



FIRST MONDAY

Together We Are...Making a Difference for Children!

AN UPDATE FROM DR. DEBBIE HARRIS ROLLINS

Bertie County Schools

Windsor, North Carolina

September 2011

Happy New School Year

Matthew Emerzian and Kelly Bozza, co-authored *Every Monday Matters: 52 Ways to Make a Difference* to communicate that it is the plain, simple, ordinary individual, either acting alone or together with others, who can change the world. Every Monday Matters (EMM) promotes the fact that people have the power. On their website, Emerzian and Bozza wrote: "[e]very Monday people can make a difference in their life and the lives of those around them. No matter how big or small the actions, they matter. And not only do people have the power to make change, they have a social responsibility to do so." Together we can make a difference in the lives of the students who attend Bertie County Schools. Every action you take – big or small; every word you speak – true or false; every day – Monday through Friday, you have the power, the opportunity and the responsibility to make it matter, to make change, to make a difference.

Welcome to the new academic year in Bertie County Schools – to new challenges, new personnel, new initiatives, new curriculum, new leadership and new communication from the Office of the Superintendent. The intent is to converse with the BCS community on the first Monday of every month to keep you updated with respect to factors impacting the district – especially the classroom. We are fully aware that this past year and summer have not been easy as we have dealt with the budget cuts and their impacts as well as the weather and its effects. What I have learned during my short tenure with the district is that the people of Bertie County are resilient and resourceful. I ask you to be so in the education arena. Together we can. Together we will. Together we ARE making a difference for the students served by Bertie County Schools!

Tools, Tips, Resources & Opportunities

SAS Curriculum Pathways Great Teaching Resource - The most recent release of SAS Curriculum Pathways online education resource includes the most significant enhancements since its 1998 debut. The product now includes middle-school resources and maps as well as English language arts and math resources aligned with both state and national Common Core State Standards. 20,000+ teachers in 1,200+ traditional schools and 40 charter schools are using SAS Curriculum Pathways all at no charge to schools. SAS Curriculum Pathways provides standards-based content for middle and high schools in core academic disciplines and more than 1,200 academic resources, including lessons, engaging activities and interactive teaching tools, plus links to more than 4,000 academically appropriate websites. For more information, including how to take advantage of this resource, visit www.sas.com/govedu/edu/curriculum/index.html.

Thinkfinity is Beneficial Resource for Teachers – Teachers are always on the lookout for new tools to enrich students’ classroom experience and improve learning. Resources that are free and aligned with the state’s curriculum are the best. Thinkfinity (www.Thinkfinity.org) is a free online tool available to NC educators. This resource features thousands of K-12 lesson plans, in-class activities and videos that can be searched by grade level, keyword or subject. While resources on this website are already aligned to the Common Core standards in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, additional resources are being added that align with the Common Core and North Carolina's new Essential Standards in science, social studies and other subject areas, all of which will be implemented in 2012-13.

Teacher Effectiveness: Sixth Standard Update - Effective this school year, the State Board of Education has added a new standard to the Teacher Evaluation Instrument. For the 2011-12 school year, there will be no state-mandated consequences for teachers based on their sixth standard rating, but principals must discuss the standard with each teacher as part of the evaluation process. Only teachers with three or more years of data will receive a formal rating on the sixth standard; all other teachers will have student data populated in the sixth standard, but no formal rating. A teacher’s rating on the sixth standard will be based on whether a teacher’s students meet growth expectations, exceed growth expectations, or fail to meet growth expectations. An average of three years of student growth information will be used to determine the teacher’s rating. The sixth standard requires no change to the evaluation process during the school year. The standard will be automatically populated through the use of three years of data points on student growth. Principals and other classroom observers do not need to take additional action during the year to ensure that data are included.

NBC News Sponsors Teacher Town Hall – NBC news reporter Brian Williams will moderate *NBC News’ 2011 Education Nation Summit, a Teacher Town Hall*, at 12 p.m. live, Sunday, Sept. 25. Teachers are encouraged to let their voices be heard by joining educators across the nation to discuss challenges and opportunities facing schools. For more details, including how to participate, educators should visit www.EducationNation.com clicking on the 2011 Teacher Town Hall link.

BERTIE

BY THE NUMBERS

44

New faculty joining BCS for Fall 2011-12

71%

District Goal for Percent At or Above Grade Level in Reading

2,872

2011-2012 student enrollment K-12 as of September 1st

71

Number of buses that will roll on the first day of school

193

Number of Seniors in the graduating class of 2011-2012 (all schools combined)

703

Total number of BCS employees

199

Number of Kindergartners entering BCS Fall 2011