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Keep Us Up-To-Date

Please remember to contact your child's school when your contact information changes – mailing address, phone numbers, email address. We want to ensure our records are kept up-to-date so we can contact you, if needed. Thank you!

Superintendent's Message



For the superintendent or any educational leader in the organization, engaging and connecting with the student perspective and experience is both critical and fundamental. Visiting with students from each of our schools throughout the year informs and reinforces decision-making. Soliciting feedback from students regarding what they enjoy and appreciate most about their school as well as suggestions for how we can enhance their learning experiences is certainly one of the most rewarding parts of my job.

This year, to strengthen this communication with students and to further promote student leadership, my staff and I developed the Students Taking Action for a New Direction (STAND) committee. Presently, the

committee is comprised of students representing each of our middle and high schools. In moving forward, we anticipate eventually having elementary representation as well.

Our first meeting took place in March. At the meeting, staff shared the recently developed SCPS Framework for Teaching and Learning. At the center of this framework are three essential areas that we expect all educators to incorporate and all students to develop through the teaching and learning experience – Communication & Collaboration; Growth Mindset & Character; and Critical Thinkers, Problem Solvers, and Literacy. Students were asked to reflect upon their best classroom experience so far and share what made that classroom experience stand out from the others. The student feedback was and will continue to be invaluable to our mission of preparing our students for their future!

As you look through this issue you will see many examples and illustrations of our framework for teaching and learning in action. These are just a select few...there are many more. I hope you enjoy this edition of IMPACT!

Dr. S. Scott Baker

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DISTINGUISHED 2016 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR FOR SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Each year, Spotsylvania County Public Schools participates in the Teacher of the Year program coordinated statewide through the Virginia Department of Education. All public and accredited nonpublic schools are able to participate in the Virginia Teacher of the Year Program to honor teachers who represent the best in teaching in Spotsylvania County Public Schools, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and across the nation. For more than 40 years, Virginia has participated in the National Teacher of the Year Program, a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers. The program is open to all teachers in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 who possess a current, renewable Virginia teaching license, including school librarians, guidance counselors, and reading specialists. The Office of Human Resources is pleased to have coordinated this process with our site principals. From this group of nominees, the 2016 Division Teacher of the Year will be selected.

Elementary Schools:

Battlefield ES - Stacy Hammer, Librarian
Berkeley ES - Rebecca Eastman, 1st Grade Teacher
Brock Road ES - Abigail Johnson, Special Education Teacher
Cedar Forest ES - Pam Perkins, 4th Grade Teacher
Chancellor ES - Christie Trotta,
Early Childhood Special Education Teacher
Courthouse Road ES - Gretchen Stott, 4th Grade Teacher
Courtland ES - Meredith Stalker, Art Teacher
Harrison Road ES - Sheryl Brown, Kindergarten Teacher
Lee Hill ES - Angela Cartwright, 2nd Grade Teacher
Livingston ES - Katherine Hayden, 1st Grade Teacher
Parkside ES - Tammy Harper, 4th Grade Teacher

Riverview ES - Christopher Andrews, 5th Grade Teacher
Robert E Lee ES - Matthew McFadden, 4th Grade Teacher
Salem ES - Joyce Poutier, 4th Grade Teacher
Smith Station ES - Maria Norford, Music Teacher
Spotswood ES - Casey Reding, 5th Grade Teacher
Wilderness ES - Tiffany Smith, 4th Grade Teacher

Spotsylvania MS - Leigh Perret-Dowd, French Teacher
Thornburg MS - Sharon Holcombe, 6th Grade Math Teacher

Middle Schools:

Battlefield MS - Diane Williams, 6th Grade Math Teacher
Chancellor MS - Melissa Garland, 8th Grade Math Teacher
Freedom MS - Carolyn Kleinert, Spanish Teacher
Ni River MS - Daniel Wagoner, Social Studies Teacher
Post Oak MS - Toni Madison, 7th Grade Teacher

High Schools & Centers:

Chancellor HS - Ryan Addair, Band Teacher
Courtland HS - Robin Adams, Math Teacher
Massaponax HS - Julianne Scheel, Social Studies Teacher
Riverbend HS - Gerald Mann, Art Teacher
Spotsylvania HS - Brian Jacobs, Band Teacher
Spotsylvania CTC - Lori Patterson, Cosmetology Teacher
John J Wright ECC - Kendra Alling,
Early Childhood Special Education Teacher

OUR SUPERSTARS ROCK!

Each year, Spotsylvania County Public Schools publicly recognizes key individuals who set the standard of excellence in service for our division. These remarkable staff members deserve every accolade for routinely surpassing their written job descriptions and playing such a vital role in helping us to meet our goals as an organization. In short, they truly are Superstars. Congratulations to the 2016 Superstars for their positive presence and consistent dedication to our students, schools, and community.

Administrative Services - Lori Bogart, Administrative Assistant
Battlefield Elementary School - Deborah Sisson, Paraeducator
Battlefield Middle School - Rachael Bentley-Goode, School Counselor
Berkeley Elementary School - Dawn Craig, Paraeducator
Brock Road Elementary School - Wunneanatsu Cason, Secretary
Cedar Forest Elementary School, Brooke Marshall, School Counselor
Chancellor Elementary School - Calvin Norman, Custodian
Chancellor High School - Kristy Jett-Brown, Librarian
Chancellor Middle School - Brittany Harrell, Paraeducator
Courthouse Road Elementary School - Pasqualina Johnson, Paraeducator
Courtland Elementary School - Cindea Newton, Paraeducator
Courtland High School - Kim Stanton, Paraeducator
Freedom Middle School - Stephanie Armbrust, Teacher
Harrison Road Elementary School - Sylvia Bullock, Paraeducator
John J. Wright Educational and Cultural Center - Timothy Hughes, School Security Officer
Lee Hill Elementary School - Tammy Bottomley, Reading Specialist
Livingston Elementary School - Erin Diggins, Speech & Language Pathologist
Maintenance Department - Michael Salyers, Licensed Department Head

Massaponax High School - Julianne Scheel, Teacher
Ni River Middle School - Donna Lawson, Paraeducator
Parkside Elementary School - Elizabeth Stark, Paraeducator
Post Oak Middle School - Kimberly Allen, Librarian
Rappahannock Juvenile Center - Denise Fines, Teacher
Riverbend High School - Kathyanne Rose, Paraeducator
Riverview Elementary School - Nancy Burger, Teacher
Robert E. Lee Elementary School - Gail Empey, Reading Specialist
Salem Elementary School - Margaret Pfahler, Teacher
Smith Station Elementary School - Judith Porro, Teacher
Spotswood Elementary School - Cheryl Fitterer, Paraeducator
Spotsylvania Career & Technical Center - Mary Snellings, Cosmetology Instructor
Spotsylvania High School - Kristina Rice, Paraeducator
Spotsylvania Middle School - Yvonne Willging, Paraeducator
Technology Services - Kelsey Schultze, Instructional Technology Assistant
Thornburg Middle School - Susan Endersby, Secretary
Transportation Department - Darlene Beamer, Bus Driver
Wilderness Elementary School - Jane Dabrowski, Paraeducator

Thank you for your commitment to excellence.

BUDGET UPDATE

Focusing on the Future: Increasing Quality Through Continuous Improvement

The fiscal year 2017 budget process began in October with the Superintendent's Budget Committee. Over the past several months, the superintendent has presented his proposed budget and the School Board has approved their recommended budget. In addition, the School Board has presented their recommended budget to the Board of Supervisors.

The School Board's budget is aligned with the division-wide strategic plan

and is a needs based budget. On April 5, the Board of Supervisors will host a Public Hearing at Courtland High beginning at 6 p.m. Once the Board of Supervisors adopts the FY17 budget and tax rates, the School Board will be able to make adjustments to their budget if necessary and will adopt the school division's FY17 budget at their May 9 meeting.

For more information about the FY17 budget, visit the division's website at www.spotsylvania.k12.va.us.

Thank you to the individuals who served on the superintendent's budget committee this year. Their contributions are a valuable part of the School Division's budget process. New this year, Dr. Baker invited students to serve on the committee.

*Laura Armentrout
Delon Atkins
Dr. Scott Baker
Jen Belako
Renee Beverly
Brian Bartoszek
Michael Brown
Michelle Colbert
René Daniels
Evely Euripides
Carol Flenard
Susan Fines
Kitana Finley
LaShahn Gaines
Terecia Gill
Craig Greenlaw
Heather Handschin
David Hibbits
Shawn Hockaday
Peter Koehler-Photenhaur
Michael Kozloff
Bonnie Jewell*

*Dennis Martin
Michael Mudd
Tamar Myers-Moffatt
Dawn Napper
Tedra Richardson
Bridgette Smith-Hurd
Suzanne Stack
Marcia Stevens
Barbara Stombock
Jan Streich
Valerie Struchtemeyer
Robin Thompson
Don Upperco
Christopher Watts
Abigal Weiderhold
Susan Weiderhold
Sylvia Williams
Charlotte Willoughby
Keith Wolfe
Michael Wood
Madison Yates
Pete Zicari*

SCHOOL BOARD RECOMMENDED BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

FY 2017 Budget Highlights Include:

- Step and 1% Pay Increase for all Eligible Employees
- Frozen Scales Adjusted by a 1% Increase
- 7% Academic & Athletic Stipend Restoration
- Lower Athletic Fee from \$75 to \$50
- Restoration of Hourly Café Monitors at the Elementary Level
- 12 General Education Teachers
- 10 Middle School Teachers
- 2 ESOL Teachers
- 11 Instructional Technology Assistants (ITAs)
- 24 Special Education Personnel
- 1 ID Mild Teacher and 2 ID Mild Paraeducators
- 1 Autism Teacher and 2 Autism Paraeducators
- 4 ECSE Teachers and 8 ECSE Paraeducators
- 1 Social Worker
- 1 Psychologist
- 1 Occupational Therapist
- 1 Speech Therapist
- 1 Autism Coordinator
- 1 Transportation Dispatcher



SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMS NOW ENROLLING

SCPS remains committed to offering high quality instructional programs and unique, relevant learning opportunities for our students each summer. The programs are supported by dedicated staff and are targeted to meet the diverse learning needs of our students and community. Each educational opportunity provided is designed to actively engage students to maximize student success.

We have enhanced our 2016 summer school program. These enhancements provide more differentiated and personalized instruction. In addition, course options previously offered only through on-site, traditional classroom settings are now available to students as virtual, on-line courses. Additionally, individual middle school remediation opportunities are being supported and enhanced through the development of a collaborative middle school summer academy.

We hope that you will take advantage of educational opportunities that are aligned with the needs of your child. The Summer School Programs booklet is posted on the division's website at www.spotsylvania.k12.va.us. Registration information is noted in the booklet. For additional information or clarification, please contact your child's current school.

Mad About STEM at Freedom Middle

Mad about STEM is an after-school program at Freedom Middle School (FMS) focusing on the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. It is open to FMS students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. The purpose of the Mad about STEM program is to:

- Promote the enjoyment of and keen interest in areas of STEM,
- Serve as a gathering place for students to meet others who enjoy STEM, and
- Prepare our students for the the future and potentially exploring careers in STEM.

The program began in 2011 with two teachers working with 24 students over six weeks on design challenges. Over the past 5 years, the program has grown to include 10 teachers, 88 students and a 24 week duration.

In order to provide more students with the opportunity to participate in the program, this year the program was designed to allow students to choose after-school sessions based on their individual interests. Students were able to choose from STEM topics such as Design Challenge, Computer Dissection, Flight & Aerodynamics, Robotics, Fossils & Dissection, and 3-Dimensional Printing. Each student selected two sessions of his/her choice and attends after-school sessions for a total of 8 weeks. Students that attend the weekly after-school meetings work cooperatively with a partner/team to learn and

solve problems while supporting each other through the learning and exploration processes.

The school administration and teachers have actively pursued grant funding to support the Mad about STEM initiative. To date, they have secured approximately \$25,000.00 in cash and in-kind donations to equip the MakerSpace housed in the school's library and Think Lab which is a classroom space dedicated to STEM.

Both the MakerSpace and the Think Lab are also available for teachers and students to use during the school day for enrichment activities to support course content.



Freedom Middle students learned to maneuver a robot as part of a challenge to move objects.

Colonial Days at Spotswood Elementary

The fourth and fifth grade students at Spotswood Elementary School had the opportunity to experience what life was like in the Colonial Days in Virginia. Historians and Tradespeople from Jamestown and the Mary Washington House came and provided the students with demonstrations on playing games,

weaving, trading, making food, writing with quill pens, and using a spinning wheel and loom. Some students dressed up in colonial attire to participate in the events. All of the activities were used to reinforce Virginia History SOLs that the students learn in 4th and 5th grades.



Local historians shared with students what it was like to live during colonial times.

Students got the chance to learn about colonial games, weaving, and cooking.



ELEMENTARY REPORT CARD REVISION UPDATE

The elementary report card committee has been meeting since fall 2015 to review current elementary report cards and discuss potential changes, including the possibility of moving towards a standards-based report card in grades 3-5. Parent forums to solicit feedback on current report cards and potential changes were held on December 15, 2015 (Harrison Road Elementary) and December 16, 2015 (Lee Hill Elementary) as well as January 4, 2016 (R.E. Lee Elementary) and January 6, 2016 (Courtland Elementary).

At this time the committee continues to review feedback from teachers and parents. Plans to revise the K-2 report card are underway for implementation beginning fall 2016. The committee continues to consider possible changes to the 3-5 report card; however, no changes to the 3-5 report card are currently planned for the 2016-2017 school year.

SCTC Hosts SkillsUSA District 11 Competition Seeking Volunteers For State Competition April 15 & 16

On February 19, the Spotsylvania Career and Technical Center opened its doors to 180 students from District 11 for the annual SkillsUSA District Competition. Students from Spotsylvania, Stafford, Prince William, Louisa, and King George Counties along with students from the Northern Neck Technical School competed in 40 competitions that tested their knowledge and skills in a variety of career and technical education trades. Trades included welding, automotive service, masonry,

cosmetology, robotics, computer programming and culinary arts. Winners in each competition area will advance to the State SkillsUSA Competition that will be held this year at the Fredericksburg Expo Center on April 15 & 16.

SkillsUSA is looking for individuals, especially with experience in the various trades and industries, to serve as judges at the upcoming competition. If you are interested, please contact the SCTC administration at 540-898-2655.



SCPS students showcase their talents at the SkillsUSA District 11 Competition.



Students Travel Back in Time to the 1900's

Have you ever imagined what it would have been like to immigrate to the United States through Ellis Island in the early 1900s? Massaponax High School (MHS) students enrolled in US History



Massaponax High students experience what it was like to be an immigrant at Ellis Island...from eye exams to long lines.

get to experience it first-hand. For the past 10 years, the MHS History Department has converted the school's Lecture Hall into the Ellis Island Processing Center and students participate in a simulation of the Ellis Island Immigration process. Students go through the simulation twice – once as an immigrant coming to the US and once as a US citizen who works as a processor on Ellis Island.

The students draw an immigrant persona out of a hat – which describes the students' new name, nationality or region, age, wealth, health, vocation, political and religious views, etc. Students dress in costume that would have been appropriate for 1900. They are also encouraged to speak with an accent

or to use a real language that they may happen to know or study.

As the students go through the process, many of them experience discrimination and prejudice as well as the crowd and confusion that must have been present at Ellis Island. Student immigrants go through several stations while attempting to enter Ellis Island and will use an autobiography they previously wrote to answer the processors' questions. When all is said and done, students have either earned enough points to enter America or they have not which means they can appeal the decision or get deported. Overall, the simulation is designed for many of them to get into America as that is statistically more accurate; in 1900 very few people were deported.

Read Across America Day Honors Dr. Seuss

Each year, Read Across America Day takes place on March 2 in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday. Dr. Seuss is one of America's most beloved authors whose stories continue to amuse both young and old. Many of our schools celebrated Dr. Seuss with fun activities and hosted guest readers to inspire students to read. On Saturday, March 5, many SCPS families enjoyed a fun Dr. Seuss event hosted by the Rappahannock Regional Library and Spotsylvania Education Association at the Salem Library.



Children of all ages enjoyed playing games based on Dr. Seuss' books.

Culture a la Carte Event Highlights Arts, Music and Languages

The 8th Annual Culture a la Carte event took place at Courtland High School on Saturday, March 4. Participants and attendees were immersed in a culturally rich arts, music, and language experience. Student groups from the Division's schools were able to showcase their talents, which included choral, band, and orchestra performances, visual art displays, and cultural demonstrations from language classes. Attendees were actively involved with cooking demonstrations, hands-on crafts, and reenactments with cultural relics.



Riverbend High students share French cuisine and culture at this year's Culture a la Carte event.

GET READY FOR KINDERGARTEN! PRE-REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Join us for our kick-off events:

Friday, April 8

10 a.m. – 5 p.m at all SCPS Elementary Schools

Or

Saturday, April 9

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Barnes & Noble in Central Park

Online pre-registration can be found on the SCPS Website at www.spotsylvania.k12.va.us or computers will be available onsite April 8 and April 9 for parents to complete the online pre-registration.

When you register your Kindergartener, you will receive a list of documents/forms you will need to provide to complete the registration process and information about upcoming events to help prepare students for Kindergarten.

Your Kindergarten student is invited to come with you!

Calendar of Events

April

- 14 End of 3rd 9-weeks grading period
- 15 Student Holiday
- 22 Changed to a Full School Day
- 26-28 Parent/Teacher Conference Nights

May

- 30 Holiday No School

2016-2017 School Instructional Calendar

At the February 8, 2016, school board meeting, the School Board approved the Instructional Calendar for the 2016-2017 school year. It is posted on the Division's website at www.spotsylvania.k12.va.us. To access it, click on the calendar button at the top of the page.

2016 Graduations Dates & Times

This year's graduations will take place on the following dates and times. Please note: all graduations will be live-streamed and recorded for viewing throughout the summer. Each school will provide specific ticket information and live-streaming link.

Friday, June 10

- 5:00 p.m. Massaponax High School
- 7:30 p.m. Spotsylvania High School

Saturday, June 11

- 9:00 a.m. Riverbend High School
- Noon Chancellor High School
- 3:00 p.m. Courtland High School



Rosner Toyota Donation Supports Literacy Initiatives



Mr. and Mrs. Rosner present \$100,000 Rosner Toyota donation to Dr. Baker and school board member Dawn Shelley.

Local business entrepreneur and Toyota dealership owner Mr. Ron Rosner has provided SCPS with the initial startup grant in the amount of \$100,000 for the SCPS Literacy Partnership Program. This program will enable SCPS to purchase materials and provide teachers with the high-quality professional learning to create a supported environment of literacy in our elementary schools.

SCPS will use the grant to purchase the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System to seamlessly link assessment to instruction along The Continuum of Literacy Learning. Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) is a small group, supplementary literacy intervention designed for students who find reading and writing difficult. The goal of LLI is to bring students to

grade level achievement in reading. This initiative also includes take-home books so we can engage parents as partners in the children's success. The initial funding Mr. Rosner has provided will enable us to begin with two schools - Brock Road Elementary and Wilderness Elementary.

Moving forward, the Department of Communications and Community Engagement will be seeking additional business partners to help expand and sustain the Literacy Partnership Program. If you would like to support the Literacy Partnership Program, please contact Amber Belako at abelako@spotsylvania.k12.va.us. Mr. Rosner's and Rosner Toyota of Fredericksburg generous support will make a lasting impact on the lives of the students of Spotsylvania County.

Become a Partner In Education

Whether you are a business, parent, or community member, we are looking for Partners in Education. For more information, visit the Division's website www.spotsylvania.k12.va.us, Community tab and click on Partners in Education on the drop down menu.

