



VSBA

VSBA Special Edition Newsletter

Virginia School Boards Association

Leadership • Advocacy • Support

Spring 2020



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. The focus of the 2020 VSBA Showcases for Success is School Choice in Public Schools, 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 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. 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.

SHOWCASE DIRECTORY

vsba.org/showcases



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PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DIVISIONS

Albemarle County	Chesapeake City	Henrico County	Middlesex County	Prince William County
Alleghany County	Cumberland County	Henry County	Montgomery County	Radford City
Amelia County	Dinwiddie County	Hopewell City	Newport News	Shenandoah County
Arlington County	Fairfax City	Isle of Wight County	Norfolk City	Spotsylvania County
Augusta County	Fredericksburg City	King & Queen County	Orange County	Stafford County
Botetourt County	Halifax County	King William County	Petersburg City	Suffolk City
Bristol City	Hampton City	Louisa County	Portsmouth City	Virginia Beach City
Buena Vista City	Hanover County	Manassas Park City	Powhatan County	Washington County
Caroline County	Harrisonburg City	Mathews County	Prince George County	

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DIVISION:
Allegheny County Public Schools

PROGRAM:
**PBL CONSTRUCTION
TECH PROJECTS**

Sharon Elementary 5th grade teachers, Connie Puckett and Liza Carroll along with their students paired up with our CTE program at Allegheny High School to incorporate some PBL skills through the Construction Technology class relevant to 5th grade math and reading objectives. Outcomes of the project saw the students use their math computation and geometry skills to build benches under the direction of Mr. Joe Mayes and his Allegheny students. Upon successful completion, the PBL partnerships have thus continued to assist Sharon Elementary and Allegheny High School students in gaining exploration, applied learning, and soft skills pertinent to the Profile of a Virginia Graduate.

CONTACT: Ty Dobbs, Principal,
540-863-1712



DIVISION:
Arlington County Public Schools

PROGRAM:
ACCESS FOR ALL

Arlington County Schools created a program titled "Access For All: 100% Advanced Course Participation." We began a process of identifying the profile of senior students who had not participated in any advanced courses. Afterwards, we began to create support systems that were tailored to the specific needs of non-participating students. We created a summer course titled "Introduction To Advanced Courses." We also implemented support classes during lunches, before and after school. Being adjacent to Washington, DC, we felt AP Government would be the best match for our students. With parent permission, we began to reschedule all seniors who did not have any AP/IB course credits into AP Government instead of the regular Government course, for which, they had signed up. We are empowering ALL students to be successful and better preparing them for college and beyond.

CONTACT: Gregg Robertson,
Principal, 703-228-6205



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DIVISION:

Buena Vista City Public Schools

PROGRAM:**THE BLUE HOLE CAFE**

The Blue Hole Café originated as an exploratory program to introduce our students to Home Economics as well as to foster connections and communications within our community. Students plan, prepare, and serve meals to our staff and faculty two days a week as well as to invited local organizations, churches, and civic groups. In addition, the Café now prepares food for school events such as our annual Hometown Heroes Breakfast, retirement dinners, school board appreciation dinner, and the senior of the month banquet. Students also bake “goodies” for all student birthdays, to add to our family turkey meal give away in November, to distribute at the local nursing home, senior citizen facility and local government agencies. Students are improving their reading, math, and communication skills with every meal and/or goody made. However, the biggest improvement has been the students’ desire to come to school which has increased attendance rates and overall achievement, and has also strengthened the ties within and to our community.

CONTACT: Debbie Gilbert,
Principal, 540-261-7340

**DIVISION:**

Chesapeake City Public Schools

PROGRAM:**CTE: THE BEST KEPT SECRET IS OUT**

Chesapeake Public Schools’ CTE Department recently launched a “re-branding campaign.” Schools, business communities, and the general public are being made aware that “The Best Kept Secret is Out” regarding how CTE connects education to careers. The campaign highlights program offerings in the middle and high school levels. A video featuring current and former CTE students spotlights personal stories on how CTE impacts lives and professions. A professional conference is scheduled to aid teachers in learning, exploring, and expanding their knowledge. Hands-on interactive activities are planned for elementary/middle school students to allow them to explore future career options. A Career Expo is scheduled for all eighth graders and select high school students. Approximately seventy-five to one hundred businesses will provide hands-on activities relevant to their trades. High school students will also participate in onsite resume building and mock interviews.

CONTACT: Dr. Debbie Hunley-Stukes,
Director of Academic Support and Career Readiness,
757-547-0153



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DIVISION:
Fredericksburg City Public
Schools

PROGRAM:
THE GIVING TREE

While completing research to address student truancy, staff learned that oftentimes students don't come to school because they don't have clean and/or appropriate clothing to wear. This information was shared with the High School's Home/School Relations staff for further discussion and learned that a gym teacher in the building had been providing clothes to a student in need. The Giving Tree was a result of their combined efforts to assist students in need as well as address chronic absenteeism at the school. The school purchased a storage shed and created a clothing boutique to provide free clothing and toiletry items to students. The results have been astounding:

- The chronic absenteeism rate for the high school dropped from 9.34 to 5.49
- Community awareness, support, and involvement at the high school increased
- The school has received clothing/monetary donations to support this effort from different states/locales

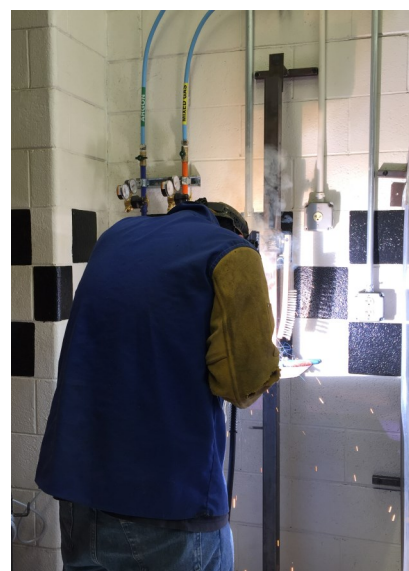
CONTACT: Dr. Taneshia
Rachal, School Improvement
Officer, 540-372-1130 Ext. 2389

DIVISION:
Halifax County Public Schools

PROGRAM:
WELDING

Students at Halifax County High School, who seek a career in welding, have a unique opportunity to learn and perfect those skills in the welding classes offered in the Career & Technical Education Department. Students may take a one semester welding I class as a sophomore or junior and take a two semester welding II class the next year. Students have the opportunity to earn the coveted National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) certifications which enters them into a database of qualified welders for search by potential employers. This Industry-Based Certification is just one way students at Halifax County High School are preparing themselves for employment after graduation. In addition, the school has a mentorship/internship program with Comfort Systems USA where students have the opportunity to work part of the school day. This allows the student to experience what life after high school would be like and gives them the experience required for most full-time employment.

CONTACT: Debra Woltz, CTE
Coordinator, 434-222-6612



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DIVISION:

Harrisonburg City Public Schools

PROGRAM:

THE STARTUP EXPERIENCE

The Startup Experience is an award-winning workshop for future entrepreneurs and social innovators from Harrisonburg City, Rockingham County, Staunton City, Waynesboro City, Augusta County, and Stuart Hall. The workshop provides students with an experience in which they submerge themselves in the magical startup world and learn what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur. Through participation, students learn about team formation, problem definition, user analysis, idea creation, business model innovation, customer development, prototyping, web development, fundraising, and professional pitching, all through hands-on experience. Students are required to work with people they have never met to define a specific user need, create ideas and conceptualize a solution, validate the business model, build a prototype, and use visual communication to pitch the idea to a professional panel.

CONTACT: Bethany

Everidge, CTE Coordinator,
540-434-9916

DIVISION:

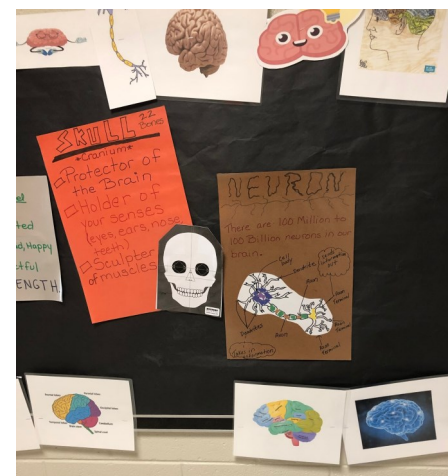
King William County Public Schools

PROGRAM:

BRAIN LAB

The Brain Lab is a K-2 resource class based on the 5 C's, Growth Mindset and Brain-Based Learning philosophies. In this class, students explore the various parts of the brain - what they are, what they do and the power one has to build them. Students make connections between effort, perspective and caring for themselves to their success as a learner. Students are taught how to develop a growth mindset philosophy. This includes seeing mistakes as a way to grow, strategies for problem-solving, how to cope with various emotions, how to communicate, understanding the concepts of perseverance and grit and to value diversity. In addition, students are given opportunities to work together to solve STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math) based problems and unplugged coding opportunities.

CONTACT: Suzi Sherman,
Teacher, 804-769-3434



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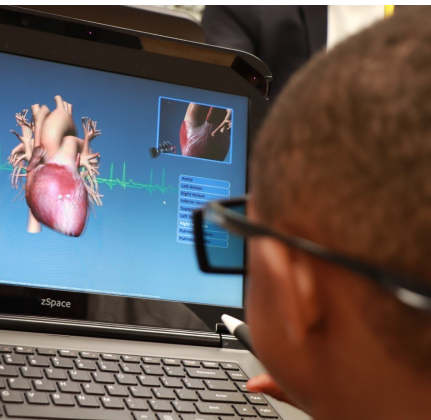


DIVISION:
Louisa County Public Schools

PROGRAM:
CREATION STATION

Creation Station made its debut at Louisa County Middle School for the 2019-2020 school year! Simply put, Creation Station is a full-scale innovation lab, the classroom of the 21st century. Creation Station is a space that provides high-tech tools that require students to live out The 5 Cs of Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking, and Citizenship! Creation Station features state-of-the-art technology tools that keep students engaged, such as 3D printers, virtual reality headsets, 3D computer modeling programs, vinyl cutters, and more! Creation Station also includes a green screen room and a music composition lab. At Creation Station, students learn through hands-on experience as well as trial-and-error. According to a Dell Technologies report, 85% of the jobs that will exist in 2030 haven't been invented yet. LCPS responds by innovating! Creation Station provides the environment students need to develop the time-tested skills that will allow them to build the future!

CONTACT: Andrew Woolfolk, Public Information Officer, 540-872-1080



DIVISION:
Orange County Public Schools

PROGRAM:
HORNET POSSIBILITIES

Orange County High School's Hornet Possibilities forges partnerships with business and industry leaders to prepare students for postgraduate opportunities. In order to fully integrate work-based learning into the high school program, Orange County employs a Community Liaison who leads high school career exploration, preparation, and programming to develop the 5 C skills outlined in the Profile of a Virginia Graduate. The liaison works closely with local business and industry leaders to provide coordinated job shadowing, mentorship, and apprenticeship opportunities for students. Students learn to align knowledge, skills and personal interests with career opportunities. The Community Liaison monitors students on the ability to achieve and apply appropriate academic and technical knowledge, to demonstrate productive workplace skills, qualities, and behaviors, and to build connections and value interactions with others as responsible and responsive citizens. This program, in its first year, successfully formed over 50 partnerships with business/industry.

CONTACT: Renee Honaker, Director of Secondary Instruction, 540-661-4567



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DIVISION:

Prince George County Public Schools

PROGRAM:**TECHNOLOGY FIELD DAY**

With the adoption of The Profile of a Virginia Graduate, the state has challenged districts to create life-ready Virginia graduates. How, as school divisions in Virginia, do we meet these changing requirements? Our answer - Technology Field Day. Technology Field Day is an event put on district wide for all fifth grade students. Students have the opportunity to rotate through stations, ran by High School CTE students, that focus on learning the 21st century skills of communication, collaboration, critical thinking, citizenship, and creativity through coding, maker, design, and engineering challenges. This day exemplifies student led learning, where the teachers are true facilitators. High school students are given choice and creativity while Elementary students are given exposure to CTE programs that are available to them at the Secondary level. Through this program, Prince George aims to increase their enrollment in CTE courses and to create life-ready graduates

CONTACT: Matthew

Weston, Teacher, 804-733-2720

DIVISION:

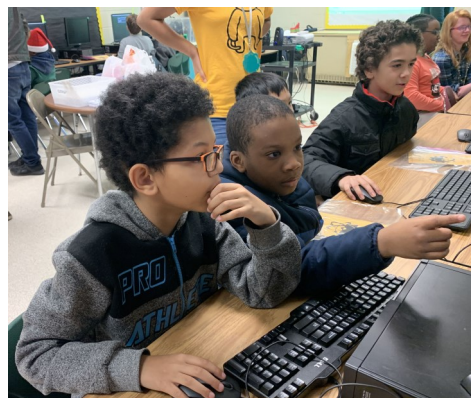
Washington County Public Schools

PROGRAM:**SOLAR GO-KART CHALLENGE**

Students in the Engineering Program at the Washington County Career and Technical Education Center have a unique opportunity to apply engineering fundamentals in a real-world setting through the Solar Go-Kart Challenge. The Solar Go-Kart Challenge focuses on green energy technologies. Students convert a gasoline go-kart to a 100% electric vehicle.

Engineering concepts related to environmental, electrical, and mechanical engineering as well as industrial design are among the career areas emphasized in this exciting program. To prepare the go-kart, students must attach solar panels, a 24-volt battery system, and numerous electronic instruments to reach optimal performance. The teams will gather to test their Solar Go-Kart designs in a speed challenge, a two-hour endurance race, and overall engineering design aspects. This program provides students the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skill in an authentic learning experience.

CONTACT: Dr. Barry Yost, CTE Supervisor, 276-739-3026



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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.