

NEWS RELEASE

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MMS AND FFMS AVID STUDENTS VISIT WILLIAM & MARY



Pictured Above: MMS and FFMS AVID students, flanked by DEF Board Members Bill Pfeifer and Frank Gajar, break from their guided tour of William and Mary for a photo.

Manteo Middle School and First Flight Middle AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) students recently enjoyed a guided tour of William and Mary. The field trip was sponsored by the Dare Education Foundation (DEF) as part of DEF's Passport To Higher Education Initiative.

Students toured in small groups led by William and Mary students and alumni. The tour included a campus dorm room, classrooms, the media center, the student center, football stadium, and William and Mary Hall. The tour concluded in the dining hall where students enjoyed a networking lunch with their tour guides and one another.

“The students really benefit from this experience”, said Bill Pfeifer, W&M Alum and DEF Board Member. “DEF sponsors this trip for the 8th grade AVID students annually. The AVID students are getting on the college-going track and this provides them with one of their first real life college experiences.”

The goal of the DEF’s Passport Initiative is to help Dare County Schools close the achievement gap for would-be first generation college students, minorities and students with limited means.

Through Passport, DEF is currently supporting the implementation and roll-out of the AVID Program in Dare County Schools. AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a research-based proven program that focuses on Passport’s target population and has been in existence for 25 years. Nationally, 95% of AVID graduates go on to college and 75% earn a four-year degree – nearly three times the rate of non-AVID students. What’s more, the entire student body benefits from enhanced school-wide instructional strategies and the creation of a college-going culture. DEF pays schools site fees to host the AVID Program, provides funds for DCS staff to be trained in the AVID curriculum, purchases curriculum materials in support of program implementation, supports tutor training and reimbursement, and funds enrichment activities for students.

The Dare Education Foundation is an IRS-qualified non-profit organization that raises funds to help every student and every teacher in every public school in Dare County. DEF is funded by private donations large and small, grants, sponsorships, and special events. Funds are used to advance teacher training, create access to new educational opportunities for students, and provide support for innovative programs in our schools. DEF's efforts in putting "Schools First" enrich education for all our students and encourage community involvement in education, which we believe provide the foundation for a strong and vibrant quality of life in Dare County.

For more information about the Dare Education Foundation call 255-5545 or visit us on-line at www.dareeducationfoundation.org.