Newport News Public Schools
Report to the Community Winter 2008

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 recent initiatives and achievements that illustrate the school division’s mission in action.

Smart Schools

Governor’s Awards: Hilton Elementary School earned a Governor’s Arts Award for Excellence in the Visual Arts. Hilton is just one of 80 schools in the state—and one of only two on the Peninsula, to earn this honor! In addition, B.C. Charles, Deer Park, Dutrow, General, Franklin, Goodwin, Jervas, Key, Lackland, Lakeside, Lafayette, Lane, Lee Hall, McLean, Melbourne, North, Robinson, Riverside, Southampton, Smith, Tabb, Tippett, and Woodside High Schools received Governor’s Awards for Excelence in Career Education. For three consecutive years, the America’s Promise Alliance has named Newport News one of the “100 Best Communities for Young People” for its efforts to improve the well-being of youth.

Advanced Learning: Since 2007, enrollment in Advanced Placement classes has increased by 15 percent. Two hundred and thirty-six students have been named 2007 Advanced Placement Scholars for scoring a three or higher on three or more AP exams, qualifying them to earn college credit.

Healthy, Safe, and Caring: For three consecutive years, the American Heart Association awarded Newport News “America’s Healthiest Community of the 300 Host Communities for Young People” for its efforts to improve the well-being of youth.

21st Century Learning Pathways to the Future: NNPS launched its new Career Pathways Initiative last fall. This career development program provides pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students a pathway to a career through interrelated courses, as well as extracurricular and service learning experiences. High School students are in Partnership in Architecture & Construction; Arts, AV Technology and Communications; Business, Management and Administration; Education & Training; Manufacturing; Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics; Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security; and Health Science.

No Child Left Behind: NNPS has also kicked off its new Dropout Prevention and Recovery Initiative. So far, 240 students who had dropped out have returned and are back on track to earn a high school diploma. Intervention plans are being developed for youth who are at risk of dropping out, and the intervention process for many students grades 6 through 12 has been in place. High school students who graduate on time to retain their diploma are being provided during the school year. And plans are underway to open two drop-in recovery centers in Newport News — one downtown and one in the Denbigh area — to bring NNPS students back into school.

Community Connections

Art and Music Excellence: Newport News is home to the National Art Teacher of the Year, Patricia Franklin, who supervises art instruction in all schools. Dr. Darryl Waller, supervisor of music, has been selected the Betty Moore Cooper Arts Educator Award by the Cultural Alliance of Greater Hampton Roads.

Athletic Leadership: Marilyn Walkins, athletic director at Warwick High School, has been named 2007-2008 Virginia Valley AA ASPA Athletic Administrator of the Year.

CNU Honorees: Heritage High School teacher Louise Edwards-Fair has been named this year’s Outstanding Economic Educator of the Year by Christopher Newport University.

National Recognized: For 2007, seven more teachers received National Board Certification, culminating the highest credential in teaching, bringing the total number to 50 in NNPS. Congratulations to our newest recipients: Leslie Blood of Woodside High School; Leslie Bowser of the Achievable Dream Academy; Christopher Stringer, Way of the Eagle Middle School; Adam Johnson of Denbigh High School; Carla Jones of Denbigh High School; Ronnie Toussaint of Woodside High School; and Tracy Winter-Ell of Hollywood Elementary School.

Volunteer Involvement: Over 1,000 volunteers have contributed nearly 30,000 hours of service to NNPS.

Career Café: The school division has established a partnership with the Peninsula Council for Workforce Development. In the fall, the partnership launched a Career Café at Peninsula Town Center and an informational preparation center for youth.

Giving Back: Employees and students have donated more than $137,000 during the 2007 United Way Campaign in support of local education and human care agencies. Staff members raised $12,704. Studentraised $15,179.

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

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