

# Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce

**"School is Cool"**

**FIRST BANK**  
RICHMOND

*Doing great things together*



## *News Release*

Dated: August 16, 2010

### School is Cool Program 2010 – 2011

**Garry Kleer, First Bank President says “First Bank will once again support the Chamber’s student perfect attendance program!”**

**Lynn Wetzel says, “A graduating senior with perfect attendance their senior year will win a car or a scholarship of equal value again!”**

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The Chamber of Commerce through an initiative titled “School is Cool” is continuing its partnership with area schools to recognize students with perfect attendance. We believe this is the only program of its kind in the country!

The project has at least five objectives:

- Promote the idea that school is cool
- Recognize and celebrate students who achieve perfect attendance
- Encourage all students to aspire to achieve perfect attendance and graduate from high school
- Promote the importance of education to all students, parents, and the community at large
- Highlight the important connection between showing up ready to learn for school every day as a young person and showing up ready to work every day as an adult

This initiative is based on the belief there is a direct relationship between the educational achievement of our children and the quality of life in our community.

We are not alone in believing the next generation will require even more education in order to face even more competition. The world is ever changing and ever challenging. Emphasizing the virtue of school is additionally and especially important during these tough economic times.

The Chamber's Issues and Advocacy Committee that surveys area businesses reports survey results have consistently reflected the importance of math and reading skills. Another recurring area of significance is an increasing demand for a strong work ethic.

Any person who enters the workforce intending to work for someone else, start a business, or be a valued part of a team will be required to do their best every day. This means arrive on time, arrive well rested with a good attitude, be able to work well with others, and put forth the extra effort necessary to get the job done.

The same requirements for adults to succeed in the workplace and in business are the requirements needed for students to succeed in school. Showing up ready for school each day as a student is just as important as showing up ready for work each day as an adult.

School is Cool because education is a path to a better life for our children. School is where dreams are born and the wherewithal to achieve them can be deep-rooted. School is where children learn things they need to know in order to do things they want to do. It is the place where children establish lifelong friends, lifelong lessons, and lifelong habits.

School is Cool is a message every child needs to hear and they need to know why.

Statistics confirm that the students that show up every day for school are the students most likely to achieve what they set out to achieve. The good habits they establish today will increase their chances for success tomorrow.

The Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that **First Bank Richmond** is sponsoring the program for this 2010 – 2011 academic year. Each child (kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade) will receive a school is cool shirt in conjunction with other perfect attendance awards at their school.

The Chamber is also please to announce **Wetzel Family Auto Cruise** is once again sponsoring the new car or scholarship of equal value. A Centerville High School graduate now attending Butler University received the award in 2010 and opted to accept a \$19,000 academic scholarship!

An eligible high school senior who graduates from a participating school with perfect attendance during their senior year will receive a new car donated by Wetzel Family Auto Cruise. The winner and or parents or legal guardians may opt to receive a scholarship equal to the value of the car payable to a post secondary educational institution for their student's continuing education. The winner of this award will be randomly selected from among eligible high school graduates with perfect attendance at participating schools.

The senior year of high school and high school graduation is an experience and milestone that prepares students for further education, certification, training, employment, and community service. We believe that graduation is an achievement and a step that this generous award will strongly encourage.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, our valued educators, and even our parents and students, I thank First Bank Richmond and Wetzel Family Auto Cruise for their tremendous generosity and commitment to the betterment of the youth of our community.

Dennis Andrews Ed.D.  
Chamber President and CEO

\*Eligibility is determined by each school corporation based upon the school's determination that a student has (1) achieved perfect attendance their senior year and (2) that a student has achieved a minimum G.P.A. of 2.0 their senior year. Participating schools are K-12 Chamber member educational institutions that voluntarily choose to participate in the School is Cool program. The decision as to whether or not a car or scholarship will be received by the award recipient will be decided by the parents or legal guardians of a graduate who is a minor and dependent child. When the recipient is less than eighteen years of age and the award chosen by the recipient(s) is a car then the car would automatically be titled to a parent or legal guardian.