



## 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 of programs will be shared with journalists, school board members, 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

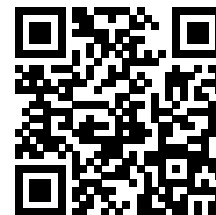
work each school board and each school board member does in their local communities. As shown in the "Showcases for Success," the emphasis on leadership, advocacy, and support is found at every level of the educational process. This special edition newsletter features just a few of the many impressive 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 outreach, to classroom

programs and after-school clubs, the quality and range of initiatives is vast and remarkable. Use the "Showcases for Success" 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](http://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  
 Bristol City Public Schools  
 Buena Vista City Public Schools  
 Carroll County Public Schools  
 Charles City County Public Schools  
 Charlottesville City Public Schools  
 Chesterfield County Public Schools  
 Colonial Heights City Public Schools  
 Covington City Public Schools  
 Cumberland County Public Schools  
 Danville City Public Schools  
 Fairfax City Public Schools

Fairfax County Public Schools  
 Fauquier County Public Schools  
 Fluvanna County Public Schools  
 Fredericksburg City Public Schools  
 Giles County Public Schools  
 Gloucester County Public Schools  
 Goochland County Public Schools  
 Halifax County Public Schools  
 Harrisonburg City Public Schools  
 Henrico County Public Schools  
 Henry County Public Schools  
 Hopewell City Public Schools  
 Isle of Wight County Public Schools  
 King & Queen County Public Schools  
 King George County Public Schools  
 King William County Public Schools

Loudoun County Public Schools  
 Lynchburg City Public Schools  
 Manassas City Public Schools  
 Manassas Park City Public Schools  
 Mathews County Public Schools  
 Middlesex County Public Schools  
 Montgomery County Public Schools  
 Newport News Public Schools  
 Norfolk City Public Schools  
 Orange County Public Schools  
 Portsmouth City Public Schools  
 Prince William County Public Schools  
 Pulaski County Public Schools  
 Radford City Public Schools  
 Rappahannock County Public Schools  
 Roanoke City Public Schools

Rockingham County Public Schools  
 Russell County Public Schools  
 Shenandoah County Public Schools  
 Southampton County Public Schools  
 Spotsylvania County Public Schools  
 Stafford County Public Schools  
 Staunton City Public Schools  
 Suffolk City Public Schools  
 Surry County Public Schools  
 Virginia Beach City Public Schools  
 Waynesboro City Public Schools  
 Westmoreland County Public Schools  
 Williamsburg-James City County  
 Public Schools  
 York County Public Schools

# Leadership • Advocacy • Support •



**BRISTOL CITY**

**DIVISION:**  
Bristol City Public Schools

**PROGRAM:**  
**Respect 4 All**

Virginia Middle School developed a positive behavior support system called Respect 4 All. The program focuses on respect for people, property, pride, and procedures. The faculty developed common expectations for student conduct throughout the school, and teachers taught these expectations to students during homeroom. A school-wide campaign featuring posters, banners, and videos helped reinforce daily the central message of Respect 4 All. The faculty reviews Respect 4 All annually and makes necessary changes to keep it fresh and successful. This year, the addition of "Time to Teach" classroom management techniques has enhanced Respect 4 All, and discipline data demonstrates the success of the initiative. Since the program's inception, disciplinary referrals have decreased by 45%. Following the implementation of "Time to Teach," Virginia Middle School's first semester disciplinary referrals dropped by a staggering 56%, with suspensions falling by 36% from the previous year.

**CONTACT:** Gary Ritchie, principal, Virginia Middle School, 276-821-5660



**HENRY COUNTY**

**DIVISION:**  
Henry County Public Schools

**PROGRAM:**  
**Warrior Tech Academy at Magna Vista High School**

Warrior Tech Academy (WTA) opened as the first New Tech Network school in Virginia this fall. Project-based learning is the focus, with teachers serving as facilitators. To learn the curriculum, students work on authentic tasks with real-world application in project teams. Collaboration, oral and written communication skills, agency and content knowledge are assessed. Freshmen take two co-taught, interdisciplinary courses, forging connections between subject areas and between academia and real life. Students develop leadership skills as they take on roles within projects and hold each other accountable for the terms of self-authored group contracts. Students serve as team leaders, project managers, editors, and more, with roles alternating as new projects begin. Taking ownership over their own learning allows for improvements in students' achievement.

**CONTACTS:** Lindsay Favero, director, Warrior Tech Academy; Gracie Agnew, principal, Magna Vista High School; 276-956-3147



**BRISTOL CITY**



**HENRY COUNTY**

# Leadership • Advocacy • Support

**DIVISION:**  
Giles County Public Schools

**PROGRAM:**  
**NEMS Mill Creek Service Learning Project**

Three teachers teamed up to implement a service learning project encompassing grades 5-7 which will continue for multiple years. They completed the Trails to Every Classroom program, sponsored by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. This program provided the tools and training needed for place-based education and service-learning along the Appalachian Trail. These teachers made Mill Creek Park, an area that is historically significant to Narrows, Virginia, their service learning project area. Over 200 students have engaged in activities at Mill Creek this year. Together, they are integrating SOLs and lessons into an outdoor classroom and use their experiences from the Mill Creek Projects to make connections to content. Students are learning about symbiotic relationships, phenology, our changing earth, and creating an interpretive brochure that will be utilized to educate and create tourism at this hidden treasure.

**CONTACTS:** Donna Ralph, teacher; Crissy Dunn, teacher; Sarah McGlothlin teacher; Narrows Elementary/Middle School, 540-726-2391

**DIVISION:**  
Cumberland County Public Schools

**PROGRAM:**  
**“Little Duke” Leaders**

Cumberland Elementary School, home of the “Dukes,” initiated a program to recognize students in grades 1-4 who have been identified by their teachers as leaders. In order to participate, students must maintain good behavior at school, demonstrate leadership skills, show respect to others, and be willing to help others. The intent of the program is to develop leaders who will be able to make a difference in their communities. Meetings are held twice a month, with additional field trips and workshops. Since this is a service-oriented group, students will work to support, plan, and implement service projects. While there are adults present to guide and support, students lead the meetings and determine how, when, and where they would like to serve and what projects they would like to design. Although this is the first year of the group, students have already identified several projects for implementation.

**CONTACT:** Virginia Gills, principal, Cumberland Elementary School, 804-492-4212



**CUMBERLAND COUNTY**



**GILES COUNTY**



**CUMBERLAND COUNTY**

# Leadership • Advocacy • Support •

**DIVISION:**  
Lynchburg City Public Schools

**PROGRAM:**  
**Jaguar Ambassadors**

The Jaguar Ambassadors program develops and implements a program at Linkhorne Middle School with the focus on creating a safer environment for the entire school community. Jaguar Ambassadors develop and put into place programs to address issues such as bullying, school safety, substance abuse, and tolerance. Student leaders from grades 7 and 8 meet once each week during 7th period to implement programs throughout the school year. Some of the school-wide programs during the 2013-14 school year have included Red Ribbon Week to educate students about the effects of smoking, drugs and alcohol, an Anti-Bullying campaign during the month of October when they wrote, produced and filmed an anti-bullying video for the student body, and the Wonder initiative where the students read and discussed the book *Wonder*, and then adopted a struggling 6th grade reading class and met with them weekly to read together and discuss the book.

**CONTACT:** Laura Casler, counselor, Linkhorne Middle School, 434-515-5330

**DIVISION:**  
King William County Public Schools

**PROGRAM:**  
**Student Leaders Forum**

King William County Schools initiated semi-annual informational meetings with students in grades 9–12 that permitted student leaders in those grades to meet with the superintendent, assistant superintendent of instruction, and the principal to discuss topics pertinent to them. Three students from each grade level were selected to represent their classmates. Prior to the meetings, they were asked to survey members of their grade about school issues of concern to them. These were submitted to the principal, who sent them to the superintendent for inclusion on the Student Leaders Forum agenda. Discussion topics on the agenda for these meetings have included academic rigor, course offerings, SAT/ACT preparation, student attendance, cellular phone use, student code of conduct, school schedule, graduation, school lunches, dress code and equity. The meetings have brought out meaningful discussions about the importance of hard work, policies and the need for routines and rules in the schools.

**CONTACT:** Terry Bailey, director of curriculum & assessment, 804-769-3434



# Leadership • Advocacy • Support

**DIVISION:**

Middlesex County Public Schools

**PROGRAM:**

**Expanding Teaching Excellence through Educational Technologies**

This past fall, each student at Middlesex High School was issued a Kuno, an Android powered device that operates a software package called Curriculum Loft, which uses cloud technology to distribute instructional content to students. Through Curriculum Loft, teachers and students exchange assignments, notes, assessments, and research materials using the handheld devices. This initiative will positively affect the future of students in the county. No matter what the students choose to do after high school, they will be expected to be proficient and ethical users of electronic devices. Further, it is a moral imperative for Middlesex County Public Schools to prepare students for the reality of computer-facilitated learning by teaching them how to use these devices ethically and effectively. This investment in the community's youth will net dividends that will continue to be evident for generations.

**CONTACT:** Thomas Taylor, Ed.D., superintendent, 804-758-2277

**DIVISION:**

Newport News Public Schools

**PROGRAM:**

**Take Your Legislator to "STEM" School Day in Newport News**

Students and their STEM projects were the focus of the day, with elementary, middle and high school students giving presentations and demonstrations throughout the halls of the Aviation Academy located at the Newport News-Williamsburg International Airport. Teams of students discussed their projects with elected officials and other guests, showing their understanding about how math, science, engineering and technology work together. The event featured robotics, underwater vehicles, an electric car built by students, an airplane construction exhibit, health sciences demonstrations and more. Following the demonstrations, Superintendent Ashby Kilgore explained that STEM initiatives are growing through the help of partnerships with local businesses and asked legislators to think about policy ideas that could strengthen K-12 STEM programs.

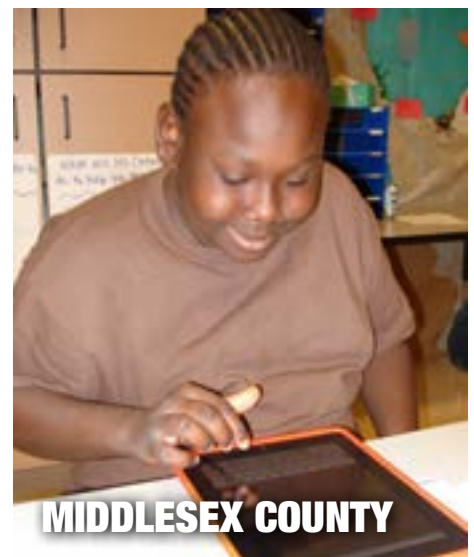
**CONTACT:** Patrick Finneran, director of corporate & government relations, 757-591-4936



**NEWPORT NEWS**



**MIDDLESEX COUNTY**



**MIDDLESEX COUNTY**

# Leadership • Advocacy • Support •



**DIVISION:**  
Prince William County Public Schools

**PROGRAM:**  
**Teaching Innovative Great-  
ness through Enrichment  
Resources (TIGER)**

TIGER time is an in-school enrichment program allowing students from grades 1-6 to choose a learning session from a variety of topics such as, but not limited to, applied science, beginning geology, future leaders, and Virginia governance. It promotes advocacy by allowing students to explore and learn more about interesting career fields of their own choosing that they want to pursue in the future. Teachers, parents, county government, and local businesses help support this initiative, and students learn vital skills by focusing their areas of interest on hands-on activities, such as writing tasks, story boards, news stories, and group discussions. In a division-wide student survey, students frequently referenced how much they enjoyed and appreciated the TIGER time program and how it motivates them to enjoy being at school and increases their capacity and desire for learning.

**CONTACT:** Eric Worcester, principal,  
Nokesville Elementary School, 703-  
594-2155



**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY**

**DIVISION:**  
Staunton City Public Schools

**PROGRAM:**  
**Staunton City Schools  
Google Festival**

Staunton City Schools held a Google Festival in October 2013 to support all staff with an interactive professional development day. Certified Google trainers taught 48 sessions enlightening staff on collaboration techniques and cloud-based tools. Meaningful ongoing training and collaboration continues with staff supporting each other through professional learning communities, the instructional technology resource teacher, and the instruction and technology departments.

Utilizing Google Apps for Education has increased student and teacher creativity and aided in developing models to be applied toward critical thinking and problem solving. Students and teachers are enthusiastically supporting each other to amplify their conceptual understanding. This is motivating an instructional transformation towards more student-centric classes. In addition, the learning day is being extended with the accessibility to applications and teacher provided input and/or data wherever students may be engaged. Staunton City Schools strives to empower students to be prepared for college or the workforce as employable 21st century lifelong learners.

**CONTACTS:** Dori B. Walk, executive  
director of instruction; Tom Lundquist,  
supervisor of technology;  
540-332-3920



**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY**

# Leadership • Advocacy • Support

**DIVISION:**

Southampton County Public Schools

**PROGRAM:**

**The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People**

In November, the students began to learn and practice *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, a set of leadership and life skills written by Stephen Covey. It has provided students with activities that have helped them learn practical character and life skills that will lead to positive choices. At Capron Elementary School, they are using the book *The 7 Habits of Happy Kids*, written by Sean Covey, to appeal to the younger age level. It uses the same habits, but explained through children's stories. When taught and practiced in a K-12 school environment, these seven habits have been proven to improve academic engagement, comprehension, and performance by strengthening individual work habits and improving social interactions. Through the teaching of the seven habits, educators are working together with students to create a school that maintains the dignity of children through productive interactions while fostering positive relationships with parents and other community members.

**CONTACT:** Allison Francis, principal, Capron Elementary School, 434-658-4348



**SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY**

**DIVISION:**

Shenandoah County Public Schools

**PROGRAM:**

**The Big Give at Peter Muhlenberg Middle School**

Started in 2009, the Big Give is Peter Muhlenberg Middle School's (PMMS) annual community service event with hundreds of students, grades 6-8, completing a variety of community service projects at PMMS and throughout Shenandoah County. It provides a real-life, authentic way for students to understand the civics standard of effective citizenship and to give back to their community. Over the past four years, students have taken the lead in organizing events (including bake sale, lacrosse exhibition and t-shirt sale) to raise money for community organizations (library, breast cancer research and Shenandoah National Park). Students served those living in nursing homes, worked to feed the hungry, remembered the military and those affected by natural disasters, supported literacy, raised funds for charity, and took care of animals and the environment.

**CONTACT:** Jenn Jones, teacher, Peter Muhlenberg Middle School, 540-459-2941



**SHENANDOAH COUNTY**



**SHENANDOAH COUNTY**



**Virginia School Boards Association**

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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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,348,980</b>	<b>828</b>

