



New Leadership for a New Direction



Change isn't always easy, nor does it occur quickly. It requires the time and effort of all involved to make a difference. The members of the Currituck County Administrative Team are prepared to weather the storm to see positive changes brought to the children of Currituck County and Currituck County Schools and better prepare them for the workforce or post-secondary education and life in the 21st century.

There have been many changes in the leadership roles across the district. Former Superintendent, C. Michael Warren, announced his retirement, effective in June 2009. July 1, 2009, Dr. Meghan S. Doyle was sworn in as the new Superintendent; the 3rd female superintendent to oversee the Currituck County Schools. Not only was a new superintendent welcomed, but also several principals were greeted at new locations. While not new to the Currituck County School System, Diane Newbern was in fact "new" to the Currituck County High School. Moving from Jarvisburg Elementary to Currituck County High School was a challenge that Newbern embraced and has set the tone for a tremendous year for students and staff alike.

Rhonda James-Davis also shifted her role from principal at Central Elementary School to Principal of Currituck County Middle School. Davis is no stranger to secondary education as she served as an assistant principal at CCHS prior to being at Central Elementary. Again, this is a change that has been embraced and is sure to bring positive outcomes



for both students and staff at CCMS.

With two elementary principals leaving secondary education, that left two openings those elementary schools.

Fortunate for the system, there were excellent candidates waiting in the wings as assistant principals, eager to fill those positions. Sharon Forbes, former principal, came out of retirement to begin her leadership of the Jarvisburg Jaguars, leaving Griggs Elementary as an assistant principal. Daun Belangia, an assistant principal from Central Elementary that spent half a year at Currituck County Middle as an Assistant Principal made the move back to her home at Central Elementary in January to continue leading the eagles down the road to success.

There's one thing for sure, there have been many changes in roles for our district leaders, but we are blessed to have these fantastic individuals in our district. With an administrative team that possesses the knowledge and determination to see change through, good things are certainly destined for the Currituck County School System.

We look forward to having our parents and community members working together with our district leaders to pave the way to a bright future for all of our students.

(Photo - Dr. Meghan S. Doyle is sworn in as Superintendent of the Currituck County Schools July 1, 2009 by Sheila Tyler, Currituck County Clerk of Court.)

Smart Goals

STATE GOAL: North Carolina Public Schools will produce globally competitive students

CCS-1.1: Increase high school EOC performance in all tested areas and subgroups by 15 percentage points by the end of the 2012 school year.

CCS-1.2: Increase EOG performance at all grade levels and in all subgroups by 15 percentage points by the end of the 2012 school year.

STATE GOAL: North Carolina Public Schools will be led by 21st Century Professionals

CCS-2.1: Each year, 100% of the instructional staff will receive professional development aligned with student achievement data and their individual growth plan.

CCS-2.2: Implement Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) at every school and at the district level to create curriculum maps and common formative assessments for use in providing feedback and interventions quarterly.

CCS-2.3: Increase job/school satisfaction in high school to 83% by June, 2012.

STATE GOAL: North Carolina public school students will be healthy and responsible

CCS-3.1: Reduce drop-out rates by 10% per year for the next 3 years.

CCS-3.2: Reduce discipline referrals and suspension rates by 10% per year over the next 3 years.

CCS-3.3: Implement 100% of the goals established by the Safe, Healthy, Drug-Free Schools Committee by 2012. (Wellness, Fitness, Safe Schools Action Plan)

STATE GOAL: Leadership will guide innovation in North Carolina Public Schools

CCS-4.1: Elementary School staff will conduct research on Ready Schools PreK-3 practices and build capacity to educate all children, with the goal of 85% of 3rd grade students being on or above grade level by 2012.

CCS-4.2: Elementary School staff will conduct research on implanting school reforms that result in an increase in the number of students entering middle school on grade level in reading and math.

CCS-4.3: Middle schools staff will research and implement middle school reforms that result in an increase in the number of students entering high school on grade level in reading and math.

CCS-4.4: High school staff will research and implement high school reforms that result in a decrease in the dropout rate and an increase in the % of students completing college preparation course of study and work-place readiness certifications.

CCS-4.5: Provide exposure to world languages for students in the primary levels moving towards enrollment in a language class in upper elementary by June 2012.

STATE GOAL: North Carolina public schools will be governed and supported by 21st Century Systems

CCS-5.1: Provide "Smartboards" in ALL secondary classrooms with relevant incentive based training. (Train first, then receive technology)

CCS-5.2: Provide laptops to all teachers with relevant incentive based training.

CCS-5.3: Increase percentage of parents and students who report, through surveys, being satisfied with Cafeteria quality each year.

CCS-5.4: Increase stakeholder satisfaction with auxiliary services (finance, maintenance, buses) by 10%.

What's Inside

Message from Superintendent	2
Preparing Future-Ready Students	3
21st Century Learning	4
Highlights 2007-08	5
Brighter Tomorrow	6
Student Achievement	7
Teacher & Teacher Assistants of the Year	8

Technology & Welcome

The technology of today is far more advanced than its counterpart of only five years ago. Students in the Currituck County Schools are fortunate to have access to the various technologically advanced devices that help to foster a 21st century educational environment.

Students at Moyock Middle School are taking part in an iPod Touch pilot project where students can use the iPod and many of its applications in the classroom for research, practice, and skill development. This project was brought to Currituck after Technology Director, Paul O'Briant visited other schools to see first-hand how the use these devices increased student access to technology and engagement in learning.

Many people in the community may recall

talk of the "SmartBoards" in the elementary classrooms. These are interactive white boards that integrate technology and learning in a way that excites students and increases engagement. Fortunately, the secondary schools are now being offered the chance to take advantage of this. Select teachers who chose to take part in special training will have a SmartBoard and data projector installed in their classrooms.

The J.P. Knapp Early College students, who take a portion of their classes online through the NC Virtual Public Schools, College of the Albemarle and UNCG's iSchool are participating in a 1:1 laptop project. This project mimics that of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where every college student has their own laptop. By giving each student a laptop, the

Early College is ensuring that all students have equal access to the tools they need to facilitate their 21st century education.

Finally, the technological update most visible to the community would be the implementation of a new website. The new site went live to the community December 1, 2009. Only the district site moved at first; the ten school sites will be moving to the new, more user-friendly site over the summer. This is just one more way that the Currituck County Schools are on the forefront of the technology available today. These updates allow students to be one step closer to achieving the Currituck County Schools' Mission: *Connecting with students, parents, and community, Currituck County Schools will provide a world class educational system that produces students of character, prepared for the future.*



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*Connecting with
Students, Parents,
and Community*

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Currituck County School System families and community members,

The beginning of 2010 brings with it the hope that our country and our community can move forward in the midst of still very uncertain economic times. The students of Currituck County have experienced the brunt of the economic meltdown from the increase in students receiving free and reduced lunch, an increase in homeless students, to an increase in students leaving our district because parents need to pursue job opportunities in other areas of the state and country. It is for that reason that the education of our students must be a central part of the work of our community.

In spite of these daunting realities, there is still a great deal to celebrate in the Currituck County School System. During the Spring of 2009, school, student, and community members converged to work on our new Strategic Plan. The most amazing product of that process was the development of our vision and mission. These statements came from the hearts and minds of our students and our community. It is the desire of our most important stakeholders that we place our emphasis on "Inspiring Excellence in Education" for our students. Those same students told us that the way to ensure that we achieve that vision is that we connect students, parents, and community members so that Currituck County Schools provides a world class educational system that produces students of character, prepared for the future.

Providing a world class educational system is an awesome responsibility. It is a duty that we take very seriously and one that requires a large amount of work. In working to attain excellence, there are a number of strategies that we are pursuing to ensure that our school system provides the highest quality education for our students. During the 2009-2010 school year we have implemented Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) to target students in the academic middle to help them get the support

that they need to get into and graduate from college. AVID is working already; we have already seen improvement for our students in AVID. For example, at Currituck County Middle School eighth grade students increased their academic averages by two points from the end of the 2008-2009 school year to the end of the first semester of 2009-2010, seventh grade AVID students improved their averages by five points and sixth grade AVID students increased performance from an average achievement level of 2.95 to a course average of 92.5%. These are just the results in one of our AVID schools. In addition, JP Knapp Early College High School continues to work hard to implement project based teaching and to help students learn skills that will serve them well in the 21st Century world of work where we will soon be sending them. Our Early College students have already been very successful in completing college level work with more than 80% of those taking post-secondary course work receiving credit. Currituck County Schools' Career and Technical Education programs are some of the most successful in the state. And finally, our elementary schools set the standard for the entire district in demonstrating the power of Professional Learning Communities and working together as professionals to improve student achievement. At the end of the 2008-2009 school year, every school achieved Adequate Yearly Progress, six of the ten schools achieved high growth (meaning that students achieved more than a grade level's worth of growth last school year), and three schools met expected growth.

While we are proud of these achievements, Currituck County Schools still have work to do. Although our high school was recognized for having the seventh highest graduation rate in North Carolina, we still must do more to retain our students and help them to be productive

graduates and citizens. Our teachers and our leaders are committed to continuously improving the quality of education for our students. We recognize that measuring student achievement is not only done by a multiple-choice test. Working in partnership with the Department of Public Instruction, we are evaluating our accountability and testing processes to ensure that we are measuring true 21st Century knowledge and skills.

Finally, we cannot do the work that we do without the support of our parents and the community. This includes our student buddies, parent volunteers, PTOs and PTAs, tutors at every grade level and guest speakers from local and regional businesses. We thank you for your support and ask you to continue your service to our schools and to let us know how you think we can be doing better.

Highlighted throughout this report are the successes and challenges that we face in the Currituck County School System. Please review this information and help us by being a part of the pursuit of our vision to Inspire excellence in EVERY student!

-Dr. Meghan S. Doyle

Secondary Schools Get AVIDized

According to census data only 13% of the population in Currituck County has a four-year degree. Many of our students have the potential to attend and be successful in college but may not have the support or understanding of what it takes to get there. AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a program that targets these students in the academic middle and provides the support to succeed in a rigorous high school and future college curriculum. Although every student may not want to attend college, jobs in the 21st century, even in technical fields, require competence in reading at levels higher than high school, and understanding & applying math concepts in ways never before required of high school graduates.

Currituck County's secondary schools have to provide a rigorous course of study to every student and help them to have the most choices possible upon their graduation from Currituck County Schools. AVID is one of the ways schools are striving to attain that goal. "As the former principal in an AVID middle and high school I have seen first hand the power that this system of support has in helping students achieve. It really is a perfect fit for the students of Currituck County. It was very helpful that our Board of Education already knew about AVID and was interested in seeing it be implemented in Currituck County. Without the support of the Currituck County Board of Education, this opportunity for our students would not be possible," remarked Superintendent Dr. Meghan S. Doyle.

Currently, three Currituck County secondary schools have implemented AVID elective classes.

**With AVID,
the possibilities
are endless!**

Currituck Middle School and Moyock Middle School have one class in each of sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. Currituck

County High School has one section of AVID in the ninth, tenth, and eleventh grades. Selection for AVID for the 2010-2011 school year will begin in March and April of this year.

Staff members at each of the three schools have attended AVID Summer Institute, helping them to develop the skills and innovative instructional strategies to provide the support needed by these students to be successful. AVID elective teachers and Site Team Members meet monthly to ensure that the AVID system is being implemented correctly and that the rest of the school is supporting these and all students using the AVID methodologies such as the "Binder" and through using Cornell Notes.

At Moyock Middle School, AVID students visited ECSU, where they got to watch a college football game, and trips to visit UNC and NC State are currently being planned. AVID students, along with their parents, participated in an AVID parent night where students and parents gathered to talk about their AVID experiences with one another.

The "raiders" of CCMS are showing off their AVID pride by writing Cornell notes, using Learning Logs, and asking higher level questions. CCMS AVID students are easy to identify by the smiles on their faces, their inquiring eyes and those large AVID binders. CCMS has 82 students in grades 6, 7, and 8 actively participating in an AVID elective class.

During the Tuesday and Thursday AVID tutorial classes, students come to class with their Tutorial Request Forms (TRF's) filled out with two questions regarding concerns they have about various core subject areas. In small groups facilitated by the AVID instructional tutors, students work through their questions to resolve the issue or concern. Students rotate within their groups to have each question resolved. At

the end of the tutoring session, students reflect on the groups' activities and write their reflections on the TRF. Exposure to colleges and career information highlight the AVID class. The students at CCMS have visited College of the Albemarle and Elizabeth City State University. The Vice-President of Instruction and Chief Academic Officer from COA, Mrs. Althea Riddick, came to speak to the CCMS group. Other college representatives are also coming to speak to CCMS AVID students.



CCHS hosted a welcome aboard celebration party for the new AVID students and their parents. Parent participation was great and the kids were excited about the new program. Students visited Barton College in Wilson, NC, where they toured the campus and had lunch with the college students. At Elizabeth City University, students toured the campus, had an orientation class and had lunch with college students. CCHS AVID students were also able to use the flight simulator and go into the campus radio station to see how broadcasting is done.

A special guest speaker, Deanna Fleming from the U. S. Air Force Academy, also a Currituck native, spoke to the AVID students about her many accomplishments at such a young age. She encouraged students to go to college and follow their dreams.

The strategies students learn in AVID are so important and useful in other classes that CCHS has implemented "Freshmen Stars of Inspiration" designed to reward students for using AVID methodologies in other classes.



Currituck County Board of Education

From Left to Right
 Krysta Messier, Student Board Member
 Amy Innes
 John E. Barnes, Vice-Chairman
 Pat Stretar, Chairman
 Sharon Martz
 Cathy Midgette-Hatcher
 Michelle Page, Student Board Member

Career-Technical Education Prepares Students for the Workforce

The mission of NC secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) is to empower all students to be successful citizens, workers and leaders in a global economy. CTE in Currituck County Schools is working to ensure that the students are achieving that mission.

CTE is broken down further into specific program areas, all of which are available in Currituck County. They include; Agricultural Education, Business and Information Technology, Career Development, Family and Consumer Sciences, Health Occupations, Marketing, Technology, and Trade & Industrial. Many of these curriculum areas also offer extra-curricular clubs or Career-Technical student organizations for students to demonstrate leadership.

Each CTE area works tirelessly throughout the year with hands-on relevant projects that enable students with invaluable skills that prepares them for the workforce. The accomplishments across the board are too many to list; however, some deserve special recognition.

The latest CTE project is interdisciplinary in nature, involving students from more than just the CTE class. Robert Barnes, Architectural Drafting Teacher at CCHS, lead his students to design a geodesic "dome" project.

The project is based on effort from the Math department in the design of the dome, Architecture II / III in the construction and assembly of the panels, and the English department in the documentation and production of a technical paper as to the process. The dome measures nine feet in diameter and stands five feet tall. It is made of 1/4" balsa wood and paper in a color scheme that will allow the students to see the geometry used in the design. The entire project is based on the concept that with knowledge and light materials, "green" technology can be developed and incorporated into modern society.

(PHOTO - "Dome.jpg - Robert Barnes' class works to construct the geodesic dome)

CCHS's Skills USA club sent several students from the Digital Media class to the National SkillsUSA Competition in Kansas City. Seniors Nathan Evers and Jazmine Colson competed in Television Production and placed 17th in the nation. Additionally, Juniors Kristopher Grauman



and Sean Botzenhart competed in Video Product Development and placed 12th in the nation. Although no one was awarded medals, every participant ranked in the top 1% of the nation in each of their respective contests.

Another CTE student organization sent students to a National Competition over the summer. Three students took home silver medals at the ceremony for the National FCCLA Competition held in Nashville, TN. Those students were also part of a TV spot filmed during a service project at the Titan Stadium with "Feed the Children".

Currituck County Schools CTE Director, Mrs. Monique Wilkins-Combs, firmly believes that CTE is certainly "Lighting the Way" and producing students that will meet and exceed the NC CTE Mission.