



LAUNCH PAD



Learning Beyond the Classroom

This semester, GEAR UP students participated in a variety of academic, college readiness, and STEM-focused opportunities designed to inspire learning beyond the classroom.

Students explored future college and career pathways through visits from Tennessee Tech, TCAT, Roane State, and MTSU. The STEM Mobile also visited several campuses, providing hands-on STEM activities that encouraged creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.

GEAR UP distributed 3D printers to schools within our partner counties to expand access to technology and hands-on classroom learning.

At Warren County Middle School, students participated in a Mock College Fair and a food-insecurity project that strengthened their communication, collaboration, and critical-thinking skills.

Students from Rickman Elementary also met Tennessee Tech's SAE Baja Engineering Team to learn about engineering design and teamwork.

We are proud of our students' hard work this semester and encourage them to continue reading and learning throughout the summer.

From Centertown to the Super Bowl: SSA's Dream Experience

Centertown Elementary student Eduardo Mendez received the opportunity of a lifetime as the first SSA Dream Experience winner. Eduardo traveled to Santa Clara, California, to attend the Super Bowl, watch the Seattle Seahawks and New England Patriots compete for the championship title, and see Bad Bunny perform live. Through our partnership with Student Success Agency, Eduardo was able to create lasting memories and experience a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We are proud of Eduardo and excited to see all he continues to achieve in the future.



Parent Insight

Keeping Your Child Engaged Over Summer

Summer break is an important time for students to rest and recharge, but maintaining simple routines can help prevent academic loss and keep students prepared for the next school year.

Families are encouraged to keep a consistent daily structure that includes reading and learning activities. Using community resources such as local libraries, GEAR UP Summer Camp, and community centers

can also provide meaningful enrichment opportunities.

Continuing academic engagement through summer reading lists helps students stay on track. Students can also use resources such as *SSA and Tutor.com* for additional academic support and practice.

With a balance of rest, structure, and engagement, students can return to school confident and prepared to succeed.



Set a "15–20 minute reading time" each day to build consistency without overwhelming your child.

Quick Tip

A Look Back: Spring 26



Future innovators exploring the skies at TN Tech

Wilson Elementary students showing off their prizes from the Health Department after their impactful presentation at the career fair.



Getting a first-hand look at engineering design with the Tennessee Tech SAE Baja team.



Students from Wilson touring TN Tech!



Teacher's Corner

TI Takeaways

In February, two teachers from Livingston Academy, Kim Goodpasture (left) and Meagan Kessell (right), attended a **Texas Instruments Professional Development Summit** focused on strengthening classroom instruction and technology integration.

A key takeaway was the strong support within the TI³ Community, where educators collaborate, share resources, and offer on-site training to help schools better utilize TI-84 calculators.

Teachers also learned about TI's loan program, which allows schools to borrow tools such as TI-Nspire calculators and Vernier probes to support hands-on learning in chemistry and physics. ACT representatives provided updates on exam enhancements and shared strategies for effective calculator use on assessments.

Overall, the experience highlighted collaboration, innovation, and practical tools teachers can bring back to enhance student learning.

Stay Connected

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

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