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Summer 5-1-2019

2019 May - University School Alumni Newsletter

University School, East Tennessee State University

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UNIVERSITY SCHOOL

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

US Bucs News

May 2019

*University
School
Newsletter,
Edition 13*



**Accomplishment.
Challenged + Supreme
Effort = Success.**

As we come close to the end of Academic School Year 2018-2019, we reflect on the many ways our students have grown this past year, mentally, physically, emotionally, and academically. Many goals have been achieved through

much hard work and persistence. Academic and Athletic Honors, trophies and advanced degrees have been awarded. Alumni have excelled as they continue their journey into the “real world” beyond the walls of UH. In this end-of-year newsletter, please indulge us and allow us to share just a few of the many accomplishments of our parent organizations, alumni, students, faculty, and staff during this past school year. **Every child valued, challenged and successful....whatever it takes! We are so very proud of our Bucs.**



**University School
Ranked #9**

**Best High School in the
State of Tennessee - 2019**

US News & World Report

U.S. News & World Report has ranked **University School** the **ninth best high school in Tennessee** in its “Best High Schools” listing. University School is the only school in Northeast Tennessee ranked in the top 10 and is also the highest ranked school east of Chattanooga.

Ms. Day stated, “*We are so proud of the accomplishments our students are making each day in the classrooms, in their organizations, in their community, and on the athletic fields. It is such an honor for University School to be recognized at this level, and much credit goes to our faculty and staff for all they do to provide exceptional instruction and to support our students.*”



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Alumni In The News

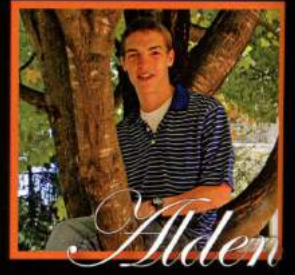


Emily Goepel, Class of 2004, was recently featured in *ETSU Accent*. She is currently employed by East Tennessee State University as Assistant Director for Communications. View [Press Article](#)

Alden Collins, Class of 2010, was recently promoted to head boys basketball coach at Morristown East. View [Press Article](#)



(left to right) Derek Brown, Damell Jones, Alden Collins, and Johnathan Evans hang out before their game.

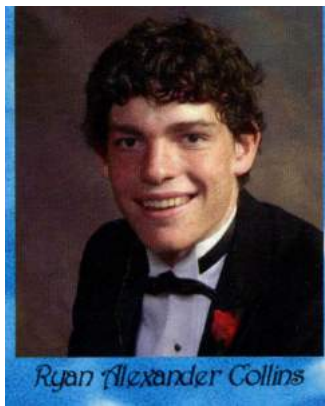


Alden


Activities: Basketball, Cross Country, Track, FCA, Beta Club, Eagle Scout

Quote: "Winners take time to relish their work knowing that scaling the mountain is what makes the view from the top so exhilarating."

Most likely to... be a coach.



Alcoa hires **Ryan Collins**, Class of 2005, as boys basketball coach. View [Press Article](#)



Ryan Collins
School Activities:
basketball, baseball, cross country, Beta club. Talents: hitting a bomb. Quote: "Don't wish it were easier. Wish you were better." -Jim Rohn
Most likely to serve MJ

John Shulman, Class of 1984, steps down as McCallie basketball coach.

View [Press Article](#)



Back Row, L to R: Maurice Boyer, David Steele, Greg Davis, Boad Moorhouse, Keith Shannon. Front Row, L to R: Jon Davis, John Shulman, John Phillips, Dale Greer, Josh Robertson, Harold Jarrigan.



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Alumni Giving for School Year 2018-2019 - Thank You!

Dr. William A. and Elizabeth Bridgforth '66

Mr. Bryan H. and Christy I. Weems

Mr. David E. and Ann Hawkins '58

Mr. Jerry W. and Donna W. Wilson '68 '69

Ms. Loretta B. Lyle '58

Mr. Harold K. Johnson '72

Ms. Judy A. Whittimore

Mr. Robert F. and Judith W. Schrader '58

Dr. Mitchell and Sandra Robinson

Mr. John C. and Mary E. Kepley, Sr. '58

Mr. John L. and Eleanor J. Bailey '60

Bristol Broadcasting Co., Inc.

Mr. David L. Kite

Mr. Albert R. Wilson '68

GIVE NOW

Thank you for supporting University School by giving.....

By Check:

Payable to ETSU
Foundation with University School
in the memo line. Mail to:

ETSU University Advancement
Attn: Director, Education
P.O. Box 70721
Johnson City, TN 37614

By Credit Card:

Call (423) 439-4242 and
a staff member will assist
you with your gift.

Online:

[Click here to go to Online
Giving page.](#)

Please designate the gift for
University School

For additional ways
to give, contact
ETSU University
Advancement at
(423) 439-4242



Alumni [Facebook page](#)

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/636979096341573/>

Alumni Contact

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 Contact Information. Stay connected to USchool!

Email: USAlumni@etsu.edu

Social Media

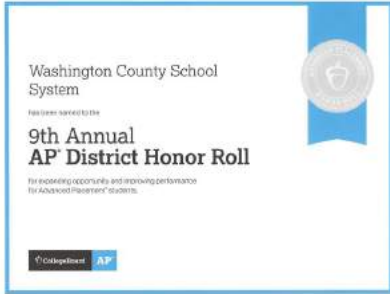


Social Media
Links
on the bottom of
our webpages!



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Washington County is one of 4 school districts in Tennessee, and the only one in the First Core region, being recognized by the College Board as being on the annual **AP District Honor Roll**. Congratulations University School students and staff! We contributed to this success!

Congratulations to University School, named a **2018 Reward, Priority School!** Reward status is the top distinction a school can earn in Tennessee. Reward schools are those that are improving overall student academic achievement and student growth for all students and for student groups, and they are identified annually.



Congratulations University School!



Thank you to our University School community!

This year we made a big ask of you – we asked that you put all your energy and support into one fundraiser for our school and that you show up and support our kids and our teachers. The University School Fundraising event was an amazing night of dancing, visiting with friends, and having the opportunity to bid on some great items and also to fund wish lists for our teachers. We appreciate each and every person who came, who volunteered, who sold tickets, and who supported our school!

We are still finalizing all of the numbers but our estimate right now is that **the Fundraising Gala raised just shy of \$26,000 for our school!** Of that, \$5000 was donated specifically to fulfill the requests of teachers wish lists (and, as requested, we are going to provide everyone with the opportunity to give even more directly to the teachers soon)! This is an amazing effort for our first year and we are incredibly grateful. This amount, combined with the \$10,000 we were given for STEM initiatives by the Acoustic Christmas Foundation means that we have nearly **\$36,000 available from our efforts this year** to provide for our students and teachers.

Thank you all for everything you do for our children, for our teachers, and for the BEST SCHOOL around!

Kelly Foster, University School Foundation President



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With great sadness, we share the following **Letter of Resignation** from Dr. Troy Knechtel:

Hello Bucs Family-

As last school year ended, I began my medical leave in search of treatment options for my Parkinson's disease. This search led me to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, home of the nation's top neurology department. I had heard of their reputation for finding creative ways to treat various illnesses, and I was hopeful they could do the same for me. However, I did not walk away with the

answers I had hoped.

After a week of testing, my diagnosis was changed from Parkinson's disease to Multiple Systems Atrophy (MSA). Unfortunately, MSA is a neurodegenerative disease which has, as of yet, no cure. Also unfortunately, this illness will not allow me to continue in my service to the school and community that I have loved since the day I interviewed for the job.

So, with a heavy heart, I have shared my diagnosis with Dr. Noland, Dr. Bach, and Dr. Aloia, informing them that I will not be able to continue as the director of University School as hoped. Instead, I will be going on disability retirement and moving to North Carolina to be near our son and his wife.

To the staff, students, and parents that make up the community that is University School, please know that these years serving as the director of US have been the best years I have experienced in my 29 years in education. Thank you for making that a reality. Know also that you will be in my thoughts and prayers continually and I will brag of you often.

From the depths of my heart, Thank you and God bless,

***Dr. Knechtel,
troy_knechtel@yahoo.com***



University School students and staff came together this past quarter and created many notes, cards, pictures, and videos for Dr. Knechtel to show our appreciation for his service to our school. He was very appreciative for the kind words and gifts and asked us to relay how much he cares for our University School family. He is greatly missed by all. We continue to keep him in our thoughts and prayers.



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*Excellence
in Teaching
Awards*

*Ms. Jennifer Ledbetter
University School
Teaching Award
2018-2019*

Congratulations to University Middle School Instructor, **Ms. Jennifer Ledbetter**, recipient of the 2018-2019 University School Teaching Award.

Ms. Ledbetter, who currently teaches 6th grade ELA & Social Studies, displays innovation in her classroom daily. She has created a challenging and inspiring area for students to learn. For example, she uses flexible seating to meet the different needs of her students that allows for students to move about the room as needed, stand behind a desk or use an exercise ball for sitting.

She wrote a grant for the [Walking Classroom](#) program (**photos below**) to tie in physical activity to learning about famous people and events. Students walk and listen to podcasts on individual headsets. Her units of study offers many project-based learning opportunities.

Students in her class are encouraged to read different types of literature. Being a voracious reader herself, she can offer recommendations and insights to a number of books, many of which she has in her classroom library.

Students, and teachers alike, love her sense of humor and her willingness to adapt to any situation. She has a gift of laughter that infects anyone she comes in contact with. She is always willing to help teachers with different tasks.

Her students are always actively engaged and adore her.

We are so very proud to have you as a Buc, Ms. Ledbetter! Congratulations on receiving the award!



Students listen to kid-friendly educational podcasts while walking —they **walk, listen, and learn!**





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Ms. Terri Knight was honored for 30 Years of Service at the 2019 ETSU Service Awards Luncheon. Ms. Knight began her



career at University School in 1987, as a 5th grade teacher, continuing in this role until 2005, when she was appointed the position of Library Media Specialist (current position at UH). Prior to teaching at University School, Ms. Knight taught in multiple schools in



Maryland, West Virginia, Kansas, and Indiana. Her certifications include Professional Teaching License, 1-8, Library/Media Endorsement PreK-12, National Board Certification: Middle



TERRI KNIGHT
BS, ETSU
MA, U OF CHARLESTON
FIFTH GRADE

Childhood, and Highly Qualified Status K-6, and Library/Media Pre-K-12. Her degrees include School Library/Media K-12 Endorsement, Ed.S. Educational Leadership with a concentration in Teacher Leadership, Advanced graduate work at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, in the geosciences, computer education, tests and measurement, and reading, M.S., Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in reading, and B.A., Elementary Education.

When asked recently what/who motivated Ms. Knight to enter the field of education, she replied as follows: *Ms. Terri Knight, Librarian Extraordinaire. I started teaching at*

University School the year the Morris Worm was one of the first computer worms to be distributed via the internet, the Los Angeles Dodgers won the World Series and the Washington Redskins won the XXII Super Bowl. I started my first teaching job the year Jimmy Carter was inaugurated as the 39th President of the United States and the Atari 2600 gaming system was released. I taught 5th Grade at University School and Ms. Kelli Barnett was



one of my student teachers. I have been the librarian since 2006. My work in the library is to encourage students to become self-motivated readers and researchers. Students need to understand that through reading and research they will find the information and the inspiration to change their lives and change the world. University School offers the opportunity to be involved



in a number of different activities and create your own destiny. I was encouraged by family, friends, and educators to work with children and literature. I work closely with the Washington County Humane Society and foster dogs and cats while they are waiting for a permanent home. I also enjoy reading and traveling. University School is extremely privileged to have Ms. Terri Knight as a Buc! We look forward to keeping her for 30 more years!



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Congratulations to **University School Safety and Resource Officer, Mr. Cliff Hudson**, who was honored during the Black History Month Program at Carver Recreation Center on February 28th, 2019. The program, attended by past and present Police Chiefs from Johnson City, TN, honored women and men in law enforcement.

We are so very thankful to Officer Hudson for his hard work, diligence and professionalism in protecting our students and staff. So very, very proud that you chose to be a Buc!

Congratulations to University School Faculty Members who were awarded advanced degrees during the Spring 2019 ETSU Commencement Ceremony.

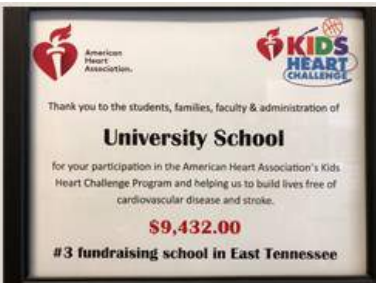
Dr. Aleeta Shaw received a Doctorate of Education in School Leadership, and plans to continue to focus on her current role as the school counselor at University School.

Dr. Kelli Barnett received a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis with an Administrative Endorsement. She is finishing up her 16th year as the second grade instructor at University School and has also taught various adjunct classes for ETSU over the years.



University School Faculty Members Receive Doctorate Degrees

**Dr. Aleeta Shaw
Dr. Kelli Barnett**



Congratulations to **Ms. Sharon Cradic** and University School students and staff for receiving an award for being the #3 school in East Tennessee in raising \$9,432.00 in the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge Program. This program helps build lives free of cardiovascular disease and stroke. So proud of our caring Bucs family!

Congratulations! Successful Fundraiser

American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge Program



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University High Math Instructor, **Ms. Kim Summey** - was honored this year as an ABC Tri-Cities Educator of the Week!

On Tuesday, May 7th, 2019, several University School Students received **Scholarships/Letters of Acceptance to attend East Tennessee State University**. **Dr. Brian Noland**, President of ETSU was on our campus to award the students, with words of encouragement and great advice as our students continue their education.

View [Photo Gallery of Awards Ceremony](#)



Congratulations to **Trishita and Teebro Paul**, UH Middle School siblings who both won Honorable Mention Medals in their grade levels at the MathCon Nationals! Both students exceeded a specified MathCon score. Love our Mathematical Bucs!



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**UH Senior
Janine Day
ETSBOA
All-East
Orchestra**



Congratulations to **Janine Day**, University School Senior, on being selected for the All-East 2018-2019 Senior Clinic! Janine made the 11th-12th Grade Orchestra. Over 2300 students (grades 9th-12th) auditioned for this prestigious clinic. We are very proud of all of the University School students who participated in the auditions for this event: **Bea Damrau, Kirsten Day, and Alyssa Greene**. Janine is the first University School student to be selected for the All-East Clinic in several years from the band and orchestra side of ETSBOA.

Congratulations to **Ethan Leonard**, University School 7th Grade Clarinetist, on being selected for the ETSBOA All-East 2018-2019 Junior Clinic!

Ethan made the 7th Grade Symphonic Band. Over 400 7th grade students auditioned for this prestigious clinic. We are very proud of **Luke Day** and **Ethan Leonard** for representing University School at last week's auditions. Love our Musical Bucs!



**Ethan Leonard
University School
7th Grade
Clarinetist
ETSBOA
All-East
Junior Clinic**



2019 ETSU Honor Band



Alyssa Greene



Beatrice Damrau



Jacob Smith



Cameron Leonard

Congratulations to the University School band students that were selected for the ETSU 2019 Honor Band!

This event includes nominated students from across the region! We are very proud of all of the University School students who were selected for this event:

**Alyssa Greene
Beatrice Damrau
Jacob Smith
Cameron Leonard**



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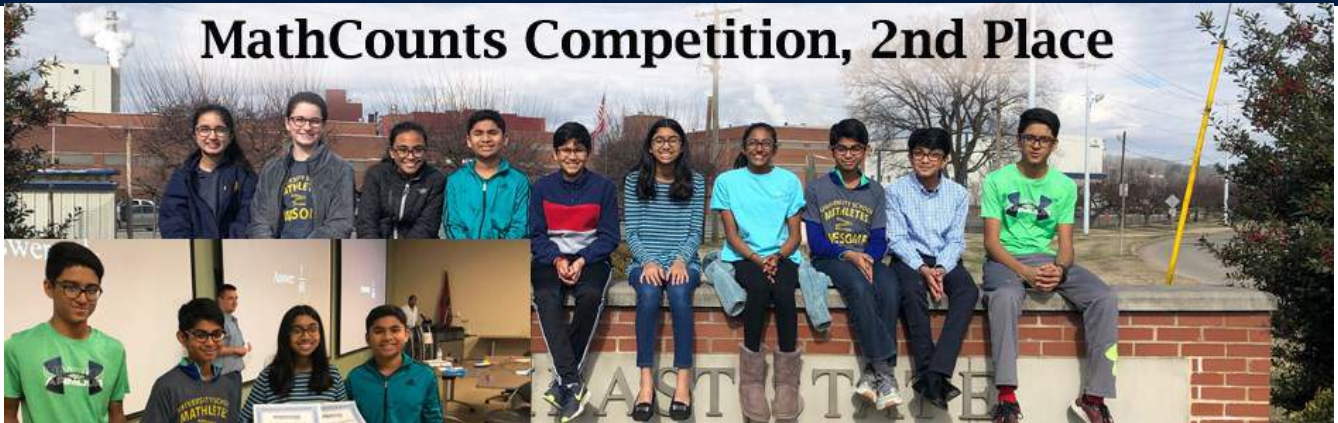


Poetry
Out
Loud

Emma Ross-Sermons, 1st Place

1st place: **Emma Ross-Sermons**, 2nd place: **Cassie Goodyear**, 3rd place: **Mattie Janutolo**

MathCounts Competition, 2nd Place



The chapter level Math Counts Competition took place on Saturday, February 2nd, in Kingsport. Our team included **Aleeha Atif**, **Lauren Lehrfeld**, **Shivali Agrawal**, **Tebro Paul**, **Ayush Joshi**, **Trishita Paul**, **Anjali Ananthula**, **Sathvik Ramu**, **Rishi Reddy**, and **Om Patel**. Tebro Paul took 2nd place in the countdown round! Om, Sathvik, Trishita, and Tebro took 2nd place in the team round!

Congratulations to University School 7th grader, **Trishita Paul**, winner in the 2018-2019 Spelling Bee. **Zahra Saquiddi**, 3rd grade, was the runner up.



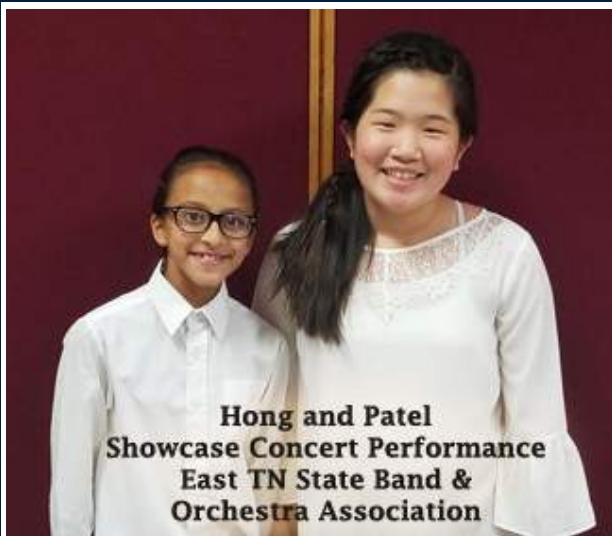
Trishita then competed in the **Regional Appalachian Spelling Bee** in Knoxville, coming in 6th place out of over 200 kids!





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Congratulations to University School 6th grade band members Ellen Hong (11th chair) and Astha Patel (12th chair) on their chair placements for the East Tennessee State Band and Orchestra Association (ETSBOA) Junior Orchestra Clinic!

Their showcase concert was this past Saturday (November 3rd) with some of the top young orchestral musicians throughout the Upper Region of East Tennessee. We are all very proud of their accomplishments and amazed at their hard work!

Congratulations to UH student, Jake Hubbard, who won 4H/FFA Project of the Year Awarded from the Washington County Cattleman's Association for showing diligence and work ethic to make agricultural differences in our community and being heavily involved and having success in showing dairy cows.

Way, to go, Jake! Love our enterprising Bucs!



Congratulations to University High student, **Jacob Hubbard**, who won Supreme Grand Champion at the 2018 Appalachian Fair Washington County competition. Also, in the open show, out of approximately 400 hundred cows, Jake won Reserve Grand Champion. Both awards were won with his 4 year old Holstein cow that has had 3 calves and is a major key to the Hubbard family Milk Production and Dairy. So proud of your accomplishments, Jake!



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Congratulations to our University School **Scholar's Bowl Team** who came in 3rd Place out of a competitive field of participants in the Highlander Classic Invitational Tournament, qualifying for Nationals!



**Sail Car Engineering
University School &
CUAI Collaborate**

Students in University School's **2nd grade classroom** participated in an engineering design challenge that integrated science and math. Students designed and tested sail cars using simple materials and used line plots to organize their data and evaluate the strengths and weakness of their design solutions.

After testing, students summarized their results using the Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning Framework. Eric Dunlap, a pre-service teacher in Elementary Education, designed the integrated project as a part of the coursework for STEM Content for Elementary Educators.

Dunlap collaborated with **Kelli Barnett (University School)**, Ryan Nivens (CUAI), and Laura Robertson (CUAI) to implement the project at University School.

UH Student Success at Tennessee Science Bowl:
University School students participated at the TN Science Bowl on February 23rd. They beat four out of six schools in their group at the competition. 58 schools participated in the the competition. There were 8 groups and 7 schools in each group. So very, very proud of our Scientific Bucs!





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Congratulations to all of our University students who received awards at the **High School Honors Ceremony** held on Tuesday, May 7th, 2019.

[View Photo Gallery](#)

Congratulations to **Anjali Ananthula** (6th) and **Diya Reddy** (7th) who represented University School at the **Tennessee State History Day competition**. They were invited after winning in the junior website division at the regional competition held at Tusculum University. The students created an informative and engaging project on Rosalind Franklin, a female scientist whose research was stolen by male scientists. So proud of our Bucs!



Middle School
Students Represent
University School
TN State History Day
Competition



Mu Alpha Theta 8th Grade Individual
Math Competition, 2nd Place

Congratulations **Trishita Paul**, who won 2nd place in the 8th grade individual portion of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Competition at Science Hill High School on Saturday, April 6th, 2019. So very proud of our Mathematical Bucs!



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Congratulations to Team Lego Universe! The team competed in the First Lego League, Jr. competition and were awarded the **Amazing Movement Award** for the amazing code they wrote for their moon rover. Way to go, **Fisher Wallace, Marten Wallace, Finley Doran, Joshua Strickler, Briar Schubert, and Shane Summey**, coached by **Blaine Schubert** and **Heidi LeMasters**. Our challenge for the year was titled "Mission Moon" and we needed to create a moon base with a programmable robotic feature. The boys built a moon base and solved the issue of electricity on the moon by building solar panels for their programmable moon rover.



Congratulations to the **Girls on the Run** team for completing your 5K on Saturday, December 8th, 2018! You did an outstanding job! We are so proud of you!

Congratulations to all of our students who have participated in our **Morning Mile Club**. Two runners reached our top school goal of joining the 100 Mile Club, **Bray Penley**, 2nd grade, and **Andrew Lamb**, 5th grade. Morning Mile is a program that gets kids up and moving before school. For a list of all students who have achieved multiple club levels, view our [Morning Mile Webpage](#).



University School won 2nd place, small school division, for participation in the Turkey Trot. We received \$500 for the win! Thank you to all participants and supporters!

Graduation 2019



University School **Class of 2019 Graduation Ceremony** will take place on Friday, May 31st, in the ETSU Memorial Hall

(Brooks Gym), at 6:00 p.m. View Live Stream on our [University School YouTube Channel](#)



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**Elementary Mathletes
4th-6th Graders - Math Olympiad**

Congratulations to University School **4th-6th grade students** who competed in the Elementary Math Olympiad. So proud of our Elementary Mathletes!

Sixteen of our 6-8th graders competed in the Math Olympiad Competition held at the ETSU campus in Kingsport. **Om Patel, Teebro Paul, Trishita Paul, Sathvik Ramu, & Anjali Ananthula** won 2nd place in the team competition. **Teebro Paul** won 4th place in individual, and **Trishita Paul** won 3rd place in the individual competition.

Way to go to all of our Middle School Mathletes!



**University Middle School 6th-8th Graders
Math Olympiad Competition**



BETA Club service project:
Collected items for Homeless Shelter

Key Club members worked diligently to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House. We raised approximately \$400! Ronald McDonald Houses are home environments providing support and resources that help keep families with sick children together and near the care and resources they need. Thanks University School family for supporting this worthy cause!



Key Club



**Ronald
McDonald
House**



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Our annual **High School Art Exhibit** will be held at ETSU Slocumb Galleries in Ball Hall on the ETSU campus, **Wednesday, May 15th - 29th, 2019**. Gallery hours are from 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with extended hours on Thursdays until 6:00 p.m. Each student taking Visual Art from Ms. Sharon Squibb this school year will have pieces in the show.



Oak Hill School invited our 4th graders to come for a day-long field trip and enroll in the class of 1892-93.



5th Grade - Camp Explorer - 2018-2019

Annual 5th Grade trip to **Camp Explorer**



1961—Alumni, do you remember your trip to Buffalo Mountain Camp?



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University School Athletic Teams have had much success this past school year:

High School Baseball won District Title, and advanced to the State Tournament. All Region players were Michael Degennaro, Carter Pollock and Henry Borthwick

Track Team members advancing to State included Girls: 4x8 team—(Isabelle Johnson, Camila Rivas, Anna Bader, Ali Burns, Kirsten Day), 3200—Ali Burns, Camila Rivas, 1600—Anna Bader, Pole Vault—Heather Roberson and Molly Dycus. Boys: 4x8 team— (Hayden Charles, Nick Daniel, Thomas Johnson, Blake Ryan, Ethan Lillycrop), 3200—Porter Bradley, Nick Daniel, 1600—Thomas Johnson, Pole Vault—Connor Ford

High School Boys Basketball had their best season in recent memory and the first state tournament appearance since 2008. The Bucs swept Watauga Valley Conference, District 1-A and Region 1-A championships before winning their sectional game, advancing to the TSSAA state tournament in Murfreesboro

Middle School Boys Basketball players named to All Conference were Shephard Blowers and AJ Murphy; All Defensive Team - Jackson Noland

Middle School Girls Basketball players named to All Conference were Ella Barnett and Emma Chandley. All Defensive Team Olivia Fabus.

Cheerleaders making All American include Olivia Estes, Laney Falin, and Macey Falin

High School Cross Country Boys Team won the State Championship (two years in a row), All State honors for Porter Bradley and Blake Ryan

High School Cross Country Girls Team placed 2nd place in State, All State Honors for Ali Burns, Isabelle Johnson

Golf senior Mattie Janutolo won the District Championship and Daxx Carr earned medalist honors in the District, both continuing play at the State Tournament

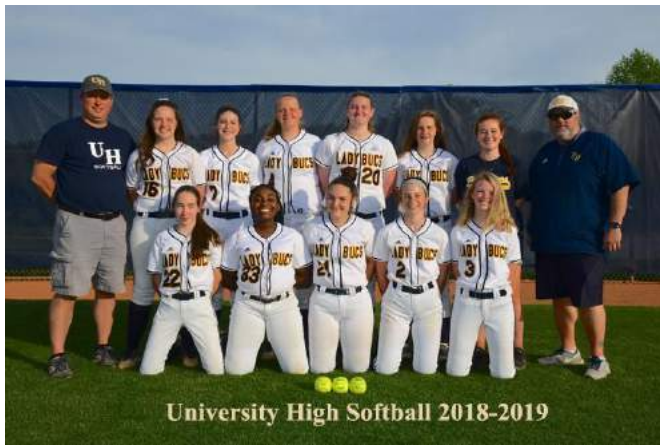
Lady Bucs Soccer All District and All Region Teams: Abby Gantz, Claudia Saucier, Makenna Oiler, Grace Moreland, Courtney Henley, Aubrey Davidson and Lena Allison

Wrestling—Avery Kibelbek won the State Championship



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University High Softball 2018-2019



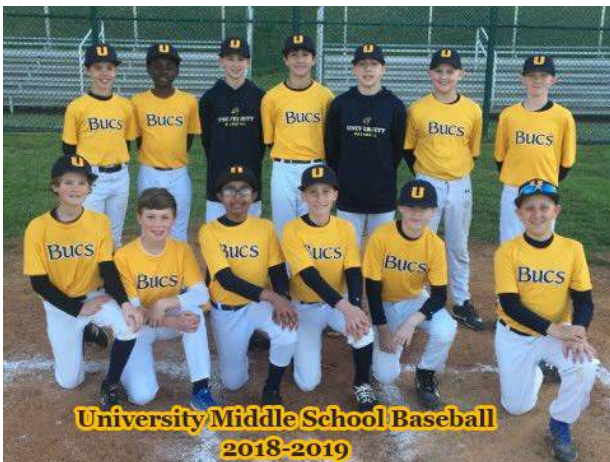
University Middle School Softball 2018-2019



University High School Soccer 2018-2019



2018-2019 University High Lady Bucs Soccer



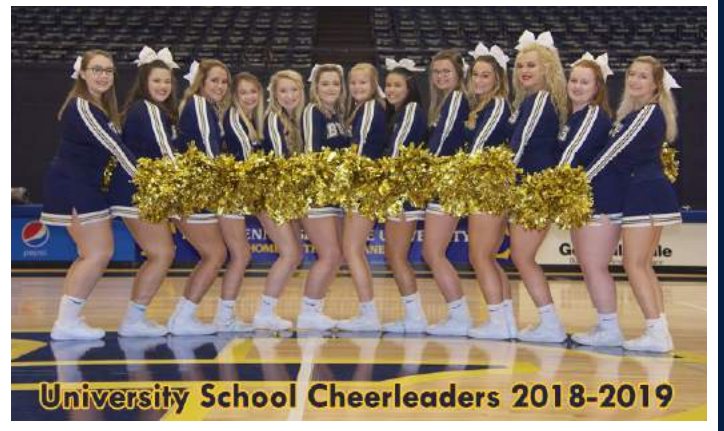
University Middle School Baseball 2018-2019



University High School Baseball 2018-2019



2018-2019 University High Golf



University School Cheerleaders 2018-2019

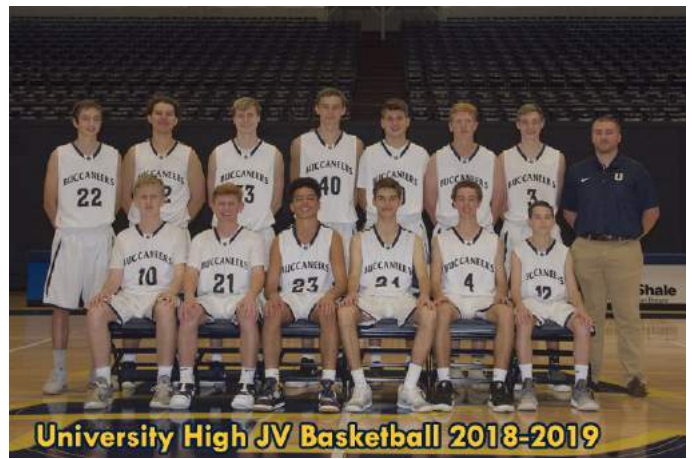


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University High Varsity Basketball 2018-2019



University High JV Basketball 2018-2019



University High Girls Basketball 2018-2019



University Middle School Basketball 2018-2019



University Middle School Boys Basketball
2018-2019



Avery Kibelbek
Wrestling State Champion

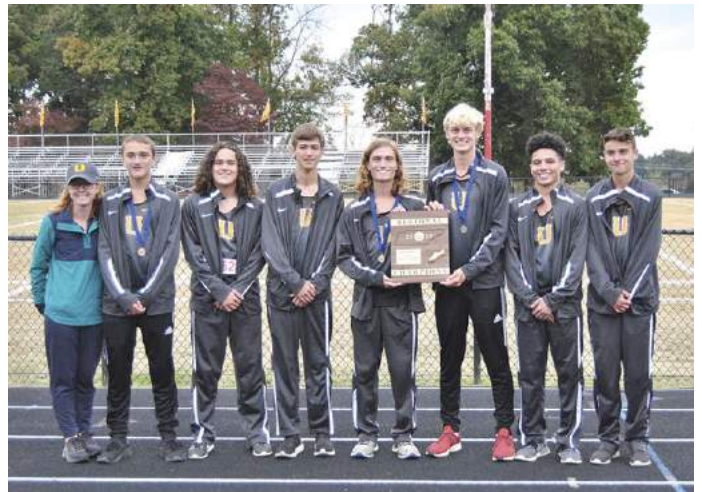


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Boys Cross Country Team Wins State



University High School Track 2018-2019



Accomplishment. Challenged + Supreme Effort = Success. Every child valued, challenged and successful....whatever it takes! We are so very proud of our Bucs.

East Tennessee State University
University School
P.O. Box 70632
Johnson City, TN
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