



FROM THE CCR CORNER



News from College and Career Readiness and Secondary Education

Maryland Virtual Learning - Service Learning - Youth Development/Student Leadership - CTE: Business, Child Care, Allied Health, Biomedical - STEM: Math, Science, Envirothon, Science Fair

June 2014



Light at the end of the tunnel...

The countdown is on as we near the final days of the 2014–2015 school year. It has been a difficult year in some regards but there are so many reasons to celebrate Garrett County Public Schools. As I participated in both Northern and Southern High School graduation ceremonies, I was overwhelmed at the graduates I have come to know and their many accomplishments. I reflected on the graduates of the past twenty–five years and all of the amazing achievements of those students.

Oftentimes, your work as an educator or support staff person within the system goes unrecognized. Many of you do receive thanks and recognition for your work with students but I know that you do so much, give so much, and never expect thanks or reward. That is just your nature. As I shared some time with Mr. Dave Mayfield during his annual graduation visit, we discussed the impact that education does have on individuals, communities, and society. The services we are capable of providing and those we do provide are foundational for the success of students as well as our community.

I urge you to continue your great work and remember that your influence goes far beyond what you can imagine. I am hoping that summer is relaxing and rejuvenating for each of you and that we can all return in August to meet the challenges of another school year. It is a true pleasure to work with all of you.

Michelle Harman

NEW STUDENT MEMBER ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION!



Congratulations to Ms. Adriana (Annie) Fratz of NHS who was selected as the 2014-2015 Student Member on the Board (SMOB). This prestigious position was created in 1996 when Senator Hafer sponsored SB 368 entitled “Garrett County Board of Education—Student Member.” Ms. Jessica (Stemple) Wilhelm and I traveled to Annapolis to testify before the committee regarding the importance of student advocacy and participation in the educational process. Since the passage of SB 368, a long line of distinguished students have applied for and served as SMOB for GCPS. My thanks to these SMOBs for their exemplary integrity and character as well as their desire to serve GCPS. Again, congratulations to Ms. Annie Fratz, thanks to the excellent applicants who participated in this year’s process, and thanks to the GCPS and Board of Education for their continued support.

When I began my newsletter, school was still in session. Since that time, I took my annual leave to attend the AP Reading to serve as a Table Leader in Kansas City, MO from June 8—June 19 2014. That postponed the release of the CCR news and took me out of the area for the end of the school year. The reading only occurs for a specific period at one location so I had little choice other than to rescind my acceptance of the invitation which I didn't wish to do.

The good news is that this year's reading of 214,000 biology exams was the best for me ever. My assigned question was a good one with little clarification needed when applying the rubric. The extra professional activities and presentations by the College Board, ETS, AP, and professionals in the science community only added to the experience. I hope to share what I gained with those of you invested in the AP experience as there are some new initiatives coming our way. I am a firm believer in the positive power of AP rigor for our students as we work to prepare them for college and other post high school experiences.



NGSS Updates from Science Briefing May 22, 2014

A new timeline was released by MSDE with 5 phases.

Phase 1—2013-2014: Exploration Awareness, and Statewide Capacity Building

Phase 2—2014-2015: Classroom Transitions, Shifts, and Practices

Phase 3—2015-2016: Leveraging Materials, Resources, and Expertise

Phase 4—2016-2017: Statewide Application, Assessment, and Coordination

Phase 5—2017-2018: Full PreK-12 Implementation

Sub-committees from Elementary, Middle and High levels shared their recommendations with the group as well as the needs specific for each level. Most included the need for support, PD, \$, vertical teaming opportunities, and the crosswalks necessary as we move into NGSS. Specific elementary concerns centered around the amount of change, materials and PD, discomfort with the rigor of content, need for specialists, and materials funding. Middle school focused on choice of sequence—spiral or domains (layered), certification issues, student tracking, hiring practices, and funding. Discussion at the high school level centered around the sequence of courses, need for Earth Science (or not) at high school level mandatory for all students, certification issues, content rich faculty members, and LEA flexibility. Many counties require only 3 science credits at this time versus GC 4 credit requirement.

Garrett County will begin the real work of transitioning by continuing to meet in clusters (elem, ms, hs), meeting vertically, and familiarizing all necessary personnel with the NGSS and the requirements per grade level.

Need help finding articles to support reading in your content area?

Check out <https://newsela.com/> for great articles on current topics in a wide variety of content areas. The greatest part about this site is that the teacher or student has the ability to adjust the reading level. So if you have struggling readers in your classroom, you can provide the same content for all students but at a level of comfort to those who are not strong readers while challenging those who are. The site also include great little quizzes as well as other features for students, parents, and teachers!

Hands Only CPR Update SB 503/HB 1366

SB 503/HB 1366

Sponsors: Senator Pugh, et al

PUBLIC SCHOOLS – CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION AND AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR INSTRUCTION (BREANNA’S LAW)

Summary: Requiring a public school student to complete, as part of the health or physical education curriculum, instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation that includes hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator, beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2015–2016 school year; requiring each county board of education to provide specified instruction in every public school that enrolls students in any of the grades 9 through 12, beginning in the 2015–2016 school year; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2014

Envirothon Team Takes 8th at States!

The **Northern High School Envirothon County Champions, "Northern Lights 1"** recently attended the State Envirothon held at Camp Pecometh in Centreville, MD. The Western Region consisting of Garrett, Allegany, and Washington counties joined together to travel to this year's event on June 18-19, 2014. The competition included categorical competition in aquatics, wildlife, forestry, soils, and the special topic of land sustainable/local agriculture. The Northern Lights placed 8th overall in the competition which consisted of 18 teams from across the state. In the individual categories, the team captured fourth place in the wildlife category, sixth in the forestry category, and seventh in the special issue category.

The coach for the NHS teams is Ms. Rebecca Kenyon-Sisler, Science Instructor who holds an advanced professional certificate in Maryland as well as MAEOE Environmental Science certification and National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification.

Congratulations to this year's winning team and to all participants. Special thanks to Mrs. Mary Ann Umbel and Mr. Kevin Dodge for accompanying and assisting this year's students. Also, special thanks to Allegany and Washington counties for their collaboration in transportation and chaperoning duties. Additional thanks to all teachers, administrators, and resource persons who assisted in the county trainings and competition this year.

For more information about Envirothon opportunities in our high schools, please contact Mr. Jamie Beeman at SHS and Ms. Rebecca Kenyon-Sisler at NHS or Ms. Michelle Harman at Central Office.

NHS/Garrett County Champion Envirothon Team “Northern Lights 1”



Team members are pictured above including Brandon Raley (substitute for Blake Meyers), Chris McCann, Rhiannon Dodge, Katie Carpenter and Kyle Klotz.

NHS Junior Selected for Advanced Leadership Conference

NHS Junior, Seth Bagley has been awarded a partial scholarship to attend the **Maryland Leadership Workshops (MLW) Advanced Leadership Conference** to be held later this summer. Only **25 applicants from the nearly 2000** were accepted for this unique leadership opportunity.

Seth, son of Barry and Mary-Jo Sweitzer, was one of only 4 students in the Junior class who were inducted into **National Honor Society** this year at Northern High School. He has been actively involved in **Student Council** and other leadership opportunities during the school year, on weekends, and even over the summer. While taking a rigorous course load (including 4 AP classes), he was able to participate in two varsity sports including **Tennis** and **Cross Country** which both advanced to the State level. Completion of over 100 Service Learning hours assisting groups such as the **Blind Skiers Program** sponsored by the local Lions Club has given him the opportunity to give back to the community. Serving as **Vice President of Garrett County’s Association of Student Councils** and **Parliamentarian for NHS’s Student Government** has allowed him the opportunity to speak up for those who otherwise would not be heard. His involvement in a variety of student leadership opportunities including Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) has encouraged him to look for more ways to get involved. Seth also attended last summer’s MLW Senior High Leadership Workshop last year. Seth has also been accepted into the Early College Admission Program and will attend Frostburg State University in the fall where he intends to major in Biology and has been accepted into the Honors Program.



For more information about MLW, please contact Michelle Harman or visit <http://www.mlw.org/index.php/about>.
For general information and inquiries, email office@mlw.org.



Miscellaneous News:

1. STEM Academy was postponed due to several factors. Look for updates as we move into the new school year.
2. STEM internships also postponed. Money is still available but extension to deadline allows us more flexibility in coordinating those efforts.
3. Approximately 15 GCPS students are participating in this year's ECHO/AHEC Summer Experience.
4. GCPS to participate in study with Appalachian Environmental Lab in 2014-2015 school year.
5. Discovery Streaming and Techbook products coming to GCPS soon through potential grant opportunities.
6. ZEST for TECH held June 23—June 27 at FSU!
7. Teacher of the Year St. Michael's Cruise—June 30/July 1.
8. College and Career Readiness Academy—July 22-23 in Hagerstown, MD.
9. Project Learning Tree PD at Evergreen Heritage Center.
10. ELA for Western Maryland through Evergreen Heritage Center—August 4—August 8, 2014.
11. A & S Summer Retreat—August 13—14, 2014.
12. "Back-to-School" —August 19—22 for faculty and staff.

Some Resources:

ACHIEVE: <http://www.achieve.org/>

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS: <http://www.nextgenscience.org/>

EQUIP RUBRICS: <http://www.nextgenscience.org/equip-rubric-science-released>

COMMON CORE EQUIP: <http://commoncore.americaachieves.org/equip>

More specifics about rubrics: <http://nstahosted.org/pdfs/ngss/EquIPRubric.April.2014.pdf>

ARTICLES FOR DL: <https://newsela.com/>



Garrett County Board of
Education
40 South Second Street
Oakland, MD 21550
301-334-8900

