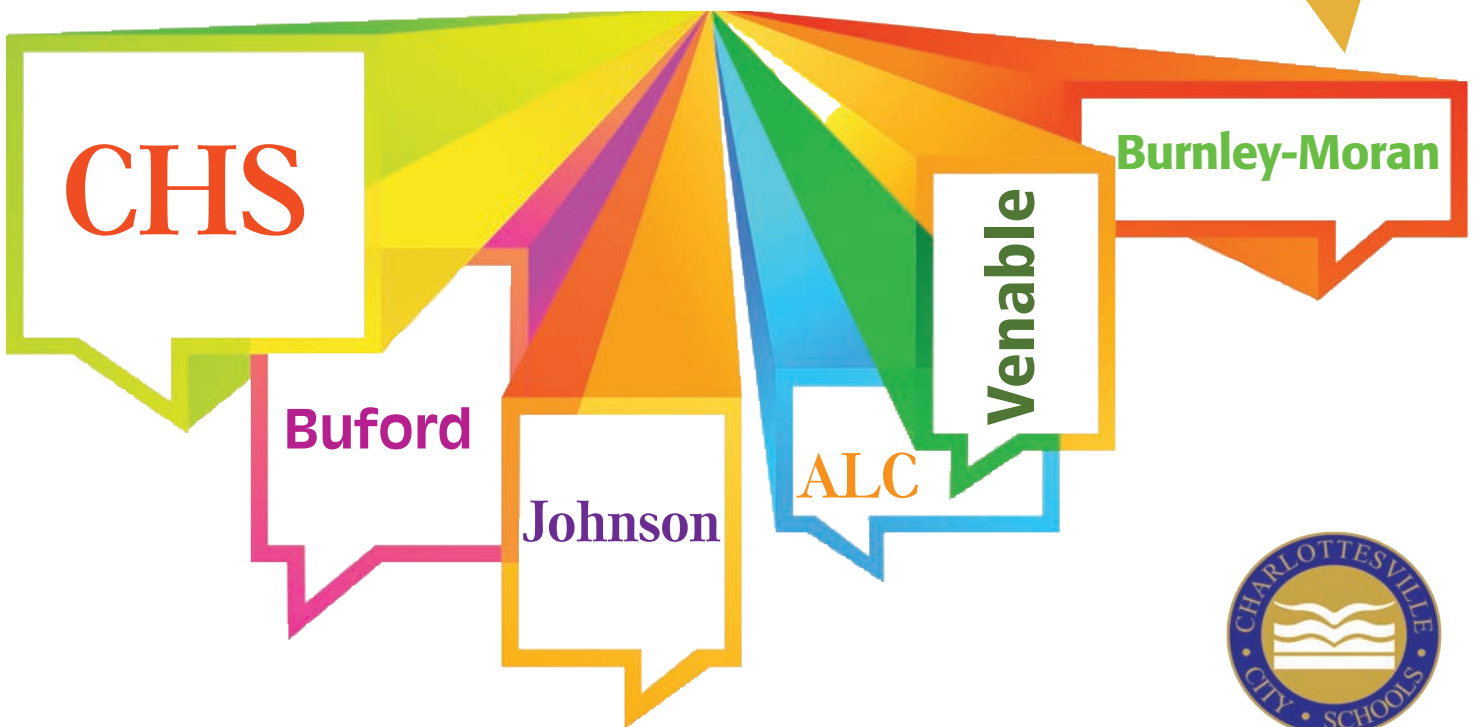


# *Talk about* **Success**



## **Charlottesville City Schools**

*Personal and Academic Success for All!*





# Innovation

Charlottesville City Schools offers the only locally funded preschool program for 3-year-olds in the region and enrollment continues to grow.

BLAST (Blended Learning to Advance Student Thinking) will furnish tablet computers for each student in grades 6-12. The tablets will utilize Windows devices that operate on a virtualized environment, providing secure offline access to instructional resources, content creation, and ebook reading. Teachers will also receive tablets to extend portability and access for classroom resources.

The PowerSchool Parent Portal, introduced at the beginning of the school year, allows parents to view assignments, grades and attendance online. Parents may also communicate with teach-



ers using email links and view school notices.

Green Schools Initiatives division-wide are bringing classes outdoors! "Learning Outside the Bricks" at Jackson-Via that utilizes outdoor space for artistic and academic study. Work was done with assistance from local landscape architects, volunteers from the UVA Day of Caring, and a grant from the Hartford Corporation.



The Virginia Department of Education awarded a grant of nearly \$275,000 for a new partnership between CCS and the University of Virginia that will provide 120 teachers with instruction on "Teaching Scientific Inquiry and the Nature of Science for Grades K-5."

# Partnerships



The City Schoolyard Garden at Buford serves as an outdoor classroom for students year-round. The garden received a \$50,000 grant from the CACF Future Fund.

Buford and CHS partnered with the American Red Cross to deliver CPR training to 422 students.

City schools benefit from more than 80 community partnerships that extend our resources for learning through tutoring,

supplies and materials, mentoring, leadership development, volunteers, internships, and funding.

CHS seniors from the Student Council Association spent two days working with Habitat for Humanity to beautify the new Paton Street neighborhood. City students joined with children from the neighborhood and other schools to create a mosaic installation.



Piedmont Virginia Community College provides access to computer labs, campus tours, and classroom spaces for Clark Elementary after-school programs up to 2 days per week. Information sessions for family members are also offered to encourage them to use the variety of services available at PVCC.

In collaboration with Hearthwood Apartments, Greenbrier established a learning center, an apartment where staff and tutors can work with students after school. Westhaven also hosts learning activities in collaboration with Burnley-Moran.



# Academic Rigor

BACON is Sizzling! The CHS Science Club (Best All-Around Club of Nerds) competed in a Zero Robotics competition hosted by NASA and MIT. They finished 8th among 24 schools. BACON was a finalist in the Spirit of Innovation Awards, a nationwide competition hosted by NASA and the Conrad Foundation. BACON



members have worked with community partners, including the Defense Intelligence Agency and General Electric.

CHS offers more AP and dual enrollment courses (30+) than any school in the region. 115 CHS students were recognized for exceptional achievement on AP exams.

CHS had 13 National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Scholars, five National Merit Finalists and one National Achievement Scholarship Finalist.

The CHS Pop Quiz team finished 1st in VA and 78th in the world

in the Knowledge Master Open competition.

CHS on-time graduation rate improved from 74.61% to 80.31% from 2008-2010. The CHS dropout rate declined 62%, from



17.9% to 6.8% during that time. Another 3.1 percent were still enrolled in school; 2.5 percent received GEDs; and 6.2 percent completed high school through another certificated program.

Standardized test scores for CCS have shown upward trending in all subgroups and the achievement gap has steadily narrowed. SAT combined mean scores in Verbal, Math, and Writing—respectively, 558, 538, 538—are well above both state and national mean scores, which lag by a range of 22 to 59 points.

The new AVID program for students in grades 7–12 fosters high performance capabilities. Over the past five years, 121 out of 127 Scholars students have enrolled in college and participation in Honors, AP, and Dual Enrollment classes has doubled in most sections.



# Global Connections



MyChinese360 at CHS has students interacting with a certified teacher in China. Social studies classes have electronic versions of textbooks that tie to digital resources such as simulations, video clips, GIS, and practice tests.

In 2011-12, all K-4 students will incorporate Spanish lessons into their classroom curriculum.

The CHS Orchestra String Ensemble will perform at the Florence International Youth Orchestra Festival as one of the world's best youth orchestras.

A new AP course, Human Geography, teaches students to make connections between cultural and spatial aspects of geography.

Two teachers from Charlottesville schools were part of The Transatlantic Teacher Scholars Program which sponsored an

educational trip to Barbados to study the transatlantic slave trade of the 18th century with teaching counterparts from the United Kingdom. Collaborative research via videoconferencing and shared files took places for months prior to the trip.

Teachers and students travel all over the world for educational purposes. Destinations include the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland; sister cities Poggio a Caiano and Besançon France; Botswana, Africa; Cape Canaveral, FL and more.





# Learning for Life



Afterschool activities at ALL schools offer enrichment opportunities (e.g., world languages, creative arts, cultural studies), athletic opportunities, and additional academic support for students.

students take art and music and most fourth graders participate in chorus. Clark and Jackson-Via also have string programs.

CCS Art Teachers created an online art gallery of student work. Art Connections Online is at <http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/art/index.html>.

Three elementary schools were awarded Fresh Fruit and Vegetable grants this year and individual schools work with our Local Food Hub, Whole Foods Market, and many other community partners to bring fresh food and nutritious menus to our cafeterias.

Financial literacy is taught in a variety of ways at all levels.



CCS makes special efforts to nurture young artists through early identification of talent. For example, staff administers ArtQuest identification through a drawing exercise given to all 4th grade students to get a common baseline, thereby identifying students who may have been overlooked in the regular art classroom.

The CHS Creative Writing team won the State AA Championship, its ninth state championship in 11 years.

Both CHS and Buford orchestras won the Grand Championships at Fiesta-Val musical competitions in Williamsburg.

City schools have 26 fine and performing arts teachers distributed among various arts disciplines. In the elementary schools, all

# Professional Excellence



Professional development at CCS is designed with staff input to model our philosophy of differentiated instruction. PD opportunities foster continuous improvement through synchronous and asynchronous courses that accommodate multiple learning styles, preferences, and needs. CCS hosted the 2nd Annual Shenandoah Valley Technology Consortium SMART Teaching Conference, attracting more than 500 presenters and participants from over 50 school divisions.

The Charlottesville City Schools Adult Learning Center is one of ten in Virginia rated as Tier One by the VDOE.

Our teachers use online resources for lesson planning, research, and classroom support. Moodle (a Virtual Learning Environment for educators) provides a collaborative site for lesson planning and delivery. Virtual discussion groups, moderated by a classroom teacher, allow students to post or critique work in a secure, focused environment.

The division awards I3 Grants to teachers so they can fund innovative instructional initiatives of their own design. This year, 12 teachers received funds for programs that included a news studio at Burnley-Moran and a GIS survey of reptiles and amphibians in local parks.

Check out more of the conversation at [www.charlottesvilleschools.org](http://www.charlottesvilleschools.org)



Two CHS seniors were selected as Jefferson Scholars at UVA: Omar Winstead and Elizabeth Hylton (pictured)

