March 2026
Newsletter

Communities In Schools®
Brunswick County

Communities in Schools was created in the 1970s when a graduate student, Bill Milliken, and his colleagues were doing outreach on the streets of New York City. One of their goals was to help homeless persons who never graduated from high school get back into school to complete a GED. As Bill continued working with these men and women he encountered he came to believe it would be better to focus on preventing them from dropping out of school in the first place, rather than trying to get them back into school once they were in crisis, facing homelessness and other challenges as a result of not completing their education. Thus, the concept of what eventually became known as Communities In Schools was born. Today, there are Communities In Schools affiliates across the nation, serving over 3 million students in 2,950 schools in 29 states and the District of Columbia. They, like Communities In Schools of Brunswick County, work every day inside local schools to help students eliminate barriers to their success, providing intervention and support through individualized Student Support Plans based on each student's unique needs. Bill Milliken has always believed that programs do not change people, relationships do. We see that belief in action every day in the nine Brunswick County schools where we currently case manage and provide targeted support and interventions for 504 high-need students. From providing tutoring, mentoring, social skill and character development, behavior and truancy interventions, to ensuring students' basic needs are met, we work to fulfill our mission "to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life." This month we share stories of students who have been successful as a result of working in partnership with their Success Coach who provides a consistent presence and serves as a positive role model, while helping them grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

To read more student success stories, and program highlights, please visit our website https://cisbrunswick.org



Peyton, a student at Jessie Mae Monroe Elementary, was referred to the CIS Action for Success Program in 3rd grade for behavior intervention and character building. Peyton was placed in the CICO check in /check out program, where students are assigned to check in with a staff member with whom they have a strong connection. Peyton and his CIS Success Coach, Ms. Gia, talk about his goals for the day and the week. It helps students to know someone is consistently available to them and checking each day to be certain they are attending school and focused on what they need to accomplish. During check ins they can discuss concerns or anxieties they may have and work through those concerns with Ms. Gia. They receive support and reminders about behavioral expectations as a responsible member of their school community. Students then receive checks for positive choices throughout the day. Peyton's daily goal was to receive at least 20 checks out of 24, to get a small reward. If Peyton had 4 out 5 great days, each week, he got a larger reward. This process incrementally helps students to reduce negative behaviors and increase emotional self-regulation. Peyton had 2 consecutive weeks of great behavior so, after winter break, his mom came to surprise him with lunch and the next week he earned a Chick-fil-A lunch. Peyton is a bright and wonderful student, who really benefits from checking in with Ms. Gia who helps motivate him to make positive choices throughout the day. CIS works to identify what each student most values and what type of incentive motivates them so they can help each student be successful in reaching his or her goals

Thank You to Our Recent Donors!

We Appreciate Your Financial Contributions, Snacks, Pajamas & Books, and Hygiene Kits











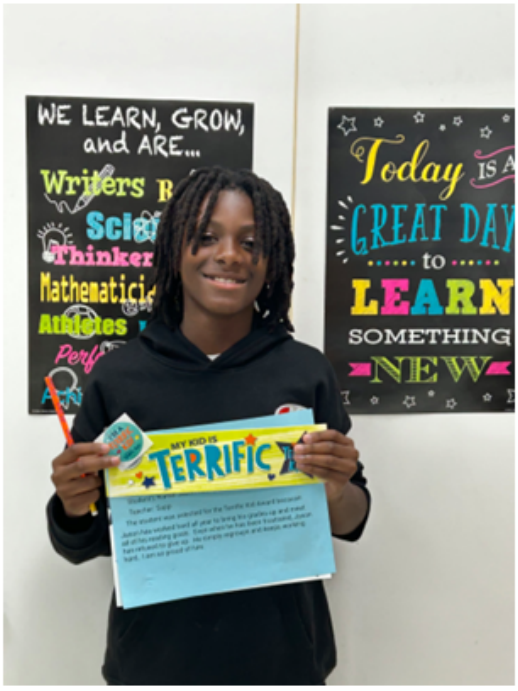


Top to Bottom, Left to Right: Pythagorus Lodge-Winnabow; Ocean Ridge Charities Association-Ocean Isle Beach; Oak Island Elks Lodge- Oak Island; United Way of the Cape Fear Day of Caring - South Harbor Village Community in Oak Island; Hank Troscianiec and Associates - Oak Island; Jammiez 4 Kids - St James.

Learn more:
https://cisbrunswick.org/

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Celebrating "Terrific" Student Success



Jason is a 5th grade student at Supply Elementary who works with CIS Success Coach Mrs. Stewart to improve his grades in English Language Arts and Math, as well as to continue to maintain good behavior. His Success Coach meets with him regularly to work on these goals. Providing reinforcement and one-on-one instruction in academic concepts learned in the classroom, but that a student is struggling to learn, helps the student keep pace with ongoing classroom instruction and keep pace with peers. When students become discouraged they often no longer want to attend school, which leads to greater challenges and adverse student outcomes. Similarly, working with students to regulate their emotions so they do not bring disruptive behaviors into the classroom and into their relationships with those in their school community, aids the student in staying focused on academic goals and developing and maintaining positive and supportive relationships with others. Through Jason's hard work and dedication, both in his core classes and in the CIS classroom, Jason was nominated for and received the Terrific Kid Award. During the nomination process, the teacher who nominates the student provides insight into why they chose the student to receive the award. Jason's teacher Mrs. Sapp shared, "Jason has worked hard all year to bring his grades up and meet all of his reading goals. Even when he has been frustrated, Jason has refused to give up. He simply regroups and keeps working hard. I am so proud of him." CIS is so proud of Jason and look forward to continuing to work with him to support his success!

Learn more:
https://cisbrunswick.org/

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