

We're off to the theatre

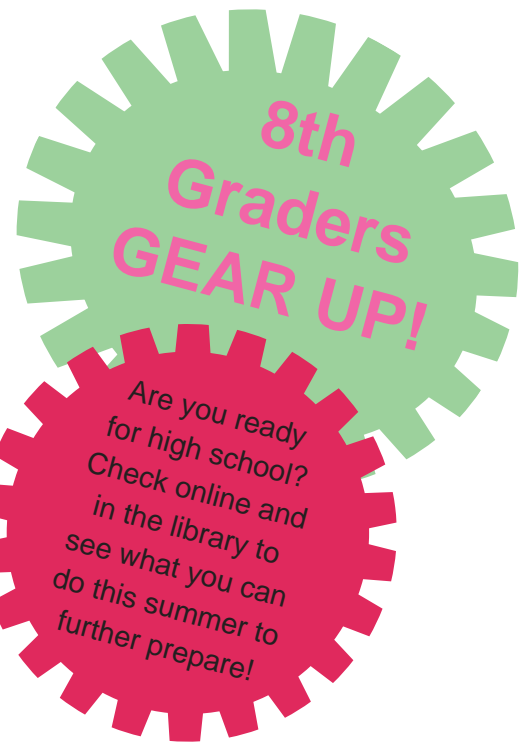
For the second year in a row, GEAR UP Kentucky and the University of Kentucky Theatre Department have collaborated to enhance student learning opportunities through the GEAR UP Theatre Club. Throughout the spring, once a week after school, UK Theatre students taught GEAR UP students the basics of theatre. The lessons led to a stage production in which GEAR UP students performed the leading roles.

This year there were two stage productions. UK Theater student Ray Adams Jr. wrote and narrated *Hansel and Gretel or Something Like That...*, which he co-directed with fellow UK Theatre student Jasmine Webb. UK Theater student Allyson Smith adapted Jay Williams' play, *The Practical Princess*, which she narrated and co-directed with UK Theater student Nick Husted. UK students Lindsay Warnick and Tanner Fouts offered their talents as the production crew.

GEAR UP Theatre Club teachers Barbara Ward of Tates Creek Middle School and Carolyn Steward of Crawford Middle School worked with the UK students and staff to move the plays from paper to stage. Without the leadership of UK Theatre Department Chair Nancy Jones, the GEAR UP Theatre Club would not be in existence. Jones worked to ensure that building tours, open practices and complimentary tickets to plays were made available to GEAR UP students as part of the program.

According to Domonique Battle, GEAR UP Site Coordinator, the GEAR UP Theatre Club gave students an opportunity to practice public speaking and build self-esteem. The program, which supported arts and humanities education, was administered by Battle and Site Liaison Anisha Beatty-Adams of Tates Creek.

Special thanks to Crawford Principal Joyce Florence, Tates Creek Principal Greg Quenon, and GEAR UP Project Associate Angela Roberts for their part in making this program a reality two years in a row!

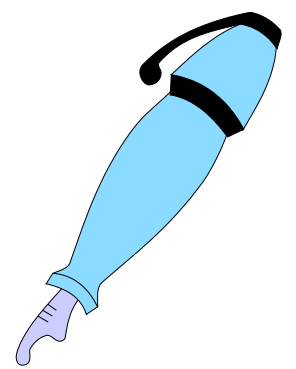


Crawford Middle School students take a bow after their performance of *Hansel and Gretel or Something Like That*. From left Jasmine Webb (UK), Alyssa Moore, Heather Steward, Ashlynn Kersey, Tony Bailey, Alyssa Elliott and Ray Adams Jr. (UK).



Tates Creek Middle School students during their performance of *The Practical Princess*; pictured are Megan Johnson, Bethany Montgomery, Skylar Young, Sammy MacFarlane, Carly Strein and Surya Green. Marissa O'Day, not pictured, also performed.

Principal's Pen: The high school opportunity



High school is a great opportunity for all incoming ninth-graders. Their freshman year allows them to start on a path that will lead them to future success, no matter what difficulties or problems they have had in the past. Moving to high school marks the time that struggling students can start over with a clean slate and move forward in a positive direction.

Students need to start their high school careers on a positive note and take advantage of every opportunity given to them. At Madison Central High School, 96% of the students who successfully complete their freshman year go on to graduate from high school. On the other hand, only 35% of those who do not earn enough credits freshman year end up graduating from high school. Based on that data, one can see the importance of a strong first year.

Education is the key to achieving the kind of lifestyle that one desires, and the foundation of that education begins in the freshman year of high school.

George Powell
Freshman Principal
Madison Central High School
Richmond, KY

Lost
(how most of you feel about preparing for college)

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Why is college important?

- **Bigger bucks.** According to the U.S. Census Bureau, graduates from a Kentucky four-year college earn about \$16,000 more per year than a high school graduate and about \$23,000 more than a high school dropout.
- **A better job.** Because of new technology, more employers require education beyond high school. You'll have a better selection of jobs and a good chance of finding a career you enjoy.
- **Important skills.** In addition to job skills, you'll learn important communication, thinking and social skills.

KnowHow2GOky.org **gear up**