year value-added gains in reading and math, first-, second- and third-place awards are given in two categories, elementary and middle schools, which can include schools with grades K-8 within each of Tennessee's three regions: East, Middle, and West.

Because the awards recognize high quality leadership, only schools where the principal has served for at least four years were considered.

Daniel said Chandler, who is one of the final three candidates for the county school director position Daniel is vacating this year, is helping to keep a positive image of Dickson County and its school

system.

“All you have to do is read the newspaper and see what is usually printed somewhere on the first page,” Daniel said. “This also has an impact on the community because business and industry first look at the quality of a school system before deciding to locate in the area. They want to know where the schools rank statewide in the program.”

Daniel said he was privileged on Monday to be able attend the ceremony honoring the top administrators in the state and see Chandler receive the award for the top performing middle school in the Mid-state.

Tennessee’s Value-Added Assessment System top achievers

For more information about the winners, including school performance charts, and the Education Consumers Foundation, go to the organization’s Web site at: www.education-consumers.org.

Also posted there are “Recipes for Success” from each of the 18 principals and thoughts on what they have done as leaders to help their schools achieve.

Education Consumers Foundation

The Education Consumers Foundation describes itself as: “like the Consumers Union (the organization that publishes Consumers Reports), except that we focus on education policy and practice. We work with the education industry, but at arm’s length. Our success is tied to the success of consumers in obtaining value and quality, not on the industry’s prosperity.”



May 14, 2008

Nashville-area principals get state honor

Middle Tennessee

Three Nashville-area public school principals were among 18 in Tennessee whom an education-focused organization recognized this week for excellence.

In a ceremony Monday at the state Capitol, the Education Consumers Foundation honored principals whom it called "the best of the best" in advancing students academically. Among them are:

- Mary Lou Del Rio of Paragon Mills Elementary in Metro Nashville.
- Brian Bass of Fairview Middle School in Williamson County.
- Johnny Chandler of Dickson Middle School in Dickson County.

The winners were selected from the more than 1,300 public elementary and middle schools statewide, based on year-to-year gains in reading and math. Schools whose students make the greatest annual achievement gains earn the highest value-added scores.

Area principals lauded for value-added efforts

Clairfield, Copper Ridge, Inskip, Joppa school chiefs honored

By Lola Alapo
Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Teachers at Claiborne County's Clairfield Elementary School meet several times a year to analyze students' test scores. They then try to develop an individual education plan for each pupil.

"If a plan isn't working, we'll try a different method every six weeks until we find the one that works," Clairfield Principal Linda Keck said. The goal for each student is "to try to move them forward."

That effort is paying off.

"Our school has made a lot of gains, and we're excited about it," said Keck of the K-8 school, which has 117 students.

On Monday, Keck was among 18 principals from across the state honored in Nashville as one of the state's most effective elementary and middle school principals, based on value-added performance.

Three other East Tennessee principals also were recognized.

Tennessee's value-added testing system gauges student progress year over year, regardless of external factors such as socioeconomic status, by using a statistical model that analyzes annual Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program scores.

Monday's awards were given by the Education Consumers Foundation, a group headed by East Tennessee State University professor John Stone. Acting Education Commissioner Tim Webb took part in the ceremony.

The top-performing schools shared common threads, including tracking student progress continuously and using the data to guide decision-making on the classroom level, foundation officials said.

Principals had to be at their schools at least four years, to assure the test results were connected to their leadership.

Prizes ranged from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

Knox County's Terry Frost of Copper Ridge Elementary School and Elisa Luna of Inskip Elementary School were honored Monday. Before going to Copper Ridge five years ago, Frost, then principal at Inskip, hired Luna. Luna described Frost as her mentor.

"I owe everything to her," Luna said, including "rallying the teachers together and rallying the community."

Frost commended her school, saying, "Our teachers have worked really hard, and students have worked really hard."

Grainger County's Curtis Wells also was recognized. His school, Joppa Elementary School, was the only one to receive a value-added award three years in a row.

"It's all about the kids," said Wells, who is retiring at the end of the school year. "I'm surprised and very pleased for the students and the staff."

Lola Alapo may be reached at 865-342-6376.



Local principals rank among best in the state

Posted By: Robin Murdoch ■ 3 days ago

Four principals from East Tennessee received top honors from the state for their work in educating kids.

Linda Keck of Clairfield Elementary in Claiborne County, Principal Curtis Wells from Joppa Elementary in Grainger County, Principal Terry Frost at Copper Ridge Elementary in Knox County, and Principal Elisa Luna from Inskip Elementary in Knox County all received the special award.

"We are just elated," Principal Frost said. "I've been floating around on a cloud, and the staff has too."

Frost traveled to Nashville earlier in the week with some of her staff to get the award and share the moment.

"We know we have a fabulous school and a fabulous program going on," Frost said. "I just think it's reinforcing to my staff and students and parents that we are on the right path."

The award is measured by the Tennessee Value Added Assessment System.

It's based on three-year student gains in reading, language arts, and math.

"It's very fulfilling to feel like you've made a difference and to see the students succeed," Frost said.

She is among 18 principals honored by the Education Consumers Foundation for their work with the students.

"It's a lovely ending to the school year."

This was the third year in a row Principal Wells from Joppa Elementary received the award. It's the second time Principal Keck got it at Clairfield Elementary.

--with photojournalist Brian Holt





[HOME](#) [ADMINISTRATION](#) [SCHOOLS](#) [COMMUNITY](#) [PARENT](#) [STUDENTS](#) [STAFF](#)

KCS principals are among the state's top academic leaders

Date: 05/13/2008 Media Advisory Number: 08-052 -



Tennessee Department of Education Acting Commissioner Dr. Tim Webb (l) and Education Consumer Foundation President Dr. John Stone (r) present Copper Ridge Principal Terry Frost (above) and Inskip Principal Elisa Luna (below) awards honoring them for their students' academic advancement this year. Of 755 elementary schools statewide, Inskip was number seven for academic growth and Copper Ridge 10th.

Two Knox County elementary school principals are among 18 principals from across the state recognized by the Education Consumer's Foundation for their excellence in advancing students academically, as measured by Tennessee's Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS).

Terry Frost of Copper Ridge Elementary School and Elisa Luna of Inskip Elementary school led their schools to be in the top ten elementary schools in the state for the academic growth students experience from one school year to the next. Of 755 elementary schools in the state, Inskip is number seven for growth and Copper Ridge is number 10.

"Educating our children is the most important thing we do," said Governor Phil Bredesen. "The principals and teachers of these schools are doing an excellent job in helping their students learn, and in raising standards and expectations. Their record of performance speaks to their hard work and dedication and I congratulate them on this recognition."



Two are among the state's top academic leaders.

The 18 awardees were selected from Tennessee's over 1300 public elementary and middle schools based on their schools' three-year value-added gains in Reading/Language Arts and Math. Awards were given in two categories, Elementary and Middle schools, within each of Tennessee's three grand divisions. Because the awards recognize high quality leadership, only schools where the principal has served for at least four years were considered.

"The leadership shown by the principals at these schools is remarkable and it illustrates what can be accomplished regardless of the wealth or poverty of the student body. With TVAAS, people are able to see exactly what each school

contributes to the success of its students, not just the test score averages that are so heavily influenced by demographic and socioeconomic differences," said Education Consumers Foundation President Dr. J. E. Stone. "These are the schools that do the best job of helping students 'be all they can be,' regardless of their strengths and weaknesses, their advantages and disadvantages."

"Both Terry and Elisa have set a pace for others to emulate," said Roy Mullins, interim superintendent of Knox County Schools. "Everything they do is geared to what is best for students, and they have built staffs at their schools that reflect their concern and dedication."

[HOME](#) [ADMINISTRATION](#) [SCHOOLS](#) [COMMUNITY](#) [PARENTS](#) [STUDENTS](#) [STAFF](#)

912 S. Gay Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902 (865) 594-1800

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2188, Knoxville, TN 37901-2188

E-Mail Superintendent of Schools

Knox County Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Webmaster



Visitors

Thank you for visiting the Knox County Schools Website

[Disclaimer](#)

[Site Index](#) / [Keyword search](#)