



SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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News Release

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Southampton County Public Schools Featured in 18th Annual VSBA “Showcases for Success” Directory

Southampton County, VA – The Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) has released its 18th annual VSBA Showcases for Success directory, highlighting successful K-12 programs in Virginia’s public schools. Southampton County Public Schools is one of 62 school divisions from across the Commonwealth that has programs featured in the directory. Programs from Southampton County Public Schools are:

Program 1: Get It Write

Program Description: “Get It Write” is a program that was implemented in Southampton County Public Schools as an opportunity to improve writing skills for fifth graders. This program will also prepare students for the Standards of Learning Writing Test. Such program offers students the chance to revisit basic grammar skills to enhance their writing. The focus for us was to target fifth graders, as well as some of the fourth graders. We found that students’ writing scores were low due to the lack of correct mechanical use in their writing; punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure, and subject-verb agreement, as well as spelling and correct use of homophones in their writing. Through small group academic instruction, one-on-one conferences with the students, and teacher in-services “Get It Write” has helped us to meet students’ ever-changing needs. The use of a researched-based program, Write-to- Learn by Pearson, has been a great motivation piece for writing.

Program 2: C.A.M.S. Program

Program Description: During the 2013-2014 school year The Cardinal Academy for Mathematical Success (CAMS Program) was created. The purpose of this program is to provide an in-depth one on one instruction for students warranting intensive remediation. Current fourth grade students were the targeted population requiring intensive remediation in the area of mathematics. The enrollment criteria were teacher recommendation, Flanagan pre-test, and Spring 2013 SOL scores. The math teacher makes learning fun, applicable, practical and come alive for all children. She uses real life situations to incorporate hands –on activities that strongly align with Virginia Department of Education Standards of Learning. Twenty-one students were identified to attend the after school CAMS Program on Monday and Thursday for one hour each week. Upon entering the class there learning instantly begins. They are introduced to a nonconventional paperless (worksheet) learning environment involving anchor activities, technology presentations and activities, hands-on instruction math basketball.

Program 3: **The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People**

Program Description: 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 our students with activities that have helped them learn practical character and life skills that will lead to positive choices. We are using the book The 7 Habits of Happy Kids written by Sean Covey to appeal to their age level. It uses the same habits but explained through children’s stories. When taught and practiced in a K-12 school environment, these 7 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 7 habits, we 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.

The full VSBA Showcases for Success directory is available at www.vsba.org/showcases. It includes division-wide programs, as well as those at elementary, middle, and high school levels. This year’s theme was the VSBA’s tagline, “Leadership – Advocacy – Support”. As shown in the directory, the emphasis on leadership, advocacy, and support is found at every level of the educational process.

For more information about the VSBA Showcases for Success, contact Gina Patterson, VSBA executive director, at gina@vsba.org or 434-295-8722.

About the Virginia School Boards Association

Virginia School Boards Association, a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of Virginia school boards, promotes excellence in public education through advocacy, training and services. The Association offers conferences, information, training, and counseling designed to meet the needs of the Commonwealth’s educational leaders.

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