



OUTSTANDING CHANGE AGENT - SECONDARY

MURRAY PARKER

Western School of Technology and Environmental Science
Baltimore County Public Schools

As principal of Western School of Technology and Environmental Science, Murray (Buddy) Parker III is leading innovative change. His vision for CTE and his focus on academics has created a positive teaching and learning environment. Mr. Parker became Principal of Western Tech in 2011, and since that time has advanced CTE programs and student success.

Mr. Parker has refocused the school so that CTE programs and academics are both a priority. His long-term goal is to ensure that each Western Tech graduate is ready to compete in a global society by creating a school that matches a first-rate academic foundation with rigorous CTE programs. The changes Mr. Parker has initiated over the past five years have been positive for CTE, and have benefitted students, the school, its community, and other stakeholders.

Students and parents are excited about attending Western Tech. Applications are on the rise as well as the academic achievement of current students. For the class of 2015, HSA Data shows that 100% of Western Tech students passed Algebra I, 100% passed English, and 99% passed Biology. Western Tech continues to show progress with regards to SAT. From 2012 to 2015, the composite mean for the class rose from 1450 to 1498. From 2012 to 2015, AP Performance (overall pass rate) was up 15.8% points from 65.4% to 81.2%. Enrollment in capstone work experience continues to grow from 20% of the class of 2012 to 40% of current seniors in the class of 2015, reinforcing the importance of Western Tech's CTE programs and the visibility of its students in the workplace.

The administration, faculty, and staff are committed to the unwavering belief that college and career readiness go hand-in-hand. Hard work and collaboration result in each Western Tech graduate being fully prepared to meet the demands of the 21st century. Under Mr. Parker's leadership, Western Tech earned Maryland Blue Ribbon status in 2013 and National Blue Ribbon status in 2014.