

Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

April 13, 2007

Standard Attire for students begins next year

Metro Schools will require Standard School Attire at all schools when classes begin for the 2007-2008 school year, a change approved by the Metro Nashville Board of Education this week.

The move to Standard Attire puts Metro Nashville in step with other school districts across the nation seeking to increase school safety, equalize the social impact of trendy clothing and create a calmer, more productive learning environment.

Schools Director Dr. Pedro Garcia asked for the new standards for student dress after a months-long district study. His proposed policy, available at www.mnps.org, defines Standard Attire for students in any Metro school as navy blue, black or khaki slacks, shorts or skirts, paired with white or navy blue shirts with short or long sleeves and a collar. In addition, each school may identify up to four more acceptable shirt colors.

Metro Schools parents will receive more information about Standard Attire before the next sales tax holiday April 27-29.

Jere Baxter students win national video honors

Students in the AVID program at Jere Baxter Middle School have won three of 12 awards in the Panasonic- Kid Witness News- 2007 New Vision Awards. The accomplishment is the school's second year to win at the national level.

Coached by teacher Sam Frey, the students' self-produced videos topped the submissions of more than 200 U.S. schools. "At Risk Students" placed first in the public service announcement and technical writing categories, while "Proper Dismissal Procedures" won the technical award for sound.

Frey and three students will make an expense-paid trip in May to the Panasonic headquarters in New Jersey and the national ceremony in New York, where the students' videos will compete against five others for the coveted "Video of the Year" award.

"I will be taking Brian Smith, Marissa Chandler, and Chantel Kimble, who all helped in various ways with the videos and were selected from a group of students meeting the same criteria," Frey said. "We are all extremely excited and thrilled to have won again." For more information about the program, check the internet at <http://www.panasonic.com/MECA/kwn/schools.html>.

Generous donation brings more music to Gower

Gibson Guitars has donated a complete student guitar lab and eight additional adult guitars to Gower Elementary.

Marty Burns, quality manager at Gibson, and the parent of Gower third-grader Sean Burns, presented the generous gift to music teacher Rita Carpenter and school principal Lorraine Johnson. The donation adds to the musical experiences available to students at Gower, which also has a keyboard lab donated by the VH1 Save the Music Foundation. “What a wonderful way to engulf students in a hands-on musical learning experience that will go with them into adulthood,” Carpenter said.

Croft students will represent Tennessee at national festival

The Croft Middle School Full Orchestra has been selected to be an official representative of the State of Tennessee in performance at America’s 400th Anniversary Weekend, commemorating the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Jamestown settlement in Virginia – America’s birthplace.

Led by teachers Cynthia King and Anna Maria Miller, the Croft students will play in the finale musical performance with the Virginia Symphony May 13th, the signature event of the anniversary celebration hosted by former U.S. Supreme Court Justice and Honorary Chair Sandra Day O’Connor.

In addition to participation in the festival orchestra, the Croft orchestra students will also present their own featured performance for the many thousands of visitors present for the anniversary weekend.

Pearl-Cohn teacher wins coveted training slot

Kay Gragg, an English teacher at Pearl-Cohn High School, has been selected from a national applicant pool to attend one of 21 summer study opportunities supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Endowment is a federal agency that supports summer seminars and institutes at colleges and universities so teachers can study with experts in humanities disciplines. Gragg will participate in a seminar entitled "Writing Africa: Comparative African and Western ‘Palavers’ and Perspectives.” The three-week program will be held at Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant and directed by Dr. Maureen N. Eke, Professor of English. The 15 teachers selected to participate in the program each receive a stipend of \$2,400 to cover their travel, study and living expenses.

Summer camp to help Metro students hone their speaking skills

The Nashville School of the Arts will host the Metro Nashville Summer Forensics Camp July 23-27 for students in grades 7-12. The camp will provide a wide variety of experiences in the fundamentals of debate, oral interpretation, speech arts, and communication arts for radio, television and film. Guest presenters, artists, and demonstrators will help immerse students in content research, creativity and execution skills

associated with public speaking, oral interpretation, debate, and broadcasting. The camp fee is \$50, and a limited number of scholarships are available. Complete application details will be posted at www.mnps.org next week.