

Leestown students pledge to do their best

Across Fayette County, schools spent the past week gearing up for state testing. Dixie Elementary Magnet had an Olympic Blast, Northern hosted a teacher/student basketball game, and Rosa Parks Elementary put on a variety show.

Middle schools also got in on the act.

At Leestown, kids covered their palms with acrylic paint and smacked the walls. (Not to worry; they had permission since their school will soon be renovated.)

“They’re letting the kids put their handprints on the wall, and we pledge to do our best on the CATS testing,” sixth-grader Dejah Rawlings explained Friday as she looked for just the right spot outside the cafeteria.

Sixth-graders used purple, seventh-graders had yellow paint and eighth-graders marked with blue. In the foyer, teachers left their prints in maroon. Each person also signed his or her name with a black marker. The activity, including the [Good Faith Promise](#), was one of the week’s highlights.

“We’ve been really working on climate and culture,” said instructional coach Sharma Nachlinger, who joined other staff members to visit classrooms with pom-poms and cheers to encourage the kids. “Our message to them is you do it for yourselves. You’ve been learning this information, you guys know it, so prove it to yourself and everybody else.”