Jordan Lewis, left, and Anna Ventura, both students at Vance County High School, are shown wearing their Arts Alive t-shirts and buttons. Lewis created the art work for the button, shown at top right, and Ventura created the art work for the t-shirt, shown at top left.

**Arts Alive will celebrate students’ talents!**

The annual Arts Alive event, co-sponsored by Vance County Schools and the Vance County Public School Foundation, promises to be a phenomenal event to celebrate our students’ artistic talents and arts programs in our schools.

Arts Alive is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, at McGregor Hall in downtown Henderson.

The event will feature: master classes for students to participate in free of charge to expose them to professional presentations in dance, musical instruments, singing and more; the display of over 200 pieces of art work by students in our schools; and an evening show with 20 performing acts of groups and individuals.

The art work display is open to everyone at no cost. Tickets for the evening show, which begins at 7 p.m., are $5 each for adults and children and will go on sale by 3 p.m. on April 27 at McGregor Hall.

Students in our schools may register for the master classes by visiting the school system’s website and clicking on the links provided under the “Arts Alive” headline. The master classes will be provided by Hill’s Music Shoppe of Henderson, Ballet Arts of Henderson, and Wolf Trap Education, based in Washington, D.C.

The master classes will provide opportunities for students at all grade levels to be exposed to arts instruction for the first time or to enhance their current skills and interests.

Local residents, businesses, churches, civic organizations and more may become sponsors for Arts Alive by clicking on the Arts Alive Sponsorship Form link on the school system’s website homepage. All proceeds from Arts Alive will be used to support arts programs in our schools.
National Beta names VCS 2019 District of Distinction

Vance County Schools has been named a 2019 District of Distinction by the National Beta Club for offering the academic recognition membership to students in all eligible schools in the school district.

In making the award announcement, National Beta officials praised the efforts of Superintendent Anthony Jackson, school chapter sponsors and deserving student members.

This national award recognizes Vance County Schools’ commitment to academic excellence, leadership development and service involvement, and illustrates the dedication to preparing students for college and career readiness. The students in the district understand the importance of these qualities and exemplify the Beta motto, Let Us Lead by Serving Others, National Beta officials noted.

Bobby Hart, chief executive officer for National Beta, notified Jackson in a letter about the district’s recognition.

In the letter, Hart wrote, “Thank you for all you do as an administrator in supporting the success of your schools, staff and students. We appreciate your continued focus on fostering activities that ensure all students can achieve success.”

With more than 500,000 active members and 9,000 chapters nationally and internationally, National Beta has become the nation’s largest independent, non-profit, educational youth organization. National Beta recognizes outstanding achievement, promotes character and social responsibility, encourages service involvement to school and community and fosters leadership skills. National Junior Beta includes grades 4-8 and National Senior Beta includes grades 9-12.

Bundy is new chief officer for VCS Finance

Michael Bundy will join Vance County Schools as the new chief officer for Finance and Business Operations on April 1.

Bundy is joining Vance County Schools after serving since September of 2015 as the finance officer for Moore County Schools in Pinehurst.

“It will be an honor and privilege to serve the students, staff and community of Vance County Schools,” Bundy said. “It is rewarding to know that I will have a small part in the success of students in their journey to achieve their goals of a bright future.”

Bundy has held finance positions at the state level. Prior to serving in Moore County Schools, he served in the finance department in the Cumberland County School System. He also is a former president of the N.C. Association of School Business Officers.
Raven Burns, parent liaison, providing valuable services

Raven Burns is our school system’s new family and parent liaison advisor working with parents, educators and the community.

She is based in the Family Resource Center in our Administrative Services Center on Graham Avenue in Henderson, but she spends a lot of her time in our schools and networking with community contacts.

In her new position, Burns’ main focus is to support parents of students in our 15 public schools. She provides valuable resources to parents through the school system’s Family Resource Center and also serves as a line of communication for parents with school administrators, teachers, additional education professionals and more. Burns can offer resources from the Family Resource Center ranging from academic support for students, information about school programs and services, written and online materials about educational opportunities and even career information for parents.

Burns, shown above in the Family Resource Center, is a parent of children in our schools and wants to use her passion for children and education to assist other parents in making the most of their children’s educational opportunities. She also strives to provide community leaders and agencies with information about available programs and services in our schools.

She can be contacted by telephone at 252-492-2127 or by email at rburns@vcs.k12.nc.us.

N.C. Symphony concert

Wesley Schultz, conductor of the N.C. Symphony, is shown at right with orchestra members during their concert for all fourth graders and their teachers at McGregor Hall in Henderson on March 19. The Symphony musicians played for about an hour and shared valuable information with the students about the orchestra, its various instruments and classical music. Aycock Elementary and E.O. Young, Jr. Elementary students played their recorders to the music of “Ode to Joy” before the orchestra performed the song and all students and teachers sang along.
Vance County High School students are shown in the two photos above as they talk with members of the audience who attended “The Art of Protest” event held at the school on March 5. The students were explaining the messages portrayed in their work as parents, fellow students and community members viewed the art.

VCHS students express views through their art

Vance County High School hosted “The Art of Protest” event during the evening of March 5, as a way for students to express their views on important issues in our society today through their art work.

The event was a collaboration between the school’s English and Art Departments to showcase the art work of students who were inspired by classic literature.

Marsha Harvey, an English teacher, and Amy Simpson, an art teacher, led and coordinated the event. Twelve students had their works on display during the event. Their excellent work included brightly colored paintings, charcoal drawings and sketches. Students’ work focused on issues including racism, the need for mental health services, politics, homelessness and freedom of speech.
Dabney Elementary has baby chicks!

Four weeks ago second graders and their teachers at Dabney Elementary School welcomed chicken eggs into their classrooms. Now, they have 25 week-old baby chicks hopping around in their incubator containers.

The learning experience has been a great one for the students and a truly collaborative effort among the four second-grade teachers. Second-grade teacher Kerianne Owen began the project and got her colleagues, Kimberly Holtzmann, Trish Burroughs and Ellen Harris, to join in. The eggs were donated by a local farmer and the project was sponsored through the Vance County 4-H, with lots of help from Lina Lue, the local agricultural extension agent.

The students can easily answer questions about the process, including how they rotated the eggs three times a day for 21 days and made sure the eggs were always kept warm in the incubators. They can discuss how the chicks made their way out of their eggs and how they have changed in the few days since they hatched. The chicks are now going home with the teachers.
Final Teacher Executive Institute session

Paul Ross, executive director of the Henderson Family YMCA, is shown above standing at right as he talks with the 15 participants in this year’s Vance County Teacher Executive Institute during their final all-day session on March 7. The educators had the opportunity during the day to discuss with several business leaders their mutual interests in how to best prepare students for the future workforce.

Kohl’s employees help at New Hope

New Hope Elementary School will receive a $500 grant from Kohl’s through the department store’s Volunteer Program.

A small group of Kohl’s employees traveled from their store in Durham to spend about half of the school day helping students and teachers in their classrooms on March 14.

Kohl’s employees, wearing their blue volunteer t-shirts, are shown in the two photos above as they work with students in their classrooms. The grant funds are the result of their efforts.
Student groups get deserved recognition

Students in Vance County Schools continue to accomplish outstanding achievements this school year. The Vance County Board of Education recognized some of the outstanding student groups at its monthly meeting held on March 11.

The board honored both the boys and girls basketball teams at Vance County High School following the completion of their championship seasons. Board Chairwoman Dorothy Gooche and Superintendent Anthony Jackson congratulated the girls team, shown in the top photo, for winning the regular season and tournament conference championships. The boys team, shown above, also won the regular season conference championship and lost in the finals of the conference tournament. Both teams made it to the state playoffs, with the girls getting to the third round and the boys playing in the fourth round.

Board members also recognized the team of students and educators from STEM Early High School, shown at left, for their impressive showing in the N.C. Regional Future City competition held at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh. The students were awarded medallions and praised during the competition for their amazing work in creating a three-dimensional future city model, an outstanding essay and research about their city model and their strong oral presentation about the project.
Calendars for 2019-2020, Summer Program set

School calendars for the 2019-2020 school year were approved by the Vance County Board of Education on March 11.

The early start calendar changes the beginning date for students at Vance County High School. Both Vance County High and Early College High classes will begin for students on Monday, August 5. The earlier start allows these two high schools to closely follow the calendar of Vance-Granville Community College to provide students with opportunities for dual enrollment in college level courses. The last day of classes for students at the two high schools is scheduled for Thursday, May 21. The schools will have the usual holidays of Labor Day on September 2, Veteran’s Day on November 11, Thanksgiving holidays on November 28 and 29, Christmas holidays December 24-26, New Year’s Day on January 1, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on January 20, and Easter holiday on April 10. The Christmas break for students at Vance County High and Early College High will be December 19 through January 3. Their spring break is scheduled for April 6-10. Graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2020 at the two high schools are scheduled for Saturday, May 23.

The traditional calendar applies to all schools, except Vance County High, Early College High and E.M. Rollins Elementary. The traditional calendar has Monday, August 26, scheduled as the first day of classes for students and Tuesday, June 9, as the last day of classes for students. Traditional calendar schools will have the same holidays as the early start high schools. For traditional calendar schools, Christmas break for students will be December 23 through January 3, and spring break will be April 6-10. Students also will be out of school on Friday, April 3, which is designated as an optional teacher workday.

For the year-round school at E.M. Rollins Elementary, the calendar sets the first day of classes for students for Monday, August 5. E.M. Rollins will observe the same holidays as all other schools. The school’s Christmas break for students will begin with an early release day on Friday, December 20, and go through Friday, January 3. The spring break for E.M. Rollins students will be April 6-10.

The Summer Program for 2019 for students in elementary, middle and high schools was approved by board members. The Summer Program is designed to provide students with remediation if they scored a Level 1 or Level 2 on the end-of-grade assessment or if the student completed and failed a course with an end-of-course assessment for 2018-2019. For students in grades 4-8 for the end-of-grade assessments, they can repeat elements of a course and/or subject or have access to enrichment opportunities for the purpose of improving functional skills in the summer program. This includes additional science instruction for grades 5 and 8 and additional reading instruction for grades 4-8. For high school end-of-course assessments, students will receive instruction through Credit Recovery in the summer. Traditional calendar school students will have summer program instruction June 10-14 at their respective school sites. Year-round students will have summer instruction provided June 7-13 at E.M. Rollins, and Early College students will have instruction provided May 24-31.

The Lamplighter is published monthly by the Public Information Office of Vance County Schools. School news and story ideas are welcome and may be sent to: Terri Hedrick, Public Information Officer, 492-2127, thedrick@vcs.k12.nc.us.