

State superintendent visits schools

Official spent time at two Garrett County facilities

FOR THE WEEKENDER

OAKLAND — Karen Salmon, state superintendent of schools, recently visited Garrett County to view educational practices at Northern Middle School and Grantsville Elementary School.

She was accompanied by Barbara Baker, interim superintendent of Garrett County Public Schools; Paul Edwards, director of secondary education; and Penny Proudfoot, director of elementary school education.

At Northern Middle School, Salmon spent time with the robotics team, the morning announcement crew and Project Lead the Way tech-

nical education. Principal Karen DeVore escorted her on a tour of the school. Salmon addressed the school during morning announcements by making an appearance on the school's live news broadcast. She then met with the FIRST Robotics team for a demonstration of last season's robot and a discussion of the team's vision of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education. The team invited her to attend the Chesapeake Regional competition at the University of Maryland in College Park in the spring.

Salmon also visited Brian Schilpp's technology education classroom. The students



Submitted Photo

State Superintendent of Schools Karen Salmon visits with prekindergarten students at Grantsville Elementary School. Sitting are Cassidy Klotz, Westen Satterfield, Julia Ramsey and Natalie Parsons. Standing are Gabby Wilburn, Tyler Smith, Zac Lewis, Dominic Brown and Julian Dery.

Schools: *Two classrooms focus on small group learning*

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demonstrated the project innovations that engage them in hands-on activities, projects and empowerment to solve real-world challenges.

The superintendent then visited Grantsville Elementary School. Besides touring the school, escorted by Principal Nicole Miller, she spent time with the students in the early childhood area viewing the partnership with the Judy Center and the Early Learning Programs. The two classrooms she visited focused on small group learning, rotating from station to station.

Salmon spent some time with the prekindergarten class where 4-year-olds were involved in group activities with assistance from Steve Knepp and Carrie Wampler from the Judy Center. She then observed a pre-K/Head Start classroom consisting of 3- and 4-year-olds. The students in Kimberly Collins' class presented Salmon with a painting from all the early learning students in the school, depicting a winter scene that has the students' thumbprints representing snowflakes and pine cones, with their names under each.