

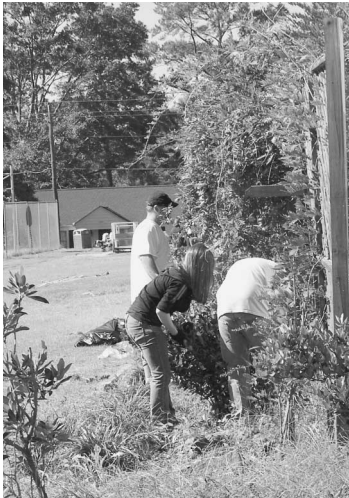
The Learning Curve

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

Elam Alexander Academy Partnership with Stratford Academy Continues to Grow More Students Looking to Become Postive Role Models



Stratford Academy Sophomores help clean up the Elam Alexander campus.

"They're so excited about the Stratford Day," says Elam Alexander Academy Director Mimi Gudenrath walking from classroom to cafeteria to the activities set up outside. "It's a great experience for them; they get to see some positive role models."

"It allows us to do something we normally wouldn't be doing," explains Stratford Academy French teacher and Foreign Language Department Chair Tracy Rucker.

For five years, Gudenrath and Rucker

"This has been an exceptionally respectful group," praises Gudenrath as they file out of the cafeteria to the outdoor activities. "What we hope [the Sophomores] get out of this is realizing that all people learn differently."

"I hope they will get a sense of community, to spend a school day working at another school and say they got some sort of fulfillment," adds Rucker. "Plus, our students become more educated about Elam."

This year, more than 90 Sophomores have come to Elam, beginning their day with an orientation on what Elam Alexander Academy is and what services they offer. Even before stepping into the building, Gudenrath and faculty members traveled to Stratford to begin the students' education about the type of student they would be working with at Elam. The students then disperse into classrooms where they are paired up with an Elam student to help them through their work.



Elam students measured the height of a dwarf horse.

Divided into four groups (science, art, group dynamics, and sports/games), the students rotate through a wide variety of activities, each with an educational focus. From painting to simulating an earth quake with graham crackers to kickball to measuring the height of a quarter

horse and a dwarf horse, there wasn't a student there who wasn't smiling while learning.

"They're SO pumped!" says Elam teacher Rebecca LaBelle as her students

cautiously approach the horses.

"We're using the students' EIP objectives for measurement based on the Georgia Performance Standards," says Elam teacher Gladys Whipple of the height measuring, before asking the students to compare metric units to standard units.

While most of the students directed the younger children in educational activities, others helped out the school itself by weeding gardens and cleaning up the campus.

Surveying the kids learning, playing, and working all around her, Gudenrath can barely contain her excitement. "Isn't this great? This partnership has grown so much over the years, I can't wait to see where it goes from here."

"This, along with the spring Field Day, makes a great mold for our partnership," explains Rucker. "We're teaching, we're learning, and we're having fun!"



An array of educational activities were set up, including simulating an earthquake with graham crackers.

Bibb County Students Earn Top Honors at the International Student Media Festival

Each year, Bibb County hosts its Media Festival, a competition highlighting student media projects such as live action video, Web site design, animation, multimedia applications, digital video editing, intranet/internet applications, robotics, project programming, live action video, sequential stills, digital photography, and a technology literacy challenge.

With a score of 96, a student's project is sent to the state level to be judged, and a score of 96 there will earn them the chance to be judged at the International Student Media Festival, hosted by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT)

"It's an opportunity for outstanding student-produced media projects to be submitted for international competition, and it fosters learning across the curriculum," says Howard Middle Media Specialist Sara Sims. "Writing skills are developed as well as skills to plan, analyze, and interpret results."

This past year, more than 50 projects went on to the state level and more than 20 qualified for the international level. Seven of those took top honors and were recognized at the Board of Education's October meeting.

Students whose projects make it the international level were invited to Dallas for three days in mid-October, giving them the chance to view projects from all over the United States. They also participated in workshops on media production and the latest software use.

International winners this year were Hutchings Career Center's Travon Wilmore, Springdale Elementary's Chambers English, Skyview Elementary's Jonathan Moore, Vineville Academy's Gabriel Townsend, and Howard Middle's Yeji Park, Courtney Dean, Zachary Zion, and Rachel Cabell.

The Bibb County Media Festival has continued to grow, with 350 students and 50 community judges participating last year. This year, the Festival will be hosted at Westside High on February 3, 2007. Registration is from November 3 through December 12 and is open to students in grades 3 - 12.

More information can be found at www.bibb.k12.ga.us/technologyfair/default.htm.

CONGRATULATIONS

At the Macon NAACP's 34th Annual Earl T. Shinoster Freedom Fund Awards Banquet, Bibb County Mentors Project Executive Director June O'Neal was honored with the Community Service Award for her almost 30 years of service to the African American community and her dedication to providing children in poverty with an array of educational opportunities.

Also honored that evening were two Bibb County School District students as they received the Youth Community Service Awards. Southwest High's Jameicia Jordan and Westside High's Kedrick Williams attended the banquet to be honored for their many hours of service and dedication to helping others.

Red Ribbon Month

Westside High School's Sportsmanship/Leadership/Drug-Free Conference

Saturday, October 28 - 12:30 - 4:00

For the second year, Westside High School has planned a conference that targets parents, coaches, student athletes and student leaders in grades 6-12 from Howard, Weaver and Westside. Sessions include alcohol and drug education, injury prevention, teamwork/trust building, strategies for success and character education.