

News Utrust



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February is Principal Appreciation Day

Principals are the leaders of schools. They are responsible for the day to day function of a school, from test scores to student behavior and everything in between. While the job of a principal can be rewarding, it's also a juggling act of balancing issues with students, parents, teachers, staff, central office, and members of the community. To reward principals across the state for their hard work, Utrust asks that you celebrate February 10th as Principal Appreciation Day. Materials created to make this day special can be found on our website at www.tnuct.com under the "Make A Difference Program". We have also produced two videos for Principal Appreciation Day. One is a motivational video for principals to view. It is based on the winning story in our last writing competition. The story is about principal Earl Kendall and the difference he has made in two Henry County Schools. It is titled "The Story of Earl Kendall" <http://www.tnuct.com/librarycontent.php?id=61>. The second video is for students to watch. It explains what a principal does and why their job is so important. It is titled "A Labor of Love" and can be found on our website at: <http://www.tnuct.com/librarycontent.php?id=63>. Celebrating this appreciation day is great way for the school board to get involved and show school administrators that they are appreciated.



Principal video features Grove High School Principal Earl Kendall, whom is the subject of the writing competition's winning essay.

Give Me an "A" for Appreciation Day!



Does your school have the Appreciation Day Spirit it takes to win a thousand dollars? Utrust is looking for the school that does. Our new "Best School Employee Appreciation Program Award" will go to the school who goes all out on appreciation day. Some schools are participating already. If you're not, now is the time to start. To win, each school participating must inform Utrust of how they are celebrating each appreciation day from January to June. This includes stories, pictures, videos, newspaper clippings, anything to show us that your school takes showing appreciation to employees to a whole new level of excitement. Utrust will keep track of everything you send us, and will determine which school will win the \$1,000 prize at our annual Membership Appreciation Dinner in November. For more details, click on [BEST SCHOOL EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION PROGRAM AWARD](#). Good Luck!

Trustee Feature

Joey Cooper is one of Utrust's West Tennessee representatives. He joined the Utrust Board of Trustees in 2006. During his time on the Utrust board, approximately 1.6 million dollars in premiums has been returned to members. He also helped to launch an employee appreciation program in 2008 and supported the writing competition which resulted in hundreds of stories being written about how a school employee made a difference in the lives of others, stories which may have otherwise never been written. "Joey has helped make key decisions which have benefited schools across the state", said Utrust Chairman David Jones. "He has the best interest of the schools in mind, and has been very effective as a trustee". Joey is not only a Utrust Board Member but the chairman of the school board in Benton County, where he resides.





Clockwise from top: Cafeteria Queens of Bells City; Jackson County Superintendent Joe Barlow congratulates Janice Barlow for 28 years of service; Students at Rogersville City School prepare a banner for food service staff; Heart shaped notes of thanks were given to staff in Johnson County; Decor, banners and flowers spruce up the cafeteria in Lexington City; Cafeteria workers in Hamblen County turn pirates as they play a part in a school wide video.

Fans of Food Service Staff say “Thank You”

More than food was cooking in the kitchens of schools throughout the state earlier this month. Faculty, staff, students and school boards came together to celebrate Food Service Staff Appreciation Day on January 14th.

Food Service Personnel in Benton County were adorned with flowers, candy, cards and verbal thanks throughout the day. Cafeteria employees in Hawkins received much attention and thanks along with nice new aprons. In Hamblen County, they were given many treats as well including long stem red roses. At Fairview-Marguerite Elementary, they were featured in a school system video performing the swashbuckling adaptation “Yo Ho Ho and a Bottle of Milk”, which made the day a great deal of fun as the employees dressed like pirates for the part.

The eight ladies that make up the cafeteria staff at Mountain City Elementary in Johnson County were treated with heart shaped notes of appreciation, a presentation, cakes and cookies. “We were honored to participate in Food Service Appreciation Day,” said Principal Gay Triplett, “our cafeteria staff are team players and always eager to do their part in educating our children”.

Lexington City Schools went all out to show their food service staff appreciation. Cafeterias were transformed into showcases of appreciation with banners, flags, megaphones,

pom-poms and more. Students serenaded employees and presented them with poster cards and gifts. Principals from both the elementary and middle school sent out letters of appreciation, put thank you messages on the marquees and gave a verbal thanks over the P.A. System. A nice lunch was provided for employees, as were roses.

Students at Rogersville City School made colorful banners for food service personnel, while school board member Frank Testerman presented them with gifts on behalf of the board and superintendent. “The Food Service Personnel are the school’s unsung heroes as they prepare tasty and nutritious meals every day for students to enjoy,” said superintendent Sherry Terry.

The cafeteria ladies at Bells Elementary in Bells City were treated like royalty on Food Service Staff Appreciation Day. They were given crowns, and sashes that read “Cafeteria Queen” on them. Meanwhile the cafeteria maintenance employees received gift cards for dinner. All of the employees were given cards and posters from the students and faculty.

Jackson County also had a big celebration with a theme of “A Slice of Praise Pie”, in which the employees were given moon pies wrapped up in bags with ribbon. Employee Janice Barlow was recognized by Superintendent Joe Barlow as having served the most years of service, 28 of them. Her favorite part of the job is “mingling with the students”. It is because of this dedication that food service personnel across Tennessee deserved such adoration.

The Perfect Kitchen Staff

At SMS we have it great, a kitchen staff to appreciate
 Always healthy, never late
 served with care upon our plate
 The cafeteria's kept clean
 a nice place to meet
 It keeps the kitchen on their feet
 We may only notice every once in a while
 but SMS lunch ladies always wear a smile
 Proud to serve our lunch each day,
 With this kitchen staff, we've got it made!
 With many thanks to the SMS lunch ladies and all you do,
 Even the new ones, thank you too!

*Poem about Food Service Staff
 Written by Surgoinsville Middle School student Alex Harp
 in Hawkins County*



Cafeteria Staff in Hawkins County proudly wear the new aprons that they received on Food Service Appreciation Day.

Employment Practices

Working up a school budget is never easy and brings up a lot of questions. When considering your school budget during the economic times, you may want to factor in unemployment costs. Utrust has provided articles related to unemployment issues like Outsourcing Services on our website for you to use. While outsourcing services may seem like a way to stretch the proverbial dollar, it may end up costing you more in the end. Utrust has provided information about this issue and others like it to help you make the best decisions for your school system.

To view these articles, go to our website: www.tnuct.com/generalarticles . If you have a question about unemployment practices that we haven't addressed, contact Utrust Finance Director Kristi Coleman at kcoleman@tnuct.com

Did You Attend Our Membership Appreciation Dinner?



If so, you're going to want to head to our website and view the video we shot that night. Utrust not only captured the moments of the awards ceremony held in Nashville, but we also caught a few of you line dancing...or should we say ATTEMPTING to line dance. It was a great night full of fun, fellowship and laughter. To view the video, click on the following link: <http://www.tnuct.com/awardsprograms>



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