

# Education Update



NC DJJDP

A Newsletter for Parents and Guardians of Students at C.A. Dillon Youth Development Center

## “Committed and Dedicated to Academic Success”

We are pleased to report that we had a smooth transition into the 2008-2009 school year. Students and teachers alike worked extremely hard to be successful in the implementation of the block schedule.

Students in high school took part in North Carolina's statewide testing program for several weeks in December. The end-of-course tests in high school are designed to measure students' mastery of the curriculum taught in North Carolina classrooms. High school students take end-of-course tests when they are enrolled in the following courses: Algebra I and II; Biology; Chemistry; Civics and Economics; English I; Geometry; Physical Science; Physics; and United States History. The state tests are linked to the North Carolina curriculum and were developed by classroom teachers from across the state. Mathematics end-of-course tests take about two hours and 20 minutes to complete. Non-mathematics end-of-course tests take less than two hours to complete.

Student performance is reported by achievement levels. Level I performance indicates insufficient mastery. Level II is inconsistent mastery. Level III is consistent mastery, showing that the student is performing at grade level. Level IV is superior mastery. Students performing at or above Level III are considered at or above grade level.

For additional information on the tests that students are required to take, contact your student's school or the testing director in our central office.

## Turn your tassel!

Since September, C.A. Dillon has had five young men to successfully meet the requirements to earn their General Education Development diploma. These young men have worked diligently to complete the requirements and were recognized in graduation ceremonies in December.



## New Staff Join Faculty

At C. A. Dillon, we are proud to welcome to the Dillon family the following new staff:

Mr. Jarett Mack - Social Studies Teacher  
Mr. Michael Lewis – Social Studies Teacher  
Mr. Adrian King – Substitute Teacher  
Mr. Teldron Allen – Substitute Teacher

## Welcome!

### C.A. Dillon Staff

George L. Sweat  
*Secretary*

Joanne McDaniel  
*Chief of Staff*

Jane D. Young  
*Superintendent*

Kathy Porras  
*Director of C.A. Dillon YDC*

Phyllis F. Jones,  
*Lead Teacher*

C.A. Dillon  
Youth Development Center  
100 Dillon Drive  
Butner, NC 27509  
919-575-3166

## Special Assembly Held this Fall

On September 30, 2008, C.A. Dillon held the Fall Honors Assembly/GED Graduation. The speaker for this occasion was Christopher Houston, former chaplain at C.A. Dillon. This young man gave a motivational speech to the students, encouraging them to strive for excellence. He performed an inspirational rap with a positive message, as well. Also, many students received certificates for outstanding achievement for behavior and academics. Four students were named to the Honor Roll for having a 3.0 grade point average or better for the grading period and 14 students were named to the Principal's List. In addition, one student received his diploma for successfully completing the requirements for his GED. Parents of the graduate were in attendance at the program, along with representatives from Education Office and Vance-Granville Community College.

## Researching Election '08

Mr. Lewis' classes conducted a research project with a twist – the students applied the six steps of the scientific method to the Presidential election process. They surveyed their fellow students and displayed the results on a bulletin board. The students even had a debate with students advocating for each candidate. The students stated that they enjoyed the project and that it made the content relevant.

## New Labs for student learning set to open

Students at all of our schools will have a new way to explore and learn while earning high school credit. Synergistic Systems has now been installed at all schools. This curriculum shifts the responsibility for learning to the student, encouraging each learner to be responsible for his or her own academic success.

The teacher becomes a facilitator of student learning and interacts with students in a positive, powerful way. With this system, teachers are afforded more one-on-one time with each student.

The curriculum is divided into modules that are aligned with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Each module has seven lessons that explore the module topic. After the completion of the seven session module, students change partners and workstations and explore another module.

Modules at our schools include:

- Physical Science
- Health
- Math Enrichment
- Business
- Agriculture
- Engineering
- Careers
- Earth Science

Students work in cooperative pairs to complete the curriculum and activities. In the business module, for example, students must tackle the nuts and bolts of running a business, including the legal and ethical ramifications of decisions. Students then demonstrate their expertise through the proper handling of several different business transactions.

Students will be scheduled to enroll in the Synergistic lab for one semester per year. Ask us if you would like to learn more!

