

## **Decatur County Board of Education**

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[www.decatourcountyschools.org](http://www.decatourcountyschools.org)

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Decatur County Middle School has been identified by the Tennessee Department of Education as a “High Priority” school in School Improvement I. Due to spring test scores, this means that students have not met state and federal goals in the area of mathematics. Decatur County Middle School scored thirty percent proficient to advanced in mathematics while the NCLB target goal was 40%. Thirty percent of the state’s elementary and middle school students scored proficient to advanced in math and 44.5% scored proficient to advanced in reading. Decatur County Middle School scored 55% proficient to advanced in reading, well above the state and federal goals.

With the identification of a Title I High Priority School, students are eligible to transfer to another school within the school district if there is more than one school of the same grade span available. However, in Decatur County, there are no other middle schools available for public school choice.

Decatur County Middle School is working diligently with the Decatur County School District and the state department of education to make the corrections needed to improve their performance in the area of mathematics. The following corrective measures have been taken:

- 1) a supplementary mathematics program has been implemented in grades 5 – 7 to provide an additional period of math instruction each day above and beyond the required math instruction
- 2) a LEAPS after school tutoring program is in operation to assist students having difficulty with core academic subjects including mathematics by using Accelerated Math, Study Island, Remediation, STEM activities, and the Orchard Software program
- 3) the Study Island program is available for individual and/or whole group supplementary math activities to improve skill level and may be used both at school and in the home
- 4) the Discovery Education program is available for teacher use in the area of mathematics which allows for the creation of probes with emphasis on problem areas of students and also offers whole group instructional activities

We encourage you, as the parent, to help by reviewing the Standards Outline that is sent home at the beginning of each 6 weeks with activities to do with your child, go online to Study Island and work on mathematics activities with your child, visit your child’s teachers to discuss specific ways in which you might be able to help your child with assignments, check the child’s planner each day for assignments or other information from the teacher, and most importantly, talk with your child about their daily school activities to make sure that assigned work/tests are being completed.

We are committed to providing your child with the best quality education possible and ask that you help us in this endeavor to meet the challenging district and state goals.

Michael J. Price  
Director of Schools

Chris Villafior  
DCMS Principal