

Program offers cash for grades, attendance

PHS joins national Challenge program

February 2, 2011 - By MICHAEL ERB merb@newsandsentinel.com

[Save](#) | [Comments \(10\)](#) | [Post a comment](#) |



PARKERSBURG - Officials are hoping cash incentives will lead Parkersburg High School students to greater academic achievements.

Officials with Wal-Mart and The Challenge Program, a national program designed to motivate students to improve their grades, attendance and community service, spoke Tuesday at Parkersburg High School.

Kelly Merritt, program development manager for West Virginia Challenge Program, said the program rewards four students from each of the sophomore, junior and senior classes with a \$250 check in the areas of academic excellence, academic improvement, community service and attendance.

The local business partner for the program will be Wal-Mart.

Merritt said at the end of the school year, the top 10 percent of student in each category in each grade will be given surveys to fill out concerning the Challenge program. Those students who return the essays will be entered into a random drawing for that category, with the winner receiving a \$250 check.

All told Wal-Mart has pledged \$3,000 in prizes for this year's program, Merritt said.

According to the program's web site, the program began in 2004. The majority of the 125 participating schools are located in Pennsylvania, with some schools from Delaware, West Virginia and Ohio also participating.

Parkersburg High is one of 10 West Virginia schools in the program.