

Chesterfield County Public Schools

A LOOK  
BACK AT

2014 - 2015



# School division successes



## Chromebooks enable anytime, anywhere learning.

- In 2014, Chesterfield County Public Schools provided about 14,000 Chromebooks to middle school students. In addition to using the computers throughout the school day, students take them home so they can learn anytime, anywhere. After high school students receive Chromebooks in the fall of 2015, this initiative will have placed 32,000 Chromebooks into the hands and homes of Chesterfield students. This is a huge step forward with blended learning — and it was accomplished within existing budget limitations.
- For the 2014-15 school year, every school within Chesterfield County Public Schools is accredited. The Virginia Department of Education establishes accreditation status each year based on student achievement on Standards of Learning tests taken during the previous school year.
- Chesterfield County Public Schools pass rates on Standards of Learning tests continue to exceed or meet state averages in the “all students” category, according to 2013-14 school year testing results released by the Virginia Department of Education. Highlights from the state report also show that Chesterfield County Public Schools demonstrated increases on mathematics tests. Students with disabilities, as well as white and black students, outperformed their state peers on every test as well. Chesterfield County Public Schools students surpassed state averages in 28 testing categories, and were within one point of the state average on nine other tests. Mathematics pass rates increased or remained the same across the board when compared to last year’s results, while reading pass rates were relatively flat in most categories.
- Chesterfield County Public Schools hired 429 new teachers for the 2014-15 school year: 180 in elementary schools, 139.3 in high schools, 47.6 in middle schools and 63 in special education. The teaching positions

include 111 new hires designed to strategically reduce elementary class sizes in targeted grades and at targeted schools and to provide middle schools with more flexibility with electives.

- The old Clover Hill High School facility on Hull Street Road was transformed into a sparkling, state-of-the-art home for the Career and Technical Center @ Hull. Completed for about a third of what it would cost to build a new facility, the Career and Technical Center @ Hull opened in September 2014. The second technical center allowed about 400 additional students to enroll in career and technical education courses. The new school offers 11 new fields, including firefighting, global logistics, homeland security, physical therapy and barbering, and replicates four courses offered at the Career and Technical Center @ Courthouse, including culinary arts and veterinary services. The 197,000-square-foot facility also houses Academy 360, which helps struggling eighth-graders catch up academically so they can start high school on time. The building also functions as more than a school: staff members from the Fulghum Center and the Instruction Division Center moved their offices to the Career and Technical Center @ Hull in October 2014, and this community asset also includes a conference center and auditorium.



## The Career and Technical Center @ Hull opened in 2014.

- The Chesterfield County School Board re-started community discussions about school starting times, wellness and sleep in 2014.
- The 2014-15 back-to-school video featured tributes to teachers and school staff members and “Happy” participation from every school.
- STEAM has exploded across Chesterfield County Public Schools, causing the annual STEAM fair to split into two events in 2015: STEAM Expo for middle and high schools and STEAMmania for elementary schools.



**STEAM is exploding throughout Chesterfield schools.**

STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art and math, and STEAM instruction is one strategy the district is using to engage students and achieve Goal 1 of its strategic plan: “All learners will acquire, analyze, synthesize and evaluate information to solve meaningful problems and to achieve success as productive, thriving global citizens. Students will learn through active engagement, collaboration and exploration of personal interests, talents and ambitions across disciplines.”

- In 2015, the third year of Sports Backers’ Active RVA Fitness Awards, Chesterfield County Public Schools won more awards than any other local school system: 28. Sports Backers particularly recognized Elizabeth Davis Middle School as the Active RVA Outstanding School of the Year. These schools were honored for implementing innovative programs to promote physical activity and for serving as wellness role models for the community. In addition to recognizing schools, Sports Backers also recognized employers for promoting physical activity and Chesterfield County Public Schools and Chesterfield County government earned Active RVA certification in that category. These schools were honored as Active RVA Certified Schools in 2015: Bellwood Elementary, Bon Air Elementary, Marguerite Christian Elementary, Clover Hill Elementary, Crestwood Elementary, Davis Elementary, Gates Elementary, Enon Elementary, Evergreen Elementary, Elizabeth Scott Elementary, Alberta Smith Elementary, Spring Run Elementary, Swift Creek Elementary, Bettie Weaver Elementary,

Woolridge Elementary, Bailey Bridge Middle, Carver Middle, Elizabeth Davis Middle, Falling Creek Middle, Manchester Middle, Midlothian Middle, Robious Middle, Salem Church Middle, Swift Creek Middle, Tomahawk Creek Middle, Bird High, Chesterfield Community High and Midlothian High.

- Chesterfield County Public Schools won a Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials International for its FY 2015 budget document. Meritorious Budget Awards promote and recognize excellence in school budget presentation and enhance school business officials’ skills in developing, analyzing and presenting a school system budget. After a rigorous review by professional auditors, the award is conferred only on school districts that have met or exceeded the program’s stringent criteria.
- The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada awarded its Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to Chesterfield County Public Schools for its FY 2015 budget document. The association stated, “The award represents a significant achievement. ... It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.”
- The annual Fine Arts Festival features examples of visual arts and performing arts. On display are paintings, drawings, sculptures and other visual art created by students in the 63 schools of Chesterfield County Public Schools. On stage are student performers, including jazz bands, drama festival, choruses, musical ensembles, guitarists and drummers.



**Students from every school show their creativity at the annual Fine Arts Festival.**

- Over the summer of 2014, Chesterfield elementary students read 5 million minutes in the Washington Redskins Read Across Richmond program. Winterpock Elementary logged the most minutes — 429,053 — and won a Redskins reading rally. Secondary students read 1.3 million minutes over the summer, meaning that Chesterfield County Public School students spent 6.3 million minutes reading during the summer of 2014.
- The school division was awarded \$38,505 in 2014 in a Safe Routes to School grant to support active transportation, like biking or walking.
- In October 2014, Virginia Living magazine named Chesterfield County Public Schools one of the best school districts in Virginia.
- In 2015, representatives of about 200 local organizations attended the annual business and community partners appreciation event. The partners of the year are MEGA Mentors for supporting students, Martin's Food Markets for supporting schools and Haley Automotive Group for supporting families.
- Each year during the College and Career Ready initiative, all students in Chesterfield County Public Schools envision their futures. The program includes energetic, hands-on exploration to help students of all ages answer the timeless question, "What will I be when I grow up?"
- In 2015, for the second year in a row, the school system invited parents and students to a Food Fair to sample items being considered for school lunches and breakfasts. Feedback from the hundreds of participants will help shape menus, adding healthier and less-processed foods.



**The Washington Redskins make summer reading exciting.**

- Each April, Chesterfield County Public Schools is part of a central Virginia initiative to register children for kindergarten on the same day.
- Chesterfield County Public Schools is expanding prekindergarten by 144 students and plans to enroll a total of 569 prekindergartners for the 2015-16 school year.
- About 200 families participate each time Table Talk: Meals With Meaning is offered. This parent information program offers ideas and resources that strengthen families. In addition to districtwide Table Talks, the program is being replicated in individual schools and feeder patterns.
- SAT and ACT scores are steady in Chesterfield County Public Schools. College entrance exams taken by the Class of 2014 led to these scores:
  - 502 in SAT critical reading
  - 501 in SAT math
  - 477 in SAT writing
  - 21.9 in ACT composite
  - 21.4 in ACT English
  - 22.3 in ACT reading
  - 21.7 in ACT math
  - 21.5 in ACT science
- Three prekindergarten classes at Falling Creek Elementary and one at Harrowgate Elementary implemented the Wolf Trap method of integrating arts into learning in 2015.



**At the second annual Food Fair, parents and students sampled items being considered for school menus.**



**A resource fair attracted hundreds of parents and teachers.**

- Hundreds of parents and teachers benefited from a 2015 resource fair for students with disabilities organized by the Parent-Teacher Resource Center.
- Whack-A-Watt, an energy conservation competition among Chesterfield County middle schools, won a 2015 Outstanding Achievement in Local Government Innovation Award from the Alliance for Innovation.
- A Transition Resource Fair offered information for middle and high school students with disabilities and their parents and teachers in April 2015.
- As of 2014-15, 28 Chesterfield County schools have WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students), a program that encourages fathers and other men to volunteer in schools.
- Audits consistently prove that Chesterfield schools are efficient and effective. Based on student enrollment, Chesterfield is among the country's 100 largest school systems but still keeps costs low. In FY 2014, Chesterfield County spent less per student than all but seven of Virginia's 132 public school systems. A 2010 efficiency audit found Chesterfield County Public Schools to be "a very well-run school division" operating at 99.3 percent efficiency.
- In 2014-15, the school division and schools sent about 4 million phone/digital messages through a parent notification system, including school closing information, emergency information and details about getting involved in schools.
- The percentage of students graduating in four years from Chesterfield County Public Schools continues to increase and outpace the state average. The on-time graduation rate of Chesterfield County Public Schools was 91.4 percent in 2014. That is an increase from 90.2

percent in 2013 and continues an upward climb of almost 5 percentage points since 2011. Chesterfield County continues to outpace Virginia's on-time graduation rate of 89.9 percent in 2014. In addition to overall improvement, Chesterfield County rates also rose for the majority of demographic groups, including these groups:

- In 2014, 90 percent of black students graduated in four years, advancing from 89 percent in 2013.
- In 2014, 93 percent of white students graduated in four years, advancing from 91 percent in 2013.
- In 2014, 93 percent of female students graduated in four years, advancing from 92 percent in 2013.
- In 2014, 90 percent of male students graduated in four years, advancing from 88 percent in 2013.

- Two programs within Chesterfield schools won 2014 recognition from the National Association of Counties:
  - Etrick Medication Assistance is a public-private partnership of Communities in Schools of Chesterfield, Chesterfield Social Services and the Etrick Neighborhood Business Foundation. It provides families with short-term financial support that provides access to prescription medication and helps them access long-term support.
  - Teen Ambassadors is a partnership of Communities in Schools of Chesterfield, Chesterfield Mental Health and Chesterfield SAFE. The program matches high school students with elementary students, and they meet for homework assistance, mentoring and substance abuse prevention.
- Chesterfield County Public Schools' reorganized training program for bus drivers won the Pupil Transportation Safety category of the 2014 Governor's Transportation Safety Awards. This is the third time Chesterfield County Public Schools has won the Pupil Transportation Safety award. Earlier wins came in 2006 and 2001.



**The bus driving training program won a 2014 award.**

- Almost 4,400 students graduated in 2014 from Chesterfield County high schools: 60 percent earned advanced diplomas, and 83 percent planned to continue their education. The Class of 2014 earned \$24.3 million in scholarships.
- Advanced Placement classes offer intense academic experiences; the number of students taking at least one AP class increased to 4,082 in 2013-14 from 2,699 in 2006-07.
- High school students have the opportunity to take dual enrollment classes that carry college credit; dual enrollment registrations increased to 2,265 in 2013-14 from 381 in 2001-02.
- Hundreds of businesses, faith groups and organizations partner with schools, and thousands of individuals volunteer annually. In 2013-14, school supporters volunteered 51,905 hours (\$1.3 million estimated value).
- Almost 72 percent of all 2014 graduates enrolled in at least one career and technical education class during their middle or high school years.



**Almost 72 percent of 2014 graduates enrolled in at least one career and technical education class.**

- Communities In Schools of Chesterfield renewed its accreditation in 2015 through the national organization's Total Quality System. This means that the practices, data, sites and effectiveness of CIS of Chesterfield have been thoroughly examined and found to meet the highest standards. CIS of Chesterfield first earned accreditation in 2010.
- Since 2009, the Bravo! Awards have recognized achievements made by alumni of Chesterfield schools; about half a dozen outstanding alumni are chosen each year by the Chesterfield Education Foundation.



**There were almost 4,400 graduates in 2014.**

- 6 million meals are served each year in school cafeterias.
- From Crayons to Computers is a free store for employees of Chesterfield County Public Schools. Individuals, businesses and groups donate items they no longer want, then teachers and school employees take whatever they can use.
- Almost 400 people attend a prom held each spring for senior adults, sponsored by Chesterfield County Public Schools, Chesterfield County Senior Advocate and Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department.
- Through a longtime partnership with the Midlothian Rotary Club, two students from each school are honored annually as Students of the Year for demonstrating citizenship and the school division's core values of respect, responsibility, honesty and accountability.



**Students of the Year demonstrate the core values.**

# School successes



**Winterpock Elementary is the fifth Chesterfield County school to achieve National Blue Ribbon status.**

- In September 2014, the U.S. Department of Education named Winterpock Elementary a National Blue Ribbon School. Only 337 schools were honored nationwide. The National Blue Ribbon program recognizes public and private elementary, middle and high schools for their overall academic excellence or for their progress in closing achievement gaps. Winterpock Elementary achieved National Blue Ribbon status as an exemplary high performing school. Winterpock Elementary is the fifth Chesterfield County school to achieve National Blue Ribbon status: Grange Hall Elementary was honored in 2009, Robious Elementary in 2005, Clover Hill Elementary in 2003 and James River High in 2000.
- In 2014, Elizabeth Scott Elementary was named a National Title I Distinguished School for closing achievement gaps. Elizabeth Scott is the sixth Chesterfield elementary school to achieve this national recognition: Bellwood won in 2011, Beulah in 2010, Harrowgate in 2006, Chalkley in 2005 and Bensley in 2002.
- A team from the Math and Science High School at Clover Hill achieved designation as Outstanding Winners in the 2014 High School Mathematical Contest in Modeling. Only eight of the 671 teams in this national competition achieved this top award. This success led to the Clover Hill team being one of the two teams representing the United States in the 2015 International Mathematical Modeling Challenge.
- Midlothian Middle mastered 213,181 words to take second place in the national Vocabulary Bowl. In 2015, seven of the top 15 schools in the country are in Chesterfield County: No. 2 Midlothian Middle, No. 4 Robious Middle, No. 5 Elizabeth Davis Middle, No. 8 Tomahawk Creek Middle, No. 10 Bailey Bridge Middle, No. 11 Manchester Middle and No. 15 Matoaca Middle.
- Falling Creek Middle was one of nine middle schools across the state chosen in 2015 to participate in after-school engineering challenges designed by NASA to promote science, technology, engineering and math. Using the engineering-design process and interacting with NASA experts, students attempted to solve real-world challenges facing the national space agency, including how to assist astronauts in peril, how to successfully parachute a spacecraft onto the surface of Mars and how to pack for a visit to the Moon.
- Chesterfield County is home to two of the 170 schools across the United States that were honored as National PTA Schools of Excellence for 2014-16: Clover Hill Elementary School and Robious Middle School were recognized for building strong partnerships with families. Research shows that when families and schools work together, student achievement increases, schools improve and communities grow stronger.
- W!SE (Working in Support of Education), a national nonprofit that supports financial literacy and readiness for college and career, honored three schools and five educators in Chesterfield County Public Schools for student achievement on the 2013-14 W!SE financial literacy certification test:
  - James River High, Midlothian High and Thomas Dale High are Blue Star Schools. Only 284 schools across the country achieved this honor by having a 75 percent pass rate on the W!SE test and having either a majority of students in a particular grade take the test or having the students who took the test achieve an average score of at least 80 percent.
  - Winners of W!SE Gold Star Teacher Awards are Midlothian High teacher Steve Hayward; James River High teachers Rose Malone and Alex Addison; and Monacan High teachers Monica Boehling and Tobie Peacock. Only 495 educators across the country achieved this recognition by having 90 percent or more of the students in at least one of their classes pass the W!SE financial literacy certification test.
- Hopkins Elementary won a 2014 Richmond area jingle contest and \$5,000. <http://www.michaelandson.com/jingle-submissions/>

- In the second year of an energy conservation competition among Chesterfield County middle schools, students and staff members used 68,536 kWh less than the previous month. This decrease in use relates to 82,997 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions and a decrease in costs of \$6,031. In 2015, Elizabeth Davis Middle and Salem Middle were the schools that cut their energy use the most during the Whack-A-Watt competition.
- Clover Hill High students won first place in the animation category at the inaugural Virginia High School League Film Festival in the spring of 2015. You can watch their film here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFjkipNTzw0>. Other Clover Hill High students won second place in documentaries and third place in commercial/PSAs.
- Chesterfield Community High's team won the Judges Award in its division in FIRST Robotics competition in January 2015.
- Manchester High's delegation won the Best High School Award in 2015 at the Model Congress Conference hosted by the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School.
- Students at Meadowbrook High, Matoaca High, Bird High and the Career and Technical Center @ Courthouse are involved with the Virginia Student Training and Refurbishing program. High school students refurbish donated computers, then provide the free computers to elementary school families to help bridge the digital divide.
- During the 2013-14 school year, 27 schools in Chesterfield County Public Schools held Jump Rope for Heart or Hoops for Heart events that raised more than \$170,000 for the American Heart Association. Here are the top schools:
  - Watkins Elementary raised \$40,825.48, making it the No. 1 Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser in Virginia and the No. 1 fundraiser in the mid-Atlantic region.
  - Spring Run Elementary raised \$28,472.76, making it the No. 2 Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser in Virginia and the No. 11 fundraiser in the mid-Atlantic.
  - Clover Hill Elementary raised \$25,318 and ranked fifth in Virginia.
  - Winterpock Elementary raised \$19,191 and ranked 11th in Virginia.
- Chesterfield County is home to one of the very few running events in the world that can be called wildly delicious. Since 2011, the Dunkin' Donuts Munchkins Run has combined eating doughnuts, running a 5K race and raising money for ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation. The annual event is hosted by Clover Hill High School and the school's Varsity Outreach Club.



**The second year of Whack-A-Watt conserved 68,536 kWh.**

- Manchester Middle students benefited from the C1 Coders program in 2015. Over 10 weeks, students worked with Capital One employees to learn software engineering principles and practices while building mobile apps.
- Cosby High's girls basketball team won back-to-back state championships in 2014 and 2015 for Group 6A of the Virginia High School League. In 2014, Cosby was named one of the top 20 teams in the nation by MaxPreps.
- Monacan High's girls basketball team won its first state championship in 2015. Monacan head coach Larry Starr was named Virginia's 4A Coach of the Year.



**Bird High football players can sport three-peat rings.**

- Bird High's football team won its third straight state championship in 2014.
- Midlothian High's boys cross-country team won its sixth state championship in 2014 for Group 4A.

- Midlothian High's boys volleyball team won the 2014 state championship for Group 4A of the Virginia High School League.
- Matoaca High's wrestling team won its second straight state championship in 2015. Three team members also won individual Virginia High School League titles during Group 5A competition.
- In 2015, Manchester High's boys indoor track team won the 5A state championship and brought home the school's first-ever track title. Several team members won individual state championships, including David Lucas in the 1,000 meter run, Zack Marshall in the high jump and the 4x800 relay team of Ben Taminger, David Lucas, Andrew Akright and Joseph Hewitt.
- Midlothian High won the 2014 Wells Fargo Cup for Group 4A in the Virginia High School League. This award goes to the school that achieves the best overall record in 27 sports, making the Wells Fargo Cup winner the state champion of state champions. In 2012, Cosby High won the Wells Fargo Cup for Group AAA.
- Clover Hill High dedicated its wind turbine in the fall of 2014. Paid for through grants and support from community partners, the turbine offers educational opportunities and supplemental renewable energy.



**Clover Hill High dedicated its wind turbine in 2014.**



**Cosby High and four other Chesterfield County school music programs achieved Blue Ribbon School status in 2015.**

- For a school's music program to achieve Blue Ribbon School status, the band, chorus and orchestra must each earn a superior rating during district assessments in March. In 2015, five Chesterfield County schools are Blue Ribbon Schools: Clover Hill High, Cosby High, Thomas Dale High, Manchester High and Midlothian High.
- Six Chesterfield County high school bands were recognized in 2015 as Virginia Honor Bands by the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association: Clover Hill High, Cosby High, Thomas Dale High, Matoaca High, Midlothian High and Monacan High. To achieve this honor, bands had to earn superior ratings at the VBODA Marching Band Festival and the District Concert Festival.
- James River High was awarded a Y Street grant to promote healthy lifestyles in 2014 by the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth.
- In 2014, Harrowgate Elementary received the Roald Dahl "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" Prize from Penguin Publishers and First Book — Greater Richmond.
- Elizabeth Davis Middle won a Let's Move! Active Schools Recognition Award in 2014.
- The National History Honor Society at Clover Hill High was named one of the Ten National Chapters of the Year in 2015.
- A team from Monacan High won first place in statewide HOSA competition in 2015 in the community awareness of concussions category.
- Monacan High won a HOSA nutrition competition at the 2014 Virginia State Fair by planning a full day of meals appropriate for teens, then creating a display of those meals. Team members were Health and Physical Therapy Specialty Center students in Ron Tuzzo's nutrition therapy class.

- Salem Middle's eighth-grade Honors Institute students won recognition from the National Park Trust in its 2015 Kids to Parks Day contest.
- In fall 2014, two Chesterfield County schools were in Virginia's top 10 schools when it comes to collecting Box Tops for Education. Clover Hill Elementary was third, and Spring Run Elementary was sixth.
- In 2015, three teams from Swift Creek Middle competed in the regional finals of the Future City Competition in Baltimore against students from Virginia, Maryland and Delaware as the culminating event of a project-based learning initiative. The students were tasked with designing a city of the future that focused on feeding their city's population for one year using sustainable agriculture technologies, clean energy and modern city planning techniques. The eighth-grade team received the Mid-Atlantic region's Best Utility Plan Award from Advantage Engineering, a Maryland based firm.
- In 2015, the Clover Hill High team won the Area VI Envirothon, a natural resources competition.
- Among the international exchange programs in 2015 is the German American Partnership Program between Chesterfield County Public Schools and a school in Erlangen, Germany.
- Elizabeth Scott Elementary was recognized in 2014 as a Title I Distinguished School by the Virginia Board of Education. Bellwood Elementary won this recognition in 2013, Beulah Elementary won in 2012, and Harrowgate Elementary won in 2011.
- Bensley Elementary won the 2014 Exemplary Reading Award for Virginia from the International Reading Association. Elizabeth Scott Elementary won the award in 2012.
- Manchester Middle won the countywide Battle of the Books competition in 2015.



**Manchester Middle won the countywide Battle of the Books.**

recent successes and recognitions • Chesterfield County Public Schools



**Matoaca High enthusiastically donates food each year.**

- Chesterfield schools donate tens of thousands of pounds of food to the Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Christmas Mother Program each year, helping feed thousands of people.
- In 2015, 14 Chesterfield schools won Virginia Index of Performance awards for advanced learning and achievement.
- The PTA of Gordon Elementary raised more than \$32,000 to replace playground equipment in 2015.
- Build-a-House connects Career and Technical Center @ Courthouse students interested in learning a trade with adults with disabilities who need a home. In 2015, students in carpentry, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, advanced CAD, Cisco networking and landscaping programs completed the third house.
- Matoaca High's yearbook won the highest award in Virginia High School League competition in 2014. Praised for excellence in concept, writing and photography, The Arrow achieved Trophy Class designation.
- Bensley Elementary received \$5,000 from the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries to add books and magazines to the school's library in 2015.
- In 2014-15, Chesterfield County schools won two of the seven Partners in the Arts grants from the University of Richmond School of Professional and Continuing Studies. Midlothian Middle won a grant for "Exploring Tone Through Other Worlds" by bringing together English, math, science, visual art, music and theater. Chesterfield Community High won a grant for "Curating Carver: Past and Present" to explore segregation through the lens of history at the school, which in the past was Carver High and Chesterfield's only secondary school for black students.



**Greenfield Elementary student Jacey Imbriaco won first place nationally in a Stock Market Game essay competition.**

- In 2015, Greenfield Elementary fourth-grade student Jacey Imbriaco won first place nationally in an essay competition that is part of the Stock Market Game. In the high school division, Clover Hill High student Sean Brooks won first-place in Virginia. More than 20,000 students participate each year in the InvestWrite student essay competition.
- Chesterfield County Public Schools performed well in regional Stock Market Games organized by the Virginia Council on Economic Education during the 2014-15 school year. In this simulated investing initiative, each team starts with \$100,000 and works to increase that amount.
  - In the yearlong Stock Market Game for high schools, Chesterfield County schools won all three awards: Winning first place with \$131,739 is Bird High's team coached by Pat Fore. In second place with \$129,301 is Thomas Dale High's team coached by Patrick Sweet. Taking third place with \$129,223 is Midlothian High's team coached by Madeleine Smith.
  - In the yearlong Stock Market Game for middle schools, Matoaca Middle teams coached by Rachael Janderwski finished second (\$108,773) and third (\$106,608).
  - In the spring Stock Market Game, two Chesterfield County teams won awards: Winning first place in the high school division with \$117,630 is Manchester High's team coached by Brian Krausse. Taking third place in the middle school division with \$104,934 is Midlothian Middle's team coached by Manuel Rios.
  - In the fall Stock Market Game, Chesterfield County schools swept the elementary division: First place (\$107,015) and third place (\$104,500) went to Bon Air Elementary teams coached by Suzanne Perry.

Taking second place with \$105,462 was the Greenfield Elementary team coached by Jamie Borowicz.

- In 2015, Clover Hill High won the Region 1 title in the David Ricardo Division of the Governor's Challenge on Economics. A team from Monacan High also achieved a high score in this competition organized by the Virginia Council on Economic Education. Both teams qualified for state-level competition.
- Midlothian Middle was the We the People state champion in 2013 and in 2011, took second place in 2015 and won third place in 2014, 2012 and 2010.
- Two Chesterfield County schools rank in the top U.S. high schools, according to the 2015 list of America's Most Challenging High Schools: Cosby High and Midlothian High. Only 11 percent of the country's 22,000 public high schools earned this recognition.
- When U.S. News and World Report magazine ranked America's best high schools in 2015, Cosby High ranked 689th nationally (25th in Virginia) and Midlothian High ranked 1,120th nationally (34th in Virginia).
- The 2014 Niche.com ranking of public high schools included Cosby, Clover Hill, James River and Midlothian among Virginia's top 100.
- The Career and Technical Center @ Hull won a Gold Design Award in 2014 from the Virginia School Boards Association's exhibition of school architecture. Swift Creek Middle School's auditorium won the VSBA's Excellence in Design Award in 2011, and in 2010 an addition and renovation project at Bellwood Elementary won a Gold Design Award.
- Carver Middle librarian Deborah Floyd and assistant librarian Stephanie Stargardt won the 2015 award for School Library Program of the Year from the Virginia Association of School Librarians.
- Three Chesterfield County schools were named 2014 Virginia Naturally Schools: Clover Hill High for the seventh year, James River High for the sixth year and Robious Elementary for the fifth year. Across the state, only 51 schools were recognized.
- Bensley Elementary is a model of academic success, regularly hosting school leaders who want to see its collaborative approach to reading and mathematics instruction, hear how teachers work cooperatively to help every student succeed and observe small group instruction. In 2014, Bensley was included in a study by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission seeking successful educational approaches.
- Manchester High is consistently honored by Jobs for Virginia's Graduates, a school-to-career program.

# Staff successes



**Swift Creek Elementary teacher Jimi Herd is the best art teacher in the southeastern United States.**

- Jimi Herd, art teacher at Swift Creek Elementary, was honored in 2015 by the National Art Education Association with the Southeastern Region Elementary Art Educator Award. The previous year, he was named Virginia's Elementary Art Teacher of the Year by the Virginia Art Education Association.
- Cosby High government teacher Renee Serrao won the 2015 Award for Teaching Excellence from the Virginia Education Association. This annual award honors an individual who demonstrates instructional expertise and creativity and exhibits leadership within the Virginia Education Association and the greater community. She is now in the running for the Award for Teaching Excellence given by the National Education Association Foundation.
- Cosby High history teacher Christopher Averill is Chesterfield's Teacher of the Year, as well as Chesterfield's High School Teacher of the Year. Robious Elementary literacy specialist Sherrill Kauffman is Chesterfield's Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Brianne Gunn is Chesterfield's Middle School Teacher of the Year; she teaches sixth-grade science at Falling Creek Middle.
- Chesterfield makes attracting and retaining the best teachers and staff members a priority. Working in Chesterfield schools are 2,093 teachers with master's degrees, 116 National Board Certified Teachers and 92 employees with doctorates.
- Bettie Weaver Elementary teacher Annie Babb was named Central Virginia Kindergarten Teacher of the Year in 2015 by the Children's Museum of Richmond.

recent successes and recognitions • Chesterfield County Public Schools

- Cosby High social studies teacher Nicole Winter is the 2014 winner of the Dr. Judy Flythe Teacher Leader Award, which honors the memory and contributions of Dr. Judy Flythe, former director of staff development for Chesterfield County Public Schools. The person who nominated Winter for the regional award said, "She exemplifies each of the characteristics of a teacher leader," noting that she began the freshman transition program at Cosby, helps students of all levels achieve academic success, is a National Board Certified Teacher and has won many educational awards.
- Year after year, employees of Chesterfield County Public Schools give generously to the United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg. In 2014, employees of Chesterfield County Public Schools pledged \$166,645 for the United Way. That is higher than the amount pledged by any local government in central Virginia, and it is more than double the amount pledged by any other school system in this region.
- Bird High history teacher Daniel Tulli was one of only two teachers in the United States to be selected as a C-SPAN Senior Fellow for the first semester of 2014. Tulli, who teaches Advanced Placement courses in U.S. government and in psychology, helped create resources for other educators to use on C-SPAN's free education website, C-SPAN Classroom.



**Tara Brunyansky was named regional Teacher of the Year.**

- Tara Brunyansky, who teaches chemistry and forensic chemistry at James River High, was chosen in the fall of 2014 as the top educator from approximately 12,000 teachers in central Virginia. For 12 of the past 18 years, Chesterfield County's Teacher of the Year has been selected as the Region 1 Teacher of the Year.
- Bon Air Elementary teacher Carolyn Prather won a 2015 Outstanding Educator Award from the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Richmond.

- Here are the 2015 World Languages Department awards:
  - Julia Perrow, Spanish teacher at Clover Hill High, won the Baskerville Award.
  - Valerie Beausergent, French teacher at Clover Hill High, won the Jane Crouch-Rieder Award.
  - Luis Girón-López, Spanish teacher at Bettie Weaver Elementary, won the Anne S. O'Toole Award.
  - Kaitlyn Allan, French teacher at Manchester High, won the Novice Award.
  - Charles Williams, fiscal technician at Bird High, won the Baskerville Community Award.
- Artsonia, an online gallery of student art, reported in May 2015 that Watkins Elementary ranked No. 2 and Elizabeth Scott Elementary ranked No. 3 in Virginia in terms of overall activity.
- In 2014, two of the three central Virginia Art Teachers of the Year teach in Chesterfield County Public Schools: Courtney Day of Bettie Weaver Elementary and Kelly Bisogno of James River High.
- Here are the 2015 Chesterfield County Public Schools Art Teachers of the Year: Sean Collins of Davis Elementary, Amber Kuper of Salem Church Middle and Amanda Berneche of Clover Hill High.



**Falling Creek Elementary Principal Pam Johnson was named Virginia's 2015 National Distinguished Principal.**

- Falling Creek Elementary Principal Pam Johnson was named Virginia's 2015 National Distinguished Principal. This award is presented each year to one principal in Virginia by the National Association of Elementary School Principals in conjunction with the Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals. In 2011 when she was principal of Harrowgate Elementary, Linda Wood won this award.

- Sarah Fraher, principal of Manchester Middle, was the 2015 Chesterfield winner of the R.E.B. Award for Distinguished Educational Leadership.
- Bryan Carr, instructional specialist for counseling services, was named Counselor Supervisor of the Year by the Virginia School Counselor Association in 2014.



**Manchester Middle Principal Sarah Fraher won R.E.B. recognition.**

- One of the ways that the Chesterfield Education Foundation supports Chesterfield County Public Schools is by providing MCD Grants — Making a Creative Difference in Education. The annual MCD program encourages all school system employees to submit innovative ideas of new ways to teach a concept, solve a problem, fulfill a need or inspire students. Over the past 18 years, the foundation has awarded 85 grants totaling \$330,000. For the 2015-16 school year, Molly McFadden, who teaches students with learning disabilities at Curtis Elementary, will receive an MCD Grant of \$5,000 to provide students with ADHD and others who learn differently an option to use a standing desk and Chalkley Elementary music teacher Bryan Sheetz will receive \$5,000 to support the Hands and Pans Steel Drum Ensemble.
- In 2014, the Virginia Association for the Gifted selected Susan Sennewald as the Region 1 Outstanding Teacher of the Gifted. A 10-year employee of Chesterfield County Public Schools, she teaches fifth-graders in the Center Based Gifted program at Hening Elementary.
- The Virginia Children's Engineering Council presented to Dr. Marlene Scott, principal of Watkins Elementary, the 2014 Visionary Leadership Award in recognition of her visionary leadership in fostering the development, implementation and expansion of children's engineering in grades K-5. To further honor Dr. Scott, the council named in her honor its highest administrative recognition: the Dr. Marlene C. Scott Curriculum and Instructional Leadership Award.
- Stefanie Robinson, who teaches first grade at Spring Run Elementary, won the Outstanding School Organics Program Award in 2014 from the Virginia Recycling Association for a school-to-farm composting program.



**Virginia Hendricks of Providence Elementary is Chesterfield's most recent Virginia Lottery Super Teacher.**

- Virginia Hendricks, who teaches second grade at Providence Elementary, won a Virginia Lottery Super Teacher Award in 2015. Only eight are given throughout the state each year. Here are Chesterfield's previous winners: Tim Couillard of James River High in 2014, Amber Kuper of Salem Church Middle in 2013, Kimberly Biley of Midlothian Middle in 2012, Summer Davis of Alberta Smith Elementary in 2011, Kimberly McKnight of Robious Elementary in 2010, Diane Healy of Watkins Elementary in 2009 and both Tina Bowman of Grange Hall Elementary and Carole Marable of Clover Hill Elementary in 2008 (when the awards program started).
- In 2014, Chesterfield County teachers won eight of the 15 R.E.B. Awards for Teaching Excellence, which come with grants to travel the world, pursue postgraduate studies or attend professional workshops:
  - Debbie Bailey, Carver Middle's social services department chair: \$11,000 to compare and contrast the geography, climate and infrastructure of Virginia, California, France and Italy and use this study as a model for a project-based lesson that explores the global interconnections of the world economy
  - Jennifer Booker, first-grade teacher at Swift Creek Elementary: \$8,000 to travel to Finland to compare and contrast that country's education system to that of the United States

- Anne Canipe, Cosby High teacher of history and medical law and ethics: \$12,000 to travel to Japan and China to visit international schools, attend the 70th anniversary commemoration of the atomic bombing at Hiroshima and visit China's Great Wall and Three Gorges Dam; this is her second R.E.B. Award
- Laura Clark, Bettie Weaver Elementary third-grade teacher: \$12,000 to expand knowledge and understanding of gifted students by completing a gifted endorsement and attending the National Association for Gifted Children conference and to participate in an eco-tour and school immersion program in Costa Rica
- Gregory Dommissie, U.S. history teacher at James River High: \$11,000 to travel to South Africa to better understand the parallels between American segregation and South African apartheid within the context of Sen. Robert Kennedy's historic 1966 visit to South Africa
- David Holicky, teacher of digital arts and 3-D animation at the Career and Technical Center @ Courthouse: \$11,500 to journey through the western United States seeking inspiration, ideas and examples of meaningful graphic arts
- Tara Krohn, second-grade teacher at Woolridge Elementary: \$11,500 to travel through Alaska's Inside Passage, villages and Denali National Park to create an A-to-Z photobook that features the geographical wonders, wildlife, adventure and culture of the last frontier
- Mary Page-Dailey, English teacher at Cosby High: \$12,000 to trace the birth of the Renaissance from its infancy in Italy to its coming of age in England and France through art, architecture and performing arts



**Anne Canipe (on left) was one of eight Chesterfield teachers to win R.E.B. Awards for Teaching Excellence in 2014.**

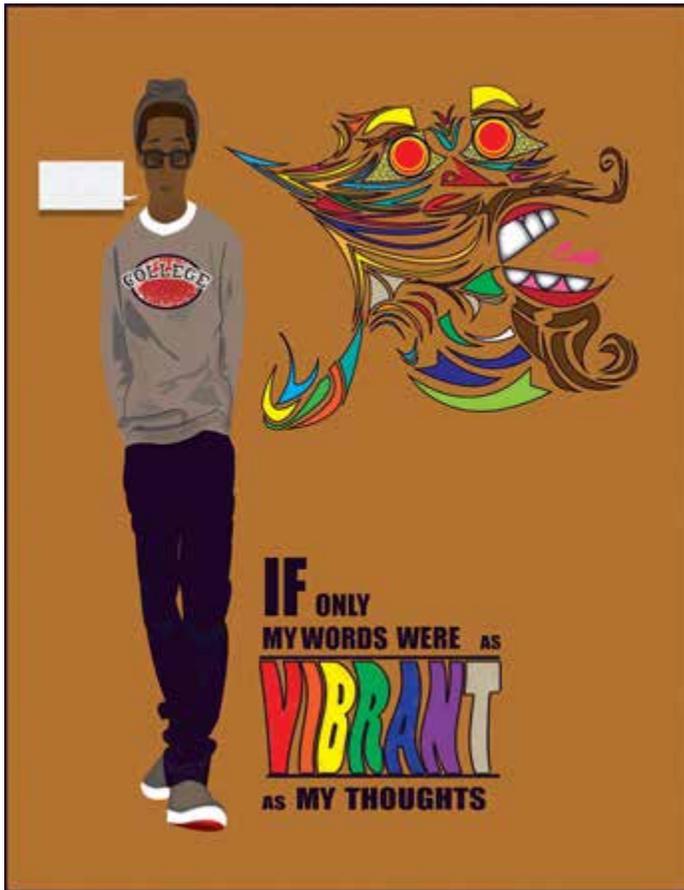
# Student successes



**Michelle Marquez of Clover Hill High keeps winning recognition for her behavioral and social sciences research.**

- For two years in a row, Clover Hill High student Michelle Marquez won big at a prestigious international science fair for high school students. In 2015, she won a first-place award in behavioral and social sciences at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair for her work titled “The Mapping of Emotional Dimensions: Toward a Neuro-Thermal Biometric System for the Diagnosis of Emotional Flexibility.” In 2014, she won the best in category award. The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair is the world’s largest international pre-college science competition; about 1,700 high school students from more than 75 countries, regions and territories showcase independent research and compete for \$4 million in prizes. Students earn the right to compete at the Intel ISEF by winning a top prize at a local, regional, state or national science fair.

- The MathScience Innovation Center organizes the Metro Richmond STEM Fair. In 2015, Manchester Middle student Muryum Yazdanpanah won first place in microbiology, and Robious Middle student Mackenzie Shearer won first place in physics. Five Chesterfield high school students won first-place awards; all of them attend the Math and Science High School at Clover Hill: Peter Wellman in physics, Jake TenKate in botany, Julie Wolver in chemistry, Emily Wroblewski in earth and space sciences and Michelle Marquez in behavioral and social sciences. In 2015 for the second year in a row, Michelle was named one of the four grand prize winners of the Metro Richmond STEM Fair and went on to compete at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, where she won a first-place award in her category.
- Two students set a world record by launching almost 4,000 model rockets simultaneously on Oct. 26, 2014. Midlothian High student Dylan Whitesel and Clover Hill High student Sanzio Angeli also raised \$20,000 for breast cancer research.
- One of 32 U.S. students chosen for the 2015 Jet-Memorial Program of the Japan Foundation attends Clover Hill High. Josephine Dennis will spend two weeks in Japan this summer. She is the second Chesterfield County student chosen for this program.
- Da-Lan Pham, an eighth-grader at Midlothian Middle, won a first-place award in 2015 from the Virginia Association of Teachers of English for a book trailer she created for John Green’s novel, “An Abundance of Katherines.”
- Cosby High field hockey, track and lacrosse player Cecie Negron won the Group 6A Female Athlete of the Year Award from the Virginia High School League in 2015. Only 19 students from across the state are recognized each year with Allstate Foundation/VHSL Achievement Awards, the highest honors given by VHSL. The awards honor students who excel in the classroom and in athletic and academic activities.
- Clover Hill High student Bryce Badura was a distinguished finalist for Virginia in the 2015 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. Fewer than 400 students were honored across the country.
- For an essay about Mother Teresa that he wrote as an eighth-grader at Elizabeth Davis Middle, Jacob Belcher won first place in the middle school category of the 2014 Peace Essay Contest organized by the Richmond Peace Education Center. More than 450 students in grades K-12 entered the contest.



**Patrick Bender of James River High and the Career and Technical Center @ Courthouse won a national art award.**

- Patrick Bender, a senior at James River High and the Career and Technical Center @ Courthouse, won a national Gold Medal in digital art in the 2015 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for his artwork titled “A Vibrant Thought.” In regional competition, Chesterfield County students achieved a total of 96 Gold Keys, 81 Silver Keys and 135 honorable mentions.
- Clover Hill High senior Calli Bellinger won the 2015 statewide Rumbaugh Oration Contest sponsored by the Sons of the American Revolution.
- Thomas Dale High student Manuel de Jesus Hernandez-Martinez was one of just 10 students in the nation to win READ 180 All-Star Awards in 2014 from Scholastic. Manuel’s family immigrated from Mexico and speaks Spanish. Thomas Dale High School teacher Amie Davies nominated Manuel for the award because he dramatically improved his reading level, set high goals and worked with an unwavering tenacity every day. Manuel’s hard work, his talented and dedicated educators and READ 180 helped him master English, achieve academic success and move toward becoming the first person in his family to graduate from high school
- The Virginia Association for the Gifted honors one student each year as Virginia’s Outstanding Student. Connelly Early, a seventh-grader at Robious Middle

School, won in 2014 for his leadership and efforts to honor students and educators who were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School and to take a stand against violence.

- In 2015, Clover Hill High senior Madison Hodge won the 4th Congressional District student art show sponsored by Congressman Randy Forbes. Her work is on display in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol.
- A short film by Clover Hill High student Michelle Marquez — “The Emotional Dimensions of the James River” — was accepted into the 2015 Cannes Emerging Filmmaker Showcase, New Haven International Film Festival and dozens of other film festivals.
- A PSA created by Manchester High student Courtnee Arrington was a finalist in the 2015 #not4me video competition organized by WTVR CBS 6. Courtnee’s “Drowning Dreams” video makes a powerful statement about underage drinking.
- The top speller in Chesterfield County Public Schools is Christina Longmire, an eighth-grader at Bailey Bridge Middle. The spelling bee runner-up is Russell Graviat, an eighth-grader at Midlothian Middle. Sixteen students from elementary and middle schools competed in the 2015 countywide spelling bee, which lasted 20 rounds. Only Christina and Russell were left standing when round 13 began. They correctly spelled mikado, prerogative, forsythia, détente, hypocrisy, egregious, basmati, archipelago, ocelot, soliloquy, philately and trattoria. In the 19th round, Russell misspelled blitzkrieg and Christina correctly spelled fusillade. Christina then spelled gopak in the 20th round to win. She was runner-up in the Richmond Times-Dispatch regional bee.



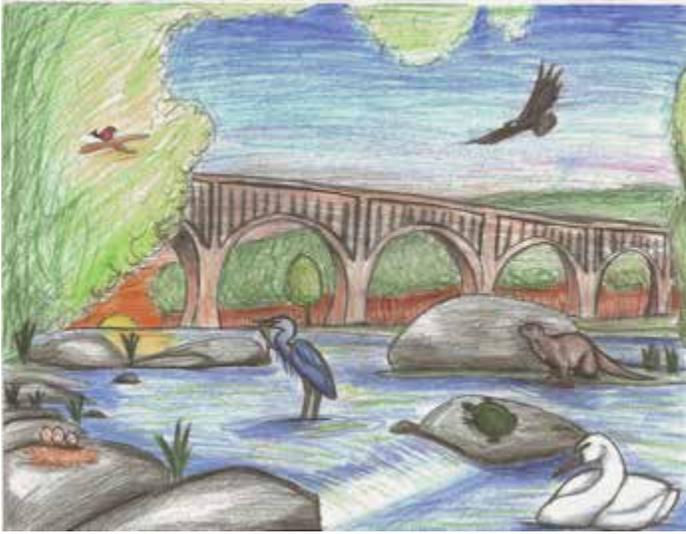
**Christina Longmire, an eighth-grader at Bailey Bridge Middle, won the countywide spelling bee.**

- Clover Hill High student Bryce Badura is a regional finalist in the Coca-Cola Scholars Program. Only 250 regional finalists are selected from more than 102,000 applicants for the 2015 scholarship program. He also was one of just 20 Virginia finalists for the 2015 Wendy's High School Heisman.
- Two Midlothian High students participated in the 2014 Thanksgiving parade in New York City as part of Macy's Great American Marching Band: tuba player Paul Budinger and horn player Rachel Feldpausch.
- Sixteen students from four schools in Chesterfield County Public Schools qualified to compete in the regional finals of the National History Bee, and four of those students advanced to National History Bee competition in June 2015.
- Carver Middle math classes taught by Victoria Layman ranked nationally in the Math Madness sponsored by TenMarks. Competing against about 10,000 other classes in grades 5-7, Carver Middle classes earned second place, third place and 16th place in 2014.
- Monacan High student Laura Griffith won the high school division and Robious Middle student Connolly Early won the middle school division of the 2015 Writing Extravaganza organized by the Richmond Area Reading Council.
- In 2014, students competed in Future Business Leaders of America events. Representing seven high schools and the Chesterfield Technical Center in regional competition, 97 Chesterfield County Public Schools students claimed 76 regional awards. In statewide competition, 11 students won awards. Two of those students — Midlothian High students Alexis Pinhard and Melisa Cirkic — will compete in Nashville in June at the national conference of Future Business Leaders of America.
- Meadowbrook High students won first place in the 2014 Student Media Festival of the Virginia Association of School Librarians for a video about the school library titled "The Heart of the School."
- A documentary film created by Midlothian High students won an honorable mention in C-SPAN's StudentCam 2015 competition. "Whom Does Medicaid Really Aid?" by Robert Cross, Matthew Franklin and Christine Sullivan was among the top 150 winners in this national contest. A Midlothian High team also was recognized in this contest in 2012.
- Career and Technical Center @ Courthouse student Jeremiah Parks won first place in the industrial motor control category of statewide SkillsUSA competition and went on to national competition in 2015.



**Robious Middle students won top awards during statewide Future Problem Solving competition.**

- Robious Middle students won several top awards during 2015 statewide competition of Future Problem Solving. The eighth-grade team of Ben Tuck, Pete Watson, Rory Stevens and Kevin Ivey won first place in the global issues problem-solving section. The eighth-grade team of Caroline Benedetti, Tolliver Mance, McKenzie Elim and Rachel Leipold won second place in the global issues problem-solving section; this team also won first place in the category of action plan presentations. Pete Watson individually won the George Wythe Award for the middle school division.
- Here are the National Merit semifinalists from Chesterfield County Public Schools for the 2015 scholarship program: Appomattox Regional Governor's School student Jonathan Spence and Maggie L. Walker Governor's School students Joshua Barlow, Megan Campbell, Lucy Grinnan, Carrie Hamilton, Sarah Holliday, Tyler Walker, Justin Wilck, Alan Zhang and Chuyi Zhou. Joshua Barlow and Tyler Walker went on to become National Merit corporate scholarship winners.
- Chesterfield County Public Schools has three of the 1,600 semifinalists in the 2015 National Achievement Scholarship Program, which recognizes scholastically talented black students: Appomattox Regional Governor's School students Sarina Harper and Allen Lucas and Maggie L. Walker Governor's School student Michael Thompson. Michael Thompson went on to become a National Achievement scholarship winner.
- The College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program honors about 5,000 academically outstanding Hispanic/Latino high school seniors each year. Here are the 2014 National Hispanic scholars from Chesterfield County Public Schools: Cosby High School student Abigail Park and Maggie L. Walker Governor's School student Victoria Herrera.



**Gabrielle Schofield of Tomahawk Creek Middle won first place in the 2015 James River Association poster contest.**

- Chesterfield students won three of the top four prizes in the What a Healthy River Means to Me poster contest sponsored by the James River Association in 2015.
- The Chesterfield Technical Center's chapter of Health Occupations Students of America won 13 awards during the 2014 statewide conference and seven students qualified for national competition.
- Traffic safety PSAs created by Clover Hill High students in Amanda Berneche's video class swept all the prizes in a 2014 contest sponsored by AAA Mid-Atlantic: Ethan Painter won first place, Nick Brown won second place, Tristan Knight won third place and Caleb Cosner won honorable mention.
- Bon Air Elementary student Kennedy Smith and Swift Creek Middle student Lucienne Nghiem were among the winners in a 2015 art contest sponsored by the Richmond Flying Squirrels.
- The Spring Run Elementary cheerleading team won first place in its division in the 2014 U.S. Finals National Cheerleading Competition.
- Cosby High seniors Holly Vandergrift and Dylan Bedsaul won the 2014 DECA Emerging Leader Honor Award.
- Chamiea Hagood of Davis Elementary was chosen as one of Virginia's Outstanding School Safety Patrols in 2015.