



SHOWCASES FOR SUCCESS

VSBA SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

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 2023 VSBA Showcases for Success is Building a Foundation for Lifelong Success. Readers are invited to visit the directory of programs, which is now available on the VSBA website, and encouraged to exchange 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 success for all students.

SHOWCASE DIRECTORY

www.vsba.org/resources/initiatives/showcases-for-success

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DIVISIONS

Alexandria City Public Schools
Alleghany Highlands Public Schools
Amherst County Public Schools
Appomattox County Public Schools
Chesapeake City Public Schools
Chesterfield County Public Schools
Cumberland County Public Schools
Fluvanna County Public Schools
Goochland County Public Schools
Greene County Public Schools

Hampton City Public Schools
Hopewell City Public Schools
Isle of Wight County Public Schools
King William County Public Schools
Loudoun County Public Schools
Louisa County Public Schools
Lunenburg County Public Schools
Mathews County Public Schools
Newport News City Public Schools
Portsmouth City Public Schools

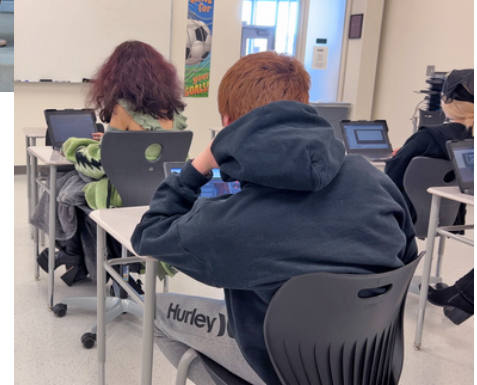
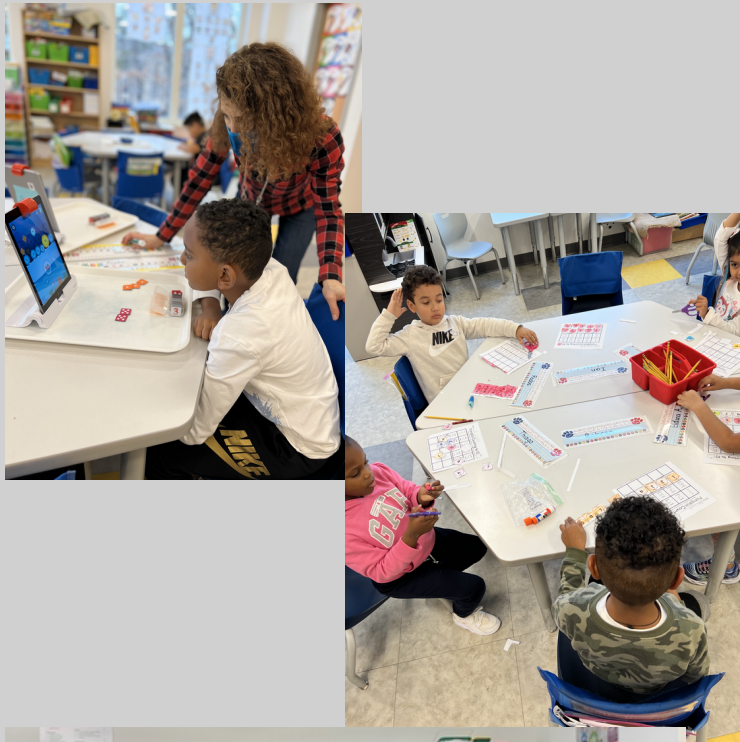
Prince Edward County Public Schools
Radford City Public Schools
Roanoke City Public Schools
Shenandoah County Public Schools
Smyth County Public Schools
Stafford County Public Schools
Virginia Beach City Public Schools

DIVISION: Alexandria City Public Schools

PROGRAM: LINK Club Out of School Time

To address the needs of many Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) students and families, ACPS provides free supervised after-school programming. The after school programming available develops the skills children need to make positive life decisions. Since 2018, ACPS has offered high-quality afterschool programs through its Linking Instruction Nurturing Knowledge (LINK) Club sites. LINK Club provides a safe and productive environment where students can be engaged in hands-on learning activities, receive help with their school work, and develop new skills and interests. With four new sites launched this school year, LINK Club now serves over 800 students in grades K-12 at 13 sites; eight sites are at schools and five are community based. Using an eligibility rubric to determine the socio-economic and academic needs of each applicant ensures the highest-need students at each school site are served.

CONTACT: Marisol Morales, LINK Club/Out of School Time Manager, 703-362-8437



DIVISION: Chesterfield County Public Schools

PROGRAM: Chesterfield Recovery Academy

Virginia's first recovery high school program opened within Chesterfield County Public Schools at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year. State legislation establishing the Chesterfield Recovery Academy passed in the spring of 2020 with state funding arriving in 2022. The school is open to central Virginia Region 1 high school students who are in recovery from substance use disorders; that includes 35 schools across 15 school divisions. The Chesterfield Recovery Academy was structured after the national recovery model to help high school students through their addiction recovery after they had already completed their treatment program. Students receive the academic, emotional, and social support necessary to complete their high school education and set a path toward continued success. Once enrolled, students may remain in the program as long as they need to ensure continued success. Visit the program's website here: oneccps.org/chesterfield-recovery-academy.

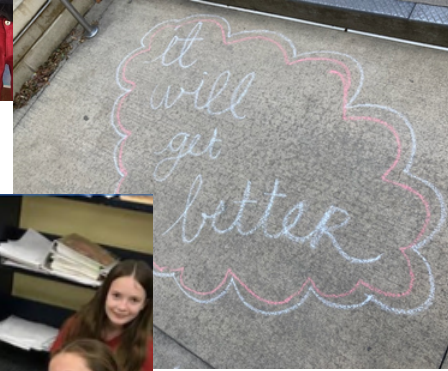
CONTACT: Justin Savoy, CCPS Recovery Academy Coordinator, 804-639-8722

DIVISION: Cumberland County Public Schools

PROGRAM: Flying Unmanned Aircraft

Cumberland County Public Schools realizes that building a foundation for lifelong success includes preparing for a career that takes into account student strengths, interests, and values. This year CuCPS added a course newly approved by the Virginia Department of Education in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. This course prepares students to fly drones under the Federal Aviation Administration guidelines. The demand for commercial drone pilots has been steadily increasing, and according to a market survey, the median salary for an unmanned aerial vehicle pilot is \$82,976, which makes this a desirable career. Students not only have fun, but learn about various uses for drones, become aware of FAA regulations, and practice flying drones. At the end of the course, students have the opportunity to be certified. One student has already successfully received her Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (SUAS) pilot's test, with several others getting ready to test.

CONTACT: Elizabeth G. Jamerson, Assistant Superintendent, 804-492-4212

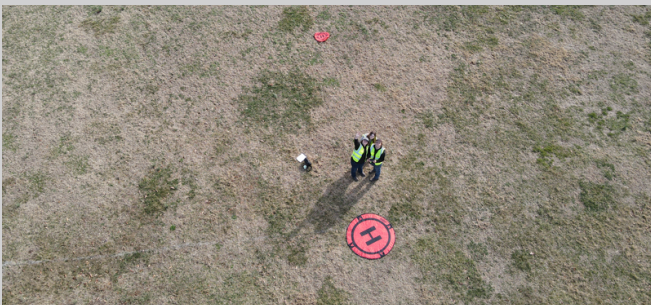


DIVISION: Fluvanna County Public Schools

PROGRAM: Sources of Strength

Sources of Strength is a suicide prevention program at Fluvanna County's secondary schools that trains student leaders to facilitate school-wide interventions that spread messages of hope, health, and strength. Students are encouraged to strengthen their natural "sources of strength": positive friends, healthy activities, family support, spirituality, mentors, generosity, physical health, and mental health. During the 2022-2023 school year, students implemented school-wide interventions including a Thankfulness campaign, recognizing trusted adults, Bullying Prevention Week, and the Virginia Kindness Week campaign. These campaigns positively impacted student and staff wellbeing and the overall school climate. For example, during Virginia Kindness Week over 500 students and staff at the high school nominated "kindness ambassadors" for recognition, and there were zero out of school suspensions during the week. Sources of Strength's evidence-based campaigns empower students with coping skills for everyday life and demonstrate how small activities, like a note of encouragement or conversation with a trusted peer or adult, can have a positive impact on emotional well-being and resilience.

CONTACT: Kelly Fallavollita, School Counselor, 434-589-5933

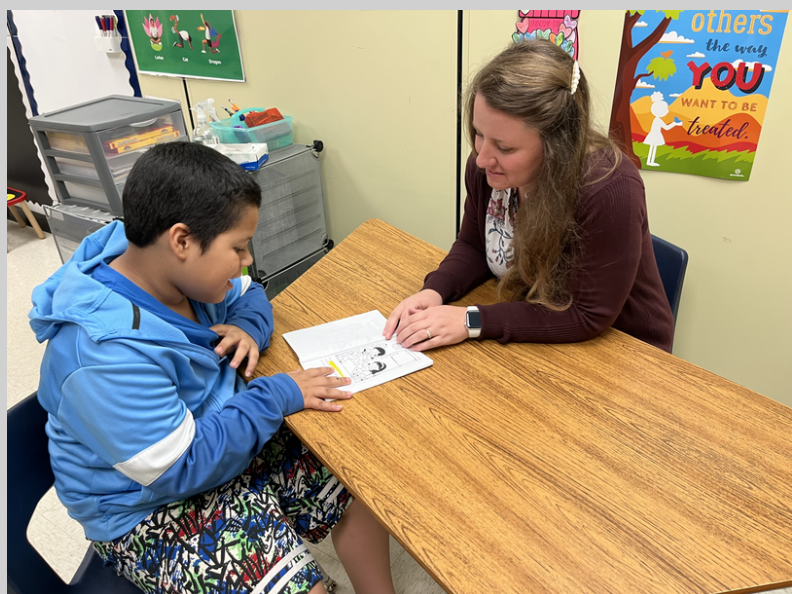
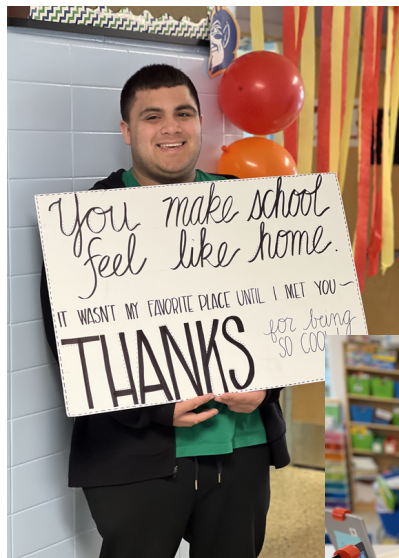


DIVISION: Greene County Public Schools

PROGRAM: Student Success Coaches

The Greene County Public Schools Student Success Coach Program is designed to help empower families and students to overcome barriers and achieve academic, physical, and social and emotional well-being. Success Coaches are assigned students and families through a referral process. Once assigned, Success Coaches work diligently to build relationships with students and families. Success Coaches act as liaisons between families and schools in order to provide easy access to school information and updates. Success Coaches serve as conduits to schools and outside resources, while also advocating for the academic and social and emotional needs of their assigned students. The GCPS Student Success Coach Program is now providing services to roughly 100 students through the hard work and dedication of 8 Success Coaches and 1 Success Coach coordinator.

CONTACT: Kyle Pursel, Director of Administrative Services, 434-939-9040



DIVISION: Hopewell City Public Schools

PROGRAM: The C.R.E.W. Academy

The C.R.E.W. Academy is a deeper learning community of classrooms across the division where student experience is designed around core values of our Community, Empathy, Equity, Real-World Deeper Learning, and Championing the Wins. This program began as a way to help the transition between middle school and high school and has grown to become so much more. C.R.E.W. has grown to include programs in elementary, middle, and high school. The C.R.E.W. program uses project-based learning to not only educate students, but to inspire them to achieve personal success and purpose as well.

CONTACT: Burlin Gregory, Director, 804-541-6402

DIVISION: Isle of Wight County Public Schools (IWCS)

PROGRAM: Little Sprouts

IWCS offers a full-day, five day per week Pre-Kindergarten program (Little Sprouts) that focuses on learning experiences to cultivate growth. Little Sprouts partners high school Early Childhood Education students with preschoolers in a safe, nurturing, and interactive environment, for an extremely unique experience. The curriculum supports social, physical, behavioral, and cognitive development, while providing an engaging space where both Pre-K and high schoolers can thrive and learn. The high school students take on leadership roles in the program as they prepare to be providers of childcare services. The students gain experience in planning, organizing, and conducting meaningful play and learning activities; child monitoring and supervision; record keeping; referral procedures; and communicating with families. In the short time the program has been in operation, it has become extremely popular in the local community and has generated high demand from Pre-K parents and high school students in just a few years.

CONTACT: Dr. Marsha Cale, Director of Secondary Education, 757-365-1695



DIVISION: King William County Public Schools

PROGRAM: Service Learning

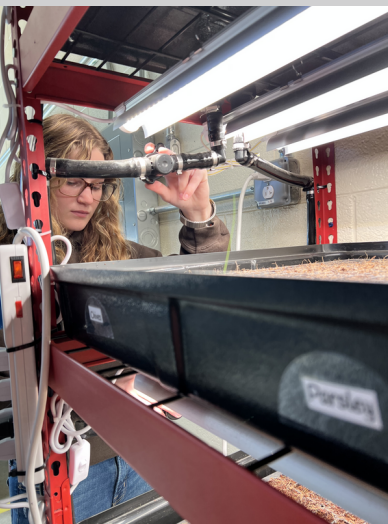
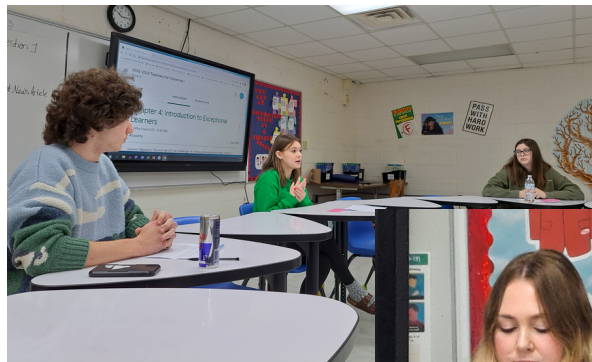
Service Learning is an elective course at King William High School that helps students develop an appreciation of the concept of service within our community, develop skills required to run a successful service project, and evaluate the impact of service to our community and students. Our students work on leadership skills, collaboration, and cooperation to create projects that positively impact our schools and community. One of our student's reflections best summarizes how impactful Service Learning has become for them: "As a person, I was not as invested or interested in helping our schools or community because I didn't think it would benefit me like it has. Since [taking this class], I have learned that helping others and helping make our school better feels very rewarding and it makes me feel like I'm doing something good for not only other people but for myself."

CONTACT: Elizabeth Welschonce, Teacher, 804-769-3434

DIVISION: Lunenburg County Public Schools
PROGRAM: Central High School Agriculture
Department Aquaponics System

Central High School received a grant to help promote sustainability. Students raise catfish, not only for food, but also to help fertilize vegetables and herbs. This project is a cross-curricular activity that enables Culinary Arts students to use fish as they learn to prepare dishes. Vegetables and herbs grown through the aquaponics system are sent to the Culinary Arts Program to use. These vegetables and herbs are also grown as part of the horticulture green house production school-based enterprise. The community benefits from having these products available to purchase from the green house in the spring.

CONTACT: Haili Smith, Agriculture Teacher,
434-696-2137



DIVISION: Mathews County Public Schools
PROGRAM: MHS Teachers for Tomorrow

As school divisions across the Commonwealth and the country struggle with the ever-growing issue of teacher shortages, Mathews High School teacher Cynthia Hayes proposed the reinstatement of the Teachers for Tomorrow program for Juniors and Seniors. This program has been well-received by students and supported by school and division administration. Ms. Hayes also teaches Early Childhood Education courses and Family and Human Services courses. Our goal is to “grow our own teachers,” said Ms. Hayes. She and her students participated in the 2nd Annual Education Immersion Day hosted at Longwood University on October 27, 2022. The 15 Mathews county students expressed interest in several teacher preparation tracks including Elementary and Secondary teaching, Special Education, and Early Childhood Education. Plans are also underway to visit the College of William and Mary in the near future.

CONTACT: Dr. Andrew Greve, Mathews High School
Principal, 804-725-3702

DIVISION: Roanoke City Public Schools
PROGRAM: RCPS Works: Student Job Fair

As part of the Superintendent's Staying Safe by Staying Connected Initiative, Roanoke City Public Schools (RCPS) hosted an inaugural student job fair in Spring 2022. RCPS Works connected students with employers who were seeking candidates for summer employment. RCPS Works provided students the opportunity to discover job opportunities for the summer and beyond. For employers, it was an opportunity to meet hardworking future employees and see all that RCPS students had to offer! RCPS provided transportation and meals to students who attended and helped students with interview preparation and dressing for success. Employers conducted on-site interviews, which benefited many students as they left with a job offer or an interview scheduled. The Greater Roanoke Workforce Development Board attended and helped younger students apply for a work permit on-site. The event proved to be a win-win for both students and businesses and was so successful that it has become an annual event.

CONTACT: Claire Mitzel, Coordinator of Communications & Public Relations, 540-853-6164



DIVISION: Shenandoah County Public Schools
PROGRAM: Shenandoah County Fire and Rescue Partnership

Shenandoah County Public Schools (SCPS) is in its second year of partnership with Shenandoah County Fire and Rescue (SCFR). In the first year, SCPS offered an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course. For the second year, SCPS offered a Firefighter course to students. SCFR provides certified teachers for the courses, while SCPS provides additional equipment. Firefighter and EMT will continue to be offered in alternating years so that students have the opportunity to obtain both credentials during their junior and senior years. Graduates of the program have been hired by SCFR as professional firefighter/EMTs. Many of the graduates have also volunteered in their town or locality. This field is in high demand in the region, as the population continues to grow in Shenandoah County and the surrounding area.

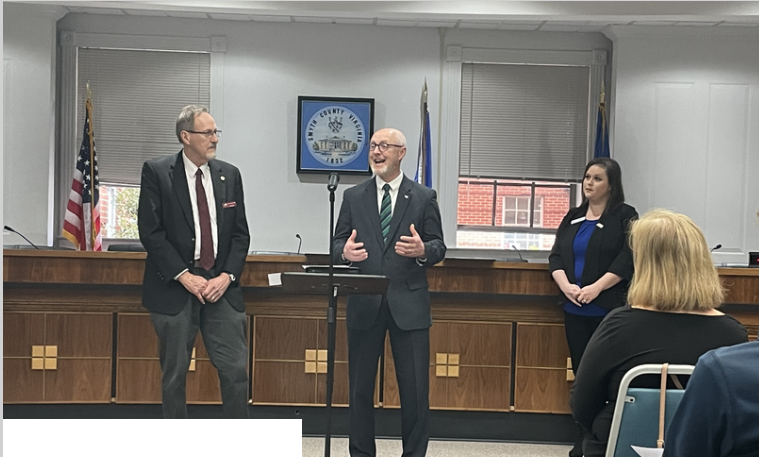
CONTACT: Todd Lynn, Supervisor of CTE and Workforce Outreach, 540-459-0773



DIVISION: Smyth County Public Schools
PROGRAM: Smyth County Pledge Program

The Smyth County Board of Supervisors and the Smyth County Community Foundation Board are excited to announce a new partnership with Virginia Highlands Community College (VHCC) and Wytheville Community College (WCC) that will allow local high school graduates to leave high school and enroll in community college tuition free.

**CONTACT: Dennis Carter, Superintendent of Schools,
276-783-3791**



Participation in VSBA initiatives and observances is optional. Any related materials from the Association are shared as suggested ideas and resources for implementation. Member school boards may choose not to participate locally.



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MISSION STATEMENT

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.