

## Memphis College Prep Post

News for the College Graduating Classes of 2031 - 2036  
Volume VIII, Issue I, August 2019

### Letter from the *Principal*

Dear Families, Parents, and Friends

Welcome back to MCP! We have really missed you over the summer!

On behalf of our entire staff, we would like to welcome our new kindergarten scholars and our returning first, second, third, fourth, and fifth-grade scholars! It is with great honor and much enthusiasm that we publish our first newsletter for the 2019-2020 school year. Much planning, REHEARSAL and hard work has gone into preparing for a successful school year.

My name is Mrs. Small, and I will be your principal again this school year! I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year and I am looking forward to meeting new faces, revisiting with familiar ones, and hearing all about your summer adventures! For those of you who have not met me, I taught in Memphis for 8 years and have been in school leadership for the past 3 years. Currently, this is my second year as the Principal at Memphis College Prep. I am very excited to work together to make this a fabulous new school year!

All teachers and support staff have spent hours preparing materials, creating scholar-centered classrooms, and reviewing data and goals for this year. Our classrooms look amazing and are welcoming to all scholars! Our operations team has registered new scholars, making sure the building is ready to welcome everyone and get us off to a smooth start!

Please be sure to check your child's backpack and blue folder for homework, notices, and updates. To help our school be successful, please make sure your child is here every day, all day, and on time. Scholars have to be here to learn, and we miss them when they are not in our building!

We have enjoyed watching the scholars stream into school, the hallways filled with the energy and joy that only they can bring to our building. Old friendships are quickly rekindled and new friendships made.

As excited as I am to offer this monthly newsletter, it is the face-to-face interactions that I value most. Please know that we have an open-door policy, and welcome any opportunity to meet with you. I am outside during arrival and dismissal; if you don't see me, don't hesitate to call and leave a message for me, or email me! We are looking forward to our collaboration in providing a safe and nurturing environment as well as a challenging and diverse curriculum.

We know that this is going to be an amazing school year. Thank you in advance for choosing Memphis College Prep.

For our scholars,

*Trakela Small*

Trakela Small, Principal



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**First Day of School**  
August 5, 2019

**STEP and F&P  
Testing**  
8/6-8/17

**NWEA MAP  
Testing**  
8/12 - 8/16

**Data & Desserts**  
Thursday,  
August 22nd

**Labor Day - No  
School**  
Monday, Sept. 2nd



1500 Dunn Ave  
Memphis, TN 38106  
901.620.6475

# Meet the Staff



**Ms. Small**

*Principal*



**Mr. Gaston**

*Dean of Students*



**Mr. Giesler**

*Operations  
Manager*



**Ms. Bitzer**

*Dean of K/1*



**Ms. Yarbrough**

*ELA Instructional Coach*

## Leadership Team

# Meet the Staff



**Mr. Stewart**

*Operations Associate*



**Ms. Wooten**

*Office Coordinator*



**Mr. Nash**

**Music**

I am Mr. Nash. I am teaching all classes K-5 **MUSIC**, I love the way music can change an environment. Something fun about me is that I have played at the GRAMMYS!



**Mr. Hutson**

**P.E.**

I am the Physical Education teacher and this will be my 8th year at MCP. I'm excited to be teaching our scholars new skills, games, and different sports throughout the year. Looking forward to a great year at MCP!

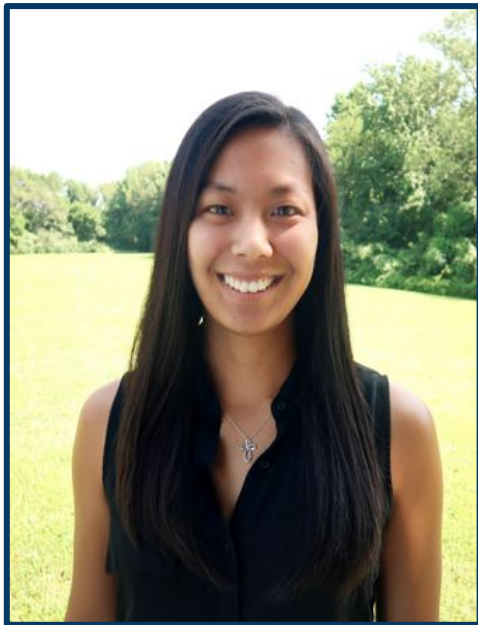


# Meet the Staff



**Ms. Bates**

I'm super excited to be apart of the Student Support team to help each scholar reach their full potential. I look forward to working with the scholars this year to bring them one step closer to college! ONE BAND, ONE SOUND! Let's do this!



**Ms. Otoshi**

I am the exceptional scholars teacher at MCP and I support students in all grades. A fun fact about me is that I taught myself how to play the guitar by watching YouTube videos.



**Mr. Ernst**

I am the reading interventionist at MCP. I am looking forward to working with our scholars to find out ways to help them succeed and reach their fullest potential.

# Student Supports

# Meet the Staff

**University  
of Colorado**



**Ms. Anderson**

**University of  
Arkansas**



**Ms. Hurt**



**Mr. Stewart**



**Ms. Holmes-Nurse**

Kindergarten



Dear Families,

Welcome to Kindergarten! We have two Kindergarten classrooms: The University of Colorado (Ms. Andersen and Mr. Stewart) and the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff (Mrs. Holmes-Nurse and Mrs. Hurt). We are thrilled to have your scholar in our classroom this year! We are excited and honored to have the opportunity to work with your scholar, and wanted to introduce ourselves. We truly believe that through working with you as partners, we will place our scholars on the path to and through college!

My name is Paige Andersen, and I grew up in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. I attended the University of Colorado at Boulder where I majored in Political Science and Philosophy. After teaching second grade math last year, I am excited to start my second year at MCP. I really love Memphis College Prep's commitment to prepare students for success in and out of college. I am very excited to get to know you and your Kindergartener!

My name is Tommie Stewart, I was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. I attended Belhaven University where I received a Bachelor's of Science in Sports Administration. I am currently attending Relay Graduate School where I will receive my Master's in Elementary Education come August 2020. This will be my third year working in Kindergarten, but my first year leading ELA. I am new to Memphis College Prep and I am extremely excited about working with you and your awesome scholar this year.

My name is Samantha Hurt, and I grew up in Milan, Tennessee. I attended the University of Memphis where I received a Master's of Arts in Anthropology. This is my fourth year teaching Kindergarten. I'm so excited to get to know your scholar! We are going to have a great year.

My name is Jacquelyn Holmes-Nurse, and I grew up in Grady, Arkansas. I attended the University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff, where I majored in Computer Science. I received a Master of Arts degree in Computer Resource and Information Systems from Webster University. I am teaching Kindergarten this year. I am looking forward to working with your scholar!!! I really love Memphis College Prep's commitment to start preparing scholars for college, beginning in Kindergarten. I am very excited to get to know all of our scholars and their families.

Our email addresses are listed below. Please don't hesitate reaching out to any of us at anytime if you have a concern, question, or just want to discuss your scholar. We want to develop strong relationships with each scholar's family to provide the support they need to continue their growth through college and beyond. To that end, please reach out to us if there are any weekend concerts, sporting events, performances, church events, etc. that your scholar is participating in or would like to invite us to! We believe that our relationship with each and every scholar extends beyond the classroom walls and we would love to support them in any way possible!

Again, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions and we are looking forward to a great year!

Best,  
The Kindergarten Team

Samantha Hurt  
901-619-7045  
[shurt@memphiscollegeprep.org](mailto:shurt@memphiscollegeprep.org)

Jacquelyn Holmes-Nurse  
870-592-2903  
[jholmesnurse@memphiscollegeprep.org](mailto:jholmesnurse@memphiscollegeprep.org)

Paige Andersen  
307-248-0223  
[pandersen@memphiscollegeprep.org](mailto:pandersen@memphiscollegeprep.org)

Tommie Stewart  
901-691-8793  
[tstewart@memphiscollegeprep.org](mailto:tstewart@memphiscollegeprep.org)



# Meet the Staff

**Ohio State  
University**



**Ms. Clark**

**Rhodes  
College**



**Mr. Bland**



**Mr. Tillman**

1st Grade



August, 2019

Dear Families,

Welcome to First Grade! Our names are Emily Clark, Corry Bland and Seth Tillman. We are thrilled to have your scholar in our classrooms this year. We are excited and honored to have the opportunity to work with your scholar, and wanted to introduce ourselves. We truly believe that through working with you as partners, we will place our scholars on the path to college graduation!

My name is Emily Clark, and I grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I attended The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio where I majored in Public Affairs. This is my second year teaching first grade at MCP, and I cannot wait to work with you and your scholars! I am drawn to Memphis College Prep because of our school's unwavering commitment to ensuring all scholars have access to rigorous and engaging classrooms that prepare them for success in college and beyond.

My name is Corry Bland, and I grew up here in Memphis, TN. I attended the University of Memphis and majored in Early Childhood Education. This will be my tenth year of teaching, and I am looking forward to getting to know each and every scholar and family! I became interested in joining Memphis College Prep because of their reputation of outstanding academics and scholar growth.

My name is Seth Tillman, and I grew up in Brownsville, Tennessee. I attended Rhodes College here in Memphis where I majored in Economics with a minor in Educational Studies. I am entering my sixth year at Memphis College Prep where I have been a Data Analysis Intern, Operations Fellow, Teaching Fellow and Lead Teacher. This is my third year teaching math in both first grade classrooms. I really love Memphis College Prep's commitment to not only prepare students for success in college, but also for success in life. I am very excited to get to know all of our scholars and their families!

Our email addresses and phone numbers are listed below. Please feel comfortable reaching out to us at anytime if you have a concern, question, or just want to discuss your scholar's success. We want to develop strong relationships with each scholar's family to provide the support they need to continue their growth through college and beyond. We believe that our relationship with each and every scholar extends beyond the classroom walls and we would love to support them in any way possible!

Again, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions and we are looking forward to a great year!

Best,

The First Grade Team

Ms. Clark [eclark@memphiscollegeprep.org](mailto:eclark@memphiscollegeprep.org), 724-584-8733

Mr. Bland [bland@memphiscollegeprep.org](mailto:bland@memphiscollegeprep.org), 901-495-0558

Mr. Tillman [stillman@memphiscollegeprep.org](mailto:stillman@memphiscollegeprep.org), 731-780-2736



# Meet the Staff

**University of  
Alabama**



**Mr. Brooks**

I am one of the two second grade teachers at MCP. My homeroom is Alabama and I'm looking forward to teaching our scholars this year and seeing them mature academically and socially throughout the school year.

**Mississippi  
Valley State**



**Ms. Miller**

I grew up in Greenwood, MS and graduated from MVSU. I have a dog named Smokey, who loves to talk and my favorite food is pizza. I am teaching Math & Science in 2nd grade in MVSU! I love making Math & Science fun for scholars and I'm excited to get this year started and get to know you!

2nd Grade

# Meet the Staff

## Geneva College

## Union University



**Ms. Smith**

I am teaching 3rd grade math in Geneva College. I am so excited to work with our scholars this year as we grow our brains and begin to learn harder and harder math. I am originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but for the past 4 years Memphis has been my home. I have taught both math and ELA for the past 4 years for scholars in grades 3-8. I have a passion for ensuring all scholars have what they need to be successful and know that success looks different for every scholar. I look forward partnership with parents this year, as you are the experts for your child.



**Ms. Hunt**

I am Mrs. Hunt. I am teaching 3rd grade and my class is Union University. I am super excited to be a teacher at MCP this year. Something interesting about me is that I love to travel, especially in the United States. I have been to Nebraska, Indiana, New Jersey, California, Texas, Arizona, Kansas, Missouri, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Kentucky, I wonder where I will go next?

3rd Grade



# Meet the Staff

## University of Massachusetts



**Ms. Baah**

I will be your child's 4th grade ELA teacher for this school year! I am super excited to embark on this journey with our scholars. It's going to be a fun-tastic year. I am very passionate about literacy, and I strongly believe every child has the ability to learn and therefore each and everyone of our scholars will show growth this year. It's a pleasure to have your child as my student, let's work together to have a wonderful and successful school year.

## University of Memphis



**Ms. Lane**

This is my second year teaching with the dynamic MCP team. I come to you with 7 wonderful years of experience educating scholars in Memphis and Mississippi. I am so excited to get the pleasure to teach your scholar this school year. I have a strong passion for Math and can not wait to see how well my scholars blossom this year in Math. We will be continually working on using explanations/evidence this year while learning math. This will prepare our scholars for the years to come and most importantly have them College Ready. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns. I am one phone call or email away. Let's have a wonderful school year working together.

4th Grade



# Meet the Staff

**CBU**



**Ms. Benson**

**Georgetown**



**Ms. Supplice**

Dear Families,

We are so excited to work with your scholars this year! We are Ms. Benson and Ms. Supplice, and will be your scholar's 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom teachers this year. Ms. Benson teaches math and science, and Ms. Supplice teaches reading, writing, spelling, and social studies. Both of us have high expectations for our students that align with that of Memphis College Prep's mission. We believe that all of our students can learn, and while the both of us are a large part of that, we know that your role as their family is integral to their learning and success as well. We want to work with you in order to provide your scholar with what they need to have a successful year!

5th Grade



## 2019-2020 Calendar

<b>Abbreviated Day:</b> MCP & VCP Scholars Dismiss at 11:45 a.m.	<b>Wednesdays: Early Dismissal Day</b> MCP Scholars Dismiss at 1:45 p.m. VCP Scholars Dismiss at 2 p.m.	<b>Normal Dismissal</b> MCP Scholars Dismiss at 3:45 p.m. VCP Scholars Dismiss at 4 p.m.
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Date	Day(s)	Event	Students Out	Teachers Out
July 17 – August 2, 2019	Wed.-Wed.	Teacher Professional Development	-	0
<b>FIRST SEMESTER</b>				
August 5, 2019	Monday	First Day of School for Students	0	0
September 2, 2019	Monday	Labor Day, No School	1	1
October 11, 2019	Friday	Abbreviated Day	½	½
October 14-18, 2019	Mon. – Fri.	Fall Break, No School	5	5
October 21, 2019	Monday	Teacher Professional Development, No Students	1	0
October 23, 2019	Wednesday	Parent Teacher Conferences (2 to 5 pm)	-	-
November 25 – 29, 2019	Mon. – Fri.	Thanksgiving Holiday Break, No School	5	5
December 19, 2019	Thursday	Abbreviated Day	½	½
December 20 – January 3, 2020	Fri. – Fri.	Winter Holiday Break, No School	11	11
<b>SECOND SEMESTER</b>				
January 6, 2020	Monday	Teacher Professional Development, No Students	1	0
January 7, 2020	Tuesday	First Day of School, Second Semester	0	0
January 15, 2020	Wednesday	Parent Teacher Conferences (2 to 5 p.m.)	-	-
January 20, 2020	Monday	MLK Day, No School	1	1
February 17, 2020	Monday	President's Day, No School	1	1
March 13, 2020	Friday	Abbreviated Day	½	½
March 16 – 20, 2020	Mon. – Fri.	Spring Break, No School	5	5
April 10, 2020	Friday	Good Friday Holiday, No School	1	1
May 22, 2020	Friday	Last Day of School for Students Abbreviated Day	0	0
May 26-27, 2020	Tues.-Wed.	Administrative Days for Staff	2	0
May 27, 2020	Wednesday	Last Day for Staff	-	-

Grading Periods	Progress Reports Issued	Report Cards Issued
Q1: 8/5/19 – 10/11/19	9/6/2019	10/30/2019
Q2: 10/22/19 – 12/19/19	11/13/2019	1/8/2020
Q3: 1/7/20 – 3/13/20	2/7/2020	3/27/2020
Q4: 3/23/20 – 5/22/20	4/22/2020	5/27/2020

# Uniforms K – 2nd

	Gentlemen	Ladies
Shirt & Undershirt	Light blue long or short-sleeved Polo styled shirt with Memphis College Prep logo. An undershirt is optional, but should be a plain white, black, or navy blue (no logos) if worn.	
Pants & Shorts	Navy blue dress pants or shorts (no jeans, no leggings, no side-pockets, no side loops, no designer labels, no extra zippers, no bell or slit bottoms, no overalls).	
Socks/Tights or Leggings	Plain, white, black, or navy socks.	Plain, white, black, or navy socks or tights. (plain with no pattern).
Shoes	Solid black, white, or navy low top sneakers (or rubber soled shoe), without any embellishments of any kind. Shoelaces are solid white, black, or navy.	
<b>Optional (The following items are not required)</b>		
Cardigan	Burgundy or Navy V-neck cardigan sweater (no fleeces, no sweatshirts; blue blouse/MCP shirt must be worn underneath sweater).	
Belt (Optional)	A solid colored belt. (A belt is not required, but if a student needs to wear one, it must be one solid color with a plain (non-removable) buckle.	
Skirt/Jumper (Optional)		Plain light blue blouse with Memphis College Prep logo. Navy jumper with Memphis College Prep logo
Sweatshirt	MCP Logo sweatshirt with blue MCP logo shirt underneath.	

# Uniforms 3rd – 5th

	Gentlemen	Ladies
Shirt & Undershirt	Memphis College Prep Logo light blue button down shirts.	
Pants & Shorts	Navy blue dress pants or shorts. (no jeans, no side-pockets, no side loops, no designer labels, no extra zippers, no bell or slit bottoms, no overalls).	
Socks/Tights or Leggings	Plain, white, black, or navy socks.	Plain, white, black, or navy socks or tights(plain with no pattern).
Shoes	Solid black, white, or navy low top sneakers (or rubber soled shoe), without any embellishments of any kind. Shoelaces are solid white, black, or navy.	
Optional (The following items are not required.)		
Cardigan	Burgundy or Navy V-neck cardigan sweater (no fleeces, no sweatshirts; blue blouse/MCP shirt must be worn underneath sweater).	
Tie	Plain navy blue tie, blue plaid tie	Plain navy blue tie, blue plaid cross tie
Belt	A solid colored belt. (A belt is not required, but if a student needs to wear one, it must be one solid color with a plain (non-removable) buckle.	
Skirt/Jumper		Memphis College Prep blue plaid skirt, or navy blue skirt
Sweatshirt	MCP Logo sweatshirt with blue MCP logo shirt underneath.	



# IMPORTANT REMINDERS



## The need for ID

Visitors must gain access through the main building doors. **All visitors must show their identification to the camera at the entry door to gain access to the building.**

All visitors are required to show their identification for pick-up or for observations.

Thank you for helping us roll out this policy and keeping safety at the forefront of MCP.

# One Call

## Save the number!

Please enter this number into your phone:

**877-698-3261**

**This number will be calling with important updates from MCP throughout the year!**

Prefer to text?

Text **ALERT** to **22300** for text message updates!

# IMPORTANT REMINDERS



## Dismissal Reminders

1. Dismissal begins at 3:45 p.m. (Wednesdays at 1:45 p.m.)
2. Remain in your car
3. Have your car tags on the front right windshield to keep the traffic moving
4. To avoid scholars crossing in front of cars, pull over on the school side only
5. If you are picking up a Veritas scholar and an MCP scholar wait until 4:00pm to pull through the line



## MCP School Hours

MCP's doors open at  
7:15 a.m. daily

**All scholars dropped off after 7:45am must be signed in by a parent, no scholars should be sent in alone.**

Breakfast is served from  
7:15 a.m. to 7:40 a.m.

School dismisses at 3:45 p.m. (except Wednesday)

Wednesday dismissal is at  
1:45 p.m.

## Dates to Remember

### Data and Desserts



**On Thursday, August 22nd from 5:00-6:00pm,** MCP will host its first Data and Desserts evening of the school year.

We will dive into beginning-of-year data and discuss how you can support your scholar for the upcoming year. You can also meet your scholar's teachers, and enjoy some desserts in the process! We can't wait to see you there!



### CLIP AND COLLECT!

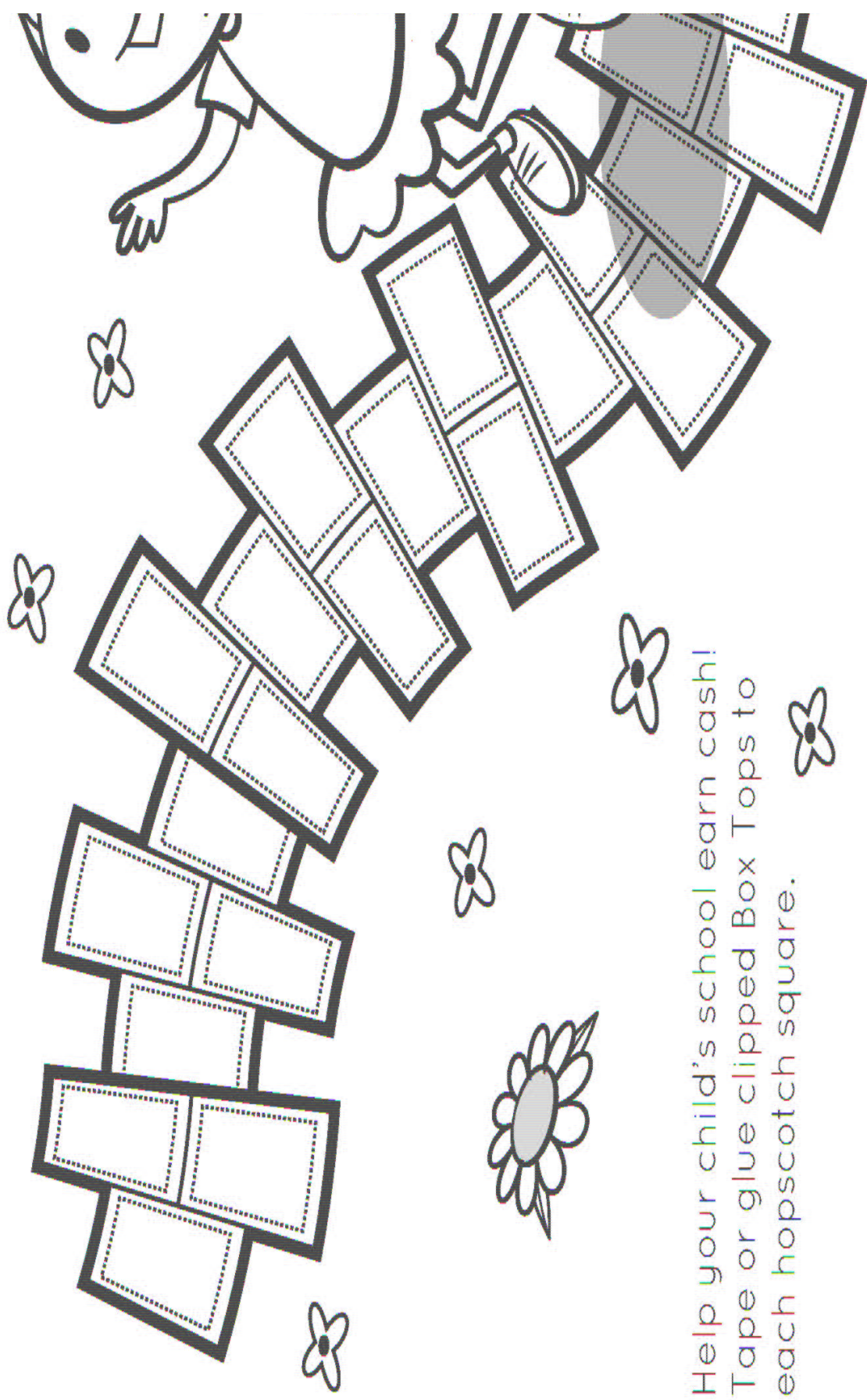
Have your scholar clip & collect box tops for education!

Use the collection sheet at the end of the newsletter to collect your box tops. **Send your completed sheet into school with your scholar by August 30th.** Each classroom will collect box tops to help fundraise for Memphis College Prep!





# HOP TO IT!



Help your child's school earn cash!  
Tape or glue clipped Box Tops to  
each hopscotch square.

Thank you for helping! Clipped Box Tops are each worth 10¢ for your child's school. Bonus certificates should not be attached to this sheet – please submit them separately. To see more ways to earn cash for your child's school, go to [BTFE.com](http://BTFE.com).