

August 25, 2011

Dear Parents, Guardian, and Students,

I hope this letter finds each of you enjoying your summer. Soon we will be starting the 2011-12 school year, our fourth year in our new facility. We are very excited about the possibilities a new school year brings.

Last school year we experienced a number of huge accomplishments due to the hard work of our students and staff. We set a record for the number of students who earned their credits at Point Option in order to receive their high school diploma. 57 students proudly walked across the stage at their respective home school graduation ceremonies!

Other notable achievements in 2010-2011 include being selected by NNPS to be one of their schools that were visited by the *National School Board Technology Association* due to our unique integration of technology into our curriculum. Congratulations and thanks go out to Mike McGee, our Instructional Technology Coach, for all his hard work assisting our faculty and students in the technology area. Our Science students, under the direction of Mrs. Raspanti, completed a boat building project at the Waterman's Museum in Yorktown as they constructed a Pamunkey Indian fishing boat over the course of the school year. The *Key Club*, under the direction of Mrs. Claxton & along with Ms. Cochran, raised money for CHKD and to assist in the tornado relief efforts for Page Middle School students. We also received several grants to aid our students and faculty including the addition of twenty I-Pads and several hand-held GPS units for our Outdoor English, Field Biology, and World Geography classes. Last fall Mr. Garner began a jazz band that is open to any student who wishes to join. In the spring of 2011 they were invited to do some public performances at local coffee houses. In January five students accompanied by Mr. Garner spent a week in the Adirondacks with students from the College of William & Mary on an Outdoor Education wilderness trip. Our Physical Education Life Skills class, under the direction of Coach Garrett, began a fishing education program to teach our students skills that they can enjoy for a lifetime.

As we evaluated our curriculum during the course of the 2010-11 school year we set our sights on what we could do here that would better help our students to become college, career, and citizen ready. This school year we are happy to announce a new Business Education program at Point Option. We will teach **Computer Information Systems, Digital Input Technologies, and Economics & Personal Finance**. The use of 21st century technology has been a highlight of the Point Option program and we believe that these classes will greatly assist our students as they prepare for their future.

As usual, we thank you for entrusting us with your most valuable resource, your children. We value the trust you have in us and will work hard to ensure your children have the very best *opportunity to succeed*. As you know educating a child takes a community effort. We will only be successful if we continue to work together as the year goes on. Please help us by encouraging your child to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity they have at "The

Point". While we understand that we can't "make" anyone learn; we can be a tool of support and inspiration to them.

Our ***Interact*** and 'after-school' programs will continue as always. Students who attend "The Point" have every resource at hand to be successful. Attendance is critical to the success of our students as most of our classes are participation driven.

We ask that you take some time to read and keep handy the **Point Option Policies & Procedures Manual** your son/daughter will bring home the first week of school. We believe in Teaching-To our expectations up front. This results in a school that is safe and smart.

Point Option continues to receive very positive publicity from the community. Recently we were highlighted by NNPS ***NewsLines*** which can be found on the NNPS website. We hope you will take a few minutes to read the article there.

I look forward to seeing you throughout the school year. As usual, we are always here for you!

Yours in Education,

Mike Bonfiglio
Principal