

Sussex County Public Schools

HOME & SCHOOL

Volume 13, Issue 1
June 2014



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SUSSEX CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Receives the Project Graduation Academic Year Grant

In October 2013, Mrs. Tracey Gilchrist (Director of Pupil Personnel) submitted the Project Graduation Academic Year Grant on behalf of Sussex Central High School. In late December, the Virginia

Department of Education awarded \$27,692 to the school. The focus of the grant is to provide remediation and assessment opportunities for students at risk of not meeting the commonwealth's diploma requirements, to provide multiple opportunities



Ms. Alvina Matthews,
Program Coordinator

for SOL retesting, and to provide opportunities for parental involvement. Transportation to all programs and tutorial services are provided by the district using the activity bus route when possible. Ms. Alvina Matthews (Assistant Principal at Sussex Central High School) is the program coordinator. In addition to coordinating tutorial services, she also organized a field trip to *MegaGenesis 2014* at Woodside High School on Saturday, February 22, 2014. Students



Ke'Shonda Jones, Destiny Johnson,
Chauntia Tucker, and Mrs. Gilchrist

and a parent attended this fantastic event that focused on Admissions and Financial Aid, SAT Prep, College Athletics, and over 25 career workshops. A college fair was also part of available resources for students and parents. The day started off with a thrilling morning program, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Fanchon Glover, Chief Diversity Officer and Assistant to the President at the College of William and Mary. It was a wonderful experience for all who attended. ■

Mission Statement

Educating Tomorrow's Leaders

We believe that all students can learn. The mission of Sussex County Public Schools is to provide a safe and secure learning environment where all students develop into knowledgeable and productive citizens. Sussex County Public Schools will provide the necessary instructional resources, learning opportunities and leadership for students to reach their highest educational potential to be our leaders of tomorrow.

Division's 2014-2015 Guiding Principles

- Intentionally Increasing Student Achievement
- Teacher Support
- Principal Instructional Leadership Support
- Community Outreach/Partnerships

Sussex County School Board Members

- Mr. Marvin Morris, Jr., Chairman
- Mr. Roderick Curley, Vice-Chair
- Mr. Rodney Garrette
- Ms. Doris Hamlin
- Ms. Gloria Holloman
- Ms. Laurie Latham

Central Office Administration

Dr. Arthur Jarrett, Jr.
Division Superintendent

Mr. Willie Bell
Director of Instruction

Mr. John Broderick
Director of Finance and Operations

Mrs. Tracey Gilchrist
Director of Pupil Personnel

Mr. William Bain
Coordinator of Technology

Mrs. Michele Harris
Coordinator of Special Education

Mrs. Barbara Blount
Coordinator of Federal Programs

Ms. Adriene Stephenson
Human Resources Specialist

Mr. Jerry Parham
Supervisor of Operations

Schools

Sussex Central Elementary School

Mrs. Diane Brown, Principal
21392 Sussex Drive Post Office Box 1308
Sussex, Virginia 23884
Phone: 434-246-8960
Fax: 434-246-2027

Sussex Central Middle School

Mr. Morris Taylor, Principal
21356 Sussex Drive Post Office Box 1387
Sussex, Virginia 23884
Phone: 434-246-2251
Fax: 434-246-8912

Sussex Central High School

Mr. Julius Hamlin, Principal
21394 Sussex Drive Post Office Box 1307
Sussex, Virginia 23884
Phone: 434-246-6051
Fax: 434-246-5503

Home & School Connection

21302 Sussex Drive
P.O. Box 1368
Sussex, Virginia 23884-0368
Phone: 434-246-1099
Fax: 434-246-8214
www.sussex.k12.va.us

Special Thanks to the Home & School Connection Team

Mrs. Patsy Bagley
Mrs. Barbara Blount
Mrs. Stephanie Chambliss
Mrs. Tracey Gilchrist
Mrs. Maia Johnson
Mrs. Alvina Matthews
Mrs. Adriene Stephenson
Dr. Jennifer Tindle

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents and Community,

It is with great excitement and anticipation for continued growth and improvement that I pen this message to the Sussex County community. As we approach the end of a new school year, I happily reflect upon the many accomplishments of our students, parents, administration, faculty, and staff. Some of those accomplishments will be highlighted in the next few pages, but know that the many victories that our schools have realized are too numerous to be confined to this document. I am elated as I reflect upon the many strides that our students have made this year. I celebrate our parents and community leaders for their partnership with our schools. We could not have experienced our many successes without your unwavering support.

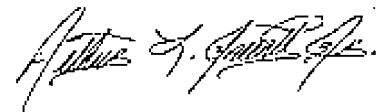
Of the many accomplishments for 2013-2014, several are especially noteworthy. This year, the school division adopted a 10-point grading scale and streamlined its grading policy. This change has leveled the playing field for our students and afforded them better opportunities for college acceptance and scholarship eligibility. In addition, the Sussex County Public Schools Education Foundation was established. A kick-off fundraiser was a golf tournament. This effort yielded \$20,000 for student support. The follow-up activity will be a golf tournament on June 28, 2014 at Sleepy Hole Golf Course in Suffolk, VA. The efforts of this organization

have resulted in financial support for students transitioning to college. The division also instituted comprehensive curriculum development for English and mathematics in grades Pre-K – 12. This uniformity has been an instructional shift in the right direction. New textbooks were adopted this year and new technology has been placed in the hands of students. This cutting edge technology has been creatively intertwined in classroom lessons and has brought concepts to life for students and teachers alike.

As we close another school year, I personally extend my best to the class of 2014. You have come to the end of your educational journey at this level. The next level of success awaits you. Whether you choose the military, post-secondary education, or the workforce, remember that success is the desired outcome. Pursue all goals with tenacity, commitment, and courage. If you do that, you will be proud of yourself and of the results.

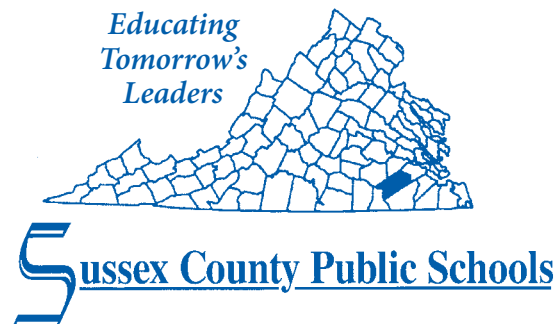
Lastly, but most importantly, I want to thank our local School Board for its support and dedication to our students. Your tireless efforts are commendable and appreciated. ■

Sincerely,



Dr. Arthur L. Jarrett, Jr.
Division Superintendent

Educating
Tomorrow's
Leaders





CADETS SUPPORT

Richmond 10K Run

Twenty-eight cadets from Sussex Central High School traveled to Richmond on Saturday, March 29, 2014 to support the Monument Avenue 10K Run. This has become an annual service-learning project for SCHS cadets and the event's sponsor depends on their voluntary service. This year, under a steady rainfall, the cadets issued over 30,000 bottles of water to the 38,000 runners as they crossed the finish line.

SUSSEX CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Students Participate in Enrichment Activities

On November 23, 2013 and March 15, 2014 students in grades 3 through 5 participated in Saturday Academies. This is a partnership between the Rawls Museum of Arts and Sussex County Public Schools to bring enrichment activities to gifted and high ability students. On November 23, students focused on the following topics: 3rd grade: (Gyotaku Seascapes), 4th grade: (Exploring Squares), and 5th grade: (Prairie-Style Stained Glass).

The March academy focused on pinch pot, coil, and slab creations from clay. All sessions took place at Sussex Central High School from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Mrs. Tracey Gilchrist, Director of Pupil Personnel, coordinated the activities. Students are looking forward to another academy on May 31, 2014 where they will explore the following topics: Abstract Compositions, Papunya Dot Paintings, and Imagination Landscape Paintings. ■



Mrs. Seward shows 3rd graders a demonstration on the computer.



Mrs. Brooks works with 5th graders.



Ms. Autumn works with Tiffani Hill.

Science Fair

On Wednesday, February 19, 2014 a Science Fair was held at Sussex Central High School. The entire school day was dedicated to the Science Department and it was filled with experiments, quizzes, and presentations. The event was sponsored by the high school STEM club led by Mrs. Frianeza and Mrs. Corpuz. Teaming with Ms. Ellis and Mr. Linton who also teach science at the high school, this day was well planned and was an instant success.

The day began with a ribbon cutting ceremony which featured a brief introduction by senior Ricki Parham and junior Roy Townsend. They welcomed everyone to the Science Fair and stated that this has been the first Science Fair held at the school in quite some time. After that, Ms. Frianeza welcomed everyone and announced that it was time for the ribbon cutting. The special guests in attendance included Board of Supervisor Chairman Mr. Eric Fry, School Board Chairman Mr. Eddie Morris, Director of Finance and Business Operations Mr. John Broderick, Director of Instruction Mr. Willie Bell, and Principal Mr. Julius Hamlin. They took part of

the ribbon cutting and they were the first to enter the Science Fair Experiment section. Throughout the experiment portion of the day, students from all Science classes conducted experiments showing theories and what they learned throughout the year in Science. Every student in the high school attended the Science Fair to observe all of the experiments. Students from Sussex Central Middle and Sussex Central Elementary Schools were invited to see the experiments and they were very interested to see all of the neat science demonstrations.

materials that they were taught during the school year. They rewarded 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place winners with prizes at the final assembly.

There was a brief presentation by Mrs. Allyson Monsour, P.E. who is a Civil Engineer that works for Clark and Nexsen. Clark and Nexsen is an engineering firm that is located in Norfolk, Virginia. She presented a slide show presentation explaining the benefits and progress of engineers. She also challenged every student to look into the engineering field for a great career and income opportunity in the future. She was then treated with a round of applause by the student body for a job well done. Ms. Frianeza and Ms. Corpuz then awarded all the winners of the Quiz Bee and congratulated all of the students for participating. Mr. Hamlin then gave the closing remarks to the student body and expressed how proud he was of everyone for making this day a success.



In the auditorium, each teacher from the Science department sponsored a Quiz Bee (picture above) where they picked up to 12 students from their science class to answer questions from

On the next day, the science department sponsored a trip to the Richmond Science Museum where they conducted many experiments and science observations. ■



SCPS administration and board members attend the science fair.



Guest speaker:
Allyson Monsour,
Clark Nexsen
Civil Engineer.



Members of the SCHS/SCMS Administration, along with SCHS Science teachers and students.



SCES students are intrigued by the experiments and demonstrations at the Science Fair.



Roy Townsend and Edward Godwin.



SVRTC 2014 Awards

2014 Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium (SVRTC) 2014 Awards on Thursday, March 27, 2014.

Division Technical Support Award-Eric Danuser,
 Division Instructional Support Award-Tim Mays,
 Division Technology Teacher of the Year-Adaisha Davis



SUSSEX CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

MARS Presents

The doors opened at Sussex Central Middle School on Thursday evening, December 19th to celebrate Parent/SOL Night. The after school program, MARS, sponsored the evening. The program's goal is to provide parents with information and tools that can be used to help students master a specific SOL as well as offered assistance beyond the classroom to students. Mr. Taylor, the middle school principal, welcomed parents and introduced members of his staff who took part in the evening. Ms. White coordinated the evening.

After the band (directed by Mr. Joshua Bateson) entertained the group with several selections including holiday songs, MARS students sang carols. Parents and students were invited to rotate through the participating classrooms. Among those, eighth grade science teacher, Mr. Kennedy provided information on the periodic table. Ms. Ramsey showed off seventh grade student QR Codes. These codes can be scanned using a smart phone and links to an image or website. Sixth grade parents were challenged to a game of English Bingo by Mrs. Tinch. ■



Example of QR Code

SUSSEX CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Motivational Wall Exhibit



Ms. Ramsey and Mrs. Jackson's seventh grade English class pose with excitement in front of the SOL Motivational Wall entitled 'Hopping Toward That Perfect Score.' The wall exhibits motivational quotes from people of all walks of life with the intent to encourage and inspire SCMS' students to apply the skills and strategies learned throughout the school year and use those same strategies toward the SOL test. ■



CLASS OF 2014 GRADUATION
June 6, 2014



**Salutatorian Michael Poarch
 and Valedictorian Felicia Miller**



Mrs. Gracie Thornton and her family

Sussex Central High School held its commencement ceremony for the class of 2014. The day started with beautiful weather that only enhanced the celebratory atmosphere. Before the graduation ceremony, Mr. Julius Hamlin (principal of the high school) hosted his annual reception. This event provided an opportunity for scholarship donors to meet the faculty and present scholarship recipients with awards. Mr. Hamlin honored the commencement speaker, Dr. Thelma Gray Smith. She was also congratulated for being the Valedictorian of Central High School's Class of 1970 (before it became Sussex Central High School). Dr. Smith was presented with a plaque that will be displayed in the school's **Wall of Fame** that was started over five years ago.

The commencement exercise started with a welcome by the Senior Class President, Quennita Lensey. That was followed by a special presentation conducted by Principal Julius Hamlin. Mr. Hamlin honored Mrs. Gracie

Thornton who received her GED at the age of 70 years old. Mrs. Thornton was treated to a standing ovation from the crowd for her perseverance and determination. The salutatory address was given by Michael Poarch who will be attending Hampton University. The valedictory address was next and it was given by Felicia Miller who will be attending Virginia Tech. Dr. Thelma Smith then gave the commencement address to the class of 2014. The school counselor, Mrs. Jacqueline Elliot, read the recognition of scholarships and awards of the class of 2014. The class earned a total of \$2,790,880 in scholarships and awards. Mr. Hamlin presented the candidates for graduation, which was then accepted by Superintendent Dr. Arthur Jarrett, Jr. Mr. Hamlin, along with Assistant Principal Ms. Alvina Matthews, presented the diplomas to the class of 2014. Dr. Jarrett concluded the ceremony by confirming the graduating class of 2014. Congratulations Class of 2014!



**Commencement Speaker, Dr. Thelma Smith, along with
 Superintendent Dr. Jarrett and Principal Mr. Hamlin**

2013-2014 *Teachers of the Year*



Mrs. Lorraine Davis
Sussex Central Elementary School



Mrs. Sydnee R. Turner
Sussex Central Middle School



Mrs. Mary Jones
Sussex Central High School

Mrs. Lorraine Davis was born in Richmond, Virginia and resides in Surry County, Virginia. She is the daughter of Mr. Clarence Mason and Mrs. Janice Butler. She has been married to Mr. Alfred S. Davis, Sr. for the past twenty-six years. They have two children, a daughter-Adaisha Davis, and a son-Alfred S. Davis, Jr. Mrs. Davis' teaching career began in Sussex County in 1999. She taught 2nd grade for two years and 5th grade for one year. She was later employed by the Petersburg School System in 2002. While in

Petersburg, she was a Math Facilitator for approximately 8 years, and after obtaining a Master's Degree in Administration and Supervision, she became an Instructional Specialist for the next four years.

Mrs. Davis returned to the division this year and is currently a 4th grade teacher at Sussex Central Elementary School. She has been an educator for the past 15 years, and is currently pursuing a Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership at Virginia State University.

Mrs. Sydnee R. Turner is the oldest daughter of the late Rev. Joseph A. Simmons, Sr. and Mrs. Vivian M. Simmons of Chesterfield, Virginia. She is a product of Chesterfield County Public Schools and a 2002 graduate of Virginia State University with a B.A. in English and a concentration in Mass Communication. Currently, Mrs. Turner is pursuing a Master's Degree in Education with a concentration in Adult Education and Training through the University of Phoenix. Throughout her twelve year teaching career, she has taught in several school systems including

Greensville, Amelia, and Petersburg. She is currently an 8th grade English teacher at Sussex Central Middle School.

Mrs. Turner is married to Mr. Royal E. Turner and they have four sons: Brandon, Ryan, Jaelin and Cameron. She is an active member of Union Branch Baptist Church in Chesterfield, VA where she is a member of the choir and the Drama Ministry. In her spare time, Mrs. Turner enjoys hunting, fishing, cooking, crocheting, and playing the piano.

For many years, **Mrs. Mary Jones** served as a math inclusion teacher at Sussex Central High School. She has taught in Hertford County Schools, Weldon City Schools, and in Suffolk Public Schools. During her first year as an educator, she taught Pre-Algebra, Algebra and Science. As a seventeen year veteran teacher, she believes that there isn't any better profession. She looks forward to seeing her students achieve their academic goals. Mrs. Jones' teaching philosophy is based on respecting differences, tapping into talents, and sharing her love for learning with her students. She believes that we all have something to contribute.

much of her free time assisting adults with intellectual disabilities. Mrs. Jones earned her Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education with a concentration in History and Social Studies from Old Dominion University. She is endorsed in History and Social Science, Learning Disabilities, Emotional Disabilities, and Intellectual Disabilities. She has also completed graduate work in Special Education from Grand Canyon University. Mrs. Jones is currently an Inclusion Special Education Teacher at Sussex Central High School.

When Mrs. Jones is not in Sussex, she spends time with the other loves in her life: her husband, Quincy, and her daughter, Tamari, who is a 5th grade student at Sussex Central Elementary School.

Mrs. Jones grew up in Southampton County, Virginia, where she remains a dedicated citizen. She also dedicates

Pennies for Patients Campaign a Success

The ECMC Scholars of Sussex Central High School are making great strides in being of service to their community. Throughout the month of December, they partnered with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in their annual "Pennies for Patients" Campaign. Every year, high school students across the nation find creative ways to collect pennies and donate them to assist with research in the areas of Leukemia and other blood cancers as well as to help provide services for individuals diagnosed with these diseases.

The campaign was held from December 2 -20, 2013. The theme for the campaign was "Give Blood Cancers the Boot". The scholars came up with several ways to collect funds. Collection boxes were placed in twenty classrooms, the transportation office and the school board office. At the end of the campaign, the male and female teacher who collected the largest amount of coins were named "Penny King" and "Penny Queen". During the lunch periods, the scholars sold "Paper Pennies". Once a patron purchased a paper penny, their names were written on it and placed on display on the wall in front of the cafeteria. The scholars also used a pair of boots to collect coins at two of the home basketball games. In addition to these activities, (each day of the campaign) facts about blood cancers were read on the morning and afternoon announcements.

The campaign was a huge success. The scholars raised a total of \$533.00. This amount earned our scholars a party which was funded by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Again we would like to thank all of you for helping to make this project a success. ■

SUSSEX CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL Sweetheart Dance



Eighth Grade Memories



Sweetheart King and Queen
Malik Walker and Sadajah Carter



Charlesa Goodwyn and Sadajah Carter
taking a break to pose for a picture.

K-8 Tablet, Initiative Addition



With the use of Title I School Improvement grant funding, Sussex County Public Schools launched an initiative to purchase digital tablets for students and teachers at Sussex Central Elementary School and Sussex Central Middle School. The way students learn is fundamentally changing. A flexible, blended classroom model is replacing the one-size-fits-all classroom approach. Teachers are using digital technologies to engage students with more personalized learning experiences to improve teaching, learning and overall student progress. ■

Sussex County Public Schools
K-8 Tablet Initiative Phase I-
Unboxing and Imaging
(Window 8.1, Dell Latitude 10)



Mr. E. Byrd, 6th grade Science teacher,
plans a science lesson on the tablet for his students.



Miss J. Manning, 3rd Grade teacher,
mirroring their tablets with the Promethean Board.



Sussex Central Elementary School students using
TestNav to practice for their upcoming Writing SOL.



Students are taking checkpoint tests in Mrs. Tinch's English 6 class.

Human Resources At a Glance

The Sussex County Public Schools Human Resources Department has been quite active. After securing highly qualified applicants to fill all available positions for the 2013-2014 school year, the department is working diligently to prepare for the 2014-2015 school year by continuing its search for highly qualified applicants.

On April 5, 2014, Sussex County Public Schools hosted its job fair at the Hilton Gardens Hotel Inn in Colonial Heights from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event was a grand success. School administrators, staff and central office personnel were afforded the opportunity to meet prospective candidates and to conduct on site interviews. Mrs. Stephenson, Human Resource Specialist extends a thank you to all volunteers and participants as we look forward to the coming year. ■



Community Donates to School System



On Tuesday, March 18, 2014, the Operations Department received a donation of motor oil, transmission fluid and anti-freeze from Circle K/Sonoco convenience store in Wakefield, Virginia. These items will certainly be put to good use in the school's fleet of vehicles. We, the Sussex County Public School's family, appreciate this generous donation. On hand to distribute and receive this gift were (left to right) Peter Pierce, Garage Manager, Sussex County Public Schools; Marina Drake, Circle K/ Sonoco Manager; Wilkenda Smith, Circle K/Sonoco Assistant Manager; and Jerry Parham, Supervisor of Operations, Sussex County Public Schools. ■

PTO Activities

During the 2013-2014 school year, Sussex Central Elementary School hosted several Standards of Learning (SOL) Nights as a means of building strong relationships with parents in order to make a difference in our students' academic performance. The SOL Nights focused on providing parents with strategies and activities to help their children become successful in mastering the SOL's in all content areas with an emphasis on technology. Parents were exposed to the Standards of Learning activities using the promethean boards, tablets, and student responders.

Community partners teamed up with Sussex Central Elementary School to provide door prizes for parents. The Parents Teachers and Partners in Education (P.T.P.E) provided refreshments for all participants attending the school events. SOL Nights have served as an inspiring way to provide parents the opportunity for a glance into their child's school day. ■



Students entertain parents by reciting lyrics to a song.



Ms. Brown and Dr. Jones welcome parents to Fine Arts Night.



Ms. Brown engages the parents during our Fine Arts SOL Night.



Students are ready to showcase their singing talents to their parents.



Teacher engages students in Reading and Writing activities.



Parents and students listen to a presentation during a session at the Reading and Writing SOL Night.

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2014-15 Proposed Expenditures (Total/B Approved \$17,667,628)

