



UNIVERSITY SCHOOL

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

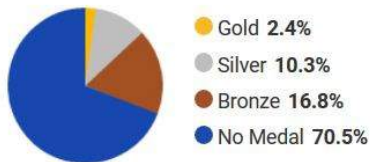
US Bucs News

Spring 2017

Welcome to the fifth edition of University School's Newsletter!

We are proud of the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff. We want to inform you what we are doing, where we are going, and always remember where we have been!

Award Distribution



Ranked 10th High School in the State of Tennessee



University School

1 Alexandra Dr, Johnson City, Tennessee 37614 | (423) 439-4333

#1104 in National Rankings | College Readiness Score 41.9/100.0

Of the Tennessee schools in the 2017 U.S. News Best High School rankings, **University School ranked #10** and earned a **silver medal**.

Overall, University School ranked #1104 in the nation.

The school's rankings are based on the performance on state-required tests and how well students are prepared for college. High school students in Tennessee are tested in English, math, biology, chemistry and U.S. History. To graduate, Tennessee high schools students must earn 22 credits in various subjects according to the Tennessee Department of Education.

Of the Tennessee schools in the 2017 U.S. News Best High Schools rankings, seven were awarded gold medals, 19 earned silver medals and 98 received bronze medals. More information can be found on the [U.S. News & World Report Webpage](#).

From the Director's Desk...



Dear University School, Training School, or Normal School Alumni,

As I write this note to you, the school is ablaze with activities. Spring sports are entering their conference play-offs. Seniors are working diligently to stay focused and finish well. Field trips for good behavior have been planned. Award ceremonies and graduation planners are finalizing their programs. Yearbooks will soon be distributed. A great year at University School is winding down quickly.

With all this activity going on, I need to stop, pause, and thank Dr. Joe Borden for his many years of service to the school community. He has been a blessing to me in the two years I have had the privilege to work with him, and I know that many, many more would say the same thing. His seemingly tireless devotion to the students and faculty at the school is obvious to all. He leaves us to fulfil his role as "Grandpa." We wish him well and send him off with many thoughts and prayers.

If finishing this year was not a big enough whirlwind, we are also looking forward with excitement to next year. We are thrilled with the new staff joining us: two new Math teachers, one 6th grade ELA teacher, and a French teacher. Anxious to continue building a closer relationship with the Clemmer College of Education and University School, we are eagerly awaiting the selection of our new Dean of CCOE. Exciting things are before us and we will keep you updated as we move on into 2017-18.

Thank you for your involvement with us this year. We appreciate the emails filled with stories of times gone by. We have loved our time to sit and chat with you. We witnessed the joy and closeness you displayed, giving testimony to the "family" that you became after many years together. We look forward to the reunions that are being planned for this coming year.

Thanks as always,

Troy



Class of '50's-60's

University (Training) School Classmates and Friends,

Please save August 4th-5th for a Multi-Class Reunion in Johnson City.

(Inviting from the earliest classes to at least the Class of 1968, & others interested)

Our **tentative agenda** is:

Friday August 4th:

5pm – 10pm: Get-together / buffet food/drinks at Carnegie Hotel

Saturday August 5th:

10am – noon: Open house at University (Training) School

Afternoon: TBD (Class of 60 may present a play; other classes may want to schedule activities)

5pm – 11pm: Get-together and buffet dinner/drinks at Johnson City Country Club

We very earnestly solicit your suggestions for activities during the planned sessions and during the "TBD" time Saturday afternoon.

If you are thinking about coming, please reply as follows (you're not locked in if your plans change):

- Your name and Class Year
- Number of attendees at Carnegie buffet Friday evening
- Number of attendees at Johnson City Country Club Saturday evening

The costs for the above sessions with food should be similar to those in 2015 – more detail as we get closer to the dates.

A **limited number of rooms** will be available at the Carnegie at a special rate of \$109 / night. *Guests will need to call the Carnegie Hotel directly at 423-979-6400 to make reservations at the discounted rate. You will need to provide the Carnegie with the name of the **block "UH Reunion"**, the dates of stay, as well as a credit card to secure the reservation. Guests will have up until 6pm the day of arrival to cancel without a fee. The cut-off date to book within this block is 7/4/17.*

Thanks and look forward to seeing you August 4-5,

Kent McCune, Class 1960, kentmccune@verizon.net

Loretta Lyle, Class 1958, lblyle@comcast.net

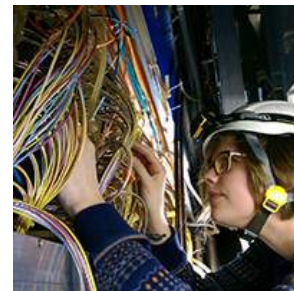
John Anderson, Class 1960 , andjz@yahoo.com

Class of '97

The University School Class of '97 is planning a reunion during the **weekend of June 17th**. There will be a family day on Saturday at the school.

The contact person for this event is K. Nicole Street-Lutz, phone (423) 426-1340 or email address kcoley1029@yahoo.com.

Class of 2012



Meghan Stuart, Class of 2012, has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program award for the

2017--18 academic year to study and teach in cities around the globe.

Meghan, a current UT student, who is triple majoring in physics, honors math, and computer science, will be studying math at the Renyi Institute in Hungary. She also plans to pursue research in topology.





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Class of '72, 70-74

The UH Class of 1972 will have our 45th Reunion this summer on **August 11th and 12th**.

Friday night August 11th will be in the UH Gym for a Meet and Greet 6:30-11:00 p.m. There is no set program. There will be an opportunity to tour the school if desired. This time will be for classmates only (unless your spouse/significant other just cannot bear to be away from you for the evening) to allow us the opportunity to rekindle friendships, "yak it up", catch up and all around find out what everyone has been up to the last 45 years. There will be tables and chairs and drinks (non-alcoholic) provided courtesy of the Planning Committee. Background music will be provided by the Team of (Guess Who?) KJ and DH. We ask that YOU bring a snack food/finger food/appetizer dish (enough to share) as there will not be a dinner Friday evening. This is a come and stay as long as you want event---very casual dress.

Saturday August 12: Social/Dinner/Recognitions/Music and Dancing: Carnegie Hotel Grand Soldiers Ballroom, 6-11 p.m. Spouses/significant others cordially invited. Social hour 6-7 p.m. with cash bar (cash bar will be available all evening), Southern Barbeque buffet will begin at 7 p.m. There will be a brief program and recognitions following dinner. The Team of KJ and DJ again supplying Tunes from the 60's and 70's. Cost is \$30 per person. Dress is nice casual. Formal invitations will go out later this month.

Contact Kenny Johnson @ hkj2md@comcast.net or Mary Lynn McLeod Lancaster @ gigilancaster1954@gmail.com for more information.

Alumni News Requested

Do you have news that you would like to share with your former classmates? Send updates to Usalumni@etsu.edu and we will post your news in a future newsletter!

Alumni News

Class of 2008

University School Class of 2008: it's time to celebrate! Our 10-year reunion is right around the corner and the planning committee is already getting excited about our event scheduled for Spring 2018. Check out our class website for event updates and to share your current contact information:

<https://www.uhsclassof2008reunion.com>. If you would like more information or are interested in assisting with the event please feel free to contact Courtney (Green) Knittle or Law Loving at uhsreunioninfo@gmail.com. Looking forward to celebrating with everyone in one short year!

Alumni Contact Information Requested

Update Email Address

University School is continuously updating our Alumni Database. Anyone who graduated from University School or attended our school is encouraged to complete a contact information form by going to USBucs.com, click on the Alumni Tab, and update their Contact Information.

Help us help you to stay "in the know" about USchool!

Update Contact Info



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Student Success

Freshman **Vijay Ananthula** was awarded 3rd Place Overall at the **Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair**, held on the UT Knoxville campus on March 30, 2017. Vijay was mentored by Chemistry & Physics Instructor, Ms. Mahua Chakraborty.



2016-2017 Class with Ms. Myra McGee and Ms. Dedra Lamb

The University School **Kindergarten Class** painted their interpretation of the book, **The First Strawberries** by Joseph Bruchac, for the Governor's Books From Birth Foundation 2017 Statewide Partners Dinner. The dinner's entertainment for the evening was professional storyteller and ETSU Director of Storytelling Graduate Program Dr. Joseph Sobol performing **The First Strawberries** with accompanying music. Pictures from the dinner and his performance can be viewed on the Governor's Foundation Website <https://www.flickr.com/photos/>

University School **Math Club** members competed in the T.M.T.A. Math Contest at Northeast State. The following students scored in the top ten: **Matthew Carter - 8th place** in Geometry, **Vijay Ananthula - 2nd place** in Algebra 2, and **Porter Bradley - 10th place** in Algebra 2.

Math Club members participating were:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Vijay Ananthula | Ginnie Berry |
| Porter Bradley | Viraj Brahmhatt |
| Matthew Carter | Gracie Crabtree |
| Carter Pollock | Abby Siddiqi |
| Isaac Siddiqi | Caleb Strickler |



Congratulations University School Mathletes!
T.M.T.A. Math Contest, Northeast State



University School students **Caleb Strickler**, **Vijay Ananthula**, and **Porter Bradley** won first place in the **Northeast Tennessee National History Day** competition.



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Student Success

The High School Annual Art Exhibit will be showing at the Slocumb Galleries, ETSU Ball Hall from May 16 through June 15. It will feature works by each student taking art this year, including Art I, II, III, and IV.



Our students joined other students from Washington County Schools to celebrate **Soaring ACT scores**. These students scored 21 or higher on the ACT composite. The composite ACT score, or the "overall" score, helps determine students' readiness for college, and the exam tests students on reading, science, English and math. Composite scores range from 1 to 36, and colleges use those scores as a benchmark for admitting students. Higher scores mean more opportunity for scholarships and more options for students in their higher education choices. **University School currently has 97 students who have scored 21 or higher on the ACT exam with 26 of those students scoring 30 or higher.**



University School students participating in JAM (*Junior Appalachian Musicians, Inc.*) gave several performances this year for events such as "*Poetry Out Loud*"

and "*Pickin In The SchoolYard*". JAM is a multi-state music program that introduces students to music of their communities and their region through small group instruction in instruments common to the Appalachian Mountains. Group music lessons are provided by students of ETSU's Bluegrass, Old Time, and Country Music Studies program and/or artists from the community. Lessons are weekly for 1.5 hours, along with special artist visits and other activities. JAM is administrated by Ms. Kim Allison and Mr. Roy Andrade.

Jump Rope for Heart and **Hoops for Heart** are national education and fundraising events sponsored by the American Heart Association and The Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE America). These events provide educational lessons about heart healthy lifestyles and the risks of heart disease that are taught several weeks in their physical education class by Ms. Sharon Cradic.



Ms. Ellen Pitts, University School Art Instructor, with students in Kindergarten, First, Second, and Eighth grades provided works of art in the form of party favors and decor for The **Mary B. Martin School of the Arts** Volunteer Appreciation Celebration. The artwork consisting of Kandinsky Circles, Mosaics, and artist renderings represented various artists and art eras of the past.



Student Success

Congratulations to the following University School students who have been inducted into **Mu Alpha Theta – the National High School and Junior College Mathematics Honor Society**: Vijay Ananthula, Cas Blevins, Carter Pollock, Abby Siddiqi, Isaac Siddiqi, and Caleb Strickler.



Students from **Ms. Andrea Lowery's 4th grade class** participated in the culmination of the mini grant titled **"Integrating Science and Literacy in Elementary Education to Promote Learning and Improve Pre-Service Teacher Education."**

Forty undergraduate students in the K-6 elementary program at ETSU and fifty elementary students from University School worked together to investigate STEM concepts. The undergraduate students developed hands-on learning activities to address the new TN Science Standards for 4th and 5th grades. They taught portions of the activities to small groups of elementary students using a station format.



Ms. Chakraborty's Physics class and K-8 Music Instructor, Ms. Allyson Ross, collaborated to create a PVC xylophone. Students measured and calculated to determine lengths of pipe to create a xylophone with a range of 25 pitches!

The **Green Club** has built and planted a **pollinator garden bed** next to the existing elementary school garden beds. The project was led by Senior Gwen Kirschke and includes several native pollinator friendly plants. In addition to attracting beneficial insects to our vegetable garden the pollinator bed is slated to be included on a Johnson City pollinator trail map in the near future.



The Green club also did three other projects this spring: 1) They made a second **native pollinator garden** for the Southside Elementary School. This will also be on the Johnson City pollinator corridor. 2) They made and painted **garden plot signs** for Carver Community Garden, and 3) Gwen, Megan, and Rice created and led an environmental education program on pollination ecology to the local Sowing Seeds Children's Program. According to leader, Shae Keane, this program "is aimed at supporting children in Washington County to become Eco literate and grow in understanding of the lands, plants, and animals with whom they share their community."



Green Club Projects



During the annual Clemmer College of Education Honors Day Ceremony, held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, in the Carnegie Hotel Grand Soldiers Ballroom, **Ms. Erica Preswood** was recognized and presented with the **Outstanding Faculty Award**.

(Pictured above are Dr. Kimberly Hale, Associate Dean, Clemmer College of Education, Dr. Troy Knechtel, Director, University School, Ms. Erica Preswood, Instructor, University School and Dr. Richard Rhoda, Interim Dean, Clemmer College of Education.) Ms. Preswood has taught Middle School Language Arts at University School since 2013. She was nominated for the award by the faculty at University School. Some comments about her by her peers include: ***Erica seems to have boundless energy and enthusiasm for her teaching and always makes her lessons fun and interesting while maintaining rigorous standards for her students.*** Erica thoroughly incorporates technology as one of her teaching strategies and seamlessly aligns online activities with paper/pencil and in-person activities. Additionally, Erica is always eager to delve into research topics and to share with her peers at school, as well as regionally.



Dr. Joseph Borden will be retiring after the 2016-2017 school year. He has served as **Instructor of Instrumental and Choral Music, Theater Arts, and Contemporary Issues** since 1995. He also served as **Head Baseball Coach** through 2012.

In 1996, Dr. Borden served as musical director and conductor for the musical "Meet Me In St. Louis," a joint production by University School, ETSU, and the Johnson City Community Theater. He has also served as musical director for a number of other productions with the Johnson City Community Theater. Dr. Borden performed in two musicals based on USO shows for the Jonesborough Repertory Theater.

At University School, the chorus and instrumental groups have performed many concerts throughout the years on campus, in the community and on tour. Dr. Borden has conducted many choral and instrumental groups and toured extensively nationally and internationally with some of the various performance groups. These include the Government Issue Chorus as well as other choral and instrumental ensembles from churches and schools. Tours have included many areas of the United States of America, Canada, Great Britain, India and Italy. The University School Singers in April 2006 successfully completed such a tour to Italy. The chorus competed in the Verona, Italy annual international choral competition. As well as giving two local concerts, the chorus won a silver chalice in the competition. The University School Singers and Instrumental Ensemble have made six trips to Georgia and Florida where they performed in various venues to include at least two or three nursing homes on each trip. They have performed at Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida, on two occasions. In the fall of 2014, the band and chorus sang in Baltimore, Maryland and observed the 200th anniversary of the writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

We are so very proud to have had you as a Buc, Dr. Borden! (Email address after retirement: tbonefish@hotmail.com)

Congratulations to **Ms. Erin Doran, 3rd Grade Instructor**, a 2016-2017 **Tennessee Educator Fellow**. The hard work of dedicated educators and students has helped lead Tennessee to a significant milestone: the fastest-improving state on the Nation's Report Card. During a one-year term, the Tennessee Educator Fellows learn about, reflect upon, and inform the policies, practices, and systems that affect student achievement and educator effectiveness. They also serve as liaisons between their colleagues, their communities, policymakers, and advocates as Tennessee continues the work of improving educational outcomes for all students.





**Go, Bucs,
Go!**



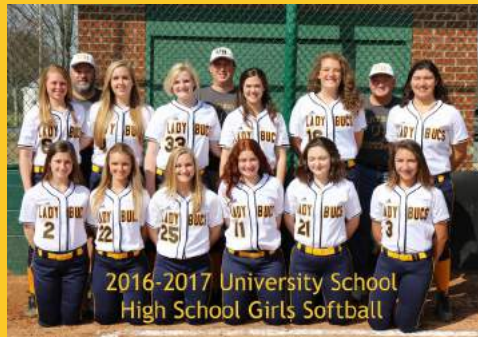
2016-2017 University School
High School Boys Baseball



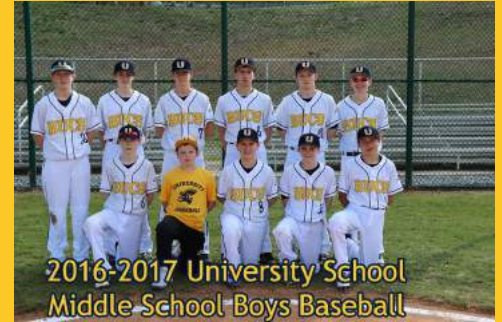
2016-2017 University School
High School Boys Soccer



2016-2017 University School
Middle School Girls Softball



2016-2017 University School
High School Girls Softball



2016-2017 University School
Middle School Boys Baseball



2016-2017 University School
Track



2016-2017 University School
Track Pole Vaulters/Sprinters

**Spring
Athletic
Teams**



Graduation

Graduation for the University School Class of 2017 will be held on **Friday, May 26th, at 7:00 p.m.**, in the ETSU Culp Auditorium. Go to our website for a link to watch the graduation via live-stream!

Class of 2017

Social Media



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