



SHOWCASES FOR SUCCESS

As a means of encouraging awareness and recognition of public schools, the Virginia School Boards Association invited Virginia's school divisions to recommend programs that would serve as "Showcases for Success" in public education. This year, VSBA has created an online database of these successful programs and will feature them on the VSBA website for the entire year. In addition, this directory of programs will be shared with journalists, school board chairmen, superintendents, legislators, and top state officials.

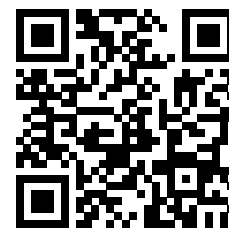
The theme of this year's "Showcases for Success" is the VSBA's tagline, "Leadership – Advocacy – Support". These three words not only represent the work of the VSBA

as an organization, but also the work each school board and each school board member does in their local communities. As shown in the "Showcases for Success," the emphasis on leadership, advocacy, and support is found at every level of the educational process. This special edition newsletter features just a few of the many impressive programs taking place in our schools every day throughout the Commonwealth.

Readers are encouraged to visit the directory of programs, which is now available on the VSBA web site. We also would like to encourage an exchange of ideas and initiatives. The directory highlights division-wide programs, as well as those at elementary, middle, and high school levels. From school safety and community out-

reach, to classroom programs and after-school clubs, the quality and range of initiatives is vast and remarkable. Use the "Showcases for Success" initiatives as a starting point to develop similar programs in your school division. With an open exchange of ideas and implementation of best practices, together we can work toward our ultimate goal of graduation and success for all students.

SHOWCASE DIRECTORY
www.vsba.org/showcases



PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DIVISIONS

Albemarle County Public Schools
Appomattox County Public Schools
Arlington County Public Schools
Bedford County Public Schools
Bland County Public Schools
Buchanan County Public Schools
Caroline County Public Schools
Charlottesville City Public Schools
Chesterfield County Public Schools
Clarke County Public Schools
Covington City Public Schools
Culpeper County Public Schools
Cumberland County Public Schools

Fairfax City Public Schools
Fairfax County Public Schools
Fauquier County Public Schools
Fluvanna County Public Schools
Franklin County Public Schools
Fredericksburg City Public Schools
Galax City Public Schools
Giles County Public Schools
Gloucester County Public Schools
Goochland County Public Schools
Greene County Public Schools
Harrisonburg City Public Schools
Henrico County Public Schools

Henry County Public Schools
King George County Public Schools
Louisa County Public Schools
Loudoun County Public Schools
Lynchburg City Public Schools
Manassas Park City Schools
Mathews County Public Schools
Montgomery County Public Schools
Nelson County Public Schools
Newport News City Public Schools
Nottoway County Public Schools
Orange County Public Schools
Patrick County Public Schools

Portsmouth City Public School
Prince George County Public Schools
Prince William County Public Schools
Pulaski County Public Schools
Roanoke City Public Schools
Roanoke County Public Schools
Shenandoah County Public Schools
Staunton City Public Schools
Surry County Public Schools
Warren County Public Schools
Washington County Public Schools
Williamsburg-James City County PS
York County Public Schools

Leadership • Advocacy • Support •

DIVISION:

Caroline County Public Schools

PROGRAM:

**Middle School History Club
38th Parallel Project**

The Caroline Middle School History Club, in its first year of existence, is working to honor Korean War veterans in our community and our state. The 38th Parallel, which divides North and South Korea, runs directly in front of Caroline High School. The Korean War was fought between 1950 and 1953 and over 100,000 Americans lost their lives. The goal of the CMS History Club is to place a Virginia Historical Marker on the parallel in honor of these veterans. The students in the club have taken an active leadership role in the project by making presentations to the Caroline County School Board and Board of Supervisors. They are actively fundraising to obtain the \$2000 needed for the marker. The Korean War is taught as part of US History 7th grade curriculum, and this project will provide a community connection to a foreign event.

CONTACT: Angela Wright, Principal,
Caroline Middle School, 804-633-6561



CAROLINE COUNTY

DIVISION:

Chesterfield County Public Schools

PROGRAM:

Build-a-House

Build-a-House connects Chesterfield Technical Center students eager to learn a trade with adults who need a home. Through this program, students studying carpentry, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, advanced CAD, Cisco networking and landscaping build a home for adults with intellectual disabilities on surplus land donated by the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors. Chesterfield Alternatives Inc. pays for construction materials and runs the group home after residents move in. Two homes have been built since 2007, and a third is under way.

Build-a-House gives students hands-on experience and real-world knowledge of safety rules, building regulations, and current standards, such as green technology. Students also develop skills in leadership and a willingness to help their community. The Build-a-House model of taking unused, county-owned land to train students and create a comfortable home for people with disabilities is a winning experience for everyone. Harvard University selected Build-a-House for a 2012 Bright Ideas award.

CONTACT: Mike Gill, Director of
Middle Schools, 804-594-1756, or
Rob Kent, Build-a-House Coordinator,
804-768-6160



CAROLINE COUNTY



CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

Leadership • Advocacy • Support

DIVISION:

Giles County Public Schools

PROGRAM:

Classroom Emergency Kits at Narrows Elementary Middle School

Seventh grade students were given the task of creating a community service project relating to the civics standard of being an effective citizen. Students decided to create a *Classroom Emergency Kit*. Students divided into committees: 1) Oversee/manage the project; 2) Publication: to create fliers, inform by word of mouth, and display the progress of the project for the school to view; and 3) Organization of supplies.

Signs were made and posted, morning announcements were given, fliers were sent home requesting donations, and boxes were created to collect supplies. The response from the school community was overwhelming, and kits were created and distributed to each classroom. The kits were designed to be used in any type of emergency at the school, and the students decided to include these items: latex free rubber gloves, band aids, medical tape, gauze, hand sanitizer, travel size tissues, scissors, flash lights and batteries, bottled water, crackers, and art supplies.

CONTACT: Laura Helvey, 7th Grade Teacher, Narrows Elementary/Middle School, 540-726-2391



DIVISION:

Roanoke City Public Schools

PROGRAM:

Westside Debaters

Denzel Washington would be proud! Westside Elementary School in Roanoke is one of the few elementary schools in the country to have a debate team. It is called the Westside Debaters. In the spring of 2012, these Westside students were invited to perform at Wiley College in Texas, a historically black college that was the setting of *The Great Debaters*, a 2007 movie starring Denzel Washington. They left Wiley with an honorary title: Junior Great Debaters. The Westside Debaters have been invited back for the spring of 2013.

The Westside Debaters are good examples of leadership and improvements in learning. Four years ago, Westside Elementary was struggling to meet state and federal benchmarks. Today, the school is fully accredited and has met all federal guidelines. The program has been so successful, debate teams have launched at several other Roanoke City elementary schools.

CONTACT: Justin McLeod, Community Relations Coordinator, 540-853-2905



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DIVISION:

Loudoun County Public Schools

PROGRAM:

Connecting All Adolescents to Middle School

At Smart's Mill Middle School we have a fundamental belief that adolescent students must be connected to school in order to maximize their achievement. Like schools all across the nation, there are always a handful of students who struggle to connect, which has a negative influence on the climate in the building. To address this group of at-risk students, the *Maverick Adventure Team* was created for boys and *Journey at Middle* for girls. These gender-specific groups meet on a weekly basis and include adult mentors, service projects, and incentive-based field trips. As the students grow each quarter, they earn the opportunity to participate in unique experiences that have included ropes courses, canoeing, rock climbing, and visits to multiple local museums. Because of these two programs, the entire culture of the school is impacted. Students want to attend school, adults are viewed as advocates, and there is a renewed sense of academic efficacy.

CONTACT: Dave Shaffer, Assistant Principal, Smart's Mill Middle School, 571-252-2030



LOUDOUN COUNTY

DIVISION:

Washington County Public Schools

PROGRAM:

Division-Wide Safety Program

In an effort to raise the level of awareness of student safety, Washington County Schools launched an intensive safety campaign as schools opened this fall. Students, parents and staff were introduced to the program through a media campaign, including billboards, school banners, classroom posters, t-shirts and wristbands with the slogan of "Say What You See, Tell What You Know", and a safety mascot of Billy the Bulldog. In addition to a division tip line, a "text-a-tip" feature was added to promote an easy, convenient and anonymous means of reporting any type of safety issue. The purpose of this initiative is to engage all stakeholders in our effort of making our schools as safe as possible for students and staff. The program involves safety committees at the division level and at each building level. Local and state law enforcement agencies are an integral part of this emphasis on school safety.

CONTACT: Dr. Foney Mullins, Assistant Superintendent, 276-739-3017



LOUDOUN COUNTY

**Making Our Schools Safe!!!!
One HERO at a time!**

TIP HOT-LINES: (800) 285-4282
(276) 676-9671

SAY
what you see
TELL
what you know



TEXT-A-TIP:
to BILLY the BULLDOG
274-637 (CRIMES)
Begin TIP with WCSTIPS



Washington County Public Schools

WASHINGTON COUNTY

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DIVISION:

Williamsburg-James City County

PROGRAM:

Guys Read Program

The Guys Read program creates an opportunity for Lafayette High School staff to advocate reading among the male student population. Statistics and anecdotal evidence show that males are often unmotivated to read. Therefore, the mission of this non-profit program is to help males become self-motivated, lifelong readers. Lafayette piloted this program and partnered with the Williamsburg Regional Library to supply books and resource materials to aid in discussions. An English teacher facilitates four group discussions per book so students can share what they learned and enjoyed about each book. To culminate their learning experience, the group also takes a theme-related field trip. During a trip to Baeplex Family Martial Arts, the group learned moves associated with the physical training from Chris Bradford's book, *Young Samurai: The Way of the Warrior*. This community of male readers is steadily increasing and Lafayette now has a reading group for every grade level.

CONTACT: Dr. Jeffrey Carroll, Assistant Principal, Lafayette High School, 757-565-4234

DIVISION:

Fairfax County Public Schools

PROGRAM:

Finding and Nurturing Young Scholars

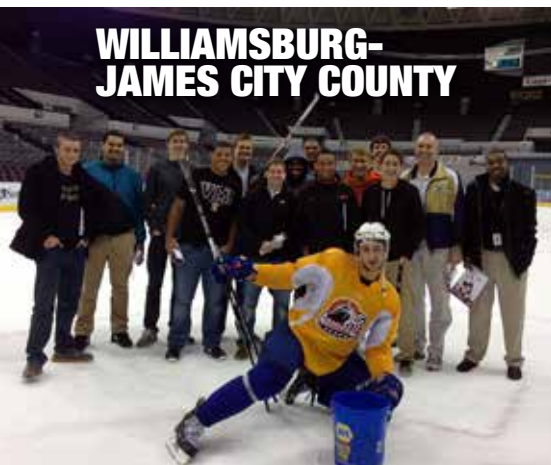
Young Scholars is one facet of Fairfax County Public Schools' approach to closing the achievement gap that exists between white and underrepresented minority students. A major goal of the model is to identify children with advanced academic potential from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds at an early age, and to provide them with an educational setting that will nurture their potential and prepare them for challenging course work in upper elementary, middle school, high school, and beyond. Young Scholars are students who are not likely to be considered for gifted programs using traditional methods of identification, and who, without that opportunity, are less likely to pursue advanced levels of learning on their own. Historically, these students have lacked access to advanced academic services, advocates for their high potential, and affirmation of their strengths, interests, and/or abilities.

Once identified, Young Scholars are clustered with teachers who are trained to differentiate curriculum

and instruction in order to strengthen basic skills and develop their ability to think, reason, and problem-solve on advanced levels. Summer school, after school sessions, and field trips are all used to provide Young Scholars enriched, challenging learning experiences with intellectual peers from similar backgrounds. Teachers design curriculum and instruction that allow students to question, explore, and investigate content and ideas in engaging activities that strengthen basic skills and develop higher level thinking. The long-range goal is to increase the likelihood that the young scholars will become lifelong learners as they develop their talents and discover the myriad opportunities and possibilities that the future holds.

This comprehensive district-wide approach was highlighted in the National Association for Gifted Children publication, *Unlocking Emergent Talent: Supporting High Achievement of Low-Income, High-Ability Students*.

CONTACT: Carol Horn, Coordinator, Advanced Academic Programs, 571-423-4745



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DIVISION:

Appomattox County Public Schools

PROGRAM:

Lunch Buddy Program

Every day, educators touch the minds and hearts of many impressionable children. They not only provide academic services, but emotional support as well. The Lunch Buddy Program at Appomattox Primary School provides special attention to needy students to aid in their emotional and social development. That positive attention brings out positive behavior and better academic performance, which not only benefits that particular student, but also his/her teacher and classmates as well.

Each month, there are special Lunch Buddy Days on which the Lunch Buddies come to visit their assigned child to eat lunch, tutor that child, and be a special friend. They are community leaders, retired teachers, a School Board member, senior citizens, government employees, grandparents, etc., who have a desire to make a difference in the life of a child. Our local School Board also gives its support to this program. In addition to verbal support and funds, the Chairman of the School Board is currently a Lunch Buddy—and has been one for years.

CONTACT: Kathryn Nash, School Counselor, Appomattox Primary School, 434-352-0831



APPOMATTOX COUNTY

DIVISION:

Harrisonburg City Public Schools

PROGRAM:

Parent Education Outreach

The Parent Education Outreach program is designed to share information and resources to support families, students, and professionals. The program offers a series of different workshops regarding social and emotional development for students, and a community resource fair to connect families with other support services. The workshops are planned by HCPS professionals based on the needs and interests of families. During the 2012-2013 school year, Harrisonburg City Public Schools presented a total of 8 different events.

- It is OK to Say No: Finding New Ways to Set Positive Limits for Your Child
- How to Help Your Student Survive and Thrive in High School
- Community Resource Fair: Hosting More than 20 Community Agencies
- May I Have Your Attention Please? Strategies for Improving Attention and Focus in Your Child
- Promoting Social and Emotional Development: Skills for Success in School and Life
- Academic and Career Planning for Middle School Students
- How to Help Children Regulate Their Emotions and Behavior
(repeated session)

To assist in targeting multiple communities, the events were held at different schools. These workshops were presented by HCPS mental health professionals (i.e., school counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers) and attendance was open to the community at no charge. Childcare, light refreshments, and interpreting services were provided, and each event was videotaped and accessible from our main webpage, along with workshop handouts.

CONTACT: April Howard, Ed.S., Coordinator of Psychological & Student Services, 540-434-9916



MATHEWS COUNTY



HARRISONBURG CITY

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DIVISION:

Mathews County Public Schools

PROGRAM:

Summer STEM Program

To provide opportunities for all students to receive high-quality enrichment programming over the summer, Mathews County Public Schools offered a summer STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program free of charge to students in elementary and middle school through the generous support of local donors. Program costs, transportation, and food services were fully funded by grants, thus facilitating the participation of students who are typically underrepresented in enrichment programs.

The summer STEM program used research-based curriculum from Invent Now delivered by Mathews County Public Schools teachers, with the assistance of Chesapeake Bay Governor's School students serving as leadership interns. Additionally, the program was able to offer summer employment and supplemental income to teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and high school students. Students benefitted from the engaging, hands-on learning experiences, and teachers benefitted from opportunities to collaborate and teach creatively. Everyone benefitted from the generous support of our local donors and the community partnerships that were formed via the development of this program. We will hold our third STEM summer program in 2013.

NEWS COVERAGE:

“Students developing problem-solving skills at Camp Invention.” *Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal*. June 27, 2012

http://www.gazettejournal.net/index.php/schools/schools_printme/7154

CONTACT: Lesley R. Hunley, M.Ed., Coordinator of Gifted Education/STEM Program Director, 804-725-2434

DIVISION:

Fluvanna County Public Schools

PROGRAM:

FMS Leadership Program

The Fluvanna Middle School Leadership Program focuses on building leadership skills, making good decisions, and citizenship. The students are expected to set short-term and long-term goals, learn strategies to assure academic success, and strengthen their focus on citizenship. We invite speakers from our community to lead discussions about career paths, decision-making skills, and the value of getting a good education. Students are encouraged to ask questions and to engage in the conversation with our guests. As we come to the close of the school year, the students who have participated in the Leadership Program reach out to younger students, encouraging them to make good choices. This component of our program promotes public speaking and leadership skills that will help them for many years to come.

CONTACT: Frank Leech, Principal, Fluvanna Middle School, 434-842-2222





Virginia School Boards Association

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Charlottesville, VA 22911

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MISSION STATEMENT

Virginia School Boards Association, a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of Virginia school boards, promotes excellence in public education through advocacy, training and services.

VISION STATEMENT

VSBA is recognized and respected as an innovative leader in public education.

Leadership • Advocacy • Support

VSBA Region	Student Enrollment	School Board Members
Blue Ridge	85,470	102
Central	47,552	66
Eastern	33,765	73
Northeastern	445,257	92
Southern	66,732	96
Southside	192,164	99
Southwest	52,687	83
Tidewater	353,778	125
Valley	71,575	92
TOTAL	1,348,980	828

