AdVance Academy graduates 24 seniors

AdVance Academy, the alternative high school for Vance County Schools, presented high school diplomas to 24 graduating seniors during mid-year commencement exercises held during the evening of December 18.

Principal Stephanie Ayscue led the proceedings.

An audience of about 500 parents, other family members, school system educators, special guests and community members were on hand to honor the graduating seniors.

The Vance County High School Air Force Junior ROTC Color Guard presented the flags at the beginning of the ceremony and during the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner."

Graduates are shown in the photos at right during the commencement exercises.

Those students receiving their diplomas included: Dylan Allgood, Christopher Almanza, Andrew Brown, Takara Cozart, Christian Cruz-Ochoa, Jevon Durham, Hayley Eatmon, Tyrae Fuller, Hector Garcia-Gregorio, Dustin Gouldman, Diamonique Hargrove, Marquise Hargrove, Malik Hill, Justin Joyner, Anthony Meadows, Chase Parrish, Miguel Ponce, Sekedric Rainey, Austin Ray, Zhakeitha Scott, Da'Kayleen Seigle, Sincere Williams-Taylor, Jacob Wilson and Charles Wurster IV.
Students share talents for ‘Sounds of Season’

Once again this year, students from local schools shared their talents during “Sounds of the Season” performances for staff members and visitors at the school system’s Administrative Services Center in mid-December.

The students came wearing special t-shirts, hats, cloth reindeer antlers, scarves, gloves and more as they sang songs from “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” to “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.” The groups also played bells, xylophones and recorders while singing. All of the groups were directed by their music teachers.

Staff members in the Administrative

See Sounds of Season on Page 3

Aycock Elementary School students wear scarves, hats and gloves and ring bells during one of the holiday songs they sang on December 14. They even have props, with one student holding a decorated lamp post.

Rachel Bradshaw, music teacher at New Hope Elementary School, far left, plays the keyboards as her choral students sing a Christmas song during their “Sounds of the Season” performance.
Sounds of Season

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Services Center were joined by members of the Vance County Board of Education, staff from the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments offices, parents, other educators and community residents as audience members at the performances.

Other student groups shown in the photos during their performances include, from top right to bottom left, Eric Kattes, music teacher, directing his L.B. Yancey Elementary School Chorus members; STEM Early High School students singing; Carver Elementary School students singing and playing bells; Stephanie Roache directing her chorus from E.O. Young, Jr. Elementary School; and Julie Simpson on the floor to direct her kindergarten students from E.M. Rollins Elementary School.

The “Sounds of the Season” performances are a clear indication that Vance County Schools’ students have lots of musical talents! All of the performances were excellent!
Board of Education members are shown taking the oath of office following their re-election in November. At right, the Honorable Judge Henry W. Hight, Jr., gives the oath to, from left, Gloria J. White, Ruth Hartness and Margaret Ellis. Hight also administered the oath to Darlynn Oxendine. She is shown in the bottom photo standing at the far right. Joining her were her husband, Randy, and her mother, Peggy Pegram.

VCS Photos

**Board members take oath of office, choose leaders**

Four members of the Vance County Board of Education who were re-elected on November 6 each received the oath of office to serve another four-year term at the beginning of the board’s meeting on December 17.

During the meeting, the board members also elected a new chairperson and vice chairperson to lead the board in 2019. Dorothy Gooche was elected chairperson and Ed Wilson was elected vice chairperson.

The Honorable Henry W. Hight, Jr., a N.C. Superior Court judge from Henderson, administered the oath to each of them.

Those board members who were re-elected include: Gloria J. White, who represents District 1; Darlynn Oxendine, who represents District 2; Margaret Ellis, who represents District 6; and Ruth Hartness, who represents District 7.

White has served on the board since 2002. Her district includes most of the northern part of the county. Oxendine’s district includes the eastern part of the county and she was first elected in 2010. Ellis, whose district includes mostly central and northern Henderson, has served since 1990. Hartness represents western Henderson and most of western Vance County. She was first elected in 2008.
Vance County Schools hosted another “Community to Schools” tour day on December 7 for local community leaders to have a chance to visit schools and learn about programs and services provided on a daily basis for students.

A group of about 15 community representatives visited L.B. Yancey Elementary School, Vance County High School, STEM Early High School and Vance County Middle School.

School administrators led tours of the facilities with assistance from students. Dr. Carnetta Thomas led the group as they visited several classrooms at L.B. Yancey. They also met parents and students during the “Books and Breakfast” event which focused on the importance of reading.

Principal Rey Horner welcomed the group to Vance County High School before they visited the new Vance Virtual lab. Melonee Hunter, assistant principal at STEM, led the visit, along with students, to classes at their school, while Principal Heddie Somerville welcomed everyone to Vance County Middle School.

Teresa Robinson, head of the Human Resources Department at the Walmart Distribution Center in Henderson, stands behind a Vance County Middle School student as she demonstrates the three-dimensional software program for a science study in the school’s Vance Virtual laboratory.

Dr. Carnetta Thomas, principal of L.B. Yancey Elementary School, standing at far right, explains how students are recognized on a hallway bulletin board as part of the school’s Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) program to community leaders during their visit on December 7.}

**Bringing the community to our public schools**

Vance County Schools
Inclement weather affecting schools

By mid-December, students had missed seven days of school due to inclement weather caused by the passing of tropical storms and then snowfall.

The most recent days missed, December 10-12, will be made up on February 18, March 6 and March 22 for schools on a traditional calendar. E.M. Rollins and Early College will follow their make-up day schedule.

The students at Early College were able to take their first semester exams prior to the Christmas break. The inclement weather caused the exams for students at Vance County High School to be delayed until early January.

Vance County got about 11 inches of snow on December 8, causing lots of road issues as shown in the photo at right.

VCS supports Salvation Army Food Drive

Students, parents, staff members and community supporters donated canned and non-perishable food items at our schools for the annual Salvation Army Canned Food Drive.

The results of the generosity of our school families provided thousands of food items for donations in bags of food to over 600 needy families in our four-county area.

The collected items were picked up by Salvation Army representatives from the schools by December 7, so that they could be delivered the next week to needy families.

Leaders at several schools made the food drive a fun and competitive endeavor by featuring the collection totals on bulletin boards, providing student incentives and recognizing classes with the most donations.

Angie Langley with the Salvation Army, stressed that the overall success of the food drive would not be possible without the support of everyone in our schools.
VCMS installs new student leadership

Students who are now members of the first Student Government Association at Vance County Middle School were officially sworn in to office during a special ceremony at the school on December 13.

Paul Cataline, a member of the school’s faculty who serves as the adviser for the Student Government Association, center in the photo at above right, administers the oath of office to Symiyah Alston, left, who now serves as the president of the student group.

Principal Heddie Somerville and other administrators at the school will now depend on the Student Government Association leaders and members to assist them with important decisions affecting the services and programs provided to students in the school. The association’s members will provide valuable input from their fellow students.

Boyd receives honor

Kristen Boyd, principal of Aycock Elementary School, was among 15 emerging local leaders honored at a special community event on November 27.

She was individually recognized during an evening reception held at the Henderson Country Club and sponsored by Henderson’s newspaper, The Daily Dispatch, and the Henderson-Vance Chamber of Commerce.

Boyd, shown standing at far right with two of her school’s teachers, Lindsey Breedlove and Natasha Rubin, was honored for her outstanding leadership in working with her colleagues to have Aycock as one of the leading schools in our district. Boyd also is a top local school administrator and was the Vance County Schools Principal of the Year in 2017-2018.
Students submit outstanding holiday art work

Students submitted outstanding holiday art work for the Christmas card Superintendent Anthony Jackson sends to educational leaders and others across the state.

Tammy Dang of Vance County High School, submitted the work at right which is featured on the front of the card. Others printed on the back of the card are work from below to bottom right: Jaylen Person of E.O. Young; Maria Rodriguez of Vance County High; Makayla Allen of Clarke; and Baloch Zainab of Aycock.

VCS Photos