

EDUCATION, ON DECK!

CNRSE Quarterly School Liaison Newsletter

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

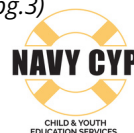
1. MIC3 Interstate Compact Highlight
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MIC3 INTERSTATE COMPACT HIGHLIGHT: RECORDS AND ENROLLMENT

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (referred to as the Compact) is designed to ease the educational transitions of children in military families as they relocate due to their parents' PCS orders.

Section 500 of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (MIC3) addresses specific guidelines related to attendance and placement of military-connected children in schools when their family receives new PCS orders. Here's an overview of what this section typically covers:

(continued on pg.3)



Navy School Liaisons Provide SEVEN CORE SERVICES to Assist Families:

School Transition Services (PCS Cycle)

School Liaisons assist families with school transfers and help “level the playing field” for military children and youth.

Deployment Support

School Liaisons connects educators and families with the military deployment support system to inform them about the cycles of deployment and tools to assist educators and parents/guardians in working with military children.

Command, School and Community Communications

School Liaisons serve as subject-matter experts for installation commanders on K-12 issues, helping to connect command, school and community resources.

Home School Linkage and Support

School Liaisons assist military families by gathering and sharing information on home schooling issues, policies and legislation from local school districts, and help leverage Navy CYP resources to support these families.

Partnerships in Education (PIE)

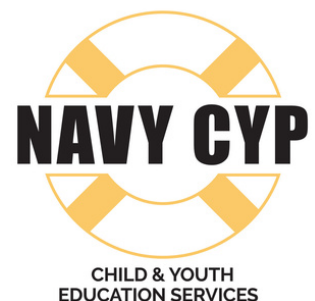
PIE creates a volunteer network of resources to support installation and community members who have a vested interest in the success of all youth.

Post-Secondary Preparations

School Liaisons leverage installation and school resources to provide graduating military-connected students with access to post-secondary information and opportunities.

Special Needs System Navigation

School Liaisons provide information about installation and community programs and services, make referrals to the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), and offer assistance in navigating the administrative systems within local education agencies.



MIC3 Interstate Compact Highlight: Records and Enrollment cont'd

Prompt Enrollment: Similar to other sections of the Compact, Section 500 emphasizes the prompt enrollment of military children in the receiving school district. This means that upon arrival in a new state due to a military move, the receiving school must enroll the child immediately, even if all required documents (such as academic records or immunization records) are not yet available.

Attendance Requirements: The Compact ensures that military children are not penalized for absences due to deployment-related activities of their parents. It recognizes that these absences are often unavoidable and aims to accommodate the unique circumstances faced by military families.

Placement Flexibility: Section 500 also addresses placement issues, including the placement of military children in appropriate educational programs and courses. It allows for flexibility in placement decisions to ensure that the child's educational needs are met, taking into account the student's academic achievement, course prerequisites, and other relevant factors.

Records Transfer: Like other sections of the Compact, Section 500 requires the timely transfer of academic and other records from the sending school to the receiving school. This helps maintain continuity in the child's education and facilitates appropriate placement and academic planning.

Overall, Section 500 of MIC3 focuses on ensuring that military children experience minimal disruptions to their education during relocations and that they receive fair and equitable treatment in terms of enrollment, attendance, and educational placement. It reflects the commitment to supporting military families and their children as they navigate the challenges of frequent moves associated with military service. If

Families are encouraged to contact their installation's School Liaison if they experience any issues with placement and attendance at their child's school. School Liaisons support families with MIC3 by providing MIC3 trainings to both families and schools and work with schools, on behalf of the family, to find a resolution. Navy Region Southeast School Liaisons' contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.



MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION

2024 Compact 101 Trainings

Wednesday July 17th at 12 PM
Wednesday, August 21st at 2 PM
Monday, September 23rd at 10 AM
Friday, October 25th at 6 AM
Thursday, November 14th at 2 PM
Monday, December 9th at 12 PM

** All times listed on Eastern Standard Time **



Scan QR Code to register on Events Calendar

Resource Highlight:



The Imagination Library is a program founded by Dolly Parton in 1995 with the goal of fostering a love for reading among preschool children and promoting early childhood literacy. The core of the Imagination Library is its provision of free books to children from birth to age five. Each month, enrolled children receive a free, high-quality, age-appropriate book directly mailed to their home. The books selected for the program are chosen by a team of early childhood literacy experts and educators. They aim to be engaging, educational, and suitable for the developmental stages of children in each age group. To learn if Imagination Library is offered in your local area, visit: www.imaginationlibrary.com

Deployment Support

Reading is Fundamental for Deployment Support!

Written by: NAS Jacksonville School Liaison, Teri Wanamaker



Reading to your children, regardless of the age, is an important way to help them build language skills. It helps them experience unfamiliar words and exposes them to new ways to use language. Reading to your children can help them understand the world around them and grow connections to that world. Research has found that young children whose parents read to them daily have been exposed to at least 290,000 more words by the time they enter kindergarten than kids who are not read to regularly. Reading is truly a fundamental skill that should be encouraged at home from birth.

Deployment can often be seen as a family disruption. The list of things that change and the added responsibilities that are loaded on the family during a deployment could fill a book! Pre-deployment is hectic, but I encourage you to take a pause and find creative ways to remain consistent in reading to your child in the anticipated absence of a loved one.

A simple idea is to record you reading your child's favorite bedtime stories; The recordings can be played and enjoyed by your loved ones in your absence. For older children, pick a chapter book that you can read together. Record yourself reading every third chapter of the book. Your children will be encouraged to read two chapters then listen to one. Hearing your voice and seeing your face can feel comforting to your child. It can also keep them motivated to read, and you become the reward they look forward to as they complete a goal!

There are countless booklists with suggested readings for military families. Regardless of lists, it is important to find high interest or beloved books that can become sources of immense joy for both you and your family. Here are over 100 suggestions:

Deployment Support cont'd

Picture Books (ages 0 - 7)

- Don't forget, God bless our troops by Jill Biden
- Sometimes We Were Brave by Pat Brisson
- My Red Balloon, by Bunting, Eve. Illustrated by Kay Life
- Dear Baby, I'm Watching Over You, by Carol Casey
- Year of the Jungle, by Suzanne Collins
- Pilot Mom by Kathleen Benner Duble
- Hero Dad by Melinda Hardin
- Hero Mom by Melinda Hardin
- Captain Cat by Syd Hoff Knit Your Bit by Deborah Hopkinson
- Our Daddy is Invincible! by Shannon Maxwell
- Love Lizzie: Letters to a Military Mom by Lisa Tucker McElroy
- My Father is in the Navy by Robin McKinley
- Night Catch by Brenda Ehrmantraut
- Nugget on the Flight Deck by Patricia Newman
- Stars Above Us by Geoffrey Norman
- Postcards from a War by Vanita Oelschlager
- When Dad's at Sea by Mindy L. Pelton
- My Daddy Was a Soldier: A World War II Story by Deborah Kogan Ray
- While You Are Away by Eileen Spinelli
- The Impossible Patriotism Project by Linda Skeers
- Good Night Captain Mama / Buenas Noches Capitán Mamá by Graciela Tiscareño-Sato
- Red, White, and Blue Good-bye, by Tomp, Sarah Wones. Illustrated by Ann Barrow
- The Christmas Box by Jo Anne Stewart Wetzel
- All Those Secrets of the World by Jane Yolen
- The Fathers are Coming Home by Margaret Wise Brown
- Night Catch by Brenda Ehrmantraut
- Stars Above Us by Geoffrey Norman
- Postcards from a War by Vanita Oelschlager
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- The Fathers are Coming Home by Margaret Wise Brown

Middle Grades (ages 8-12)

- Peacebound Trains by Haemi Balgassi
- The Summer Before Boys by Nora Raleigh Baskin
- Possum Summer by Jen K. Blom
- Black Jack Jetty: A Boy's Journey Through Grief by Michael A. Carestio
- Wild Life by Cynthia DeFelice
- Shooting the Moon by Frances O'Roark Dowell
- The Saturday Boy by David Fleming
- Jack Adrift: Fourth Grade Without a Clue by Jack Gantos
- Lily's Crossing by Patricia Reilly Giff
- And Then Mom Joined the Army by Jeannie Hagy
- Love You, Soldier by Amy Hest
- Love You, Soldier by Amy Hest
- Operation Yes by Sara Lewis Holmes
- Piper Reed Series by Kimberly Willis Holt
- Aloha Means Come Back: The Story of a World War II Girl by Thomas Hoobler and Dorothy Hoobler
- Comfort by Joyce Moyer Hostetter
- Autumn Street by Lois Lowry
- 100 Days and 99 Nights by Alan Madison
- Soldier Mom by Alice Mead
- My secret war: the World War II diary of Madeline Beck by Mary Pope Osborne
- Heart of a Shepherd by Rosanne Parry
- Second Fiddle by Rosanne Parry
- The Struggle by Nancy Rue
- Georgie's Moon by Chris Woodworth
- Park's Quest by Katherine Paterson
- The Misadventures of the Magician's Dog by Frances Sackett
- Almost Forever by M. Testa
- Trader Wooly and the Secret of the Lost Nazi Treasure by Tom Townsend
- Trader Wooly and the Terrorist by Tom Townsend
- Trader Wooly and the Ghost in the Colonel's Jeep by Tom Townsend
- Meet Molly: An American Girl by Valerie Tripp
- Molly Learns a Lesson: A School Story by Valerie Tripp
- Molly's Surprise: A Christmas Story by Valerie Tripp
- Happy Birthday Molly: A Springtime Story by Valerie Tripp
- Princess for a Week by Betty Ren. Wright

Deployment Support cont'd

Pre/Teens (ages 10-15)

- The Proving Ground by Elaine Alphin
- The Impossible Knife of Memory by Laurie Halse Anderson
- When the Lights Go Out by Max Elliot Anderson
- Megan Meade's Guide to the McGowan Boys by Kate Brian
- Charlie Pippin by Candy Dawson
- Operation Homefront by Caroline B. Cooney
- After the First Death by Robert Cormier
- Other Bells for Us to Ring by Robert Cormier
- Till Tomorrow by John Donahue
- Benito Runs by Justine Fontes
- Dove Song by Kristine L. Franklin
- Taking Wing by Nancy Price Graff
- Rainy Season by Adele Griffin
- Road to Tater Hill by Edith Morris Hemingway
- Missing in Action by Dean Hughes
- Jet Set by Carries Karasyov
- The Tippy Parrish Series by Janet Lambert
- The Penny Parrish Series by Janet Lambert
- The Jordan Family Series by Janet Lambert
- The Candy Kane Series by Janet Lambert
- The Mark of Merlin by Anne MacCaffrey
- Searching For Atticus by Jan Marino
- A Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor by Harry Mazer
- A Boy No More by Harry Mazer
- Heroes Don't Run: A Novel of the Pacific War by Harry Mazer
- Joseph by Shelia Moses
- Joseph's Grace by Shelia Moses
- Refresh, Refresh: A Graphic Novel by Danica Novgorodoff
- Second Fiddle by Rosanne Parry
- Operation Oleander by Valerie O. Patterson
- Rob&Sara.com by P.J. Petersen
- Shut Up by Marilyn Reynolds
- Out of the Blue by S.L. Rottman
- War Boys by M. A. Schaffner
- Rain Is Not My Indian Name by Cynthia Leitich Smith
- High Dive by Tammar Stein
- The Purple Heart by Marc Talbert

A family (mother, father, and child) moving, with the mother holding a large cardboard box and the father carrying the child on his shoulders.

PCSing
SOON?

Find your new School Liaison here:

A QR code linking to the School Liaison information.

Home School Support

Is Homeschooling Right for My Family?

Written by NS Mayport School Liaison, Sharon Kasica

Homeschooling is a big responsibility and requires a significant investment of effort and time. For many families, it provides a child-centered, positive educational option that meets their children's individual needs and fosters their interests. Homeschooling may be a rewarding, positive experience for your family. However, it is important to remember that homeschooling is not for everyone, and in some cases might be a painful experience, if parents aren't prepared for the day-to-day realities of homeschooling.

The more you understand what will be asked of you—and the tools you need to homeschool effectively—the better prepared you'll be to handle bumps along the way and provide your child with the support they need.



Research: If you are considering homeschooling because you feel your children's public school is not serving their interests, make sure you research all of your options before making your decision. In addition to homeschooling, there are also charter schools and private schools, and in some cases you may be able to transfer your child to another public school in your area. Parents who approach their children's education with a view to providing the best possible experience have more successful outcomes than those who homeschool out of reactionary thinking, fear, or a desire to control their children's environment.

State Laws and Requirements: Homeschooling law is different in every state. Make sure to read your state's legal requirements. If you are withdrawing your child from school in order to homeschool, speak to your school or district administrators about their requirements, including those for re-enrolling later on if you need to. It is also a good idea to ask what programs they make available to homeschoolers, such as athletics or individual course enrollment at the high school level.

Home School Support

Is Homeschooling Right for My Family? (*cont'd*)

Written by NS Mayport School Liaison, Sharon Kasica

Connect with a Support System: Some states allow children to be homeschooled through “umbrella” schools, small private or religious schools that enroll homeschooled students to provide guidance and support. There are also a growing number of cyber charters and other online state programs that offer courses or a full course load with certified teachers. If possible, meet other homeschooling families before making a decision to homeschool and/or join a state or local homeschooling organization once you begin homeschooling.

Academic Planning: Researching different curriculum options and educational approaches might be overwhelming. Make sure to do your research and be flexible if a program switch or different approach is needed. As you research what’s available, don’t forget that there are an array of online resources and virtual school options as well. It is recommended that Homeschooling parents create an outline of planned studies and educational goals for each child at the beginning of each school year. You should also think about how you want to evaluate your child’s progress at the end of the year—whether you do that informally yourself, or with a standardized test, or by having a teacher or another outside adult review your child’s progress to provide extra perspective. Remember to keep your plan flexible. It may need to change as you discover what does and doesn’t work for your children, but having an outline to start with will help you stay on track to meet educational goals.

Research Additional Resources: Many homeschooling parents seek outside help on subjects they find challenging to teach, especially when they are homeschooling high school aged children. Some school districts allow homeschooled children to take individual classes at their local high school, and in some states, community and state colleges offer classes at discounted rates for students of high school age. If one of your children has disabilities, you may need to locate therapists or other specialists to assist you in educating your child. Homeschooled children are entitled to special needs testing through their local school districts. School districts in some states also make therapy or other services available to homeschoolers. There may be other options, such as therapy offered at local rehabilitation centers.



Home School Support

Is Homeschooling Right for My Family? (*cont'd*)

Written by NS Mayport School Liaison, Sharon Kasica

Socialization: Social interaction is critical to children's development and well-being. School serves as a primary center for social interaction for many children; children who are homeschooled access social interaction in other settings. Many homeschooling parents find social opportunities for their children in co-ops, clubs, classes, community centers, houses of worship, field trips, or park dates. Some states allow homeschooled students to participate in "interscholastic extracurricular activities" offered at the public school. Social interaction is an important human need and must be taken seriously.

Listen: Listen to your children when they tell you about their needs, academic and otherwise. If homeschooling is not fulfilling those needs, be willing to consider other options. If your child would rather not be homeschooled, listen to their reasons and ensure that they are part of the decision-making process. If your child is unhappy with a certain aspect of homeschooling, spend some time brainstorming solutions with them. Listen to your child.

Connect with your Installation School Liaison: For specific homeschool information, regulations and resources at your current duty station, connect with your School Liaison. When you receive new orders, always utilize your School Liaison so they can assist with a smooth educational transition!



Post-Secondary Preparation

Life After High School

Written by NS Guantanamo Bay School Liaison, Samuel Smith



Considering what comes next after high school is a significant decision, and it's essential to weigh all available options. There are numerous paths to explore, each presenting unique opportunities based on your goals, performance, and circumstances.

- One potential avenue is higher education at a University or College. Pursuing further academic studies can pave the way for exciting career opportunities and personal growth. Another option is vocational training or apprenticeships, providing hands-on experience and a faster entry into the workforce.
- For those seeking personal growth and self-discovery, a gap year could be a perfect fit. It's a time to delve into your interests, travel, or gain valuable work experience, all of which can shape your future decisions and career path.
- College is a popular choice for many students, offering a wealth of academic, personal, and professional opportunities. It provides a supportive environment to maintain study habits, stay focused, and build on the networks developed in high school.
- Joining the military after high school opens up a world of educational and professional benefits, including tuition assistance programs and valuable skills across various fields.
- Entering the workforce immediately after graduation is another fantastic option, offering real-world experience and reducing tuition costs.
- Trade and certificate programs offer a direct route to specific jobs, with hands-on learning, internships, and apprenticeships in diverse areas like web design, electronics, and medical assistance.

As you prepare for life after high school, it's crucial to approach the transition with the right mindset and tools. Researching different options, creating a budget, and seeking advice from family and friends are all crucial steps. Reflecting on your passions and long-term goals will help you determine the best path forward. Additionally, seeking professional help when needed is not only okay but encouraged. It can make the transition smoother and reassure you that you're not alone in this journey.

PREPARING FOR YOUR MOVE



U.S. Department of Defense

EFMP Exceptional Family Member Program

Preparing for a PCS OCONUS?

Before moving OCONUS, your family will be screened to ensure that the medical/educational needs of all family members are considered during the assignment coordination process. Contact your military treatment facility for more information on Family Member Travel Screening, or FMTS.

Remember: Start the FMTS process as soon as you receive official notification of assignment to an OCONUS location.

What links may be helpful for you?

- EFMP and Me: <https://efmpandme.militaryonesource.mil/>
- Plan My Move: <https://planmymove.militaryonesource.mil/>
- TRICARE Moving: <https://tricare.mil/lifeevents/moving>
- MilitaryINSTALLATIONS: <https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/>
- Parent Center Hub: <https://www.parentcenterhub.org/>
- Special Care Organizational Record for Children with Special Health or Educational Needs: https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/EFMP/PTK_SCORs/SCOR-Children.pdf

Educational Resources

- Moving with an IEP: <https://millifelearning.militaryonesource.mil>
- The Education Directory for Children with Special Needs: <https://efmpeducationdirectory.militaryonesource.mil/>
- DoD Directory on Early Intervention, Special Education and Related Services in OCONUS Communities: <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/EFMP/OCONUS-Directory.pdf>
- Office of Special Education Programs, or OSEP: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html>

Resources for Adults with Special Needs

- Guide for Adults with Special Needs: https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/ResourceGuides/Adults_with_Special_Needs.pdf
- Support Services for Adults with Special Needs: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/products/support-services-for-adults-with-special-needs-fact-sheet-206/>
- Special Care Organizational Record for Adults with Special Needs: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/products/special-care-organizational-record-for-adults-with-special-needs-25/>



Exceptional Family Member Program, or EFMP, support is available for military families with special needs. For more information, please contact your installation EFMP Family Support office or visit <https://www.militaryonesource.mil>, an official Department of Defense, or DOD, website.

Special Education Navigation

5 Tips to Help Navigate the Special Education System

1. Understand your rights and responsibilities

One of the most critical aspects of navigating the special education system is understanding your rights and responsibilities as a parent or caregiver. It's also essential to understand your responsibilities, such as participating in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process, attending meetings, and providing consent for evaluations. Being informed about your role in the process will empower you to advocate effectively for your child.

2. Build strong communication channels

Effective communication with teachers, school administrators, and special education professionals is key to a successful journey through the special education system. Establish open and respectful lines of communication to ensure that everyone is on the same page regarding your child's needs and progress. Regularly attend IEP meetings, ask questions, and express your concerns. Building a collaborative relationship with the school team can lead to better outcomes for your child. Remember, you are your child's best advocate, so don't hesitate to speak up and share your insights.

3. Stay informed about your child's disability

Each child with a disability is unique, and understanding your child's specific needs is crucial. Take the time to educate yourself about your child's disability, its impact on learning, and potential strategies and interventions that can be effective. Knowledge is power when it comes to advocating for your child's education.

4. Be patient and persistent

Navigating the special education system can be a lengthy and sometimes frustrating process. Be prepared for challenges, delays, and setbacks along the way. It's essential to remain patient and persistent in advocating for your child's rights and needs.

5. Seek support and resources

You don't have to navigate the special education system alone. Seek support from advocacy groups, parent support networks, and organizations specializing in disabilities. These resources can provide guidance, connect you with other parents facing similar challenges, and offer valuable information to assist you on your journey. A great resource is Special Ed Connection, www.specialedconnection.com ask your local school liaison for additional information and access to this resource.



PARTNERSHIPS IN EDUCATION



Your Command Can Be a Partner in Education!

School partnerships can be beneficial for Navy commands and area schools. Sailors get an opportunity to connect with their community while earning community service hours which can be included in evaluations, and toward earning the Volunteer Service Medal. The benefits for the schools are insurmountable. Students build positive relationships with our service members and feel additionally connected to their military community. Ultimately it raises awareness of the benefits of working with the military community and helps to support our military children in education.

Command Support Opportunities

- Provide Navy personnel to be guest speakers at schools.
- Plan field trips to the command to reward students for academics and citizenship.
- Provide a military presence at special events, assemblies, or running clubs.
- Provide tutoring and extra help during homework clubs.
- Assist with school self-help projects.
- Share an expertise or hobby with students.

These are only a few ways to get involved!

Navy Region Southeast



Contact your School Liaison to learn more!



Around the Region

NAS Meridian

CYP MOMC Family Event



NAS Meridian CYP hosted a family event to celebrate the Month of the Military Child. One of the many activities was the School Liaison's Purple Rock Hunt which entailed children searching for purple rocks hidden in base housing. Those fortunate enough to find one of the purple rocks were able to turn them into the School Liaison and select an education related prize of their choice.

Around the Region

NS Mayport

Month of the Military Child

During the Month of April, Naval Station Mayport's Commanding Officer, CAPT Brian Binder attended 16 school-based Month of the Military Child events with Installation School Liaison, Sharon Kasica. From Flag Raisings, Purple Up Parades to Ice Cream Socials, CAPT Binder took advantage of the opportunity to thank our youngest heroes for their service and sacrifice.



Around the Region

NS Mayport

Month of the Military Child

Naval Station Mayport conducted our quarterly Teacher Salute Celebration of local educators! Commanding Officer, CAPT Brian Binder, Installation School Liaison, Sharon Kasica and Honorable School Board Member, April Carney visited schools to surprise outstanding teachers for their service to children.



Around the Region

NAS JRB New Orleans

Recruitment Recognition

NAS JRB New Orleans celebrated 15 Future Sailors who graduated from local high schools and enlisted to serve in the United States Navy after high school. These young people, and their invited guests, attended a dinner in their honor, and a Recognition Ceremony at our Magnolia Terrace Community Center on base on the evening of May 28, 2024. Captain Lena Kaman, the Commanding Officer of NAS JRB New Orleans, spoke to the group and awarded certificates to each student. During dinner, the CO, the MWR Director (Pamela Menesses), the School Liaison, and the Chaplain, enjoyed moving amongst the guests and chatted with each Future Sailor and family members about their plans for the future. It was a wonderful evening, and we could not be any prouder of our youth than we were of these young people. As a community, we look forward to expanding this event to celebrate local youths committing to serve in ALL military branches next year. We would also like to have more active military members attend in order for them to be able to genuinely interact with the Future Sailors, and help them to understand life and opportunities within the military from those individuals who are currently serving our country. To learn more about post-secondary options, contact your installation School Liaison.



Around the Region

NS Guantanamo Bay

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay 2023-2024 Patriot's Pen Winner



We are thrilled to share that Addalyn Bradshaw, an eighth-grade student at W. T. Sampson Unit School, has emerged as the first-place winner of the prestigious 2023-2024 Patriot's Pen competition for Unaffiliated VFW Posts. This remarkable achievement reflects Addalyn's exceptional talent, dedication, and passion for writing.

The Patriot's Pen is an annual writing competition open to 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students enrolled in public, private, or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories, or its possessions. It also extends to dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools, as well as home-schooled students. Participants are challenged to write a 300-to-400-word essay on a given theme. For the 2023-2024 competition, the theme was "How are you inspired by America."

Addalyn's essay stood out for its eloquence, thoughtfulness, and unique perspective. Her words beautifully captured the essence of American values, resilience, and the spirit of unity. As she explored the theme, Addalyn demonstrated a deep understanding of what it means to be inspired by America.

Addalyn was sponsored by VFW Post 12225 at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Their unwavering support and encouragement played a crucial role in Addalyn's success. This marks Post 12225's first entry into the Patriot's Pen competition, making Addalyn's victory even more special.

Addalyn's achievement is a testament to the power of words and the impact they can have. We congratulate her on this well-deserved win and look forward to witnessing her continued growth as a writer. Her essay will inspire others and remind us all of the remarkable potential within our young minds.

Around the Region

NSB Kings Bay

Military Flagship Schools



Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay boasts an award-winning partnership with Camden County Schools. Every school in this district has been adopted by a SUBASE command, and in some cases, schools have been adopted by multiple commands.

Following the presentation of the Student of the Month awards, Woodbine Elementary School and the Trident Training Facility (TTF) renewed their Adopt-a-School partnership on Friday, April 12th. TTF Commanding Officer CAPT Brian Turney and Principal Denise Millan signed adoption certificates in the presence of command representatives and school faculty.

Each year, active duty service members volunteer hundreds of hours of in support of classroom instruction, community service projects and more. TTF, along with other SUBASE tenant commands, embraces the opportunity to partner with Camden County Schools as they meet the educational needs of our military school-age children.

Around the Region

NSA Panama City

Connecting Schools with NSA Panama City



On June 15th, the NSA Panama City and Tyndall AFB School Liaisons partnered to present at the Annual Family Cafe conference for families with special needs. Erin Pickard and Mallory Gross' session's topic was Networking with School Liaisons – How They Help the Community as a Whole. Families had the opportunity to learn how School Liaison support military families and local community.

Family Cafe is a conference that is held annually in Orlando, Florida. This weekend long conference is the only of its kind in the U.S.; nowhere else do families with special needs have such a large gathering where resource and information on special needs are shared. The conference had over 15,000 participants register for the conference. To learn more, contact a School Liaison in Florida.

Around the Region

NAS Corpus Christi

OCEANS Grant

Several articles in the past discussed Flour Bluff Independent School District (FBISD) OCEANS program. OCEANS (Oceanography, Conservation, Ecology, Arts, Nature, and Stewardship) received a multi-year grant to conduct Gulf Research Program through the National Academy of Sciences. The goal of this grant is to offer students in K-8th grade opportunities to explore the unique local ecosystem through place-based learning and empower them to address and provide potential solutions to local ecological problems in the community.

The grant other partners are with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMUCC), and Friends of Redhead Pond and Environmental Stewardship Association (a local environmental conservation non-profit). TAMUCC professor Dr. Dara Orbach is a co-principal investigator, PI, along with Friends of Redhead Pond president, Dr. Larisa Ford. There are 20 teachers developing a place-based ocean education (PBOE) curriculum at FBISD. These teachers get money to take students on a field trip and supplies their classroom needs to teach about PBOE. FBISD created two mentor groups with 4 community mentors, 6 TAMUCC students, and 40 FBISD students.

So, what does all this mean? FBISD students had the opportunity to conduct research with college students to learn about our local ecosystems. They went to saltwater wetlands, brackish ponds and the Gulf of Mexico to take precise data measurements on water quality. To find out about wildlife in this environment, students used different methods to include seine netting, cast netting, and actual fishing. Throughout this process, both FBISD and the college students learned how important to keep a balance to ensure continued growth of our ecosystem. At every location, trash collection pick-up and while on the Gulf, students conducted nurdle search.

To inform the public, the OCEANS group presented at the local community meeting and had a hands-on outreach for the community. Overall, it was a successful year for this portion of the grant. I personally cannot wait to see what next year brings.

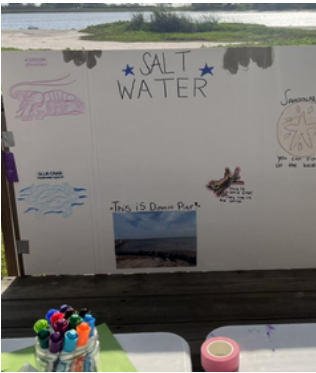
Definition:

Nurdles, or plastic pellets, are small lentil-sized pieces of plastic that are the building blocks for most plastic products. Nurdles are by definition a micro plastic because they are less than 5mm in size.

Around the Region

NAS Corpus Christi

OCEANS Grant



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