February 1 was an exciting day for Chesapeake teachers due to the hard work of the Chesapeake Public Schools Educational Foundation (CPSEF). It was the grand opening of the school division’s very first Teacher Supply Center.

CPSEF is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, created to help promote and support Chesapeake Public Schools (CPS) teachers and students by securing alternative and non-traditional funding sources. The Foundation Board of Directors and Blue Ribbon Committee are comprised of educators, business and civic leaders, and other community members.

The Teacher Supply Center became a reality as a result of the Foundation’s research and community outreach, as well as generous donations and support from local businesses, organizations, employees, and private citizens. An amazing fact about this store is that it is staffed completely by eight dedicated volunteers – current and former CPS parents and CPS retirees.

continued on page 5
IN THE SWING OF THINGS
HICKORY SOFTBALL COACH
HONORED WITH AWARDS

by Richie Babb

For many people with years in our division, the opening of Hickory High School seems not so very long ago. It's difficult to imagine that this school year is the twenty-first year of the school's existence. Ryan Wieck was in that building on its opening day teaching biology and coaching girls' softball. He still does both and does them well. In fact, on the coaching front, wins and awards keep piling up. In 2008, Coach Wieck and the Hickory softball team won the state championship. They were also runners-up to the state champion in 2015 and 2016. In addition, the Hawks have won the district and region several times. They are excited to have ended this 2017 regular season with nine wins and one loss, guaranteeing a share of the district regular season championship again.

However, wins aren't the only notches on Coach Wieck's belt. He has two major recognitions this school year. He was named the 2015 National Federation of High Schools Mideast Sectional Coach of the Year, receiving this award in 2016. Wieck was also named Coach of the Year by the Chesapeake Sports Club. Currently, he has more than 350 career wins as head coach. That gives him the fourth highest number of wins of all time on the Virginia High School League softball coaching record.

In addition to the talent of his players, Coach Wieck attributes his coaching success to his assistant head coaches. “Shane Smith and Ray Scott are so knowledgeable about the game and so adept at managing teenage girl personalities. Together . . . we have a system . . . in which everything we do is intentional. We put team goals ahead of personal goals.”

When asked what it is about coaching that draws him back to the diamond every year, he said, “The same thing I most enjoy about teaching - helping KIDS find success.”

As Hickory High School's only softball coach, Coach Wieck will often say, “Yep. I'm the losingest softball coach in Hickory history.” But in more ways, he is the winningest!

DUSTI HARRELL
VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE’S
6A CHEER COACH OF THE YEAR

by Mike Perez

For the second time, Dusti Harrell, Grassfield High School (GFH) teacher and cheer coach, has been recognized by the Virginia High School League (VHSL) as the 6A Cheer Coach of the Year. Her success reflects her lifelong passion for and involvement in the sport of cheerleading.

Dusti received her B.A. in health and physical education in 1998 and was hired to teach at Crestwood Middle School where she began her coaching career. In 2002, Dusti became the athletic director at Crestwood Middle School. Shortly afterward, she assumed responsibility for conducting the annual Chesapeake cheerleading safety and rules clinic for middle school coaches, a job she still performs today. Dusti was selected as choreographer for Indian River High School and Great Bridge High School, and in 2006 Great Bridge went on to win the Southeastern District, earning advancement to the state competition. After receiving her M.A. in educational leadership and policy studies from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Dusti was hired as the inaugural varsity competition cheerleading coach at GFH where she currently teaches history. In 2014, Dusti was named GFH Teacher of the Year.

Dusti has led the GFH competition cheerleading team to district, conference, regional, and state championships from 2009 to 2016. Several GFH cheerleaders have even been named to the VHSL All-State Team, and two have been named State Cheerleader of the Year under Dusti’s direction. In 2014, Dusti was selected as the VHSL State Cheer Coach of the Year and was recognized as the Coach of the Year by the Chesapeake Sports Club in 2015. The Grizzly cheer team completed their third consecutive undefeated season in 2016, and Dusti was once again named the VHSL 6A State Coach of the Year. The GFH cheerleading team is very active in their community, offering annual youth cheerleading summer camps. Dusti is an active member of the The Kings Daughters Circle in the Bridge, a philanthropic organization that raises money for Children’s Hospital for the Kings Daughters (CHKD). In 2012, the team began Blankets for Babies, an annual event where the team makes blankets to donate to CHKD at Christmas. An annual Flip-A-Thon is conducted in honor of Megan Curry, a former teammate who passed away. They have raised over $35,500 from the Flip-A-Thons for the benefit of the Ronald McDonald House and CHKD.

Dusti believes that being a coach is more than leading a team to a championship – it’s a commitment to mold young athletes into responsible, self-sufficient, productive members of society. She encourages her students and cheerleaders to give 110%. Dusti revels in the opportunity to model and instill sportsmanship in her athletes while practicing the ethic that hard work does indeed pay off.

2
Forty-seven Chesapeake teachers, each representing their individual schools, were celebrated at the Teacher of the Year Ceremony on March 16, 2017, at Indian River High School. These exemplary educators were honored for their professionalism and commitment to the students of Chesapeake Public Schools. Their efforts and involvement positively affect our classrooms, schools, and communities. The Chesapeake family is fortunate to have such outstanding teachers who have provided our students with the knowledge, skills, and educational experiences that will guide them toward a future where they can become lifelong learners and achieve their dreams. Their contributions to this profession are greatly admired and appreciated.

Congratulations to the 2017 Teachers of the Year.

Chesapeake Teacher of the Year
Jahkari Taylor

Elementary Teacher of the Year
Kristin Garman

Middle School Teacher of the Year
Jessica Austin

High School Teacher of the Year
Alicia White

Heather Waild, Portlock Primary’s Reading Teacher of the Year, Chesapeake's Reading Teacher of the Year, and Reading Teacher of the Year for the state of Virginia has shown a love for literacy from the moment she began teaching for Chesapeake Public Schools (CPS). From the beginning of her career at CPS, she has been a member of the Chesapeake Reading Council, Virginia State Reading Association, and International Literacy Association. Her desire to create the best for her students and community led her to a leadership position at the city level through the Chesapeake Reading Council. Heather has served as the vice president and president, and currently is past president on the board of directors. Her passion doesn’t stop there. She has earned her master’s with an endorsement as a reading specialist. Through her work at Regent University, she has acquired summer employment with the Horizons Program of Hampton Roads assisting struggling readers. Heather set up the Horizons reading program for kindergarten through 3rd grade students. The students are the reason her passion runs deep, but she knows helping them goes far beyond sitting at a kidney-shaped table with leveled readers. Heather’s leadership qualities led her to start her own educational blog, guest blog on two other established literacy blogs, and develop literacy-based presentations. Heather feels that educating other teachers and parents is a powerful way to decrease literacy learning gaps. Heather has presented at the last two state reading conferences and has been invited as a speaker to school divisions across the commonwealth.

The name of her website is Campfire Curriculum with Helpful Heather. Many teachers from across the United States have contacted her through this site and asked for help. She has created numerous hands-on activities, lesson plans, and assessments because she wants to help! While at Portlock she received an instructional grant for $1000, allowing the school to purchase numerous iPads used for intervention in reading. It is but one of several educational grants she has won over the years.
A SPECIAL THANK YOU: SEVEN SENIORS SEND A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO SEVEN TEACHERS

Dear Mrs. Santiago,

There are few teachers before high school that I can say truly helped me. Of course, there were kind teachers, there were fun teachers, and there were mean teachers, but you are a teacher that has made a truly lasting impression on my life. Whenever I look back on my time in elementary school, yours is the face that always brings back positive emotions. Even when I thought that the world had a vendetta against a ten-year-old me, you were my beacon of hope.

You saw me as more than just another student. I was a person to you, as was each and every one of your students. You deeply cared about all of them. You talked to them because you knew they were more than a number. I know you were aware of the impact you would have on those children, and I know you made the most of it.

What I do wish for you to know is how much you have altered my life. I want to thank you for always being that positive driving force that I needed in a very dark time. You encouraged me to strive for the best; to exceed any and all expectations placed on me. Because of the encouragement that you gave me during those years ago, I am now headed down the path that you helped me map out. As I leave this chapter of my life, I think fondly of you and how grateful I am to you for being who you are.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Vega, Deep Creek High School

Dear Ms. McNamara,

Thank you for treating our College Composition class like an actual college class. You have treated us like adults rather than kids. All of the things that you teach us actually relate to real life whether students are going into an English career or not. Thank you for being real with us and caring for the well-being of all of the students in our class. I feel like I have really grown as a writer and as a person in this second semester due to your class. The journals you have us do every other day introduce us to topics and important world problems that we would otherwise ignore in our day-to-day living. You have a constant impact at Grassfield High School, and you deserve recognition. Thank you for everything that you do for our class to help us thrive.

Sincerely,
Todd Liebig, Grassfield High School

Dear Mr. Hustead,

It doesn't seem like it's been almost five years since I was in your class, but it has, and I think my ears are still ringing from your sayings. On the first day of class you instructed us that when you said “Eyeballs!” our response was to be “Snap Sir!” with no ifs, ands, or buts. I would walk out of your classroom each day with a tired hand from writing what ended up being a notebook and a half of notes by the end of the year, but the knowledge that I gained that year would far outweigh the hand cramps.

We went from Manifest Destiny to the Gilded Age to World War I to the Depression to World War II to Vietnam to the Cold War and up to the present day. I still have the notebooks we made and used them to help me with AP United States History last year.

The challenge and stiffness that you present to your students only make them better, and you know that. You instill in your students good study habits, the desire to learn and enjoy what is being learned, and respect for our great country. When I found out that you would be moving up to Great Bridge High School to teach, I was thrilled because I knew that you would be able to touch even more students’ lives and point them towards success. Thank you for the tremendous job that you do every day.

Sincerely,
Alex Belin, Great Bridge High School

Dear Mr. Campbell,

Thank you. I have so many emotions when I think about my time in your class, but the emotions all boil down to gratitude. When I walked into your freshmen orchestra class for first bell on my very first day of high school, I had no idea that you would become such an important figure in my life. Since that day was your first day at Hickory also, we experienced our first high school classes together, and although our perspectives were different, our shared adjustment to high school was a relief to my freshman self.

Throughout every challenge I have faced over the past four years, you have been a stable source of support for me. Simply knowing that I could come to you when I had a dilemma was far more calming for me than you will ever know, and for that I am immensely grateful. Your class was a break from my strict curriculum classes and provided me a creative outlet. The sense of family you encourage in the classroom, paired with the ability for me to create music as part of a group larger than myself, allowed me an escape from the stresses of student life and provided me happiness unmatched by my other classes.

Despite my being pulled in many different directions throughout high school, you have never wavered in your patience and support of me because that is the person you are: always working to help your students. Your commitment to your students is ever present during class, and I have never doubted your willingness to help me or any of my classmates.

I know that you don’t always get the appreciation you deserve, but that’s part of what makes you such an inspiring teacher. In the face of the occasional bad attitude or a class’ lack of focus, you remain unwavering in your dedication to your students. Your passion for music and the arts is an inspiration to me, and your dedication to your students positively impacts not only my high school experience, but also my life. I know that feeling is shared by my classmates as well. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything that you’ve done for me.

Fondly,
Avery Naperala, Hickory High School

Dear Mr. Campbell,

Thank you for treating our College Composition class like an actual college class. You have treated us like adults rather than kids. All of the things that you teach us actually relate to real life whether students are going into an English career or not. Thank you for being real with us and caring for the well-being of all of the students in our class. I feel like I have really grown as a writer and as a person in this second semester due to your class. The journals you have us do every other day introduce us to topics and important world problems that we would otherwise ignore in our day-to-day living. You have a constant impact at Grassfield High School, and you deserve recognition. Thank you for everything that you do for our class to help us thrive.

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Sincerely,
Jennifer Vega, Deep Creek High School
Dear Mr. Freeman,

You and I have known each other since my freshman year, and I would like to take this time to convey my gratitude for you. It is not often that you receive the credit you deserve, so when I was asked to write this letter, you were the first person to come to mind. I first got the pleasure to meet you in my ninth grade Honors World History class. Despite your dry and sarcastic humor, you were a wonderful teacher who helped me score pass advance on my SOL. I then was able to work closely with you as a manager of your boys’ soccer team my junior and senior year. I know it is difficult to balance your work, family, and coaching responsibilities, especially with all the things on your plate this year. But somehow, you manage to be successful in all three.

Now that I am graduating and reflecting on the past four years, you definitely stand out in my memories. We have had a lot of good times and bad, and although you are not always the easiest to get along with, your compassion, your steadfastness, and your loyalty towards our school, your players, and your family have impressed me beyond words. Thank you for all your encouragement and support throughout all these years.

Sincerely,

Katie MacDonald, Indian River High School

Dear Mrs. Lancaster,

High school has been a whirlwind of adventures, from partaking in different clubs, sports, and activities on top of my rigorous course load. Through it all I have found solace in one person: you! Mrs. Lancaster, you are an amazing IB coordinator and friend to all. Whenever I have needed anything at all, you have been there. From the moment I met you four long years ago, you always saw the best in me and encouraged me to reach for the stars. You’re always there to offer advice or just to listen to any dilemma I or my peers may be having. You make the International Baccalaureate Program all that it is, and I could not be more grateful than to have known you over the last four years.

Thank you, Mrs. Lancaster, for everything. Without you, my high school experience would not have been as amazing as it was.

Sincerely,

Katie Kirk, Oscar Smith High School

SUPPLY CENTER continued from page 1

The school division’s educators can stop by this store once a month and choose up to ten items, without spending a dime. Countless supplies are available, from the basic pencils and notebooks to larger items like storage containers and backpacks. However, the most popular picks have been items like tissues, hand sanitizer, binders, and copy paper. There is even a special “Give One, Take One” table available for teachers to donate and/or exchange items they no longer use. These items are in addition to the ten allotted items, and there are no restrictions on the number of visits per month to that specific table.

The good news is traveling fast among Chesapeake’s 45 schools and two centers.

The center is housed at Deep Creek Middle School. Hours of operation are Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on teacher workdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Teachers need to bring their employee identification badge to participate.

On June 8, the doors will close for the summer to gear up for the 2017-2018 preschool week opening. From August 23 through September 1, teachers may visit from noon to 4 p.m. as they prepare for the new year, and normal operating hours will be in effect starting September 5 for the remainder of the school year.

The Foundation always welcomes more help. If you are interested in volunteering, donating, or setting up a supply drive, contact Andrea Vail, CPSEF administrator, at 757-842-4081 or andrea.vail@cpschools.com.

Thank you for all you do for your students. Most importantly, thank you for being you!

Sincerely,

Ali LeGrand, Western Branch High School

Dear Mrs. Hinton, (aka my school mom),

Yes, I have to say you are my school mom. Actually, about half the school would say the same thing. Your mothering instincts always create a shoulder to cry on, an ear to listen, and wise words to heal the situation. You have been this and so much more to many. But for me personally, you have changed my life for the better. You have an eye for seeing potential in students – sometimes before they realize it is even there. In April of my junior year, you saw that in me. You believed I could do things that I wasn’t sure I would be able to achieve. You gave me responsibilities that were out of my comfort zone and cheered me on to complete the tasks. Your role is so much more than a teacher. You are a mom, a cheerleader, a mentor, and an amazing organizer.

The way you care for your students and your student council members, present, former, and future, is beyond normal. In the school and outside our grounds, I know if you aren’t in the stands cheering, in the school rallying the troops, organizing your groups for the next event or fundraiser, you might be found at a nearby university supporting a former student. You might be at home thinking of how you could cheer up a fellow colleague you think might be feeling a little down. You truly go out of your way to make someone else happy, and you don’t expect recognition or reward. You are an unselﬁsh lady. You want EVERYONE to succeed, the meek junior girl, the brilliant AP literature students, your fellow teachers, and Western Branch School and community. You are truly a Blue and Gold Bruin in every way. I am so glad that I have had the experience of not only seeing you do amazing things, but working and learning from you on a daily basis. You have given me the greatest gift of my years at WB – conﬁdence in myself. I will consider myself lucky if I become half the person and teacher you are. Thank you for all you do for our school. Thank you for all you do for your students. Most importantly, thank you for being you!

Sincerely,

Katie Kirk, Oscar Smith High School

Katie MacDonald, Indian River High School

Mrs. Hinton, thank you for being one of the greatest people I have ever known. I promise to one day be as kind, caring, and helpful to others as you have been to me. Thank you for being my school mom!
CHESAPEAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2017
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION EXERCISES SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deep Creek High School</td>
<td>Thursday, June 15 • 4:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oscar Smith High School</td>
<td>Thursday, June 15 • 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hickory High School</td>
<td>Friday, June 16 • 9:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indian River High School</td>
<td>Friday, June 16 • 4:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Branch High School</td>
<td>Wednesday, June 14 • 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oscar Smith High School</td>
<td>Thursday, June 15 • 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Hickory High School</td>
<td>Friday, June 16 • 12:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indian River High School</td>
<td>Friday, June 16 • 4:15 p.m.</td>
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<td>Hickory Indian River High School</td>
<td>Friday, June 16 • 9:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Bridge High School</td>
<td>Friday, June 16 • 7:30 p.m.</td>
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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WESTERN BRANCH • DEEP CREEK OSCAR SMITH • HICKORY GRASSFIELD • INDIAN RIVER GREAT BRIDGE GRADUATES!

GRADUATION DVDs

Once again, the Chesapeake Public Schools Educational Foundation is offering for sale DVD copies of each complete graduation ceremony. The cost for each DVD is $25. Proceeds from the DVD sales will be used by the Chesapeake Public Schools Educational Foundation to directly benefit students and instructional activities of the school division. Please allow four to six weeks for delivery via USPS. Additional information and the online purchase link can be found on the Chesapeake Public Schools homepage.

4-DAY SUMMER WORKWEEK FOR CHESAPEAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Chesapeake Public Schools will operate on a 4-day summer workweek Monday - Thursday from June 19 - August 17. Facilities will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. This does not include the week of July 4. All employees will work regular hours during that week, and school facilities will be closed for the holiday on Tuesday, July 4.
Hiring and maintaining high-quality employees is a very important part of our school division’s mission. Without that superb teacher in front of every class, the goal of high-level student achievement is jeopardized. Accomplishing this task is not just restricted to teachers. Every employee who works for Chesapeake Public Schools contributes to the successes of our division.

Our support personnel are certainly a key part of our success here in Chesapeake. Our bus drivers safely transport our students to and from school, and our clerical employees field questions from parents and assist in daily operations. Our custodial staff insures that our buildings are clean, and our school nutrition workers carefully prepare breakfast and lunch for our students. Our teacher assistants take a load of tasks off the plate of our teachers, and our school plant workers keep things in good working order so our buildings are not only operational, but efficient. Certainly we are proud of the dedication that exists in these employee categories.

Unfortunately, it has been well documented in recent years that high school graduates entering college are not seeking a degree in the teaching profession. This is largely due to the mounting pressures of the job. Young people see the stress of accountability (testing) and the failure of our pay scales to keep up with the competition from other professions. This has caused a lack of high-quality graduates in our applicant pool.

Here in Chesapeake, we have been fortunate to be a school system of choice. Even though there are a diminishing number of excellent candidates, they look to us first for employment. We also are able to draw good, experienced candidates from surrounding divisions because of our reputation as being a “family” and our ability to provide a salary and benefits that are more than competitive with other divisions.

What do we do about this shrinking pool of prospective educators? Certainly we need to pay close attention to the pay scales. Not many individuals go into education for the money, but it is a contributing factor. It used to be that our benefit package made up for some of the shortcomings in the teacher pay category, but even those items are being reduced due to a lack of funding and changes in the health care laws.

Our Department of Human Resources conducted two job fairs in the past several months. One fair was specifically targeted for licensed instructional personnel to fill positions required by the Virginia Standards of Quality. The other fair was specifically seeking applicants for bus drivers, bus assistants, custodial workers, school nutrition workers, and technology support positions. Both job fairs were very successful, with the instructional event drawing over 400 applicants and the support position event drawing around 200 applicants.

We will continue to recruit and evaluate qualified candidates to work in our schools so that our reputation as a superior school division can be maintained. If you know anyone looking for employment and their skill set meets our Chesapeake requirements, please have them apply. Our “family” is always welcoming to those who want to serve our students well.

Chesapeake Public Schools (CPS) School Nutrition Services was fortunate to have a graduate school dietetic intern working with them this past spring. As part of her graduate school dietetic program, Mary Roberts-Curran was required to create and manage a promotional event revolving around nutrition and healthy eating. Mary chose to organize and promote a poster contest tied to National Nutrition Month for all K-5 schools in Chesapeake.

The theme, “Put Your Best Fork Forward,” mirrored that of the national theme, and all 28 primary, intermediate, and elementary schools participated. A total of 788 posters were received, and 18 of those were selected as winners. First, second, and third place awards were given
The rest of the donations were used to purchase the key element for the Color Run – multicolored corn starch powder that’s FDA approved and biodegradable, and most importantly, safe for participants and the school grounds.

With our first goal being an outreach event for the entire FAMILY, we set the registration fee at $20 per person, so a family of four could run (or walk) for under $100. Participants had the option of registering at the school or paying through the division’s Online School Payments (OSP). Lisa Amerson, committee chair, shared, “I was excited to have just as many adults involved as students. It was great seeing parents running alongside their children.” One parent wrote on her post-event survey, “My favorite part was the experience and time spent with my children. We had a lot of fun and were fit at the same time.”

In promoting FITNESS, we set the race route around the perimeter of our beautiful school campus. Two laps equaled approximately two miles, a challenging yet achievable distance for participants of all ages. Along the route were five color stations with various themes and obstacles, all creatively designed by our staff. Sixth grade teachers saved the race as superheroes. Seventh grade teachers helped runners escape to the beach. Eighth grade teachers rocked their American pride. Elective teachers bedazzled runners with school spirit. Finally, waiting under the big balloon arch finish line, were spectators ready to shower their loved ones with a colorful finale of cheers. Student athlete, Brittney Cates, shared, “The Color Run was a great bonding activity for our field hockey team. Not only did we encourage each other along the way, but we had fun while getting some conditioning in.”

We were also pleased to achieve our FUNDRAISING goal, and more than doubling last year’s festival revenue. After the race, families purchased concessions from the grill, refreshing snow cones, raffle tickets for great prizes, and punch cards for fun activities - including the infamous DUNK TANK! The Mustangs want to give a special thank you to Nick Taylor, host of Z104’s morning show, for serving as our guest DJ and event promoter. All proceeds from this year’s HOMS Color Run 3K will be used to purchase instructional technology for the school. We are looking forward to continuing to grow and improve this family-friendly event for our community!

ruiz food truck visits
Indian River High School

by Joanne Kinsey and Jennifer McDermott

Chesapeake School Nutrition Services was selected from schools across the country to receive a visit from the Ruiz Food Truck. This stop was part of a national food truck tour featuring new healthy menu items developed specifically for schools by Ruiz Foods, located in California. The truck began its tour in September on the west coast and moved across the country making its final stops along the east coast in Virginia before heading home.

As a K-12 school division, Chesapeake is approached frequently to test products and provide feedback to manufacturers. As manufacturers move toward clean label food products for schools, it is important to provide students a voice in choosing foods that taste good and appeal to their palettes.

Under the brands, El Monterey and Tornados, Ruiz is bringing excitement and bold flavors to students across the country. Indian River High School was selected as the site for the food truck stop in Chesapeake, and two products from the Ruiz portfolio were chosen for student sampling. A Southwestern Style Chicken Tornado (a lunch item) and Sausage, Egg, and Cheese Tornado (a breakfast item) received high marks and a thumbs up for a place on the menu for next school year. Both items are made with whole grain rich tortillas and meet Smart Snack guidelines for USDA compliance in the National School Lunch Program.
Industry credentials, a new program, and additional dual enrollment opportunities make the Chesapeake Center for Science and Technology (CCST) an increasingly attractive option for students. The theme at CCST this year has been “The Best of Both Worlds.” It’s a reminder that in today’s increasingly fluid job market, there is no longer a hard delineation between college and career. Students who choose college benefit from skills and knowledge in a career and technical area. Likewise, students who complete high school and go directly into a career often find themselves in college-level classes to increase their knowledge while enhancing their value to employers. CCST is seizing upon this evolving, worldwide occurrence and using the opportunity to prepare students for both.

It has been a goal for both the administration at CCST and Chesapeake Public Schools (CPS) central administration to increase the relevance of the course offerings at CCST. A part of that effort is to offer industry credentials to every student in every program. For instance, Heating and Air Conditioning Repair and Installation (HVAC) students can earn industry credentials, one being the EPA-Section 608 Technician Certification. Students in Auto Body Repair are eligible to take the i-Car certification examination, a credential required for workers in body shops that perform work for insurance companies. Students who complete Computer Systems Technology can earn an A+ Certification, a valuable credential for students entering the computer field. The list goes on and on. These industry credentials are proof to potential employers that students from CCST have a requisite set of skills and knowledge.

Another new program is coming to CCST next school year. Electricity will be offered as a dual enrollment course through Tidewater Community College (TCC). It is a one-year program that will actually be taught on the TCC campus. In addition to potentially earning an industry credential, students successfully completing this program will gain 14 college credits at a significantly reduced rate of $45 per credit hour.

Electricity isn’t the only program in which students can earn college credit. Courses that simultaneously offer credit toward a CPS diploma and college credit are referred to as “dual enrollment” courses. Currently, students completing Auto Body Repair graduate with 13 college credits in addition to their i-Car certification. Students completing both years of the Computer Systems Technology earn eight college credits. Starting next year, Welding will become a dual enrollment course. Work is underway to maximize the number of dual enrollment courses. HVAC is among the courses under consideration for this enhancement.

Work is constantly ongoing to enhance CCST courses. This is now possible through industry credentials, new courses, dual enrollment, and pre-apprenticeship opportunities. Please visit the CCST website, download the mobile app, or talk with school counselors for more information. Interested parents and students can also call the school at 547-0134.

**NUTRITION POSTER CONTEST continued from page 7**

Out for each grade level K-5, Partnering with Chesapeake Regional Medical Center, Mary organized an awards ceremony, which was held on April 17, 2017, in the lobby of the medical center. Winners accepted their trophies from Mayor Alan Krasnoff and also received prizes donated by several area businesses.

Mary feels her internship experience with CPS was amazing. The creativity of the students generated an awareness of the importance of school nutrition and encouraged community involvement. Mary hopes she “was able to positively promote School Nutrition Services, National Nutrition Month, and most importantly, Chesapeake Public Schools.” CPS School Nutrition Services continues to promote nutrition education and healthy eating choices, as well as ensuring that children in need have a meal through the use of the Nutrition Express/Cruisin’ Café. The department remains on the cutting edge of new and innovative programs that will improve nutritional options for the students of CPS.
CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR RETIREES!

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!
WATCH FOR OUR FALL/WINTER ISSUE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR!

The Editorial Board of THE FOCUS

THE FOCUS newsletter is designed to highlight events that may be of interest to the community, parents, and to faculty and staff of the Chesapeake Public Schools. It is intended to bring focus to the people and events that have shaped our school system.

ACCESS THE FOCUS ON OUR WEB SITE
www.cpschools.com

The Chesapeake Public School System is an equal educational opportunity school system. The School Board of the City of Chesapeake also adheres to the principles of equal opportunity in employment and, therefore, prohibits discrimination in terms and conditions of employment on the basis of race, sex, national origin, color, religion, age, or disability.