



SHOWCASES FOR SUCCESS

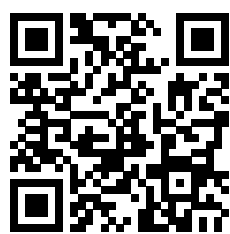
As a means of encouraging awareness and recognition of public schools, the Virginia School Boards Association invited Virginia’s school divisions to recommend programs that would serve as “Showcases for Success” in public education. The VSBA has created an online database of these successful programs 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, featured programs fit within one of two categories—Virtual/

Blended Learning (V/B) and Career & Technical Education (CTE).

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

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- Arlington County Public Schools
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- Bland County Public Schools
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- Carroll County Public Schools
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- Henrico County Public Schools
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- King William County Public Schools
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- Page County Public Schools
- Patrick County Public Schools
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- Rockingham County Public Schools
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- Smyth County Public Schools
- Spotsylvania County Public Schools
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- Staunton City Public Schools
- Suffolk City Public Schools
- Virginia Beach City Public Schools
- Washington County Public Schools
- Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools
- Winchester City Public Schools
- Wythe County Public Schools
- York County Public Schools

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DIVISION:
Carroll County Public Schools



PROGRAM:
**Carroll County High School
STEM Lab for Agriculture**

Carroll County High School's STEM Lab for Agriculture may be the first of its kind in the nation. The combination of a dedicated STEM lab equipped with the latest research tools and equipment and a dedicated 65 acre farm, both operated by the school's agriculture department, allows students to learn scientific protocols that will assist local producers in meeting higher food safety levels by providing lab services that will enhance their necessary documentation. The combination of agriculture classroom instruction, utilization of the STEM Lab for Agriculture, agriculture production on the school farm, and a partnership with both Virginia Tech and the Southwest Virginia Farmers' Market, is a unique combination that has equipped the Carroll County Public School System to be a national leader in the arena.

CONTACT: Roland Hall, assistant principal/CTE coordinator,
276-728-2125



CARROLL COUNTY

DIVISION:
Bedford County Public Schools



PROGRAM:
**Community Based
Instruction at Liberty High
School**

Liberty High School has partnered with local businesses to provide relevant and career-oriented opportunities for students with disabilities to gain experience and confidence in the workplace through their Community Based Instruction (CBI) Program. After two years of classroom and campus-based learning opportunities, students intern with local businesses, learning both employability and career-specific skills necessary for a successful post-secondary transition. Liberty High School staff utilizes transition-specific career readiness curriculum in special education classes to develop soft skills, as well as identify and prepare for specific areas of post-secondary interest. Students are accompanied in to the community by trained support staff, providing on-site instruction and accommodation for task completion and mastery. Over twenty students currently participate in the LHS CBI program, and local businesses that have partnered with Liberty High School include Food Lion, Super 8 Motel, Arthur's Jewelry, Bedford Country Store, Pizza Hut, Goodwill and the Bedford Library.

CONTACT: Kathy Dills, principal,
540-586-2541



CARROLL COUNTY



BEDFORD COUNTY

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DIVISION:

Falls Church City Public Schools 

PROGRAM:

HYC3

Hybrid learning opportunities are available for George Mason students (HYC3). Hybrid learning provides online lessons and assessments adhering to Virginia standards in a teacher-supported classroom. Hybrid learning courses provided at George Mason may include, but not be limited to: English 9, 10, 11, 12; Algebra I, II; Geometry; Biology; Earth/Space Science; U.S. History I, II; U.S. Government, Financial Literacy. Additional courses may be offered through Virtual Virginia. Four teachers who are highly qualified to work with students from all ability levels staff the HYC3 classroom. The teachers are trained to support students in a virtual environment as well as face-to-face for individualized attention. This program has been very successful and is becoming a very popular choice for our students who want to graduate early or make room for more advanced coursework.

CONTACT: Jeanne Seabridge, assistant director of teaching, learning, and achievement, 703-248-5636



DIVISION:

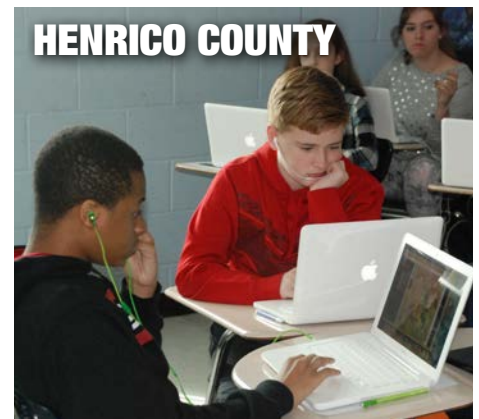
Henrico County Public Schools 

PROGRAM:

Virtual Tutor

When eighth-grade science students at L. Douglas Wilder Middle School have a big test looming, they can start to prepare at home by opening their laptops and consulting a tutor – Virtual Tutor. Virtual Tutor is test-preparation software designed to help students focus their study time where their knowledge is weakest. Virtual Tutor operates within the Edgenuity online learning platform. Students begin by taking a diagnostic test. Virtual Tutor takes a look at how the student performed and creates an individualized study plan. That way, the student can spend more time on the concepts where they're shaky, instead of wasting time reviewing things they already know. Henrico Schools tried the software for 2013-14 at Douglas Freeman High School (for several subjects) and Glen Allen High School (for English and math). Those students saw improvements in SOL scores, and other schools wanted in. In addition to Wilder, Brookland and John Rolfe middle schools and HCPS' Academy at Virginia Randolph are using the software for 2014-15.

CONTACT: Andy Jenks, director, communications and public relations, 804-652-3724



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DIVISION:
Pulaski County Public Schools



PROGRAM:
Pulaski County High School News Show

Journalism is the intersection of art and science used to deliver the latest news in an accurate and engaging manner. Beginning last fall and continuing into this semester, several of the TV and Media Production students at Pulaski County High School have embarked on a journey to learn the basics of digital news production from the perspective of a field electronic news gathering team. The students are learning how to shoot stories, “B roll” (those cut away shots in every news story), get comfortable in front of the camera, and most of all have fun in the process. They are well on their way to partnering with New River Community College to broadcast a weekly news show that spotlights the incredible learning opportunities and the exceptional people at Pulaski County High School.

CONTACT: Greg Hawks, TV and media production teacher, 540-643-0383



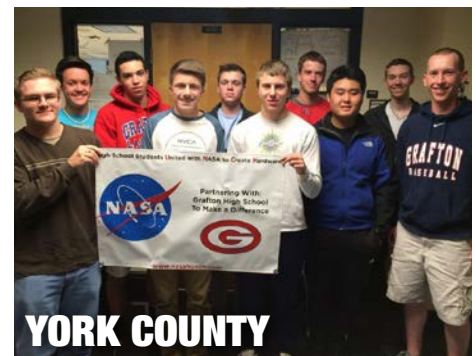
DIVISION:
York County Public Schools



PROGRAM
The NASA HUNCH Program

York County Public Schools students have partnered with NASA to participate in HUNCH (High School United with NASA to Create Hardware), an innovative program that involves students in fabricating real-world products for NASA as they apply their science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills, as well as learning to work in teams and think creatively. As a part of the Career and Technical Education program, Grafton High School Advanced Drawing students are collaborating with astronauts and engineers as a part of the HUNCH program to solve real-world problems including the development of a hand-held can crusher to be used by astronauts to reduce used food cans for disposal. Their solutions may be developed further by NASA and used on the International Space Station. NASA engineers and astronauts collaborated to analyze the students’ sketched solutions to the given task. The resulting sets of drawings were used to create 3-D printed prototypes that were proposed for the final solution. Through the HUNCH program, students actively participate in STEM-related activities which increase student engagement and achievement while solving authentic problems.

CONTACT: Sandy Hespe, CTE administrator, 757-898-0469



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DIVISION:

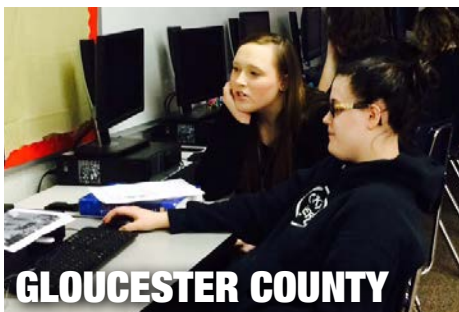
Gloucester County
Public Schools

**PROGRAM:**

Gloucester Online Academy of Learning

The Gloucester Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) initiative offers online course and credit-recovery opportunities to non-traditional learners, including those who exhibit academic, behavior, and attendance challenges. GOAL is a branch of Gloucester High School but operates a satellite location to provide a unique virtual learning environment and more personalized experiences through the assistance of teachers and support personnel who provide academic support. Presently, more than 70 students are enrolled in GOAL and more than 120 credits have been earned.

CONTACT: Wendy Wyatt, instructional supervisor for virtual learning, 804-693-4282

**DIVISION:**

Goochland County
Public Schools

**PROGRAM:**

JASON Learning

JASON Learning is a non-profit organization that connects students, in the classroom and out, to real science and exploration to inspire and motivate them to study and pursue STEM-related careers. The program embeds exciting STEM professionals and cutting-edge research into award-winning, standards-aligned in and out-of-school curricula. Live webcasts connect students with inspirational STEM role models. Student materials include reading selections with read-to-me functionality, inquiry-based labs, videos, and online games. For teachers, JASON Learning provides lesson plans, assessments, and comprehensive professional development programs. Goochland has begun the creation of local, course-specific digital content that is customized to engage students in ways not possible with traditional textbooks and supplemental paper copy materials alone. Goochland's efforts will allow students to have ubiquitous access to the learning content. JASON Learning will be a cornerstone to our digital content project, specifically in the area of STEM.

CONTACT: Dr. Stephen A. Geyer, assistant superintendent of instruction, 804-556-5601



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DIVISION:
Page County Public Schools



PROGRAM:
**World History
Flipped Classroom**

Utilizing a flipped classroom approach in the DE World History II class allows students to develop critical college level skills in both thinking and time management. Students use rewind and fast forward features to efficiently take notes; they are able to become familiar with aspects of an online classroom via Google drive (essential in the modern college environment); and they are able to utilize critical thinking skills by assessing and questioning throughout the lecture. The blend of online learning (lecture) and face-to-face class time (assessment, activities, and scaffolding) allow students to learn and question at their own pace but still be monitored for understanding and application. A flipped classroom offers the independence and self-pacing of an online class, but it also provides the guided reinforcement that is necessary to bridge the gap between high school and college.

CONTACT: Madeleine Beaver,
teacher, 540-652-8712



DIVISION:
Patrick County Public Schools



PROGRAM
**4th Grade Blended
Learning Environment**

Using <http://www.edmodo.com>, fourth graders at Hardin Reynolds Memorial School extend their learning experiences beyond the classroom and collaborate in a virtual venue. At the beginning of each week, Mrs. Jen Cox, fourth grade teacher, posts homework and instructional handouts for her students. In addition, she also posts website links to educational games and videos that correlate with the topic they are studying during the week. Extra credit activities including quizzes and writing assignments are posted to the Edmodo website for students to explore on days they are out of the regular classroom setting due to weather. Fourth grade students post questions or comments on the virtual site. "I feel like I have only scratched the surface of how the program can support virtual learning opportunities for my students. It challenges me as a teacher to extend student learning beyond the brick and mortar classroom," stated Mrs. Cox.

CONTACT: Jen Cox, teacher,
276-694-3631



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DIVISION:

Manassas City Public Schools



PROGRAM:

K-12 Academic and Career Academies

MCPS K-12 Academic and Career Academies develop a unique academy model through a comprehensive K-12 plan. In the early grades, students participate in career awareness and exploration activities and career development and planning activities to include creating a formal academic and career plan connected to the very same academies they will see as an Osborn High School (OHS) student. The four OHS academies encompass the 16 national clusters, and the academies contain all the elements of sequential courses, identified certifications, student organizations, business partnerships, work based learning experiences, occupations and specific advisory councils. This K-12 academy model develops purposeful course selections unique to career pathways, connected to work-based learning opportunities and certifications related to student's specific passions and skills. Academic and Career Academies provide the alignment, business connections and purposeful course planning necessary for academic success and post-secondary opportunities.

CONTACT: Lisa Lewis, coordinator of career and workforce development, 571-377-6067



DIVISION:

Greene County Public Schools

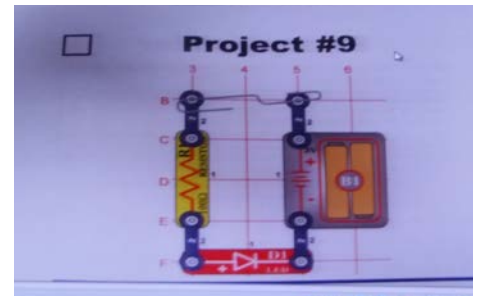


PROGRAM:

Green County Automotive Technology

Greene County's Auto Technology program is a National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) Accredited Training Program. Instruction utilizes salt water fueled cell cars to predict outcomes when changing the ratio of salt to water. SNAP Circuits are used to teach Ohm's Law and practice STEM skills. The 21st century skills being taught daily in Auto Technology thoroughly prepares students for further education and the workforce. "Completers" of this very popular sequential course of study leave with Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification and are job ready. Creative instruction, including a blend of lecture and under-the-hood activities, benefits varied levels and styles of learners, and the use of rotations allows for differentiated instruction and more one-on-one time with the instructor.

CONTACT: Matt Richardson, instructor, 434-985-5239





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.

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