



Dorchester County
Public Schools
Every Child A Success!

SUPERINTENDENT'S STAFF BULLETIN

Henry V. Wagner, Jr., Ed.D. Superintendent

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Task Forces in DCPS – Updates

Elementary School Task Force

Mrs. Regina Teat, Supervisor of Early Childhood and Elementary Education

The “**Class of 2024**” is in the house! This year’s **kindergarten** students are the “Class of 2024”! The importance of starting early to reinforce the vision that **all students will graduate**, as well as developing an awareness of being **College and Career Ready** can’t be overstated! What does this look like in the elementary school? In addition to providing our **academic programs**, several schools are taking various approaches. Listed below are just a few of the ways our **elementary staffs** are planting the seeds for our students’ futures!

- **Grade level “Class of ____” banners**
- **Career “spotlights” bulletin boards**
- **Career fairs and guest speakers**
- **Morning announcements highlighting famous people, their careers, and the college they attended**
- **College Day – students and staff wear college apparel**
- **Showcases full of college literature, mascots, and pendants**

Topics that are on the agenda for future Elementary Task Force meetings include: **National Elementary Honor Society**, **handwriting** (both manuscript and cursive), and **grading**. We will also continue to discuss our transition to the **Common Core State Standards** as we map out **Math and Reading/Language Arts** programs for the future.

Middle School Task Force

Mrs. Patricia Vickers, Supervisor of Title I and II, Parent Involvement, and Science

The Middle School Task Force met on **October 3, 2011**. Main topics of discussion were:

- **Homework** at the Middle School Level: **Dr. Wagner** asked each middle school for input on the status of homework. After discussion by the group, it was emphasized that homework increases **present academic achievement** and will be an important part of **future studies** in high school and college. **Principals** will survey their staff to further determine the present practices and report back to the task force next month.
- **Student Data Analysis: Mr. Holmes** presented a study of **lagging data** for each middle school, which was composed of **MSA scores** and **benchmark** results. Principals received lists of students at their schools who will need additional academic help this year. There will be further data analysis at the next meeting using **leading data** from this year's benchmarks.
- **Middle School Program of Study for 2012-2013:** Members of the task force were assigned various sections of the program to revise as needed. The revisions will be reviewed by the task force at the next meeting.

High School Task Force

Mr. Michael Johnson, Supervisor of Mathematics and Local Accountability Coordinator

The High School Task Force (HSTF) is comprised of **teachers, counselors and administrators from our high schools, curriculum supervisors, Dr. Wagner, Superintendent, and Mr. Hughes, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction.** During the **2011–2012 school year,** the High School Task Force will have an on-going focus on preparing our students to be **college and career ready** as we start our transition to the **Common Core State Curriculum (CCSC).** **Cambridge South-Dorchester High School** and **North Dorchester High School** developed a transition plan to the CCSC as a result of their participation in the **Educator Effectiveness Academy.** The Common Core transition plans include specific activities related to **mathematics, English and science.** For example, high school mathematics teachers will incorporate the **Standards for Mathematical Practices** in all classes to increase instructional rigor and student engagement in learning, English teachers will infuse **informational reading and argumentative writing** into daily lessons, and science teachers will develop argumentative writing topics based on **environmental science events.** This is an exciting and challenging time for our high schools as we move forward in increasing **instructional rigor** to ensure that all our graduates will be college and career ready.

Minority Achievement Task Force

Dr. Gwendolyn Handy, Supervisor of Minority Achievement and Social Studies

Two new areas of focus for the Minority Achievement Task Force this year will be to provide **parent workshops in the community** and initiate an **African-American Summit Program** for students. Both of

these measures will be designed to **empower** groups we believe to be essential in **closing achievement gaps**. Details will be developed and publicized in **early 2012**.

Required Trainings

Mr. James Bell, Supervisor of Student Services

All county school employees are reminded of the **four programs that are mandatory** for everyone. The three trainings are for **Blood Borne Pathogens, Child Abuse Prevention, Bullying Prevention, and the Acceptable Use Policy**. These training programs are conducted online using the **DCPS Online Safeschools** training program. You have had access to the program since **September 30, 2011**. If you have not already done so, please work with your immediate supervisor to determine when you will complete the training.

- You can **access** the training by logging on to: www.dorchester.md.safeschools.com
- You must enter your **employee number**
- You can then **select** the training that you wish to take

The Bullying Prevention training is the first step in our district-wide campaign titled, “**Stop the hate, erase the bullying!**” Schools conducted lessons during the month of **October** to create an awareness of bullying behaviors, the effects of bullying, consequences, and interventions. The lessons were followed by **information** sent home to **parents** with similar information that our students received.

First In Math Update

Mr. Michael Johnson reported as of October 28 that DCPS students have solved **3,195,642 math problems**, with an estimated time on task of **8,458 hours**.

NDMS: 820,815 math problems solved

MLMS: 740,886 math problems solved

WES: 471,090 math problems solved

HES: 257,520 math problems solved

CES: 248,622 math problems solved

SDS: 213,648 math problems solved

MES: 166,677 math problems solved

SHES: 148,377 math problems solved

VES: 127,293 math problems solved

The 2012-2013 Budget Process

Believe it or not, now is the time to begin the process to craft the **2012-2013 budget**. Beginning on **November 2, the Executive Team, Comptroller Tim Brooke, and Facilities Engineer Chris Hauge** will be visiting **school principals** to collaborate about **budget priorities** for next school year. It is no secret that this is a time of scarcity at the national, state, and local levels of government. Therefore, we will need to continue to nurture the **trust relationship** we have with fiscal authorities as we continually **advocate** for the very best educational experiences we can provide for our children. We will keep you posted throughout this year's budget cycle.

Covey Reflection

*Habit Two, **Begin With the End in Mind**, is the visioning habit. Keeping the vision clearly in mind helps to assure that each day of your life is a step towards that vision.*