



VSBA Special Edition Newsletter

Spring 2017



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. The VSBA has created an online database of these successful programs and will feature them on the VSBA web site for the entire year. In addition, this directory will be shared with journalists, school board members, superintendents, legislators, and top state officials.

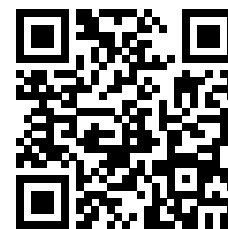
This year's featured programs highlight successful projects related

to *Innovative Programs, School Initiatives, and Partnerships.*

Readers are invited 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. The quality and range of initiatives is 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.

SHOWCASE DIRECTORY

www.vsba.org/showcases



With an open exchange of ideas and implementation of best practices, together we can work toward the ultimate goal of graduation and success for all students.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DIVISIONS

Albemarle County
Alleghany County
Appomattox County
Augusta County
Bristol City
Buena Vista City
Chesterfield County
Covington City
Cumberland County
Dinwiddie County
Fairfax City
Fairfax County
Falls Church City
Fluvanna County

Fredericksburg City
Giles County
Goochland County
Hanover County
Harrisonburg City
Henrico County
Henry County
Isle of Wight County
King George County
Louisa County
Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Manassas City
Mathews County
Mecklenburg County

Middlesex County
Montgomery County
Nelson County
Newport News
Norton City
Nottoway County
Orange County
Page County
Petersburg City
Pittsylvania County
Portsmouth City
Prince George County
Prince William County
Radford City

Richmond City
Roanoke City
Roanoke County
Rockingham County
Salem City
Shenandoah County
Southampton County
Spotsylvania County
Stafford County
Staunton City
Surry County
Winchester City
Wise County
Wythe County

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APPOMATTOX COUNTY

DIVISION:
Appomattox County Public Schools

PROGRAM:
Student Volunteer Exchange Program

The Student Volunteer Exchange Program was created by the Appomattox 1865 Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service and AP U.S. History classes at Appomattox County High School for the Sesquicentennial of Lee's surrender. Starting in 2015 ten students have gone through over one hundred hours of training to become Park Guides at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. The students assist Rangers with historical interpretive programs. During the program ACHS students have traveled to Washington D.C., Gettysburg, Harper's Ferry, and other NPS sites in and around Virginia to work and train with Rangers. The program's success has led it to expand to include students from other Social Studies classes who will be working on Civil War music programs, Living History, and research projects for the 152nd Anniversary in April, 2017. Additionally, the program has led to employment opportunities for several of the students involved.

CONTACT: Joe Servis, history teacher, 434-352-7146



APPOMATTOX COUNTY



APPOMATTOX COUNTY

DIVISION:
Buena Vista City Schools

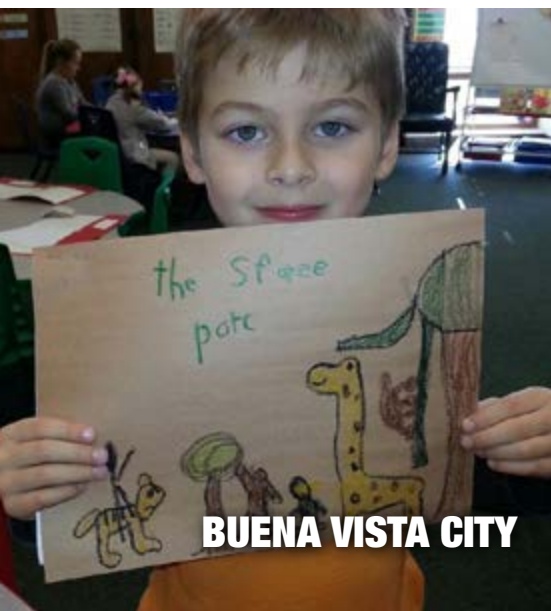
PROGRAM:
Writer's Workshop

Buena Vista City Schools have implemented a 40 minute daily block of direct writing instruction (K-2). The program is modeled after the Lucy Calkins curriculum. Each day during their literacy blocks students in grades K & 1 rotate through a "writer's workshop" for forty minutes and are instructed by a Highly Qualified teacher. Second graders receive writing instruction in the same fashion only from their homeroom teachers. We have seen huge gains in our students ability to write, read, and spell. This year's second grade class is the first class to go all the way through the program and we have over 80% at or above grade level. Creating a master schedule to accommodate the time for the program was a key, but we felt it is a priority and it has proven to be very effective.

CONTACT: Lisa Clark, principal, 540-261-6717



BUENA VISTA CITY



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BUENA VISTA CITY

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DIVISION:

Fairfax County Public Schools

PROGRAM:

**American Ninja Warrior—
Project Based Learning,
Engineering Design Process**

First graders at Daniels Run Elementary participated in Project Based Learning while exploring shapes in their environment (MTH. G1.13). The driving question was: How can you, as a designer, create a new and innovative obstacle for the upcoming season of American Ninja Warrior? Using the Project Based Learning framework and the Engineering Design Process, students created their own obstacle designs and later made scale models of their idea. Teaming up with Matt Iseman, the American Ninja Warrior host, Mia Leone, the Innovation Space Teacher, and Dr. Alan Friedman, a retired engineer volunteer, we helped the students learn how shapes are used in their environment in new, sophisticated ways. Students used critical thinking skills to apply their knowledge to real world tasks. Please watch our segment titled Daniels Run Elementary – Project Based Learning to see more! http://fairfax.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=11&clip_id=1695

CONTACT: Victoria Novak, 1st grade teacher, 703-279-8476



DIVISION:

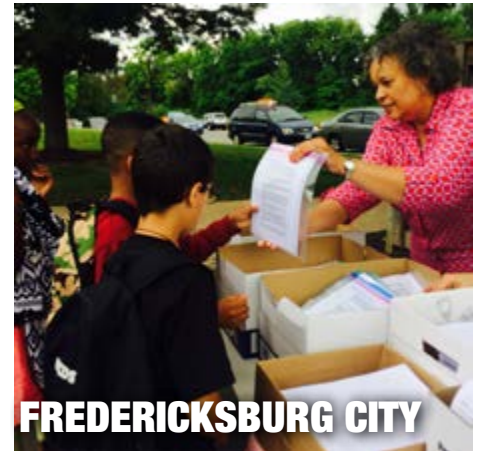
Fredericksburg City Public Schools

PROGRAM:

**Fredericksburg Alliance for
Student Achievement**

The Fredericksburg Alliance for Student Achievement (FASA) is a partnership between the school division and the community to support academic achievement by all students. The school division provides funding and coordination for teacher tutors to work with children in neighborhood community centers and housing areas across the city. Participation is free and parents receive brochures regarding the locations, times, and services offered. The program serves a cross-section of students throughout the city. Each school has a designated liaison who connects the tutoring sites to the students, parents, teachers, and schools. The liaisons meet monthly with the FASA Committee that includes community site coordinators and division administrators. Grade level Standards of Learning resource materials are provided to students in their neighborhoods as part of a SOL Spring Kickoff Celebration to recognize successful achievement and growth.

CONTACT: Mrs. Marceline Catlett, Deputy Superintendent, 540-372-1130



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DIVISION:
Hanover County Public Schools

PROGRAM:
TV99 Internship

The TV99 Internship brings students together from all Hanover County high schools to produce news, sports, and entertainment programs as well as promotional videos and PSA's that cover the good news in Hanover schools. The program has demonstrated improvement in student achievement by placing the interns in the hands-on, real world environment of a local access television station and taught them to produce air-quality work by collaborating as a team to create professional video projects. They use all of the technology of studio production (cameras, editors, sound boards, lights, switchers, etc.) as they learn workforce readiness skills for the Broadcasting Industry. They strengthen their responsibility, critical thinking, and problem solving skills as they tackle field productions and the unpredictable world of video on location. The internship has helped these students achieve elevated success as is evidenced by their awards as State Level winners from the VHSL, VSBA, and Not4Me competitions.

CONTACT: Linda Dull, internship teacher, 804-723-2238

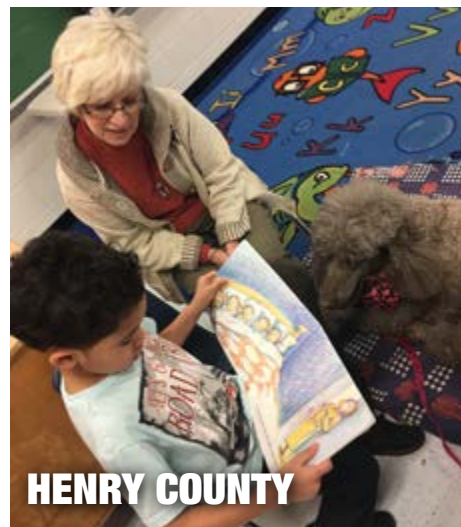


DIVISION:
Henry County Public Schools

PROGRAM:
Be a Buddy

Henry County Public Schools has been working to encourage school community members to Be a Buddy to students in need of positive adult role models. Local Sheriff's deputies and Public Safety officials have responded in a large way! Every day of the week, there are deputies and EMTs in elementary, middle and high schools in the division. You can find them having lunch, reading, and practicing math skills with small groups of students. This partnership is benefitting the students as they enhance their social and academic skills, but is also proving to benefit the PSOs as they interact with families in the community.

CONTACT: Monica Hatchett, Director of Communications & Organizational Learning, 276-634-4766



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DIVISION:

Isle of Wight County Schools

PROGRAM:

Business Roundtable

Isle of Wight County Schools hosted a Business Roundtable with the goal of initiating discussions between business leaders and teachers about the highly skilled jobs that exist within the community. During the program, groups of teachers, counselors, administrators held table-top discussions with business leaders. The business representatives elaborated on specific skills needed for positions within their companies. They also shared the necessary academics and credentials required by applicants to obtain a job at their businesses, as well as the importance of soft skills. Discussion from educators focused on ways they can better prepare students for employment in the areas highlighted by the business. Through the roundtable, the division developed and strengthened the partnership between schools and the business community. Liebherr has pledged equipment to start the welding program and Smithfield Foods committed \$3,000,000 to facilities to better prepare students to be college, career and life ready.

CONTACT: Mr. Mike Lombardo, Executive Director of Innovative Learning, 757-357-4393

DIVISION:

Middlesex County Public Schools

PROGRAM:

Flexible Seating Environments to Support Deeper Learning

Students learn best in spaces that are personalized and flexible. In order to engage students in activities that cultivate today's essential skills - creativity, problem solving, collaboration - classrooms need to move quickly among a variety of designs and structures. MCPS believes in a student-centered pedagogy that demands a different kind of classroom to support the innovative use of relevant tools and deeper learning activities. Sara Spain, grade 4 teacher at Middlesex Elementary School has established a model classroom to propagate the use of flexible seating styles and arrangements to better enable collaborative, project and performance based learning activities.

CONTACT: Danielle Allen, Interim Principal Middlesex Elementary School, (804) 758-2496



MIDDLESEX COUNTY



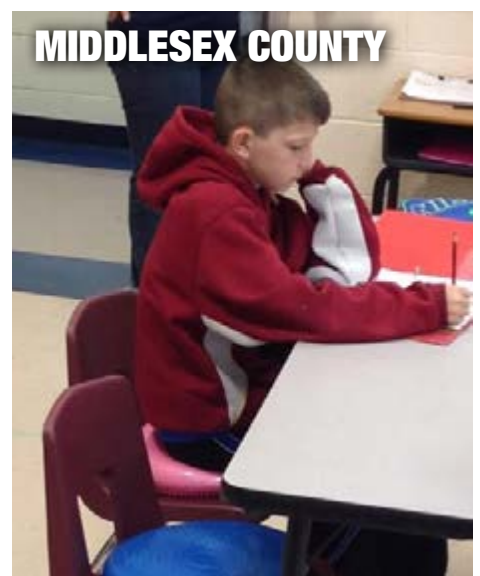
ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY



MIDDLESEX COUNTY



ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY



MIDDLESEX COUNTY

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DIVISION:
Montgomery County Public Schools

PROGRAM:
**Work Based Learning /
Work Ready Seal**

Montgomery County School Superintendent, Mark Mear, has established the goal of every student getting work experience before leaving high school. To that end, we have assigned a Work Based Learning coordinator in each of our four high schools, initiated a speaking circuit to get our message out to as many business as possible, formed a partnership with the local Chamber of Commerce to promote work experience and offered a Work Ready diploma seal collaboratively with the Chamber. To earn the Work Ready Seal, a student must participate in a work based experience (internship or other), be rated Work Ready by their workplace mentor and pass a national Workplace Readiness Skills Exam). To date, we have increased the number of work based participants from nearly zero to over 100 in less than one semester of active recruitment.

CONTACT: Rick Weaver, Supervisor of CTE and Business Partners, 540-382-5100



DIVISION:
Nelson County Public Schools

PROGRAM:
**Nelson County High School
Building Trades/ Habitat
For Humanities Partnership**

For more than two decades, Nelson County's Building Trades Program has partnered with Nelson Habitat for Humanities to help accomplish its mission of bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. This year marks the 24th time students in the program have undertaken this project. The students build the house from the ground up, including everything from installing the floor system to the shingles on the roof, as well as building walls and roughing in plumbing and electrical inside. Through the Habitat project, students learn skills that translate to real-world, post-secondary jobs. The building trade curriculum helps them learn tangible skills like how to cut boards, build walls and install insulation, and other important soft skills such as teamwork and problem solving. Additionally, students learn about heating ventilation and air-conditioning systems and electrical work. They fulfill orders from the community for items such as picnic tables, Adirondack chairs, sheds and personalized corn hole boards. The NCHS Building Trades Program and Habitat for Humanities Partnership allows students to use their skills to help the community. Students are involved in the process from beginning to end. The class watches the movement of their house and then goes on a field trip to see the house on its new site. Students take pride in knowing that through this partnership they are lending a helping hand to families.

CONTACT: Paul Connell, Building Trades Teacher, 434- 263- 8317

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DIVISION:

Portsmouth City Public Schools

PROGRAM:

CHROME Lego WeDo Challenge

Portsmouth City Public Schools partners with CHROME (Cooperating Hampton Roads Organization for Minorities in Engineering) at Norfolk State University to offer an annual elementary robotics challenge. LEGO WeDo is a robotics hardware and software platform specifically designed for elementary students. Approximately 260 students in grades 5 and 6 enrolled at 13 elementary schools design and build robots that follow a challenge based on the four C's; connect to a story, construct a model, contemplate its function, and continue improving its design. CHROME is our community partner.

CONTACT: Laura J. Nelson, Coordinator Science Education, 757-393-8535



DIVISION:

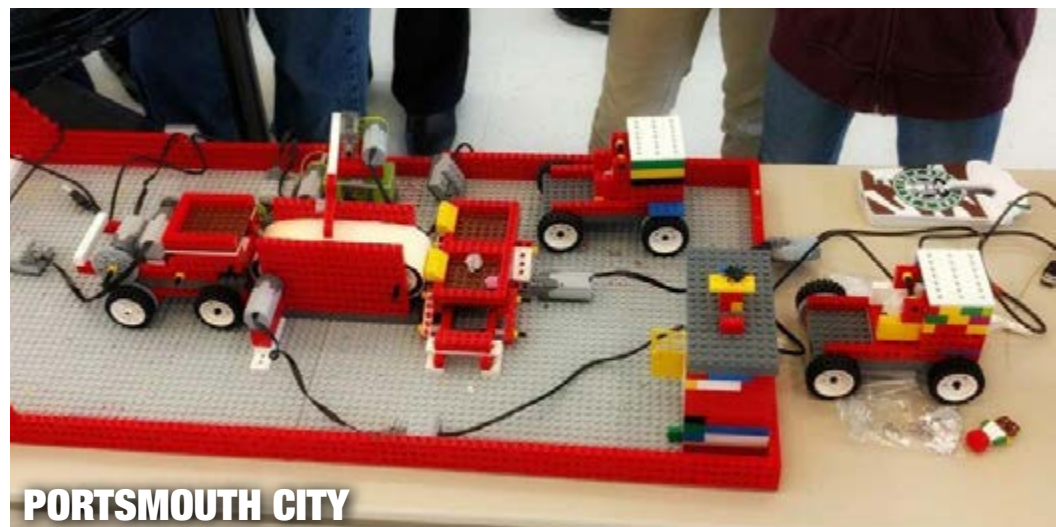
Region VII Comprehensive Instructional Program

PROGRAM:

School Improvement and the Comprehensive Instructional Program

During the 2014-2015 school year, several public school divisions in Region VII formed the Comprehensive Instructional Program (CIP) consortium to collaborate in the areas of instructional materials, assessment, and data in order to realize positive outcomes for students. The CIP was officially implemented during the 2015-2016 school year. The divisions that made most use of the CIP realized a greater aggregate gain in SOL pass rates in Math, Reading, Writing, History, and Science than any other region in the state. These divisions in aggregate also boast a higher rate of schools that are fully accredited than any other region. Since the inception of the CIP, other public school divisions from across the state have joined the consortium. The CIP is currently the collaborative efforts of twenty eight divisions in Virginia.

CONTACT: Matt Hurt, Director of the Comprehensive Instructional Program, 276-328-8017





Virginia School Boards Association

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www.vsba.org | 434-295-8722 | 800-446-8722

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.

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