

MAY

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



16 May 2024

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NC Governor's School Selections



The Governor's School of North Carolina is a four-week summer residential program and is the oldest statewide summer residential program for academically or intellectually gifted high school students in the nation. The program is administered by the Public Schools of North Carolina, the State Board of Education, and the Department of Public Instruction through the Exceptional Children's Division. Less than 1% of high school students make it to the state level of nomination, and it is truly an honor to be selected.

We celebrate our students for this prestigious honor as North Carolina's most gifted and talented rising high school juniors and seniors that will have an opportunity to explore cutting-edge ideas and concepts in academics and the arts. Congratulations to our four students who have been selected to participate in the Governor's School this summer:

Isabelle Gallman – Craven Early College	Governor's School East at Meredith College – Superintendents Choice	Choral Music – Soprano 2
Victor Rivera Abaroa – Craven Early College	Governor's School East at Meredith College	English
Cody Young – Early College EAST	Governor's School West at Greensboro College	Spanish
Molly McGuire – New Bern High	Governor's School East at Meredith College	Visual Art

Young Authors



The North Carolina Reading Association sponsors an annual authors and illustrators competition across North Carolina for creators in kindergarten through twelfth grade, as well as a “Forever Young” category for adults. This year’s theme was “Reflections: Celebrating the Me I See.” Our state winners were recognized at a ceremony in Winston-Salem in March.

Congratulations to this year's Young Author Winners:

A.H. Bangert Elementary

Mary Ella Swicegood
Parker Schuckenbrock
Weston Rishel
Harper Moody
Charlotte Saenz
Hau Hung

Arthur W. Edwards Elementary

Sarah VanOver
Cassandra Wallace
Riley Conway

Creekside Elementary

Marley Franks
Emma Dowdy

Graham A. Barden Elementary

Harley Miller
Jayda Jones
Brianna Meyers

Havelock Elementary

Ah'nyiah Maisonet
Kamau Lewis
Janelle Calderon-Contreras

J.T. Barber Elementary

Sa'Miya Morris
Shaniah Coplon
Isabella Scerra

Roger Bell Elementary

Leland Vonderheide
Ashton Scordellis
Mordecai Buckout
Joya Barnett - Forever Young

Vanceboro Farm Life Elementary

Jaleel Davis
A'Niyah Ridgeway

W.J. Gurganus Elementary

Cameron Moore
Joseph McEvoy

Tucker Creek Middle

Indigo Vande Slunt
Zarhia O'Nan
Brock Yost
Lova'e Mewborn
Payton Felix
Seth Allen
Aubree Wittee - Illustrator
Tina Vande Slunt - Forever Young
Vicki Abbot-Stain - Forever Young

Havelock High

Heather Santos
Serenity Hite - Illustrator
Emily Hinman - Illustrator

New Bern High

Gavin David
Elizabeth Barber
Emma Follestad
Shania Carter
Jesse James - Forever Young

Central Office

Betsy Gatchel - Forever Young

Tucker Creek Middle TSA State Conference Winners



The Technology Student Association is a career and technical student association. The 2024 NCTSA State Conference took place April 18 - 20, 2024, with over 1,000 students from across North Carolina competing in over 770 unique judging events. Tucker Creek Middle represented Craven County well with 34 students competing in 12 different events. Twelve of those students qualified for TSA Nationals in Orlando, Florida, in June 2024 by achieving First Place in at least one event at the State level.

We celebrate this dynamic group of winners and their advisors, Ms. Misty Guthrie and Ms. April Mesa from Tucker Creek Middle School:

Brennam Bullard	2nd place - Video Game Designs
Virginia Butler	1st place - Inventions and Innovations
Gabi Coulson	3rd place - Mechanical Engineering
River Cox	3rd place- Problem Solving
Leo Cruz	1st place - VEX Teamwork Challenge 1st place - VEX Robot Skills Excellence Award
Gabe Cuthrell	1st place - Dragster
Wyatt Deuvall	3rd place - VEX Teamwork Challenge
Kaleb Gayle	2nd place - Mechanical Engineering
Liam Johns	1st place - Mechanical Engineering
Jacob Jones	1st place - Mechanical Engineering 2nd place - Dragster
Drake Kinney	1st place - VEX Teamwork Challenge 1st place - VEX Robot Skills Excellence Award 3rd place - Problem Solving 3rd place - Flight
Ian Loaza	1st place - Inventions and Innovations 1st place - VEX Teamwork Challenge 1st place - VEX Robot Skills Excellence Award
Caleb Luther	1st place - Flight 2nd place - Video Game Design
Josh Mallady	2nd place - Video Game Design
Jaston McClinton	3rd place - VEX Teamwork Challenge
Aiden O' Nan	3rd place - VEX Teamwork Challenge
Zarhia O' Nan	3rd place - Mechanical Engineering
Garrett Pait	2nd place - Mechanical Engineering
Ramon Rodriguez	1st place - Mechanical Engineering 3rd place - Dragster
Logan Rolsten	3rd place - VEX Teamwork Challenge
William Rossbach	1st place - VEX Teamwork Challenge 1st place - VEX Robot Skills Excellence Award
Brian Thompson	1st place - VEX Teamwork Challenge 1st place - VEX Robot Skills Excellence Award
Indigo Vande Slunt	2nd place - Career Prep
Mauricio Villarreal	1st place - Inventions and Innovations
Cayden Wade	3rd place - VEX Teamwork Challenge
Brock Yost	3rd place - VEX Teamwork Challenge

SkillsUSA



SkillsUSA North Carolina's mission is to empower its members to become world-class workers, leaders, and responsible American citizens. SkillsUSA improves the quality of our nation's future skilled workforce through the development of SkillsUSA Framework skills that include personal, workplace, and technical skills grounded in academics. Their vision is to produce the most highly skilled workforce in the world, providing every member the opportunity for career success. This year's SkillsUSA competition was held on April 23rd-25th in Greensboro, NC. Congratulations to our winners:

Connor Bernhardt	Craven Early College	1st place CNC 3 Axis Milling
Garrett Burke	Craven Early College	Bronze Cyber Security
Christian Cayton	Craven Early College	Bronze Cyber Security
Zackery Dunn	Craven Early College	1st place CNC 2 Axis Turning
Lauren Parsons	Craven Early College	Bronze Crime Scene Investigating
Brina Van Apeldoorn	Craven Virtual Academy	Bronze Crime Scene Investigating
Madison Lee	New Bern High	Bronze Crime Scene Investigating

All-State Honors Band



Students who placed at the top of their Eastern All-District Band were able to audition for the All-State Honors Band. They attended a clinic April 26-28th at UNC-Greensboro and performed in this elite ensemble. This is the highest honor a student musician can earn in North Carolina!

Congratulations to this phenomenal group and a special thank you to their Band Directors, Mr. Jorge Benitez (HHS), Blair Dyal (HHS), and Amanda Whitford (HJM).

Abigale Poindexter	H.J. MacDonald Middle	21st Chair Clarinet
Jacob Crocker	Havelock High	9/10 Chair Trombone
Grace Fortin	Havelock High	11/12 Chair Oboe
Kelci Sheley	Havelock High	11/12 Chair ContraAlto Clarinet

Havelock High FBLA State Competition



Havelock High School's FBLA competed in the NC FBLA State Conference in Business Calculations. Business Calculations provides members with the opportunity to gain knowledge around calculations in the business world. This competitive event consisted of an objective test. This event aimed to inspire members to learn about math in the business world. Students participated in various workshops and took recognition tests. We are proud to recognize Tyler Zobel for placing 4th in Business Calculations, punching a ticket to the National Leadership Conference later this summer in Orlando, Florida.

NC Future Business Leaders of America



Tonight, we would like to recognize Madison Foster, a student at Havelock High School, as a state officer for the NC Future Business Leaders of America. Her main duty is to be a contributing member of the team and provide support not only for fellow officers but also for North Carolina FBLA. She leads the Southeast Region, coordinates regional events, supports local chapters, serves as a liaison between chapters and the state FBLA, and promotes FBLA's mission and objectives throughout the region.

As a state officer, Madison attended all NC FBLA Board of Directors meetings, State Officer Training, the National Leadership Conference, the Career Technical Education Summer Conference, the Southeast Fall Regional Leadership Conference, the National Fall Leadership Conference, the Southeast Regional Competitive Events, and the NC FBLA State Leadership Conference.

Thank you and congratulations, Madison, for representing Havelock High School and Craven County Schools this past year as the Southeast regional vice president for NC FBLA.

Havelock High School ROTC



Havelock High School NJROTC recently had a team participate in the NJROTC National Academic Exam. The exam is taken by all NJROTC units nationwide. A total of 1,540 units participated in the exam. The questions on the exam are taken from current events, first aid, ships and aircraft, world events, and other various topics. They placed 273 out of 1,538 teams across the nation. This ranks them in the top 17.75%!!

Congratulations to the following cadets:

**Ladanian Boone
Corey Canty
Dylan Craig
Ava-Sophia Swinson
Zyir Anthony**

Havelock High School ROTC



Young Scientist is a publication to recognize the outstanding achievements of high school scientists. It is a product of the Vanderbilt Collaborative for STEM Education and Outreach, a group that is dedicated to enhancing scientific and technological literacy through the establishment of unique partnerships between Vanderbilt University scientists, K-12 educators and students, and the local and global science community. Tyler Zobel, Senior at Havelock High, is the published author of "Preliminary Results of Studying the Effects of the Xbox Kinect on Indoor Autonomous Exploration Robots: A Case Study" in the May 2024 release. The Board of Education is extremely proud of this accomplishment.

State Wrestling Champions



The 2024 NCHSAA North Carolina High School Wrestling State Championship was held on February 16th - 17th in Greensboro, North Carolina. Gerald "JJ" Johnson from West Craven High placed 4th.

Faith Bane from New Bern High School became one of the first female wrestling state champions when she competed in the NCHSAA State Championship in the 145lb. title match. She also became the first female champion for New Bern High School.

Faith is also recognized this evening as a National Champion for placing 2nd in the NHSCA Wrestling Nationals held on April 5-7, 2024, at the Virginia Beach Sports Complex. High School Nationals is considered the premier wrestling tournament in the country. Wrestlers from across the country compete to become All-Americans.

Congratulations to Gerald "JJ" Johnson and Faith Bane.

West Craven High Track and Field

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association 2A State Championship was held on May 20, 2023, in Greensboro, NC. Shalawn Yates was proclaimed NCHSAA 2A State Champion for the 300-meter hurdles. Congratulations, we celebrate you and this achievement!

N.C. School of Science and Math

North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics is a world-class public high school with statewide reach, empowering students with the skills and knowledge to design their own future. Specializing in science, technology, engineering, and math and with a robust humanities and arts program. NCSSM challenges talented high school juniors and seniors from across North Carolina through a residential program on its historic campus in Durham. Craven County Schools is proud to acknowledge three of our students selected to attend this prestigious school in the fall.

Congratulations to:

- Jacklyn Deuvall, Havelock High School**
- Reese James, Havelock High School**
- Madelina Sawyer, West Craven High**

Advanced Degrees



As a district, we believe that the professional growth of our employees is essential for performance excellence. Just as we celebrate the accomplishments of our student leaders in and out of the classroom, likewise, we celebrate the achievements of our adult classroom leaders as well. Employees who earn advanced degrees show commitment to the vision of the school district. Completing a program of study reflects their desire to be involved in professional growth, increase their impact on student learning, and possibly assume positions as school leaders. This is also applicable to our teacher assistants who return to school, complete a degree, and obtain a teaching license.

Tonight, we would like to recognize:

Nataleigh Fabian	Havelock High	Masters in Education: Special Education	East Carolina University
Kendall Green	West Craven Middle	Masters in Education concentrating in Education Administration	Strayer University
Dr. Andrea Midgette	Craven Early College	Doctor of Education	Brenau University
Dina Thompson	Tucker Creek Middle	Masters in Strategic Communication	East Carolina University
Renaë Willis	Grover C. Fields Middle	Masters in School Administration	Gardner-Webb University

National Board of Certified Teachers



We each remember the great teachers who touched our lives, kindled our interests, and challenged us to do our best. Great teachers exhibit deep concern and love for children, and they convey a passion for the subjects they teach while captivating their students with that passion. These teachers approach their work with creativity and imagination, constantly striving to improve.

Created by educators and policymakers in 1987, National Board Certification is the highest credential in the teaching profession. A teacher-driven, voluntary process established by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. As a result of the National Board Certification process, teachers, like professionals in other fields, demonstrate that they meet the highest standards for their profession through a demanding performance assessment.

The Craven County School System is proud to spotlight the following teachers who recently achieved National Board Certification:

**Teresa Lane - Creekside Elementary
Kelly Messer - Creekside Elementary
Laura Wilson - Roger Bell New Tech Academy
Hannah Cox - New Bern High
Robbyn Lee - New Bern High**

Congratulations on this achievement!

NCASBO School Business Management Academy

North Carolina Association of School Business Officials provides customized certification training programs through their NCASBO Academy program. School bookkeepers and instructional support staff learn about various topics to include accounting, principles, internal controls, payroll accounting, budgeting, public relations and communications skills, ethics, contract law, and purchasing law. School Leaders and Directors learn about school law, finance management, internal controls, human resource and payroll management, and school accounting and budgeting.. The following list represents Craven County Schools staff members who completed these training programs within the past year.

Tonight we celebrate their accomplishment in earning this certification.

School Finance Manager Certification
Jessica King, Central Office
Jasmine Roach, Central Office

NCCAT CTE Teacher of the Year

The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching CTE Teacher of the Year process was developed to honor and retain excellent CTE teachers and education leaders in North Carolina public schools and public charter schools. To be eligible for this prestigious honor, each district nominates a CTE teacher who holds at least 5 years of teaching in an NC public school, is employed full-time as a CTE teacher during the nomination year, and must teach students directly for at least 70% of the time. This year, Misty Guthrie from Tucker Creek Middle was nominated to represent Craven County Schools for the 2024 NCCAT CTE Teacher of the Year. We applaud you for this special recognition!



Distinguished Leadership in Practice

Distinguished Leadership in Practice is a year-long rigorous leadership development program, aligned to the North Carolina School Executive standards and competencies. Craven County is proud of the following leaders for this prestigious accomplishment:

- Dr. Ronca Wallace – Principal of J.T. Barber Elementary
- Dr. Darryl Thomas, Jr. – Principal of New Bern High School
- Dr. Marlow Artis – Principal of Craven Early College



NCCAT CTE Teacher of the Year

The North Carolina Aspiring Superintendents Program is designed to foster continuous improvement in the public schools of North Carolina by providing training and leadership development experiences and activities through a six-day personal leadership effectiveness development program and executive coaching for professionals who aspire to become school district superintendents. The following district leaders recently graduated from this rigorous program:

- Dr. Shajuana Sellers, Executive Director of Secondary Education
- Dr. Hillary Boutwell, Director of Accountability and Information Systems



DARE Program

Tonight, we recognize the Craven County ABC Board for their support of the DARE program funding in our schools with a grant award of \$24,000 for the 2023-24 school year to Partners In Education. We are also recognizing the Sheriff's office & our DARE officers for deploying this program.

The 2023-24 school year is our third year of implementing the DARE program through a partnership with the ABC Board, PIE, Craven County Schools, & the Sheriff's office. In this third year, with our increased funding from ABC of \$15,000 to \$20,000, we expanded the program to all 15 of our elementary schools & our 5 middle schools. We want to note that the ABC Board believes so strongly in DARE, they are funding \$4,000 for the 2024 Summer Camp program.

We all agree there is a need in our schools to address drug & alcohol abuse. The DARE curriculum emphasizes teaching detailed information about specific drugs & their adverse effects based on prevention science. In addition, our DARE officers are trained to teach the DARE curriculum, thereby putting a local "human face" on drug prevention in schools. These DARE officers do a fantastic job in our schools and make a difference in our student's lives every day.

The DARE program highlights interaction with the DARE officers & an emphasis on facilitation rather than a static presentation model. Students spend most class time working in small cooperative learning groups, guided by the DARE officer as they apply a decision-making model to develop their own unique ways of positively addressing high-risk situations in their lives.

Thank you to the following for making this important educational program possible:

- Craven County ABC Board
- Chairman Chagnon
- Sheriff Hughes
- DARE officers—Sgt Detwiler, Sgt Moore, Corp Beacham, Corp Bullock, Corp Dipietro, Corp Best, Corp Cole, and Corp Rose
- PIE Board Members



Optimum Tech Grant

Tonight we spotlight the funder & the winner of the Optimum Tech Grant for making a significant impact on Craven County Schools through our local nonprofit, Partners In Education. This partnership made it possible to award \$3,000 to Vanceboro Farm Life Elementary!

PIE created the Technology Grant Program with Optimum to address the needs for innovative technology in our classrooms. This grant has integrated Virtual Reality (VR) technology into Vanceboro Farm Life to allow students to explore and interact with educational content in a dynamic and immersive way. Learning through experience can boost knowledge retention by up to 75%. We only remember 10% of what we read, but can retain 90% of what we experience. This grant allowed us to purchase 60 VR headsets, along with the necessary software and educational content to create a comprehensive VR learning program. The VR headsets are being utilized across various grades and subjects, enabling students to engage with virtual field trips, historical simulations, scientific explorations and so much more.

Congratulations to all that made this grant possible:

- Optimum
- Partners In Education
- Vanceboro Farm Life Elementary-Tiffany York, Principal and Ciara DiNapoli, Lighthouse Coordinator, MTSS Coordinator, and Teacher

We celebrate Ms. York and Ms. DiNapoli on your outstanding work and how exciting for our Vanceboro Raiders to experience the world through virtual reality! Thank you, Optimum for funding this grant and PIE for coordinating the funding. Together we are partners!

