



Kelly Grier's Advanced Honors Chemistry class enjoyed their lab exercises on the Destiny traveling science bus Tuesday afternoon. Pictured: Grier, Kassia Walker, Townsend Haynes, Chris Haraskiewicz, Jeff Robinson, and other students from the last class period of the day take off their protective eye wear and gloves inside the Destiny bus.

KM students meet Destiny

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Some Kings Mountain High School students recently met their destiny on a bus.

The Destiny bus, UNC-Chapel Hill's Traveling Science Learning program, visited Kings Mountain High School last week. Biology students from Mercedes Humphries' and Lori Wilbanks' classes boarded the science bus, parked outside of their classrooms, Tuesday morning for a lab exercise called "Mystery of the Crooked Cell."

Destiny officials said this study lets students "discover the molecular basis of sickle cell disease by using gel electrophoresis as a diagnostic tool to differentiate normal hemoglobin from hemoglobin found in individuals with sickle cell disease."

Students from Kelly Grier's chemistry classes boarded the bus later in the afternoon to conduct a lab exercise called "The Crucial Concentration." In this exercise, students assumed the "role of laboratory investigators for a court case to determine the amount of protein found in three sports drinks."

Using the general concept of the Lowry Assay and micro-analysis skills, students learned how to use a spectrophotometer, measure absorbencies, collect quantitative data, and produce a

standard curve to find the protein content in each sample," Destiny said in a press release.

Grier's Advanced Honors Chemistry class were the last ones to climb on the bus before the end of the school day and before Destiny left for its next destination.

"I think it was very fun," said Taylor Rippey after the exercise. "It wasn't too hard and I enjoyed it."

This was her first time on the bus, which she thinks is a good way to keep people interested in science. Rippey plans to find work in the science field one day in either medicine or research. She plans to attend Wake Forest or East Carolina University after she graduates from KMHS in 2008.

"We got to use the good, fancy equipment," said Jeff Robinson.

"We had fun and it's neat to see what the high-tech labs use," said Townsend Haynes.

Chris Haraskiewicz said that he plans to pursue a somewhat scientific career in Psychology. Robinson wants to become a biochemist and Townsend an anesthesiologist. Tuesday was their first time on the traveling science bus as well and they said they wouldn't mind climbing aboard again.

"This is a great opportunity for our students and they seem to

have a good time with it," Grier said.

Science teachers who wish to bring the Destiny bus to their schools are required to attend summer workshops. Humphries has attended many workshops for the traveling science program and was quoted in the press release saying, "I really want to continue to incorporate them (the exercises) into my class, especially with the new biology standards, that encourage inquiry and investigation. These activities can only inspire and motivate my young scientists!"

According to Destiny officials, "The Destiny traveling science learning program is the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center's formal science education initiative serving pre-college teachers and students across North Carolina. The program develops and delivers a standards-based, hands-on curriculum and teacher professional development with a team of educators and a fleet of vehicles that travel throughout the state."

Destiny and Discovery, two custom-built, 40-foot, 33,000-pound buses, bring the latest science and technology equipment to students who otherwise may not see a high-tech laboratory or what a career in science can offer.

KM native Boyles hired as superintendent of schools

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Bruce Boyles is coming home after 31 years of being away to lead the schools that he grew up in. He received a unanimous vote from Cleveland County School Board members on Thursday to become the district's next superintendent.

Boyles was reared in Kings Mountain, a place that he will always refer to as "home." Many of his relatives, including his mother Melba Boyles, still reside in Kings Mountain.

He said that he is not sure yet where his family will reside but he and his wife, Laura, plan to start their house hunt within the next few weeks.

"I'm starting work (as superintendent for CCS) after the first of the year. But my wife is going to stay behind with our children so they can finish up the rest of the school year," he said. "This is a big transition for us. My kids have always known Mooresville as home."

Boyles said that he is humbled by the Board's decision to hire him. "This is a wonderful school

system. They have made great progress since merger and I look forward to becoming part of that progress," he said.

In his youth, Boyles attended Bethware Elementary, Kings Mountain Junior High and Kings Mountain High school. After he graduated KMHS in 1976, he attended Mars Hill College where he earned a Bachelor's of Music degree. Future studies led him to obtaining his Master of Education and Certificate of Advanced Study from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a Doctor of Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Through the years of his scholarly progressions, he has served as director of bands, arts and technology coordinator, principal, director of personnel, and assistant superintendent for instruction and human resources, while he has served in Mooresville Graded Schools. He has been the superintendent for Mooresville Graded Schools since 2000.

"Mooresville had an opening for a high school band director in the 80s and so I went there, thinking, 'O.k. I'll do this here

for a couple of years and then move on to bigger and better things somewhere else,'" he said. But that, like many of life's plans are susceptible to change. He met Laura and fell in love. They were married and together they built a life and family in Mooresville.

With Laura by his side, Boyles will return to Cleveland County with their 10-year-old son Will, and 7-year-old daughter Gretchen. "I'm excited about coming home," he said.

He said he never really pursued open positions in other districts, but this one caught his eye. "There were several people in town that encouraged me to apply and so I thought I'd give it a try. After all this was my home. It feels like a fit for me," he said, adding that he is very excited about coming home to lead his community in education.

Boyles will be reviewing facts and figures when he joins Cleveland County Schools after January 1, 2007. Studying up on the school system will give him a clearer perspective on the areas that are successful and the areas that need improvement, he said.

Cleveland County Schools due \$2.5 million in NC lottery money

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Cleveland County Schools has an estimated \$2.591 million available for special projects or school system needs, from the NC Education Lottery, said Finance Director David Lee. But the money will not be sent to the schools until they ask for it.

"The funds aren't sent in one big allotment to the schools," he said. Instead of getting one big check for \$2.5 million, the amount is put into a vault, closed by a door that has Cleveland County Schools' name written on it; the door is chained by North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and then locked by the North Carolina Education Lottery, metaphorically speaking.

For instance, if a school needs improvement to its cafeteria and the estimated cost for the additions is \$200,000, then Cleveland County Schools would submit the details of that specified project to the NCDPI for that amount to be taken out of their "vault."

"It's similar to the state bond money from 1998 and 1999," Lee said. "We would just have to submit those projects against those dollars." He said that once the request is made and granted the money is sent to Cleveland County and then CCS would get their money from the county. Even with all of the red tape he

said that getting the money "shouldn't be a difficult process because the funds are there, it's just a matter of asking for them."

Lee said that lottery funds are a good thing, "from a planning standpoint. If you knew that two years down the road you were going to need to do a \$5 million project, then you would know that the project can be completed in two years from the lottery funds."

CCS's projected revenue or education lottery allotment is higher than they had previously anticipated. Lee said that was

because of the legislature. He said that the county re-did their tax rates and the change in supplemental taxes made the proceeds from the lottery for Cleveland County Schools increase. The estimated projection was set at \$2.3 million, but thanks to the legislature, he said, CCS is projected to receive close to an extra \$291,000.

"It's not my place to say whether the lottery is good or bad for the schools," he said. "But this is a new revenue stream that we've not had before."

Grading begins for Auto Zone

"We'll have a lot of places to help you fix your car," says Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey.

Auto Zone will be building and opening up a new shop by the first of next year. R & E General Contracting recently purchased a commercial grading permit from the city to begin work on land on East King Street behind Eckerd's. The company is hoping to open by the beginning of 2007.

A rock house on King Street was burned last weekend near the new location of Auto Zone. The Kings Mountain Fire Department conducted a practice burn on the house due to requests from the City and previous owner. The land will soon be cleared to make way for a new office building. The new building will house Prescription's Plus Pharmacy and Baker Family Dentistry. Other office suites in the building will be available for other businesses.

-Emily Weaver

CCS in top ten in technology

Cleveland County Schools was recently recognized in a list of top 10 school districts throughout the nation, with 15,000 or more students, for their use of technology.

The school system received this ranking after completing a Digital School Boards Survey. According to a recent Cleveland County Schools news release, "The Center for Digital Education and National School Boards Association recently announced the 2006 Digital School Boards Survey winners.

The Digital School Boards Survey examines how school boards and their districts are applying information technology to better engage local communities and constituents, and improve service delivery and quality of education to public schools."

CCS was the only district with

15,000+ students to be recognized among the top 10 list in North Carolina. A majority of the other school districts that made the list were from the Southeast. CCS tied for 7th place on the list, sharing the spot with the Carrollton Farmers Branch Independent School District in Texas.

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LOST DOG

\$100 REWARD

His name is Wezzy. He is a male chihuahua with a tan coat and three white paws. He is a house dog and can't live in cold weather. He is pictured on the left. He is needed here, we love and miss him. I've had him since he was six weeks old. Please, if anybody out there knows anything about his whereabouts, please, please, help me get him back home. He is not in the pound; I have already been there. So please, please, help me. My kids are going crazy without him. He is a big part of our family. So please help me, I love and miss him. He is crying out for me—just call and I'll come pick him up and give you a \$100 reward.

Thanks and have a God blessed day. - Linda Lawson.

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