

BOARD AGENDA INFORMATIONAL ITEM

DEPARTMENT: Communications/Public
Information Department

TOPIC: GOOD NEWS

FOR THE MONTH OF: March 2022

1. The following students were chosen as the “Do the Right Thing” award winners for March: **Stella Taylor, W.A. Bess Elementary; Judy Serrano, W.B. Beam Intermediate; Kaydence Crews, Mount Holly Middle; and Andre Gaddy, Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences.**
2. **Bridgette Best of Pleasant Ridge Elementary and Anarah Henderson of Southwest Middle School** were selected for the first cohort of the Assistant Principal (AP) Accelerator Leadership Program, which is a partnership of the N.C. Principals and Assistant Principals’ Association (NCPAPA), the Belk Foundation, and the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). The statewide leadership initiative is designed to fast track promising assistant principals for principal positions.
3. The **Belmont Middle School** boys’ team and the **Holbrook Middle School** girls’ team won the county basketball championships.
4. The five finalists for **Gaston County Schools** New Teacher of the Year 2022-2023 are **Janet Smith, W.A. Bess Elementary; Dharma Falls, North Belmont Elementary; Kaela Lipscomb, Grier Middle; Jamea Marlowe, Woodhill Elementary; and Ryan Magill, Cramerton Middle.** The winner will be announced in May.
5. The five finalists for **Gaston County Schools** Teacher Assistant of the Year 2022-2023 are

9. **Cramerton Middle School** captured first place in the Math Elite competition. **Belmont Middle** placed second and **Southwest Middle** took third place.
10. The East Division winners in the Math Masters competition were **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy**, first place; **Belmont Central Elementary**, second place; **W.A. Bess Elementary**, third place; and **New Hope Elementary**, fourth place. The West Division winners were **Gardner Park Elementary**, first place; **Chapel Grove Elementary**, second place; **Sadler Elementary**, third place; and **North Belmont Elementary**, fourth place.
11. Students, teachers, and staff in **Gaston County Schools** observed “Read Across America Day” on Wednesday, March 2 with a variety of special activities. The event coincided with Dr. Seuss’ birthday.
12. Five students won awards in the Gaston County Senior Art Show: **Kayla Becraft, Bessemer City High School; Katie Bauer, Forestview High School;** and **Nia Webber, Mackenzie Salley, and Isabella Ray, North Gaston High School.**
13. The following high school students were named to the N.C. Basketball Coaches Association’s District 10 All-Hoops Team: **Randall Pettus, Bessemer City; Will Kelly, Stuart W. Cramer; Janiya Adams, Bessemer City;** and **Kenette Bess, Ashbrook.**
14. **Ashbrook High School** teacher **Anna Guzauskas** received a \$500 grant from Dominion Energy.
15. **W.B. Beam Intermediate School** welcomed community leaders to read books to students in celebration of Read Across America Week. Students also received pencils and snacks for meeting their iReady reading goals and dressed up as their favorite Dr. Seuss characters. Media specialist **Kim Beam** coordinated the activities.
16. **Belmont Central Elementary** and **Gaston County Virtual Academy** fifth graders participated in a career awareness program sponsored by the **Gaston County Schools** Career and Technical Education Department. The students were taught how to take temperatures and blood pressure readings, check a pulse,

32. The Gastonia Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Alumni Chapter sponsored a pizza party for six classes at **Sadler Elementary School**. The pizza meal served as a reward for the students' participation in the Gaston County African-American History Month trivia contest.
33. During Read Across America Week, the boys' basketball team from **South Point High School** and National Honor Society students from **Stuart W. Cramer High School** read books to students at **Page Primary**.
34. **Springfield Elementary** partnered with the UNC-Charlotte Rocketry Team and