



Comment, blog & share photos
[Log in](#) | [Become a member](#) | [Search people](#)

powered by you and THE NEWS EXAMINER.

New school year will have students 'living above the line'

BY JENNIFER EASTON/STAFF • AUGUST 7, 2008

[Post a Comment](#) [Recommend](#) [Print this page](#) [E-mail this article](#)

SHARE THIS ARTICLE: [Delicious](#) [Facebook](#) [Digg](#) [Reddit](#) [Newsvine](#) [What's this?](#)

Parents and excited students will pour into the halls of Sumner County schools this morning ready to learn, and they will be eager to meet new teachers and see old friends.

This year, parents can expect to hear quite a bit about "Living Above the Line" from their students.

The phrase is part of a district-wide initiative that kicked off this week.

More than 2,000 Sumner County educators gathered at Long Hollow Baptist Church on Tuesday to officially launch a new method of teaching known as Quantum Learning.

The concept is a professional development program based on how students learn and emphasizes character education.

Quantum Learning includes eight keys of excellence anchored by respect, said Carla Cushman, teacher center supervisor for the school system.

"Students receive praise or recognition when they behave 'above the line,'" Cushman said.

"It's a powerful tool and our teachers are fired up about it. It's going to engage students more and make learning more interesting."

Promotes Life Skills

Educators say Quantum Learning promotes life skills such as responsibility, goal-setting, communication skills, relationships, creativity and problem solving.

Methods include the steps for building a strong foundation, a positive atmosphere of rapport and respect, and a supportive environment.

Howard Elementary's Alison Clifton has been using the Quantum Learning concept in her kindergarten classroom for three years. She said she is thrilled to see the concept go district-wide.

"It completely engages children. Instead of having me stand in front of the classroom, telling them what to learn, you include them in the process," Clifton said.

"If we're learning the letter 'A,' I might teach them that 'alligator' starts with 'A,' and I would have everyone stand up and act like alligators."

Using the method, Clifton said she has witnessed shy children become more expressive and socially engaged. "They also learn to be responsible for their actions while doing things to help others," she said.

The school system has been slowly incorporating the concept, but this will be the first year everyone in the district will be on board.



JENNIFER EASTON/Staff

More than 2,000 Sumner County educators gathered at Long Hollow Baptist Church on Tuesday to officially launch a new method of teaching known as Quantum Learning.

More My.Tn Headlines

[Panthers hang tough in scrimmage at HHS](#)
[Cumberland Heights Friends to roast Bill Denny on Aug. 12](#)

[Area teachers invited to Daniel Pink lecture](#)
[Golf roundup: Julow, Steen shine in Murfreesboro](#)
[Sumner County Fair Walking Horse Show results](#)

Latest Headlines

[Metro police prepare for new school year](#) (1)
[John Edwards admits to affair, denies fathering child](#) (11)
[Metro officer arrested on charge of soliciting minor](#)
[Family tips off police on suspect in school bus theft](#)
[I-65 lanes closed near Millersville](#)