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GLOUCESTER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

The Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center
6099 T.C. Walker Road Gloucester, Virginia 23061

SCHOOL BOARD AGENDA ITEM

MEETING DATE: December 9, 2014

AGENDA SUBJECT: Instructional Services

ATTACHMENTS: Instructional and School Reports

TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM:

CONSENT
 REGULAR
 DEPARTMENTAL REPORT/PRESENTATION

INFORMATION ONLY – NO DISCUSSION
 INFORMATION ONLY – DISCUSSION
 ACTION

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY:

REQUESTED ACTION:

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT PRESENTER:

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Abingdon Elementary School, Home of the Panthers
Our Recipe for Academic Success: Students, Teachers and Volunteers!

<u>Student Recognitions</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our SCA learned more about the services provided by the Ronald McDonald house. The SCA will participate in a ginger bread project that will support the Ronald McDonald house. • Abingdon’s First grade students travelled to Yorktown Victory Center. This study trip reinforced their learning about how we lived in the past and about their community. • Our Fifth grade students continue with their DARE sessions led by Deputy Saulman. • Abingdon’s Fourth grade students participated in 4-H. • Our Third grade students travelled to TCWEC for a Theatre IV presentation along with other Third grade students in the school division.
<u>Staff Recognitions</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abingdon’s Title One reading specialist, Sabrina Arrington, led the staff in a reading comprehension workshop focused on the work of Tanny McGregor, <u>Comprehension Connections</u>. Mrs. Arrington has led the staff through monthly comprehension strategies through school-based professional development sessions. Mrs. Arrington also provided resources for teaching vocabulary in the content areas. • Mrs. Hannah Cramer, Fifth grade teacher, received her mini-grant for “<i>Race Against Math Facts</i>” to purchase sharp quiz calculators to help students learn their math facts. • Kindergarten students participated in a Virginia Living Museum outreach. Second grade students hosted the Fairfield Foundation as well. • Abingdon’s math interventionists, Mrs. Lisa Sheesley, Mrs. Sandy Whitlow and Mrs. Sharon Daugherty hosted Family Math Fitness Night for Grades K-2. We had 22 families and students to participate. The math stations included physical activity that got the blood pumping while working on math skills.
<u>Current Happenings</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abingdon hosted fall make-up Lifetouch pictures. Two volunteers were needed. ▪ Our All Pro Dad session held on November 19 led by father and School Board Member, Troy Anderson, had 12 dads and 17 children present. Our largest turnout yet! ▪ Our favorite, State Trooper, Mr. Wintemantel, paid his monthly visit on November 17, 2014. This visit is always welcomed by all Panthers!
<u>Coming Soon</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SCA Ronald McDonald project on December 1, 2014. ▪ Abingdon’s SCA to “Ring the Bell” for the Salvation Army on December 3 at Farm Fresh. ▪ Abingdon’s PTA will host a Holiday Shop Preview on December 4 and 5. ▪ PTA Family Craft Night on December 5. ▪ Abingdon’s SCA to participate in the Gloucester Citizen’s Christmas & Holiday Parade on December 6. ▪ Abingdon’s Chorus Concert led by our music teacher, Melanie McComb, on December 9. ▪ Holiday Breakfast sponsored by Abingdon’s Food Service with a special guest on December 12. ▪ Abingdon’s SCA Spirit Week, December 15-19, 2014 ▪ All Pro Dad session on December 17. ▪ DARE Graduation at 9: 15 AM in the school’s cafeteria. Reception in the Panther’s Den.



Achilles Elementary School, Saving the Bay, the Warrior Way

<p><u>Student Recognitions</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Ed Coordinator Deborah Bone helped Achilles plan and host a Veteran’s Day Breakfast and Flag Raising Ceremony on November 11. We had 114 family members join students in honoring members of our military. ABH2 Samuel Cody Hartsook raised the flag as students, led by SCA secretary Kaylin Amaral, participated in the Pledge of Allegiance, our Warrior pledge, the singing of the Star Spangled Banner, and a moment of silence. We had 37 uniformed military attend this event. ▪ The second Warriors Club met on Friday, November 21st: The following students were selected by their teacher for meeting the criteria as an Achilles good citizen. Tristen West, Brandon Hogge, Joe Fox, Christina Pouchot, Melaina Martin, Justin Jenkins, Logan Zimmerman, Mara Collier, Matthew Cifuentes, Katie Tovar, William Lenderman, Vernon Setterholm, Camren Perkins, Tucker Mclemore, Tegan Zimmerman, Cameron Palas, Emalie Burland, Brandon Akers, Pablo Miles, Justice Coston, Carter Thompson. These students ate lunch with Mrs. Keener, Mr. Dutton and Mrs. Robinson. They also made their own yogurt sundae!!! ▪ Our SCA officers participated in creating a Gingerbread Lighthouse that will be displayed at the Ware River Circle of the Kings Daughters and Sons Open House to support CHKD.
<p><u>Staff Recognitions</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Breakfast was hosted by Mrs. Keener for staff as a Meet and Greet time on November 3rd. ▪ Hospitality Committee hosted a Retirement Celebration for retiring Principal Molly Broderson. An auction of Molly’s stuff was held and all proceeds benefited the Alec Rammell scholarship fund. ▪ Ms. Carter continues to introduce new apps to the Achilles teachers during her “hAPPY” hour time at 8:15 am once a month. This month ten teachers attended the session which focused on math apps for early elementary students. ▪ Achilles staff members supported the United Way by contributing \$855 to this worthy cause. ▪ Two mini-grants were awarded to Achilles from the Gloucester Educational Foundation. Congratulations to Rhonda Taylor for her proposal entitled “A Whole New World” and to the first grade teachers for their proposal “Crabberville Village”. ▪ The fifth grade teachers received a \$225 grant from the Virginia Council on Economic Education to support their Lemonade War project this spring. ▪ Teachers supported the Shop with a Cop program by buying twenty six tickets from SRO Deputy Molnar. ▪ The PTO recognized our staff on Monday, November 17th with a thankful tree and a Fruitopia of goodies.
<p><u>Current Happenings</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Keener visited all classrooms, sharing pictures and a read aloud to introduce herself to all students. • Meet and Greet with the Principal offered on Tuesday, November 18 at 4:30 pm and Monday, November 24 at 9:00 am. Both events were listed in the Achilles Shield, on the website, and in class newsletters. • Reading assessments are underway in K – 5th grades. Reports will be sent home to parents this month and next to report student reading levels. • The PK and K students enjoyed a visit from the Virginia Living Museum. • Thanksgiving feasts and a visit from Mr. Bell, a local resident who shared Indian traditions, helped our PK-K students learn more about the traditions of the Thanksgiving holiday. • Our third grade students, along with other third graders from the division, attended a Theatre IV play, “Snow White” at The T.C. Walker Educational Center on November 19.



<u>Current Happenings</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The PTO sponsored an 80's themed dance on November 14 with 214 participating. Mr. Dutton was the DJ for the event, giving everyone a flashback to the past. Students enjoyed refreshments, a photo booth, Rubik's cube races, and spinning the Achilles wheel to earn prizes.• Dog Day Mondays continue in the Library as students from second grade classes take turns reading to therapy dogs.• Four teachers in grades 3-5 are participating in the Achilles Morning Warriors Before-School Intervention session. This first session is focusing on math intervention. Each teacher has a group of 3-5 students. Intervention is provided every Wednesday and Friday morning from 8:00-8:45 for four weeks. We will host additional sessions later in the school year. Those sessions will focus on improving math and literacy skills as well as improving test-taking skills and strategies.• Kim Price and Debbie Hoover attended the first of four professional development sessions entitled "Every child a successful reader" sponsored by the Reading Institute for Elementary Special Education teachers.
<u>Coming Soon</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Gifted Breakfast December 2 at 8am.▪ Barnes and Noble Night December 5 from 6 – 8 pm.▪ All Pro Dads Breakfast December 12.▪ Theatre IV Performance sponsored by the PTO.▪ Santa Breakfast and PTO Santa's Workshop December 17.▪ Sing a long December 19.



BETHEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

<u>Student Recognitions</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science Fair Winners – 1st Place – Logan Grove; 2nd Place – Sarah McCreary; 3rd Place – Kimberly DeAlba • Bethel SCA is conducting a food drive for Operation Friendship. <p>The following activities are Community Education sponsored and organized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 youth have been placed as volunteers. The majority of these students walk from Peasley when their school day ends and spend an hour at Bethel either helping teachers or working with children. • 24 youth volunteers staffed the Family Science and Math Night. • 5th Grade Boys Leadership Group – 11 boys began weekly luncheon meetings with Rev. Haywood Barnes, Jr., to strengthen their leadership skills.
<u>Staff Recognitions</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Ashley Field received her National Board Certification! We are all very proud of her prestigious accomplishment. • Mrs. Julie Blake received a \$500.00 mini grant from the Gloucester Educational Foundation.
<u>Current Happenings</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Science and Math night was held on November 6. This event combined our annual Science Fair and our Math Family Activity night. 177 students participated in the math and science activities with nearly 300 students and family members attending. • All Pro Dad’s Breakfast was held November 11. • Bethel PTA Barnes and Noble Book Fair was held on November 21. Faculty story time was held 4 times during the evening. It was a fun and well attended event. <p>The following activities are Community Education sponsored and/or organized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The November-December edition of the Bethel Bearings Newsletter was distributed. Hardcopies were given to 718 recipients; e-copies were sent to 521 recipients. • 4th grade went on a study trip to Jamestown Settlement Park. • 17 veterans and 28 guests joined us for Bethel’s Annual Veteran’s Day Lunch.
<u>Coming Soon</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCA participation in the Gloucester Holiday Parade • Bethel annual Tree Trimming evening event • Safety Patrol to begin



**BOTETOIRT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HOME OF THE BULLDOGS**

<u>Student Recognitions</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The boys and girls Botetourt Robotics teams successfully competed in the <i>Newport News First Lego League Tournament</i> this month. ▪ Students receiving all As, and As and Bs, were recognized at our school’s second spirit assembly of the school year. Over 300 students were also recognized for perfect attendance and 56 students received PAW PRIDE awards. ▪ Botetourt’s students, K-5, collected approximately 1100 items during the two week <i>SCA Food Drive</i>. The items were picked up by our local food bank and will help support Gloucester families. ▪ Approximately 100 students and their families supported the PTA’s annual <i>Barnes and Noble Night</i>. The money earned during the fundraiser will be used to support our AR program. The students enjoyed hearing Mrs. Hudgins, Assistant Principal, read aloud to them.
<u>Staff Recognitions</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Botetourt’s teachers are diligently working to vertically align the K-5 reading curriculum. ▪ Susan Henk and Pam Cheresnowsky attended the recent NCTM conference and plan to share their newly learned information with teachers through modeling and professional development sessions. They also led professional development sessions for county elementary mathematics teachers. ▪ Terumi LaGuardia, 4th grade teacher, and Megan Houtz, 3rd grade teacher, led Botetourt teachers in professional development on the K-5 alignment of reading comprehension strategies. ▪ Botetourt’s teachers are working diligently as a staff to meet the diverse strengths and challenges of each of their students. Collaboration for our students’ best interests is prevalent in the building on a daily basis!
<u>Current Happenings</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Botetourt’s teachers continue their work to vertically align reading strategies, which is one of their goals for the school year. ▪ Mrs. Ripley, Communication Education Coordinator, supplemented our school’s quarterly newsletter with an on-line publication, <i>The Botetourt Barkings</i>, is designed to keep the Botetourt school community current on school happenings. She was also instrumental in kicking off this year’s <i>Lunch Buddy</i> program with new volunteers who are perfectly matched to interested students. ▪ Teachers are meeting before, during and after school with parents for parent/teacher conferences. ▪ Classroom behavior goals are being met on a daily basis and students are enjoying special opportunities as a result of meeting these set goals.
<u>Coming Soon</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Botetourt’s <i>Math Night</i> will be held at <i>Food Lion</i> on December 3, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. ▪ Botetourt’s SCA is leading a school-wide campaign to collect toys for <i>Toys for Tots</i>. ▪ Botetourt’s first grades will sing at the County’s <i>Tree Lighting Ceremony</i> on Sunday, December 7th. ▪ Botetourt’s third grade students will perform their Holiday program on December 10th and second grade students will perform their Holiday program on December 17th. ▪ Dr. Thompson and Mrs. Hudgins are looking forward to continuing their daily observations of teachers during the month of December.

GO FOR THE GOLD!

Petsworth Elementary School

<u>Student Recognitions</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Many students and their families attended our annual Math Night on Thursday, November 6th. We had over 70 students in attendance and 60 adults, not including the staff at Petsworth. Families had an opportunity to play and make math games that reinforce the rigor and standards taught to their students. Parents also had an opportunity to explore the use of IXL from home. ▪ Many students were able to attend our first PBIS event on November 14th, which was held during each grade levels resource block. Those that were unable to attend discussed ways in which they could improve based on our matrix through a booster session. Our PTA held its annual Book Fair and successfully increased their sales! ▪ Our 4th graders, guided by our music teacher, Ms. Ashleigh Lewis, hosted a very moving Veteran's Day program the evening of Nov. 11th. All of the Armed Forces were acknowledged with deep appreciation! ▪ Thank you to the GHS NJROTC who assisted with a salute to flag as the Honor Guard presented the colors at our Veteran's Day Program. ▪ Our 3rd grade students enjoyed a Theatre IV presentation of Snow White at GHS on Nov. 19th with other 3rd grade students in the division. ▪ Jamestown Outreach program presented to our 2nd graders (coordinated by our CEC)
<u>Staff Recognitions</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Our VTSS/Leadership team met on November 3rd and set learning goals for our school based on fall performance data. ▪ Kim Robins and Margaret Watkins attended the Threat Assessment Training on November 3rd ▪ Sharon Carino attended the NCTM Math Conference on November 13th and 14th ▪ The afternoon of Diversity Day, our staff discussed our school's definition of diversity and how to address the many diverse needs of our students. Thank you to Anita Parker for joining us! ▪ Math teachers in grades 3-5 discussed the use of IXL and its reports with administration. ▪ Teachers completed and discussed with administration their Student Academic Progress Goals and Employee Goals. Baseline data has been established for each. ▪ We currently have two book studies occurring. Some staff are studying John Hattie's book and others are studying Anita Archer's book. Thank you to Julie Shrum and Karen Wilt for facilitating the Anita Archer sessions! ▪ Teachers will be attending Professional Development sessions on Nov. 24th and 25th.
<u>Current Happenings</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Petsworth Partners program, coordinated through our Community Education Coordinator (CEC), began on November 13th. (9 students and 4 volunteers) ▪ Our CEC also scheduled for the Old Guard to attend for time around the flag pole the morning of November 11th. ▪ Our CEC in coordination with our Café Manager, Michele Craig, hosted a breakfast on Veteran's Day.. ▪ Report cards and awards were distributed this month. ▪ Patriot Luncheons (with administration) were held on Friday, Nov. 21st for all students demonstrating the trait, responsibility. ▪ The annual Turkey Trot was held on Friday, Nov. 21st. Thank you to Margaret Watkins, our PE teacher for coordinating this event. Many volunteers came out to assist and staff participating in running as well! Canned goods were collected from students at this event in order to assist the food pantry at Salem United Methodist Church. ▪ All Pro Dad's breakfast was hosted with 9 dads, 12 students and 1 community volunteer (coordinated by our CEC) ▪ Snack Packs were coordinated through our CEC to assist 18 students! ▪ Our CEC tallied 287 volunteer hours for the month of November!
<u>Coming Soon</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Petsworth is preparing for the upcoming Holiday Parade! Our theme will be "Go for the Gold!" Our students chosen as our monthly Luncheon Patriots, based on the character trait of the month in September (respect), October (caring), and November (responsibility) will be invited to ride on our float. All other students and families are also invited to walk. ▪ Staff book studies will continue during the month of December. ▪ Spirit Week will be the week of Dec. 15th ▪ Winter Program with Kindergarten and First grade students performing, led by Ashleigh Lewis, the evening of Dec. 15th. ▪ Santa breakfast will be held the morning of Dec. 17th, families are invited to attend! ▪ Patriot Luncheons for those demonstrating Citizenship on Friday, Dec. 19th. ▪ Our school store will also be open on Dec. 19th for students to cash in their "Patriot Bucks!" ▪ Many thanks to our PTA and Salem United Methodist Church for an exciting Harvest Festival last month! The Church provided all families with a free drink, hotdog and chips!!





<u>Student Recognition</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 7th Grade held an Honor Roll Assembly to celebrate the academic success of the grade. ▪ Peasley 7th Grade students participated in a “Sock’tober” drive and collected items socks that were sent to the Laurel shelter and the Natasha house.
<u>Special Celebrations</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Peasley honored our Veterans during lunch with guest speaker from the American Legion Post 75 and the Marine Corp League. The Marine Corp League donated enough American flags for each classroom to have a new flag to proudly hang. ▪ 7th grade Language Arts classes created a giant Tetrahedron that is currently hung in the 7th grade house with information from stories that students read.
<u>Current Happenings</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6th Grade- 6th grade LA is doing the thank you letter to our Veterans. ▪ US History Classes are working on Colonial America Photo Story projects ▪ Science- Peasley held its 2nd Annual Science Fair Expo on the evening of November 10th. Students from Mrs. Driver and Ms. LaGuardia’s classes each developed their own hypothesis, conducted the experiment, and displayed their findings on a presentation board to be judged at the Expo. First, second, and third place winners were selected by judges. There were 2 STEM competitions for participants to compete in: building the tallest tower and building a floating device to support the greatest amount of weight. Students were also invited to make and take OOBLECK. A group of Mrs. Driver’s students told everyone about ATOMS by singing the Atoms Family Song. ▪ Community Ed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1. Scheduled 23 volunteers to help with a variety of school/community activities (science fair, book fair, Activity night, Snack Packs, gingerbread houses made to benefit CHKD) ○ 2. Coordinated 4 “positive press” newspaper articles/pictures to highlight Peasley Students and teachers ▪ 7th Grade- Language Arts classes are also writing letters thanking Veterans.
<u>Coming Soon</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6th grade will hold their Honor Roll Assembly on December 3. ▪ The Glow Party celebrating the success of the school Fundraiser will be held on December 3. ▪ The Peasley/Page band will join in the Gloucester Holiday Parade on December 6.



PAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

WORK ZONE: SUCCESS AHEAD

<p><u>Student and Staff Recognitions</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Page Middle School sends many students home each Friday with a backpack filled with meals to last their families over the weekend. We are very thankful for our community members and Page Eagles for helping to serve our families. A special thank you to our Eagle, Tucker Sharp, for collecting tons of food!Page technology teacher, Mr. Rusty West, was recognized by PROJECT LEAD THE WAY for his teaching success. Mr. West received his award this past weekend at the PLTW Summit in Indianapolis. Only two middle school teachers were selected for this year's prestigious award. 
<p><u>Current Happenings & Projects</u></p>	<p>"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." -Mark Twain</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">STEM Challenge class at Page studied rocket design focusing on rocket shape, fin design and fuel load. The culminating activity was to build and launch a water bottle rocket. Using math, students calculated the height of the launch and the average velocity.



PAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

WORK ZONE: SUCCESS AHEAD

Current Happenings & Projects

- In Language Arts, students use background knowledge of denotation, connotation, theme and tone to determine how effective writers hook and hold their students. Students also demonstrated knowledge of figurative language by using it in their own writing.
- Math Intervention is going very well. Each Math 8 teacher provides remediation in a certain strand. ARDT (Algebra Readiness Diagnostics test) data has been disaggregated and analyzed. Students' weakest strand is their area of focus for intervention.
- Page SCA students have been busy planning the ever popular Winter Ball. This year's theme is winter in Paris. For the fourth consecutive year, Page students have voted to invite Peasley 7th graders! We look forward to an exciting evening!
- The Civics and Economics Department at Page Middle School traveled to the state capital in Richmond, VA on November 13. Teachers participated in the 2014 Virginia Civics Summit where keynote speaker, Dr. Robert Holsworth, presented an analysis of the 2014 mid-term elections. Page educators had the opportunity to talk with teachers from other school systems in the state about curriculum and resources available for middle and high school Civics and Economics classes. Project citizen, the National Center on State Courts, Street Law, Bill of Rights Institute, Colonial Williamsburg, What So Proudly We Hail, Close Up, YMCA, the Foreign Policy Association. The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation made presentations and provided resources that can be used in classrooms. The Civics Summit was a great opportunity for Page teachers to acquire current resources and information to use with students.



GLOUCESTER HIGH SCHOOL



Home of the Dukes

<u>Student Recognitions</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jacqueline Schuster and Katie Grant are among the top 5% of singers in the ENTIRE STATE OF VIRGINIA! They participated in a 3 day festival in Norfolk during the Virginia Music Educators Association Conference.
<u>Staff Recognitions</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amy Bergh presented two workshops at the 2014 VAEA Professional Development Conference. The two workshops were entitled: “Organizing Your Teaching Life” and “The Sketchbook Project”.
<u>Current Happenings</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The ROTC students have been busy, participating in the following events in November: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ November 3rd 22 students attended an orientation trip to Milford Haven Coast Guard Base. ▪ November 8th 16 students performed a Color Guard and participated in the Marine Corps League Chesty Puller Ceremony in Middlesex. ▪ November 9th 9 students attended the Veterans Day ceremony outside Gloucester Court House and provided a Color Guard. ▪ November 10th the unit kicked off its annual food drive for the Laurel Shelter. ▪ November 11th 5 students performed a Color Guard for the Petsworth Elementary Veterans day ceremony. ▪ November 12th 12 students assisted with the PE/Drivers Ed Partners for Safe Teen Driving night by helping register parents and students for the event. ▪ November 14th and 21st - students participated in Community service at Gloucester’s Moose lodge, assisting with Bingo. ▪ November 15th 48 students traveled to the Naval Academy for a Naval Academy Football game. ▪ November 25th students attended a field trip to Nauticus and USS Wisconsin



Current Happenings

- On Friday, November 7th, GHS social studies teachers James Eccleston and Jason Burns took 22 students to the USS Monitor Center at the Mariners Museum. The group was treated to the Clash of Armor program, and had the opportunity to observe the preservation of the turret, engines, and cannons of the historic ironclad warship USS Monitor. The students enjoyed their visit, and spent some additional time exploring additional exhibits in the museum. Along the way home, the group stopped at the National Cemetery in Yorktown, where they paid their respects to fallen Civil War soldiers, and had a brief review of the Revolutionary War Battle of Yorktown, and the 1862 siege of Yorktown during the Civil War. The students conducted themselves very well, and were a credit to the GHS student body.





Special Education Department

<u>Current Happenings & Projects</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Since July 1st, the special education office has held 136 eligibility meetings for initial referrals and triennial evaluations. There were 111 students found to be eligible for special education services.▪ A webinar sponsored by Reed Smith LLP was held on November 12th and nine administrators participated in this event. The topic for the month was “FERPA: Its Provisions and its Exceptions”▪ For the month of December the focus of the office is to collect information related to the December 1st Count. Verifications are cross-checked in both of the student data systems to ensure an accurate count.▪ Megan Connelly-Grothaus provided a training session for the coaches of the winter sports on concussion management.▪ The Concussion Management Team met on November 19th to review the return to activity protocols. As a result of the meeting, the team revised the “return to activity” protocol. The team will meet again during the second semester.▪ The school psychologists in conjunction with the school counselors provided Signs of Suicide (SOS) training to the students in the NJROTC classes in November.▪ The school psychologists continue to provide counseling services to students that have exhibited threatening comments/behaviors in the schools.▪ The Suicide Prevention Task Force met on December 3rd to talk about funding prevention services for the community and schools. The task force was an initiative of the Community Services Board. A grant has been awarded to fund prevention services in the community.▪ On November 4th, special education teachers and staff received IEP training as a follow up from the August training.▪ The special education staff applied for and received funding for the second year of the PBIS grant. Part of the funding was targeted to training bus drivers regarding PBIS. Training was held for a team of bus drivers and special education staff on November 14th to revise and update information related to bus rules and expectations, a form for minor discipline referrals and a flow chart on observing problem behaviors on the bus and how that bus drivers should handle specific situations. Monies from the grant were utilized to pay the drivers for their attendance.
<u>Coming Soon</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ In January 2015, the threat assessment teams from each school will reconvene to discuss protocol and use of forms.▪ The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services will be sponsoring a workshop on January 27th entitled “Youth Mental Health First Aid”. Gloucester High School will be hosting this event for school psychologists, counselors, nurses, SROs and administrators.



Elementary Mathematics
Melanie Jenkins

<p><u>Current Happenings & Projects</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The November 24th Professional Development will focus on the updates from the VDOE presented during their Fall Institute. We will highlight representations and connections from the Process Goals. K-2 teachers will learn strategies to strengthen number sense while grades 3-5 will focus on fractions. All K-5 teachers of mathematics are expected to attend their appropriate grade band.▪ Several Math educators/leaders traveled to Richmond on November 13-14 for the Regional National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference. Over 200 sessions were offered. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to share what they learned in future professional development opportunities.
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Secondary Mathematics
Alvin Coleman

<p><u>Current Happenings & Projects</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Over the past twenty days, the school division has sent several teachers to the Math Institute, Math Day at William and Mary, and the NCTM Conference in Richmond. Each of these staff developments focused on implementing tasks that promote representation and connection through teacher and student action. The research is showing that effective mathematics teaching includes a strong focus on using varied mathematical representations. Each conference theme highlighted the important role of mathematical representations in the teaching and learning of mathematics by including the Process Standard for Representation in our Goals.▪ The staff development on Monday, November 24th will introduce new “Student Look-fors” during instruction. Each teacher that attended the various conferences and workshops will show what teachers and students can do to increase student engagement. Additional information and activities for the teachers will emphasize using and making connections among mathematical representations to deepen our student understanding of concepts and procedures, supporting mathematical discussion among students, and serve as tools for solving problems.
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Department of Assessment

<u>Student and Staff</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cynthia Carmine and Daniel Holloway will be attending a presentation by Susan M. Williams from the Office of Education Information Management, Virginia Department of Education concerning <i>Cohort Graduation: A Longitudinal Data System Implementation</i> on December 16 in Chesapeake.
<u>Current Happenings & Projects</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff members from Page and Peasley met November 17 to discuss the upcoming Spring CAT testing of Grade 6 Mathematics. The Computer Adaptive Test is an assessment that is customized for every student based on how the student responds to the questions.• Teachers met on November 24 at the T. C. Walker Education Center to view and discuss portfolios being collected for Virginia's Alternate Assessment. The Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) is available for students with significant cognitive disabilities who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) in grades 3-8 and in high school.
<u>Coming Soon</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The second opportunity for End of Course Writing will be held on December 2 and 3 for Term Graduate/Project Graduation students at Gloucester High School.• The Fall Non-Writing testing window begins December 2 for End of Course subjects.



Gloucester County Public Schools
The Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center
Gifted Education

Governor's Schools

- VDOE Released information about the 2015 Summer Residential Governor's Schools and Foreign Language Academies. This has been shared with school counselors and teachers, and information sessions for students will be scheduled. More information is available here:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/governors_school_programs/summer_residential/index.shtml
- The annual Academic Year Governor's School Information Night is scheduled for December 2, 2014, 6:30 PM, GHS Auditorium. This program will provide an overview of Chesapeake Bay Governor's School and the Governor's School for Science and Technology at New Horizons Regional Education Center. Information about Summer Residential Governor's Schools and Foreign Language Academies is also included in this annual presentation. Formal letters inviting all qualified students enrolled in prerequisite math courses were mailed at the end of the 1st Grading Period.

Gifted Education

- A Save the Date flyer was sent home to 7th through 10th grade students identified for gifted education services for the annual Academic Year Governor's School Information Night scheduled for December 2, 2014, 6:30 PM, GHS Auditorium.
- Sixty referrals have been processed since September 2nd.
- A flyer for the Focusing on the Future Career and Academic Planning Experience at William & Mary, scheduled for February 7, 2015, was sent home with identified students in Grades 6-12. More information can be found here:
<https://www.smores.com/v5sfm-focusing-on-the-future?ref=email-content#w-1986374682>

Gifted Education Advisory Committee

- The Gifted Education Advisory Committee (GAC) met on Thursday, November 20, 2014, at The Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center, 6:30 – 8:00 PM. The committee will review the entire Local Plan for Gifted Education throughout the 2014-2015 school year in anticipation of adopting a plan in May or June 2015 for 2015-2020.
- Future Gifted Education Advisory (GAC) Meetings will be: February 5, 2015, April 16, 2015, and June 4, 2015.
- GAC members were invited to attend the School Board's community meetings for the development of the division's Comprehensive plan on December 17.



Gloucester County Public Schools
The Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center
Office of Instructional Services

Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)

- Gloucester will continue to offer two preschool classrooms through the VPI Grant. One classroom at Achilles Elementary and one at Bethel Elementary. The next (spring) application for the 2015-2016 school year will be completed in April or May after the state budget is approved. The fall application was completed on October 1st.

Title I

- Title I screening and services continue. Updated lists of students served are provided by the first Friday of each month.

Title III/English Language Learners (ELL)

- Gloucester County Public Schools participates in the Statewide Super Consortia for Title III. A conference will be offered January 21-22, 2015, sponsored by VDOE and the Title III Statewide Super Consortia.

Other Instructional Leadership

- The Instructional Team met on November 12, and Instructional Team members met with Principals on November 20.
- Diversity Day was held on Tuesday, November 4th. Twenty teachers and administrators facilitated sessions with their colleagues after Dr. Williams's keynote.
- Division-wide professional development was offered for Elementary Math and Language Arts, Middle school language arts, secondary math, and Elementary Art/Music/PE on November 24th and 25th.