



KINGSPORT  
TENNESSEE

# PROGRESS EDITION 2025



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Volume Interactive



[kingsporttn.gov](http://kingsporttn.gov)



Kingsport Alerts

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## CHRISTMAS IN KINGSPORT BRINGS HOLIDAY CHEER IN 2024

*The week following the Christmas parade and tree lighting included musical performances and festive carolers in Glen Bruce Park, a visit from Santa and the Grinch and the return of an amazing Live Nativity performance around Church Circle.*

In what has become a popular tradition in downtown Kingsport, Christmas in the Park returned as festive and picturesque as ever. Throughout the month of December, more than 100 Christmas trees – decorated by local businesses, individuals and city departments – were on display in Glen Bruce Park and Centennial Park.

The second week of Christmas in Kingsport boasted two special events at the Kingsport Carousel, dance and musical performances in Glen Bruce Park and a visit from a well-known holiday locomotive.

The Christmas at the Carousel event invited guests to ride the carousel, enjoy the playground, make Christmas crafts and savor free treats. Kingsport’s first and second vintage firetrucks, “Old Huldy and Red Annie,” were onsite, along with visits from Buddy the Elf, Elsa and Olaf and Santa Claus himself!

Make sure to come back in 2025 for even more holiday magic!



[christmasinkingsport.com](http://christmasinkingsport.com)

## KINGSPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY TO MOVE TEMPORARILY TO FORT HENRY MALL

The Kingsport Public Library will temporarily move to the Fort Henry Mall this spring in preparation of a major renovation and expansion project.

The two-year project will include multiple improvements, such as:

- Doubling the size of the children’s area.
- Creating dedicated space for children’s programming.
- Creating dedicated space and makerspace for teens.
- Installing new elevator to ensure better accessibility.
- Adding four study rooms to provide dedicated spaces for focused learning.
- Establishing dedicated space for local history and genealogy.

City leaders have allocated \$7 million for the project, and in fall of 2024 the city was awarded a \$2 million Connected Community Facilities grant for the renovation from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

The renovation and expansion project is estimated to be complete by 2027.

[kingsportlibrary.org](http://kingsportlibrary.org)

## KINGSPORT TO PREPARE STRATEGIC PLAN

*The City of Kingsport continues to craft a new strategic plan, which will serve as the guiding document for operational and capital investments.*

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen, along with key city staff members, held a day-long workshop in 2025 to review the results of a community survey and use citizen feedback to refine and adjust the city’s strategic focus areas. Kingsport leaders also provided specific examples of projects, programs and initiatives the city should focus on for the next three to five years.

“A new strategic plan will make sure our goals and objectives are in alignment, and we’ll be able to measure our success based on the investments we make,” City Manager Chris McCartt said.

Last fall, Kingsport enlisted Raftelis to help craft the plan, which includes seven focus areas – efficient and responsive government; sustainable infrastructure; quality of life; safe and welcoming community; thriving local economy; strong and vibrant neighborhoods; and quality education.

The community survey in December and January yielded 2,089 respondents.

“We’re thrilled with the number of responses we received,” McCartt said. “It’s satisfying to know this many people are interested in Kingsport’s future.”

Respondents ranked “A Thriving Local Economy” as the most important focus area with “A Safe and Welcoming Community” second and “An Efficient and Responsive Government” third.

Approximately 93% of the respondents live within the city limits with more than 1,000 having lived in Kingsport more than 20 years. Fifty-five percent of respondents were women and 22% of total respondents were ages 55 to 64.

Raftelis will finalize the strategic plan and present it to the BMA for approval in early spring.

## BAYS MOUNTAIN PARK UNDERGOES MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS



Bays Mountain Park and Planetarium will use a Tennessee Tourism Enhancement Grant to restore the observation tower, which is situated on top of the mountain, after weather and usage have taken a toll.

The \$100,000 grant, awarded by the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development (TDTD) in February 2024, included funds for the restoration of the tower, which is located on Bays Mountain Road approximately a half mile from the Nature Center. The restoration will include remediation of lead paint and a fresh coat of paint over steel structure.

After major renovations to the Nature Center, including the gift shop area and a new portal leading into the planetarium theatre, Bays Mountain Park is wrapping up work on new gallery exhibits with the project in the final stages of installation.

In December 2024, officials broke ground for Fox Den Playground. The ADA-compliant playground will primarily be made of locust logs and rock boulders to incorporate natural play experience. This type of playground offers kids an opportunity to be more comfortable in nature and be creative.

Other projects will include a new otter habitat and additional renovations and updates to the Nature Center. Park staff will also begin repairing damage to the wolf habitat that was sustained during Hurricane Helene.



[baysmountain.com](http://baysmountain.com)

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## MAIN STREET REBUILD NEARS SPRING COMPLETION

*The Main Street Rebuild – a project years in the making – is on schedule to wrap up later this spring and promises to bring a more appealing and safer gateway to the downtown area.*

The \$20 million, multi-year construction project got underway in earnest in November 2022 and since then, crews have worked to repair the failing roadway. The weak soil underneath Main Street was removed, replaced with a strong, stable base of stone and topped with a new paved road.



Work began near the Kingsport Area Transit Service side of Main Street and proceeded west toward Clinchfield Street. Today, crews work to finalize signal work, landscaping and punch-list items as utility companies finish relocation work, after which the overhead lines and wooden poles on the north side of the street can be removed.

In addition to the road stabilization portion, the project needed new utility lines, including water, sewer and stormwater, installed along Main Street; telephone and cable lines placed underground; power lines relocated to the opposite side of the road; and the roadway enhanced with landscaping, bulb-outs and stamped brick crosswalks.

Motorists can expect to drive on the finished roadway some time in April 2025.

[MainStreetRebuildKPT](#)

## PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AWAITS OFFICIAL STATE APPROVAL TO PROCEED

The Brickyard Park pedestrian and bicycle bridge, which will increase accessibility to the park and connect it with downtown, awaits the Tennessee Department of Transportation issuing a "Notice to Proceed" with the design phase.

The city anticipates having a completed design and renderings by fall 2025 and then will begin the right-of-way phase. Construction is anticipated to start in 2027.

The bridge's location offers access to the Kingsport Greenbelt, a 10-mile linear park that connects residential neighborhoods, traditional parks, downtown, commercial districts, schools and activity centers. It also provides connection to the Kingsport Area Transit Service (KATS) facility and an extensive sidewalk system connected to State Route 126 (Wilcox Drive).



In 2021 and 2022, the City of Kingsport received two state grants totaling \$2.625 million to support construction of the pedestrian bridge.

Currently, city officials are using TDOT's Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), which is 80% funded by the federal government and 20% by local government, to cover the preliminary costs of the project.

## KINGSPORT BREAKS GROUND ON NEW BLUECROSS HEALTHY PLACE

The City of Kingsport and the BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Foundation held a ground-breaking ceremony on Jan. 15, 2025, for the new BlueCross Healthy Place at Riverwalk Park.

The 8.8-acre park, located along the Holston River near the intersection of Netherland Inn Road and Industry Drive, provides a unique blend of natural beauty and recreational opportunities, as well as cultural and ecological features.

"We are excited to partner with the City of Kingsport on our second BlueCross Healthy Place in the area, and we're looking forward to beginning construction," said Dalya Qualls White, executive director of the BlueCross Foundation. "Riverwalk Park gives us a unique opportunity to provide residents from all walks of life with a space for connection and healthy activity."



"We are extremely humbled and honored to have been selected for a BlueCross Healthy Place grant," City Manager Chris McCartt said. "The future BlueCross Healthy Place at Riverwalk Park will be in an ideal location along the Greenbelt and will feature sports courts, river access and a play area. I know our residents and visitors will enjoy this space for years to come."

To date, the BlueCross Foundation has invested \$60 million in BlueCross Healthy Place projects across the state. Currently, 25 projects are open or in progress statewide with more on the way.

The BlueCross Foundation is providing \$6.5 million for the redevelopment of the park and an additional \$1.3 million for a maintenance fund, bringing the total investment to \$7.8 million. This is the second BlueCross Healthy Place in the city, following the BlueCross Healthy Place at the Kingsport Miracle League Complex, which opened in 2020.

The City of Kingsport applied for BlueCross Healthy Place funding with the aim of expanding amenities and programming in the popular space, providing new opportunities for residents across the city.

[bluecrosshealthyplaces.com](https://bluecrosshealthyplaces.com)



### FEATURES WILL INCLUDE:

- Inclusive play area
- Community pavilions
- Sports courts
- Splash pad
- Fitness area
- Recreational water access
- Restrooms

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

## O'NEAL MANUFACTURING SERVICES TO OPEN IN KINGSPORT

O'Neal Manufacturing Services (OMS) plans to locate its first Tennessee facility in Kingsport and will invest \$8.5 million and create 29 new jobs to support medium- to heavy-gauge steel fabrication, including steel plate burning, machining, shot blasting and flattening.

In October 2024, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Stuart C. McWhorter and (OMS) officials made the announcement.

OMS provides carbon steel and aluminum parts for customers that manufacture equipment for construction, agriculture, material handling, transportation and other industries. The company is a subsidiary of O'Neal Industries in Birmingham, Alabama, the country's largest family-owned network of metal service centers, component and tube manufacturing businesses.

"We are excited to be opening our first location in the beautiful state of Tennessee," said Kent Brown, president and CEO of OMS. "The state and local agencies were incredibly supportive, and their involvement and assistance were instrumental in choosing Tennessee for this expansion."

## ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS OPENS IN KINGSPORT

Academy Sports + Outdoors has brought its gateway to adventure to the Tri-Cities region.

Located at 2626 E. Stone Drive in the former DICK's Sporting Goods spot, the 45,000-square-foot store offers hunting, fishing and camping gear, as well as sport leisure products, footwear and apparel, and added more than 60 new jobs to the area.

Academy Sports + Outdoors offers hunting and fishing license pickup, a propane tank exchange program, reel line spooling, bore sighting and scope mounting, and delivery and assembly.

T. D. Farrell Construction, a Georgia-based general contractor, completed the project.



## KINGSPORT CAROUSEL CELEBRATES 10TH BIRTHDAY



The Kingsport Carousel will celebrate in style later this summer as the iconic attraction turns 10 years old!

Expect to enjoy a day's worth of free rides, fun activities and special merchandise commemorating the 10th birthday. A photo opportunity will also be set up to capture the perfect carousel picture for families.

"The Kingsport Carousel is one of the most magical places in our community and we're excited to invite everyone down to help us celebrate its 10th birthday," said Kristie Leonard, special events and cultural arts manager for the City of Kingsport.

The Kingsport Carousel is a volunteer-led project that was completed in 2015. More than 300 volunteers worked five years to hand-carve and hand-paint platform and sweep animals for the working 1956 vintage Herschell carousel.

The carousel features 32 wooden riding animals and two chariots, 24 rounding boards depicting notable sites within the city and 24 hand-carved "sweep" animals around the top of the ride.

Since opening in July 2015, the carousel has hosted more than 500,000 riders. The carousel is open to the public year-round, and all rides are \$1. The carousel currently is open Wednesday through Saturday from 12:30 to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1:30 to 5 p.m.



## SIX CAROUSEL HORSES TO DEBUT AT KINGSPORT ARTS FESTIVAL

As part of the Kingsport Carousel celebrating its 10th birthday in 2025, Kingsport Cultural Arts (KCA) and Engage Kingsport secured sponsorships for six fiberglass carousel horses to be painted and decorated. The works of art will debut at the second annual Kingsport ARTS Festival.

After the festival, the horses will be displayed throughout the community to provide entertainment and inspiration. Sponsorship funds will be used for special carousel projects to maintain and improve the beloved community space.

[artskingsport.org](http://artskingsport.org)

## KINGSPORT ARTS FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR SECOND YEAR

The second annual Kingsport ARTS Festival will take place on Saturday, May 3, showcasing the best artists, creatives and musicians from across the region.

The festival will be held in the 100 block of Shelby Street from 12-5 p.m. and again will feature an iron pour, glass blowing and Raku firing activities, along with activities for kids and adults and tie-dyed shirt creations. The festival will include the Symphony of the Mountains, more than a dozen vendors and the unveiling of six painted and decorated fiberglass carousel horses.

Workshops on iron pouring and Raku firing also will take place in the lead-up to the festival, and a glass blowing workshop will be held the morning of the festival.

"Our focus this year is still on creation and involvement," said Kristie Leonard, special events and cultural arts manager. "Showcasing creative techniques is something not typically found at other festivals, so we believe people will come away excited and hopefully inspired by what they saw demonstrated."

The Kingsport ARTS Festival is a partnership among Kingsport Cultural Arts, Engage Kingsport, Inventor Center, The Clay Gurus and Symphony of the Mountains.

[artskingsport.org](http://artskingsport.org)



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

## FORT HENRY MALL EXPANSION CONTINUES IN 2025

Kingsport's Fort Henry Mall will expand beyond the existing structure by adding a new 7,000-square-foot building, including an IMAX theatre, the first of its kind in the region.

The mall's current NCG movie theater is being significantly updated with a full-service bar and an upgrade to luxury seating.

The mall also will update its infrastructure to allow outparcel buildings to be constructed in a current parking area. Rural King has started construction and is expected to open by the end of March 2025.

## BRICKYARD VILLAGE CONSTRUCTION TO START IN SPRING

Brickyard Village site work began in 2024, and home construction is expected to start in March 2025.

The transformative downtown project will span 50 acres and include single-family homes, townhomes, apartments, retail spaces and an amenities center. A public/private partnership with the City of Kingsport also will allow significant investments in infrastructure and public amenities, including a new park and pedestrian bridge.

## KINGSPORT SENIOR CENTER TO UNDERGO FACILITY STUDY

The Kingsport Senior Center will undergo phase 1 renovations later this year focusing on an exceptional patron experience by relocating the office suite to the front of the building for better access and visibility and centralizing and expanding the lounge.

Phase 1 renovations are possible with funding from a \$100,000 state grant the Kingsport Senior Center received last year, Senior Advisory Council Funds, and previously allocated dollars to make the project a reality.

Senior Center Manager Shirley Buchanan noted that in addition to prominent visibility, the facility will be ADA-accessible for members. The old office space will be transformed into a lounge and small galley kitchen that ultimately could become an instructional kitchen.

The center is in the process of working with CainRashWest Architects for a facility study for improvements to the main site as well as incorporating uses from the Lynn View branch.

The Kingsport Senior Center also is conducting a study this year to look at all of the programs offered at the main site and Lynn View Community Center, which will become a new elementary school.

"We have an opportunity to make substantial improvements to the main site while accommodating and expanding the uses from the Lynn View branch of the Senior Center," Buchanan said. "We are very excited to share the results of this plan with our seniors in the near future."



## SERVEKINGSPORT SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

If you'd like to make a difference in your hometown, the City of Kingsport is interested in hearing from you. The city seeks volunteers to serve on various boards and commissions to help make Kingsport an even greater place to live, work and raise a family.

Kingsport has more than two dozen boards and commissions that provide oversight, advice and expertise for a variety of city functions. These boards, such as the Regional Planning Commission, Neighborhood Commission and Cultural Arts Commission, all have a different purpose but the same goal: residents volunteering to invoke betterment of our community.

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted to restructure the volunteer process for boards and commissions. All the terms will end in either April or October, with applications opening for those who want to serve and fill a vacancy in February and August. Applications will be kept on file for one year, and residents will need to apply every year if they would like to serve.

If interested in serving or learning more about what city boards and commissions do, visit [servekingsport.com](http://servekingsport.com).



## GOLDEN SHOVEL AGENCY ASSISTS WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

The City of Kingsport engaged Golden Shovel Agency (GSA) to develop a comprehensive economic development marketing strategy aimed at attracting businesses, investment and economic growth.

The in-depth analysis included surveying and interviewing key stakeholders, conducting comparative assessments of similar communities and gathering demographic and industry data. Additionally, Golden Shovel identified retail and restaurant companies with expansion plans that align with the city's objectives.

The following goals guided the project:

- Create awareness for city outside of immediate region.
- Promote available commercial properties.
- Promote available retail locations.
- Develop list of retail businesses and restaurants the city should recruit.
- Identify types of businesses the city should target beyond retail and restaurants.

GSA has conducted market research, surveyed community stakeholders and reviewed the city's previous survey, planning and strategy documents.

Additionally, the Kingsport Economic Development Board has established a standalone website dedicated exclusively to economic development to enhance visibility, brand identity and accessibility.

[kingsportecondev.org](http://kingsportecondev.org)

## SHARE LOGISTICS TO OPEN IN SULLIVAN AND HAWKINS COUNTIES

Share Logistics, a global supply chain services company, plans to open two new facilities in Sullivan and Hawkins counties and create nearly 60 new jobs.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Stuart C. McWhorter and Share Logistics officially made the announcement in September 2024.

The project will allow the company to centralize logistics for its client, Accoya USA, which manufactures high performance and sustainable wood building products from its plant in Kingsport.

The company will invest nearly \$400,000 across the two locations, creating at least 36 new jobs in Kingsport and 21 new jobs in Surgoinsville within the next five years.

Tennessee is the fifth state that Share Logistics has expanded to nationally, joining Georgia, Texas, Florida and New Jersey.

## THE RETAIL COACH LAUNCHES RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP WITH KINGSPORT

*The City of Kingsport has approved a partnership with The Retail Coach, a premier retail consulting, market research and development firm, to develop a recruitment strategy to bring new business opportunities to Kingsport, diversify the city's economic base and focus on first-to-market retailers and restaurants.*

The Retail360® Process will analyze the market, identify opportunities and use cell phone analysis to determine Kingsport's Retail Trade Area – the defined boundary from which the community draws 80-85% of its primary consumers.

That analysis will show exactly where people come from to eat and shop in Kingsport.

The team will create retail profile reports and marketing materials to encourage national/regional retailers and restaurants to locate in Kingsport.

After determining what dominant retail categories are needed in the community, The Retail Coach uses retailer matching methodology to identify what brands have the greatest potential for success and will actively recruit those prospects on the city's behalf.

"This collaboration marks a significant step forward in our efforts to continue enhancing economic development within our city," said Steven Bower, economic development director for Kingsport.



# COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK

## STREET RESURFACING CONTINUES ON SCHEDULE

The City of Kingsport will return to the Fairacres neighborhood in 2025 to complete road repairs that began in 2024. Crews also will continue to repair concrete roads in the lower Sevier Terrace neighborhood.

Contractors will travel to the Cooks Valley community this summer to perform paving work on nine miles of streets located between Harbor Chapel Road and Fort Patrick Henry Lake.

For nearly a decade, Kingsport has taken a three-prong approach toward street resurfacing, breaking the work into the following categories: "worst first" roads, main road paving and neighborhood paving.

Since 2017, Kingsport has allocated and/or spent \$21 million on street resurfacing work, repaving just over 140 miles of roads.

For more information on the city's paving efforts, visit [pavekingsport.com](http://pavekingsport.com).



## KINGSPORT CUSTOMER INFORMATION SYSTEM TO LAUNCH IN 2026

The City of Kingsport is working hard to implement a new utility billing and customer interaction software in early 2026. Many city staff members are currently training and testing the software to ensure a smooth transition.

The Customer Information System upgrade will enhance city services and benefit the community in multiple ways, including improved operational efficiency through process automation and new account management tools for customers.

An improved customer self-service portal will result in faster customer response times and better customer data/billing access.

The new system also will provide seamless communication among customer service, meter reading, utility billing and service order generation to ensure real time customer service for any issues.



## NEW RECYCLING CONVENIENCE CENTER OPENS WITH EXPANDED SERVICES

The City of Kingsport has opened a new and larger convenience center for residents to drop off recyclables in a safer, more controlled environment.

The facility, located at 300 Industry Drive, accepts cardboard, mixed paper, aluminum and tin. The convenience center will be staffed by a city employee and open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Items cannot be dropped off outside of operating hours.

The center includes Sullivan County recycling containers and a Kingsport container for small amounts of construction debris.



## MODEL CITY 101 RETURNS THIS FALL

The City of Kingsport is offering its adult education program, Model City 101, again this fall. Through this free, eight-week course, participants get an overview of various city departments and services with the goal being to better educate residents on the government's role within the community. Watch the city website for more details to be released in July.



# COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK

## JUSTICE CENTER EXPANSION PROJECT MOVES TO 'VERTICAL' PHASE

The Kingsport Justice Center expansion project, which got underway last fall with site work and exterior brick removal, is moving now into the steel framework stage.

The project will expand the footprint of the Justice Center by adding a two-story, 17,626-square-foot addition into the existing parking lot. Once complete, the expansion will:

- Bring all court functions under one roof.
- Add two courtrooms to the center.
- Provide separate elevator for staff and judges.
- Increase handicap-accessible parking spaces.
- Offer redesigned check-in area for visitors.
- Provide additional space for Kingsport Police Department.

Last year, Kingsport bid the project in July, and site/excavation work began in September with contractors removing the facade on the north wall and demolishing the parking lot.

Kingsport Senior Project Manager Dawn Melton said the building is expected to “go vertical” beginning in March.

Construction is budgeted at \$14.4 million with an additional \$3 million for equipment, technology and moving expenses. The projected completion date is May 2027.

“For the security of all involved, the participants within the court and the staff, these renovations will be a great improvement over the current facility,” Deputy City Manager Ryan McReynolds said.



## KINGSPORT TO BUILD NEW HIGH SERVICE PUMP STATION

*Kingsport’s Water Treatment Plant, constructed in 1928, has undergone numerous upgrades to expand and improve the existing treatment system and is now in need of infrastructure replacement.*

The project, which has been approved by the Board of Mayor Aldermen, will cost nearly \$8 million and is funded through a 2.13% interest loan from the Tennessee State Revolving Fund Program and a \$1.5 million U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant.

The project’s design firm is CDM Smith, and the contractor is J. Cumby Construction with an expected completion by fall 2025.

The pump station distributes an average of 17.5 million gallons every day to more than 39,000 customers, serving approximately 106,000 people. The replacement project is aimed at increasing reliability and redundancy.

The current electrical components are more than 40 years old and have reached the end of a useful lifespan. The project includes the addition of a fourth finished 700-horsepower pump that will provide greater capacity for the plant and match the three existing high-service pumps.

The fourth pump also will help ensure that Kingsport can consistently deliver water when a pump is taken out for service for maintenance or during extenuating circumstances, such as a winter freeze.

In 2011, engineering firm Hazen and Sawyer completed the Water Treatment Plant Master Plan, which included recommended improvements to reliably provide drinking water that meets future demand and regulations. The high-service pump station project was one of several projects identified in the plan.



## DOBYNS-BENNETT HIGH SCHOOL BUCK VAN HUSS DOME REOPENS



*On Jan. 28, 2025, approximately 4,000 members of the Kingsport community celebrated as Kingsport City Schools unveiled the newly renovated Buck Van Huss Dome at Dobyns-Bennett High School.*

The \$23 million project took 2.5 years to complete. The work included improvements to the iconic Lamella dome roof structure, HVAC and lighting systems, activities office, front and rear lobby entrances, locker rooms, main gym floor and scoreboard, auxiliary gymnasium, parking and accessibility, branding, and safety upgrades.

The overall goal of the project was to modernize the facility for current and future generations of the Dobyns-Bennett community while maintaining the heritage of the historical structure. Designed by Thompson & Litton Architects and built by Preston Construction Company, the renovation not only provided necessary structural remedies and environmental upgrades for Dobyns-Bennett and community events, but also facilitated improvements that will support daily wellness instruction for D-B students throughout the school year.



# KINGSPORT CITY SCHOOLS

*Kingsport City Schools (KCS) serves more than 7,600 students in grades Pre-K-12. The district comprises 13 schools, including a Pre-K facility, eight elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, a high school program of choice and an alternative learning program. KCS schools are recognized by leading organizations as among the top schools in Tennessee and the United States.*

## ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS 2024

### ADAMS ELEMENTARY

- U.S. News & World Report Best Elementary Schools in Tennessee recognition.
- Among Tennessee's best as Reward School.
- Top Composite Score of 5 in Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS).
- Tennessee Department of Education School Letter Grade: A

### JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY

- U.S. News & World Report Best Elementary Schools in Tennessee recognition.
- Among Tennessee's best as a Reward School.
- Top Composite Score of 5 in Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS)
- Tennessee Department of Education School Letter Grade: A

### JOHNSON ELEMENTARY

- Among Tennessee's best as a Reward School.
- Top Composite Score of 5 in Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS).
- Tennessee Department of Education School Letter Grade: A
- Continued as Lighthouse School of Distinction by Franklin Covey for developing students as leaders

### KENNEDY ELEMENTARY

- Top Composite Score of 5 in Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS).

- Tennessee Department of Education School Letter Grade: B
- Continued as Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School by Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence

### LINCOLN ELEMENTARY

- Among Tennessee's best as a Reward School.
- Top Composite Score of 5 in Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS).
- Tennessee Department of Education School Letter Grade: A

### WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY

- U.S. News & World Report Best Elementary Schools in Tennessee recognition.
- Tennessee Department of Education School Letter Grade: B
- Continued as member of Northeast Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub leadership team.

### ROBINSON MIDDLE

- U.S. News & World Report Best Middle Schools in Tennessee recognition.
- Tennessee Department of Education School Letter Grade: B
- State of Tennessee winner in U.S. Chamber National Civics Bee competition, advanced to nationals.

### SEVIER MIDDLE

- Top Composite Score of 5 in Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS).
- Tennessee Department of Education School Letter Grade: B

## DISTRICT & EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS 2024

- Top Composite Score of 5 in Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS) for eighth consecutive year in 2024.
- All KCS students automatically qualify for breakfast and lunch at no cost regardless of socioeconomic status due to implementation of USDA's Community Eligibility Provision.
- Grand reopening and ribbon cutting for newly renovated Dobyns-Bennett High School Buck Van Huss Dome.
- Dr. Kelley Harrell: State of Tennessee Principal of the Year, Adams Elementary School.
- Bryan Kerns: State of Tennessee Teacher of the Year, Dobyns-Bennett High School.
- Dr. Melissa Seaver: Tennessee National Outstanding Assistant Principal, Sevier Middle School.
- Kevin Trivette and Bri Hippenstiel: National Athletic Trainers' Association Safe Sports School Award, Dobyns-Bennett High School.
- Dr. Chris Hampton: TSSAA School District Administrator of the Year-Athletic District 1, KCS.
- Bill Darnell: TSSAA Girls Golf Coach of the Year, Dobyns-Bennett High School.



## NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

To meet the long-term needs of the growing Kingsport community and to provide students with the best possible learning environment, Kingsport City Schools and the City of Kingsport have embarked on a multi-year project to open two new state-of-the-art elementary schools.

The design process for these new schools is underway through partnerships with Thompson & Litton Architects and CainRashWest Architects. When complete, new construction in the Lynn Garden community and renovation of the former Sullivan North High School at the Tribe Athletic Complex will replace the current John F. Kennedy, Theodore Roosevelt and Andrew Jackson Elementary Schools. By consolidating to seven elementary schools from the current eight, KCS will be able to serve the educational needs of the community in the most strategic way possible.



## DOBYNS-BENNETT HIGH SCHOOL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools in Tennessee recognition.
- Among Tennessee's best as Reward School.
- Top Composite Score of 5 in Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS).
- Tennessee Department of Education School Letter Grade: A
- Three U.S. Presidential Scholar Program candidates.
- Approximately \$19 million in scholarship dollars offered to Class of 2024.
- Work-Based Learning students with paid internships earned \$189,700.
- Cyber Tribe Robotics team advanced to fourth consecutive international finals.
- Tennessee High School Speech and Drama League Champions; six students qualified for National Speech & Debate Tournament.
- Future Business Leaders of America State Champions in Team Business Plan.
- Mu Alpha Theta School Bowl State Champions.
- Air Force JROTC earned 16th consecutive Distinguished Unit Award.
- Two National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists.
- 6 National Merit Scholarship Program-Commended Students.

### ATHLETICS

- Country's No. 1 winningest high school baseball team.
- Country's No. 1 winningest high school basketball team.
- Unified Sports Bowling team state champions.
- Boys wrestling individual state champion.
- Boys indoor track & field individual state champion (60m hurdles).
- Boys indoor track & field Individual state champion (high jump).
- Girls softball team state champions.
- Boys track & field individual state champion (1600m).
- Boys track & field relay team state champions (4x800m).

### D-B EXCEL

- R'Matey's Underwater Robotics team advanced to World Competition for sixth consecutive year.
- Received STEM re-designation through Tennessee STEM Innovation Network and Tennessee Department of Education.
- 52 students received Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt industry certification.
- BioBuds competed in BioBuilder's final assembly competition at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston.

### MUSICAL AND ARTS PROGRAMS

- D-B Marching Band named "Large High School Division" and "Fan Favorite" winner in inaugural Metallica Marching Band Competition.
- 16 students named All-State in band, orchestra and chorus.