

Mentoring and Volunteering in WJCC Public Schools

January 4, 2011



Since 2005, WJCC Public Schools has been guided by exemplary schools research (Dufour and Eaker, 1998) by providing division-wide training and resources to create effective partnerships and a support with the retired community of WJCC. Through the Office of Multicultural Affairs four annual volunteer/mentoring workshops were planned and implemented. This enabled WJCC public schools to garner additional support for under-achieving students who are under-parented, of low income status, or a part of military families. Our school division has maintained memberships in the National Network of Partnership Schools (Johns Hopkins University) and the Virginia Mentoring Partnership (Richmond, Virginia) for research based practices on (1) collaborating with the community (2) volunteering (3) communicating, and (4) decision-making.

An Annual Report to the school board (October, 2009), revealed that our school division is actively involved in partnerships with organizations and agencies that include (1) Child Development Resources (2) the Community Action Agency, (3) Role Models for Success (4) Colonial Heritage (5) America Read Tutors (6) H.O.P.E. – with Community churches, (7) the Network for Latino People, (8) the College of William and Mary, and (9) the Williamsburg Landing Community.

Multiple training sessions are provided during the school year to continuously orientate retired and active community volunteers. Information shared includes: the benefits of volunteering in WJCC schools (a) providing active support for quality education (b) being more involved in the schools (c) sharing knowledge and talents, and (d) helping students to achieve.

1. One-hundred fifty students from the College of William and Mary College Partnership for Kids (CPK) program completed their third year of formal volunteer training to assist students during the school day and through after-school tutorials in September, 2010. Mr. Joey Allen represents the College of William and Mary as the Program Director.
2. In September 2010, approximately 25 members of the United States Navy Reserve from Cheatham Annex were trained to be volunteers and mentors at D J Montague. This group has partnered with WJCC Public Schools for the past three years. Their military leader is Chief Kathy Kules.

3. On September 25, 2010, twenty (20) retired citizens of the Williamsburg Universalist Unitarian completed training to volunteer in two elementary schools in WJCC.
4. A community survey in July, 2010 revealed that nineteen (19) retired volunteers from the Ford's Colony Community, would return to assist WJCC schools in 2010-2011
5. Eighty-five (85) students from the College of William and Mary's swim team and football team completed volunteer training to assist WJCC students in February, 2010.
6. In August, 2009, twenty-five (25) retired residents from the Ford's colony Community were trained as volunteers to provide encouragement and support to under-represented minority students in completing their school work. This training continued in October, 2010.

Submitted by:

Dr. Angelina W. Hopkins, Senior Director for Multicultural Services