



DeGrange, Carey urge students to conquer math, science

By MARC SHAPIRO Staff Writer
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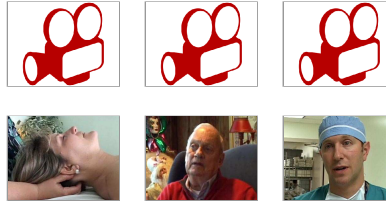
State Sen. Ed DeGrange and school board leader Ned Carey paid a visit to Chesapeake Science Point School in Hanover yesterday to encourage students to get the knowledge in math and science that can lead to a future of possibilities.

Mr. DeGrange, D-Glen Burnie, and Mr. Carey, vice president of the Anne Arundel County School Board, spoke to all of the school's students at an assembly at the end of the school day.

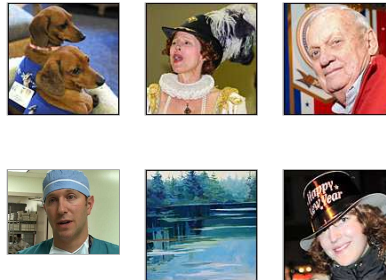
"Math, science and technology certainly is the future," Mr. DeGrange told them. "The knowledge

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you'll get here and where you can go in the future is unimaginable."

The middle school of 199 students emphasizes math and science, often putting kids ahead of their peers at other schools by teaching subjects like geometry and physics years before they are typically taught. That kind of knowledge will come in handy when jobs relocate to the area during the Base Realignment and Closure process soon, Mr. Carey said.

"Math, science, technology and engineering are important in this area with BRAC coming," said Mr. Carey, who presented principal's honor roll certificates to 14 students. "We want to position these students to take these jobs and live in the county where a lot of them were born and raised."

Mr. DeGrange and Mr. Carey were both instrumental in helping Chesapeake Science Point become a charter school. Mr. DeGrange said the school is important, being in such close proximity to Washington, D.C.

"You're building that foundation," he said. "If you don't have that foundation, companies won't locate here."

The school's principal, Fatih Kandil, said he was honored to have Mr. DeGrange and Mr. Carey at his school.

"I believe it's going to be a great inspiration for our students," he said. "It helps them to have the mind-set to go further."

Mary Alcoser, a Linthicum resident whose daughter is in sixth grade at Chesapeake Science Point, said she has never seen a better or more dedicated teaching staff.

"I know my daughter loves coming to school," she said. "I've never been around people that are this dedicated to what they do."

Her daughter was previously in private school but only recently started reading on her own and has done better in school since going to Chesapeake Science Point, her mother said.

Marcie Ridge, a Glen Burnie resident whose daughter is in seventh grade at the school, said she loves the school because it's small and personal and the teachers keep in close contact with the parents.

"I work for the schools and I wouldn't have my daughter go anywhere else," she said. She and Ms. Alcoser hope the school expands to include a high school in the near future.

The students also study subjects outside of the math and science realm.

"Most of them, even the students who say art is useless, end up liking it and appreciating it," said Catherine Stout, the school's art teacher. "It's one way to have interdisciplinary studies."

She likes to show the students connections between art and math and science.

Ms. Stout is impressed at how ahead students are in math and science. She thinks a big part of the school's appeal is how small and personal it is.

"These kids have a little family and community and that helps," she said.

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