



PARTNERS in EDUCATION

Highlights

News from Calhoun County Independent School District and Partners in Education members

January 2013

Calhoun students tour local industries to learn about careers

Calhoun High School students are finding out what it takes to obtain a career in the Petrochemical industry, thanks to an effort sponsored by local industries, CCISD and the Port Lavaca Rotary Club.

The effort aims at connecting local students with the local career options and opportunities.

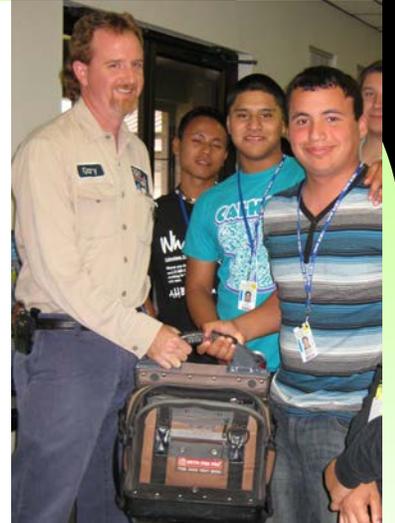
Alcoa, Dow, Formosa, Ineos and Inteplast generously hosted student visits in 2011 and 2012. Special thanks to Formosa for hosting multiple site visits.

During the student visits, industry representatives provided company overviews, career explanations and facility tours. Show-and-tell and other hands-on activities were extremely popular with students. Employee speakers shared their personal stories and career highlights. Students were also introduced to the opportunities that contract companies offer, including apprenticeships and flexible work schedules for students wishing to work while enrolled in college.

CHS Junior and Mechanical Engineering student Preston Nichols enjoyed spending time with industry representatives and learning about their roles.

"I liked that we got to split into small groups and talk with the guys and that they gave us examples of what they did," said Nichols. "Being able to see the tools they worked with was very helpful."

Students learned that Process Technology, Instrumentation and Electrician (I&E), Chemistry and Engineering type jobs are in demand right here in Calhoun County – right now—and in the foreseeable future. Additionally, students were given information on several degree programs offered by the Victoria College, as further education is the next step toward a career in the Petrochemical Industry.



"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." - Benjamin Franklin

Alcoa sponsors *Birds of Prey*



In October, more than 2000 CCISD elementary students learned the science of what makes *Birds of Prey* unique—including how the birds eat and interact with their environments. The *Birds of Prey* program was sponsored by Alcoa and presented by The Friends of the Brazoria County Wildlife Refuge. The program reached each elementary campus in the district.

Dow sponsors *Vocal Trash*



Twenty-five students from the Travis Middle School G3 Club learned the value of recycling, composting, conserving energy and how to make "trash" into musical instruments, at the Dow-sponsored *Vocal Trash* concert in Victoria. G3 Club sponsor Chris Scroggs raved about the performance's message about recycling and said that her kids had a great time.

Ineos Sustainability display



There's a new display up at the Sustainability Education Center. Ineos joins forces with Dow, Alcoa and Inteplast to educate CCISD students and the whole community about the importance of protecting our world's precious resources. The Ineos display provides a snapshot into what their company makes and how those items are transported. The Sustainability Center is located off Virginia Street in Port Lavaca and is open until 6 p.m.

Resolve to volunteer this New Year—Mentors and Tutors needed at every CCISD Campus

Did you realize that forty-five minutes, a couple times per month could forever change a life?

It's true... Time and time again we get feedback from CCISD teachers, parents and volunteers validating the importance of the Mentor and Tutor programs. Playing a role in helping a student through a difficult lesson or personal situation is also a personally rewarding experience. Returning CCISD Volunteer and Formosa Employee Rick Crabtree noted that he feels like he gets more out of the experience than the students do. And Rick's sentiments are echoed by many.

What most CCISD Mentors and Tutors don't realize until their first assignment is that the life they are changing is their very own. Sign up now to Mentor or Tutor! Contact the PIE Office at 361.552.5722 or PIE@calcoisd.org.

Campus	Needs
HJM Elementary	Tutors from 8 to 10:30 a.m.
JR Elementary	Male Mentors
Seadrift School	Male Mentors
Port O'Connor	Tutors & Mentors
Travis Middle School	Female Mentors Tutors from 3:35 to 4:25
CHS	Tutors in Math Male Mentors - special request for Hispanic and African American mentors -special request for mentors in their 20's, 30's & 40's



Formosa invests in Wetlands pathway and bird rookery

The Formosa Wetlands is taking local students one step closer to nature, thanks to the recent construction of a pathway and bird rookery.

Formosa's \$21,000 investment into the Wetlands gives students a once in a lifetime opportunity to see nature at its purest, interacting with its environment inside a body of water. The pathway and bird rookery's convenient location, adjacent to the outside classroom, increases the amount of hands-on learning time (minimizes travel time to sampling locations).

Additionally, the pathway material is a Formosa by-product that was recycled and donated for this project.

For more information, please contact the PIE Office at 361.552.5722 or PIE@calcoisd.org

Seadrift Coke L.P. donation



Seadrift Coke L.P.'s Eric Skach recently presented a \$6,600 contribution to CCISD Partners in Education's Amy Boone. The funding will provide ten iPads for Calhoun High School.

Dow's science demonstrations



Dow's Madam Atom (Heather Bland) recently dazzled sixth graders at Travis Middle School with science experiments that demonstrate

chemical changes. Madam Atom is one of the Dow Science Demonstration Team presenters who visits local school campuses, libraries and community events to energize students about science and chemistry.

P-Tech class visits VC



The CHS Process Technology class recently toured the Victoria College Process Technology Program lab to see the model manufacturing units (scaled-down, but accurate) available for hands-on learning. Additionally, students learned about the coursework required for a Process Technology degree.