

Board Highlights

.... from May 9, 2005

- ✓ New Board member, Lynn Lassiter, was sworn in by Richard Hunter, Warren County Clerk of Court.
- ✓ The Board was recognized for its efforts to declare all school facilities Tobacco Free.
- ✓ The Board recognized Jesse Alston, WCMS student, for his participation in the Duke TIP Program.
- ✓ The Board recognized members of the WCHS men's basketball team for their impressive showing during the 04-05 season.
- ✓ The Board recognized William Eaton and Jimmy Haynes, the April Stellar Performers.
- ✓ Also recognized were April Lights of Character: Christian Vaughan, James Hargrove, Hawkins; Trevon Carter, Nicole Palmer, Mariam Boyd; Shayla Hendrix, Donald Wimbrow (In Memory), Northside; Jasmine Richardson, Brenda Brothers, South Warren; Mary Francis, Trina Paynter, Vaughan; Otis Evans, Suzanne Gordon-Messer, WCHS; Pearlette Ifill, Stephen Pelfrey, WCMS; Rosemary Lewis, Central Office. Appreciation was expressed to the staff at the Warren County Courthouse, Library and the Post Office for housing Character displays throughout the year, as well as to James Alston, Pat Boyd and Mary Catherine Harris.
- ✓ Assistant Superintendent Princine Jefferies presented an overview of "Project Soaring High," a cooperative staff training initiative with Bennett College.
- ✓ The Board approved several budget amendments as recommended by Gary Ward, Finance officer.
- ✓ The Board approved a leave of absence for Jacqueline Hargrove from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 for Hargrove to serve on a state assistance

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Bennett initiative explained

An overview of a one-year initiative with Bennett College for Women in Greensboro was presented to members of the Board of Education at Monday night's meeting. The initiative was made possible through a grant awarded to Bennett.

The initiative, known as "Project Soaring High," centered on assisting teachers and teacher assistants with developing quality teaching strategies to be incorporated into classroom activities.

There were ten participants in the initiative from Warren County Schools, who, along with staff from nine other school systems, participated in training opportunities provided by Bennett College. The Warren County participants were Mildred Broadnax, Veronica Richardson and Chelsea Jennings, teachers, and Belinda Roberson, Brenda Patton, Earlene Clanton, Jill Burnette, Marcia Greenway and Shauna Davis, teacher assistants, and Princine Jefferies, assistant superintendent.

Warren County's project involved designing a classroom module that infused diversity, classroom management, technology and differentiated instruction into all aspects of working with students in individual classrooms or in the entire school. Three strands of study were explained at the Board meeting by members of the Warren County team.

According to Jefferies, the Bennett initiative has ended, but members of the local group are working on strategies for continuing components of the program.

SBE approves healthy children policy revision for 2006-2007

At the April meeting, State Board of Education members approved a revision of its Healthy Active Children Policy to include a requirement for a minimum of 30 minutes of daily physical activity in grades K-8 beginning in the 2006-07 school year.

The physical activity can be achieved through physical activity based curriculum such as Energizers, developed by NCDPI and available on the NC Healthy Schools Web site (<http://www.nchealthyschools.org>), as well as recess, intramurals, or sessions led by the physical education teacher on closed-circuit TV. In addition, physical activity can be received in increments of 10 minutes at a time, three times per day.

The time is cumulative, and while it is best to receive at one setting, it is not mandatory. Most schools already have been working on this through the Local School Health Advisory Councils. In addition, the State Board is setting up a study committee to implement 150 minutes of elementary PE and 225 minutes of Health/PE (which is one curriculum in NC) at middle school.

The State Board is continuing its mandate that physical activity should not be taken away as a punishment and adding that inappropriate and severe physical activity cannot be used as punishment. For more information, please contact Kymm Ballard, Instructional Services, NCDPI, 919/807-3858, or by email, kballard@dpi.state.nc.us.



Stellar Performer

**Celestine Perry -
Moving Forward**

Anyone needing a lesson in upward mobility has only to cast a glance toward the south—to South Warren Elementary School, that is. The prime example is reporting for work each day, hoping to teach a room full of second graders all that she possibly can before the dismissal bell.

Celestine Perry, this month's Stellar Performer, began her career in education in 1990 as a volunteer at South Warren after spending about ten years in various jobs including driving a transfer truck.

The mother of four, Perry was hired in 1991 as a teacher assistant, and at that point, the climb began.

"I began working on a degree in Elementary Education at NC Central and graduated in December of 2000," she said. She was at the top of her class at Central and soon found herself *in front* of a class, teaching at South Warren, in 2001.

Perry has since received a master's degree from Cambridge College in Massachusetts and is currently in the doctoral program in School Leadership at NC Central.

"She is also working on National Board certification," said André Henry, principal at the school.

Perry was nominated for the award by a committee of her peers at the school. "She does a great job with students," said James Hunter, counselor and committee member. "She has unbelievable energy, and she makes every effort to see that students get what they need."

Hunter noted that not only is Perry an excellent teacher, but also she's outstanding with the many other hats she wears around the school.

"She works with Young Scholars, she's a Girl Scout leader, she's a substitute bus driver—she does anything and everything she can do to be involved here. She doesn't miss a beat."

Henry added that Perry is always willing to take on extra duties. "She never says 'no.' In fact, she usually *asks* if we need help with anything. She has outstanding initiative and finds tools to help herself academically."

He said that especially important to him and to South Warren is that she knows the community. "She knows all the children, where they live, who their parents are—that's a big help."

Perry notes that she credits her grandmother, who raised her, with emphasizing with her the importance of an education. "And she stressed that I should get a job that I would be happy in."

She said that she always knew that education was what she should do, but she avoided it out of fear.

"I eased in to it as a volunteer, and then Dr. Tony Cozart began pushing me to seek a degree. He was very encouraging. Once I got the bachelor's degree, I became eager for more."

Perry said that she loves teaching. "I can't see myself doing anything else. When I see a child 'light up' with that 'I get it' look, that's when I feel that sense of accomplishment. No salary can compensate for that."

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Monthly Attendance Award



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

Across the board, students were on top of their game during the past month. Attendance improved over the previous month at all schools, but Northside's towered above all the rest, securing both the Best Attendance and the Most Improved awards for the school.

The attendance rate at the school for the eighth attendance month of school was 96.32 percent, a whopping increase of 2.51 percent over the previous month's 93.81 percent. Next in line was Mariam Boyd with 96 percent. Following were Vaughan with 95.91 percent, South Warren, with 95.30 percent, WCMS with 93.80 percent, and WCHS with 92 percent.

Spring is here, and students will need to work hard to keep up the good work for the last month of school.

Monthly Attendance Award

Most Improved



Warren County Schools
Putting Our Children First

Teachers' Corner

► **Online registration** for the 2005 Performance Assessments Summer Institutes (scheduled for June - August) can now be accessed online at <https://cuacs8.mck.ncsu.edu/pasi> by clicking on the appropriate link. Although teachers will benefit most from the Institutes, administrators, test coordinators and others also are invited to attend. Participants may choose from the following sessions: Writing Scoring: Grades 4, 7, and 10, North Carolina Alternate Assessment Academic Inventory, North Carolina Alternate Assessment Portfolio, Computer Skills, Item Development, and Rubric Writing. Session abstracts are available online. Sessions are repeated throughout the four-day institute. Participants are not required to attend every session to receive credit for attendance. Credit for participation will be awarded based on the total number of sessions attended over the four-day time period. Participants will receive .3 CEUs for each half-day session and .6 CEUs for each full-day session. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis and will remain open until all sessions and locations are filled. There is no fee to participate. Please contact Sheila Brown at 919/515-1431, or by email at shield_brown@ncsu.edu should you have further questions.

► **High school educators** may be interested in attending "Smart and Good High Schools: Integrating Excellence and Ethics for Success in School, Work, and Beyond," to be held June 17 from 8:30 a.m. * 3:30 p.m., at Grimsley High School, Greensboro. The full-day workshop provides promising practices to build eight strengths of character that help teens lead productive, ethical and fulfilling lives. The registration fee is \$150 per person; however 10 percent off each registration is being offered for teams of four or more. The registration deadline is May 15. Space is limited. For more information or to register, please contact the Character Development Group at 919/967-2110.

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She said that she works to see something special in each child. "Even with those who struggle, if you show you love them and believe in them, they will move mountains. The evidence is in the report card and test results."

Hunter endorsed that Perry shows genuine care and concern for each child. "She is an inspiration, since we all know that away from school she has demands placed on her."

Hunter was referring to Perry's challenges with her own son, Malcolm, who is autistic.

But Perry acknowledges that everything that she's done for herself is because of Malcolm. "He is the reason I am where I am," she said. "By learning all that I can, I am helping Malcolm. And maybe Malcolm and I can pave the way for other children—finding resources and programs that will help other autistic children. He drives me—he's my inspiration for promoting education."

Perry has begun a support group, Mothers and Autism Promoting Student Success (MAPSS), in hopes of assisting other parents of autistic children with accessing resources and meeting the needs of their children. "One of my goals is to help them see what *they* can do to help the schools and the system help their children."

Warren County Schools has been a supportive place for Perry to work over the years. "People have pushed and encouraged me, and now I am encouraging others. I appreciate the support I have received—it means a lot."

One of Perry's dreams is to one day open a school for children with special needs. "With the help of government aid and grants, I'd love to start a school that would 'pull out' these children and work with them, then 'mainstream' them back to the school system."

With her list of past accomplishments as evidence, one would have to assume that she will probably see that dream come true.


Exit standards approved


The State Board of Education approved new high school exit standards effective with the ninth grade class of 2006-07 (graduating class of 2010). The new standards require students to pass the five core end-of-course tests and successfully complete a senior project.


Also, the Board approved a new formula for the ABCs accountability model, a result of the comprehensive review of the ABCs that began last fall.


Complete highlights of the Board meeting are posted online at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe/highlights/>.

HealthWise

 Children who wash their hands four or more times during the school day get sick less than other kids, according to a recent study. The hand-washers had 24 percent fewer sick days due to colds and flu, and 50 percent fewer days lost because of stomach illness.

 A study at the Stanford University School of Medicine showed that people over 50 sleep better if they exercise regularly. Those put on 30- to 40-minute exercise sessions four times a week not only slept almost an hour longer, but also fell asleep in half the time.

 If you take chewable vitamin C tablets because you have trouble swallowing pills, make sure you brush afterwards—or at least rinse your mouth out. A study published in the American Journal of Dentistry last year found that 500 milligrams of chewable C can make your mouth acidic enough to start dissolving tooth enamel.

 Shock, stress or worry does not affect hair color. Hair turns white or gray generally because of the gradual decrease of pigmentation that occurs with age, though sometimes it takes place prematurely. Graying is genetic. Source: *University of California at Berkeley Wellness Letter*, 5 Water Oak, Fernandina Beach, Fla. 32034

Opportunities - - -

❖ *The Fulbright Teacher/Administrator Exchange Program* is currently seeking teachers or administrators for the following exchange opportunities. Specific details about each of these programs, the applications and application instructions can be found online at <http://www.fulbrightexchanges.org/View/ViewOtherOpps.asp>.

❖ *A number of educator associations* are sponsoring an inaugural Professional Development Week from Aug. 9-11. Teachers can earn 2.5 renewal credits by participating in one of four sessions that help educators reach and teach all learners. Sessions will be held in Boone, Rocky Mount and Greenville. The registration fee is \$50 and includes lunch, break and materials. The registration deadline is June 15. For more information on the sessions and registration, please go online to <http://www.ncae.org/pod/profdevelop05.shtml> or call Angela Farthing, NCAE Center for Teaching and Learning, 800/662-7924, ext. 230, or by email, Angela.Farthing@ncae.org

❖ *The North Carolina Shakespeare Festival (NCSF) SchoolFest* program of 10 am weekday matinee performances at the BTI Center in Raleigh will feature "Julius Caesar" on Oct. 5 and "As You Like It" on Oct. 6,7. Reservations by teachers for SchoolFest matinees and for all groups (of 10 or more) to public performances may be made now through the NCSF Sales Office by contacting Paul Siceloff, Sales and Marketing Director, 336/841-2273, ext. 226 or sales@ncshakes.org.

❖ *The NCDPI's PreK-Elementary Division* is sponsoring its second annual Elementary School Conference, "Building on Success," on Oct. 10-11, at the Sheraton Imperial, Research Triangle Park. Proposals and registration forms can be accessed online at www.ncpublicschools.org by clicking on the Events and Conferences link, then the Elementary School Conference link. For more information, please contact Michelle Palmer Weaver, School Improvement Division, NCDPI, at 919/807-3937, or by email, mepalmer@dpi.state.nc.us.

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team.

✓ The Board approved an overnight field trip for members of the WCHS FCCLA to travel to San Diego, CA for the National Leadership Conference and Competitive Events, July 2-6, 2005.

✓ The Board accepted the resignations of Fran Bussey, tutor at WCHS, and Anthony Watson, teacher assistant at WCHS.

✓ The Board approved probationary and career personnel as listed.

✓ Current vacancies include: at Mariam Boyd, an EC teacher and a teacher assistant; at SW/VE, a Spanish teacher; at South Warren, a fourth grade teacher, a third grade teacher and a custodian; at WCMS, a sixth grade EC teacher, a 6th grade language arts/social studies teacher, an eighth grade science/math teacher, a Spanish teacher, an assistant principal and a Child Nutrition assistant; at WCHS, a teacher assistant, a curriculum specialist, an EC teacher and a transition specialist; at Northside, an assistant principal, a counselor and a second grade teacher; districtwide, an Occupational Therapy assistant, a Technology technician assistant, a speech pathologist, and a Community Schools director.

"Discourse" is published monthly during the school year by the Community Schools office of Warren County Schools. News items for each issue should be submitted to the Community Schools office by the Tuesday prior to the regular monthly meeting of the Warren County Board of Education.

Dr. Ray V. Spain, Superintendent
Mary Lang Hunter, Editor
www.warren-countyschools.org

Calendar

May

- 10-11 Last Month Computer Skills
End of Grade Tests, Gr. 3-8
- 11 Northside Sch. Imp. Tm. Mtg.
3:15 p.m.
- 12 WCHS Night of the Arts
7 p.m.
- 13 Field Day - Mariam Boyd and
Northside
- 16 Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
WCMS Athletic Banq., 6:30
- 17-19 Last Month Competency Test
- 18 South Warren Kind. Grad., 9:30
Northside Kind. Celeb., 1 p.m.
- 19 Northside Awards, Gr. 1-2, 9
WCHS Spring Athletic Banquet
6:30 p.m.
- 20 Mariam Boyd Accelerated
Reader Celebration
Northside Awards, Gr. 3-4
9 a.m.
South Warren Field Day
Vaughan Kind. Awards/Celeb.
10 a.m.
Vaughan Awards Day, Gr. 1-4
1:30 p.m.
WCMS Positive Behavior
Support Dance, 7 p.m.
- 23 Hawkins Pre-K Grad., 9:30 a.m.
(at Mariam Boyd)
Senior Staff, 10 a.m.
Mariam Boyd Awards, Gr. 1-4
1 p.m.
South Warren Perfect Attend.
Celeb., 10 a.m.
WCHS Senior Exams
Vaughan Perf. Attend./Scholars
Celebration, 1 p.m.
So. Warren 5th Gr. Grad., 6
- 24 WCHS Senior Exams
Northside 5th Gr. Celeb., 1 p.m.
WCMS 8th Gr. Promotion, 7
- 25 WCHS Underclassman Exams
Mariam Boyd Kind. Grad., 9
So. Warren Awards., 10 a.m.
Vaughan 5th Gr. Celeb./Awd.
10 a.m.
WCHS Grad. Practice, 1-4 p.m.
- 26 WCHS Underclassman Exams
WCHS Grad. Practice, 1-4 p.m.
Mariam Boyd 5th Gr. Grad., 6
- 27 WCHS Graduation, 7:30 p.m.