

Mayfield students put engineering design to test

Students in Kalee Andersson’s 7th grade science class at Mayfield Middle School are putting their problem-solving skills into action. As part of a hands-on unit on the engineering design process, students were challenged to build a functional table using only newspaper and duct tape. After designing and constructing their tables, the young engineers tested each structure to see how much weight it could support. The project encouraged creativity, teamwork, and real-world application of STEM principles.



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TVA awards \$655,000 to support youth robotics programs

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP
The Tennessee Valley Authority awarded \$655,000 to 179 schools and nonprofit organizations to support youth robotics programs across the utility’s seven-state region, the agency announced Thursday.
The Tennessee Valley Authority and Bicentennial Volunteers Inc. said in a news release that the funds can be used to create new robotics programs or enhance existing ones. Any school or nonprofit that receives electricity from a local power company served by TVA was eligible to apply.
This marks the first year for the robotics awards program, which is similar to TVA and BVI’s long-standing STEM awards, according to the release.
“TVA and BVI are working hand in hand to expand the reach of robotics education, which will help create more opportunities for youth across our seven-state region,” TVA President and CEO Don Moul said in the release. “Skills in robotics are already required for many careers today, and we want to equip our future workforce with the tools they need to

step into and excel in those fields.”
Recipients plan to use the funding in various ways. At Tupelo Middle School in Mississippi, a teacher plans to take her class on a field trip to Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, to see professionals in engineering and coding. The funds will also be used to make participating in the First Lego League free for all students.
At Lake County High School in northwest Tennessee, officials plan to update and expand their robotics equipment, including purchasing new VEX IQ parts, sensors, pneumatics kits and additional laptops to improve programming reliability.
“BVI is proud to partner with TVA to support the robotics award program, which inspires the next generation of innovators and problem solvers in our region,” said Kathy Black, president of Bicentennial Volunteers Inc. “By empowering students through hands-on learning and community engagement, we’re helping build a future where creativity and technology come together to drive progress across the valley.”

While this is the first year for robotics awards, TVA, BVI and the TVA Retirees Association have supported robotics programs across the region for many years.

KENTUCKY FUNDING RECIPIENTS
\$5,000 — Allen County Schools — Allen
\$2,500 — Boys and Girls Clubs of Hopkinsville-Christian Co. — Christian
\$2,500 — Butler County High School — Butler
\$5,000 — Calloway County Middle School Robotics — Caldwell
\$5,000 — Fulton Independent Schools — Fulton
\$2,500 — Gateway Academy to Innovation and Technology — Christian
\$5,000 — Highland Elementary — Barren
\$5,000 — Mayfield Middle School — Graves
\$5,000 — Murray Middle School — Calloway
\$2,500 — North Warren Elementary — Warren
\$2,500 — South Todd Elementary School — Todd
\$5,000 — South Warren Middle School — Warren
\$5,000 — Warren Elementary — Warren

Mayfield teacher one of 9 honored with state achievement awards

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) has announced the selection of nine outstanding Kentucky educators as recipients of the 2026 Kentucky Teacher Achievement Awards. Kara Byrn Dowdy has been named as one recipient. She is a local teacher at Mayfield High School.

These teachers qualify to compete for the 2026 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Award, which will be announced in October.
“The Kentucky Teacher of the Year Awards honor outstanding teachers who go above and beyond to help develop the next generation of leaders,” said Commissioner of Education Robbie Fletcher.
The nine Kentucky Teacher Achievement Award winners and their positions during the 2024-2025 school year are:

- ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
- Melanie Howard, Corbin Primary School (Corbin Independent)
 - Michele Bradley, Crossroads Elementary School (Bath County)
 - Susan Coffey, Mt. Vernon Elementary School (Rockcastle County)

KDE received 753 teacher nominations this year, a 42% increase from the previous year, and judging was conducted by a blue-ribbon panel of veteran educators from across the state.

- Middle School**
- Kimberly Stevenson, Todd County Middle School
 - Kim Yates, Pineville Middle School (Pineville Independent)
 - Michelle Gross, Spencer County Middle School

- HIGH SCHOOL**
- Devina Baker, Perry County Central High School
 - Kara Byrn Dowdy, Mayfield High School (Mayfield Independent)
 - Whitney M Walker, Lafayette High School (Fayette County)

“The nine teachers who earned the Teacher Achievement Awards represent the best of a great group of educators in the Commonwealth,” Fletcher said. “These teachers are a shining example of the dedication and innovation educators are bringing to Kentucky classrooms each and every day.”
All nine teachers will be honored during a ceremony in Frankfort on Oct. 7. During the ceremony, KDE

will announce winners of the elementary, middle and high school teaching divisions. From those three finalists, one will be named the 2026 Kentucky Teacher of the Year, who will then represent the state in the National Teacher of the Year competition.
All award recipients will receive cash prizes. The overall Kentucky Teacher of the Year will receive \$10,000 and will be offered a six-month sabbatical with KDE during their year as an ambassador of the teaching profession.
KDE received 753 teacher nominations this year, a 42% increase from the previous year, and judging was conducted by a blue-ribbon panel of veteran educators from across the state.
Applications included information on the nominees’ teaching philosophies, teaching experiences and involvement in their respective communities, as well as letters of recommendation from peers, students, families, administrators and others.



PUBLIC NOTICE 2025 PROPOSED TAX RATE PUBLIC HEARING

The Graves County Fiscal Court will hold a public hearing on August 25, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m. at the Purchase Area Development District, 1002 Medical Drive, Mayfield, Ky for the purpose of obtaining comments from the public regarding the proposed tax rate.

The tax rate levied last year was 9.3 and produced revenues in the amount of \$2,047,128. This year’s compensating rate is 9.0 and will produce revenues in the amount of \$2,114,231. The Graves County Fiscal Court proposes a tax rate of 9.3 which will produce a total of \$2,184,705 in revenues.

Revenue expected from New Property is \$692,618; revenue expected from Personal Property is \$468,917; revenue expected from Motor Vehicles is \$422,404; and revenue expected from Watercraft is \$15,782.

Revenue received in excess of last year’s revenue will be used for: Public Safety

The Kentucky General Assembly requires that the Graves County Fiscal Court publish this notice with the above information contained herein.



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