At this time of year, it is important to protect instructional time for students and to keep teachers focused on the curricula. This is a perfect time for the following types of activities:

- To improve current academic performance, students should be allowed to make-up missed assignments, retake assessments to prove what they have learned, tutor other students, and fulfill any academic obligation. It is a waste of instructional time to allow any child to fail a course or procure a low grade while throwing away days of instruction and opportunity.

- Teach students to write in cursive. It’s the perfect time to fulfill local board policy and allow students to practice reading and writing in cursive. At the very least, every secondary student should be able to write his name in cursive.

- Allow students to get a jump-start on summer assignments. In many courses, teachers give summer assignments so it makes sense for students to use this time to at the very least, organize a summer schedule to get these assignments completed.

- Set up organized academic contest(s) in your school. For example, it could be a writing contest or an oral poetry contest. This will showcase talents our students have and allow an appreciation of those talents.
• Allow students to practice with basic math skills such as adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing of whole numbers, decimals and fractions. Why not? The lack of these skills hinder some students in higher level math courses in high school and higher education. At this time, there is no pressure and students can increase these skills instead of wasting precious time.

Be cognizant of what is happening in classrooms during this time of year. If we waste instructional time, we cannot get it back. Make sure teachers and students use time wisely.

-Dr. Trixie Brooks, Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum & Instruction

ESL & Migrant Education Matters

ACCESS scores for Limited English Proficient Students (LEP) are back and parent and teacher reports are being distributed this week. The ESL department will analyze the data to determine the progress and proficiency of our LEP students. LEAs must meet three Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) that are tied to progress, proficiency and EOG/EOC scores of LEP students. NCLB requires the North Carolina Department of Instruction to annually review the performance of each school district that receives funds under Title III. The English language learners in these educational agencies must meet six targets each year as follows

➢ Make progress in English language acquisition
➢ Attain English language proficiency
➢ Meet the academic standard in Grades 3-8 End-of-Grade Reading
➢ Meet the academic standard Grade 10 Reading
➢ Meet the academic standard in Grades 3-8 End-of-Grade Math
➢ Meet the academic standard Grade 10 Math

The summer programs for ESL students (ESL Summer Adventures and Mi Centro) will begin on June 17. ESL students who are participating have already been notified. ESL Summer Adventures is a 4 week program that extends the school year for LEP students who are very Limited English proficient or migrant. ESL summer adventures will end on July 11 and Mi Centro graduation will be July 12. For more information please contact Kim Meza at kmeza@vcs.k12.nc.us.

-Kim Meza, ESL & Migrant Education Director
Testing & Accountability Matters

Elementary and Middle School EOG Reading and Math testing  May 29-30
High School MSL testing  May 28-31
High School EOC testing  June 3-6

Have a great summer!

-Wanda Bullard, Testing/Guidance Counselor Director

Career & Technical Education Matters

2012-2013 Accomplishments in CTE

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department strives on goal-setting and achievement of goals throughout the school year. Several major accomplishments include:

1. Increasing credentialing opportunities to include Career Readiness (through Workkeys); Microsoft Specialists (in PowerPoint, Excel and Access); ServSafe (in Foods and Culinary Arts); CPR/First Aid (in Health Sciences Courses); NCEER (in Carpentry/Masonry) and Nurse Aide I (in Nursing Fundamentals).
2. Expanding course offerings in the middle school, Agricultural Education, Marketing & Entrepreneurship Education and Health Science Education.
3. Purchasing Smartboards so that all CTE teachers have a Smartboard and accessories in their classroom.
4. Sponsoring the first county-wide National Technical Honor Society Induction to include 49 students collectively from Northern Vance High School and Southern Vance High School.
5. Sponsoring the first annual Students@Work Project for middle schools (which includes 20 business/industry and education guest speakers).
6. Providing support for the Northern Vance High School Architectural Engineering instructor (Mr. Arthurs) and students in the NC State University –sponsored Emerging Issues Contest. The group won first place.
7. Supporting the attendance of over 100 high school students in attendance at the first Advanced Manufacturing Day sponsored by Vance-Granville Community College.
8. Supporting several student field trip experiences to colleges, universities and on-site industry presentations.
9. Increasing news coverage for CTE programs through the local paper.
10. Increasing the number of teachers and staff attending the annual CTE Summer Conference (which is the major professional development activity for CTE teachers). Twenty-one participants will attend.

– Willa C. Clark, CTE Director