

Education Update



NC DJJDP A Newsletter for Parents and Guardians of Students at Stonewall Jackson Youth Development Center

What a Fun Class!

Students in Mr. Rice's Digital Communication Systems course have had a busy and exciting semester. They have learned a great deal about modern technology and computer applications. Students didn't just read about such things as a PDA (personal digital assistant), which is a handheld computer; they had the opportunity to use a PDA. Students also used graphics tablets. The tablets gave them experience using handwriting recognition software. The computer takes their handwritten notes and turns them into typewritten notes that can be edited on a word processor. Students also used voice recognition software. After just a couple of hours training the computer to understand their voice, students could dictate over 100 words per minute using voice recognition! Students learned to use HTML, a computer programming language, to design Internet homepages. Students also learned to use a flatbed scanner to scan images digitally. Students learned about storage devices, input and output devices, and computer crimes. Students also used word processing, spreadsheet, database, and presentation software.



Students work with Mr. Brown and in the computer lab on a GED practice program that is individualized to students' needs. We are looking forward to many more graduates from this program!

Career classes promote confidence, competence

Several classes related to helping students explore the world of work are offered at our school. Recently, students have been working on resume development and writing cover letters to assist with job seeking skills. Other students have been exploring various career choices and learning the skills associated with specific job choices. The goal of these classes is to create a foundation of competence and confidence by teaching functional skills such as planning, getting ready for employment, and keeping a job.



GED class paves the way to success

General Educational Development (GED) students have a passing rate of over 80% on the tests that they have taken this school year. Our school has its first graduate since the revamping of the GED program and three other prospective graduates await final test scores.

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Turning the Page to Literacy Improvement

Teachers have been working in conjunction with the school's

literacy coach in order to provide remediation and study periods for end of semester tests. Activities such as practice modules in the content classes and after school study groups were provided. Students utilized a variety of materials, including text, computer resources, and cooperative learning groups in order to review for testing.

Teachers also recently participated in a one-day training, "Improving Classroom Literacy Practices," provided by the literacy coach. Teachers examined research-based best practices with respect to literacy and discussed how to implement these within their classrooms, were instructed on various comprehension and vocabulary exercises to improve presentation, discovered additional writing strategies and resources to encourage writing in all content areas, and discussed differentiated student presentations.

The literacy coach will continue to work closely with teachers in order to provide resources, instructional support, demonstrations, and feedback about literacy practices in classrooms. Feel free to contact Ms. Readling at the school if you have any questions about how to help improve your student's literacy skills.



Students Gear Up to Take Earn High School Credits

Students in high school took part in North Carolina's statewide testing program for several weeks in December. The end-of-course tests in high school are designed to measure students' mastery of the curriculum taught in North Carolina classrooms. High school students take end-of-course tests when they are enrolled in the following courses: Algebra I and II; Biology; Chemistry; Civics and Economics; English I; Geometry; Physical Science; Physics; and United States history. The state tests are linked to the North Carolina curriculum and developed by classroom teachers. Mathematics end-of-course tests take about two hours and 20 minutes to complete.

Non-mathematics end-of-course tests take less than two hours to complete.

Student performance is reported by achievement levels. Level I performance indicates insufficient mastery. Level II is inconsistent mastery. Level III is consistent mastery, showing that the student is performing at grade level. Level IV is superior mastery. Students performing at or above Level III are considered at or above grade level.

For additional information on the tests that students are required to take, contact your student's school or the testing director in our central office.

Welcome New Teachers!

Ms. Purdie and Mr. Lyde have joined our faculty this fall. Ms. Purdie is located in the exceptional students department, and Mr. Lyde is a math teacher. Welcome!

