

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
RECOGNITION**

**FALLSTON HIGH SCHOOL BEST BUDDIES CHAPTER
INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

October 24, 2016

Background Information:

Best Buddies® is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Founded in 1989 by Anthony K. Shriver, Best Buddies is a vibrant organization that has grown from one original chapter to more than 1,900 middle school, high school, and college chapters worldwide. Today, Best Buddies' eight formal programs — Middle Schools, High Schools, Colleges, Citizens, e-Buddies®, Jobs, Ambassadors, and Promoters — engage participants in each of the 50 states and in over 50 countries, positively impacting the lives of more than 900,000 people with and without disabilities around the world. In many cases, as a result of their involvement with Best Buddies, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities secure rewarding jobs, live on their own, become inspirational leaders, and make lifelong friendships.

Discussion:

Over 2,300 student leaders, volunteers, and staff members from Best Buddies International's programs around the world participated in the 27th Annual Best Buddies International Leadership Conference: ALL FOR BEST BUDDIES presented by the A&E Network, July 22-25 at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. The weekend offered attendees new ideas to share with their chapters back home, networking opportunities, and most importantly: lasting friendships.

Fallston High School's Best Buddies chapter brought home top honors from the 27th Annual Best Buddies Leadership Conference, with the title of International High School of the Year. Fallston's Best Buddies chapter is the largest extracurricular club in the school, with 145 members. Fifteen of those members are students with special needs who spend time with their buddies during the school day as well as outside of school and during the summer. Fifteen chapter members are matched on a one-on-one basis with the members with special needs, and the rest of the chapter members support those relationships. The Fallston chapter serves students with intellectual, development and physical disabilities.

The Fallston High chapter, founded in 2000, sent six members to this year's conference at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind., including the chapter president, vice president, associate director, secretary, historian and Best Buddies ambassador. Fallston's chapter was previously named Maryland's Chapter of the Year in April. Chapters of the year were also recognized at the middle school and college level. Fallston High was the only school from Maryland that received the honor.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education of Harford County congratulate the Fallston High School Best Buddies Chapter for earning this international recognition and award. The Superintendent further recommends the Board wish the chapter's members continued success in their educational careers.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
RECOGNITION**

**JAMES P. GRANT
FALLSTON HIGH SCHOOL
2016 MARYLAND HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

October 24, 2016

Background Information:

Started in 2004, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History "*History Teacher of the Year*" award highlights the crucial importance of history education by honoring exceptional American history teachers from elementary school through high school. The award honors one exceptional K-12 teacher from each state, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense schools and US Territories.

A "*National History Teacher of the Year*" will be selected from this list of state winners and honored at a ceremony in New York City. Past presenters at the ceremony include First Lady Laura Bush, US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, the Honorable Sandra Day O'Connor, and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Discussion:

Mr. James P. Grant, a teacher at Fallston High School, has been named the 2016 Maryland History Teacher of the Year, by The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Mr. Grant's passion for history and teaching have been combined in his classroom, and his students have reaped the benefits. He creates a classroom atmosphere where history is directly correlated to students' lives through critical reading and document analysis, as well as the analysis of community-based issues. When students leave his classroom, they not only learn valuable information, they become engaged and informed citizens. Mr. Grant is also heavily involved in the football program, is the coordinator of the mock trial team, serves as the department chair, and founded the Fallston High School Chapter of the Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society sponsored by the National Council of Social Studies.

Mr. Grant received a \$1,000 honorarium and the Fallston High School library received a core archive of history books and educational materials from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Mr. Grant also received an invitation to the 2017 Gilder Lehrman Teacher Seminar, a weeklong program that offers teachers daily discussions with eminent historians, visits to historic sites, and hands-on work with primary sources.

A panel of judges comprised of former national winners, renowned historians, professors and teachers will read and evaluate all state winner applications and select the National Teacher of the Year. The winner will be announced in fall 2016 and will receive a \$10,000 award and a trip to the national award ceremony along with two of his or her students.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education of Harford County congratulate Mr. James P. Grant of Fallston High School for his outstanding efforts in teaching history and for being selected as the recipient of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Teacher of the Year 2016. The Superintendent further recommends the Board wish Mr. Grant success as he competes for the National title.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY RECOGNITION
2016 MARYLAND CENTER FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION
AT STEVENSON UNIVERSITY “SCHOOL OF THE YEAR”**

**BEL AIR MIDDLE SCHOOL
HAVRE DE GRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
JOPPATOWNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
JOPPATOWNE HIGH SCHOOL**

October 24, 2016

Background Information:

The Maryland Center for Character Education at Stevenson University is a national advocate and leader for the character education movement. Since its inception, more than 560 schools have been recognized for their excellence as a leader in character education. Criteria for the designation are based on the Character Education Partnership’s *11 Principles of Effective Character Education*, which includes providing students with opportunities for moral action, fostering shared leadership, and engaging families and communities as partners in character-building efforts.

Discussion:

Bel Air Middle, Havre de Grace Elementary, Joppatowne Elementary, and Joppatowne High schools were each named a 2016 Maryland Center for Character Education “School of the Year” at an awards program at Stevenson University on September 29, 2016. The purpose of the program is to “celebrate how we are growing character in our students, recognize those who are handling tough issues in character development, and share our best practices in doing so.” The program recognized these four schools as schools that have demonstrated their use of character development to drive a positive impact on academics, student behavior, and school climate. These schools were four of just 64 schools across the state awarded this distinction.

Superintendent’s Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education of Harford County congratulate Bel Air Middle School, Havre de Grace Elementary School, Joppatowne Elementary School, and Joppatowne High School on having been named a 2016 Maryland Center for Character Education at Stevenson University “School of the Year.”