

Eighth-graders stepping ahead

What have other GEAR UP eighth-graders across the state been up to lately? Here's a snapshot:

Eighth-Grade Tour at Southern High School.

The purpose of this program was to allow Thomas Jefferson Middle School eighth-graders the opportunity to tour Southern High School in an effort to ease the transition to ninth-grade. SHS administrators welcomed the TJ students, who later enjoyed performances by SHS cheerleaders and the band. SHS students then led small groups of TJ students on a school tour. This program was facilitated by Debbie Cotton, GEAR UP Site Coordinator, Host Institution: University of Louisville.

Leadership Camp. This is an annual program for Iroquois Middle School. During the program, GEAR UP gave a 45-minute presentation to students on the importance of good decision making and identifying/using resources available to help them plan for the future. This program was facilitated by Jacob Mercier, GEAR UP Site Coordinator, Host Institution: University of Louisville.

Token Store. During a four-week period, Carr Creek Elementary students earned GEAR UP dollars based on their grades, attendance and behavior. The students then spent their earned dollars in the GEAR UP University Token store. Students managed the bank, travel agency and cash register in the store. This program

was facilitated by Neomia Hagans, GEAR UP Site Coordinator, Host Institution: Hazard Community and Technical College.

GEAR UP Today. GEAR UP Today is an interview show that showcases colleges and careers. GEAR UP goals and upcoming events for Metcalfe County Middle and High Schools are also featured stories. The show is aired on the local access channel. This program is facilitated by Mike Mills, GEAR UP Site Coordinator, Host Institution: Elizabethtown Community and Technical College.

E-Mentoring. The purpose of this program is to mentor students (using various Blackboard activities) to get them to explore their options for going to college. This program is facilitated by Jonna Hayden, Counselor-Site Liaison, Leestown Middle School, Host Site: Fayette County Public Schools.



NFTE student cashes in on leadership



Kara Singleton

When I was in the seventh grade at Estill County Middle School, I participated in an entrepreneurship class. This class, sponsored by GEAR Up and taught by Mr. Jamie Neal, was designed to teach us how to create and run a business.

I chose to publish a school newspaper, since our school didn't have one. After finding out certain details of the newspaper business, I started my paper. I called my paper The Patriot Voice and sold it for 50 cents a copy at school. In my paper, I included sports, community news, school news, teacher and student spotlights, a game page and column sort of like "Dear Abby." I loved writing the articles and taking pictures for the paper. I hired students to help me with the layout and write stories.

In addition to the money I made selling the paper, I made money by selling advertisements to local businesses. I was amazed at the positive response from the business leaders as they were eager to help me. The ads paid for printing the paper and paid my employees.

It was hard work publishing a newspaper, but it was also fun. I am glad I was selected to be in that class. Since my paper was enjoyed so much by the students and staff at ECMS, they now offer a media class that publishes a paper much like the one I worked so hard to produce.

Kara Beth Singleton
Ninth grade
Estill County High School

We've Got Mail

Dear GEAR UP Counselor,

Thank you for taking us on all of our wonderful field trips. They have all been fun. I'm so glad to have had you come with us. The tour of Eastern (EKU) was fun, and I learned a lot. I might go there someday. You are making it very easy for me to think about and find a college. Before I didn't have an idea (about college), now I do, thanks to GEAR UP!

Eighth-grade student,
Foley Middle School
Berea College GEAR UP

