

**Albemarle County Public Schools
School Board Commendations
April 14, 2011**

1. Congratulations to **Joshua Underwood** of Albemarle High School for his outstanding performance at the Virginia State Oratorical Championship sponsored by the American Legion. Joshua beat out over 180 other contestants to become the state oratorical champion.
2. At the beginning of March Fay Cunningham directed students in the semi-national competition at the Southeastern Theatre Conference. The students performed Man of La Mancha and competed with the best schools in the Southeastern Region. There were over 600 student actors in 18 performances. Albemarle High School student **Jeremy Weiss** was selected as the Best Actor of the entire High School Theatre Festival.
3. Congratulations to the **Albemarle Wind Symphony** who received straight "Superior" ratings at the District Band Assessment Event. The Patriots were one of only two bands to receive the top grade in every category, and the only band to do so on the most difficult grade level of music. Thirty five bands participated in the event. The Patriots played Kiwanisca March by Steven Bulla, Graysondance by David Holsinger, and Awayday by Adam Gorb. This accomplishment, combined with the Superior Rating that the Marching Patriots earned at the State Marching Festival in the fall, earns the Albemarle High School Band the status of "Virginia Honor Band" for the 10th time in the last 11 years.
4. **Fatima Youmis**, a student at Jack Jouett Middle School, placed 2nd in the Virginia School Boards Association's Central Regional Forum Art Contest that was held at the annual regional forum.
5. Congratulations to **Eric Xu**, an 8th grade from Henley Middle School, for capturing the Division title for the 2011 Spelling Bee, and to the runner up, **Owen Zoll**, a seventh grader from Walton Middle School.

Eric went on to win the Regional Spelling Bess and has advanced to the National competition that will be held in Washington, DC in May.

6. Six students from Albemarle and Monticello High Schools were selected by blind audition to participate in the All-Virginia Chorus, which will be held April 28-20, 2011. Juniors and Seniors from across District XIII who had been selected for All-District Choir were eligible to audition for this honor. Four additional students were selected as alternates. The following students will represent Albemarle County Public Schools: **Kiersten Lamb** (AHS, Soprano); **Austin Patterson** (AHS, Tenor); **Alex Krone** (AHS, Tenor); **Emily Gardiner** (MoHS, Soprano); **Ella Evans** (MoHS, Soprano); and, **Madeline Cohen** (MoHS, Alto). The following students were selected as alternates: **Joe**

Kellenberger (AHS); **Stephanie Wright** (MoHS); **Emily Freeman** (MoHS); and **Jesse Aielli** (MoHS).

7. Congratulations to Albemarle High School's Literary magazine ***The Latern: Panotopic*** for receiving the Highest Award rank in the 2010 National Council of Teachers of English Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines. Magazines were received from 413 schools, 104 were recommended for the highest award, and 29 were chosen to receive the Highest Award.
8. Congratulations to **Aarati Sriram** of Albemarle High School for being selected as a candidate for the United States Presidential Scholars Program. The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964 by Executive Order of the President to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating seniors. In 1979, the program was expanded to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional scholarship and talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts. Annually, up to 141 students are chosen from among outstanding graduating seniors to become U.S. Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. Semifinalists will be announced in early April, and Scholars in early May.
9. The Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society recognized Monticello High School teacher, **Michael Farabaugh**, with the Distinguished High School Chemistry Teacher award.
10. The following schools were recognized as 2009-10 AVID National Certified Schools: **Monticello High School** and **Western Albemarle High School**. This status is awarded to AVID sites that have met the eleven AVID Program Essentials and Data Collection documentation that supports program effectiveness and student progress.
11. Congratulations to the students, and their teachers, who put together the Visual Arts Festival Poster this year. This was the first year the poster itself was student created.

Poster artwork – "Movement Study" by **Ashley Lauren Anders**.

Art teacher: **Karen Singel**, Albemarle High School

Poster creation (Digital imaging class) – **Natalie Noble**

Art teacher: **Jennifer Lewis**, Monticello High School

This was a true example of hard work and collaboration!

12. Governor Bob McDonnell and the Virginia Board of Education announced that 14 Albemarle County Public Schools are among the highest performing schools in the Commonwealth. The 2011 Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) awards honor schools and school divisions who achieve excellence goals that far exceed minimum state and federal accountability standards.

To qualify for the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence, schools and school divisions must meet all state and federal achievement benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and achieve other excellence goals such as elementary reading, enrollment in Algebra I by the eighth grade, enrollment in college-level courses, high school graduation, or increased attainment of career and industry certifications. There are four tiers to the program, listed below.

2011 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence (Highest Honor)

Hollymead Elementary
Meriwether Lewis Elementary
Stony Point Elementary
Virginia L. Murray Elementary

2011 Board of Education Excellence Award (Second-Tier Honor)

Baker-Butler Elementary
Broadus Wood Elementary
Brownsville Elementary
Crozet Elementary

2011 Board of Education Competence to Excellence Award

Agnor-Hurt Elementary
Albemarle High
Scottsville Elementary
Stone Robinson Elementary
Western Albemarle High

2011 Board of Education Rising Star Award

Benjamin F. Yancey Elementary