

# **Students earn ‘Passport to Success’ at career fair**

Nancy De Gennaro, degennaro@dnj.com 5:12 p.m. CDT May 5, 2015—Daily News Journal (DNJ)

MURFREESBORO — Students at Mitchell-Neilson School were given a “Passport to Success” Tuesday to celebrate the end of Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program testing, which ended last week.

The educational event offered interactive career-exploration booths from MTSU, specifically the departments within the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, to build awareness of career options after high school or college with a spotlight on MTSU. Third- through sixth-graders participated in the career fair, which was hosted by the Family Center Community Building II class from MTSU.

“The theme is ‘passport to success’ and we want students to be rewarded for their hard work in the TCAP exams ... and we also want them to know hard work pays off and to think about the different avenues of careers they can pursue after high school, especially those we offer at MTSU,” said Claire Cook, Family and Consumer Studies professor at MTSU, whose students helped staff the career fair.

MNS students were given placards, which served as “passports,” to take around to the career booths set up in the gymnasium where they met MTSU students and faculty members who discussed future opportunities. Each student also received a goody bag with swag from MTSU.

“They were allowed to visit any two booths of their choosing and ... get (their passport) stamped at each booth,” Cook explained.

“I hope it’s getting them more familiar with MTSU and letting them know all the great programs we have to offer right in their hometown,” said Bethany Wrye, professor in MTSU’s Department of Health and Human Performance.

One of the most popular booths was from the chemistry department. Greg Van Patten, professor and chair of the department, kept kids entertained with science experiments.

Student Alissa Redden visited the chemistry booth, but she was most enamored with the fashion merchandising department’s booth.

“I really want to be a designer,” said Redden.

Once students earned stamps for the passports, they could head over to the other side of the gym to play games and dress up in work clothes for the photo booth.

“It’s a great opportunity for the students to see what life on a college campus is like,” said MNS Principal Robin Newell. “Some of our children, the only professions they see are teachers and doctors and police officers. This gives them a chance to think about what they enjoy doing ... and marry their talents, passions and gifts.”

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