

Sussex County Public Schools

HOME & SCHOOL

Volume 14, Issue 1
June 2015



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SUSSEX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sussex County Family Day at Henricus Historical Park

Over twenty-five families gathered at the Henricus Historical Park on Saturday, April 25th to participate in its planned Family Day activities for Sussex County families. There were lots of planned activities throughout the day for which families had the opportunity to explore and relive

Virginia Indian and English history and culture as they existed 400 years ago. This fun-filled event was sponsored by the Cameron Foundation, and all of those who participated were thrilled and amazed as they experienced living history interpretations throughout the park. ■



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 2015-2016 Guiding Principles

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

Educating Tomorrow's Leaders



Sussex County Public Schools

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School Board



Courthouse District
M. E. Morris, Jr., Chair
15032 Beaver Dam Road
Waverly, VA 23890-4108



Stony Creek District
Roderick N. Curley, Vice-Chair
10294 Sussex Drive
Stony Creek, VA 23882-3100



Blackwater District
Laurie S. Latham
Post Office Box 1157
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Henry District
Rodney T. Garrett
9137 Lebanon Church Road
Jarratt, VA 23867-8003



Wakefield District
Gloria S. Holloman
9100 Birch Island Road
Wakefield, VA 23888-2889



Waverly District
Doris Coleman Hamlin
235 Dogwood Street
Waverly, VA 23890-5025

*Educating
Tomorrow's
Leaders*



Sussex County Public Schools

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents and Community,

It has truly been a pleasure serving the citizens of Sussex County as the Division Superintendent during the 2014-2015 school term. As the rigor of the state's standards increases, so does the resolve of the Sussex County Public Schools' faculty and staff to serve our students with excellence. We are investing our best resources to provide a top quality education for our students. This is evidenced by the one-to-one laptop initiative, allowing students to have technology in their hands daily. This provides a more interactive instructional experience, enabling them to successfully compete with students across the state, country, and the world.



Dr. Arthur Jarrett, Jr.
Superintendent

So many wonderful things have transpired in our school division this year. As you view this newsletter, please be mindful that the contents are just a snapshot of the numerous activities and initiatives that have taken place in 2014-2015. Great care has been taken throughout the year to expose students to a myriad of educational experiences that would broaden their perspectives. These were done through classroom lessons, guest speakers, special programs, field trips, and so much more. I thank all teachers, administrators, and support personnel for their dedication and hard work. It is evident that they are passionate about serving students well. Special programs that brought parents to campus were also pivotal. I am very appreciative of the parental support throughout the school year. We understand that in order for students to receive the optimal benefit, the school division must work collaboratively with parents and guardians.

I also want to take this time to thank our community partners. Without your support, our programming efforts would be extremely limited. There are many who talk about their support of children, and then there are others like yourself who actually display it on a regular basis. To you I extend a hearty "thank you." I also want to thank our financial partners for supporting our pre-kindergarten program. This year, we were able to expand preschool experiences to students in Sussex County and we plan to expand that effort in 2015-2016 through a Virginia Preschool Initiative Plus Grant.

Lastly, I would like to salute the class of 2015. I am very proud of you for all of your accomplishments. This class is especially dear to my heart because when I came to Sussex County Public Schools as the principal of the high school, you were my first class. Continue to soar and meet all of your goals. Commit to being a lifelong learner, challenging yourself to be your personal best daily. As always, you make me so proud. ■

Sincerely,

Dr. Arthur L. Jarrett, Jr.
Division Superintendent

Student Support from the Sussex County School Board Office

On Monday, March 23 the School Board Office hosted students enrolled in the Office on Youth's P.O.W.E.R. Program. The P.O.W.E.R. (Promoting Outstanding Work Ethics & Responsibilities) Program provides individuals, 14 to 24 years of age, with "year-round services" which focus on 10 elements that include: job training; paid/unpaid work experiences; tutoring services/study skills/dropout prevention strategies; alternate school offerings; summer employment; occupational skills training; leadership and character development; support services; adult mentoring; and comprehensive guidance/counseling and follow-up services. The focus of the program organized by Mrs. Linda Gholston (Youth Counselor) and Mr. Spencer Logan (S.T.E.P. Coordinator) is to explore careers in education. Students had an opportunity to meet the following individuals and learn about their careers: Dr. Jarrett, Mrs. Malone, Mrs. Blount, Ms. Stephenson, and Mrs. Gilchrist. They also learned about educational requirements, as well as character traits necessary to effectively complete essential job responsibilities. ■



Ms. Stephenson (HR Director) speaking with students



Mrs. Gilchrist (Director of Pupil Personnel) celebrating these fantastic young ladies



Mrs. Malone (School Psychologist) sharing her love for the field



Students speaking with Dr. Jarrett, Division Superintendent



Mrs. Blount (Federal Programs Specialist) sharing words of wisdom

Central Office Directory

Dr. Arthur Jarrett, Jr.
Division Superintendent

Dr. Rodney Berry
Director of Instruction

Mrs. Tracey Gilchrist
Director of Pupil Personnel

Mrs. Adriene Stephenson
Director of Human Resources

Mr. William Bain
Coordinator of Technology

Mr. Jerry Parham
Supervisor of Operations

Mrs. Barbara Blount
Federal Programs Specialist

Mrs. Diane Brown
Compliance Specialist

Mr. Timothy Mays
Instructional Technology Specialist

Mrs. Vera Steward
Data Specialist

Dr. Tynisa Giles
School Social Worker

Mrs. Mary Schrum
Executive Secretary

Schools

Sussex Central Elementary School

Mr. Julius Hamlin, Principal
Dr. Lorraine Davis, Assistant 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
Dr. Jennifer Tindle, Assistant Principal
21356 Sussex Drive Post Office Box 1387
Sussex, Virginia 23884
Phone: 434-246-2251
Fax: 434-246-8912

Sussex Central High School

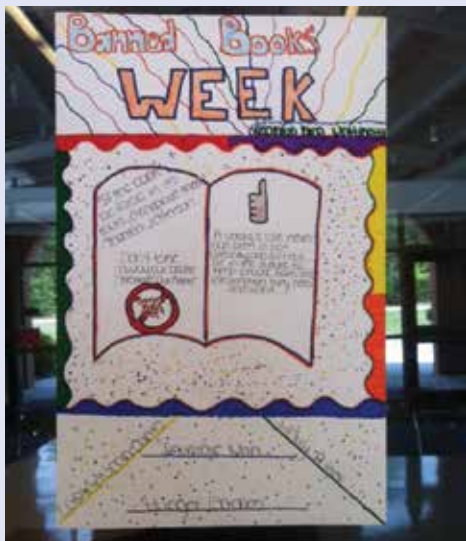
Mrs. Alvina Matthews, Principal
Mr. Norris Evans, Assistant Principal
21394 Sussex Drive Post Office Box 1307
Sussex, Virginia 23884
Phone: 434-246-6051
Fax: 434-246-5503

Home & School Connection

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

SCMS Banned Books Week

Ms. Massenburg, civics teacher, and Mrs. Wallace, library media specialist, conducted a joint lesson with 8th grade students to raise awareness of Banned Books Week and its connection to Constitutional rights during the week of Sept. 22-26. They discussed why books may be banned or challenged, and how this relates to their Constitutional rights. Students also viewed a video by Dav Pilkey, author of Captain Underpants (a challenged book), describing appropriate ways to handle concerns about a book. Mrs. Wallace described how students in Chicago mobilized to protest the decision to ban the book *Persepolis* in their school system using social and broadcast media. This example demonstrated how motivated students can stand up for their rights. Finally, as a culminating activity, students created posters to advertise Banned Books Week. ■



SUSSEX CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL SCMS STEAM Course

This year, SCMS offered an elective STEAM course to 6th and 7th graders for the first time, taught by Mr. Thomas Hohenwarter. "STEAM" stands for the integrated study of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. An example of this integrated study was the design and construction of bridges. The students also explored "STEAM"-related careers, inventions and innovations that have helped our society, and the development and use of computer apps.

In the pictures, 6th grade students are "dissecting" a computer and learning what the components are and what they do. Terms used around the room included CPU, RAM, hard drive, mother board, CD player, heat sink, fan, etc. For some, this is the first experience seeing the inside of a computer. ■



SUSSEX CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL SCMS MARS Winter SOL Night

Sussex Central Middle School MARS Program spearheaded a Winter Holiday themed SOL Night on December 18th, 2014. Content teams present SOL aligned interactive activities that encouraged student and parent participation. Students and teachers were able to highlight state standards review activities. Parents were able to experience core-subject skills and concepts first-hand. Also, teams adorned their doors with holiday decorations

for the most creative and original door competition. We were honored to have Santa Claus and the Sussex Central High School Marching Band to visit us during this well-attended annual event. ■



SUSSEX CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

SCMS Pennies For Patients

SCMS Pennies for Patients SCMS exceeded their goal of \$300 by raising \$415 donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients Program which benefits children with blood-related cancers. The funds were raised during Homecoming Spirit Week which consisted of the Penny Challenge between the grade levels (7th grade won), a Staff Jeans Week and Hat Day. As part of the Penny Challenge, students also contributed over 200 non-perishable goods to be donated to a local food bank. The students and



staff at SCMS are to be commended for their generosity and open hearts. ■



SUSSEX CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Swift Creek Mill Theatre

On December 18, 2014 Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Thornton of Colonial Heights funded a field trip for elementary students (grades Pre-K, K, and 1) to visit the Swift Creek Mill Theatre. The Thorntons are former residents of Sussex County and wanted to support Sussex County Public Schools. Because of their generous financial support, students were able to enjoy "**Drifty's Snow Dance**." The performance addressed many of the English and Science Standards of Learning (SOL) objectives for grades K and 1. They also enjoyed interacting with the cast during lunch. The staff had a blast as well. Special thanks are

also extended to Mrs. Pat Foley and the entire Swift Creek Mill Theatre staff for assisting with the coordination of the field trip.



Mrs. Gilchrist, Mrs. Thornton, and Sussex Central Elementary School students.



Mrs. Gilchrist, Mrs. Thornton, and Cowboy Jim.

In addition to the December 2014 performance, the Thorntons will also give a grant for one middle school student to attend a summer theatre camp at Swift Creek Mill Theatre. The school division thanks the Thornton family for being a generous partner.



Front Row: Khalil Jones, Tiffani Hill, Jesse Ward, Ariyanna Eley, Tyson Garrett, Hassan Greenhill, Avery Pitman Back Row: Mr. M.E. Morris, Jr. (Board Chair), Valeria Martinez, Jaceisha Crockett, Shyheim Edwards, Dr. Arthur Jarrett, Jr. (Division Superintendent)

SUSSEX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Standards of Learning

The Sussex County School Board and Administration celebrates students who made a perfect score of 600 on one or more Standards of Learning Tests during the Spring 2014 test administration. Congratulations to the students and their families!



Principal, Ms. Alvina Matthews
Commencement Speaker, Mr. Melvin Davis



Seniors:
Zhanasia Drew and Keyona German



Senior: Zackery Shephard
Assistant Principal: Mr. Norris Evans

CLASS OF 2015 GRADUATION

May 29, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Sussex Central High School held its 56th Commencement Exercises on Friday, May 29, 2015. The Class of 2015 wanted their graduation to be memorable and therefore, decided to have the ceremony in the gymnasium. Mrs. Tracey Gilchrist served as the Mistress of Ceremony for this wonderful occasion. The enthusiastic audience was welcomed by Zhanasia Drew, Senior Class Secretary. The Valedictorian, Danicia Boone, and Salutatorian, Roy Townsend, also offered heartfelt messages and words of encouragement to their classmates. They gave accolades to classmates and school staff members for

preparing them with the experiences needed to be successful beyond high school. Mr. Melvin Davis, Jr., from Davis Oil Company in Stony Creek, VA served as the keynote speaker and delivered an inspiring charge to the Class of 2015. He highlighted a contract of "Do's and Don'ts" for students to be used as a roadmap for success in the future. Additionally, special musical presentations were rendered by the following members of the class: Markita Taylor, Diamante Williams, and Trevon Winfield. It was truly a night that the graduates will remember forever.



Class of 2015 Salutatorian: Roy Townsend
Class of 2015 Valedictorian: Danicia Boone

Congratulations to the Class of 2015!



2014-2015 *Teachers of the Year*



Mrs. Alisha Chambliss-Drake
Sussex Central Elementary School

Mrs. Alisha Chambliss - Drake

is a fourth year teacher and a proud native of Sussex County. She attended the elementary schools in the area until high school where she then attended Appomattox Regional Governor's School for the Arts and Technology. In May of 2011, she received her bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (Elementary Education) from Hampton University and was a Magna Cum Laude graduate. She began her teaching career at Jefferson Elementary School, Sussex, Virginia as a Kindergarten teacher. Since then, Mrs. Drake has taught first and second

grade. She has also worked on the curriculum development team for the county and served in many other capacities including, afterschool teacher, homebound instructor, and mentor teacher. Mrs. Drake is the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Garland Chambliss of Waverly, Virginia. She currently resides in Colonial Heights, Virginia with her husband, James M. Drake, Jr. She believes that children are the future and aspires to make a positive difference in their lives. Mrs. Drake believes in holistic education and aspires to teach lessons that students can carry with them beyond the classroom.



Ms. Edith Diggs Massenburg
Sussex Central Middle School

Ms. Edith Diggs Massenburg is a native of Sussex County, Virginia. Having been educated in the school system in which she grew up makes teaching in Sussex an honor and a reward. She has been a teacher for 22 years. She aspires to make a difference in the lives of those that come through the doors of Sussex County Public Schools. She wants her students to be able to enter her classroom with an eagerness to learn and leave with a sense of achievement and success. After graduating from Sussex Central High School, Ms. Massenburg attended

Virginia State University graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science and later a Masters of Education Degree in Education and Administration. She serves as Social Studies Department Chair, member of the Sussex Central Middle School Leadership Team and on the Superintendent's Budget Review Committee. In her spare time she enjoys traveling and spending time with her family members. She is the proud mother of a daughter (Kimberly) who serves in the armed forces.



Ms. Patricia Boone
Sussex Central High School

Ms. Patricia Boone is a native of Sussex County. She graduated from Sussex Central High School in 1989. She graduated from Saint Paul's College in 1993 with a B.S. in Mathematics.

Ms. Boone first joined Sussex County Public Schools in 1993. She started out as a substitute teacher then joined as a paraprofessional at Jefferson Elementary School. Under the advice and encouragement from Mr. Hicks, Mr. Hayes and Mrs. Stackhouse, she went back to school to get her endorsement in education. From that point, she started her adventure in teaching. Over the years, she has worked in Greensville County Public Schools (VA), Southampton County Public Schools (VA) and Northampton County Public Schools (NC). During those

years, she has worked on all three levels: elementary, middle, and high school.

Currently, she is a math teacher at Sussex Central High School and the department chair. She is a very active member of the Leadership Team and Junior-Senior Prom Committee. She is a member of the Sussex Education Association, the Virginia Education Association and the National Education Association. She is currently the Head Varsity Volleyball Coach.

Ms. Boone has two children, Private First Class Dantre' M. Boone, who is stationed in Fort Wainwright, Alaska and a daughter, Danicia P. Boone who is a senior at Sussex Central High School. In addition, she also has a lovely granddaughter, Jada, whom she cherishes.

“First Annual ESL Parental Involvement Workshop”

[“TALLER PARA LOS PADRES DEL PROGRAMA DE ESL”]

On Friday, December 5, 2014, the ESL Team of Sussex County Public Schools conducted the first annual **ESL Parental Involvement Workshop**.

This was an opportunity for the parents of our ESL students in grades K-12 to meet with the Director of Student Support and the ESL teachers to discuss the following topics: the upcoming ACCESS for ELLs testing (Feb. 2 – 27, 2015), strategies for helping their children at home, utilizing support from the ESL teacher, how to monitor student’s grades, and the importance of coming to school daily. Parents were also given information written in Spanish about college access, how to support their children in school, attendance, and other topics of importance that will support the instructional program. The session was mostly conducted in Spanish and proved to be valuable

for all who attended. During the Q&A session, parents had the following questions or concerns:

1. How do I know how long my child should read each night? Is there a reading log?
2. How can I check my child’s grades?
3. How can I better communicate with the teachers? I want to know how my child is doing in school.
4. They also had general questions about the ACCESS for ELLs assessment, to include how it is administered, what the results mean, and the purpose of the test.
5. Are there websites that I can use to help my child do well in school?

Parents were given information about accessing Parent Portal. They also offered their email addresses so

teachers would be able to contact them. That information will be added to Power School. They were also reminded that ESL teachers are the liaison between the school and the home and parents were encouraged to utilize that valuable resource. Parents thanked the team for their first invitation to attend such a session designed to meet their specific needs.

Mrs. Gilchrist would like to thank all who supported this initiative (Mr. Julius Hamlin, Mrs. Lorraine Davis, Mrs. Denise Parker, Mrs. Michele Harris, Ms. Diane Brown, Dr. Rodney Berry, Mrs. Rosalyn Shands, Mrs. Maia Johnson, and Ms. Sharon Yates). A special thanks is especially extended to Mrs. Marcia Rascona (ESL support teacher serving the elementary school) and Mr. Nestor Llamas (ESL support teacher serving the middle and high schools). ■



Mrs. Rascona greets parents as they arrive.



Mrs. Gilchrist welcomes parents, as Mr. Llamas and Mrs. Rascona translate.

Special Notice

Please be sure to inform your child’s school of any address or phone number changes. We use 911 or physical addresses to map out bus routes. To keep parents and guardians informed, we use their postal addresses for newsletters and other mailings. Telephone numbers are used for Instant Alert messages to inform parents of emergencies, school closings and upcoming programs and activities.

S.C.E.S. Yearbooks Are Here

The staff and students of Sussex Central Elementary School have had a great year under the administration of Principal Hamlin and Assistant Principal Davis. To remember the friendly faces of every "Tiger Cub" that played a part in our school success, we have created a 2014 – 2015 elementary school yearbook. The customized cover for the yearbook was illustrated by our Fourth Grade student, Caleb Upton, who won the school-wide yearbook cover design contest. The yearbook features a personal message from our principal followed by the names and images of the staff who work very hard daily towards making this school a beacon light for all other elementary schools to follow. Immediately following the staff pages, are the names and pictures of each teacher and student by grade level from Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. The final pages of the yearbook provided the purchaser with a space to have teachers, friends and family members autograph the book with a personalized message.

Also included in the yearbook is a memorial page dedicated to a devoted member of the SCES family who suddenly passed away this school year. Mrs. Frances Sims was appreciated and loved by all and she will be greatly missed by the staff and

students of Sussex Central Elementary School. This is the elementary school's very first yearbook. Mrs. Paulette Nowell, SCES yearbook chairperson, has already begun making plans to expand this project for the next school year. ■



Caleb Upton (cover designer) stands with Mrs. Nowell (yearbook chairperson) displaying the cover that he created for the yearbook.

It's a Big Affair

When one thinks of school, one automatically pictures students and teachers in classrooms. Students will definitely arrive on the first day of school, but it is not always as easy to find highly qualified teachers to whom we entrust our students. To address the issue of finding the best and brightest to place in our classrooms, Sussex County Public Schools hosts an annual job fair.

This year's affair was held on Saturday, April 18, 2015, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The division decided to hold the meet and greet on campus at central office. Each school was represented

by both principals and assistant principals. We were very pleased with the participation, and we were able to meet individuals interested in filling hard-to-staff content areas. We are excited about welcoming new members into the Sussex County Public Schools Family. ■



Grant from Audio Enhancement

This year, due to the efforts of Mr. Timothy Mayes, Sussex Central Elementary School was one of the limited number of schools in Virginia selected as the recipient of a grant from Audio Enhancement. This grant afforded selected schools the opportunity to equip one classroom with an audio enhancement system at no charge. The system and all of its components – amplifier, four speakers, and one teacher microphone – was installed in a first grade classroom, and piloted by Mrs. Alisha Chambliss – Drake.

Thus far, the audio enhancement system has gained much popularity amongst students and teachers and has proven to be extremely successful in the classroom. When in use, it has increased student attentiveness and focus. Additionally, it has limited the amount of teacher voice strain that can often occur during the

instructional day. The amplification and surround sound quality of the audio enhancement system has taken normal teacher voice to a more compelling level and encourages students to focus in on the teacher rather than distractions that can normally occur

within the classroom setting. The system has also helped students who seem to have some difficulty with hearing.

This system is recommended for future use in all classrooms. ■



SVRTC 2015 Awards

At the April 2, 2015 School Board Meeting, three outstanding educators were recognized for demonstrating exemplary use of technology to enhance student learning and academic achievement. The awards are recognized based on criteria established by the Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium (SVRTC). The educators were congratulated by the Board and presented plaques by School Board Chair Mr. M. E. Morris and by Division Superintendent Dr. Arthur Jarrett. As division Winners, they were also presented plaques at the 9th Annual SVRTC Awards Banquet held on March 16, 2015 at Longwood University for their outstanding accomplishments. ■



Mrs. Rachel Lyons, Social Studies teacher -Division Technology Teacher Award; Mr. Heath Bain, Coordinator of Technology - Division Technology Support Award and Mr. Timothy Mays, Instructional Technology Specialist- Division Instructional Support Award

Sussex County Family Day at Henricus Historical Park

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SUSSEX CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Interview Techniques

On Thursday, November 20, 2014 employees of Davis Oil spoke with students currently enrolled in Economics and Personal Finance. Jeanne Moseley and Rhonda Rook spoke with students about the importance of adopting good job interview techniques. Students were reminded of the importance of good communication skills, eye contact, and appropriate dress. Students were also afforded the opportunity to participate in mock interviews. Each student received both oral and written feedback about the interview. Overall, the presentation reinforced the message that had been taught by Mrs. Milazzo (Economics and Personal Finance teacher). Kudos to Davis Oil for being a supportive partner!

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2015-16 Operating Budget (All Funds/Expense by Category \$17,920,480)

