



## Historic Stone Castle

### **Work is underway to renovate Bristol's iconic Stone Castle**

The Historic Stone Castle at Tennessee High School began a highly-anticipated renovation in November. Making Stone Castle accessible for all is at the forefront of the project goals. Included in the renovation are wheelchair access to the Southside Avenue entrance of Tennessee High and accessible restrooms and new locker rooms under the visitor-side bleachers. In addition, the Stone Castle will receive new visitors' bleachers, a new press box, and new terrace seating on the home side. The project is scheduled for completion by the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.

Follow the progress of renovations on the district's website under Stay Informed > [Stone Castle Renovation](#).



*Demolition of the visitor-side bleachers was first on the list.*

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## Dates to Remember

<b>Dec 21</b>	<b>Early Dismissal</b> Elementary (8:10-12:30) TMS/THS (7:30-11:45)
<b>Dec 22-Jan 3</b>	<b>Holiday Break</b> School Closed
<b>Jan 4</b>	<b>Teacher Work Day</b> School Closed
<b>Jan 5</b>	<b>Flexible Learning Day</b>
<b>Jan 10</b>	<b>Report Cards Available</b>
<b>Jan 15</b>	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> School Closed
<b>Feb 16</b>	<b>Flexible Learning Day</b>
<b>Feb 19</b>	<b>Parent Conference Day</b> School Closed



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[Printable School Calendar PDF](#)

# Outstanding Fall\*/Winter Athletic Achievements

**Congratulations to our THS & TMS athletic teams and athletes**

*\*The accomplishments for fall sports are only those not available in time for the fall newsletter.*

## THS Girls' Soccer



**LANA LAVINDER**  
Midfielder of the Year



**ARYANA PATTERSON**  
Forward of the Year



**CHLOE SHELLEY**  
Goalkeeper of the Year

## TMS Wrestling



**BLUE RIDGE CONFERENCE CHAMPS**  
1ST-BORDER DUALS  
1ST-BLUE RIDGE CONFERENCE DUAL



**KENDALL LEWIS**  
123 lb Conference Champ



**JACKSON ROBERTS**  
Heavyweight Conference Champ



# Beginning in January, all students eat free

## **Free breakfast and lunch for all BTCS students when school resumes in January**

Bristol Tennessee City Schools is pleased to announce that beginning second semester, the district will participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which will provide free breakfast and lunch to all students at no cost without families having to submit a meal application.

According to Jennifer Burleson, BTCS school nutrition director, there are a variety of benefits to implementing CEP in the district—the most important being that more students will have access to healthy meals and be better prepared to learn.

Students may still purchase food items outside the reimbursable meals, such as a la carte items. For these additional purchases, parents may continue to upload money to their child’s account via [MySchoolBucks](#).

“Providing free meals to all students in our district is another step to ensuring equity,” said Burleson. “Access to nutritious meals is vital to students being able to focus on learning and succeeding in the classroom. In addition, participation in school meals reduces food insecurity, obesity rates, and poor health.”



For additional information about CEP: [BTCS Offers Free Meals for All Students](#).

“The most important benefit to CEP is that more students will have access to healthy meals and be better prepared to learn.”

**Jennifer Burleson**  
BTCS School Nutrition Director

## Healthy Meals Grant

### **Healthy Meals Grant brings exciting changes to school meals**

In November, BTCS announced a new \$150,000 Healthy Meals Incentives grant dedicated to improving children’s health by funding initiatives to strengthen the quality and nutrition of school meals. Over the next two years, the district will implement a multifaceted plan to enhance school meals.

During fall 2023, the district is partnering with a chef and registered dietitian to assist with recipe development and staff training to implement healthier and more flavorful cooking techniques. The grant is also allowing the purchase of new equipment to provide more consistent and flavorful cooking options for steaming, roasting, and baking. The grant will continue through 2025 with many more exciting initiatives. [Read more.](#)

# BE A GOOD HUMAN

The BTCS Educating for Equity (E4E) team kicked off a “Be a Good Human” initiative in October to celebrate a few of the many “good humans” of BTCS. Students and staff members are celebrated weekly with the “Be a Good Human” Award. We congratulate the following recipients for October–December.

## School

Tennessee High  
Fairmount  
Holston View  
Tennessee Middle  
Haynesfield  
Avoca  
Anderson

## Students

Sydney Gassiott  
Selena Lane  
Jase Edmison  
Emily Whaley  
Sam Story  
Paisley Daniels  
Skylar Nelson

## Educators

Dereck Shipley  
Matt Pippin  
Addison Powers  
Ginger Davis  
Karen Duncan  
Meghann Ramsey  
Moseley Snyder

## Support Staff

Brenda Muncy  
Mariah Clegg  
Kathryn Netherland  
Susan Osburn  
Earl Doyle  
William O’Dell  
Christina Clark

## District Support

Penny Jenkins  
Johnny Jones  
Scott Morrell  
Tanya Rios

For more information, visit  
[www.btcs.org/e4e](http://www.btcs.org/e4e).

# Mental health matters

## Managing & Coping with Holiday Stress from KidCentral TN

The holidays are a fun and joyous time but also a very busy one, and holiday stress and anxiety in children can and does happen.

*How can you help children better cope?*

**Find out more.**

## Thank you, BTCS employees, for supporting our community’s needs

The employees of Bristol Tennessee City Schools always show up in a big way during the **United Way of Bristol Community Campaign**. This year was no exception!

Employee contributions exceeded the \$41,000 goal, raising \$41,760.50. While meeting the fundraising goal is something to be celebrated, it is never just about the money. The real celebration is for the individuals whose lives will be changed for the better!

### Thank you to all who participated!

Together, we truly are making a difference. Check out the [BTCS United Way Campaign Summary](#) to find out more.



## ☑ Good Attendance

### Make it **YOUR** New Year's Resolution

◆ School attendance is the **#1** indicator of your child's success.

◆ By 3rd grade students who have missed two days per month will have missed more than an entire nine weeks of learning.

◆ Always reach out to your child's teacher, counselor, or a school administrator if you need attendance support.

## Free Decodable Books for K-2

*Help your child become a stronger reader!*



The At-Home Decodable Book Series is available free for all Tennessee families of K-2 children to encourage at-home reading practice to help young learners become stronger readers. Each free decodable packet has seven decodable booklets, which contain 20+ exciting stories full of sounds and words to practice. Families can read the stories at home with their child to help them sound out words and build their reading skills. [Get more information and find out how to order.](#)

## SCHOOL SCHEDULE CHANGES

Find out what you need to know this winter!

[www.btcs.org/schedulechanges](http://www.btcs.org/schedulechanges)

### WHAT IS A TWO-HOUR DELAY?

SCHOOL	START TIME
TMS/THS	9:30 a.m.
Elementary	10:10 a.m.



## SAFE SCHOOL HELPLINE

BREAK THE SILENCE | PREVENT THE EVENT

**If you see something, say something!** The Safe School Helpline is a convenient, confidential way for anyone to anonymously report information about situations that might affect safety at our schools.



### Four Ways to Report to the Safe School Helpline

- 1 Call:** 1-800-418-6423 or 1-800-4-1-VOICE (Ext. 359)
- 2 Text:** TIPS to 614-426-0240
- 3 Online:** [SafeSchoolHelpline.com](http://SafeSchoolHelpline.com)
- 4 Mobile App:** FREE on App Store or Google Play



# Holiday TRADITIONS

Traditions are an important part of most family celebrations during the holidays. Throughout our BTCS and Viking Nation family, we also have countless holiday traditions to look forward to each year. Two of those traditions are our Holiday Hoops and Arby's Classic basketball tournaments, which are both held annually in Viking Hall.



**27th Annual Doc Maples  
Holiday Hoops  
December 21-23**

Join us in Viking Hall December 21-23 for the 27th Annual Doc Maples Holiday Hoops, hosted by the Tennessee High Lady Viking basketball program. The tournament features eight teams from Tennessee and Virginia.



**40th Annual Arby's  
Classic  
December 26-30**

The Arby's Classic is one of the premier basketball tournaments in the country. This year's 40th annual tournament promises to be an exciting week full of talented student-athletes representing the finest basketball programs in the country.

### Tournament Livestreams & More Info

For fans who cannot make it to Bristol or are more comfortable watching from home, live tournament action from Viking Hall is available for both tournaments via livestream. Visit [arbysclassic.net](http://arbysclassic.net) for more information about the 2023 teams, schedule, and livestream access.

In a recent "Friday Inspiration" email to staff, Dr. Annette Tudor, director of schools, shared some of her favorite holiday traditions. One of those was for Holiday Fudge: "One of my best friend's mothers used to make fudge and gift it to all her friends and family during the holidays. When she passed away, my friend shared her fudge recipe with everyone who attended the funeral. Every Christmas since, I have made her holiday fudge. A few years ago, my youngest son took over the tradition. He likes it so much that he starts making it at Thanksgiving and keeps making more until the new year."

In the email, Dr. Tudor invited staff members to share some of their special traditions with her. We hope you enjoy learning about these valued holiday traditions and celebrating those things you hold dear during this magical season!

### Terry's Holiday Fudge



- 3 cups sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 5 oz evaporated milk
- 12 oz semi-sweet chocolate chips  
or peanut butter chips
- 7 oz jar marshmallow cream
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup walnuts (optional)

**HEAT** sugar, butter, evaporated milk to full, rolling boil on medium heat, stirring constantly. Boil on medium heat for 4 minutes stirring constantly. Remove from heat.

**STIR** in chips, marshmallow cream until melted. Stir in vanilla and walnuts.

**SPREAD** immediately in foil-lined 9-inch square pan.





Merry  
Christmas  
&  
Happy  
New Year  
from  
BTCS

