

News U Trust

APPRECIATING, DEVELOPING, AND SUPPORTING SCHOOL STAFF



UTRUST REGIONAL SEMINARS

Every Utrust member board is encouraged to send at least one representative to one of the three Utrust Regional Seminars to be held in March. Utrust attorney Dewey Branstetter will discuss the importance of contracts for your non-certificated employees and will distribute a sample contract. He'll also discuss legal issues in employment and unemployment and provide a plan for saving your system money on unemployment claims.

You'll hear about the tremendous success with the Utrust Employee Appreciation Program that some of our school systems are experiencing. You'll be impressed to hear how to get students to do the work rather than teachers and principals and how student leadership can be developed through the program.

You'll learn about the Utrust Five Star Awards Program and be asked

to react to an interesting plan that could be implemented in your school system. This program could be helpful to your school system and create some excitement in your schools. It's important that each system be represented to offer suggestions for improvement.

So, superintendents, school district finance directors, the person who handles your unemployment compensation claims and Employee

Appreciation Program System Coordinators, are particularly urged to attend. The meeting will be interactive, informative and fast-paced program and will include a good meal—all at no cost to you or your school system.

Call Kristi Coleman at 615-714-4190 if you have questions.

Click [here](#) for the registration form.



MEETING DATES:

TUESDAY, MARCH 29—WEST TN
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30—MIDDLE TN
THURSDAY, MARCH 31—EAST TN

MVPS



Church Hill Middle
Principal Christian and Assistant
Principal Thomas



Church Hill Intermediate
Principal Sturgill and Assistant
Principal Price



Jackson County High School
Principal Breidert and Assistant
Principal McLerran

Super Bowl MVP Celebrations A Success

February was a busy month for football fans especially the ones in schools all across Tennessee. Principal Appreciation Day was celebrated with a "Super Bowl Theme." Students named their principals MVP's (most valuable principals) for the day and commemorated the day with everything from tailgating parties to half-time shows expressing thanks.

At Churchill Middle School, Principal Christian and Vice Principal Thomas received footballs signed by all of the teachers and enjoyed snacks at the tailgating party in their honor

The students at McPheeter's Bend honored Principal Renee Bernard with tons of her favorite Tennessee football stuff. Along with the UT bag, stuffed snowman, and blanket, she received thank you notes, posters and students wore their football jerseys to show appreciation for her.

Principal Greg Sturgill and Vice Principal Sherry Price at Church Hill Intermediate received baskets full of football theme goodies. With snacks, a cake, football movies, a MVP shirt specially made for Principal Appreciation Day, and stacks of thank you notes from the students, Principals Sturgill and Price scored big.

Jackson County High School's Principal Breidert and Assistant Principal McLerran each received buckets full of popcorn, candy, chips and a football. They also received a bound copy of signatures of each student in the school on footballs and helmets.

Principals are a significant part of the educational experience students receive. They are held accountable for school outcomes and they always advocate for what is best for the children. A BIG thanks to all of the outstanding MVPs in the state of Tennessee.



Principal Danny Templin and Assistant Principal Krista Crum.

Lincoln
Middle
School

Beech Principals Honored with Super Bowl Theme

Touchdown! Principal Appreciation Day at Beech Elementary was celebrated using every one of the ideas suggested by Utrust using the "Super Bowl Theme." Principals were named by the students as MVPs (Most Valuable Principals). The A-Team led their fellow students in the celebrations for the day including a super "Half-time Show" which featured students from every class in the school presenting "priceless" commercials and reading expressions of appreciation to Principal Bobby Elrod and Assistant Principal Dr. Kristy Seccia. Students participated in a continuous program (Halftime Show) as classes entered and left the cafeteria during their lunch period. Each grade had its own program as part of the half-time show.

"If your school didn't have the halftime show, you missed a great opportunity for some fun and enthusiastic participation from every class, said Kristi Coleman, school coordinator. This event drew more widespread participation and enthusiastic support than anything we've done all year. Every single student, staff

member and parent was aware that this was Principal Appreciation Day in our school," she continued.

Members of the A-Team presented Elrod and Seccia each with a personalized game day program, a personalized MVP trading card with their own statistics, gift certificates donated by Demos and the Chop House, home baked goodies and hand written notes of thanks from students. A-Team member James Flynn said, "It was a lot of fun planning all of the celebrations and getting to see all the ways that students expressed thanks to our principals. It was great to see how happy it made our principals that day."

Elrod said, "I don't like being the center of attention but this was really nice. It was an honor to have the students put in so much effort to make this day special for me."

Seccia said, "It was above and beyond anything I deserved. I was very grateful for everything that was done for me. It made my day."



Half-Time Show Presentation

Priceless Commercials

Bumps and bruises from skating with Ms. Carroll-\$8

Getting chased by dogs on a field trip to the Amish community-\$30

A principal who is willing to hold a stop sign in any weather to make sure we get in and out of school safely-Priceless

Picture of Ms. Fly and Ms. McFarland making the jump rope team- \$15

Video clip of Ms. Deathridge doing the worm- \$10

Dr. Seccia saying those magic words "No School Tomorrow"- Priceless

2 gallons of spider pesticide-\$39.99

5 packs of spider sticky pads-\$7.99

Total money earned on all 3 spider man movies- \$2.5 billion

Arachnophobia counseling- \$200

A Principal who nicknames our teacher "Spider Woman" and hums the theme song as she enters the building- Priceless



Trustee Spotlight

JASPER TAYLOR: A WISE AND WELL-INFORMED TRUSTEE



Jasper Taylor of Bells has been a member of the Utrust Board of Trustees since 2005. He is one of two trustees who represent West Tennessee and has been elected to two three-year terms by the boards in West Tennessee.

"Jasper is exactly the kind of member that every board needs," according to Dr. Dan Tollett, Utrust Administrator. "He is intelligent, knowledgeable, thoughtful, well informed and wise. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Utrust Board and other trustees respect him and have high regard for his opinion. He makes our board much better and he's pleasant and fun to work with."

During Taylor's tenure on the board, the Employee Appreciation Program has been established and the Five Star Award for excellence in employee management was developed. Among some of the things that have been achieved during Taylor's term include establishing a new Utrust headquarters and changing the trust's name.

Taylor has been a member of the Crockett County Board of Education for over 20 years. He is an at-large member of that board and has served as Chairman of Board since 1995.

"Jasper was elected as our at-large board member in 1990 and has been the "foundation" of our school board. His training and experience as a practicing attorney has been invaluable to our school system," Eddie Whitby, Crockett County Superintendent said. "Jasper's love of children

was evident early on as he volunteered so much of his time organizing baseball leagues and coaching a generation of Crockett County youth," Whitby continued.

Taylor has practiced law since 1982. He serves as the County Attorney for Crockett County and is the City Attorney for Bells, Tennessee. Although he stays busy with his law practice, Taylor also serves on many boards and is very involved in his community.

Taylor is a member of the Crockett County Chamber of Commerce Education Task Force, the Crockett County Industrial Board, the Lions Club, the Crockett County Foster Care Review Board, Crockett County Chamber of Commerce Board, was the Chairman of the Scholarship Fund Drive in 1992, and the TAMB of Jackson. He has also served as the Executive Secretary of Alamo Dixie Youth Baseball League and the President of the Babe Ruth League, and was a member of the Alumni Council for the University of Tennessee College of Law from 1997 to 2000. Taylor is active in his church, serving as Chairman of Deacons, Sunday School Director, Brotherhood Director, and he has served on numerous committees in the church-finance, ministry and expansion.

Jasper Taylor strives to find ways to promote and improve education. He is passionate about the Crockett County School System as well as the community as a whole. He was even named Crockett County Man of the Year in 1990 for his vast contributions to Crockett County.



**OUTER SPACE
THEME FOR SUPPORT
STAFF**

3-2-1 Blast Off!! Don't miss this opportunity to show appreciation to the administrative and instructional support staff that is out-of-this-world. April 7, 2011 is Administrative and Instructional Support Staff Appreciation Day, which honors teacher assistants, secretaries, and bookkeepers. We are celebrating the support staff with an outer space theme. Your students will have fun and show creativity with this theme. Click here to access the appreciation packets.

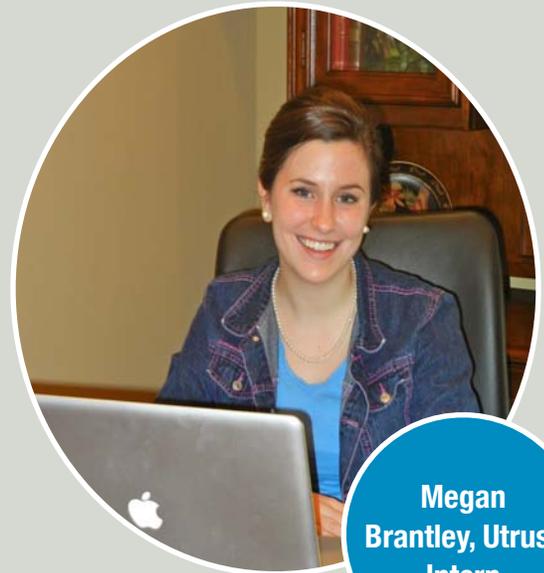
BRANTLEY JOINS UTRUST AS INTERN

Megan Brantley, a student at Middle Tennessee State University, has joined Utrust's team as our new intern. Brantley is in her second year at MTSU and is majoring in Electronic Media Production and plans to become a Television Producer after graduation.

Brantley has produced many shows, including the Tennessee Gubernatorial Forum that was held last spring at MTSU. She has also worked on larger venue shows such as the Country Music Awards and was the Production Manager for the Regional Emmy Awards in Nashville. Currently she is working on various Student Productions; one of them is a short film that will debut in April.

Since coming to college Brantley has become the regular Susie Homemaker. She loves to cook and is always trying out new recipes, sometimes at the

expense of those she loves. Recently she has taken up sewing and just finished her first quilt.



**Megan
Brantley, Utrust
Intern**

Brantley started her internship with Utrust in January 2011 and will complete it in May. During her time at Utrust, Brantley is helping improve the quality of videos made for the appreciation program, assisting in creating materials for the appreciation packets and much more.



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