

# 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

## Bibb County Schools and Students Earn National and State Awards

### Alexander II Magnet Honored as a National Blue Ribbon School

Alexander II Magnet School is one of six Georgia schools to be named a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

"This is a wonderful honor for Alexander II and the Bibb County School District," says Bibb County Superintendent of Schools Sharon Patterson. "It is an affirmation of the hard work and dedication shown across the district as we strive for achievement and performance for every child."

"This is SO exciting!" says Principal Penny Smith. "Our students and faculty were just overjoyed when I announced it to them."

"I am so proud of the teachers, administrators and students at these schools," Superintendent Cox said. "They are getting tremendous results from all of their students in every grade and truly deserve recognition as Blue Ribbon schools."

As a National Blue Ribbon School, Principal Penny Smith and a teacher will be invited to a ceremony in Washington, D.C. to be awarded a plaque and a flag signifying their NLCB-BRS status.

ABOUT THE BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS PROGRAM (from U.S. Department of Education):  
The No Child Left Behind - Blue

Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose students achieve at very high levels. The schools are selected based on one of two criteria:

1) Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests.

2) Schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the case of private schools in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests.

The schools are nominated by the state Department of Education and all nominated schools are given the chance to apply. Under No Child Left Behind, schools must make Adequate Yearly Progress, or AYP, in reading and language arts and mathematics. For more information on the NCLB - Blue Ribbon School awards, visit: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html>

### Central High School Earns Regional Award in Governor's Cup Challenge

Governor Sonny Perdue's has recognized schools across the state of Georgia as part of the Governor's Cup Challenge for outstanding improvement on the most recent administration of the SAT test, awarding them with the Governor's Cup Organized by Georgia High School Association (GHS) Class and Region assignments, schools are compared with similarly sized schools within the same Region of the state. The GHS organizes schools into five Classes (i.e., A, AA, AAA, AAAA, and AAAAA) with each Class having eight regions.

Bibb County's Central High School has been honored as the Region Winner of 3-AAAA for showing an increase in SAT scores from 2004-2006 of 16.5 points. Also recognized on the web site ([www.satrocks.com](http://www.satrocks.com)) are schools that improved by 10 points or more over the three years. Both Rutland and Westside High Schools

are listed in this category.

"We are closing the gap in scores and achievement in Bibb County," says Bibb County Superintendent of Schools Sharon Patterson. "Each year we are showing improvement across the district, which translates to a better future for our children."

"I am very proud of my students for working so hard and taking their education seriously," says Central High Principal Dr. Erin Weaver.

Since 2004, students in Bibb County have shown exemplary improvement as their scores have increased 27 points (12 points in Critical Reading and 15 points in Math), while the state has improved by 3 points.

### Senior Selected to Serve on Statewide Student Advisory Council

Central High School's Jessica Moore has been selected as one of 52 Georgia students to represent their peers on Superintendent of School's 2006-2007 Student Advisory Council.

"This is a great group of students," Superintendent Cox said in a press release. "These students come from all over the state and can each bring a unique perspective to the group."

The Superintendent began the Superintendent's Advisory Council in 2003, when she took office. Members of the council advise the Superintendent on policy issues and provide input on how state policy is having an impact in the classroom. The members -- all high school students -- also serve as ambassadors for the Georgia Department of Education in their schools.

The 52 students were chosen through an application process that included biographical

information and essay questions. There were 640 applications submitted from 120 different school districts around the state, and they were chosen by a panel from the Georgia Department of Education.

"Our vision is that Georgia will lead the nation in improving student achievement, and the Student Advisory Council will play an important role in helping us achieve that goal," Superintendent Cox wrote in a letter to the school. "Student input and opinions will be highly valued as we progress in our education reform efforts, and I look forward to working with these student leaders on this important initiative."

## Bibb County School District Red Ribbon Month Speakers Youth On the Move USA, Inc.

### "Jump Against Drugs"

Dr. Fairest Hill is an international motivational speaker who was labeled 'functionally illiterate' while growing up in Detroit and was failing in school until the intervention of a caring, committed teacher and his gift for music changed his life. He will be spreading his message "Maintaining a Drug Free Lifestyle" to Bibb County students at the following schools for Red Ribbon Month:

**Monday, Oct 16** - Westside High (8:00 a.m.), Burke Elementary (10:00 a.m.), and King-Danforth Elementary (1:15 p.m.)

**Tuesday, Oct 17** - Weaver Middle (8:00 a.m.), Union Elementary (10:00 a.m.), and Hamilton Elementary (1:15 p.m.)

**Wednesday, Oct 18** - Brookdale Elementary (8:45 a.m.), Bruce Elementary (10:15 a.m.), and Rutland Middle (1:15 p.m.)

**Thursday, Oct 19** - Central High (8:00 a.m.), Riley Elementary (10:00 a.m.), and the Mentor's Project 'Community Awareness Drug Program' at Miller Middle (6:00 p.m.)

**Friday, Oct 20** - Bloomfield Middle (8:00 a.m.) and Barden Elementary (10:00 a.m.)

From Atlanta, GA, Mark Rothstein has performed more than 8,500 school shows to an estimated 5,000,000 students. He has established two world records for marathon rope jumping with his most recent being for 36 hours of continuous jumping. Mark's message to students is to maintain a drug-free and fit lifestyle and to make positive choices in their life. He will be at the following schools to participate in Red Ribbon Month events:

**Tuesday, Oct 17** - Burdell-Hunt Elementary (9:30 a.m.) and Burghard Elementary (1:30 p.m.)

**Wednesday, Oct 18** - Bernd Elementary (9:30

a.m.) and Alexander II Magnet (1:30 p.m.)

**Thursday, Oct 19** - Porter Elementary (9:30 a.m.) and Heard Elementary (1:30 p.m.)

**Monday, Oct 23** - Skyview Elementary (9:30 a.m.) and Hartley Elementary (1:30 p.m.)

**Tuesday, Oct 24** - Heritage Elementary (1:30 p.m.)

**Wednesday, Oct 25** - Jones Elementary (9:30 a.m.)

**Thursday, Oct 26** - Barden Elementary (9:30 a.m.) and Carter Elementary (1:30 p.m.)

## Easy as 1-2-3

The Bibb County School District - partnering with Mercer University, Wesleyan College, and the Museum of Arts and Sciences - will be presenting a Parent-Teacher-Student Workshop from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on how to create award-winning science fair projects.

Elementary School grades can attend the workshop either at the Museum of Arts and Sciences on Tuesday, October 17 or at

Hutchings Career Center on Thursday, October 19. Middle and High grades can attend the workshop on Tuesday, October 24 at the Museum of Arts and Sciences.

Childcare will be provided. For questions, contact Brenda Carter at 765.8655.

## New Partnership for Good News

The Bibb County School District is partnering with Our Town 2Day to help inform the community about the hard work and success of the students and faculty of the schools. They will be posting electronic copies of *The Learning Curve*. You can view past copies - and other good stories about Macon and Bibb County - by logging on to

[www.ourtown2day.com/maconga](http://www.ourtown2day.com/maconga).

As always, stories and information concerning the District can be found every Tuesday in *The Learning Curve*, on Channel 17, or by logging on to [www.bibb.k12.ga.us](http://www.bibb.k12.ga.us).