

# 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

## Mentors Project Bowl-a-Thon

For the seventh year, The Mentors Project of Bibb County hosted their annual Bowl-a-Thon. Community groups and mentors raised money to participate, at Gold Cup Bowling for an evening of fun and charity.

"This is such a great event," says Director June O'Neal. "Positive adult role models can make a huge difference in a child's life."

Taking the highest score for the evening were the teams from Kroger, Team Perera for

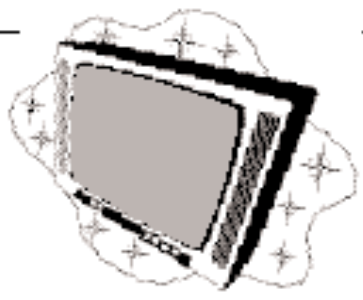


Director June O'Neal with two of the participating teams.



House District 136, and Volunteer Macon with Burke School Bowling. "We want to thank all of our participants and competitors," says O'Neal. "The real winners in this event are the children."

Sponsors this year included Cherokee Brick and Tile, *The Telegraph*, BB&T, Anco, Advantage Advertising, Middle Georgia Community Food Bank, Parisian's, Highland Side Gift Gallery, Dr. D.T. Walton, Jr., Vineville United Methodist Church, IMedia, City Council Member Nancy White, Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, Beth Perera for House District 136, and O'Neal, Brown, and Clark P.C. Donations were also made in honor of Herman Futch and Emily Walker.



For up-to-date information and events concerning Bibb County Public Schools, tune in to Cox Cable Channel 17!

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@cbl.mgacoxmail.com](mailto:cfloore@cbl.mgacoxmail.com) or call 743-0023

## Bibb County Students Gather to Thank Local and National Heroes

"On September 11, 2001, we saw courageous firefighters, police officers, and paramedics helping others. We saw selflessness: strangers helping strangers," Springdale Elementary Principal Amy Duke told the students and community gathered on the lawn of the school. "We saw love: people from around the world sent cards, supplies, and comfort to those who suffered."



The Colors being Presented at Springdale Elementary.

As America remembers the tragic events of September 11, students across Bibb County have paid tribute to the heroes in their community each year. They gathered around their flag poles, sang patriotic songs, and thanked local community members for their dedication to protecting them.

"We want to keep students aware of that tragic even and honor and appreciate those who sacrificed and those who sacrifice daily for public safety," says Barden Elementary Counselor Robert

Barrion. Inviting the members of Fire Station #12, a community partner of Barden, students watched as a high school color guard presented the colors. Sergeant Anthony Hubbard from the Macon Police Department was the featured speaker, followed by a presentation to the firefighters of a banner and two gift baskets.

"They gain insight about 9-11, an appreciation and sense of pride in our country, the efforts of people who work daily to keep us safe, and an insight about things they can do and their role in public safety."

Heritage Elementary students gathered in front of their school for a similar event. They thanked their local fire station by singing patriotic songs, led by the school's administration.

Springdale Elementary parent Keith Williams, a local musician, sang *Where Were You When the World Stopped Turning* and led the students and community in singing *Proud to be*



Heritage Elementary Administrators leading the students in patriotic songs.



Heritage Elementary students gathered in front of the school to honor their heroes.

*an American.* Fifth grade students wrote messages of peace and placed them in balloons before releasing them into the air. One student's read, "I wish we could have more peace. I wish our family members did not have to go far way and fight. I wish all the countries would get along instead of being against one another. I wish we all could get along. I wish people could just live their lives...I wish...I wish for peace."

Heard Elementary students marched from their school to their community fire station in honor of those who gave their lives.

"Today we are here to honor our heroes. Some of our heroes are heroes everyday. They work to make our world safe so that we can enjoy a peaceful life," said Duke. "We set aside time each year to think about what happened, not to feel bad, but to remember that even when something bad happens, people can still do good things."

## More Students Taking Advanced Placement Courses

As part of the Bibb County School District's work to improve student achievement through higher expectations and rigorous course load, more opportunities are being made available for more students to take Advanced Placement Courses. Through the AP classes, students are exposed to more college-level work, including study skills, essay writing skills, using primary and secondary sources, how to analyze literature, and document-based questions.

"The primary goal of our AP initiative is to have able and interested students be in the most challenging classes possible," says Tandi Pressley, Director of the Bibb County School District Gifted/Advanced Academics Program. "Students taking rigorous courses now will be better prepared for their post-secondary work and will be able to achieve the GPA required to maintain their HOPE scholarship."

The work of the Gifted Program to open these classes to all interested students has already shown the desire is out there among the students. In 2004, only 174 students were enrolled in AP courses, taking 213 tests. In the 2005-2006 school year, 479 students were enrolled, taking more than 700 tests. According to Pressley, final enrollment numbers won't be available this year until after the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup>

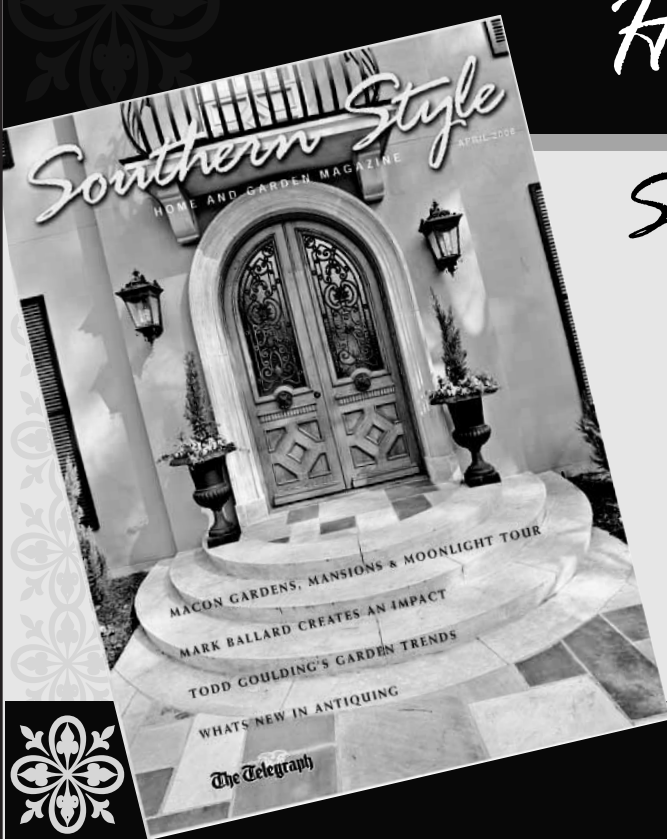
semester, but they have already scheduled more than 1,300 tests.

To encourage students to take the harder classes, Pressley has worked to open the enrollment to any student interested. They are no longer looking at a student's overall course load to determine eligibility: any interested student can participate in the AP Summer Academy, which will help prepare the skills they will need in the class; voluntary AP Saturdays will be offered during the year to provide support; and the College Board will be working with interested students in April to prepare for the final tests.

The push for AP isn't just at the high school level; Pre-AP classes are now being offered in the middle schools to begin teaching them subject matter and skills needed. AP and Pre-AP teachers have all been trained in how to teach the material, as well as how to work one-on-one with the students. By offering the Pre-AP classes in middle school, it will set the students' expectations that they can succeed in an AP course. "We want to prepare them for college, and starting in their senior year doesn't help," says Pressley. "It is our hope that having that Pre-AP in the middle school, they'll have a solid foundation for AP in high school."

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