

**Albemarle County Public Schools
School Board Commendations
May 12, 2011**

1. Congratulations to **the Monticello High School Wind Ensemble and March Mustangs** for award-winning performances at the 84th Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival. Appearing in the Concert Band Competition, Firefighters' Parade, and Grand Feature Parade, Monticello accumulated the highest overall score to win the 2011 **Sweepstakes Award** as the best band in the Apple Blossom Music Festival.

In the Concert Band Competition, the Wind Ensemble won Class A (grade VI music) and earned a **superior** rating. Monticello received the **Shenandoah Cup** as the Overall Grand Champion of the competition. 2011 marked the school's first appearance in Class A, as MHS previously won the Shenandoah Cup playing grade V music in Class B (2003).

In the World's Largest Firefighters' Parade, the Marching Mustangs placed first in Class C (up to 64 playing members). Senior Malik Poindexter was named the parade's Overall Drum Major Champion, and Monticello received the **Fire Chief's Award** as the Overall Grand Champion, marking the school's best-ever finish in the Firefighters' Parade (with four previous appearances, 2001-04).

The band also participated in the Festival's Grand Feature Parade. Marching the 1.6-mile route for the second time in 20 hours, Monticello again placed first in Class C and claimed the award for Best Overall Drum Major. The band also won the parade's top honor, the **Lion's Award**, as the Overall Grand Champion for the third time in school history (2002 & 2003).

The unprecedented "clean sweep" in Winchester brought a very successful end to the Monticello Bands' competitive season. In October, the Marching Mustangs were Class AAA Champions at the Powhatan Fall Classic field contest. In March, the Wind Ensemble earned a superior rating performing grade VI music at VBODA District XIII Band Festival for the second straight year.

As the Sweepstakes Award winner, Monticello holds the designation of **Apple Blossom Festival Honor Band** for the next year. This marks the second Sweepstakes win in school history (2003).

2. Albemarle County Public Schools high school and middle school students participated in the Virginia History Day Competition on April 16, 2011. Congratulations to these students from Albemarle County Public Schools who earned top honors and will advance to national competition:

Patrick Bond	1 st Place	Solo Performance	Monticello High
Nick Crissy and Andrew Weiner	1st Place	Group Documentary	Henley Middle
Ian McKechnie and Chance Masloff	1st Place	Group Website	Henley Middle
Abby Wheat and Tatum Norris	2 nd Place	Group Documentary	Henley Middle

These students will join over 2400 students and their parents from all over the United States, Guam, American Samoa, Department of Defense Schools in Europe and Shanghai, China and will share their projects and compete during this week-long national event.

3. Over Spring Break, members of the J.T. Henley Model UN Club, along with teachers Heather Okano and Jen Merrill, attended the 6th Annual GC International Middle School Model UN Conference in New York City. The two-day conference was attended by 1600 students from all over the world. The following students participated:

- **Tim Dodson**
- **Kelly Missett**
- **Lauren Kelly**
- **Sophie Grace**
- **Caitlin Dutta**
- **Sam Lesemann**
- **Abby Wheat**
- **Emma Gore**
- **Coleman Spencer**
- **Quinn Legallo-Malone**
- **James Boudouris**

4. Congratulations to **Becky Fisher** for being named Public Policy Advocate of the Year by the International Society for Technology in Education. Becky will receive her award at the ISTE Annual Conference in Philadelphia in June. The award recognizes an outstanding and enthusiastic individual for their efforts in advocating for education technology policy at the local, state, regional, national and/or international level.
5. Congratulations to **Agnor-Hurt Elementary School** and **Stony Point Elementary School** for being selected to receive the 2011 Title I Distinguished School Award. This recognition is based on student achievement during the 2009-10 school year.