

SUSSEX CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Service Learning Course

Service Learning is a new course that was taught here at Sussex Central High School by Ms. Adaisha Davis. Fayetteville State University defines service learning as a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. During the first block of first semester, students were able to participate in such activities.

The first service learning opportunity was the peer mentoring of K-5 students at Sussex Central Elementary School. A group of juniors and seniors traveled to the elementary school on

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays to assist students. Students were assigned to teachers in efforts of strengthening our primary-level students in reading. Members of Service Learning became acquainted with the students as well as the standards in which each classroom is structured.

Students came to the realization of how important our younger children are to the community. A sense of responsibility in molding younger children's future was established within the students. Giving back, in this essence, bestows a great sense of pride in strengthening the community.



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- FCCLA Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Internet Safety: Contextual Clues SCHS Instructional Reflections
- What's Happening in the Classroom?
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Articles submitted by individual schools

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 2016-2017 **Guiding Principles**

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



ussex County Public Schools

School Board



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



Stony Creek District Linda J. Skipper 10005 Sussex Drive Stony Creek, VA 23882-3100



Blackwater District Laurie S. Latham Post Office Box 1157 Waverly, VA 23890-1157



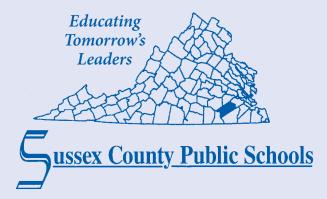
Henry District Terry A. Massenburg 13200 Comans Well Road Stony Creek, VA 23882



Wakefield DistrictGloria S. Holloman, Vice-Chair
9100 Birch Island Road
Wakefield, VA 23888-2889



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



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents and Community,

As I pen this message, I am overwhelmed by how quickly time has flown and by the magnitude of success that our schools have realized this year. I am grateful for the daily student interactions, conversations with parents, meetings with administrators and teachers, and collaboration with our School Board and community as a whole. I am appreciative of those educational partners and alumni who are committed to furthering the mission of Sussex County Public Schools. I can say with confidence that every success that we have experienced has been done TOGETHER. Every opportunity to learn lessons has been embraced with a mindset of growth and progressive moment.



At the beginning of the school term, we spoke extensively about the instincts of a true leader. Giraffes and turtles were symbolically used to emphasize the importance of heightening our vision (like giraffes) versus operating on a lower level with the naysayers (like turtles). During convocation, everyone in attendance was challenged to reach their highest potential; after all, we are all built to be tall and influential. With these thoughts in mind, we were challenged to keep the main thing as our point of focus....advancement of our students and our

county. I take this time to commend everyone for their dedication and commitment to this great work.

To our class of 2016, I commend you on your many achievements and accomplishments. I am confident that you have the tools that you need to be successful. Remember how important it is to spend time with those who have your same rhythm. Surround yourself with those who can expand your wisdom and understanding, as well as those who can expose you to all of the wonderful opportunities to which you are afforded. As you propel into this next phase of your life, remember that you are always welcome to come back home to share your gifts and talents. As much is given, so is the requirement to give back.

"Others can inspire you, but ultimately the only thing that empowers you is what lies within you and learning how to better utilize what you've been given."

T.D. Jakes, Instinct: The Power to Unleash Your Inborn Drive

Sincerely,

Dr. Arthur L. Jarrett, Jr. Division Superintendent

SLAM Program Students Presented at the School Board Meeting

Students enrolled in Sussex Central Elementary School's Accelerated Education Program, also known as SLAM, delivered an informative and interactive presentation at the School Board Meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2016. The acronym SLAM stands for Strategic Learning for Accelerated Minds. This enrichment program aims to develop 21st century skills through collaboration, critical thinking, communication and creativity. The students shared the mission of the program and also demonstrated some fun activities that they have been learning. Krystian Barfield, Shaela Motton, Caden Boyd, Matthew Dodson and Jeremy Rowley all shared valuable information about the accelerated education program using a PowerPoint presentation. Imani Covington and Kyla Fields taught Dr. Jarratt how to play "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" on a Banana Piano while Jaden Nowell and Trevion Rose demonstrated how they programmed a Finch Robot using computer codes created with the online program called SCRATCH. At the end of the presentation, the SLAM students received a standing ovation from the board members and all who attended the meeting. Mrs. Paulette Nowell is the coordinator of the accelerated education program at Sussex Central Elementary School. ■



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.

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

> Ms. Rachel Yates Director of Finance

Mr. William Bain Coordinator of Technology

Mr. Jerry Parham Coordinator 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. Ahnjayla Hunter Special Education Specialist

> Mrs. Mary Webber 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 P.O. Box 1368 Sussex, Virginia 23884-0368 Phone: 434-246-1099 Fax: 434-246-8214 www.sussex.k12.va.us SUSSEX CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

FCCLA's 9th Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

Family, Career and Community
Leaders of America (FCCLA)
students demonstrated leadership
skills through program participation
in the student organization activity
of collecting a total of 122 nonperishable food items for their
9th annual donation to Sussex
County Social Services Department
to help those in need during the
Thanksgiving holiday. Through this
selfless act, FCCLA students were
able to experience the benefits
and responsibilities of serving one's
community. GOOD JOB FCCLA! ■







SUSSEX CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Internet Safety: Contextual Clues

In collaboration with Ms. Johnson's class, students were engaged in a lesson answering a series of questions about what was appropriate and inappropriate behavior through the use of communication technology. They were asked to make inferences from a text message by analyzing the context, finding key details and determining the purpose of a text message conversation.





SUSSEX CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Instructional Reflections

During the last couple of years many educators have been teaching the value of encouraging GRIT to students. GRIT, or "stick-to-it-ness", is that perseverance or persistence that we all must have in life at some time in order to be successful at a particular task. In fact, many educators feel that talent alone is not enough in order to be successful. They feel that TALENT plus GRIT is truly the right formula to being successful both in and out of the classroom. We were reminded of grit when we hosted students from all three schools at the school board office during the Mentoring Minute.

One piece of advice that we shared with our students during the session was to develop grit, because just having talent alone is not enough. John Maxwell, a motivational speaker, expanded on this ideology when

he stated that, "Anyone who achieves anything meaningful in life has to have grit. The ability to do a great work is in the hands of many, but the grit to do a great work goes to a fewer group of people. Just because you have the (talent) does not mean that you will succeed, but when you put grit on top of it, it is like a cherry on top". As we apply grit to our daily responsibilities, we challenge you to stay resilient and focused throughout the year because it is uphill all the way. When you have that grit, we will all get to the top. GRIT works!



What's Happening in the Classroom?

On Friday, September 25th, the 1st and 2nd grade classes traveled to Doswell, Virginia to visit the Virginia State Fair. Both grades had the opportunity to visit Young MacDonald's Farm, where they practiced milking a cow, took goofy farm photos at the Farm Bureau area, and learned about peanuts, soybeans, and other local crops. The students enjoyed the opportunity to see up close different animals, such as horses and alpacas, and were able to touch them. Farm equipment was on hand for the students to explore and sit on, while learning what farmers use to produce the goods we need. A mobile history exhibit was also available for the students to explore and learn about Virginia's history during the Civil War. The students were given the chance to talk to State Police and Sheriff's Department Officers. They explored their vehicles and received Junior Officer Badge stickers. The students and staff had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed this enriching experience. ■









SUSSEX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Full Accreditation



Sussex Central High School Celebrates Full Accreditation



Sussex Central Elementary School Celebrates Full Accreditation

Graduation 2016



Destinee Hill (Salutatorian) and Brittany Chambliss (Valedictorian)



Bishop Shawn Lewis, Sr. (SCHS Class of 1989)

CLASS OF 2016 GRADUATION

June 10, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

SENIOR CLASS MOTTO:

If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it."
-William Arthur Ward

Friday, June 10, 2016 was a day of celebration for the 69 graduates of Sussex Central High School and their families. The evening began with the annual Principal's Reception. This was an opportunity for school leaders to thank scholarship donors for their generosity and for the donors to actually meet scholarship recipients. The 57th commencement exercise of Sussex Central High School began at 7:00 PM and was nothing less than phenomenal. The students were beautifully adorned in their red and blue caps and gowns. Class leaders played an integral role in the ceremony. Everyone was welcomed by Darnell Jones, Senior Class Secretary. Then the class was inspired by the lovely valedictory and salutatorian addresses of Brittany Chambliss and Destinee Hill. Senior Class Public Relations Directors (Jackisha Crockett and Steven Thomas) made a special presentation to the family of their late classmate, Tyler

Givens. In addition, Steven Thomas sang an inspirational song to his classmates to encourage them to believe in their dreams.

The commencement speaker was Bishop Shawn Lewis, Sr. A 1989 honor graduate of Sussex Central High School, he left eight principles of success with the class of 2016. Those included the following: chart your course, make good choices and decisions, dream big dreams, don't allow your failures to stop you, and don't burn bridges. They were encouraged to seize the day and reach for their destiny.

Scholarship announcements were also a highlight of the evening. The School Counseling Department and the students are to be commended for earning scholarships and awards totaling \$1,636,840. A special thank you is extended to all donors.

Congratulations to the Class of 2015!

You Will Be Missed!



2015-2016 Teachers of the Year



Mr. Travis Councill Sussex Central Elementary School

Mr. Travis Councill is a native of Franklin, VA and a 2001 graduate of Franklin High School. Serving as a football coach at Franklin High, he quickly developed a love for working with children and decided to pursue a career in education. Mr. Councill has an A. S. Degree from Paul D. Camp Community College and a B. S. Degree from Old Dominion University. After serving as a substitute teacher in Franklin City Public Schools, he continued his career as a fifth grade teacher at Annie B. Jackson Elementary School in 2008. Since then, he has taught fifth grade at Sussex Central Middle

School and Sussex Central Elementary School. During his tenure in Sussex, Mr. Councill has served as a grade level and chairperson, served on the Curriculum, Budget, and Science Fair Committees. He has also taught in the after school and summer programs and serves as an assistant football coach for the high school. Mr. Councill strives to make a difference in all students' lives and encourages them to become life-long learners. Mr. Councill currently resides in Emporia, Virginia with his wife Rebecca, a fellow educator, and their children Jackson and Holland.



Ms. Divina Cruz Sussex Central Middle School

Ms. Divina Cruz is a native of the Philippines and received her BS Degree in Education in 1976 from the Philippine Normal University in Manila. She earned a Master's Degree in Government Management at the University of the City of Manila in 2000. Ms. Cruz's was reared by her late parents- Federico and Pastora Cruz and her aunt- Felisa Reyes to be a conscientious individual. She began her career as a high school math teacher in the Philippines in 1976. During her 15 years there, she

served as Acting Assistant Principal and Mathematics Department Head. She has taught overseas in Saipan and was recognized as Teacher of the Year in 1995. In addition to teaching middle school math in California for six years and was selected to work with instructional leadership team. She joined Sussex County Public Schools in 2007 where she has taught math at the middle school and high school. In 2013, she was Teacher of the Year for Sussex Central High School.



Ms. Adaisha Davis Sussex Central High School

Ms. Adaisha Davis is a native of Surry, VA and a graduate of Surry County High School. She has a BA in English from Elizabeth City State University. Ms. Davis began her work in education as a tutor and long term English 6 substitute teacher at Peabody Middle School in Petersburg, VA. During the time that Ms. Davis served as a long term substitute, the students in her class were able to obtain the highest passing percentage on the English 6 SOL test. Those moments of tutoring and teaching, as well as her love for children, inspired

Ms. Davis to pursue certification in English and become a Secondary English teacher. During her first year at Sussex Central Elementary School as a fifth grade teacher, she was selected "Technology Teacher of the Year". She has been teaching eleventh grade English at Sussex Central High School for the past two years where she serves as the Junior Class sponsor and is the chairperson of the annual "You Bring the Talent" talent show. Ms. Davis is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Davis Sr.







SUSSEX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Informational Fiesta

["ESCUELAS DEL CONDADO DE SUSSEX- FIESTA INFORMATIVA" "PRESTANDO APOYO A NUESTRA COMUNIDAD DE ESL"]

On Friday, December 4, 2015, the ESL Team of Sussex County Public Schools hosted our second annual *ESL Parental Engagement Workshop*. This was an opportunity for the families of our ESL students to engage in dialogue about how best to foster an atmosphere of success for students. Agenda topics included the following: the new ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 assessment, strategies for helping children at home, applying to college, completing the FAFSA, and

identifying support within the school division. Families also had one-on-one conferences with ESL teachers to discuss any concerns that they may have had at the time. While on campus, several families visited their child's school. This *fiesta* also allowed for all attendees to celebrate and enjoy cuisine from both the American and Hispanic communities. Each family prepared their favorite dish and shared it with all in attendance. It was truly a delightful experience!

SUSSEX CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

MARS Winter SOL Night

LaSonya White, 4-H Youth
Development Agent with the Virginia
Cooperative Extension-Sussex County,
was on hand at Sussex Central Middle
School to introduce students to the
local 4-H club. Students who join the
4-H club learn life skills and good
character traits. The club also focuses
on activities in nutrition and wellness,
character traits, public speaking,
community service and much more. ■



SUSSEX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ESL Workshop

On October 21, ESL teachers Winnie Senty and Nestor Llamas attended a professional development event focusing on ESL Instruction. This was hosted by the Virginia Department of Education. The session was a one-day workshop entitled Parents as Educational Partners (PEP): School Related Curriculum for Language Minority Parents & was held in Newport News, VA



Beautification Project

On Thursday, October 8th, SCES staff and students participated in a beautification project, planting daffodils around the school. The project helped to directly connect elementary students to the outdoors, and offered an avenue for each of them to experience the mysteries of nature. Students were given shovels, gloves, daffodil bulbs and instructions on how to plant each bulb carefully. Students took pride in their work

space and greatly enjoyed the handson experience. From the youngest to
the oldest, every child took ownership
of beautifying the school. Through
direct engagement in a garden space,
we're hoping to better prepare our
youth with the knowledge, interest
and opportunity to become the
scientists and engineers who hold
the future health of our community in
their hands. We cannot wait to see our
daffodils grow in the Spring!













SUSSEX CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Football Fanatics Mathematics

Ms. Adams' Math 7 and Math 8 classrooms were able to participate in a Football Fanatics Mathematics activity facilitated by Ms. Elaina Trafny from the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame & Museum located in Portsmouth, Virginia. The students got an opportunity to play table football while figuring out who were the mathematic fanatics solving word problems using integers, exponents, percentages, Pythagorean Theorem, and more. The event was made possible by the Active Learning Grant awarded to Sussex Central Middle School sponsored by the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame & Museum Education Foundation.

Instructional Reflections

The school division partnered with the Cameron Foundation to host the Healthy Community Workshop at the School Board Office. The purpose of the workshop was to inform our community on the importance of engaging, identifying, and inspiring community organizations in promoting optimal community health. The workshop was attended by different agencies across the county which ranged from the Sussex Housing Authority to local food service providers. During the workshop the session moderators discussed different levels of "Power" that struck many of us in ways that we never heard before. They stated that power is expressed in four different levels, which are:

1. Power Over- a traditional relationship in which one person has power over another.



- 2. Power With- recognizes the ability to get things done in organizations involves creating an allegiance between those with apparent formal power, and those with less formal power.
- 3. Power To- based on the belief that each individual has the power to make a difference.
- 4. Power Within- having a sense of self

worth of valuing yourself and others. There is a scripture that states that "The measure of a man is what he does with power." Therefore if you truly think about it, power is built on the act of sharing. As educators we are charged to share, serve, and empower others so that they will be able to recognize their power within.

SUSSEX CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Winter Performance: "From the Inside Out"





During the first semester, SCES hosted their winter performance. This year's musical was titled "From The Inside Out" and promoted the positive character in all of us! The multi-media event included singing, dancing, and video presentations from 2nd and 3rd grade students. Mr. C. Baker (SCES music teacher) choreographed the performance.

Instructional Highlight

Sussex Central Middle Sixth grade students completed a mini-project on analogies. They were given the task of creating a graphic organizer depicting six different analogy relationships using pictures they selected from magazines. This higher level thinking activity required them to use their analysis skills to create a pictorial depiction of analogies. The lesson was on Analyzing Analogies (SOL 6.4d) ■







SUSSEX CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Instructional Highlight

Mrs. Sydnee Turner's class discussed online shopping risks, surveying web pages and evaluating the credibility and reliability of each. Students worked in pairs responding to a survey of questions and rating each site on a scale of 1 to 4, 4 being excellent and 1 being poor. Students agreed that it is important to determine whether a site is safe prior to purchasing items online. This activity allowed students to analyze real world information (covering SOL 8.9b) and evaluate the validity and authenticity of texts.





What's Happening in the Classroom?

Ms. LaKishia Ellis' Biology class studied DNA this year (how the substance was identified as genetic material, the structure of DNA and how DNA replicates). Using strawberries, students observed first hand that DNA is in the food that they eat. Students learned the simple method to extract DNA and why each step is necessary due to the complex organization of DNA in cells. Students learned why it is important for scientists to extract DNA from organisms.









R. Davis Enterprises LLC. Donates \$2,000 to Sussex Central's Athletic Department

On November 6, 2015, the Sussex Central Athletic Department was presented with a donation from R. Davis Enterprises, LLC. This group consists of three brothers: Ronnie Davis Jr., Rondell Davis, and Ronrick Davis who are all alumni of Sussex Central High School from the Classes of 1995, 1998, and the 2008 respectively. The Davis Brothers are from Wakefield, VA and are the proud sons of Ronnie Davis, Sr. and Avis Gay-Davis. R. Davis Enterprises, LLC specializes in working with small businesses by educating and training these businesses in team building, leadership development, P&L training, and marketing. On this day, the three brothers visited their beloved Alma Mater to present a check for \$2,000 dollars to the school's athletic department. "We just want to show that you don't have to be a famous person to give back to your community," said Ronnie Davis, Jr. "We appreciate the

generosity from these men," was the response from Mr. Norris Evans, Sussex Central High School's Assistant Principal. Mr. Evans, along with Athletic Director Curtis Jefferson, were presented with the check. The three brothers were all

amazed by the new campus of Sussex County Public Schools. Visiting all three schools, they vowed that this would not be the last time that they will be donating to their beloved Alma Mater, Sussex Central High School. ■



Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts at SCES! Girls in grades K-5 participated in a 3 day program with Girl Scouts. During the program the girls read stories about having positive character traits like honesty, sharing, being kind, and fair. The students also learned about counting and identifying different types of currency. The older students talked about creating a budget. They put their Math skills to the test as they shopped for various items and tried to stay at or under their given budget. Students also talked about what types of things make a business successful. Students shared their own dreams for how they will earn a living when they are adults.







SUSSEX CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Robotics Program Receives Check

Mr. Mays accepted a check in the amount of \$6,000 from Jeremy Satterfield. Mr. Satterfield presented this check on behalf of Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation to be used for the new Robotics program. ■

SUSSEX CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

FIRST Robotics Competition Workshops at VCU

The SCHS Robotics Team participated in the FIRST Robotics Competition Workshops held at VCU School of Engineering this year. Students are pictured with Mentors Felicitas Corpuz and Lakeshia Ellis. Topics for the day included



3D printing and real world applications, Motors and Drivetrains, Inspection and Bumpers, Motor Control Modules, PTC Hands-On Workshop, JAVA, C++, Social Media, and Scouting. ■

SUSSEX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SVRTC Meeting

Sussex County Public Schools was well represented as a beacon at the November 18th Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium (SVRTC) meeting. Tim Mays, Instructional Technologist, was the lead off presenter. He presented our school division's use of Google Apps and Google classroom. During the presentation, Mr. Mays demonstrated the functionality of Google Classroom and showcased some of the work our teachers are doing with the Google suite of tools, including Google Drive. The audience, consisting of Technology leaders and implementers from across our region, had an opportunity to learn from and ask questions of Mr. Mays during his presentation. During the presentation they discovered just how far along our schools are with the adoption of Google Classroom. Following the presentations and the regular SVRTC meeting, several attendees had additional questions for Mr. Mays and some for Mr. Bain as well. These questions ranged from the desire for more information about Google components, our Campus LAN, Internet speed and provider, Internet filtration, and interest in our research into Kajeet as possible provider of filtered mobile broadband to close the digital gap.



2016 Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium (SVRTC) Awards Division Awards - Technology Teach of the Year: Judy Adams Instructional Support Award: Tim Mays Technical Support Award: Vera Steward (Not Pictured)



21302 Sussex Drive P.O. Box 1368 Sussex, Virginia 23884-0368

2016-17 Operating Budget (All Funds/Expense by Category \$18,372,528)

