Vance County High wins state video contest

Vance County High School won first place in the statewide video contest for high schools sponsored by the N.C. School Boards Association in early November.

Vance County High School Vipers accepting the award are shown in the photo above at the podium in the Koury Center in Greensboro during the NCSBA state conference on November 13. The students include, from left, Kahlil Kingsberry, Jaida Lewis, Arianna Long and Isaac Bell McLean.

Their award-winning video, a little over one minute in length, featured words they wrote to the popular song “This Is How We Do It!” The video has scenes shot around the school with lots of different students and some staff members. Theater arts students produced the video with help from educators Samantha Campbell and Destiny Ross. In addition to the trophy, VCHS was awarded $3,000 for its first-place finish.
Vance County Middle wins state video contest

Vance County Middle School also won first place in the statewide video contest for middle schools through the N.C. School Boards Association.

The trophy and blue ribbon were presented on November 12 during the NCSBA state conference held in Greensboro. Darlynn Oxendine, chairperson of the Vance County Board of Education, accepted the award on the school’s behalf.

At the board of education meeting on November 19, school representatives were on hand to officially accept their award.

Miguel Garcia, who was featured in the VCMS video, represented his fellow students in the recognition at the board meeting. He is shown in the above photo standing at center and holding the trophy and blue ribbon. The school also received a gift card for students involved in producing the video.

Joining Garcia in the photo are, from left, VCMS Principal Heddie Somerville and Administrative Intern Kedecia Stewart; Edward Ortega, assistant principal at L.B. Yancey and Pinkston Street elementary schools, who led students in producing the video; Oxendine; and Superintendent Anthony Jackson.

Like the first-place video from Vance County High School, the middle school’s video followed the theme “What’s Super About Public Schools” and was a little more than one minute in length. The VCMS video entry featured lots of special effects and a “back-to-the-future” look at public education. The video includes several scenes and students at VCMS, as well as students and classroom activities at a few more of our local schools.
Vance Virtual labs are open

School staff members and students at Vance County Middle School and Vance County High School have been busy over the last couple of weeks participating in training sessions in the schools’ new Vance Virtual laboratories.

The laboratories in the schools officially opened with special ribbon-cutting events on November 9.

The events were attended by officials at the local and state levels, as well as school administrators, staff members and students.

The VCMS “V2” lab includes 24 zSpace digital student learning centers featuring software that provides students with three-dimensional views of studies including the human body, a variety of animals and insects, landscapes, the Earth’s core and more. The 20 available student learning centers at VCHS provide students with the same types of in-depth studies. At each school, a group of student leaders wear their white lab coats as they help to train their peers on how to most effectively use the learning centers and the software to enhance classroom instruction.

The “V2” labs were made possible through a $400,000 grant secured from the Golden Leaf Foundation. Mark Sorrells, senior vice president for the Golden Leaf Foundation, joined dignitaries at both of the schools’ ribbon-cutting events.
Arulappan chosen VCS Educator of Excellence

Selvaraj Arulappan, an Exceptional Children’s teacher at Vance County High School, was chosen as the Vance County School's Exceptional Children’s Educator of Excellence for 2018-2019.

With his award, Arulappan represented our school system in the N.C. Exceptional Children’s Educator of Excellence Award competition at the state level and attended the N.C. Department of Public Instruction’s 68th Conference on Exceptional Children held in Greensboro November 15-16.

Arulappan has 13 years of experience as an educator and is a leader among his peers at Vance County High School. He received his master’s degree in special education from N.C. Central University.

He has a passion for working with students who are intellectually, physically and behaviorally challenged. He is very successful in engaging and connecting with students.

Vote for biscuits!

E.O. Young, Jr. Elementary School students are shown at right as they place their ballots in the “like” or “don’t like” boxes for biscuits they tasted with their school lunches on October 30.

The school was selected to have students and staff taste the new biscuit recipe that may be used in school meals throughout the district.

Teachers at E.O. Young used the opportunity to show their students how our election process works prior to real elections on November 6.
A ‘Future Focus’

The first of six “Future Focus” sessions for juniors and seniors at AdVance Academy was held on November 28, with Dr. James Hunter, a certified counselor with Vance County Schools, as the featured speaker.

LaShawn Hawley, career placement specialist with the district’s Career and Technical Education Program, is coordinating the sessions.

Hunter is shown in the photo at right as he talks with students at the school about their career choices. He told them their strategies for future success should include: researching colleges and careers; building and maintaining support from others; planning; setting goals; and persevering through obstacles.

‘Book or Treat’

More than 300 pre-kindergarten students in our 10 elementary schools visited the Administrative Services Center at scheduled times throughout the day on October 31 during our first “Book or Treat” event.

ASC staff members and colleagues from the Kerr-Tar Council of Government offices dressed as their favorite book characters and gave candy and treats to the students. Each student also visited the building’s library where they selected a new book to take home. Many of the students wore their Halloween costumes.
Educators receive Vanceformation awards

Superintendent Anthony Jackson presented Vanceformation lapel pins to local educators who have gone above and beyond their normal duties at the beginning of this school year. The recognitions took place on November 7 during a breakfast celebration at the Golden Corral in Henderson. Assistant Superintendents Dr. Trixie Brooks and Jennifer Bennett assisted with the presentations.

Photo at top right: Sylvia Gregory of L.B. Yancey Elementary, third from left, was honored. She was nominated by Sharita Jones, second from left. Joining them, from left, are Brooks, Jackson, Principal Carnetta Thomas and Bennett.

Second photo at right: Teresa Avant of School Nutrition at E.O. Young, Jr. Elementary, third from left, nominated by Reginald Shearin, second from left. Principal Marylaura McKoon is at far right.

Third photo at right: Mcshell Edmonds of Vance County High, third from left, nominated by Alex Parsons, second from left, with Principal Rey Horner, center.

Bottom photo at right: Dr. Jennifer Carraway of Clarke Elementary, center, nominated by Connie Krupa, second from left.

Bottom photo at left: Pamela Perry of Vance County Middle, second from left, nominated by Antoine Hargrove, who could not attend.

See Vanceformation on Page 7
Vanceformation

Continued from Page 6

Photo at top right: Natasha Rubin of Aycock Elementary, third from left, nominated by Lindsey Breedlove, second from left. Principal Kristen Boyd is at far right.

Second photo at right: Lori Kirkland of E.O. Young, Jr. Elementary, center, nominated by Principal Marylaura McKoon, second from left.

Third photo at right: Letitia Fields of Zeb Vance Elementary, center, nominated by Arnetra Terry, second from left.

Bottom photo at right: Novlyn Sweeney of Early College High, third from right, nominated by Kerry Morrison, third from left. Principal Travis Taylor, second from left, joins them.

Bottom photo at left: Rosa Bullock of E.M. Rollins Elementary, center, nominated by Principal Stephanie Alston, second from left.

See Vanceformation on Page 8
Vanceformation

Continued from Page 7

Photo at top right: Cassandra Evans of New Hope Elementary, second from right, nominated by Principal Harold Thompson, Jr., second from left.

Second photo at right: Lori Askew, a data manager in the Administrative Services Center, shown at center, nominated by Diana McCann, who could not attend. Marsha Abbott, director of Technology, second from left, recognized her at the event.

Bottom photo at right: Alfreda Murphy of Carver Elementary, center, nominated by Debbie McCune, who could not attend. Principal David Westbrook, second from left, recognized her at the breakfast celebration.

Bottom photo at left: Sharonda Bullock-Morton of Dabney Elementary, center, nominated by Principal Michael Putney, second from left.