

Tracking Success at MVES

WMVES News

In the second season of WMVES News, we have seven crew members and two teacher sponsors. The overall goal for this program is to give students real life working skills and an opportunity to use different types of technology.

At WMVES News, we try to keep it student initiated. The students must decide among themselves who will do what job and about what topics will be reported on. Students have to be responsible throughout the week to have their segment written so the editors can type in preparation for the news broadcast.



MVES news staff with sponsors Deborah Cummins and Julie Asher.

After all the research, interviews, and writing is complete, the students are ready to begin rehearsing and setting up for the school wide broadcast. Each student has a different job that is vital to a successful broadcast. Everyone has to work together.

In doing the WMVES News, students not only have fun, but also are engaged in communicating orally, enhancing their writing skills, learning important

job skills and getting a more in-depth understanding of technology.



MVES Media Blitz newspaper editor sponsor Sheila McQueary.

The Media Blitz

The MVES MEDIA BLITZ is published three times during the school year. Each fifth grade classroom has a Media Blitz news staff. The staff gathers news from all classrooms in the school. Other responsibilities are to type the news and help with the layout. All classrooms are encouraged to participate in the news process. Businesses buy ads to be placed in the paper. Once our local paper, *The Mt. Vernon Signal*, prints the newspaper, it is then sent to the businesses and is sold at the school. This newspaper originated through a School-to-Career Grant that was written in 1995. This enables us to have good communication with parents and the community as well as the students in Mt. Vernon Elementary School. It also incorporates writing and math skills using real-life applications.

Life is Full of Alternatives

The Rockcastle County Alternative School was established in the summer of 2000 with the goal of helping students who were not successful in the regular classroom setting to feel and enjoy success once again. We serve children in grades 6 through 12 and currently have 16 students. We help our students recognize that, for many of them, this is the last stop before actions away from school are taken against them. Criteria for placement include, but are not limited to, behavior problems, academic failure or poor social skills. Many of our students lack the self-esteem to help themselves become successful. That is where our program steps in to encourage students to stay in school and to become successful, productive members of our society.

Besides the typical curriculum, we also conduct activities that are focused on self-esteem and career awareness. We attempt to tailor these activities to meet the needs of the individual. We believe that helping them to feel good about their self is the first step in the process of success. Our standards are set higher than most schools to help in this success. The students are required to maintain an 80% proficiency on all work and evaluations. If a student fails to do so, they then make corrections to meet this requirement. For many of these students, this is the first time that they have made A's and B's in their school career. This policy helps us to boost their self-worth and helps them to realize success. We also focus on the arts and try to implement many activities that will help the students to appreciate the arts. We have worked with Hasaan Davis, a professional actor, on two occasions completing role playing activities that will help not only with the arts, but also with their self-esteem. Hasaan is sponsored by the Forward in the Fifth Artist Residency program which is part of the Kentucky Arts Council. We have also built a partnership with McDonald's, Hardees, Apollo Pizza, Godfather's Pizza, and Pizza Hut. These restaurants take turns feeding the students on Fridays. This is another way of letting the students know that other people in our community care about them. We also implement career awareness activities where guest speakers talk to the students about their respective careers. In addition, we are making candles, plaster molds, and concrete stepping stones to sell this fall to help raise money for additional sports equipment. Through these activities, the students are able to learn effective marketing strategies.

Our approach to education is truly unique and personalized. We believe in educating the whole child. We will continue to conduct activities that promote physical and emotional well being, self-esteem and an appreciation of the arts. We are proud to announce that in April our students are partnering up with retired teachers and administrators to have dinner and attend the Spirit of the Dance river dance company's performance in Danville. We would like to thank everyone who helped make this opportunity a reality. It is another example of how working together helps to build character and responsible citizens. To quote one of our students, "The Alternative program has helped me realize my potential and has made me decide to stay in school." Success like this is our goal. If you would like to help make these students successful or would like more information on our program, please call 256-3846.



Rockcastle County Schools board members, alternative school students, parents and RCHS Principal Ruth Allen share dinner at a recent board meeting.