

GADSDEN ELEMENTARY DESIGNATED AS REWARD SCHOOL BY STATE OF TENNESSEE

By Ron Barry

For the second time in the past three school years, Gadsden Elementary School has a special reason to celebrate.

The Tennessee Department of Education has designated GES as a Reward School for the 2022-23 school year, the highest level an individual school can receive under the current measurement system used by the State. Spanning 98 school districts in Tennessee, only 400 individual schools received this designation.

“We are excited to receive this award,” said GES Principal Marsha Foust. “It just shows that our school has the right combination of excellent teachers, staff, students, and parents. The teachers here love the students, even those that aren’t in their own classrooms. And I can’t stress the importance of our parents’ dedication enough – it makes a huge difference when a school has a tremendous set of parents, and we do.”

“The love for the students here doesn’t stop at the walls of the building or the end of the school days,” said Assistant Principal Lindsey Bradford. “We are fortunate to receive so much support from this community, and our teachers and staff carry their commitment out beyond the grounds of the campus. When you have that, you’re going to have a great school.”

The official letter from the TDOE read as follows: “The department provides annual school accountability designations that reflect performance and growth. Included in these designations are Reward schools.

We are writing to inform you that your school is identified as a Reward school. For the 2022-23 school year, Reward Schools are those that have an overall federal accountability score greater than or equal to 3.1 out of 4.0.

Congratulations on this identification for exemplifying student success in achievement and growth. We applaud your school’s hard work and student accomplishments!” It was signed by Commissioner of Education Lizzette Reynolds.



“These annual designations are a testament to the hard work our educators and school and district leaders provide to students each and every day across the state,” Reynolds said.

Each year, schools and districts are eligible for designations based on their overall performance across indicators that are essential to student success, including how they prepared students to be proficient (achievement), accelerated student learning (growth), encouraged students to attend school regularly (chronically out of school), prepared students for postsecondary success (graduation rate and Ready Graduate), and supported English learners acquiring language skills.

Schools are recognized as a Reward School when they demonstrate high levels of performance and/or improvement in performance by meeting objectives across performance indicators and student groups, and the Reward School distinction places significant emphasis on performance and improvement across all indicators from the prior school year.

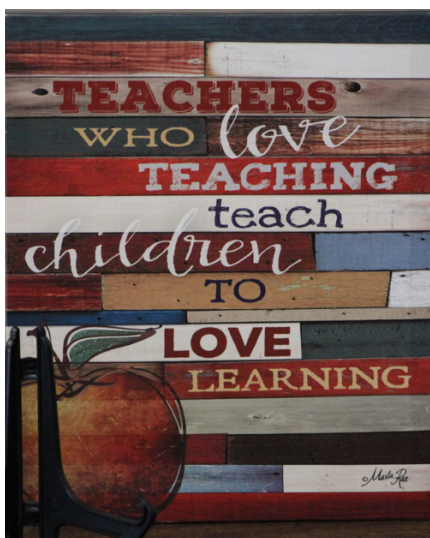
Foust said the designation is extra special coming now because it serves as a boost to the staff and students.

“This time of year, everybody is gearing up for the State testing that is done in March,” she said. “This award shows the students and teachers that their efforts are paying off, and that their commitment means something. It couldn’t come at a better time.”

“Gadsden Elementary’s entire community can be extremely proud of this achievement,” said P. A. Pratt, Director of Schools for the Crockett County School District. “It’s the highest award the State gives, so to receive it – especially for the second time in the last three years – is a validation that they’re doing things the right way.”

GES has also been undergoing facility growth with new construction in the last two years, with a new state-of-the-art playground and additional educational space. The final touches are expected to occur in May.





Above: The administrative leaders at GES - Assistant Principal Lindsey Bradford (left) and Principal Marsha Foust (right) - were all smiles after the announcement. (Photo by Ron Barry)



SOME KIDS ARE SMARTER THAN YOU
SOME KIDS HAVE COOLER CLOTHES THAN YOU
SOME KIDS ARE better at sports THAN YOU
IT DOESN'T MATTER
YOU HAVE YOUR THING TOO
BE THE KID WHO CAN GET ALONG
BE THAT KID WHO IS generous
BE THAT KID WHO IS happy FOR OTHER PEOPLE
BE THAT KID WHO DOES THE RIGHT THING
BE THE NICE KID

