

**Albemarle County Public Schools  
School Board Commendations  
May 24, 2012**

1. A total of 16 students from Albemarle County Public Schools were chosen for the All-State Chorus. The All-State concert was held April 26-28 at E.C. Glass High School in Lynchburg.

Albemarle High School Altos: **Shira Goldeen, Claire Krouse, and Maggie Wilson**  
Monticello High School Alto: **Lucy Miller**  
Western Albemarle High School Alto: **Sarah Jane Cushing**

Albemarle High School Sopranos: **Tara Kay Skeen, Carol Dougherty, Peyton James, and Martha Roszak**  
Monticello High School Soprano: **Emily Gardner**

Monticello High School Tenor: **Steven Mangano**

Alternates chosen were: **Ian Grimshaw** and **Anna Webster** of Western Albemarle High School; **Annie Keller** of Albemarle High School; and **Zeus Smith** and **Jamie Crizer** of Monticello High School.

2. Two fifth graders won the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Albemarle County Spelling Bee and moved on with six other Albemarle County students to the regional competition. This year's contest was the longest ever in the division, reaching 18 rounds before the officials decided to call it a tie.

The winners were **Ahmad Hasan-Aamir** from Cale Elementary School and **Gauri Prakash** from Meriwether Lewis Elementary School.

Other students who were eligible to move on to the regional competition held on March 17 at Monticello High School included: **Ayna Le** from Crozet Elementary, **Sean Patrick Floyd** from Agnor-Hurt Elementary, **Audrey Parks** from Burley Middle School, **Tea Rinonos** from Jack Jouett Middle School, **Nellie Waring** from Walton Middle School, and **Selena Feng** from Henley Middle School.

3. Five Albemarle High School students were selected for All State Orchestra and Band, the highest level of achievement for student musicians in Virginia. The five selections are the most ever for Albemarle High School. Those selected include: **Frank Wu, Sarah Fredrick, Irene Lee, Allison Moore** and **Emily Kuhn**.
4. The Monticello High School Wind Ensemble received straight Superior ratings at the District 13 Band Assessment hosted by Charlottesville High School on March 3. The band performed grade VI music, the highest level of difficulty in Virginia, and received Superior ratings from all three judges for its prepared music performance.

The band also earned a Superior rating in sight-reading, which required the group to study and perform a new, unpublished piece of grade VI music in seven minutes.

5. Albemarle County students earned a near-perfect 12 first place finishes in the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Piedmont Regional Science Fair. Students from two Albemarle County high schools and four middle schools submitted 52 projects across 17 categories. In the senior division, Albemarle County students finished first in 12 out of the 14 categories. The winners included:

Best in Show: **Matt Smith** and **Jacob Perry** of Albemarle High School who collaborated on a research project that examined low cost methods for making water safe to drink. This project earned three other honors – the Change the World Award, the Battelle Innovation Award, and the NOAA Pulse of the Planet Award.

Other first place winners include:

- **Sydney Giacalone**, who studied optical illusions and how such variables as age and education affect impressions
- **Caitlin Dutta**, who evaluated the effect of certain chemicals within cells to determine if they could be used to cure muscle disorders
- **Chris Seto**, who looked at nonconventional ways to protect computer systems from virus attacks
- **Elizabeth Hillstrom**, who project examined how soap can be produced in households in developing world countries
- **Ben Merrell**, who focused on how the use of structural dimpling on aircraft can improve efficient energy use
- **Mario Sukkar**, who examined the viability of portable water desalination systems powered by the sun
- **Mary and David Kwiatkowski**, who studied how the heart reacts to cardiovascular exercise on different surfaces
- **HeeSeok Joo**, who is evaluating the potential wave function wells as a way to understand particle physics
- **Alex Perez-Reyes**, who evaluated the viability of algae as an alternative domestic energy source to crude oil
- **Logan Ford and Avi Lieberman**, who showed how the design used for the children's toy, Shrinky Dinks, could be adapted to separate bacterial mixtures as a way to clean polluted groundwater.

Eight middle school students earned recognition for research projects across a broad range of categories. Two projects received special awards. **Lillian Xu** of Henley Middle School placed first in Cellular and Molecular Biology with her research into how to increase the production of embryonic stem cell lines from mice. She also received the VaBIO award for best project and the Broadcom MASTERS award. **Seth Liyanage** from Sutherland Middle School earned the Army

Engineering Award for his project that replicated the motion of the basilisk lizard, which has the ability to walk on the surface of the water for brief distances.

The following six students also placed at the fair:

- **Do Yeop Kim** from Sutherland Middle School in Biochemistry
- **Wesley Daugherty** from Sutherland Middle School in Materials and Bioengineering
- **Braxton Sisler** from Walton Middle School in Energy and Transportation
- **James Mahoney** from Henley Middle School in Microbiology
- **Arghya Shetty** from Jack Jouett Middle School in Microbiology
- **Ben McIntire** from Henley Middle School in Plant Sciences