

# 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

THIRD EDITION



Bertie County Schools

November 2016



Photo courtesy of the Bertie Alumni Community Association.

A Year Of  
**'GREAT EXPECTATIONS'**

# Starting off the Year ...

## *With 'Great Expectations'*

The theme for Bertie County Schools for the 2015-2016 school year was "Great Expectations."

Guest speaker Richard "Chocolate" Santana shared on August 19, 2015 how his journey from an impoverished gang member to a successful college graduate all began and ended with expectations. When

crime and violence and rule-breaking and bad behavior was all that was expected for him, that is exactly what he delivered. But all it took was for one custodian to show him love and that love blossomed into inspiration and motivation and produced a productive citizen who wasn't even "supposed" to go to college.

Stereotypes play into our expecta-

tions, said Santana. He arrived to deliver his speech in a trench coat and dark sunglasses. But by the end of the speech, he had transitioned into a man wearing a white collared shirt with a neck tie.

Santana reminded teachers that from the moment a child steps into a classroom, the teacher has expectations. But he or she can set the expectations high in order to get more from their students. He also reminded teachers that they chose their professions because they wanted to make a difference in the lives of others. And he challenged them to do just that.



Mrs. Elaine White led Bertie County Schools last year. She retired July 1, 2016.

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

See how the 2015-2016 school year began with a look back at the message from Convocation.

Look at our schools from a glance.

The Curriculum and Instruction Department provides excellent opportunities for professional development.

Check out two stellar students!

See how our BMS Beta Club made a comeback.

Colerain Elementary School takes a unique approach to get students to read, read, read.

Learn about our Public Safety Cadet Program.

Join us for a Community Day event!

## **Julius Walker, Jr. - *Interim Superintendent***



Mr. Julius Walker, Jr. is the current interim superintendent for Bertie County Schools.

Bertie County Schools strives to provide the best quality education possible for our children, for they are our focus and our future.

Mr. Walker came on board July 1, 2016. He is a retired superintendent from Washington County Schools who

has served in multiple interim roles in his retirement.

"The Board sought a qualified individual with strong leadership experiences and educational skills to serve as interim until a permanent superintendent is seated, and we feel we have found that person,"

said Board Chair Tarsha Dudley. "We understand this process has been quite lengthy, however we are representatives for the citizens of this county, and it is our obligation to find the best suitable fit in order to move our educational system forward."

# Meet the Board

School board members are elected by the registered voters residing in Bertie County. Members serve a four-year term.

The BCS Board of Education meets the first Tuesday of each month in open session at 6:30 p.m. in the board room at the Central Services Complex.

Every January, the North Carolina School Boards Association and school districts across the state commemorate the work of school boards.

While we make a special effort each January to show appreciation to our school board members, we recognize that their contributions reflect a year-round commitment on their parts. They are dedicated individuals who are committed to the continuing success of our students and our schools.



**Bobby  
Occena**

Vice-Chair  
Districts 1-2

**Jo Davis  
Johnson**

District 2B

**Tarsha  
Dudley**

Chair  
District 5

**Emma  
Johnson**

District 3

**Barry  
McGlone**

District 4



Photo courtesy of the Bertie Alumni Community Association.

## MISSION:

Guided by innovative, effective leaders in partnership with parents and community members, Bertie County Schools will provide high quality, rigorous, student-centered learning opportunities that will prepare our students for life in our ever-changing world.

## VISION:

ENGAGED students  
+ QUALIFIED personnel  
+ INVOLVED parents  
+ SUPPORTIVE community  
= GRADUATES, college, career and life ready!

# Our Schools: 2015-2016



**Askewville Preschool**  
**Pre-K Enrollment = 132**  
**Director: Tundra Woolard**  
**252-794-2260**



**Aulander Elementary School**  
**K-5 Enrollment = 142**  
**Principal: Tracy Gregory**  
**252-345-3211**



**Colerain**  
**Elementary School**  
**K-5 Enrollment = 202**  
**Principal: Carol Mizelle**  
**252-356-4714**



**West Bertie Elementary School**  
**K-5 Enrollment = 254**  
**Principal: Wesley Dudley**  
**252-344-7621**



**Windsor Elementary School**  
**K-5 Enrollment = 349**  
**Principal: Mona Gilliam**  
**252-794-5221**



**Bertie Middle School**  
**6-8 Enrollment = 551**  
**Principal: William Peele III**  
**252-794-2143**



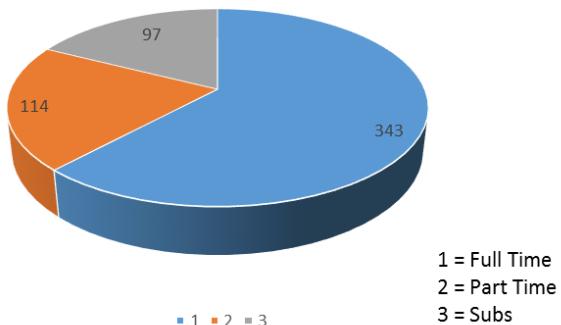
**Bertie High School / Bertie STEM**  
**9-12 BHS Enrollment = 471**  
**9-12 Bertie STEM Enrollment = 119**  
**Principals: Calvin Moore / Daphne Williams**  
**252-794-3034**



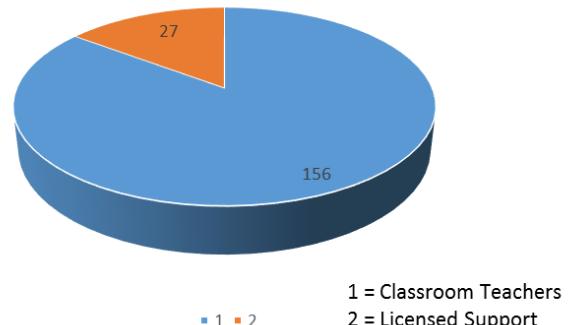
**Bertie Early College High School**  
**9-12 Enrollment = 171**  
**Principal: Wanda Cofield**  
**252-794-2150**

# BCS Workforce Profile

Total Number of BCS Employees = 554



Total Number of Licensed Personnel = 183



## Human Resources Highlights

### Professional Development Presented for Principals

The Human Resources Department hosted two professional development events for BCS principals and other administrators from area school systems last year.

In December, **"HR Hot Topics 2: Learning How to Stay out of Trouble"** featured several guest speakers:

**Steve Lassiter, NC Wells Fargo Principal of the Year, discussed school culture and climate.**

**Attorneys from Tharrington Smith, LLP and the North Carolina School Boards Association** discussed legal issues that principals face, including personnel investigations, Mandatory Improvement Plans, FMLA violations, and much more.

**Gordon Millspaugh (retired), a school personnel consultant, shared strategies for data-driven hiring.**

In April, the Human Resources Department hosted training on **"Employee Discipline in an Education Environment."** Dr. David Braswell with UPSLOPE conducted the training for certified administrators and classified supervisors. This powerful training session equipped leaders with the tools and strategies needed to proactively manage common employment-related risks.



### Recruitment Strategy

On May 21, the HR Department hosted the first ever Teacher Interview Day and Expo. During this special recruitment event, candidates from 11 states interviewed for BCS vacancies. On that day, 15 preliminary contract offers were made for the 2016-2017 school year.



### Saying Farewell to our 2016 Retirees

Those retiring at the end of the year were honored with a luncheon and special gifts on June 15.

# Leading the Way

**BCS & Wells Fargo  
Northeast Regional  
Principal of  
the Year**



**William Peele III**  
Bertie Middle School

**BCS  
Teacher of  
the Year**



**Kortney Watford**  
Askewville Preschool

**BCS  
Teacher  
Assistant  
of the Year**



**Carla Davis**  
West Bertie  
Elementary School

## BECHS Students Do Ph.D-Level Lab Work

Through a partnership with North Carolina State University, Biotechnology students in Bruce Boller's lab at Bertie Early College High School are creating proteins that will someday be used in university research labs in Raleigh.

Students in Boller's lab are currently learning to insert turkey genes into non-harmful strains of *E. coli* bacteria to generate the protein. The bacteria are also given genes for enzymes that enable them to survive in media containing antibiotics that act as a selectable marker so students can identify the bacteria that actually possess the invisible turkey gene. Next they must grow up large quantities of the bacteria containing the protein, then extract, purify and finally quantify how much of the turkey protein product the bacteria have produced for them.

The protein is being used by Dr. Matt Koci's NCSU lab to study intestinal infections in turkeys. You see, Koci studies infectious diseases of poultry to help ensure a safe and bountiful food supply for the growing human population. The protein the students are making is thought to be important in directing the immune response to the site of infection. Koci uses the protein the students make to study a particular infection

found in young turkeys.

Boller said that his BECHS students have a unique opportunity to do real microbiology/biotechnology research. "In most labs, you get a kit, and the students follow the kit, and it works and it's cool. But in this lab, things typically do not work as planned, and when they don't, it is up to the student to figure out what went wrong. Then they must troubleshoot and figure out how to make it work through trial and error and a lot of critical thinking. That's what real science is."

<http://www.kocilab.com/asm-microbe2016/>

<http://www.kocilab.com/bechs-biotech>

[www.bollerbiotech.weebly.com](http://www.bollerbiotech.weebly.com)



# Department of Testing and Accountability

## Moving on Up ...

### Percent Proficient

School	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Aulander	25.2	34.8	38.6	58.9
Colerain	24.2	30.1	37.4	55.4
West Bertie	19.4	26.7	38	39.7
Windsor	27.4	41.3	43.6	50.6
Bertie Middle	24.6	36.7	36	38.4
Bertie High	12.4	21.3	21.3	20.7
Bertie STEM	57.5	75.3	78.7	76
Bertie Early College	43.9	58.1	76.4	85.7
District	24.8	35.5	37.9	43.7

The results are in ... By the end of the 2015-2016 school year, Bertie County Schools had improved from having six schools that were considered low performing to only two for last year!

Low performing districts are defined as districts in which the *majority* of schools within the unit are low performing.

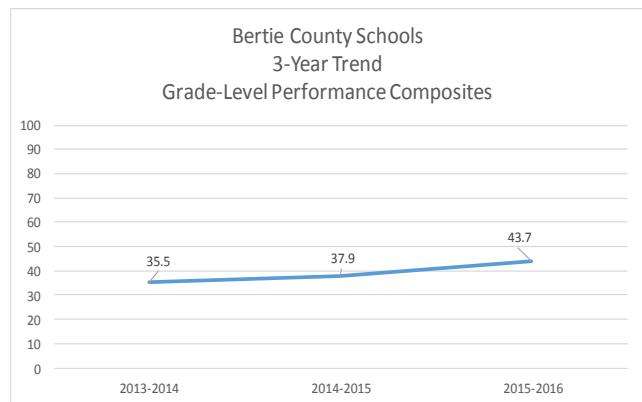
We are no longer deemed a low performing district!

Low performing districts and schools in North Carolina are defined by the General Assembly and are based on the school performance grade (test scores) and the Education Value-Added Assessment System (growth) calculations.

Low performing schools are those that receive a school performance grade of D or F and have a school growth score of “met expected growth” or “not met expected growth” as defined by G.S. 115C-83.15.

In 2014-2015, no schools exceeded growth. Last year, three schools exceeded growth, and not one school received an “F” grade on the School Report Cards.

We are on the rise and are climbing steadily!



### At right:

Comparison of  
School Performance  
Grades  
... And EVAAS  
Growth.

School	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Aulander	D ... Met	D ... Met	C ... Exceeded
Colerain	F ... Met	D ... Met	C ... Met
West Bertie	F ... Not Met	D ... Met	D ... Met
Windsor	D ... Met	D ... Met	C ... Exceeded
Bertie Middle	D ... Exceeded	D ... Met	D ... Exceeded
Bertie High	D ... Not Met	D ... Met	D ... Not Met
Bertie STEM	B ... Met	A ... Met	B ... Not Met
Bertie Early College	B ... Met	B ... Met	A ... Met



Professional Development began with the kick-off of the 2015-2016 school year at the Convocation ceremony. Here, Nicole Hayes leads a workshop.

## Curriculum and Instruction Department

The Curriculum and Instruction Department (C&I) provided numerous opportunities for staff and students alike to grow and improve professionally and academically.

**“Master Teachers”** worked with staff and students all year to analyze data and determine the needs of students. They developed strategies to meet the needs of students based on ongoing formative assessments and provided support to classroom teachers.

Title I Instructional Coach **Tonsa Walton-Gary** (Windsor Elementary School) and Elementary Instructional Coach **Nicole Hayes** helped teachers perfect their crafts throughout the school year. They helped teachers develop lesson plans and even modeled delivering lessons to students.

The C&I Department collaborated with top teachers to offer **“Saturday Academies”** for students at Bertie High School who

were in classes that are EOC tested areas: Math I, Biology and English II. The goal was to enhance content knowledge, improve understanding of key concepts and facilitate participation in tutorial sessions designed to improve performance on EOC tests.

Teachers also participated in **Professional Learning Communities**. These PLC’s met regularly to share expertise and improve teaching skills in their common content areas with the aim to achieve better results for the students they served.

**“Curriculum Mapping”** collaboration and professional development occurred all throughout the year with the aim of creating online Wiki pages on the BCS web site as a resources for teachers of all grade levels and subject areas. What is the culmination of two years of work is now a one-stop shop for resources, lesson plans, assessments and pacing guides for teachers to educate our students.

The mission for the C&I Department for the 2015-2016 school year was **“Rigor Every Day in Every**

**Classroom.”** Staff participated in professional development on rigor in which they first defined what rigor looks like in the classroom:

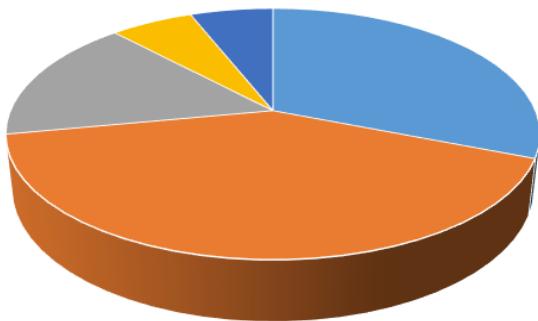
- \* **Each student is EXPECTED to learn at high levels through productive struggles.**
- \* **Each student will be SUPPORTED so he or she can learn at high levels.**
- \* **And each student will be CELEBRATED as he or she demonstrates learning at high levels.**

This definition was developed based on feedback from professional development on rigor.

The **Beginning Teacher Support Program** has a three-year induction period and includes initially-licensed classroom teachers. All beginning teachers (BTs) receive a multi-layered system of support in Bertie County, including an assigned mentor, administrators, instructional coaches, BT Support Coordinator, and Central Office staff. Key areas of focus for BTs last year were teaching strategies and formative assessments. The BT Program was led by C&I Team Member and AIG Coordinator Shirley Powell.

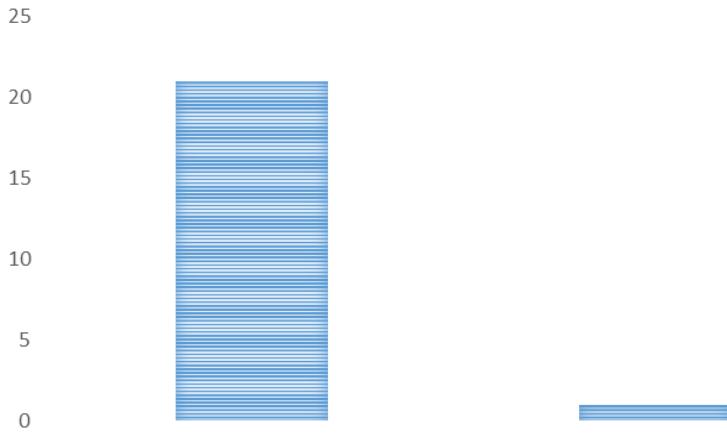
# Class of 2016: Senior Snapshots

BHS Class of 2016 Plans after Graduation



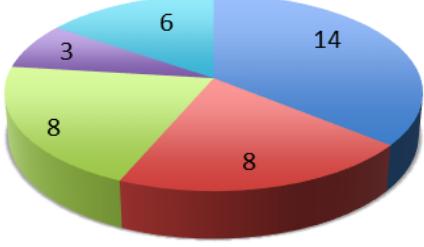
Bertie High School seniors were awarded approximately **\$119,270.00** in scholarships in 2016.

## BERTIE STEM HIGH SCHOOL



Bertie STEM High School had **100% graduation rate** in 2016! Twenty-one students planned to go to a four-year college; one planned to go directly into the workforce.

## Early College Plans after Graduation



Collective families at the early college saved **hundreds of thousands of dollars** in tuition costs alone in 2016!



## Making Us Proud

**John Erik Taylor, Jr.** (left) earned a \$400,000 scholarship to attend the Citadel Military Academy at West Point. He is a 2016 graduate of Bertie STEM High School.

Taylor was the Lieutenant Commander of the Bertie High School JROTC Program. This past summer, he also attended the Summer Cadet Leadership Camp at Fort Pickett, Va., where he was a Superior.



**The Governor's School of North Carolina** is a five and one-half week summer residential program for intellectually gifted high school students, integrating academic disciplines, the arts and unique courses on each of the two campuses. The curriculum focuses on the exploration of the most recent ideas and concepts in each discipline, and does not involve credit, tests or grades.

To qualify for Governor's School, a student must first score in the 95th percentile on a high school EOC. Then, he or she must be nominated and complete a rigorous application process.

## Summer of Science

Toward the end of the school year in 2016, **Emma Hughson** was recognized by the Board of Education for being selected to attend Governor's School for the summer. Hughson spent the

summer months at Meredith College (Governor's School East) where she studied advanced science with other teens who are high achievers.

In addition to studying physics and chemistry, Hughson also got the opportunity to choose from a variety of challenging electives this summer.



## Digital Learning Day

In February, students across the county participated in Digital Learning Day. Teachers in all Bertie County Schools utilized technology in their instruction on that day. At Windsor Elementary School, students used Chromebooks to “play” a question and answer game with the instructor, called Kahoot. For this “game,” students and teacher logged in to be quizzed on topics covered. The question appears on the instructor’s screen, and students provide the answer, which is private to the teacher, electronically on their devices. The game plays a “happy” tune during Q&A, and students had fun while learning.

## Community Fun Day

West Bertie had its first ever community day event on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Tickets were 50 cents. Families were invited for a day of enrichment, food and fun! Refreshments were sold (funnel cakes, chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, soda, candy and more). The event also featured games and activities such as a train ride, a bounce house, face painting and more. It was a great way to bring the community together for support and of course, fun!

## Sound to Sea

Last school year, students at Windsor Elementary School were able to take advantage of an opportunity to experience a hands-on study of ecosystems in the natural environment that is the Bogue Sound, the Maritime Forest and the Atlantic Ocean, walking literally from “Sound to Sea.”

It was an adventure for students, teachers and chaperones alike to explore and connect the world around them to the science and social studies curriculum being taught in the fourth and fifth grade levels.



## 21st Century Skills

The 21st Century Afterschool Program at Windsor Elementary School began in November 2015. Students in grades three through five had the opportunity to stay after school Monday through Thursday for assistance with reading, math, and science instruction as well as enrichment activities. Leaders utilized community resources, field trips, and parent support. All efforts were designed to maintain and enhance student growth.



# 2015-2016 Career and Technical Education Academic Offerings

## Bertie High School/ Bertie STEM High School

Career Management  
Microsoft Word & PowerPoint  
Microsoft Excel & Access  
Foundations of Information Technology  
Personal Finance  
Business Law  
Principles of Business & Finance  
Entrepreneurship I  
Health Science I  
Health Science II  
Nursing Fundamentals  
Biomedical Technology

Foods I  
Foods II  
Parenting & Child Development  
Teen Living  
Early Childhood I  
Early Childhood II  
Introduction to Graphic Communications  
Digital File Preparation  
Core & Sustainable Construction  
Carpentry I  
Carpentry II  
Introduction to Automotive Service  
Automotive Service I  
Automotive Service II

## Bertie Early College High School

Agriscience Applications  
Animal Science I  
Animal Science II  
Horticulture I  
Personal Finance  
Career Management

## Bertie Middle School

Computer Skills & Applications  
MG Microsoft Word  
MG Microsoft PowerPoint  
Exploring Career Decisions

### **CTE Career Management Class:**

The main objective of career management is to help shape students' character for work by focusing on the steps it takes to get a job as well as developing soft skills and a strong work ethic to help keep a job.

### **The CTE Career Center:**

The purpose of the CTE Career Center is to make career connections with students by assisting them with the CTE Pathway choices that fit their interests. In addition, assistance is given to students to help prepare for job interviews and to create and update students' four-year career plans. The CTE Career Center also hosts community leaders, businesses, and college representatives to talk to students about their plans for the future.

# Celebrating Career Development Month

Throughout the month of November 2015, students at West Bertie Elementary School observed National Career Development Month.

On Nov. 9, students wore sweat shirts and T-shirts that advertised their favorite colleges and universities.

Nov. 17 was "Dress for Success Day." Students and staff wore a variety of career-themed outfits and cos-

tumes and wrote descriptions of why they selected their particular outfit/career.

Activities culminated for K-5 students on Nov. 20 at the College and Career Day. From 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on that day, students visited booths by colleges and area professionals to learn more about pursuing higher education and about entering the world of work.



The BMS Junior Beta Club held two inductions last year and competed at the state level.

## Beta Beginnings at Bertie Middle

During the 2015-2016 school year, Bertie Middle School students were a part of the revival of the local chapter of the **National Junior Beta Club**. The Junior Beta Club is a community service organization at the middle grades level that prepares students to become a part of the organization at the upper grades level.

In December, Superintendent Elaine White recognized students of Bertie Middle School for winning **First Place** at the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual North Carolina School Boards Association conference in Greensboro for their video, "What's Cool about Public Schools."

In addition, BMS Media Coordinator Pamela Baker implemented the **Media Makerspace** program at her school, which affords students the opportunity to explore areas of technology and the arts to enhance the curriculum already in place. Examples of areas of activity include Greenscreen, 3-D printing, Circuit Design and crafts.



The team from Colerain Elementary School won the 2016 county Battle of the Books competition.



Students at Colerain Elementary participated in "Red Nose Day" to support and make a difference in lives of children in need around the world.

## Literacy and the Whole Child

Colerain Elementary School students began their "One School, One Book" concept last year. It involved the entire school, encouraging everyone to read everywhere.

Students read three novels!  
**"Because of Winn-Dixie"**  
**"The One and Only Ivan"**  
**"Charlotte's Webb"**

The staff was involved with the introduction of each book, and students were visited by special guests "Winn-Dixie" the dog and "Wilbur," the pig. Each day, everyone was involved in reading more, and using reading strategies. Also incorporated was creating through the Arts. Everyone was excited about reading and couldn't wait for the next novels to be revealed.



Colerain Elementary School also began "Club Time." Clubs included: Get Fit, Creative Art, Divas, Performance Art, Step Team, Yoga & Healthy Living, Group Games & Rhythm.





## Year Round School Offerings

Aulander STEM Elementary School Principal Tracy Gregory's focus three years ago was to create a culture of caring to ensure that relationships with all stakeholders were established. The second year was focused on creating a culture of competence by improving teachers' instructional practices, and the third year was to create a culture of excellence whereby the school is operating as a school that **Exceeded Growth!**

Last year, teachers at Aulander had extensive training in teaching writing with **Ms. Susie Wilde**. Mrs. Wilde's services were acquired from a \$9,500 grant that Gregory obtained.

Students in grades four and five benefitted from having a **STEM Science Teacher**. Students participated in many hands-on science activities and participated in relevant STEM field trips such as: visiting the WITN News Weather station in Greenville to correlate with their weather unit and visiting Briley's Farm to participate in gem stone mining. Students created catapults, spiders, and roller coasters! Roanoke Chowan Electric Company engineers came to share the engineering process with our students and East Carolina University has partnered with us to provide STEM materials and resources to enhance our program.

Aulander is an

## A+ School

where infused into the curriculum are the Arts. Paula Whitfield, music teacher, had Aulander students perform at the Aulander Peanut Festival with a musical, and one student created the peanut logo for the Aulander T-shirts. In addition, students performed at the Aulander Christmas tree lighting and provided art work for the State Employees' Credit Union.



#### CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

Republic Waste Services donated a check in the amount of \$10,000.00.

John Trent with J.B.A. Property Management donated a check in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Perdue Farms donated a check in the amount of \$2,000.00.

All donated funds will be used to pay for books, uniforms and other cadet program operating expenses.

## BHS Public Safety Cadet Program Underway

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, sixteen high school juniors began taking college courses in criminal justice, earning high school and college credits free of charge.

The Bertie Public Safety Cadet Program (BPSCP) allows students to earn a Criminal Justice Technology Correction Specialist Certificate. Their earned college credits will

count toward an associate degree in criminal justice at Roanoke-Chowan Community College or Martin Community College.

As part of the cadet program, students participate in various experiences geared toward helping to develop leadership, integrity, responsibility and a sense of community.

This pilot program, through the N.C.

Governor's Office, N.C. Department of Public Safety, Roanoke-Chowan Community College and Bertie County Schools, is aimed at keeping more young residents of Bertie County employed and near home while also developing a well-trained and eligible workforce for one of the county's largest employers—the Bertie Correctional Institution.

## EMS Cadets Complete Another Successful Year



As a rising 12th grader at Bertie STEM High School, **Justin Cowan** (right) completed the EMS Cadet Program through Bertie County Schools and its partnership with Roanoke-Chowan Community College. He also obtained the EMT Basic and CNA 1 Certifications.

**Vanessa Hernandez** also completed the cadet program and ob-

tained her EMT Basic certification. She now works with Bertie County Emergency Medical Services.

For two consecutive years, the EMS Cadet Program has boasted a 100% pass rate.

Several of the high school students out-perform their adult counterparts on the state EMT test to obtain certification.

# Auxiliary Services Provided

## Finance



**Charlene Jones and Pearline Bunch** were honored for their completion of a two-and-a-half-year program that consisted of 24 units of study. Bunch received a special gift for having the highest GPA of the statewide program. The Finance Department will soon be implementing a new software, called **LINX**, that will streamline processes and improve efficiencies.

## Maintenance

The BCS Maintenance Department successfully completed **1,644** work orders from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. The crew is hard-working and effective.



Not Pictured: Mike Drew, Maintenance, and Maxine Ray, Administrative Assistant for Maintenance & Technology.



## Transportation

The BCS Transportation Department earned an even lower (better) score on the Department Evaluation in 2015-2016 than in the previous years. The score went from 31.38 in 2015 to **27.00** in 2016. Director of Transportation William Ledford said that the lower the rating, the better. The average score for districts in the East is 39.76.

**Yellow Buses:**

**65**

**Daily Riders:**

**2,006**

**Miles Per Day:**

**5,025**

## School Nutrition

The "Community Eligibility Provision" is now in its second phase. The program allows schools that predominately serve low-income children, and that meet other requirements, to offer nutritious meals at no cost to all students through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. This means **FREE** meals and no more lunch applications!

We serve a total of **1,845** breakfasts and **2,098** lunches daily to the students of Bertie County Schools. We also vend an additional **250-260** daily breakfasts and lunches to Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy from our Bertie Early College cafeteria.



# NC Pre-K Busy in Bertie

Under Title I Pre-K, Bertie County Schools implemented a

**Pilot Program** for three-year-olds, designed to allow for children to have two years within the NC Pre-K. The children made considerable progress. When they were screened this year (2016) using the assessment for four-year-olds, they averaged considerably higher than those four-year-olds who were screened last year (2015). This showed that an additional year in Pre-K is beneficial for students.

Askewville Preschool has become a **Shape NC Site**, focusing on increasing healthy practices for young children. Emphasis is placed on screen time, healthy eating, outdoor play and active play. A mini-grant will assist with purchasing supplies and materials that

will help meet goals. A small garden project will be one of the activities that will be implemented to increase active play and encourage healthy eating.

The Regional Contracting Agency

## **Roundtable NC Pre-K Meeting**

was held at Askewville Preschool on February 23. The NC Pre-K department heads from the Department of Child Development and Early Education in Raleigh, along with NC Pre-K directors and partnerships from the Outer Banks to New Bern were in attendance. The group shared updates in regards to NC Pre-K and Early Childhood.

**Each Pre-K site planned a Family Fun & Recruitment Day as its end-of-the-year activity.**

## **Partnerships in Early Childhood Education ...**

All teachers (teacher assistants included) at each site and the director are trained in Story Exploring. The training was provided through Smart Start Partnership for Children.

Motherread training was offered to parents and staff at each site. The training is provided through Smart Start Partnership for Children.

The Week of the Young Child Event was held at the Bertie Sports Complex on May 17, 2016 from 10-1. All early childhood facilities and children came together to celebrate children. This event is sponsored by Smart Start Partnership for Children.

## ‘Health Collaborative’ is on the Move!



“The event was a great success,” said Perry. “We had about 150 people come through. I think it was a good community-building event for Bertie County.”

Health providers were on hand to answer questions, share information and perform blood pressure checks at the Health Fair held in the lobby of the Bertie High School gymnasium.

The event was open to the BCS community and the public.

Participants included the Bertie County Health Department, Bertie County Rural Health, Positive Parenting Program, Active Routes to School and Walgreens Drug Store.

**Danny Perry**, Health Educator for BCS, coordinated the event. Perry serves as the Community Liaison for Student Health, connecting healthy schools with healthy communities.

# Bringing the Community Together



Community Day, which was held July 11, 2015, was a unique opportunity to provide BCS students and the members of the community with vital information in regard to the programs and services that are offered within the school district.



Community Day was sponsored in part by Bertie Correctional Institution, CADA, Perdue Farms, the Rho Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, Vidant Bertie Hospital and the Windsor Rotary Club. In addition to these Gold Level Sponsors, our partnership network for Community Day included a total of 22 community organizations.

Each school in our district was represented, including select departments such as Transportation, Curriculum and Instruction, Technology and the Exceptional Children's Department. Student Services provided parents the opportunity to complete electronic surveys. There was also a school board meet and greet.

Donations of school supplies were collected for the "Stuff the Bus" campaign. Also, the Good Shepherd Food Pantry of Bertie County accepted non-perishable food donations.

BOB 93.3 advertised the event on air and broadcasted live on July 11 from 10 a.m. to noon. The Bertie Ledger-Advance and WITN-7 included BCS Community Day information in their community calendars.

**T. Nicole Thompson** assumed the lead role in working with a committee to make this event possible.



# Looking Ahead in 2016-2017

Convocation and the opening of schools for the 2016-2017 went smoothly this year, according to Interim Superintendent Julius Walker, Jr. The goal throughout the 2016-2017 school year will be a focus on all employees doing all things with the best interest of the students in mind. BCS staff members were challenged at convocation to ask themselves with every task, "How is this going to help the children?" The 2016-2017 school year will be a year of transition for Bertie County Schools as the interim superintendent's tenure comes to a close Nov. 30, and we welcome new leadership on Dec. 1.

## 2015-2016 Central Services Leadership

### Executive

#### Cabinet Members

**Elaine White**  
Superintendent

**Sandra Hardy**  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

**Ella Fields-Bunch**  
Chief Human Resources and Public Information Officer

**Pearline Bunch**  
Chief Finance Officer

**Karen Rodman**  
Director of Student Services

### Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our schools and services.

**Bertie County Schools Central Services Complex**

715 US Hwy 13 N  
P.O. Box 10  
Windsor, NC 27983

(252) 794-6000

Visit us on the web at  
[www.bertie.k12.nc.us](http://www.bertie.k12.nc.us)

### Directors

**Tundra Woolard**  
Director of Title I and NC Pre-K

**Eva White**  
Director of Testing and Accountability

**Dr. Linda Justus**  
Director of Curriculum and Instruction

**Jamie Liverman**  
Director of Exceptional Children

**Kerry Mebane**  
Chief Technology Officer

**Jacqueline Rowe-Higgs**  
Director of School Nutrition

**William Ledford**  
Director of Transportation

**Mathew Bond**  
Director of Maintenance

### **ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION ...**

#### **Editor:**

**Amanda Bunch**

#### **Contributors:**

**Ella Fields-Bunch**

**Ashley Cowan**

**Elizabeth Rote**