



GO TO **BigDealMidTenn.com** AND SAVE
Deals • Shopping • Dining
Movies • Events

midtennbusiness.com

Search The Marketplace

THE TULLAHOMA NEWS

Community Calendar | Electronic Edition | Subscriptions | Contact Us



Home | News | Your News | Sports | Classifieds | Public Notices | Lifestyles | Entertainment | Links | Shopping | Obituaries

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

AP China signs 30-year deal for Russian natural gas



Search Our Site

East Middle honored for learning gains

Posted on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 2:56 pm

8+1 0 Tweet 5 Like Share 0

STAFF WRITER

andrea agardy and

press release

The East Middle School community had reason to celebrate on Friday when Principal Debbie Edens was presented with the Value-Added Achievement Award by the Education Consumers Foundation (ECF).

Every year, ECF selects 18 elementary and middle school principals to receive its Value-Added Achievement Awards based on the most important school measurement available: Learning gains across the entire student body, as measured by Tennessee's Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS). TVAAS measures achievement gain in a way that permits schools to be compared regardless of the makeup of the student body. Schools whose students make the greatest annual gains in achievement earn the highest value-added scores; superior school-wide performance reflects superior teaching, teamwork, and leadership. The winning principals each receive a certificate, a banner and a cash award: \$3,000 for first place, \$2,000 for second place, and \$1,000 for third place.

"Ms. Edens and her staff have done an excellent job in helping their students learn," said Commissioner of Education Kevin Huffman. "Their record of performance attests to the hard work and dedication of the principals, teachers, students, and parents."

East Middle School is one of the state's top performers on TVAAS, ranking 19th in the state among 539 K-8 and middle schools, and is the second-place winner of the Value-Added Achievement Awards among K-8 and middle schools in Middle Tennessee.

According to Dr. J.E. Stone, president of the Education Consumers Foundation, "The leadership shown by principals like Debbie Edens is remarkable; it illustrates what can be accomplished regardless of the wealth or poverty of the student body.

Last week's award presentation marks the first time East Middle School has been the recipient of the prize, which Edens called, "a highlight of my professional career."

Although the award was presented to the principal, Edens was quick to point out that the accomplishments that led to the recognition were the result of the efforts of the entire school community.

"It's all because of student achievement and how hard our teachers work," Edens said. "We've got the hardest-working teachers anywhere... We're very appreciative of the support of parents, students and administrators. We really believe in setting higher expectations and it takes a lot of support to hold children accountable to those expectations."

"We are proud to see Debbie Edens and the staff of East Middle School being recognized for their dedication and hard work," said Tullahoma Director of Schools Dr. Dan Lawson. "They have created a learning culture in which every student is able to reach their potential. While the school's value-added performance is among the best in Tennessee, we are equally confident that the physical, social and emotional needs of the students are also of critical importance, and East Middle School's superior performance clearly demonstrates that they are doing an exceptional job in serving their students."

According to the website of the non-profit ECF, it began The Tennessee Project two years ago, and has collected and analyzed value-added data from the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment system (TVAAS), the most sophisticated value-added system in the country. The Foundation has used that data to identify and reward effective school leaders,



From left, Abby Daniel, East Middle School Student Council president, Principal Debbie Edens and Bradley Holmes, National Junior Honor Society president, display the banner the school received after receiving the Value Added Achievement Award.

—Staff Photo by Chris Barstad

Top Headlines - News



TVA: Area water conditions 'optimum'
STAFF WRITER marian galbraith Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) officials are

reporting



East Middle honored for learning gains

STAFF WRITER andrea agardy and press release The East Middle School

Poll Question


Will you be taking a family vacation this summer?

- Yes
- No

Vote

[View Results](#)

help consumers determine how effective their local schools are, uncover information on the relationship between poverty and effectiveness, and identify practices common to effective schools.



Let the talking texting surfing begin

Thompson Jewelers



931-455-8700
2003 NORTH JACKSON • TULLAHOMA, TN 37388

We Buy Gold.

MANCHESTER
Tire & Brake



1604 Hillsboro Blvd.
Manchester, TN
Ph. 931.728.5097 • Fax 931.728-5099

Voted Manchester's #1 Tire!

FIRST CHOICE REALTORS

931-455-8000
800-275-3798


Loans to suit your needs, rates that will make you smile.




www.citizenstricounty.com
Member FDIC 24 Hr. Banker 454-2424

Headlines of the Day

Top Headlines - News




TVA: Area water conditions 'optimum'
STAFF WRITER marian galbraith Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) officials are reporting




East Middle honored for learning gains
STAFF WRITER andrea agardy and press release The East Middle School

Top Headlines - Sports



Wildcats wrap up spring practices
By ZACH BIRDSONG Sports Editor While spring sports dwindle down, the Tullahoma



Wildcats fall short of state tourney
Tullahoma's season ends with 3-2 sectional loss at Cookeville
By ZACH BIRDSONG

Top Headlines - Lifestyles

Tonsmeire promoted to rank of colonel
Col. Lee M. Tonsmeire, the son of Elaine and Ross Drake of



Good Reads
'Gold' takes its readers on a wild ride around the velodrome EDITOR