

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

Hutchings High Students Teach Lessons to King Danforth Students

After three years partnering with Junior Achievement for Groundhog Job Shadow Day, Hutchings High School teacher Virginia Peagler was presented a great opportunity for her students. Senior Vice President of Education for Junior Achievement of Georgia Dr. Barbara Hill contacted her to see if they would be interested in teaching students at King-Danforth Elementary School.

"Junior Achievement of Georgia is most proud of our long-standing relationship with Hutchings High School," says Dr. Hill. "Ms. Virginia Peagler has been a long-time supporter of expanding the career opportunities of her students."

Fourteen students were selected by their Career/Technology teachers to present lessons on personal financial literacy to 180 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. For an hour each day (three days total), they presented the lessons based on kits provided by Junior Achievement. Each kit was grade-specific and contained workbooks for every elementary school student, instructor's manuals, and hands-on activities for the classes. Activities included concepts of regional economics – where students used a map to identify different products from various states – and conceptualizing their own business.

"The students did an exemplary job," praises Dr. Hill. "From the first moment that I met them, I was impressed with the maturity level they exhibited. They made a perfect match right from the start."

"They were natural teachers," agrees Peagler. "On the ride back the first two days, all I heard were conversations about how to make their lessons better, more meaningful, and how much they enjoyed the activity. On the last day they talked about how much they would miss the younger students."

Through its programs, Junior Achievement of Georgia serves 100,000 students each year. Founded in Atlanta in 1943, it is a non-profit economic education organization that provides hands-on lessons for students in kindergarten through 12th grade to help them understand the economics of life, opening their mind to its full potential and helping prepare them to enter the workforce.

"I hope the partnership will continue," says Peagler. "It is truly meaningful to everyone involved."

"We too hope that this partnership will continue for many years to come," agrees Dr. Hill. Currently in Atlanta, we use this model of high school students going into elementary schools to teach our Junior Achievement programs. I am pleased to say many entertain their firsts of becoming teachers."

Bibb County Afterschool Program Offers Enriching Summer Camp



Riley Elementary students admire the space display at the Museum of Arts & Sciences.

"What is that?" one student asks of the chaperone, pointing at the large display in the middle of the room.

Before the chaperone could even respond, another student was pointing at the other side of the room asking the same question.

Students from the Communities-in-Schools, Macon's summer program being offered at Riley Elementary school are touring the Museum of Arts & Science.

Throughout the month of June, CIS offers these students (along with students at several other schools) the opportunity to be "exposed to many opportunities...they may not otherwise experience," says Executive Director Julie Holloway.

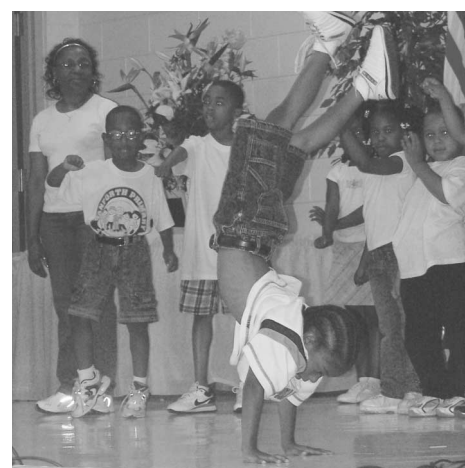
Beginning in June 2001, CIS began offering a summer program, funded by federal and state grants, to offer a learning environment that enriches their academics as well as provide them with unique opportunities in the community. To attend, a student must be enrolled at the target school the previous year (for example, a child attending a program at a site must have been a student at that site in 2005-2006 school year), not be attending summer school for academic or test remediation, and pay a one-time registration fee of five dollars.

Running Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the

morning is spent enhancing the student's reading and math instruction from the previous year, and the afternoon is set aside for things like sports, arts, and crafts. Community support helps out immensely in the afternoon sessions, with groups coming in to teach or show the students something specific. From the Sankofa Theatre Project providing Afrikan drumming sessions to the Middle Georgia Tennes Academy providing tennis lessons, to Macon Arts Alliance providing artists for each site to Clearer Path Training/Support Group offering lessons on conflict resolution and emotional intelligence, the students are exposed to a wide variety of interests.

"Successes of the program include the opportunity for students to continue their academic growth during the summer," says Holloway. Maximum enrollment was limited to 100 students per site. CIS would like to continue the program and grow it further by continuing to write for the grants.

"We enjoy the opportunity to provide afterschool and summer programs," says Holloway. "We appreciate the principals who work with us in providing these programs. Without the support and cooperation of all involved, these programs would not be possible."



Jones Elementary students hosted a Talent Show for friends and family.

Elementary School Career Days

"You never know when they're going to get that inspiration," says Union Elementary Counselor Myeshia Oglesby, who organized the school's Career Day.

"Students need to be introduced to careers at an early age and become aware of the education and training that is needed to have these careers," agrees Heard Elementary Counselor Debra Edge.

"Career education is a major component of a comprehensive School Guidance Program," adds Burke Elementary Counselor Roselle Holcombe.

Each year, students in the schools are provided the exposure, the information, and role models from a variety of careers from the community. It's left up to the schools how they set theirs up, from having the career representatives rotate through the classrooms to setting up in large rooms for students to peruse to displays and activities set up outside.

"I tried to get [representatives] from all walks of life," says Oglesby, who provided her stu-

dents with people from the Fire and Police Departments, the Medical Center, School House Health, the Air Force, Red Cross, Army Reserves, ministers, electricians, artists, car dealers, retail employees, and Department of Family and Child Services.

Using a rotating schedule, most of the representatives moved from classroom to classroom, giving a speech, passing out information, and answering any questions the students might have. The biggest treat for many, though, was being taken outside to see a new car from a dealer, a military vehicle, a fire truck, and a police patrol car. Jumping when the sirens went off, they weren't nervous when offered the chance to climb up in the driver's seat.

According to Holcombe, Burke didn't host a Career Day last year, but the event this year has set a high bar for them to meet in the future... "bigger and better," she says. Set up in the Media Center, Cafeteria, and other rooms, representatives from the community set up stations where the students could ask questions, take home information, and participate in activities.

She as well, tried for a wide array of professions, giving the students a lot to peruse, including firemen, policemen, a television news anchor, artist, financial planner, respiratory therapist, environmental biologist, antiques dealers, Macon Knights, and a local radio disc jockey presented at lunch, handing out prizes to students who could read a short passage in 30 seconds.

"We tried to represent a wide spectrum of fields so that there would be something to interest every child," says Holcombe.

Heard Elementary has hosted a themed day for the past five years under Edge's direction: Careers on Wheels Day. Each year, she says she tries to bring in different careers to keep it interesting, but they always have something to do with

vehicles. In the past five years, they've had everyone from the US Army, Hart's Mortuary, the Macon/Bibb Bomb Squad, City of Macon Traffic Signal Division, Ackerman Wrecker Service, Cox Cable, Gulfside Supply, Bibb Parks and Recreation Department, and the Georgia Forestry Service. This year, she added the Shriner's Minicycle Unit and a racecar from Advanced Auto Parts.

The most exciting part for the students, undeniably, is the very beginning of their day of activities. To top off things like the Bomb Squad, a racecar, and minicycles, all the students stood on the edge of their field, eyes to the morning sky,

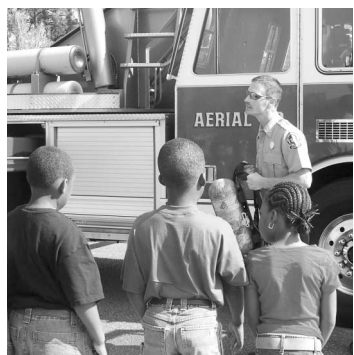
waiting for the first sound or sight of a helicopter from the Georgia State Patrol. Not only did the pilot fly over the students, he landed right in the field. As soon as the blades came to a stop, the students were able to get close and see the inside. Two years ago, a helicopter

from Dobbins Air Force Base landed in the front yard.

Following up the day, Edge and the teachers teach lessons about the careers they were exposed to, as well as the education and training needed to pursue one of them. "The students love the excitement of the day," says Edge, pointing out that "some of the students dressed to represent the career that they hope to have one day."



Students at Burke Elementary (above) and Union Elementary (below) enjoy displays from community members on their careers.



We want your feedback! Please e-mail your comments and suggestions for "The Learning Curve" or information about events in the Bibb County school system to: cfloore@cbi.mgacoxmail.com or call 743-0023

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