



LAUNCH PAD

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✦ **TN Tech Campus Visit**
January 21, 2026
Celina K-8's 7th-grade students will visit the Millard Oakley STEM Center to participate in hands-on, STEM-focused activities.
- ✦ **TN Tech Campus Visit**
January 23, 2026
Celina K-8's 8th-grade students will visit the Millard Oakley STEM Center to participate in hands-on, STEM-focused activities.
- ✦ **Roane State Campus Visit**
February 5, 2026
Oneida Middle School 7th-grade will visit Roane State.
- ✦ **Roane State Campus Visit**
February 12, 2026
Oneida Middle School 8th-grade will visit Roane State.
- ✦ **MTSU Campus Visit**
February 26, 2026
Morrison Elementary 7th and 8th grade students will visit Middle Tennessee State University to explore college and career opportunities.
- ✦ **MTSU Campus Visit**
March 6, 2026
Eastside Elementary 7th-grade students will visit Middle Tennessee State University for a campus tour and college exposure experience.
- ✦ **TCAT Campus visit**
March 6, 2026
Oneida Middle School 8th-grade students will visit TCAT to engage in technical and career-focused activities.

And many more!



Academic Spotlight

Opening Doors for Students' Futures

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) helps students get ready for college and future careers by providing academic support, mentoring, and exploration opportunities. Our mission is to make higher education more accessible for all students – and to show them that their goals are within reach.

This past year, GEAR UP students came to our two-day summer camp, visited college campuses, attended career fairs, and heard from many inspiring guest speakers. Each event gave them a chance to learn more

about their futures and see what's possible beyond the classroom.

Right now, students can access **Tutor.com** for 24/7 homework help and **Student Success Agency (SSA)** for one-on-one mentorship. Both services are designed to keep students motivated and supported.

As we move into spring, we're excited to bring more school visits, college experiences, and growth opportunities to your classrooms. Together, we're helping students dream big and build the confidence to succeed!

Message from the Director

As we begin a new year with TN Tech GEAR UP, I want to thank our families for the support and encouragement you provide your students every day. This past year, we've seen students grow in confidence, set goals for their futures, and take important steps toward college and career readiness. From classroom activities to college and career exploration, your partnership has helped make these opportunities meaningful and successful. We are so proud of our students and grateful to be part of your child's journey. Thank you for trusting us to work alongside you, and we look forward to another exciting year ahead!



Parent Insight

Supporting Your Student at Home

As a parent, you are your child’s first and most important teacher. One of the best ways to support your student is by staying involved in their school life, even small actions go a long way! Ask questions like, “*What did you enjoy about today?*” or “*Can you teach me something you learned in class today?*” These little conversations keep your student motivated and remind them that you’re

cheering them on. Also helps build a connection with your child without the typical “*how was school?*”

Don’t forget that GEAR UP offers resources such as [tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com), events, and activities to help your child succeed. Even if you can’t sit down and solve every math problem, showing interest in their goals helps build their confidence.



Quick Tip

Set aside one night a week as “catch-up night” for schoolwork, with no phones or TV, just you and your child making sure everything is on track.

A Look Back: Fall 25



LMS 8th graders visiting the STEM Center at Tech



College Colors day! Students showing pride for GEARUP Week



Students exploring careers at the Career Fair

Our Site Coordinators



Janine Smith
Warren County



Tiffani Garner
Oneida Special School District



Cassandra Cornell
Clay County



Tori Long
Overton County



Teacher’s Corner

Partnering With You

At GEAR UP, supporting students also means supporting their teachers. To help educators succeed in the classroom, we launched our Teacher Wishlist initiative last semester — providing classroom supplies tailored to individual needs and promoting student engagement. We’re so grateful for everything our teachers do each day and will continue finding new ways to provide them with the tools and resources they deserve.

“I like GEARUP because it gets my students career and college ready for after high school.”

—Ms. Johnson (8th Grade Science)

Stay Connected

Stay connected with us on social media for updates, resources, and upcoming events happening this semester!

[ntechgearup](https://www.instagram.com/ntechgearup)

[GEAR UP at Tennessee Tech](https://www.facebook.com/GEARUPatTennesseeTech)

SUPPORTING 7TH & 8TH GRADERS IN WARREN, ONEIDA, CLAY, AND OVERTON COUNTIES.