

THE LEARNING Curve

This page was written and designed by Education First in cooperation with the Bibb County Board of Education, the Peyton Anderson Foundation, and The Telegraph.

Your weekly guide to students, schools, teachers and triumphs in Bibb County's Public Schools

Westside High Coach Brings Home State Honors

"After I heard the resumes of the other people, I didn't know why I was in this," says Westside High School girls' softball coach Deborah Baber, still in a little shock after receiving Georgia Women's Intersport Network (GA-WIN) High School Coach of the Year.

"It meant a lot that Mrs. Coxsey thought enough to nominate me," she says. As they called her name out at the annual Community Awards Program in Atlanta, "I was just stunned, humbled, and honored."

GA-WIN's mission is "to develop and promote an awareness of and a network for women involved in sports," and throughout the years has championed causes like Title IX and the State Gender Equity in Sports bill, conducted community awards programs, hosted leadership seminars, established the girls' high school soccer state championship, and conducted sports clinics for young girls.

While at Westside, Baber has been instrumental in bringing National Girls & Women in Sports Day activities to Macon, which features famous women politicians and athletes as speakers. "We talk to them about what it means to be a female athlete."

Each year, the school hosts the Great Southern Shootout, featuring girls' basketball teams from



Coach Baber helps prepare her women athletes to be well-rounded citizens.

around the area, and during the summer, they offer sports camps to female athletes. "We try to make these fun and financially accessible to everyone."

"The high honor", she says, "isn't just dependent on the number of championship trophies and plaques adorning the walls of the school or the memories of the women passing through the program. It incorporates all everything the coach does

to work with the girls, on and off the court. My job is more than just a coach; it's to help the girls out."

(As she's saying this, a female student stops by to pick up her Alcohol Drug Awareness Program card, a requirement to get a driver's license. The Program is offered in health class at the school, and as the girl shuts the door again, just chuckles and points to a stack of similar cards on her desk.)

Throughout their years as athletes, Baber says she works to make sure the girls are prepared for any future, not just a career in sports. Out of all the students who play in high school athletics (boys and girls), it's a small percentage of those who actually become superstars, and she wants to make sure they are aware of that. "It's about being the best you can be, and we really stress the work ethic," says Baber. "We push hard to make them academically ready for the next level; it's not just about getting them an athletic scholarship."

Participating in sports can help them in all aspect of life, she says. It involves teamwork, leadership skills, hard work, discipline, and knowledge of what's going on around you, which is why at the same time she's telling them to prepare for any future, she also encourages them to stay in sports after high school.

"If you want to play," she tells them, "there's going to be an opportunity for you somewhere."

Without the support of the school and its faculty, the program would never have made it this far in the years since the school was open. "When you look at [successful] programs, it's because of the whole organization. I truly believe that or I couldn't do my job." Coxsey and the rest of the staff come to many of the games, some of them volunteering their time to sell tickets and refreshments. Coxsey herself makes it to every game, even the State Championships, and the schools Athletic Director / Head Football Coach traveled to every game of the playoffs. "To have a successful school, you need a team effort."

With this award under her belt, and being named last year's Georgia Athletic Coaches Association Region Coach of the Year, she says it's now back to business as normal. It was great to have the show of support from her principal, but she says she doesn't "do the job for recognition." In her career, she pushes her teams toward championships so her girls can be recognized for the great athletes and future leaders they are and will be.

Bibb County Summer Enrichment Opportunities

All programs are being offered free of charge except where otherwise indicated.

Transportation will be provided except where otherwise indicated. For more information, contact Sherrie Hunter (765-8583) or Karol Stephens (757-5551).

Elementary School

Grade: 3

Date/Time: June 5th - 29th, 8:15 - 12:00

Location: Hamilton Elementary

Students will receive instruction focusing on reading with additional instruction in math available for qualifying students. CRCT re-test for eligible students is June 26th, make-up testing is June 28th. *Autism students will be served at this site.*

Grade: 5

Date/Time: June 5th - 29th, 8:30 - 12:30

Location: Hartley Elementary

Students will receive additional, differentiated, or accelerated instruction focusing on reading and math. CRCT re-test for eligible students is June 26th and 27th, make-up testing is June 28th and 29th.

Grade: 1, 2 and 4

Date/Time: June 5th - 29th, 8:00 - 12:00

Location: Burke Elementary

Students will receive instruction specifically targeting reading and math. Students may be considered for promotion to the next grade level based on successful completion of this program.

Advanced Math and Science Summer Camps

Registration forms can be downloaded from www.bibb.k12.ga.us

Math Masters

Grade: 5th and 6th (Limited to 100 students)

Date/Time: June 19th - 23rd, 9:00 - 12:00

Location: Alexander II

Hands-on math curriculum will focus on Algebra, Geometry and problem solving.

Transportation will NOT be provided by Bibb County School system.

Junebugs

Grade: 3rd and 4th (Limited to 100 students)

Date/Time: June 19th - 23rd, 9:00 - 12:00

Location: Alexander II

An environmental science summer camp focusing on environmental issues and science process skills. Transportation will NOT be provided by Bibb County School system.

Fossil Fanatics

Grade: 5th and 6th (Limited to 100 students)

Date/Time: June 26th - 30th, 9:00 - 12:00

Location: Alexander II

Camp will address paleontology and earth science through the inquiry process. Transportation will NOT be provided by Bibb County School system.

Math Maniacs

Grade: 3rd and 4th (Limited to 100 students)

Date/Time: June 26th - 30th, 9:00 - 12:00

Location: Alexander II

Hands-on algebra equations, geometric principles, and solving problems with math. Transportation will NOT be provided.

Middle School - Summer Opportunities

Grade: 8

Date/Time: June 5th-29th, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: McEvoy Middle School

Students will receive additional, differentiated or accelerated instruction focusing on reading and math. CRCT re-test for eligible students is June 26th and 27th; make-up testing is June 28th and 29th.

Grade: 6, 7, and 8

Date/Time: June 5th-29th, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: McEvoy Middle School

Academic instruction for students who have failed 1 or 2 academic subjects in their present grade.

High School Summer Opportunities

Advanced Placement

Summer Academy

Grade: 9-12

Date/Time: June 12th-21st, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: Macon State College

Regular and Vocational Instruction

1st Semester/Session

Grade: 9-12

Date/Time: June 1st-22nd, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Cost: Bibb County Students - \$150 per semester

Out of County Students - \$250 per semester

Location: Southwest High School

2nd Semester/Session

Grade: 9-12

Date/Time: June 23rd-July 14th, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

(Holiday - July 4th)

Cost: Bibb County Students - \$150 per semester

Out of County Students - \$250 per semester

Location: Southwest High School

This program is open to all Bibb County Public School students, private school students and public school students from surrounding counties. Students will earn a .5 unit of Carnegie credit per successfully completed semester. 1 Carnegie unit will be earned by successfully completing both semesters. Transportation **WILL NOT** be provided by the school system.

End of Course Tests schedule

Tuesday, July 11th -

Economics, Biology, U.S. History, Physical Science

Wednesday, July 12th -

Algebra I, 9th Grade Literature, Geometry, American Literature

Thursday, July 13th -

Make Up Test for All Areas

Georgia High School Graduation Tests Remediation

Grade: 11 and 12

Date/Time: June 1st-23rd, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Hutchings High School

This program will provide instruction to those students who failed the High School Graduation test. Classes will be in the areas of Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science. Transportation **WILL NOT** be provided by the school system.

GHSAT Re-testing Dates to be held at Southwest High School:

Thursday, July 13th - Writing

Monday, July 17th - Science

Tuesday, July 18th - Social Studies

Thursday, July 20th - Language Arts

Summer Defensive Driving Courses

Grade: 9-12

Date/Time: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Five (5) - 1 week-long classes

Location:

June 5th - 9th: Rutland

June 12th - 16th: Northeast &

Hutchings

June 19th - 23rd: Westside

June 26th - 30th: Central

July 10th - 14th: Southwest & other schools as space allows

This program is for Bibb County students in grades 9-12 who are eligible for a Georgia Driver's License or Instructional Permit and is in conjunction with the Bibb County Sheriff's Office. Transportation **WILL NOT** be provided by the school system.