

Maury UPDATE



Teacher of the Year

Ryan Featherer is Maury's faculty-elected Teacher of the Year



Ryan Featherer

for 2007. In late March he competed with other such honorees in Norfolk Public Schools to join the All-

City Teaching Team that celebrates accomplishments by teachers within the system.

Featherer is known for how much he cares about his orchestra students and, perhaps more importantly, by how much they care about him. They work

hard making music and also making money in fundraisers, often teaming with the school's NJROTC activities.

In late winter Featherer was struggling with a chronic medical

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Message from the Principal

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I welcome you who are reading the *Maury Update* for the first time as you are the families who will have children enrolled at Maury as Freshmen in 2007-08. Welcome, Class of 2011!

High schools begin earlier than middle schools: at 7:25 a.m. with dismissal at 2:10 p.m. We are on an "alternating block"

schedule which means your child will take 8 classes: 4 each on alternating days. Classes last approximately 90 minutes. Thus, on "A" days students go to blocks 1, 3, 5, and 7, then on "B" days they attend blocks 2, 4, 6, and 8. Two years ago, Norfolk Public Schools wisely decided to add an eighth block to the schedule thus allowing students to enroll in a class that emphasizes the skills

needed to be successful in their high school careers and beyond —without losing opportunities to take the 7 academic and elective classes that they would have taken in the past.

Now, I would like to encourage you to begin the Maury experience during the summer. First, be

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Maury High School

Spring 2007
Published by the
Maury Booster
Association

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Denise Alberti

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"It wasn't my idea. The kids asked, how come we haven't done anything for MS yet?"

Ryan Featherer,
director
of orchestras
and Teacher of the
Year

Teacher of the Year (continued)

condition called Multiple Sclerosis, a cause for which his orchestra students raised \$1,700 in the fall through donations to the Multiple Sclerosis Society. He said he was very touched by their efforts.

"It wasn't my idea. The kids asked, how come we haven't done anything for MS yet?" he said.

Featherer came to the Maury faculty 10 years ago just out of college. He plays the viola and plans to

pursue conducting as a career. His titles at Maury include director of orchestras, head of the fine arts department and co-sponsor of the 2007 graduating class.

Featherer says he is very proud of his orchestra students as well as the upcoming graduates, with whom he has been involved since their freshman year. "They are all great kids," he said. The accomplishments of orchestra students as well

as the seniors who have followed Featherer's leading are unusually high. This graduation class, for example, is the largest in memory at Maury.

"The teachers are really pushing kids to graduate on time," Featherer said, "but these kids have been positively involved since day one." The class has participated in web-based voting to choose guest speakers, homecoming royalty and class officers.

From the principal (continued)

sure that your child reads the books recommended on their summer reading list. Middle school English teachers will forward this list to you. Also, please feel free to drop in and visit Maury during the summer. Although the teachers will not be on site, the guidance department counselors and assistants will be available to answer your questions. August is an especially busy month as practice for fall sports begin, schedules are sent home, and schedule changes may be requested during the last week of August. You will receive further details on these activities in a summer letter from

our staff.

Finally, I urge you to take time to read the *SLC Newsletter* that is inserted in this issue of the *Maury UPDATE*. This newsletter explains the strategies and structures that we are implementing at Maury to make it the finest institution of learning for all stu-

dents. Again, welcome to our family and I look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Michael J. Caprio



Show your Maury spirit by purchasing T-shirts, mugs, and sweatshirts from the school's **DECA Chapter**. Items are pictured at the booster association website and will be for sale at events. To order, e-mail Vanessa Smith, vsmith@nps.k12.va.us or call 628-9177.

Black History Month — A Time to Say “No”

This year in February an important drive was held to spread awareness and stop hate. All teachers and students were invited to participate in the theme of this year’s Black History Month, which was: “Say No to the N-word.”

Students posted approved flyers around the school, wore campaign buttons and educated their peers about the hurtful effects of the word in question.

In each English class, which all students take, the drive was kicked off by an in-class Power Point presentation. Many other promotions were executed during the month.

The Blue Crab Bowl Team including Frank Wood, Tyante Baylum, Hui-Jae Chong, Shenea Smith and Frank Girucky represented Maury this winter at the 10th Annual Blue Crab Bowl. This state competition for the National Ocean Sciences Bowl was held at the Virginia Institute for Marine Science.

Sports

Alan Jacobsen, a three-time district champion, qualified in February for the state wrestling tournament by placing third at Eastern Regionals. Maury’s team had last sent someone to state in 1991. Alan went on to place 5th in the state tournament, earning him all-state honors.

Don’t Miss Maury Auction

Thanks to all volunteers and sponsors!

The Maury Boosters Auction was held March 24 with the help of numerous sponsors and volunteers. The proceeds will be used to provide grant funds for academic and sports activities at the school. If you can donate an item or gift certificate to sell at next year’s auction, become a financial sponsor or volunteer to help on or before auction day, please e-mail mauryauction@gmail.com.

UPDATE, a school to parent resource published by the Maury Boosters, will move online next year. Be sure to check www.mauryboosters.org monthly for updated information about the school and its students.



The Maury Boosters thank their many loyal customers and volunteers for supporting this year's citrus fruit sale. Proceeds from the sale benefit the clubs and teams whose students volunteer at the sale and also provide grants for specific needs in the school. Look for the sale to resume in November. Online ordering begins in October, for details see www.mauryboosters.org.

Events

- The 2nd Annual Jerry Sazio Football Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament will be held Friday, May 11 at Sewells Point Golf Course, 1 p.m. For information call Roger Carr, 481-3695.
- Maury's band, chorus and orchestra directors have been asked to conduct the all-city performance May 19 at Ted Constant Center, 6:30 p.m.

Home Sports

Baseball and Softball: Play Norcom May 1, 4 p.m.; Norview May 4, 4 p.m.
JV Baseball and Softball play Churchland May 8, 4 p.m. and B.T. Washington May 11, 4 p.m.
Soccer at Powhatan Field: Play Churchland May 3, 5 and 7 p.m.; B.T. Washington May 7, 5 p.m.; Salem May 9, 5 and 7 p.m. and Norcom May 10, 5 and 7 p.m.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Honors Reception, 6:30 p.m.	2	3	4	5
6	7 AP Testing begins	8 Teacher Appreciation Day	9	10 Student Art Show	11 Sazio Golf Tournament Student Art Show	12 Student Art Show Track District Championships
13 Mother's Day	14 SOL Testing begins	15	16	17	18	19 All-city Orchestra, Band and Chorus, 6:30 p.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 No School, Memorial Day Holiday	29	30	31		

Events

- College-bound Juniors should plan to take the SAT by this spring. If enrolled, you should also take related SAT II AP tests. For specifics, check www.collegeboard.com
- The Orchestra Pops concert will be held outdoors at Powhatan Field, 5 p.m.
- Graduating seniors will hold their ceremony at Chrysler Hall on June 12, 5 p.m.

Prom

The senior class prom will be held at Harrison Opera House on June 2, 8 p.m. with the theme "Mystical Masquerade."

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	
				Senior exams begin	SAT Testing Senior Prom	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					Senior exams end	ACT Testing
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Pops Concert, 5 p.m.	Exams Dismissal, 11:25 a.m.	Graduation, 5 p.m. Dismissal, 11.25 a.m.	Dismissal, 11:25 a.m.	Last Day Dismissal, 9:25 a.m.		

To date, with 387 seniors planning to don caps and gowns, the largest class in memory at Maury will graduate June 12 at Chrysler Hall, 5 p.m.

Kudos

Rebecca Snarr (literature) and Niyah Edwards (visual arts) won first place in the district PTA Reflections contest and will go on to the regional level.

Courtney Whitaker and Amaree Romo received Rotary Club scholarships after chronicling their experiences at a club work project. Also, a Norfolk elementary school received a book donated by Rotary in honor of these students.

Nine students participated in “Scrabble for Literacy” sponsored by the Literacy Partnership in March. Members of the first annual Scrabble team are Marlee McDonald, Lucila Dunnington, Eleanor Squires, Josh Coplon, Michelle Watkins, David Rose-Carmack, zoe Hickox, Allison Murphy and Jonathan Schwinn. Maury came in 2nd and 3rd while Ocean Lakes High won the event. The team sponsor is Maria O’Hearn.

Erin Jackson, a 2006 graduate, is one of 12 students nationwide chosen to have their work photographed and published on the National Poster for schools for the fall of 2007 — a first for Norfolk Public Schools. As a senior Erin did the AP art portfolio for sculpture.



Growth for National Honor Society

This year the National Honor Society has offered 120 invitations to sophomores, juniors and seniors to join their organization.

Membership in Maury’s National Honor Society has doubled since last year, according to Michael J. Caprio, school principal.

Students invited to the society this year have a

3.3 grade point average or better.

“I think the number has increased due to more programs being created to help students achieve success and offering more classes that are weighted heavier than others, such as AP classes,” said faculty member Michelle Fryman.

Caprio said he and his staff wished to congratu-

late the hard work and achievement of so many students working toward their academic goals.

MAURY UPDATE
MAURY HIGH SCHOOL
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Visit the Maury website: www.nps.k12.va.us
Select Maury High from the *Our Schools* menu.



It's Easy to Support Maury!

Harris Teeter's **Together In Education** program is a fund raising program for schools in our communities. Simply give the cashier your VIC Card and Maury's Together In Education number – **3993** - during checkout.