

NEWS

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) – Congratulations Elizabeth Miller!

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Miller** of Henrico County Public Schools who was recently named a 2012 Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Elizabeth Miller has been an educator for 13 years. She currently teaches fourth and fifth grade mathematics and science at the Gifted Zone Center at Maude Trevvett Elementary School. Previously, Elizabeth taught at Three Chopt Elementary School and Brookland Middle School, both in Henrico County. She began teaching in Chesapeake, VA, at Hickory Middle School.

The [PAEMST](#) is the nation's highest honor for teachers of mathematics and science (including computer science). Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education. The 2014 Awards will honor mathematics and science (including computer science) teachers working in grades **K-6**. Nominations close on **April 1, 2014**. Please nominate an excellent teacher or encourage others to nominate their fellow teachers!

2014 Legislative Session

We expect a very busy legislative session this year, with much focus on standards and assessments. All education legislation can be tracked by accessing [this link](#). This site will provide a focused look at education-related bills in the House and Senate. You can access all bills in [Virginia's Legislative Information System](#). If you choose, you can quickly sign up and mark certain bills that you wish to track using the "Lobbyist in a Box" link. We will highlight bills that we think might interest this group through our updates.

Nominations for the 2014 Standards of Learning Item and Test Review Committees – Applications due February 14, 2014

The Office of Assessment Development is seeking nominations for the 2014 Standards of Learning (SOL) Item and Test Review Committees. The committee meetings will be held in Richmond, Virginia, according to the schedule in the memo. Approximately 15 members are needed for each of the 34 committees, and school divisions may nominate one or more representatives for each committee. Read the [FULL SUPT'S MEMO](#).

[2014 Energy & Sustainability Conference](#)

The event is co-hosted by the VA Chamber of Commerce and VCU. Please **block off February 11th and 12th (revised dates)** for the largest energy and sustainability conference in the region.

Come hear how organizations are leveraging energy and sustainability strategies to improve their business results and/or mission. Come see what public and private sector leaders are doing in Manufacturing, Government, Higher Education, Commercial Real Estate, **K-12 Schools** and Healthcare.

Organizations in each industry will be recognized on February 12th for their leadership in this area at the [Crystal Awards](#). Held at the Greater Richmond Convention Center, they will have 140 great speakers, including an **invite to Governor-Elect Terry McAuliffe**

For more information, [download our flyer](#) or visit the conference website: www.esc-east.org.

Teacher Resources

How to Get Ready for AP Physics 1 and AP Physics 2

- Read the [AP Physics 1 and Physics 2 Curriculum Framework](#).

- Watch the video [AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based & AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based: An Overview of the Course Redesign \(.mp4\)](#), which describes the upcoming changes and explains key aspects of the curriculum framework.
- Become familiar with the [AP Course Audit](#) process.
- Plan to participate in [professional development](#) in 2013 and 2014 to become more familiar with the course changes and receive support in planning.
- Join the [AP Physics Teacher Community](#) and collaborate with peers in planning for the new courses.

Update to the Standards of Learning (SOL) Science, Writing, and End-of-Course (EOC) Reading Practice Item Sets on the Virginia Department of Education Web Site

Additional practice items have been added to the grades 3, 5, and 8 science, End-of-Course (EOC) Earth Science, EOC Biology, EOC Chemistry, grades 5, 8, and EOC Writing, and EOC Reading practice item sets located at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/practice_items/index.shtml. The number of additional items varies by test, but in all cases the additional items have been added to the end of the existing practice items.

More practice items will be added to the existing grades 3 through 8 reading practice item sets in early 2014. School divisions will be notified when additional practice items for these grade levels are available.

Should you have any questions, please contact the student assessment staff by e-mail at Student_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov or by phone at (804) 225-2102.

Safety

Develop a More Effective Lab Safety Program - Webinar on January 17

This interesting and entertaining presentation confronts one of the more common excuses for not improving your lab safety program, "it costs too much." It's simply not true. Excellent lab safety programs do not need to be costly. Ten simple concepts will demonstrate this important theme.



11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST

REGISTER NOW

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/968256472>

Teacher Opportunities

[Apply Now for NOAA's Bay Watershed Education and Training Grant \(B-WET\)](#)

Need funding for a K-12 programs that provides students with meaningful watershed educational experiences related to the Chesapeake Bay watershed and related teacher professional development? This one's for you! [\[More...\]](#) If you're interested, be sure to read the full [NOAA Announcement of Federal Funding](#) Opportunity for details and requirements. **The deadline for applications is 5 p.m. Eastern Time, January 29, 2014.**

[Inquiry in the Science Classroom](#)

The Intel® Teach Elements: Inquiry in the Science Classroom course is an interactive e-learning experience that is intended for new and veteran science teachers of students in third through eighth grade (ages 8 to 14). In this course, teachers will build a foundation for scientific inquiry. They will explore the rationale and research basis, common misconceptions, and specific strategies for incorporating scientific inquiry into science learning, regardless of the science discipline. The course explains and demonstrates the Scientific Inquiry Phases with relevant classroom examples. In addition, teachers will learn best practices for improving scientific inquiry through interactive activities.

To sign up, send an email to jean.weller@doe.virginia.gov with the course name and dates that you prefer.

Partnership Opportunity for Virginia Classroom Teachers

As part of Virginia's Memorandum of Understanding with France, Virginia teachers are provided an opportunity to establish contact with colleagues in our partner region of Reims, France. As of now, there are 27 middle and high school teachers from France looking to establish a collaborative relationship with a counterpart in Virginia. These individual partnerships would include virtual exchanges about pedagogical aspects of teaching, classroom activities, opportunities to practice their partner's language, and any other discussion topic of mutual interest. Any Virginia teacher can request to be paired with a colleague in France of the same subject area. A full school partnership is not required to participate; however opportunities for formal school-wide partnerships are still available.

Any teacher interested in establishing an individual partnership with one of the waiting teachers from France may do so by contacting Lisa Harris, specialist for foreign languages, at lisa.harris@doe.virginia.gov.

Please include the following information with your e-mail request: your full name, preferred e-mail address, subject taught, school name, and grade level(s).

If you have questions about this or other foreign language programs in Virginia, please do not hesitate to contact [Lisa A. Harris](#), Ed.D. Specialist for Foreign Languages and International Education, Virginia Department of Education, (804) 225-3666.

[NOAA Environmental Science Center Winter Workshops](#)

For environmental educators across the Chesapeake Bay region the winter is a good time to recharge, take a vacation and begin thinking about all the exciting spring programming that is not too far around the corner. The winter is also a good time to learn more about science you can use at NOAA Environmental Science Center workshops! This month trainings include Weather Ready Chesapeake II and The Chesapeake Bay in the Anthropocene Epoch, and you can still make the January 13th deadline to sign up for Communicating Climate Change: Earth to Sky@ Mid-Atlantic workshop.

Virginia Trees for Clean Water – Grant Opportunity

The USFS Chesapeake Watershed Forestry Program has approved \$108,000 in grant funding to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay by creating and supporting long-term and sustained tree canopy cover. Citizen groups, educational institutions, private citizens and local governments within the Chesapeake Bay watershed are encouraged to apply for grants under the "Virginia Trees for Clean Water" program. Grants are awarded through this program for planting riparian buffers or trees in neighborhoods and communities. The grant covers projects to be undertaken and completed during the spring and early fall of 2014. Successful proposals will demonstrate "on-the-ground accomplishments" to obtain clean water in the Chesapeake Bay; the merit of the project and how the trees will be maintained in perpetuity. Funding is available on a 50/50 match basis. In-kind match, including volunteer time, is permissible. The grant application deadline is Feb. 13, 2014. To learn more about the Virginia Trees for Clean Water grant program, visit the Virginia Department of Forestry website at <http://dof.virginia.gov/business/bids.htm> under Request for Proposals.

Kid Wind Challenges

Virginia is hosting two regional KidWind Challenges this year, in Virginia Beach and Northern Virginia! Registration is now open and there is limited space for each challenge so be sure to register your team early! A teacher workshop is also planned for February 8th, and you can also register for those at the [KidWind website](#). See the attached flyers for more information about these great events!

Student Opportunities

2014 Craig Tufts' Youth and Nature Essay Contest Now Open.

In honor of long-standing employee and naturalist, Craig Tufts, the family of Craig Tufts, Family Summits Inc., and the National Wildlife Federation invites youth to enter the 5th Annual Craig Tufts Educational Essay Scholarship competition. This competition is open to any young person between the ages of 8 and 18 to submit an essay ([guidelines and requirements](#)). The selected entry will receive a once in a life-time experience to attend a week-long summer outdoor adventure camp with a parent or guardian in Pacific Grove, CA. Entries are due by **March 28th**.

Trees for Wildlife – Spring 2014 Application Period Open

NWF's Trees for Wildlife program is an educational and community service program dedicated to teaching children and adults about the important role of trees for both wildlife and our communities. Youth and school groups may apply to potential receive free native trees, a planting guide and resource guide, along with guidance from NWF staff to assist in planning your tree planting event or community tree giveaway event. Review the [guidelines](#) and [apply](#) today. Time is limited. All applications must be received by February 21st for Spring consideration.

Highlighted Superintendent's Memos

- MEMO #008-14
[Tracking Legislation During the 2014 General Assembly](#)
- MEMO #007-14
[Spring Graduate-Level Course for K-12 Educators of English Language Learners \(ELLs\)](#)
- MEMO #004-14
[2014 National Youth Science Camp \(NYSC\)](#)
- MEMO #002-14
[Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching \(PAEMST\) Program](#)
- MEMO #001-14
[Digital Learning Day – February 5, 2014](#) 

Articles

"The Development of Interdisciplinary Science Inquiry Curriculum Knowledge," Erica L. Smith, Xiufeng Liu, Randy Yerrick, Bhawna Chowdhary, Brooke Grant, Vanashri Nargund-Joshi, National Association for Research in Science Teaching Annual Conference, April 2013.

"Examining Science Teachers' Development of Interdisciplinary Science Inquiry Pedagogical Knowledge and Practices," Bhawna Chowdhary, Xiufeng Liu, Randy Yerrick, Brooke Grant, Vanashri Nargund-Joshi, Erica L. Smith, National Association for Research in Science Teaching Annual Conference, April 2013.

As always, please contact one of us if you have questions.

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