



Smart, safe schools!



The formula for success in the 21st century is strikingly different from success in the past, and Newport News Public Schools is preparing to prepare the future workforce to meet those global and technological challenges in *Smart, Safe Schools*.

Smart, Safe Schools provide strong foundations in math, literacy, history, and science; safe and nurturing school environments; and give knowledge students will need for the 21st century. NNPS has made *smart* strides in enhancing academic performance, significantly raising achievement levels, increasing enrollment in rigorous coursework, moving students into higher-level math, expanding preschool access, and narrowing achievement gaps.

At the same time, the school division has worked to create *safe* environments for students by defining clear expectations for behavior; supporting programs that build positive, nurturing relationships; and investing in security staff and electronic surveillance.

Newport News Public Schools has much to be proud of. I hope you enjoy reading about our success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashby C. Kilgore".

Ashby C. Kilgore, Ed.D.
Superintendent

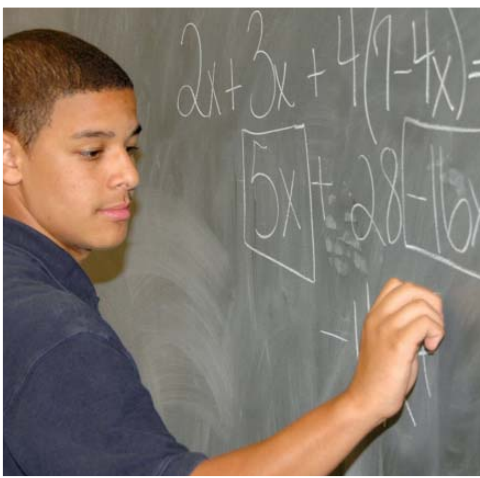
Educational Excellence

Learning in a 21st century classroom in Newport News Public Schools is about going beyond the achievement of the state Standards of Learning.

Thirty-nine of 40 schools are fully accredited by the Virginia Department of Education, and all five city high schools made *Newsweek* magazine's list of top schools.

General Stanford, Hilton, and Saunders elementary schools earned Governor's Awards for Education Excellence and 18 schools earned recognition from the Virginia Board of Education for moving achievement beyond the standards.

Newport News Public Schools is home to the National Art Supervisor of the Year, the Virginia Health Educator of the Year, the Virginia Driver Education Teacher of the Year, Virginia Middle School Counselor of the Year, the Virginia High School Counselor of the Year, the Southern District Dance Educator of the Year, and the WHRO Elementary Technology Administrator of the Year.



More Newport News students are taking Algebra in middle school in preparation for advanced courses in high school – courses students need to be competitive in a global economy.



NNPS is striving to ensure all students are reading on grade level and mastering complex literacy.

21st Century Learning

Newport News Public Schools is using the New Basics of the 21st century to encourage youth to be leaders, entrepreneurs, creative, ethical, socially responsible and have the ability to adapt and use emerging technology to communicate and elaborate. The New Basics of the 21st century include information literacy, economic literacy, scientific literacy, technological literacy, global awareness, multicultural literacy, civic responsibility and career readiness. The school division is creating classrooms where learning is a collaborative process among students and the teacher, and where students are engaged and are stakeholders in their education.



There are fewer classroom boundaries in Newport News schools thanks to teleconferencing and online classes. Here, a Booker T. Washington Middle School student takes a high school level Algebra II Trigonometry class at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School.

Dropout Prevention and Recovery

Starting in middle school, administrators and teachers identify students at risk of dropping out, and develop intervention plans to help them stay on track. Students who fall behind are offered options to recover classes and credits. NNPS established the Freshman Experience program to transition ninth-graders to high school and provide support during their first year and beyond. Two dropout centers give teens and young adults who have left school an additional opportunity to earn a high school diploma or GED. More than 500 students have re-entered city schools in the Dropout Prevention and Recovery Program and are on track to earn a credential.

Budget Efficiencies

Tight times call for smarter spending, and fewer students call for a smaller staff. NNPS budget cuts minimize the effect on instruction, safety, and people. Class size remains the same, and school safety and security efforts are unchanged. A four-day work week in the summer and fewer summer school sites will cut costs further.

Career Pathways

Career Pathways makes job awareness and readiness a priority for students at every grade level. Beginning in elementary school and continuing through high school graduation, students take career inventories that help identify their strengths and interests. Guidance counselors work with students and families to help match students' interests with compatible Career Pathways. Students select a Career Pathway in high school, and develop study plans that support their academic development in

subjects and activities related to their selected pathway. NNPS partners with the Peninsula Council for Workforce Development and sponsors an interactive career preparation center at Patrick Henry Mall.



Carver Elementary students conduct an experiment with a crime scene investigator.

Student Preparedness

Careers in the 21st Century will require new skills and in-depth knowledge of new technologies. NNPS programs, like Career Pathways, help students build necessary career readiness skills, including speaking and listening; problem solving; initiative; and work ethic. From increasing enrollment in honors and Advanced Placement classes to Career Pathways internships and college dual-enrollment, Newport News Public Schools is committed to ensuring that all students graduate with the necessary knowledge and skills to be college-, career-, and citizenship-ready.



The class of 2008 earned more than \$20 million in scholarships and grants from universities, colleges and military institutions across the country.

Business & Community Involvement

More than 3,500 volunteers have given nearly 68,000 hours of service to NNPS. More than 300 local businesses and organizations have created partnerships with city schools; and 82 business partners have committed to lend their support and talents to Career Pathways by providing worksite opportunities, job shadowing, club/activity sponsorships, internships and speaking engagements.



Sailors from the USS Bush with Newsome Park Elementary students.

Teaching Excellence

For a teacher, receiving national certification is a symbol of excellence in teaching and professional growth. Fourteen educators in Newport News Public Schools have met the standard for National Certification set by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards for 2008, bringing the total number of certified teachers in NNPS to 51. Nineteen technology

curriculum integration specialists are certified in the National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers. Ninety-three percent of NNPS teachers are designated as highly qualified by federal No Child Left Behind standards.



The school division's newest National Board Certified teachers.

Choices

Magnet programs and other offerings give Newport News families and students many choices for their educational experiences. Online classes are offered through NovaNET at all high schools. Students can receive college credit through Advanced Placement classes and dual-enrollment at Thomas Nelson Community College. This year, nearly 750 students are earning college credit through dual-enrollment programs.



Students in marine science magnet program at B.T. Washington Middle take frequent boat trips.

Youth Leadership and Extracurricular Opportunities

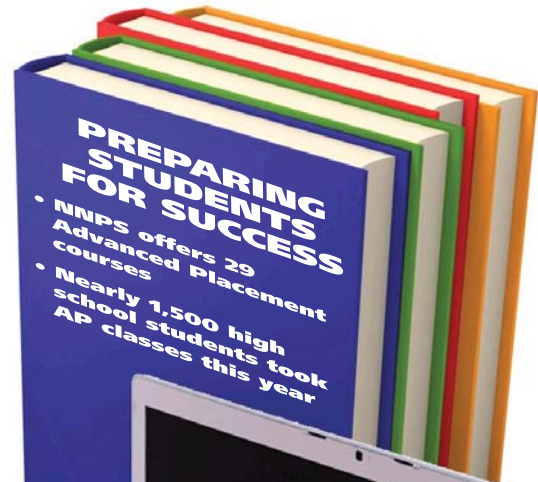
NNPS established the Youth Development initiative to help students feel connected and part of their school through involvement in leadership opportunities, club activities, and other extracurricular programs. Seventy elementary school students and 52 middle and high school students were recently honored for their leadership, citizenship and community initiatives. More than half of all NNPS students are engaged in clubs, activities and athletics. This year, the school division launched a middle school sports program with over 500 students participating.



Sanford Elementary students collected over 500 books for disadvantaged youth.



Huntington Middle students participate in the music technology club.



Subscribe & Share

NNPS uses a variety of media to help it communicate with families, students, employees, and Newport News citizens: an electronic billboard at administration offices, employee and parent newsletters, a comprehensive Web site, and presences on Facebook and Twitter. Newport News programs and initiatives are outlined in detail in the NNPS "Agenda for Public Education" online at www.nnschools.org.

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