



Hail to the Chief!

Citing academic success as her primary goal for all Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) students, new superintendent Dr. Donna Hargens, in a written update to *The Courier-Journal* (August 1, 2011), emphasized the need to make sure students develop the full array of skills they need for academic success now and for the challenges and opportunities in their future.

Dr. Hargens, a former interim superintendent for Wake County Public Schools, Raleigh, North Carolina, has confronted the need to build student skills in a school system similar to JCPS.

The three C's—critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration—are listed by Hargens as key ingredients for building essential student skills and to “lay the

foundation to a tremendous future.”

As staff of the Volunteer Talent Center (VTC), we join other district staff in welcoming Superintendent Hargens to Jefferson County and look forward to working with her in meeting these goals.

Building academic skills is a number one priority.

—Dr. Donna Hargens

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Get Involved: We Need Your Help

Summer really went speeding by this year. It may have seemed shorter because we had such extreme weather: storms, floods, and heat. However, we are ready for the upcoming school year and as always, we are asking for your help as volunteers. Currently, we're undertaking all our traditional VTC programs and several new initiatives that we are very excited to be adding to our list. We encourage you to read through the offerings and sign on for as many as your schedule permits. The menu is listed below.

Every 1 Reads: This program engages volunteers in once weekly tutoring in reading, using guided reading strategies. A majority of students served through this program are at the elementary level. Middle and high school students can be tutored as well. Program provides two-hour training prior to starting. For more information, contact Karen Mize at **485-3710**.

Real Men Read: Real Men Read is a program designed to foster a love of reading among young children, particularly young boys, through interaction with male volunteer readers. We're looking for community men to read one age-appropriate, high-interest book each month, for four months to their assigned class. Each student will receive a copy of the month's book to read at home with his or her family and add to his or her own library. For more information, contact Dr. Allene Gold at **485-3710**.

SPAVA (Society for the Prevention of Aggressiveness Among Adolescents): This is a nonviolence program through which trained volunteer mentors conduct ten weekly sessions of classroom activities. Students have opportunities to engage in service-learning projects and to apply for SPAVA awards and scholarships. For more information, contact Judy Lippmann at **485-7731**.

Early Years Initiative: The Early Years Initiative Program (EYIP) is a peers tutoring peers program that helps elementary students improve their reading levels. Elementary school students are trained to tutor other elementary students. Adult volunteers are encouraged to participate in the EYIP activities. For more information about this program, contact Roy Birmingham at **485-3710**.

Aquatics Resources Fishing Program (ARFP) : The ARFP helps students to improve their academics, attendance, and attitude as well as to teach the students the art of fishing. Adults receive four hours of training to instruct students and assist them with other ARFP activities. The ARFP has been incorporated in the Early Years Initiative Program as an incentive to help the students improve their reading levels. For more information, contact Roy Birmingham at **485-3710**.

Service Learning: This program engages students in academically rich service activities throughout the community. While meeting real community needs, students participate in projects directly tied to what they are learning in the classroom. Adult volunteers are needed to assist classroom teachers in planning and carrying out projects, act as guest speakers and/or project sponsors, and provide students with connections to community groups in need of assistance. For more information, contact Katherine Becker at **485-7047**.

Fantastic Choices: This program, which teaches second-grade and third-grade students how to make wise choices in classroom behavior and in daily life, is gearing up for the 2011-12 school year. The presentation currently has one 5-member team, but volunteers are needed to make up a second and third team. Please consider volunteering as a team member to serve more students in this worthwhile endeavor. For more information, call Mildred Lemaster at **485-7046**.

The Veterans Program: This program provides insight to lessons learned by U.S. armed services personnel and civilians during times when our nation is at war. The program provides classroom speakers who furnish first-hand information about being involved in our nation's armed conflicts (e.g., World War II, Vietnam). Veterans are needed to fulfill requests for speaking events at JCPS schools. For more information, contact Roy Birmingham at **485-3710**.

Mentoring: The Mentoring program is designed primarily for middle and high school students and pairs individual students with positive adult role models. Participants meet a minimum of two times a month to set goals and to discuss careers in postsecondary options. For more information, call Connie Cameron at **485-3710**.



Mentor Meshorn Daniels promotes SPAVA during the Minority Coalition Breakfast.

2011 Minority Volunteer Coalition Breakfast: Bringing Volunteers Together for a Common Goal

More than 80 volunteers and community leaders attended the VTC's 2011 breakfast for the Minority Volunteer Coalition. In addition to a healthy breakfast, attendees were treated to an array of informative presentations by JCPS administrators and community groups. DeVone Holt, the special assistant to the superintendent, gave a brief presentation on the academic achievement levels of minority students in the district.

Also presenting was Ebonee Cochran, the director of the West Louisville Math and Science Project,

Inc. Cochran's presentation offered an up close and personal view of her organization's push to increase math and science skills among minority students in JCPS.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Freda Merriweather was present to speak about the transition into the 2011-12 school year. Dr. Merriweather gave praise to new JCPS Superintendent Hargens and vowed to remain active in the JCPS volunteer community after her role as interim superintendent concludes.

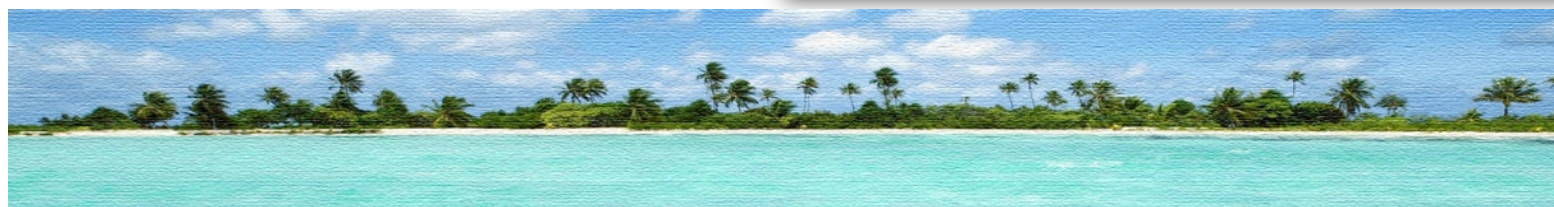
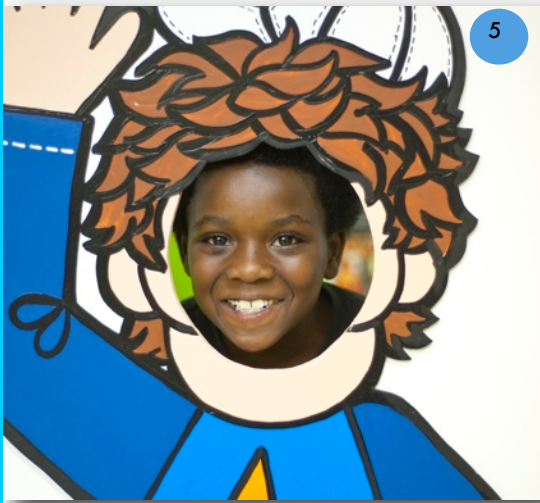


Interim Superintendent Dr. Freda Merriweather speaks during the 2011 Minority Volunteer Coalition Breakfast at the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage.

1. Fantastic Choices Workshop at Down Syndrome of Louisville; 2. Audience at Minority Coalition Breakfast; 3. Mildred Lemaster and Jeff Koehl conduct a workshop with Down Syndrome of Louisville; 4. Speaker Presenting at Minority Coalition Breakfast; 5. Student Participant at Louisville Central Community Center Fantastic Choices Workshop; 6. Karen Mize, Fantastic Choices trainer, reads to students at St. Anthony Community Center; 7. JCPS staff Raymond Simpson and Ray Patterson coordinate Waggener High School Cleanup with volunteers from Nazarene Church; 8. A Nazarene Church volunteer tidies up Waggener High School's parking lot.



2011 Summer Sights



JCPS and Metro United Way Unite for Success

Prospective volunteers are encouraged to go online and research available volunteer positions thanks to the new joint venture between the VTC and Metro United Way. Individuals who like to “think outside the box” will find unique ways to serve our students and schools other than tutoring, mentoring, or fishing. Would you like to contribute your time in sports, cheerleading, or a step team? How about helping out on a debate team

or assisting in a photography class? Some schools have openings in their medical centers, or classroom teachers may need help with preparing bulletin boards and other displays. Whatever your specialty, your skills are needed. Type www.metrounitedway.org in your Web browser and click on “volunteer.” You’ll be glad you did.



What Are You Doing?

Do you know of a volunteer or volunteer event that needs to be highlighted? Well, we would love to highlight your volunteer or volunteer event in the next edition of *The Volunteer Voice*. Please contact Connie Cameron, VTC coordinator, at **485-3710** to get your volunteer or volunteer event recognized.

Long Ago and Far Away...

Back in the early years of the VTC, we mixed the traditional volunteer options with various social events that brought us all together to share a “who’s who” and a “what’s what” of general interest. For example, we hosted a Lunch With...(the superintendent, members of the administrative staff or Louisville Metro Government, or Community Leaders). Or we went to a Youth Performing Arts School (YPAS) play, to a Speed Museum exhibit, or on a visit to a special program at one of the after-school programs at a community site. We used to enjoy these outings, and we’re not really sure why they disappeared off our calendars. Got tangled up with other stuff, we guess.

Lately, we’ve found ourselves rethinking the calendar and want to know what you think about it all. That is, would you be interested in attending a luncheon meeting with various JCPS staff or other community leaders? Or visiting a magnet school? Or attending some educational community event? If yes, send an e-mail to connie.cameron@jefferson.kyschools.us or call us at **485-3710** and let us hear your voice on what might interest you. We’ll get back to you in the next newsletter.

Attention Football Lovers

The VTC has complimentary tickets for JCPS volunteers to attend Waggener High School’s Homecoming Game against Atherton High School on **September 23**. The game starts at 7:30 p.m. Football lovers do not want to miss this home game, which will honor Waggener alumni and applaud Waggener’s current athletes. Volunteers who are football fans should call the VTC Office at **485-3710** for tickets.

Setting Goals for the 2011-2012 School Year

We're ready and set to go this fall! And there is a lot to do! For one thing, we're looking at the goals defined for us for 2011. Following the lead of our superintendent, all of our major volunteer efforts will be devoted to activities that increase student academic success and prepare students to meet the challenges and opportunities available in their future. Specifically, for the 2011-12 school year, we are committed to the following three major goals:

1. Maintain a minimum of 4,000 active volunteers in our VTC programs.
2. Recruit a minimum of ten volunteers/mentors, on request, for each of the schools identified as turnaround models for the 2011-12 school year.
3. Successfully encourage a minimum of ten new business/community organizations to provide support to schools and students.

To meet these goals, we will initially seek volunteers using our traditional strategies: advertise in the JCPS *Monday Memo* and *The Courier-Journal*; contact, by e-mail, regular mail, or telephone, former volunteers who may reconnect with the schools; advertise in *The Volunteer Voice* newsletter; post a list of volunteer needs; and we will schedule presentations at local business, community, and social group meetings.)

If you have some ideas of ways to recruit, please let us hear from you. In the meantime, we'll keep you apprised of the results of our efforts.

A Friendly Reminder: Please complete your 2011-12 School Volunteer Records Check Form. Call 485-3710 to request a School Volunteer Records Check Form or complete one online at <http://apps.jefferson.k12.ky.us/volunteer>.

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WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!!

The Volunteer Talent Center

In operation since 1990, the Volunteer Talent Center recruits, trains, and places volunteers to meet identified student needs. The options for service cover a broad range - from tutoring and or mentoring individual students to serving as judges for academic fairs, chaperoning school events and making writing books for classroom use.



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