



Achievable Dream
ACADEMIES

Achievements

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www.achievabledream.org



An Achievable Dream High School Class of 2016
THE BANKS FAMILY/FERGUSON ENTERPRISES SCHOLARS

PHOTO BY GENE MYERS

Class of 2016 HIGHLIGHTS Among Many Others...

- The Class of 2016 has been awarded \$1,556,916 in scholarships and grants.
- Students received 155 acceptance letters to colleges and universities in Virginia and several other states.
- Tra'sean Shackelford received a full scholarship to play football at Bluefield College in Bluefield, Virginia.
- Naija Mills and Xandria Sinclair were the NASA "Cubes in Space" Award recipients.
- Jordan Hinton was the ROTC Commander for Heritage High School.
- The Class of 2016 3.0 Girls launched the "Am I my Sister's Keeper?" mentoring program.

"If there is a visual to describe the Class of 2016, it is a train. From the gate, this class picked up speed in ninth grade and never slowed down."

—Amy Runge, Director of Curriculum and Collegiate Services

An Achievable Dream's Class of 2016 received their diplomas to the enthusiastic cheers of family and friends during their graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 9, at CNU's Ferguson Center for the Arts. "Tonight we stand at a crossroad where each one of us will take a new direction in our life's journey," said Tejah Twine, Class of 2016 Valedictorian. "Where we end up isn't the most important decision, but instead, it is the road we choose to get there, the road we will look back on and call our life."

Eighty-five percent of the class graduated with an advanced studies diploma, with more than fifty percent graduating with a 3.0 or higher grade-point-average. Members of the class completed 96 advanced placement courses and five dual enrollment courses. One hundred percent of the

class of 54 students is planning to attend college or a trade school, or serve in the Armed Services.

During the ceremony, members of the Class of 2016 presented framed and signed photographs to sponsors **Charles and Mari Ann Banks** and **Ferguson Enterprises**. As class sponsors, they will provide annual merit scholarships for each member of the class every year that they attend college and maintain a required grade point average. Ferguson Enterprises also sponsored the Class of 2008 and is a corporate partner in the *What It Takes* program, which emphasizes workplace readiness skills. Charles Banks served as president of Ferguson Enterprises from 1989 to 2001, and then as Group Chief Executive of Wolseley Corporation, Ferguson's parent company. Mari Ann Banks serves on the An Achievable Dream,

Continued on page 2

Mark Your Calendar! 24th Annual An Achievable Dream Tennis Ball
November 19, 2016 • Hampton Roads Convention Center

Inc. Board of Directors and has been a community leader in Virginia and Great Britain, where Wolseley Corporation is based.

“Charlie and I are both honored to share with Ferguson Enterprises the sponsorship of this year’s graduating class of Achievable Dream High School,” said Mari Ann Banks. “We look forward to following their continued success. They’re also a symbol of the legacy that was left by Walter Segaloff, founder of An Achievable Dream.”



College Bound Our Graduates are Going Places!

Members of the class will attend the following colleges and universities in the fall:

- Bluefield College
- Hampton University
- Old Dominion University
- Norfolk State University
- North Carolina A&T
- Richard Bland College
- Radford University
- Thomas Nelson Community College
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia State University
- Virginia Tech
- Virginia Union University

“You are an outstanding group of Dreamers and you have left me proud of your resolve to uphold the values of our school: honesty, respect, responsibility and courage. These values have not only proven beneficial during your time at Achievable Dream, but if appropriately applied, will carry you wherever your imagination takes you in life.”

—Marylin Sinclair-White

Principal of An Achievable Dream Middle and High School



Seniors from An Achievable Dream High School practiced for graduation on June 3 during the First Annual Senior Walk through An Achievable Dream Academy, led by Alumni Latrace Holland and Jaketa Linzy, recent graduates from Norfolk State University and Virginia Tech respectively.

“It was an amazing moment,” said Lee Vreeland, Vice President of Academics. “The Class of 2016 came home to where it all began, and our younger *Dreamers* cheered them along the way!” 🎉



Classroom Dedications at Seatack Elementary/An Achievable Dream Academy

Continuing a tradition begun at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School, classrooms and spaces at Seatack Elementary/An Achievable Dream Academy are named for character traits such as citizenship, hope, respect and responsibility. Classroom sponsors joined members of An Achievable Dream's Virginia Beach Board of Directors on February 17 to dedicate classrooms and unveil new panels.

Thank you to the following sponsors:

- **Batten Educational Achievement Fund**, sponsor of the Responsibility Commons
- **Charles Barker Automotive**, sponsor of the Trustworthy Classroom
- **Fredrickson Family Foundation**, sponsor of the Integrity Classroom
- **Hampton Roads Toyota Dealers Association**, sponsor of the Leadership Classroom
- **Ruffin Family Foundation**, sponsor of the Optimism Classroom

For information on sponsoring a classroom at Seatack Elementary/An Achievable Dream Academy or An Achievable Dream Middle and High School, please contact Jan Johnson at 757-599-9472 or jjohnson@AchievableDream.org.

Left to right: Amy Kurtz, Leigh Davis (HR Community Foundation), Jane Batten and Kay Stine (HR Community Foundation)



PHOTOS BY HELEN ODERISI



Steve and Mara Fredrickson



Nathan Drory, representing the Hampton Roads Toyota Dealers Association



Teresa Reyes and Nathan Drory, representing Charles Barker Lexus



Alice and Edmund Ruffin

To our Boards of Directors, thank you for your time, your support, your commitment and for "sharing the Dream."

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the BEACH BALL

On Saturday, April 23, An Achievable Dream held its first annual Beach Ball, a tropical cocktail party, at the Cavalier Golf and Yacht Club to benefit our *Dreamers* in Virginia Beach. Guests enjoyed Caribbean-inspired hors d'oeuvres and specialty cocktails while dancing to the music of popular local band *Breaking Brad*. Casino tables and a silent auction featuring wine and student art rounded out the entertainment. WHRV Host Cathy Lewis served as emcee.

You won't want to miss this exciting event next year. **Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Beach Ball on Saturday, May 20, 2017, at the Cavalier Golf and Yacht Club, Virginia Beach.**



PHOTOS BY HELEN ODERISI

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PHOTOS BY HELEN ODERISI

An Achievable Dream Happenings



On March 2, in conjunction with Dr. Seuss' Birthday and Read Across America Day, AAD Virginia Beach hosted its first bi-annual **Community Volunteer Day**. Volunteers spent the morning in the classrooms with our Dreamers reading books and making crafts.



TiaMarie Hughes, a third grader at Seatack Elementary/An Achievable Dream Academy, introduced former **Governor Douglas Wilder** during his induction to the **Virginia Legends Walk** in May. TiaMarie and more than 60 third-grade students attended the event, held at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. During his speech, Wilder reminded the students, "Don't let anyone tell you that you can't succeed."

Photo courtesy of The Virginian-Pilot



In May, An Achievable Dream was honored to host a visit from **U.S. Secretary of Education John King, Jr.** and **Congressman Bobby Scott** at the Middle and High School for a discussion on youth violence prevention. During the discussion, Secretary King was briefed on An Achievable Dream's programs and efforts by Newport News Public Schools and other organizations to prevent violence in the city.



In early June, Dreamers from An Achievable Dream Academy competed during the **Fourth Annual Southeast Community Spelling Bee** at the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center, taking home three first place trophies (third, fourth and fifth grades) and one second place trophy (fifth grade). A school-wide spelling bee was held the week prior, with the top five students in each grade level advancing to the community event to compete against students from Newsome Park Elementary and Magruder Discovery STEM Academy. Congratulations, Dreamers!

Other Happenings

On April 22, Earth Day, students at Seatack Elementary/An Achievable Dream Academy unveiled the Ocean Dance sculpture, created by local artist **Debra Chako** with third through fifth graders, in the Ocean Friendly Garden.

Members of the GEMS (Girls Educated and Motivated for Success) in Newport News attended The High Tea, a scholarship fundraiser for the **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority**, which was held at the Paradise Ocean Club at Fort Monroe in April. The third and fourth graders enjoyed tea and finger sandwiches and a variety of entertainment, including a hat parade.

Also in April, sixth through twelfth-grade students in Newport News participated in the annual Hokie Day program at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School. Professors and students from **Virginia Tech** led a variety of hands-on activities, and older students learned about life on campus and scholarship opportunities.

An Achievable Dream first-grade students from Newport News participated in **The Great Computer Challenge at Old Dominion University** in May. The Boys Team earned Second Place overall and received a Level 1 in graphic design. A second team received a Level 1 in Desktop Publishing and placed third overall. 🌟

Visit Excites Local Leader

Following a visit to An Achievable Dream Academy, Pat Cosgrove, a member of the Hampton Roads Civic Leadership Institute's Class of 2016 and Space Launch System Lead at NASA, sent a letter to President Obama encouraging him to visit. Following are excerpts from his letter.

Dear President Obama,

On January 14, a visit to An Achievable Dream Academy in Newport News rocked my world. This place is incomprehensibly successful and so awe inspiring; I cannot imagine a visitor avoiding tears. I beg you from the depths of my heart and soul to visit as soon as possible.

It gives me hope to learn that there are systems of education like An Achievable Dream, and I propose your federal endorsement for AAD's model in the most impoverished areas. It is likely sustainable with zero additional federal dollars; business and community resources are making it happen here in Newport News. Think of how the math for entitlements will change when sustaining the cost for supporting those born into poverty go vastly down in a generation or two!

What I saw in the eyes of these children continues to shake me to my core. I joined teachers, administrators and soldiers as the students arrived in the morning. Each student greets with a firm handshake and a "good morning" as a means for the staff to ensure that they get the attention they need prior to starting their classes. It flashed in my mind, "what would our world be like if every child were cared for like these?" I was stunned by their presence, their promise, their will to succeed in this simple but powerful ritual; tears welling up and I had to be physically jostled to move on.

God bless you, Mr. President.

*Sincerely,
Pat Cosgrove*

Give Local 757 Campaign Supports Summer Camps

**GIVE
LOCAL
757!**

Thank you to the many donors who supported An Achievable Dream during Give Local 757, an online fundraising event held May 3–5. More than \$6,000 was raised in support of scholarships for our *Dreamers* to attend a wide range of learning experiences this summer, from the High School Leaders Program at the University of Virginia, to camps focusing on aviation, biomedicine, tennis, music and many more. For students who would otherwise receive little or no exposure to the world beyond their neighborhood, summer camps provide opportunities for new experiences, help build confidence and lifelong skills and provide hands-on application of academic concepts outside the classroom. Thank you! 🌟



Highlights BY Grade

Dedicated to the belief that all children can learn and succeed regardless of their economic status, An Achievable Dream operates two nationally recognized schools for grades K–12 in Newport News, serving 1,250 students, and Seatack Elementary/An Achievable Dream Academy in Virginia Beach, with 300 students in grades K–3.

At the end of a very successful, very busy school year, we asked teachers to give us their highlights by grade for the last semester.

Kindergarten

Newport News: *The Professionally Developed Kindergarten Team* is working to implement components of the Reggio Emilia Approach for the 2016–17 school year. The program, based on the principles of respect, responsibility and community through exploration and discovery, offers a supportive and enriching environment, based on the interests of the children. Additionally, they recently met as a team to discuss and plan specifics for the new school year.

Virginia Beach: Students in Kindergarten went to **Taylor Farms**. While there, they learned about the duties of farmers and about the animals on the farm. They also enjoyed a hayride.

First Grade

Newport News: Immersion, Immersion, Immersion! First-grade teachers are continuing to instill a love for literacy and are immersing the students in a variety of texts. This year, *Dreamers* learned about authors such as Leo Lionni through author studies and have been exposed to a variety of text choices to delve into during independent reading.



▲ **Virginia Beach:** First-grade students worked in their classrooms and with Marie Culver, the gifted resource teacher, to write letters to present during the Solution to Ocean Pollution Summit, with ideas on how to clean the world's oceans. Special guests from the **City of Virginia Beach, Virginia Aquarium** and the **Surfrider Foundation** attended. The Little Sprouts garden club created and displayed a trash sculpture named “Jingles, the Trash Talking Jellyfish” (in background).

Second Grade

Newport News: Second graders have been working hard to improve written comprehension of fiction and nonfiction text. This spring, students were allowed to choose a book that interested them. All reading levels were removed from the books prior to students' selection, so their choices were not influenced by reading level or ability. While the students read their books, they wrote their impressions on sticky notes. The students were then challenged to write a summary that included the story elements. Upon completion all students presented their reports to their class.



▲ **Virginia Beach:** Second-grade students experienced the culture and inventions of the Ancient Chinese by learning to write, using Chinese characters and symbols, to use chopsticks, to make Chinese masks and to fly kites. They also learned the traditional dragon dance.

Third Grade

Newport News: The third-grade team has taken the co-teaching approach by storm through Huddles! As they prepared for the SOL tests, teachers capitalized on their strengths, and the passion for their content areas shone through. Teachers grouped students by ability, and they received instruction in reading and math with two teachers present in each classroom. The students enjoyed the attention of two teachers. This collaborative partnership ensured that differentiated instruction was a priority.



▲ **Virginia Beach:** Third-grade students celebrated “Ancient Civilizations Day,” where they learned about the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome. While learning about ancient Greece, they participated in their own Olympics. While “visiting” ancient Rome, they created mosaics and learned about other art forms from the ancient world. They also planted in the school’s community garden vegetable seeds that would have been grown in Greece and Mali, such as olives, peppers and lettuce.

Fourth Grade

Newport News: Virginia Studies Gurus! Fourth-grade students and teachers recently visited **Colonial Williamsburg** and the **Virginia Historical Society Museum** in Richmond, where they learned about Virginia’s rich and unique history.

Fifth Grade

Newport News: Fifth-grade students, with the assistance of teachers and staff, held a friendly competition of Science SOL Prep with Newsome Park ES via Polycom, a video conferencing program.

Sixth Grade

Newport News: Students participated in an industrial showcase at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School, with representatives from the different trades at **Newport News Shipbuilding**. The students were involved in building boats made of aluminum foil and tested how long they would stay afloat by using pennies to add weight.

Sixth through Eighth Grade

Newport News: During two mornings in May, sixth through eighth-grade students participated in an etiquette breakfast, putting skills learned in their social curriculum classes into practice. In order to attend, students were required to be in good academic standing. Interested students interviewed for positions as hosts and servers, and were responsible for set up and breakdown of the event.



Continued on page 10

Seventh Grade

Newport News: Students in technology class designed their own computer games, creating a theme, characters and skill levels. The information was then added to a real-life gaming system.



Eighth Grade

▲ **Newport News:** Student ambassadors attended a luncheon with members of the staff at Olive Garden to begin the planning phase of the new **Ninth Grade Mental Excellence Leadership Program**, to be implemented during Summer Intersession.

Ninth Grade

▼ **Newport News:** In June, the 21 students who have consistently earned a 3.0 or higher grade point average were inducted into the **Ladies and Gentlemen's 3.0 Clubs**. Photo below: ninth through twelfth-grade members of the Gentlemen's 3.0 Club



Tenth Grade

► **Newport News:** Students Jalen Jordan and Elijah Lydell advanced to the Sixth National SeaPerch Competition held at Louisiana State University in



Baton Rouge in May. To qualify, they built an electric motor powered boat, which they demonstrated during the event. The students enjoyed the "college experience," as accommodations and meals were provided on the university's campus. Their trip was sponsored by **Len Bennett, Esq.**, founding partner of **Consumer Litigation Associates**.

Eleventh Grade

Newport News: Student Richard Cotman was selected to participate in the Newport News Public Schools Superintendent's Advisory Committee, where he will work with the Superintendent and staff to review school policies and procedures for the upcoming school year.

Twelfth Grade

► **Newport News: Danielle Robinson** was selected as a **2016 Bank of America Student Leader**. As part of the program, she will participate in an eight-week paid internship with a local non-profit organization and will travel to Washington D.C. in July for the 2016 Bank of America Student Leaders Summit. 🌟





An Achievable Dream Middle School Boys Basketball Team



An Achievable Dream Middle School Girls Basketball Team

Middle School Athletes Soar

By Judi Overbey, An Achievable Dream Athletic Director

As I listened to a standing-room-only basketball crowd chant “Let’s go, Phoenix, let’s go!” while fists pumped the air and a student-athlete sank another three pointer for us to win a buzzer beater, chills went down my spine. I smiled, and thought to myself, “It’s finally happening. Phoenix Pride is catching on.”

Our goal this year was to take middle-school athletics to a completely different level. Sports can be critical in a middle-school student’s life—to be accepted, to be a part of something special, to feel a pride in the person he or she is creating. An atmosphere of passion, drive, determination, success, perseverance and family can be felt at any of our athletic contests, events or award ceremonies. This season, thanks to generous donors and a variety of athletic department fundraisers, each team member received new uniforms with our new Phoenix logo. This was the first uniform for many players and they wore them with pride.

Students on the middle-school level are encouraged to participate in one of our programs that compete in city-wide competitions: archery, track,

volleyball and basketball. We also have an excellent Cheer Team and a brand new Pep Band that plays at all home events. Currently, more than 160 students participate in these activities. Students may also participate in Intramurals on the Middle and High School level. This is an opportunity to play non-competitive Flag Football, Archery and Basketball. More than 120 students participate in these activities.

An Achievable Dream has a wonderful partnership with Heritage High School that allows our students, grades 8–12, to participate in more than 18 different sports and activities that we are unable to offer due to the size of our student body. I am proud of our 180 students who participate, excel and represent Achievable Dream so well while wearing the Heritage High uniform.

Student-athletes achieve excellence on and off the fields. They are required to maintain a minimum of a 2.5 GPA in order to participate, and most of our student-athletes carry a 3.0 or higher GPA. We invite you to come out next season, support our *Dreamers* as they strive to be the best and catch the PHOENIX PRIDE! 🦅



The **Phoenix** was chosen as the mascot by the students of An Achievable Dream Middle and High School when it opened in 2007. A mythical bird throughout many cultures, the Phoenix is thought to represent renewal, power and strength.



Shopping online?

Use Amazon Smile and check An Achievable Dream as your charity of choice.

Achievements

An Achievable Dream, Inc.

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24th Annual An Achievable Dream **TENNIS BALL** Saturday, November 19, 2016

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WORDS to Live By

“I learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”
—*Dr. Maya Angelou*

Panel quote for the Caring Classroom at Seatack Elementary/ An Achievable Dream Academy in Virginia Beach, sponsored by the Tidewater Children's Foundation.

Why do you support An Achievable Dream?

“We recognize that there is no better long-term investment than education in providing opportunities in one's life, especially for those in higher risk communities. An Achievable Dream has made a significant difference in its Newport News schools, and its expansion to Virginia Beach is an exciting development that we are pleased to support.”

—*Jack Ross, President
and Chief Operating Officer,
Dominion Enterprises*

Did you know? **Fun Fact about An Achievable Dream**

An Achievable Dream began in 1992 as a summer education and tennis program for 95 fourth graders. Wanting to do more for the children of Newport News, businessman Walter Segaloff joined forces with businesses, citizens, Newport News Public Schools and the City of Newport News to bring about change in the community. Segaloff expressed it best when he said, “We must ‘build a dam’ to prevent children from being carried away with the flow toward failure.”