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Inclement Weather Reminder

We communicate information about closings and delays in a variety of ways. For more information about our inclement weather practices, please refer to page 7 of the Parent & Student Handbook, or click the snowflake icon located on the home page of the Division or school websites.

Superintendent's Message



The first half of the 2017-18 school year has been strong and productive. SCPS, serving close to 24,000 students, continues growing from a number of valuable perspectives.

In addition to recent PreK-12 enrollment growth, we have also realized growth as evidenced by student, staff, school and system achievement. These quality achievements are not merely good fortune, but rather a reflection of intentionality and strategic design.

Now in year five of our Strategic Plan implementation, SCPS continues to focus on and pursue three primary system goals:

Goal 1.0 Teaching & Learning

Prepare all students to be college and career ready.

Goal 2.0 Community Engagement & Partnerships

Family, students, staff and the entire community actively engage to seek resources and to develop opportunities

that meet future educational challenges and workforce needs.

Goal 3.0 Organizational Climate & School Safety

The learning and working environment is safe, caring, healthy, and values diversity.

Sustaining improvement requires more than a planning document. In our school division, improvement in performance is also a reflection of the quality of our people and our processes. Throughout this edition of IMPACT, we continue to highlight the people and processes that exemplify our mission, TOGETHER WE PREPARE OUR STUDENTS FOR THEIR FUTURE. Highlights include recognition of exemplary educators, innovative programs, and invaluable community partnerships. I hope that you will find the information and features meaningful as a school community stakeholder.

Additionally, on January 26, 2018, we will launch our NEW School Quality and Climate Survey. This is an opportunity for stakeholders to provide input and share feedback regarding student and academic support, safety, family involvement, school leadership, and more. Please check your email for an invitation to the survey link or visit our website. Survey results will be shared broadly and utilized to inform school and system-wide improvement efforts.

Thank you for your feedback and support!

S. Scott Baker, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DISTINGUISHED 2017 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Division Teacher of the Year



Melanie Russ
Cedar Forest Elementary

Division New Teachers of the Year



Kelli King
Livingston Elementary



Kimberlee Vizzi
Battlefield Middle



Heather Shinn
Chancellor High

Division Mentor Teachers of the Year



Michael Hurley
Livingston Elementary



Courtney Woodward
Battlefield Middle



Catherine LaRocco
Spotsylvania High

Elementary Schools:

Battlefield - **Alina Kuzel**, Speech/Language Pathologist
 Berkeley - **Ashley Anderson**, 2nd Grade
 Brock Road - **Helen Kilinski**, Special Education
 Cedar Forest - **Melanie Russ**, 4th Grade
 Chancellor - **Barbara Christy**, 4th Grade
 Courthouse Road - **Stephen Brazelle**, 5th Grade
 Courtland - **Aaron Johnson**, ITRT
 Harrison Road - **Kristen Parsley**, 4th Grade
 Lee Hill - **Tammy Bottomley**, Reading Specialist
 Livingston - **Joanne Saar**, 4th Grade
 Parkside - **Ali Knighting**, Special Education
 Riverview - **Vincent Inman**, Special Education
 Robert E Lee - **Melissa Zovak**, Kindergarten
 Salem - **Amanda Caple**, Librarian
 Smith Station - **Jennifer Darmsteadt**, 2nd Grade
 Spotswood - **Jessica Konigsbauer**, 5th Grade
 Wilderness - **Bridgette Gipson**, 5th Grade

Middle Schools:

Battlefield - **Michael Kartson**, 8th Grade Math
 Chancellor - **Debra Horner**, 6th Grade Math
 Freedom - **Lisa Jones**, SCOPE
 Ni River - **Mary Hardy**, 6th Grade Math
 Post Oak - **Megan Stiffler**, 6th Grade Social Studies
 Spotsylvania - **Maura LaVoy**, HPE
 Thornburg - **Matthew Conners**, 7th Grade Social Studies

High Schools & Centers:

Chancellor - **Matthew Armentrout**, Theatre Arts
 Courtland - **Jayne Redelman**, Special Education
 Massaponax - **Megan Marshall**, Journalism
 Riverbend - **John Moore**, Special Education
 Spotsylvania - **Josh Federkeil**, Spanish
 Spotsylvania - **Susan "Dawn" D'Addio**, Health & Medical Sciences
 John J Wright - **Ben Stewart**, Special Education



NRMS Unveils Newly Redesigned Active Learning Center

In March, Steelcase Education, Inc. announced that Ni River Middle School was one of only 15 grant award recipients nationwide for the 2017 Steelcase Education Active Learning Center grant competition.



From the \$65,000 grant award, Ni River Middle School has received a classroom make-over, transforming it into an Active Learning Center.

The Ni River Middle School Administration and staff have been, “very excited about receiving this grant as it will provide their students with a state of the art learner centered environment. Students will have the opportunity to actively collaborate with their peers while teachers guide the student learning.”



During the summer months, school staff worked with Barry Dickinson and the SCPS Maintenance staff

to prepare the space for the Active Learning Center installation. The installation of the Steelcase ALC was coordinated through Creative-VA, an Ashland-based company that develops environments that support ever-changing human needs for learning and working effectively.

The new Active Learning Center was unveiled to students during the first week of school. And the student’s initial responses were priceless. One student exclaimed, “I love how this classroom seems prepared for everything!” While NRMS eighth

“I was blown away the first time I saw the room.”

**-Will Boroday
Ni River Middle Student**

grader Will Boroday declared that he was “blown away” by the NRMS ALC. The NRMS staff members have been equally impressed with the redesigned space, stating that they “love the non-traditional seating and the ability for students and staff to stand and work within the flexible spacing arrangement.”

“Partnerships, such as the one with Steelcase, are so important to providing our students and teachers with resources to enhance learning environments,” said SCPS Superintendent Dr. S. Scott Baker. “What’s great about this room is it gets students excited about learning and teachers excited about teaching.”

SCPS Students & Families Support Hurricane Relief Efforts



On September 8, 2017, Chancellor and Riverbend High Schools may have squared off in football, but the two teams came together for a worthy cause. As eager football fans entered the gates at Chancellor High School several players, coaches, and parents met them to collect water, gatorade and flood cleaning bucket kits to be sent to areas effected by Hurricane Harvey. Each flood bucket contained necessary supplies such as laundry detergent, dish soap, clothesline and pins, dust masks, and more.

SHS football also ran a collection drive for victims of Hurricane Harvey. Students teamed up with the Sherriff’s department for “Spotsy Cares” donation drive on September 3 at the Cosner’s Corner Target and Southpouint Walmart. Players collected personal hygiene items, diapers, formula, and monetary donations for those in need.



Alternative Seating Leads to Collaborative Environment at Cedar Forest

Cedar Forest Elementary School currently serves over 700 students. In an effort to support individualized learning, teachers and administrators are committed to striving for strategies that are new and innovative.

One such strategy implemented for the 2017-18 school year is alternative seating in classrooms. Cedar Forest has five classrooms across three grade levels employing an alternative seating plan in classrooms for this school year. One Kindergarten classroom, one Third grade classroom, and three Fourth grade classrooms feature a variety of seating arrangements including balance balls, shorter stools, milk crates with cushions, and cushions on the floor.

“Several teachers began using alternative seating last year after reading some research on how it can positively impact the overall learning environment and student learning,” explained Cedar Forest Elementary Principal Amy Williams. “The setup of these rooms lends itself to more cooperative learning and collaboration between peers.”

This new seating configuration is part of the Kagan Training model for cooperative student learning. This model involves the use of “structures,” or frameworks that can be applied to any lesson regardless of content.

As of today there are over 160 different structures that can be implemented in any math, reading, history, or science class across grade levels. These structures are not just meant to enhance student collaboration, but also their connection to the curriculum through individual assignments that feed in to larger classroom structures.

Many teachers at Cedar Forest are employing Kagan structures thanks to trainings implemented in the last year. Five teachers attended a Kagan workshop, and they shared the tools and resources they learned schoolwide at faculty meetings.

The school has seen an increase in the use of these techniques as a result of these meetings.



SHS IB Program Begins Second Year with Doubled Enrollment

In September 2016, Spotsylvania High School welcomed 37 students into the new International Baccalaureate (IB) program bringing the program total up to 77 enrolled students. In its second year, the IB program has more than doubled in size, with this year's freshmen class comprised of students from all seven of the SCPS middle schools. There are 15 seniors in the program and all of them are working towards full IB diploma status by their graduation in June 2018.



The IB program is a division-wide program open to all SCPS students. The program is focused on developing the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world.

This year, the incoming IB students were welcomed with an IB Kickoff program in August. In addition, staff has developed a unique Spotsylvania IB logo which will be used on t-shirts and promotional materials.

IB Program Coordinator Jennifer Navarrete is excited at how the program is growing. "I knew it would be a three-year process once we opened enrollment up to the entire county after our pilot years. This year is year two of that process, and we have already more than doubled our enrollment from year one. I already have colleges calling me asking specifically about our IB juniors and seniors and wanting to come talk about what their schools can offer those students once they have their IB diplomas. Excellent colleges in Virginia, the US, and worldwide offer scholarships and significant numbers of credits for the IB diploma."

Current IB students are also excited for the program. Maddy Jones feels that, "IB prepares her well for the future and teaches time management skills. Also it offers challenging courses in a supportive environment." And Kaitlin Morris, "chose IB because she wanted to challenge herself."

Rock-Out, Knock-Out Homelessness Donation Drive



We held our 7th Annual Rock Out Knock Out Homelessness event on November 3 and November 4 at the Southpoint Walmart.

Thank you to all the volunteers and everyone who donated supplies and money. This was our most successful drive. All donations directly benefit Spotsylvania Students and their immediate family.

Want to help?

Donations can be dropped off any time in the donation box at the Treasure House, located behind Massaponax High School. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Michelle Patton Swisher or Lisa Dolan at 540-834-2500 ext. 1030 or ext. 1032.



Activity Bus Pilot Program Launches at POMS & SHS

This year, SCPS introduced an Activity Bus Pilot program at Post Oak Middle and Spotsylvania High schools. The pilot program offers an alternative to parents/guardians picking students up following an after-school activity. For some, this affords an opportunity for a student to participate in activities they would not have been able to prior to the pilot program. According to Mr. Kenny Forrest, Director of Transportation for SCPS, "Post Oak Middle and Spotsylvania High were chosen because they are the largest school zone in square miles (covering approximately 50% of the county's total land area) and the most rural demographically."

At the November School Board meeting, Executive Director of Secondary and Leadership Keith Wolfe and Director of Transportation Kenny Forrest provided the School Board with an update of the pilot program. As of October, 54 permission slips have been received by Post Oak Middle and 65 have been received by Spotsylvania High to utilize the Activity Buses. The average ridership has been 10 Post Oak Middle students and 12 Spotsylvania High students, for a total of 22 students. We anticipate increased usage with winter and spring sports, Standards of Learning and Quarterly Remediation.

"We are eager to see the impact that this option has on remediation and student outcomes," stated Dr. Hester, Spotsylvania High School principal.

Be Sure to Check Out The Center for Family & Preschool Services



The Center for Family & Preschool Services is now located at 7409 Brock Road, Spotsylvania, VA 22553 next to Robert E. Lee Elementary School. The Center houses several offices for programs such as Child Find, Head Start, the Parent Resource Center, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) & Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI), and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE). Preschool programs will still be offered in various elementary schools throughout the county.

This center provides vital resources, which help meet the diverse needs of the students and families within Spotsylvania County. Child Find locates, identifies, and evaluates children ages birth to twenty-one who are suspected of having a disability in order to ensure a public education experience designed to

meet his or her individual needs. Student referrals to the program can be made by parents, teachers, school official, or a community agency.

ECSE provides instruction to students with disabilities or developmental delays between the ages of two and five, with services designed to enhance developmental functioning.

Head Start and VPI are federally and state funded programs that provide preschool services to eligible four-year-olds.

The Parent Resource Center (PRC), also housed within the Center for Family & Preschool Services, operates Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The PRC provides valuable educational resources for parents and students, covering everything from math homework preparedness to suicide awareness and prevention. Upcoming events include a free dental day at Freedom Family Dentistry, and open forum Special Education Advisory Committee meetings.



PRC HOURS & LOCATION

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

7409 Brock Road
Spotsylvania, VA
22553

Send R.O.V.E.R On Over



Spotsylvania County Public Schools unveiled our new Community Resource Bus R.O.V.E.R. this school year. This bus is another way that SCPS is supporting the needs of our students and engaging our community.

“It’s all about meeting students where they are,” said ROVER individual donor Kassie Palmer. “What I love about it is that it is connecting the community to the schools in a completely new way. The fact that the bus goes out into neighborhoods is exciting because it’s bringing school right to their doors and showing that learning doesn’t end once you leave school grounds.”

The community resource bus was named R.O.V.E.R., which stands for “Resource Outreach Vehicle Enriching Residents,” by Thornburg Middle School sixth grader Mac Williams, the winner of last spring’s bus naming contest.

The resources on R.O.V.E.R. will be utilized for a variety of tasks from

Kindergarten registration, distributing books and school supplies at school events and community visits, to providing homework assistance. R.O.V.E.R. was made possible through a combination of grants and community sponsorships. Spotsylvania County Public Schools Transportation, Fleet Services and Maintenance departments also assisted with securing the bus, ensuring mechanical stability, and redesigning the interior.

Business sponsorships include GEICO, Sonic, NSWC Federal Credit Union, REC, the Parrish Learning Zone, the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, and the SCPS Parent Resource Center. Spotsylvania County Public Schools received grant funding for R.O.V.E.R. from the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock Region, the Spotsylvania Education Foundation and the AWESOME Foundation.

A huge thank you to our community who generously gave over 2,500 books through our donation drives at Books-A-Million and Barnes & Noble.

To become a sponsor or individual donor, please contact the Office of Communications & Community Engagement at (540) 834-2500.

Stay Connected with SCPS

Check Out Our New Look! The division website along with the websites for all of the schools were redesigned for the 2017-2018 school year.

Additionally, SCPS has a phone app. This app provides alerts and notifications, links to ParentVue and StudentVue, and much more. The app is available for download from the Apple and Android App Stores.



SCPS’ social media sites are another great way to stay informed. Posts on Instagram are currently highlighting student artwork, while Twitter tweets and Facebook posts remind the community about a variety of events and activities.



SpotsylvaniaCountyPublicSchools



@SpotsySchools



@SpotsySchools

Important Reminder: 2018-2019

First Day of School August 13, 2018

As a reminder, last year at the January 9, 2017 School Board Meeting, the School Board adopted the 2018-2019 Instructional Calendar.

The 2018-2019 school year will begin on August 13, 2018.

The 2018-2019 Instructional Calendar may be downloaded from the Division website at www.spotsylvania.k12.va.us under the Calendar tab.

Become a SCPS 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.



Sonic Drive-In Partnership Provides Funds for Spotsylvania County Public Schools



Sonic Drive-In Owner Dale Town (center) presents Sonic Cup to Riverbend High School AD Tim Stimmel (left) and Principal Dr. Troy Wright (right)



For the past 5 years, MHS and RHS teamed up with Sonic Drive-In to host a friendly competition known as the Sonic Cup. The competition has two levels. The first level is an athletic competition. Each time the two schools played each other in a head-to-head competition for each sport during the three sports season, the winning school would earn one point. The school with the most points at the end of the school year wins the Sonic Trophy for the following school year, with the trophy presentation made at the fall MHS/RHS football game.

The second level is a fundraiser competition. Three times per school year, each of the Sonic Restaurant locations in the Fredericksburg area host a three-night Spirit Night event for the schools - Massaponax is hosted at the Cosner Corner Sonic location and Riverbend is hosted at the Harrison Crossing Sonic location. The fundraiser events are coordinated during the football, basketball, and baseball/softball seasons. Each of the two high schools encourage students, staff and parents to go to the restaurant during the Spirit night events. At the end of each fundraiser event, Sonic

donates 10% of all sales from 5pm-8pm back to the school's Athletic Departments. The school with the highest cumulative sales over each of the three-night fundraiser events also earns a bonus \$100.

Mr. Dale Town, owner of the local Sonic franchise, and his wife Margo are avid supporters of education. Not only do they host the Sonic Cup event, they also sponsor Lime-aid for Education in September which supports teacher ideas for innovative classroom projects. Teachers can submit their ideas, and then the community votes for their favorite project idea, which is then funded by Sonic. Mr. Town stresses the importance of education and shares, "we feel strongly that it is important to support our local youth, as they truly are the future."

The first Sonic Cup trophy was awarded at the Riverbend vs. Massaponax football game in the fall of 2014. To date, the RHS Bears have been awarded the Sonic Cup trophy three times, with the most recent presentation at the Friday, September 29, football game. Many thanks to Sonic Drive-In for their continued support of SCPS!