

208-2019 SCPS Super Stars

Battlefield Elementary School: Teresa Anderson, Library Paraeducator

Teresa “breaks the mold” in performing her duties as a library para. She not only assists with maintaining a well organized media center, she participates in the planning and assessment process with the school librarian. Her creativity has “rocked” the media center at Battlefield Elementary School as the space is transformed to make reading come alive. Students enjoy reading by the campfire. Teresa is also an active participant in the PTO and at school sponsored events. She is the “go to” for enhancing displays of student work throughout the entire building. She is not only an asset in the building, but is the first smiling face parents and students see in the drop off line... with music. We are so lucky to have her creative flair and positivity in the Battlefield Elementary School Family.

[Kara Hurley, Assistant Principal]

Battlefield Middle School: Laura Pinkerton, Assistant Principal

Laura truly understands the value of developing real relationships with students, not just knowing their names, but knowing what challenges they face and knowing who to reach out to in order to ensure students receive the help they need. When it comes to facing challenges daily, Laura rolls up her sleeves, researches, and implements strategies all while believing we will never fail. Laura believes that everyday is a fresh start. No matter how challenging one day may be, she comes back every day with a smile, a positive attitude, and clean slate for all in need of one. Laura is the Battlefield Middle School Superstar because she goes above and beyond on a daily basis, she loves her school family, and we could not do our jobs without her.

[Shelia Smith, Principal]

Berkeley Elementary School: Anne Donald, Secretary

Anne always does what is best for students, staff, and the community. There are times when Anne is asked to complete tasks that go well beyond what is expected, but she gladly accepts the challenge and takes the lead to complete tasks with superior quality. Being a member of the Berkeley family for over twenty years shows her commitment to our school and our entire school community. Her desire to always do what is best has earned her the recognition of Superstar this year!

[Scott Orth, Principal]

Brock Road Elementary School: Kathleen Stonebreaker, Paraeducator

We are delighted to recognize Kathleen Stonebreaker as the Brock Road Superstar this year. As an instructional paraeducator, Kathleen is always willing to go wherever the need arises. She efficiently dives into anything that is asked of her. She is the smiling face that greets students in the cafeteria in the morning; the person who shows up in their classroom to teach when a meeting runs longer than scheduled; she greets our parents every afternoon at parent pickup; and she is the person the teachers trust to deliver math remediation to students in grades K-5. Mrs. Stonebreaker is commended for the positive influence she has on our entire Brock Road community.

[Shonda Collins-Richey, Principal]

Cedar Forest Elementary School: Olivia Hildebrand, School Social Worker

Olivia is a school social worker who is dedicated to the success of the students at Cedar Forest and she consistently goes above and beyond the expectations for her job. She works diligently to support students and their families' needs by working very closely with the school counselor and administrative team to support any student. She is an amazing advocate. This year, Olivia has worked to lead the school trauma team and coordinate professional development and trainings to help teachers and staff better understand factors that may be impacting students. She is an integral member of our school community and a Superstar at Cedar Forest.

[Allison Langridge, Principal]

Chancellor Elementary School: Brenda Fulmer, ECSE Paraeducator

Brenda has been a part of the Chancellor family for many years. Over the years she has been a mom and volunteer, substitute, para, and school clinic -back-up. Her colleagues note that she goes above and beyond the duties of her para position. She is instrumental in supporting her preschool students with researching and creating fun and engaging activities, as well as, pitching in whenever possible. We know we can call on her anytime to support our school when her students leave for the day.

Congratulations, Brenda!

[Shawn Hudson, Principal]

Chancellor Middle School: Allen Blessing, ISS Coordinator

Allen is a constantly positive and guiding presence in our school community. As our ISS coordinator, Allen very adeptly meets the needs of a wide variety of learners. Allen shows extraordinary professionalism and dedication through his overall demeanor and his collaboration with teachers to ensure that students are still learning and participating in class activities/assignments when they are assigned ISS. He treats his students with respect and dignity while still providing an orderly and productive environment. On top of his ISS responsibilities, Allen also manages lunch detention and after-school detention. We are blessed to work alongside Allen and are proud to call him our Superstar.

[John Florip, Assistant Principal]

Chancellor High School: Deborah Haire, ISS Coordinator

By title, Deborah Haire is our ISS teacher, but in reality, she does much more than that. Deborah is the ultimate team player. When she doesn't have many students scheduled in ISS, she will take the initiative to find out where help is needed. She has been responsible for handling the parking permit log and follows up with students when there are any questions about their permits. Deborah is also a great advocate for students. If a student needs a safe place or someone to speak to, Deborah will reach out to security and admin and will allow them to stay with her for some time. Deborah cares about our students and her colleagues, and she is a superstar!

[Jackie Bass -Fortune, Principal]

Courthouse Road Elementary School: Rosemary Francisco -Leong, Library Paraeducator

Each day, Rose allows her love for students and her job shows in all that she does. Her outstanding talent and artistic ability shine through her creative displays as she decorates the library in a welcoming and student friendly way. She goes above and beyond the call of duty, and she possess a strong skill set that includes great people skills, the ability to prioritize and organize tasks, and being incredibly knowledgeable about policies and practices that need to be followed in the library. When opportunities or challenges arise, Rose takes the time to identify the needs, assesses benefits for the students and school, and understands what she can do to help achieve success. She is a part of the Encore Dream Team at Courthouse Road and true Superstar.

[Kathryn Dyson, Librarian]

Courtland Elementary School: Victoria Ellis, ECSE Paraeducator

Courtland Elementary School is proud to work together to meet the needs of all our students. One true champion of this is our very own, Victoria Ellis. Victoria is the queen of relationships. She connects with all of our students and goes above and beyond to set our students up for success. Not only does she support our ECSE programs, she will push in to classrooms to provide an extra set of hands, she will cover classes k -5 to watch her “littles” grow! Whether it’s a high-five or a hug, Victoria is ready to turn anyone’s day around! She makes sure she is there for our students and staff. Thank you for the love, support and dedication you provide our cougar cubs !

[Katie Simitoski, Principal]

Courtland High School: Veronica Jackson, Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher

Veronica Jackson joined the Courtland family this year after relocating from overseas, and she has been a Superstar form the minute she landed in Cougar country. She is a natural in her position as FACS teacher, as she effortlessly bonds with the students, teaching them all things “family and consumer” oriented. Many students, including those she does not teach, flock to her soaking up her enthusiasm, humor, common-sense advice, and mutual respect. Veronica manages to teach them, engage them, and discipline them without losing any ground she has gained in earning their respect and attention in the process. She also serves as Yearbook Advisor, and her creativity, commitment, and attention to detail shine in this role. Veronica is our Courtland Superstar!

[Cliff Conway, Principal]

Fleet Services: Greg Coleman, Heavy Shop Technician

Gregory Coleman sets an example of excellence every day. His attention to detail contributes to the safety and reliability of our school bus fleet. Greg is always willing to help; on multiple occasions, he has stayed past his normal hours to help complete a job. He is an excellent technician and a certified trainer. Dependable should be Greg's middle name. Anyone that works with Greg knows that he is a stickler for organization and cleanliness. From all of us at Fleet Services, thank you Mr. Gregory, our super star, for all that you do.

[Craig Greenlaw, Director of Fleet Services]

Freedom Middle School: Ann Parks, Head Custodian

Ann Parks has had a real impact on Freedom Middle School. Her attention to detail and work ethic are second to none, and it shows when you enter our school. As a leader, Ann looks out for the welfare of her fellow custodians while balancing the needs of the students and school. She is dependable, honest, and leads from the front. She is a true Superstar in all that she does at Freedom!

[Eric Wright, Principal]

Harrison Road Elementary School: Robin Tutchings, Special Education Paraeducator

Robin truly epitomizes the characteristics and skills of an outstanding paraeducator. She is a remarkable individual who makes a tremendous difference in the lives of our children. Although she works primarily with students with learning disabilities, she readily steps in and supports any student in need. She is a willing team player who takes charge when needed, advocating for her students based on her insights and observations. She takes the time to get to know each student and their interests so that she can connect with all of them. Her focus is always on what is best for each student as an individual. Robin exemplifies the passion, devotion, and knowledge required to make a powerful and long-lasting impact on the lives of students with diverse learning needs. In addition to providing academic services each day, she is also in charge of bus duty, and truly enjoys greeting each student with a smile when they get off the bus in the morning and saying goodbye as they board in the afternoon. Robin is our HRES Husky Superstar.

[Christine Primo, Principal]

John J. Wright: Michele Tilden, ECSE Paraeducator

Michele Tilden is a valued member of our team at JJW. In her role as ECSE para in the 2 year old autism program, she demonstrates patience daily, kindness, and understanding for the students, staff, and parents. She is ALWAYS busy. She offers to assist and help all programs in the building. She covers the main office, counsels alt ed students, and constantly seeks out things to do. She is always positive and focused on providing help in anyway she can. Michele is a true team player. We are blessed to have her on the JJW team!

[Terecia Gill, Principal]

Lee Hill Elementary School: Yolanda Hyman, School Counselor

Yolanda is a champion for students and staff on a daily basis. She approaches the day in a manner that assures our students they are going to be okay and able to persevere through anything. As a learning advocate, she views situations from many angles and makes sure we all move forward together. This way of thinking has allowed our team to coordinate schedules so that all of our students are learning about mindfulness and social thinking to help identify and use strategies to overcome obstacles, frustrations, and problems. She is one of the biggest cheerleaders at our school and is also a quiet sanctuary to a number of people on a daily basis. She helps to find the hidden gems in all of us and works tirelessly support Lion Nation. We roar with pride to have Yolanda as our Superstar!

[Carroll Ann Lewter, Principal]

Livingston Elementary School: Tammy Howdershelt, Bus Driver

Tammy has served as a bus driver at Livingston Elementary School for over 10 years. Her positivity is contagious and kids absolutely love her. She welcomes every child daily with a positive greeting in the morning and an enthusiastic goodbye in the afternoon. Tammy has created a safe environment on her bus, and she establishes relationships with her students and their families. Additionally, she frequently volunteers at our school during the school day. We love having her as a part of the Livingston family.

[Cynthia Franzen, Principal]

Maintenance Department: Adam Hall, Maintenance Mechanic

This year's superstar of the maintenance department is Adam Hall. Adam was chosen not only for his skill and talent that he has learned for his trade, but also for who he is. Adam is very dedicated to what he does and most importantly to doing his best for the school division. He often seems reserved and quiet; this is when he is learning and focused on doing his best. Adam is an asset to the school division; his ability to learn and his dedication will only make him a stronger member of the maintenance family.

[Shawn Hockaday, Director of Maintenance]

Massaponax High School: Eric Ludden, Teacher

On any bright and sunny school day, Eric Ludden and his students can be seen jogging to the flag poles and back to the gym. Eric is smiling as he and his Rec and Wellness class are out for their morning jog. On the fields, Eric can be seen leading 15 coaches and 120 student athletes with using his whistle and gestures. You can see that Eric loves what he does, and it is not the wins and losses; it is the chance to positively impact young people. He truly is a Superstar for our school and his family, as his grandkids rush to give him hugs after every game.

[Joe Pisani, Principal]

Ni River Middle School: Jennifer Craiger, School Social Worker

There is no individual who is more engaged with the students and families in need at Ni River than Jenny. Her ability to professionally and supportively assist students and families through a myriad of issues, from the beginning of the process all the way through post care is impressive. On top of the tremendous depth of knowledge, the attribute that stands out the most about Jenny is her ability to navigate extremely sensitive situations and difficult conversations with empathy and grace. Even though we share her with another school, the support that Jenny provides to our Falcon families in need far exceeds expectations.

[Brian Bartoszek, Principal]

Parkside Elementary School: Rochelle Pierce, SCOPE Teacher

Rochelle has served as a Parkside Teacher for the past 17 years and has served as SCOPE teacher for the past two years. She provides exceptional learning opportunities for students through many unique hands-on learning experiences and extension activities. She has assisted the school with implementing math exemplars, and she is willing to help any way that she can. She has keen knowledge of grade level curriculum, and is a resource for our teachers. Besides teaching all day, she also serves as a key contributor in our leadership meetings. Rochelle always goes above and beyond, and she does it with a smile and positive attitude. She certainly is a Superstar.

[Tom Eichenburg, Principal]

Post Oak Middle School: Carol Weedon, Head Custodian

A Superstar is someone who is responsive, well-organized, reliable, and punctual. They are dedicated, passionate, and self-motivated. Superstars take pride in what they do, and they are willing to do what is needed to get the job done. Carol Weedon is all of that and more. Her attention to detail, her refusal to settle, and her pursuit of excellence can be seen throughout our building - in every corner, behind every door, and in the smallest of crevices. It would NOT be an exaggeration to say that Thanks to Carol and her leadership of our custodial crew, you could eat off our gleaming floors. She has been a tremendous asset to our Patriot family.

[Scott Belako, Principal]

Rappahannock Juvenile Detention Center: Tiffany Stuart, Special Education Teacher

Tiffany joined the RJDC team this year and serves as our "superwoman" special education teacher. Tiffany's hard work has improved transition support and post secondary opportunities for all of our students with disabilities. She has strengthened partnerships with community organizations and families. Tiffany is extremely passionate about her work and refuses to allow any student to give up. When working with students, her attitude is always, "Your life doesn't get better by chance, it gets better by change." Our program has been enriched by her compassion, dedication, and commitment to all students.

[Janet Hodges, Principal]

Riverbend High School: Kelsey Schultze, Instructional Technology Aide

Faster than a speeding bullet when fixing internet outages and issues, stronger than a locomotive when fixing your COW, and able to jump the tall buildings of "my website is blocked" in a single bound. Who is the amazing superhero from the planet ITTC? She is the woman of carbon fiber, Riverbend ITA, Kelsey Schultze. She is our Superstar, who saves the day, everyday!

[Troy Wright, Principal]

Riverview Elementary School: Sheila Simpson, Special Education Paraeducator

Sheila is a dedicated, driven paraprofessional who develops wonderful relationships with her colleagues and students at Riverview Elementary. She works hard to expand her skills as an educator and she demonstrates her efforts on a daily basis. She is an intricate part of the special education team which is exhibited through her dedication to the students that she serves. Sheila naturally knows how and when she needs to provide support and nurture to all the students in and outside of the special education program. She welcomes any opportunity for professional development and is willing to use her knowledge and natural instincts to help students learn simple concepts, as well as more advanced knowledge. Sheila has supported the students, staff and families of Riverview Elementary for over 20 school years, and she has done this with a smile and dedication like no other!

[Jennifer Gardner, Principal]

Robert E. Lee Elementary School: Christine Koolhof, Reading Paraeducator

Christine wears many hats when it comes to all that she does for our school and community. In addition to working alongside our reading specialist to meet the needs of struggling readers, she has taken on the task of managing our assessment library. She is the co-editor of the yearbook, serves as our PTA treasurer, is our web curator and social media ambassador, and she is often recruited to fill in for teachers when sub coverage is needed. No matter what is asked of her, she steps up to help with a smile on her face.

[Bob MacDonald, Principal]

Salem Elementary School: Jessica Hinrichs, School Counselor

Jessica has a heart for all of our little Salem Stars. She smiles with her eyes and her arms as she greets car rides in the morning. She comforts and encourages students when they are sad or worried about something during the day. She prays and plans for making things better for our most vulnerable each evening. As the school counselor, Jessica has had to make some difficult calls, but willingly does it in the best interest of children. Students are always excited to see her, because she says just the right things and always seems to make things better. She coordinates weekend food bags for students, and ensures that all of our Salem Stars are safe, fed, and loved.

[Harold Morton, Principal]

Smith Station Elementary School: Stephanie Sowers, Paraeducator

Stephanie is like a superhero with a cape as she zooms around the building sponsoring running club, serving as a back up in the front office, pulling small groups for instructional support, and working with students one on one. She has everyone pumped over health as our Wellness Champion and when it comes to school spirit, Stephanie is our biggest cheerleader and supporter. Stephanie loves a good theme when it comes to decorating and has a matching costume for any school event. Her dedication and love for the students at Smith Station sets the bar high for all of us and we are extremely fortunate to have Stephanie as our Superhero... and Superstar!

[Terrie Cagle, Principal]

Spotswood Elementary School: Sarah Myers, Paraeducator

Sarah is hard working, self motivated and student oriented. She gives her time and energy to help the students, staff, and families at Spotswood. She goes above and beyond to make sure she is prepared for her students. Sarah participates in school events and always has a smile to share as she welcomes students each morning. Spotswood is lucky to have a star like her.

[Chad Armstrong, Principal]

Spotsylvania Career and Technical Center: Ann Harris, Bookkeeper

Ann is a consummate professional and as our bookkeeper is an invaluable resource and asset to Meghan O'Connor, the principal. Ann has streamlined SCTC's finance processes and has learned all of the in's and out's of the SCTC accounts while converting to the new Munis system. A true team player, Ann champions out programs and teachers to anyone who will listen and she is always willing to support whatever endeavors SCTC undertakes. Her knowledge of finance protocols keeps the school on track to be successful stewards of the resources we are given. She makes the principal's job as the mini CFO at SCTC a pleasure. As our Superstar, Ann makes the world a little brighter for everyone.

[Meghan O'Connor, Principal]

Spotsylvania High School: Kathie Yocum -Greene, Math Specialist

Kathie Yocum -Greene's official job title is math specialist, but you might as well call her wonder woman. With staffing challenges, Kathie has taken on the role of the curriculum developer, lesson writer, teacher, specialist, coach, moral supporter, team mom, and friend to all she has worked with. Everyday she fully commits herself and her time to our Knight students and staff. If you look close enough, you can see Kathie's bracelets of submission to get students to do things they did not know they wanted to do and deflect excuses, her magic lasso to gather the students and bring out their math truth, and on Fridays you can see her cape and red shoes... but that may be because it is Spirit Day.

Thank you for all that you do!

[Mady Hester, Principal]

Spotsylvania Middle School: Heather Howes, Special Education Teacher

Heather Howes is making a huge difference for our students and teachers in only her second year at Spotsylvania Middle School. She continues to grow in her comfort with the wealth of tasks and information that must be processed in special education. Her initiative and expertise are evident as she puts to use the knowledge gained during her first year of teaching, and as her job becomes more challenging, her performance has become more impressive. She works as hard as anyone can imagine, providing all of the necessary supports for the neediest students in sixth grade. We marvel at heart for service to our students and our school community. Heather is an example of Bulldog pride and a shining star at SMS.

[Lane Byrd, Principal]

Thornburg Middle School: Janet Hall, Special Education Paraeducator

A familiar face among Thornburg staff members, a former science teacher at the “burg”, Janet has recently assumed the role of paraeducator in the autism program. She did not just win the position, she insisted upon it. Since taking this role, Janet has brought a wealth of experiences to the program including hands-on science experiments, sewing, cooking, and crafts to compliment the topics of study. She has brought a strengthened social skills program, a positive attitude, and a love for students that is simply awesome. We are truly blessed to work with such an inspirational professional.

[Darlyn Lann, Principal]

Transportation: Charlotte McGee, Bus Attendant

Charlotte is a model employee! She joined transportation in 2013 after a longtime employee in our school cafeterias. She has an excellent attendance record, is always willing to help out with extra routes, and is always on time. In her job as an attendant on a head start bus, Charlotte not only assists the driver with the students, but she is also the resident “grandmother” for all of the students. She always greets each student and anyone else she encounters with a smile, and she is never without a kind word. We are most grateful to have her as an employee, and cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award.

[Sean Clore, Manager of Transportation]

Wilderness Elementary School: Debby Ross, Bookkeeper

Debby is a silent and steady force who works behind the scenes to keep us afloat. She is able to multitask by managing day to day finances, assuring we are securing qualified subs even at the last minute, and by taking care of the little things like making sure copy paper is always available to staff. All this and more, while keeping a smile on her face. She is always willing to go the extra mile and is a valuable member of the Wildcat team. We thank Debby for all that she does, and we love having her at WES.

[Dianne Holmes, Principal]

Instructional Technology Team: Kevin Cooley, Network Engineer**Administrative Services: Amber Belako, Communications Specialist**

Amber Belako’s title does not encompass everything that she accomplishes on a daily basis. Her sense of humor and her laugh (everyone at the School Board office recognizes her laugh) make even the most challenging days seem stress-free. Some days you will see Amber driving the ROVER bus all over Spotsylvania County to share books and smiles with our students. Other days she is working with principals and instructional coordinators writing grants to support enhanced learning opportunities for our students. From helping manage the Print Shop, training web curators, sharing posts on social media, to helping facilitate our STAND committee meetings...Amber is a team player that doesn't hesitate to assist with anything that comes her way. We are fortunate to have someone of Amber's creativeness, professionalism, and work ethic serving for our division.