

Newport News Public Schools



Smart, Safe Schools

Report to the Community

Spring 2007

The mission of Newport News Public Schools is to provide a quality education that encourages every student to realize his or her fullest potential. Listed below are some initiatives and achievements that illustrate the school division's mission in action.

~ Among the Best in America

Newport News Public Schools has been listed as among the **Best 100 Communities for Music Education** by the American Music Conference. NNPS was selected in February through a national web-based survey completed by thousands of school district personnel and community members.

Award-Winning High Schools ~

Newport News is home to award winning high schools. Not only are all five high schools listed in Newsweek Magazine's top 1,000 schools, Denbigh High School received another accolade by receiving a 2007 College Board Inspiration Award this April. This coveted award is only given to three secondary schools in the U.S. and recognizes schools for improving the academic environment and helping students achieve equitable access to higher education despite social, economic, and cultural challenges.

~ High Achieving Students

In January, NNPS held the 26th citywide science fair, "Making it Happen in Science," at Passage Middle School. With more than 200 entries, NNPS students were presented with 39 awards, 30 honorable mentions and 35 prizes and savings bonds. At the State Science Fair, NNPS students walked away with two awards and three honorable mentions. Denbigh High school student Jessica Sperry placed third in Behavioral and Social Science. Denbigh High School student Jeffrey Eldred received an honorable mention and a special award from the Virginia Dental Association in Computer Science. Heritage High School student Adam Fuhrmann received an honorable in Engineering and Heritage High School student Jamie McGee received an honorable mention in Medicine & Health.



Students from the citywide science fair: Junior Division First Place winner Rachel Wilbur from Gildersleeve Middle School, Junior Division Second Place winner Adam Chappel from Hines Middle School, Senior Division First Place winner Jeffrey Eldred from Denbigh High School, and Senior Division Second Place winner Christopher Cirillo from Warwick High School



At the Regional Battle of the Books Competition in March, Nelson Elementary School won first place. Competing against teams from Poquoson and York County, the five-student team received top scores by answering questions from 20 books. At the middle school level, Hines Middle School placed third in the region.

Nelson Elementary School Battle of the Books students: Ben Durren, Jamacia Williams, Tamara Frances, Daniel Birrell, and Emily Cody

Nationally Board Certified ~

Newport News ranks second in Hampton Roads when it comes to the number National Board Certified teachers.

National Board Certification is considered the highest credential in teaching. It is a rigorous process that takes one to three years to complete and includes the submission of a four-part portfolio and a six-part test. Teachers who hold this credential provide an exceptional educational experience to our students.

For 2007, eleven more teachers received this accolade, bringing the division's total to 36.

This year's new certified teachers include: Eleanor Joy Barclay, reading specialist at Marshall Elementary School; Susan Dickey, an English teacher at Menchville High School; Julie Eng, an English teacher at Hines Middle School; Amy Hicks, a third grade teacher at Dutrow Elementary School; Myrna Johnson, a sixth grade teacher at Gildersleeve Middle School; Jessica Mitchell, a history teacher at Menchville High School; Gina Powell, a library media specialist at Richneck Elementary School; Carey Snowe, a third grade teacher at McIntosh Elementary School; Dr. Marjorie Wallace, a seventh grade teacher at Huntington Middle School; Bridget West, a kindergarten teacher at Marshall Elementary School; and Diane Zawadzki, a business teacher at Menchville High School.

~ Pathways to Success



Newport News Public Schools is preparing to kick off its new Career Pathways initiative for the 2007-2008 school year. This career development initiative will provide students a pathway to a career through interrelated courses, as well as curricular, extra-curricular, and service learning experiences. Starting next year, students will be able to choose a Career Pathway in Architecture & Construction; Arts, A/V Technology and Communications; Business, Management and Administration; Education & Training; Manufacturing; Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics; Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security; and Health Science.

For more information and news, visit the Newport News Public Schools website at www.nnschools.org