

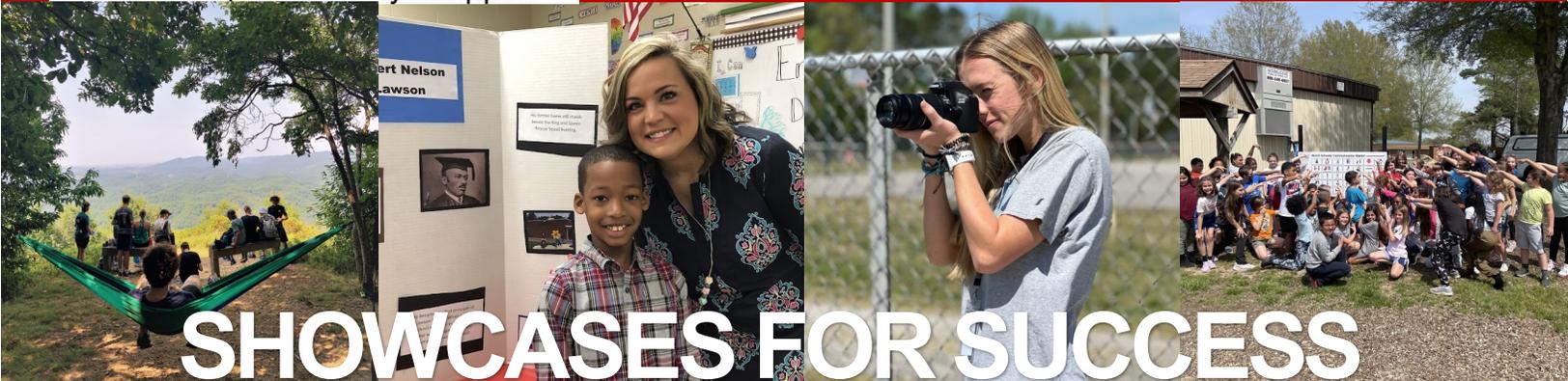


# VSBA

Virginia School Boards Association  
Leadership • Advocacy • Support

# VSBA Special Edition Newsletter

Spring 2022



## SHOWCASES FOR SUCCESS

To encourage 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. The 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 will be shared with journalists, school board members, superintendents, legislators, and top state officials. The focus of the 2022 VSBA Showcases for Success is *Virginia Public Schools: Setting the Precedent*, highlighting unique program offerings in Virginia’s public schools.

Readers are invited to visit the directory of programs, which is now available on the VSBA website. We also would like to encourage an exchange of ideas and initiatives. The Showcases for Success directory highlights division-wide programs and those at elementary, middle, and high school levels. The quality and range of initiatives are vast and remarkable, and divisions are encouraged to use these “Showcases for Success” as a starting point to develop similar programs in their school division. With an open exchange of ideas and implementing best practices, we can work toward the ultimate goal of graduation and post-secondary success for all students.

### SHOWCASE DIRECTORY

[https://www.vsbba.org/  
resources/initiatives/  
showcases-for-success/](https://www.vsbba.org/resources/initiatives/showcases-for-success/)



**With an open exchange of ideas and implementation of best practices,  
together we can work toward the ultimate goal of graduation and post-secondary success**

### PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DIVISIONS

Alleghany County	Dinwiddie County	King and Queen County	Spotsylvania County
Appomattox County	Fauquier County	Louisa County	Stafford County
Botetourt County	Franklin City	Mecklenburg County	Washington County
Bristol City	Fredericksburg City	Middlesex County	Waynesboro City
Caroline County	Goochland County	Petersburg City	Williamsburg-James City County
Chesterfield County	Hampton City	Prince George County	York County
CodeRVA Regional High School	Hanover County	Radford City	
Covington City	Henrico County	Richmond City	
	Hopewell City	Shenandoah County	

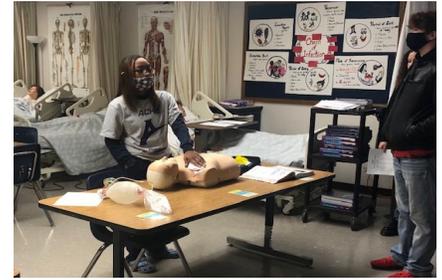
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## Raider Ready Day

*Appomattox County Public Schools*

Raider Ready Day (RRD) is a student engagement event for eighth-grade students at Appomattox Middle School to explore high school Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs before selecting their courses. RRD is designed and led by current students in all sixteen CTE programs at Appomattox County High School. The interactive experience gives students an opportunity to see each program and ask questions about the courses. The goal is to increase enrollment in CTE programs by improving awareness of the overall opportunities and possibilities for industry certifications and career readiness.

The success of this event is primarily a result of being led by students. The energy and excitement the high school students show when sharing what they are learning and how it has impacted them is powerful, and the passion is contagious. The teacher in the room is the facilitator, but the students are the ambassadors of their programs.



## Treatment Team for Students

*Bristol City Public Schools*

Each Monday, a team of education and mental health professionals at Van Pelt Elementary meets to discuss students in need. Roughly 10% of the at-risk student population is covered. Team members represent multiple agencies and community partners.

These weekly meetings allow the team to maintain consistent communication and develop a proactive plan to help students.



This team approach prevents duplication of services and allows professionals to focus on the needs of each child. These weekly meetings have proven to be an invaluable

tool to help Van Pelt's students succeed.

**CONTACT:** Jared Rader, Principal, 276-821-5770

## The Caroline Cruiser

*Caroline County Public Schools*

Caroline County Public Schools (CCPS) has a renewed focus on family engagement since the COVID 19 pandemic. We have a full-time family engagement staff member at each of our five schools to support students and families by connecting them to outside resources. In addition, the federal programs department sponsored a wrap the bus project, which revitalized an older CCPS bus into a community bus. The Caroline Cruiser was born and now travels to community and neighborhood events so staff can distribute free school supplies and educational materials for families.

**CONTACT:** Lisa Stevens,  
lstevens@ccps.us, 804-633-5088



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## Equity Ambassadors

*Henrico County Public Schools*



As part of a division-wide effort to offer more opportunities for student input on issues of equity and diversity, Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) reimagined its High School Student Congress to create the new "HCPS Equity Ambassadors" program. The redesigned program includes students from each of the division's nine comprehensive high schools, who come together to amplify student voices on equity issues. The HCPS Department of Equity, Diversity, and Opportunity work with students to design programming to foster dialogue, give students knowledge and skills to address equity issues, and enable them to engage with students from across the division. Members have led "daring dialogue" school discussions, book clubs, podcasts, mentorship programs for English language learners, and facilitated activities to raise cultural awareness. The Equity Ambassadors program has been recognized as an exemplary program by both the National Association of Counties and the Virginia Association of Counties.

**CONTACT:** Eileen Cox, Chief of Communications, 804-652-3724

## Making History in King and Queen County

*King and Queen County Public Schools*



Second graders at Lawson-Marriott Elementary are actively engaged in real-world, meaningful learning through a teaching method called Project-Based Learning. In one such unit, students learned about local history to better understand their and others' roles in the community. The question that guided their work was: How has our past influenced our present in King and Queen County, and how might we influence our future? To answer this question, students researched their county's history and used primary source materials to learn about the experiences and perspectives of multiple community members.

Students used what they learned to document and share the many perspectives that coexist in their local community. Completion of this project entailed authentic public products, including podcasts and historical journals about their individuals and findings. The activity culminated in a living wax museum for the community. Through project-based learning, students understand course content, develop a genuine love of learning, and discover real-life skills such as solving problems, collaboration, and communication.

**CONTACT:** Mrs. Vivian Kazee, 2nd Grade Teacher, 804-769-3116

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## The Patriot Path

Louisa County Public Schools



Thanks to the school's new Patriot Path, students at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School (TJES) can now enjoy class amongst acorns, towering trees, and

a plethora of plants. Created in 2021, the Patriot Path is a 2/10th mile outdoor learning trail on the school's property. Instructional assistant Dawn Lipscomb created the path to encourage students and educators to enjoy nature and outdoor activities.

The Patriot Path has become a valuable resource at TJES. It features an amphitheater, allowing students to perform plays or enjoy a story while sitting on stumps that serve as chairs. It also includes an outdoor classroom, complete with a whiteboard.



Teachers often let their students roam free on the path, allowing them to discover fresh animal tracks or investigate the various types of plants lining the

walkway. And while the pathway itself is inspiring, teachers have gone a step further by posting uplifting quotes. Perhaps most fitting is the one that features a selection from the legendary author J.R.R Tolkien: "Between every two pines, there is a doorway to a new world."

**CONTACT:** Andrew Woolfolk, Public Information Officer, woolfoal@lcps.k12.va.us

## Digital and Social Media Marketing

Prince George County Public Schools

The "Digital Social Media Marketing" program was created to develop student understanding of how best to combine fundamental marketing principles with acceptable content creation for use on popular social media platforms.



The goal for the students is to learn best practices associated with leveraging different social media platforms to increase

followers while adhering to the principles and image of the business or organization they represent. To support these efforts and foster greater growth through real-world practice, the class has access to create and share content to support the district's efforts to engage with the community through social media.

The class regularly showcases news, upcoming events, and student achievements from across the district. The class's efforts are being noticed, resulting in requests for help from community organizations and local businesses with their content development.



**CONTACT:** Matt Weston, Coordinator of Career and Technical Education, 804-896-5200

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## Passport to Career and College - Oh, The Places You'll Go!

Radford City Public Schools

Radford High School and Virginia Tech's College Access Collaborative hosted a semester-long "Passport to Career and College" (P2C)



career exploration program for freshmen. P2C sessions consisted of engaging activities



designed to help students learn about their career paths and encourage the development of essential skills related to developing soft skills, exploring

postsecondary options, applying for jobs, creating a resume and cover letter, and interviewing for a job.

Through P2C, students also had the opportunity to interact with college admissions representatives, various career professionals, and potential



employers at the "Mingle Like You Mean It" career/networking fair. As a result of the P2C program, each freshman completed a career assessment, explored various career and college options, learned essential workplace readiness skills, and was able to apply many of those skills in a real-world setting.

**CONTACT:** Jamie Little, Education Specialist, [jolittle@rcps.org](mailto:jolittle@rcps.org)

## Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program

Shenandoah County Public Schools

Shenandoah County Public Schools partnered with Shenandoah County Fire and Rescue (SCFR) to provide an Emergency Medical



Technician (EMT) program at Triplett Tech, the division's career and technical school. SCFR provides an instructor and makes equipment available for the course. The school division offers space and additional equipment.



The EMT program prepares students to provide prehospital assessment and care for patients of all ages with various medical conditions and

traumatic injuries. At the end of the course, students will have the skills and knowledge needed to pass the state test to obtain their EMT certification.

Over 50% of the class has already begun volunteering at local stations. The employment of EMTs and paramedics is projected to grow by 11% from 2020



to 2030 (US Bureau of Labor Statistics). As the population in Shenandoah County and the surrounding area rises, the need for these services will increase.

**CONTACT:** Todd Lynn, Supervisor of Career & Technical Education, [tmlynn@shenandoah.k12.va.us](mailto:tmlynn@shenandoah.k12.va.us)

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## Mentor 360

Stafford County Public Schools



Mentor 360 is an innovative, systematic, full circle support program for first-year educators in Stafford County Public Schools. The program's goal is to provide support for each new hire to craft a strength-based professional identity.

When hired, educators are paired with a highly skilled and trained mentor. Mentors and mentees collaboratively create a personalized support system and professional vision tailored to each new educator's strengths and unique experience. Mentor 360 also offers a New Teacher Institute (NTI) on-boarding program at the start of the academic year. This foundation course builds a common vocabulary and professional network among new educators.

**CONTACT:** Sandra Osborn, [osbornpeterssk@staffordschools.net](mailto:osbornpeterssk@staffordschools.net)

## Camp Connections

Washington County Public Schools



The Camp Connections Project strives to precipitate student-centered change in public education to meet young people's social, emotional, and academic needs. Through collaborative leadership and deliberate instructional design, Camp Connections creates an interdisciplinary curriculum of inquiry-based instruction that integrates social and emotional learning (SEL) into academic content.

Camp Connections is an opportunity to build excitement for learning through experiential education. The design and execution of the project reflect the organic nature of whole-person education - a process anchored in connections. During the weeklong residential camp, students connect to education, each other, their community, and most importantly themselves. Camp Connections empowers classroom teachers and students to take the next steps in meeting their classroom needs.

**CONTACT:** Eric Hoffman, Classroom Teacher and Co-Creator of Camp Connections 2021, [ehoffman@wcs.k12.va.us](mailto:ehoffman@wcs.k12.va.us)

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## KCMS Book for Badgers

Waynesboro City Public Schools

Kate Collins, Karen Sellers, and Erin Hagedorn recently collaborated on a project to provide middle school students with a unique opportunity to access books.



Through a Donors Choose grant in cooperation with Sonic Drive-In, Mrs. Hagedorn and Mrs. Sellers acquired an Inchy the Bookworm Book Vending Machine. At Kate Collins Middle School (KCMS), students earn tickets for being respectful, responsible, and involved. Students with a certain number of tickets are granted golden tokens, which are used to purchase books from the vending machine.



At the December Waynesboro Public Schools School Board meeting, Mrs. Sellers and Mrs. Hagedorn presented on the Books

for Badgers program. While there, they shared with the board the importance of reading, not only for educational growth but also for personal growth. They also emphasized that by allowing students the opportunity to 'purchase' a book of their own, and of their choosing, it encourages them to read and continue to seek out other books in the future.



So far, over 50 KCMS students have been awarded free books. Inside the vending machine, the students will find various books at different reading levels. The vending machine also includes a diverse selection of fiction and non-fiction books. Grant funding from The Charitable Grant Foundation and the Dollar General Foundation was also used to purchase books for the vending machine.

**CONTACT:** Tim Teachey, Executive Director of Instruction, 540-946-4600

## AAC Communication Boards - Everyone Deserves A Voice!

Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools

Playground Communication Stations in Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools were created to give students the ability to express themselves with friends, teachers, and others, all while feeling included. By having this on our playgrounds, we can offer many opportunities for communication, awareness, inclusion, and acceptance.



These district-wide playground communication boards allow staff to point to symbols to help students understand directions and model

appropriate language. It enables students who feel frustrated to use symbols or words to express their feelings to staff and peers and, therefore, likely avoid maladaptive behaviors. It also encourages inclusivity by showing students different ways to communicate with their peers.

This project has been implemented at each elementary school in WJCC, with

Communication Stations now located on the playgrounds and in the hallways and cafeterias to maximize expressive and receptive language globally. Communication Stations will also be featured in our town's parks and recreation locations.



**CONTACT:** Adam Brown, Director of Special Education, adam.brown@wjccschools.org, 757-603-

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## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## VISION STATEMENT

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