

BROOKE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Franklin Primary and Career Tech Honored for Being EXEMPLARY

Scott Donohew and Joe Starcher were recognized during a special ceremony in Charleston, WV on November 8, 2011 for their leadership of exemplary educational programs. Mr. Donohew is the principal of Franklin Primary School which was named an exemplary elementary school in WV. Mr. Starcher is the Director of Career-Technical and Adult Education at Brooke High School which was named as one of the six exemplary CTE programs in the state.

Accompanied by Mrs. Valerie Smith, Director of Student Services, the trio were guests at the Charleston Embassy Suites for the "In the Spotlight" ceremony. Dr. Donna Davis and Dr. Gus Penix from the Office

of Education Performance Audits, along with Chuck Heinlein, Deputy State Superintendent, offered greetings and congratulatory remarks.

Exemplary status is bestowed upon a school or CTE program when their performance and progress "substantially exceed the standards adopted by the West Virginia Board of Education" (WV Policy 2320). The standards for individual schools include the students' performance on the WESTEST 2 and attendance rate. Exemplary CTE programs are those having students with high achievement on end-of-course exams and who have demonstrated academic proficiency on WorkKey tests.

Congratulations to FPS and CTE staff!



Above, Mrs. Smith accompanies Mr. Donohew as he accepts the award for Franklin School. Below, Mrs. Smith joins Mr. Starcher as he is presented the award for the Brooke High Career-Technical Education Program (photos provided by OEPA).



Brooke High School Students to Participate in The Challenge Program

TCP, The Challenge Program, was introduced to Brooke High School students at an interactive assembly on October 21st. TCP, a non-profit organization based in Pennsylvania, partners with area businesses to

offer incentives to high school students in four categories: attendance, academic improvement, academic excellence and community service.

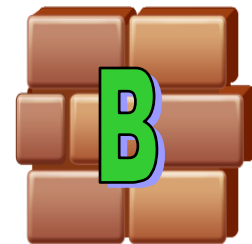
Students ranking in the top 10% of the latter three categories

become eligible to win a check for \$250.00. Four seniors will be awarded checks in the spring; four sophomores and four juniors will be awarded checks next fall at the beginning of the 2012-13 school year.

**Dr. Kathy Kidder
-Wilkerson,
Superintendent**

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**Build a Better
Brooke**

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Brooke High Students “Stay for a Change”

A new after-school program at Brooke High School has students voluntarily extending their school day until 5:30 p.m. Mrs. Toni Shute, principal, began the program on October 17, 2011 with ten students; one day later fifty-two students showed up.

Help with homework, informal guitar lessons, catching up on schoolwork, tutoring, quiet study time and use of the library are just some of the offerings. One instructor from each core subject area has graciously volunteered to be on hand to assist students every day Monday through Thursday. At the conclusion of the day, Change Incorporated provides each student with a free,

hot meal. Following the meal, two activity buses transport the students home.

Mrs. Shute, who oversees the program daily, is hoping that the program will be one more way Brooke High School can decrease the number of its dropouts. Even though BHS enjoys a 90.3% graduation rate, the best in the state, they are always looking for ways to improve.

“Some of our students don’t have Internet at home, and some don’t have computers.” Toni Shute

Photo by Ian Hicks, The Intelligencer



Primary Schools Enjoy Read for the Record Day

Often the most important moments of the day to a child are those when they are read to by parents or older siblings. This activity may make the child feel safe and loved, may increase the child’s love of books, and may improve their ability to read.

On Thursday, October 6, 2011, county administrators visited the seven primary schools to read aloud to students in grades K and 1. The activity was part of the National Read for the

Brooke County has adopted Scholastic’s Reading Bill of Rights which can be viewed on the county website.

Record Day and was to show support for early literacy. The book *Llama Llama Red Pajama*, a classic childrens’

book by Anna Dewdney, was selected to be read. The book was displayed digitally on classroom SmartBoards so that the students could view the illustrations and follow along with the reader.

Two world records were set on that day. First, the greatest number of people read the same book on the same day and second, the greatest number of people read the same book online in a single day. Thank you Brooke County for participating!

Hooverston and Franklin Support the United Way

Students participating in recent walk-a-thons at Hooverston Heights and Franklin Primary provided a “beacon of light” and hope to individuals and families in our community, according to George Smoulder of the United Way.

Hooverston Heights students raised \$241.56 for the United Way while Franklin Primary donated gave

\$104.69. Mr. Smoulder said the much needed donations will be used for provided food, shelter, and health care to Brooke County families that are struggling to meet their basic needs.

A BIG thank you to Mrs. Ennis, Mr. Donohew, their staffs and their students for their efforts in supporting such a worthy cause!

*“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better; it’s not.”
~ Dr. Seuss*



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FMS Raises Money for the Cancer Society

DiMarzio and Whitehead Homerooms are Winners

Students and staff at Follansbee Middle School participated in many events to raise more than \$1,200 for the Brooke-Hancock American Cancer Society. Those events included the collection of pennies, athletic contests and a mini Relay For Life.

The two homerooms collecting the most pennies were featured in the athletic events. One winner, Amanda DiMarzio's homeroom, challenged the female faculty in a volleyball game; the other winner, Richie Whitehead's homeroom, played against the male faculty in a game of dodgeball-ball.

The events at FMS were coordinated

by Dave Secrist, a wellness and physical education teacher, and the chairman of the Brooke-Hancock American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Mr. Secrist is also the creator of dodgeball-ball.

The mini Relay for Life was held in the Carlin Dodrill Fieldhouse. Students secured sponsors who donated money for each lap a student walked around the interior of the fieldhouse.

The donation will be used for research, education and patient service programs that are funded by the American Cancer Society.

GREAT JOB, FMS!



Photo by Warren Scott

Parents and Caregivers Can Share the Literacy Load

Literacy is critical for a better life as it improves visual perception skills, auditory listening skills and the ability to problem solve. Parents and caregivers can do many things to ensure that their children read every day.

Scholastic suggests that parents and caregivers can vow to do the following:

- I will be a reading role model for my child by reading every day.



- I will have books at home for my child to enjoy.
- I will help my child carve out time

in the day just for reading.

- From birth through the teen years, I will read to and with my child.
- I will encourage my child to choose the books he or she wants to read.
- I will take my child to sign up for a library card.
- I will volunteer to read to children at school or in my community.

Chesapeake Awards Benefit Brooke County Students

Eight Brooke County students have been awarded *Chesapeake Energy's Discovering Tomorrow's Leaders* since the start of the school year. The awards were bestowed upon Nuncia Filippelli, Valerie Peterson, Emily Sloat, Frank Decapio, Kelsey Welsh, Courtney Engle, Kylie Greathouse and Breanna Vanderpool.

Chesapeake established the



Photo courtesy of Weirton Daily Times

Award in 2007 to recognize students living in the company's areas of operation who have demonstrated outstanding leadership potential. The company donates a refurbished computer to the school that the recipient attends.

The eight will be honored at a banquet where their awards will be presented; the names of two of the winners will be drawn to receive a laptop.

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[http://www.
edline.net/
pages/
BrookeCounty
Schools](http://www.edline.net/pages/BrookeCountySchools)

“Commit to High Standards and No Excuses”

The goal of the 2011-12 school year is to commit to high standards for all students and staff without excuses; avoiding mediocrity. Allowing behavior that is mediocre sets the standard for all acceptable behavior. Commitment will also involve the implementation of research-based programs to increase student learning. These programs include Professional Learning Communities in all ten schools, the Accelerated Reading Program in both middle schools, two foreign languages in both middle schools and Supports for Personalized Learning (e.g., tutoring, RtI).

Informational Items

Two-hour Delays

If a two-hour school delay is issued on a Monday, students will be reporting one hour later than usual while staff will report two hours later. Remember that currently students always report to school one hour later on Mondays and staff reports at their normal time. For example, if your child reports to school at 8:30 on a normal Monday, he or she would report at 9:30 with a two-hour delay. Teachers normally reporting at 7:00 on a Monday would report at 9:00.

Feel free to contact your school if you have any questions about two-hour delays on Mondays.

Concerns and Complaints

If an event occurs at your child's school that causes you concern or if you would like to file a complaint, please follow this chain of command:

- ◆ Teacher or Coach, if applicable
- ◆ Principal
- ◆ Central Office Director
- ◆ Assistant Superintendent
- ◆ Superintendent
- ◆ School Board

Board Delegations

If you would like to speak at a Board of Education meeting, please arrive a few moments early and secure a delegation form from Mr. Joe Starcher, CTE and Adult Ed Director. You will be asked to complete the form by indicating the topic you desire to speak about, and listing your name and address. You will be allowed to address the Board but you should not expect any action to be taken; action can only be taken on items appearing on the agenda for the meeting.

If your topic is a specific complaint, remember to first follow the chain of command. Personnel items will not be discussed in an open forum.