



# ECPS EXPRESS

Monthly News and Notes about Essex County Public Schools

January 2019

## Regional Governor's School Offers Unique Learning Opportunities for Essex Students

Essex High School students who dream of having a career as a scientist don't have to wait until college to start learning. They can get a jump start on their education at the regional Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science.

"Every one of the 19 Governor's Schools throughout the state are unique," said Dr. Terri Perkins, the school's director. "Our focus provides learners the opportunity to explore connections among the environment, math, science and technology through the study of marine science."

On average, approximately 24 Essex High School students attend the school every year. The students are selected as freshmen, then start attending as sophomores through their senior year. The school accepts students from 14 school divisions throughout the region, so the program can be competitive.

"We look for students with a high interest in math and science, but they don't necessarily have to choose one of those as a career," said Dr. Perkins. "But we do assess their aptitude and achievement in math and science and overall achievement measured by their grade point average. We are an accelerated program and we want to make sure they are ready for the rigor."

"Essex County Public Schools was among the first school divisions to be part of the Governor's School and we're proud to have recently celebrated our 20th anniversary of collaborating together," said Superintendent Dr. Scott A. Burckbuchler.

Another important partner is Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw where Governor's School students attend classes for part of the day and have access to superb science labs and the latest technology. They take the remainder of their classes, such as English and social studies back at Essex High School.

With lots of hands-on learning opportunities, students are often applying their learning in the outdoors, for example studying water quality. Every year, students participate in a major field trip, for example, sophomores undertake a three-day camping trip in the Shenandoah mountains to understand where the water cycle begins. Juniors take a kayak trip in the Chesapeake Bay to study freshwater and saltwater marine life. Then seniors culminate their learning by traveling to the Outer Banks to study beach erosion.

"Students become so engaged in their learning when they see real life connections," said Dr. Burckbuchler. "And we know that this kind of experience can inspire learning throughout a lifetime."

Many of the students will build on their foundation at the Governor's School by attending college. After earning a bachelor of science degree in marine biology or oceanography, students can work in fisheries, oil companies, multinational food companies, pharmaceutical and biomedical companies, and on research vessels affiliated with the government or scientific community.

To learn more about the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, please visit <http://cbgs.k12.va.us>.



*Essex High School students get engaged with hands-on learning opportunities in the outdoors.*

## Special Thanks to Our Caring Community



"We deeply appreciate the support from our Essex community that truly makes a difference in our students' lives," said Superintendent Dr. Scott A. Burckbuchler.

Recently, the Kiwanis Club donated new books to every pre-kindergarten and kindergarten student. And all students at Tappahannock Elementary School received new toys from the Toys for Tots program. This outstanding program ensured all elementary students received a Christmas gift.

Food Lion hosted Math Night at their Tappahannock store for the students of Tappahannock Elementary. Students and their families moved around the store to answer interactive math problems. The store organized the event and provided door prizes and snacks.

Essex Intermediate, in sponsorship with the Essex County Sheriff's Department and State Police, participated in Shop with a Cop at the local WalMart to shop for the Christmas holiday.

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