



Dorchester County  
Public Schools  
Every Child A Success!

# SUPERINTENDENT'S STAFF BULLETIN

Henry V. Wagner Jr., Superintendent

October 1, 2010

Volume 1 Issue 4

## SUPERINTENDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

On September 1, we conducted a most encouraging initial meeting of the Dorchester County Public Schools' **Superintendent's Advisory Council**. You will recall that the Council is comprised of business, community, government, and faith-based leaders of our county. The objective is to reach out to and engage these individuals in order to foster collaboration, advocacy, and community action on behalf of our students and our overall mission.

Our first gathering of approximately thirty individuals was characterized by high degrees of energy and collaboration. We began by asking them to identify both the **assets** and the **challenges** of Dorchester County Public Schools. The resulting discussions, which were conducted in small and diverse groups, were lively and candid, and the extensive lists of both assets and challenges were remarkably similar to those which we as staff members would be likely to generate.

The next step in the process that evening was to have the groups generate possible **themes** that would align with the assets and challenges and which would be appropriate areas of focus for an advisory group of this type. The four themes which emerged are **Community and Human Relations, Business Partnerships and Adopt-A-School Programs, Public Relations, and Advisory Self-Governance and Operations**; these are now the standing **subcommittees** of the Advisory Council.

Since the initial meeting, the members of the Advisory Council have joined one of the four subcommittees. These groups will meet independent of the full group and generate their own goals, objectives, strategies, timelines, and assignments. The ultimate result of all this will be tangible and measureable outcomes that take full advantage of our school system's assets in addressing the challenges which have been identified. This represents a unique opportunity to make a genuine difference in the lives of the children of Dorchester County.

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## GERMAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Our school system's exchange program with **Düren County, Germany**, is one component of the overall partnership which Dorchester County has established with our sister county in Germany over the past five years. Students from both high schools went to Germany from August 10 through 21. Specifically, **Cambridge-South Dorchester High School** teacher **Attilie Kilmon** and students **Natalie Clark, Erin Gilbert, Katie Malkus, Chelsea Shockley, and Andrew Schnoor** joined **North Dorchester High School** teacher **Jen Kraer** and student **Ryan DiGennaro** on that exchange event.

All of the participants have returned with memories that will last a lifetime. Their itinerary included the German cities of **Bonn, Cologne, Aachen, and also Paris, France and Brussels, Belgium.** These same students will be bringing their German hosts and counterparts with them to their classes between October 4 and October 17. The group is also scheduled to go on various trips during this two week stay which will conclude the day after the **Annual Cambridge Crabtoberfest.** We want to congratulate Jen Kraeer and Attilie Kilmon (who are teaching the German language this year), as well as the entire German Partnership Committee for this wonderful opportunity for our students to extend their knowledge of German culture.

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### **CONGRATULATIONS TO SOUTH DORCHESTER SCHOOL**

The students, staff, parents, and administration of **South Dorchester South** have continued their much deserved celebration of placing **eighth** in the state of Maryland on the 2010 Maryland School Assessment. The school was recognized at our September 16 Board Meeting and conducted a community celebration on September 24. At this event, everyone enjoyed the summer weather and numerous games, activities, food, and music - all in celebration of their remarkable accomplishment. We salute the administration, faculty, staff, parents, AND students at the school for establishing a standard that all of us may pursue!

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### **MARKETING DORCHESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Another priority I have established is marketing the positive aspects of Dorchester County Public Schools. The various bulletins and press releases which have been issued are aspects of this campaign. Another marketing outreach is our appearance for one hour each month on the radio program "**Straight Talk**" on **WCEM Radio - AM 1240.** Our intention is to appear with host **Cleveland Rippons** to present themes of interest to the overall community that reflect our efforts as a school system.

On our first appearance on September 21, I provided information about the new initiatives we have established and also, I believe, rectified some misunderstandings with regard to our new **Dorchester Career and Technology Center.** In the coming months, other staff members will be joining me as we go into greater detail about the many worthwhile initiatives which we have in place.

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### **REORGANIZATION OF THE DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES**

During the first week of October, the Executive Team will publish the specific duties of our reorganized **Division of Instructional Services (DIS).** This reorganization reflects the departure of **Mrs. Susan English** to accept a position with Chesapeake College and the retirement of **Mrs. Marion Fisher,** along with the appointment of **Ms. Theresa Connors** as **Interim Supervisor.** A major aspect of this reorganization is the distribution of responsibility for the four **core subject areas of English, social studies, math, and science** among four different individuals. It also provides a much-needed deliberate focus on elementary issues. In the months to come, we will be highlighting specific activities of both this division and the **Division of Administrative Services (DAS).**

## COVEY UPDATE

In previous bulletins, I provided an explanation of two key preliminary concepts for understanding Covey's ideas of effective living as presented in the *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. Those concepts were *paradigm* and *principles*. Now, I present the first of the seven habits, "**Be Proactive.**" This habit was a result of what Covey considers to be the single most compelling insight of his life; namely, that human beings are unique among all creatures in their ability to think before reacting. All other creatures are bound by stimulus-response mechanisms. Those individuals who have a well-developed set of priorities, perspectives, and habits are usually able to be ready with an effective and "proactive" response to most stimuli. These people have a distinct advantage in coping with both the anticipated and unexpected challenges that life poses for us all – thereby displaying "**effectiveness.**"