

# CONNECTION

Sussex County Public Schools

# HOME & SCHOOL

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- All Schools "Fully Accredited" 2017!
- Repertory Theater Visits SCES
- Virginia Board of Education Honors SCPS
- Sussex County Board of Supervisors Recognize SCPS
- Seniors Take College Tours & Celebrate College Admissions!
- SCES Grandparents' Appreciation Week
- Culinary Arts Fresh Friday at SCHS
- SCMS Highlights College & Career Readiness
- SCES Students Receive Holiday Toys
- Junior Beta Club Is Thriving at SCMS
- SCHS Service Learning & SCHS JROTC Food Pantry
- SCMS Loves Real-World Science
- 1st Annual Ralph Joyner Classic Basketball Event
- SCPS Celebrates Red Ribbon Week
- SCPS – Informational Fiesta
- SCPS Fights Against Cancer

Articles submitted by individual schools

## Sussex County Public Schools: All Schools "Fully Accredited" 2017!

On Tuesday, Sept 12th, The Governor of Virginia, Terry McAuliffe came to the School Board Office to announce the official accreditation for all of Sussex County Public Schools and to personally thank the school division for all its hard work in getting all schools "Fully Accredited." In attendance were the Sussex County School Board members, the Sussex County Board of Supervisors, The Sussex County Administrator and Sheriff, along with members of the Sussex Educational Foundation Board. Dr. Jarrett extends his deepest gratitude to all students, staff, parents, community members, elected officials and collaborative partners for their continued support of the school system throughout the years. GO Tigers!



**GO Tigers GO!**



## 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 2017-2018 Guiding Principles

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



## Repertory Theater Visits SCES

On Monday, November 27, 2017, the talented actors and actresses from Virginia Repertory presented the play, The Tailor of Gloucester, to all of the

staff and students at Sussex Central Elementary School. After the play, students were able to ask questions and interact with the cast. Mrs. Thompson's class got to pose with the performers. This performance was made possible by a fine arts grant from the Cameron Foundation.

*Educating Tomorrow's Leaders*



**Sussex 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 District**  
Gloria S. Holloman, Vice-Chair  
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,

At the beginning of the school term, we spoke extensively about identifying the "Magic You Have Within". During our opening convocation, everyone in attendance was challenged to reach their highest potential and to find their "Magic". 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.



**Dr. Arthur Jarrett, Jr.**  
*Superintendent*

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. Additionally, I am overwhelmed by the magnitude of success that our schools have realized this year.

Several years ago, we began a journey of improvement in our school district that started with teachers, administrators and parents working in collaborative teams through a Professional Learning Communities process. The result has been defining clear standards, common assessments between teachers, changes to grading and assessment to ensure all students are learning the essential content and interventions for those who do not learn essential skills the first time. Our goal has been and continues to be to provide the instruction for all students to reach their highest levels of learning.

I am appreciative of those educational partners and alumni who are committed to furthering the mission of Sussex County Public Schools. I continue to say with confidence that every success we have experienced has been done together. Every opportunity to learn lessons has been embraced with a mindset of growth and progressive moment.

I commend the graduating class of 2018 on your many achievements and accomplishments. I am confident that you have the tools that you need to be successful. 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

# Virginia Board of Education Honors Sussex County Public Schools



**Pictured L to R in Front Row:** Sal Romero, Jr., Kim E. Adkins, Anne B. Holton, Dr. Arthur L. Jarrett, Jr., Elizabeth Vickery Lodal, James H. Dillard,  
**Pictured L to R in Back Row:** Dr. Billy K. Cannaday, Jr., Julius L. Hamlin, Diane T. Atkinson, Dr. Jamelle S. Wilson, Dr. Steven R. Staples, Daniel A Gecker

On September 28, 2017, the Virginia Board of Education invited Dr. Arthur L. Jarrett, Jr., to its September meeting to honor Sussex County Public Schools for earning Full Accreditation as a school division for the 2017-2018 school year. State Superintendent Dr. Steven R. Staples and the Board of Education congratulated the students, personnel, and administrators of SCPS for completing the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding with the state. Office of School Improvement's Director Bev Rabil graciously described the hard work and commitment the community, students, and division personnel put into getting every school in the division "Fully Accredited." SCPS wants to also thank Mrs. Rabil and the Virginia Department of Education for their continuous support over the years. Congratulations to the students, parents, teachers, and administrators for a job well done!

GO Tigers!



## Sussex County Board of Supervisors Recognize SCPS

On September 21, 2017, SCPS was awarded a Resolution by Sussex County Board of Supervisors for its outstanding work in raising student achievement and providing a high quality education to students of Sussex County. Board Chairman, Susan B. Seward congratulated Dr. Arthur L. Jarrett, Jr. and all of SCPS for a job well done. She presented the division the framed resolution award and stated "The success our school system has truly enhances the future opportunities for our students, community members, and also provides a boost for economic development in our county and region!" Sussex County Public Schools also wants to thank each member of the Sussex Board of Supervisors for their commitment to supporting the public school system.



### Central Office Directory

Arthur Jarrett, Jr., Ed.D.  
*Superintendent*

Julius Hamlin  
*Director of Instruction*

John Broderick  
*Director of Finance &  
Business Operations*

Adriene Stephenson  
*Director of Human Resources*

Lorraine Davis, Ed.D.  
*Coordinator of Pupil Personnel*

William Bain  
*Coordinator of Technology*

Jerry Parham  
*Coordinator of Operations*

Barbara Blount  
*Federal Programs Specialist*

Ahnjaya Hunter  
*Special Education Specialist*

Timothy Mays  
*Instructional Technology Specialist*

Leatha Baker  
*Data Specialist*

Linda Person  
*Executive Secretary*

### Schools

**Sussex Central High School**  
Alvina Matthews, Principal  
Anthony Elliott, Assistant Principal  
21394 Sussex Drive  
Stony Creek, VA 23882  
Phone: 434-245-6051

**Sussex Central Middle School**  
Jennifer Tindle, Ed.D., Principal  
Norris Evans, Assistant Principal  
21356 Sussex Drive  
Stony Creek, VA 23882  
Phone: 434-246-2251

**Sussex Central Elementary School**  
Lorraine Davis, Ed.D., Principal  
Morris Taylor, Assistant Principal  
21392 Sussex Drive  
Stony Creek, VA 23882  
Phone: 434-246-8960

### Home & School Connection

21302 Sussex Drive  
Stony Creek, VA 23882  
Phone: 434-246-1099  
Fax: 434-246-8214  
[www.sussex.k12.va.us](http://www.sussex.k12.va.us)

# Seniors Take College Tours & Celebrate College Admissions!

## Seniors Celebrate College Admission During The 2017 SCHS College Fair!

Sussex Central High School held their annual 1st semester college fair on September 21, 2017. A total of 26 seniors earned their on-site admissions to various colleges and universities abroad. Seniors are seen holding up the "L" symbol in loving memory of their classmate Malik "Lik" Walker. College recruiters from across the nation complimented how mature, eager, and professional the SCHS student body was. Principal, Alvina Matthews and School Counselor, Jacqueline Elliott want to extend a special thanks to all the seniors who participated. They also want to congratulate all students on their college acceptance. The college fair was a huge success!



## Upper Classmen College Tours Abroad!

Sussex Central High School juniors and seniors had the pleasure of visiting several colleges during the first nine weeks. Virginia State University and Virginia Commonwealth University were among those visited. Students from GEAR UP and ECMC Scholars were also in attendance on the October 5th VCU trip. More college tours are scheduled during semester two. Students are encouraged to sign up, and parents are welcome to attend.



## SCHS Students Visit the Campus of James Madison University

On Tuesday, November 28, 2017, several students [GEAR UP, ECMC Scholars, and Seniors] toured James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. Students participated in an Admissions Information Session, dined on campus, and participated in an extension tour of the beautiful campus of the JMU Dukes. We were very fortunate to have our personal tour guide, Mr. Reid, and alumnus of JMU. The JMU college tour was very informative, enjoyable, and enlightening for our students.



## SCHS & College Application Week

Virginia College Application Week [VCAW] is an event orchestrated by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia [SCHEV], the Virginia Secretary's Office on Education, the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia, and the national education non-profit agency, Educational Credit Management Corporation [ECMC]. The purpose of College Application Week is to provide a structured opportunity and resources for Virginia high school seniors at participating schools to apply to at least one postsecondary institution. During VCAW 2017, 66 high schools in Virginia hosted this event.

The School Counseling Department hosted College Application Week at Sussex Central High School on November 13-17, 2017. During this event, **95** college acceptances were granted, and **\$433,500** was awarded in scholarships! Kudos to the Class of 2018!



Special thanks to the following colleges and universities for hosting onsite admission sessions and/or application completion sessions during VCAW 2017: John Tyler Community College, North Carolina Wesleyan College, Richard Bland College, Bryant & Stratton College, Norfolk State University, Chowan University, Ferrum College, and Virginia State University. Sincere thanks to a hosts of other colleges and universities who sent materials and resources for our students.

# 2017 SCES Grandparents' Appreciation Week

Sussex Central Elementary School hosted its fifth annual "Grandparents' Appreciation Week" during the week of October 16 – 20, 2017.



Over 250 grandparents came to eat lunch with their grandchildren. Fifth grader, Wesley McCann, invited his grandparents to SCES for this precious event. He was ecstatic to see that his grandparents had traveled all the way



from Oxford, NY to be with him this week. Other grandparents stated that they had traveled from cities such as Norfolk, Chesapeake and Richmond



for this occasion. The grandparents and grandchildren took many pictures as they conversed, laughed and hugged one another. It is a wonderful event that everyone looks forward to each year.



**Pictured Above:** Travel Distance Award: Wesley McCann's Grandparents (NY)

GO Tigers GO!



# SCMS Highlights College & Career Readiness

This year Sussex Central Middle School Counseling Department will be placing a huge emphasis on College & Career Readiness as we prepare our students for success in and out of the classroom. To jump start this new initiative, there was a College & Career Awareness Spirit Week held Sept. 25-29, 2017, in which students wore attire in support of the college or career theme for that particular day. An exciting aspect of SCMS College & Career Readiness Initiative (CCRI) are the 8th grade College & Career Readiness classroom guidance lessons, which feature an online classroom format. Also, there is a Teacher/Staff College Spotlight where each month a different teacher or staff member will be featured in the "Counselor Connections" newsletter and their college or university will be highlighted. In conclusion, the last Monday of every month has been designated as "Alma Mater Monday," where teachers and staff wear their favorite t-shirt or sweatshirt from their Alma Mater(s). We are excited about all of the new things occurring with our new College & Career Readiness Initiative and are looking forward to a fun and successful academic year!



# Every Friday Is a Culinary Arts Fresh Friday at SCHS



Sussex Central High School's Culinary Arts instructor Mrs. Erica Ewald described Fresh Fridays as an idea born out of the wants and desires of the teachers at Sussex Central. The teachers wanted another option for lunch; something fresh and delicious. Currently the program is running within the



Nutrition and Wellness class. It also allows the students an opportunity to learn how to use simple products and cooking techniques to create flavorful and nutrient packed meals. Students are learning about proper safety and sanitation techniques, knife skills, the



importance of seasoning, time management, organization, attention to detail and team work. During second semester, the program will be taken over by the Culinary Arts class and we will begin to offer more complex meals and possibly some ethnic flavor profiles. Students have been learning to work with various proteins and even the art of shaping bread; which may find its way into future meals. Students will also learn how to research new menu items and cost them out to determine if it's cost effective to use the recipe or not.



# SCES Students Receive Holiday Toys

Each year the Pastors' Coalition of Sussex County unite with the intention of putting smiles on the faces of all the students at Sussex Central Elementary School during the holidays



**Pictured From L to R:** Mr. Morris Taylor, Dr. W.R. Deer, Mrs. Denise Parker, Mr. J.R. Williams, Dr. C.W. Robb, Mrs. Annette Robb, Mrs. Barbara Blount, and Mrs. Brandi McCain

by delivering toys for everyone. This year approximately 500 different age appropriate toys were delivered to the elementary school for each child to choose. Students had the option to choose toys such as bicycles, stuffed animals, board games, sports balls, puzzles and dolls. As each child entered the gym to choose their toys, nothing but smiles and enthusiasm could be seen all over their faces as they studied the items to ensure that they chose just the right one



for them. The children's excitement was captured in the pictures on page 20. Many thanks goes to the Sussex County Faith Based Pastors' Coalition, Leaders, and Concerned Citizens for their annual toy contribution to our students. This is indeed an event that our students and community look forward to every year.

GO Tigers!



## Junior Beta Club Is Thriving at SCMS

The Junior Beta Club is a student-centered organization that seeks ways to develop and nurture students by providing opportunities and experiences that demonstrate the ideals of the four pillars upon which National Beta is founded: achievement, character, leadership, and service. Service to others is indeed one of the most important characteristics of National Beta membership. Opportunities to serve are found in every school and community, whether large or small, urban, suburban, or rural. There are needs that can be addressed by Beta members.



On October 26, 2017, the following students were inducted into the National Junior Beta Club at Sussex Central Middle School: She'Nyah Barrow, Niara Carter, Brianna Cheney, Sydney Covey, Sammi Givens, Mollie Redman, Audrey Sandlain, Ty'Nasia Taylor, Genesis Turner, and Xziya White-Driver.



**Motto:** "Let Us Lead by Serving Others"  
**Junior Beta Club Sponsor:** Mrs. Valerie Fowlkes

**Beta in Action:** SCMS' Junior Beta Club served as ushers for Sussex Department of Social Services Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony that occurred November 28, 2017. The purpose of the ceremony was to honor the Angel Tree Program as well as the Christmas Season. The

Junior Beta Club members volunteered as greeters, ushers, and assisted with the lighting of the Christmas tree.

The Junior Beta Club's current service project is to "Be a Beta Angel" in which the project's goal is to provide holiday gifts for a child of a needy family in the community, identified by Sussex Department of Social Services through their Angel Tree program. In celebration of the holiday season, Beta Members decorated a small Christmas tree for their Beta Angels.

## SCHS Service Learning & SCHS JROTC Food Pantry

The Service Learning class at SCHS is designed to integrate meaningful community service with instruction and reflection in order to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. This semester, the students had the pleasure of volunteering in various classrooms and the main office three days each week at Sussex Central Elementary School. Service learning is also an integral component of the JROTC program at SCHS. The students enrolled in Service Learning and some of the JROTC cadets collaboratively volunteered monthly at the Yale location of the Food bank of Southeastern Virginia as well as provided assistance



to the PTO at SCES in preparing holiday treat bags for the students in December 2017.

# SCMS Loves Real-World Science



The Middle School welcomed well-known meteorologist David Tolleris (or “D.T.” as he likes to be called), on November 21st, when he made a presentation and spoke to 6th and 7th grade science and STEM students. D.T. explained that he was an energy and agricultural meteorologist who after working many years in the public and private sectors, began his own private forecasting company and website [www.wxrisk.com](http://www.wxrisk.com). The 7th graders had just completed a unit about weather phenomena and measurement. They had been introduced to various types of weather maps like the ones that D.T. showed them, highlighting weather phenomena, during historic and more recent storms, and bringing particular focus to the Sussex County area on the map. At one time, D.T. worked for the local

weather station in Wakefield, and was very familiar with the local area. He emphasized with seriousness and humor the importance of looking at information about our world with the perspective of a scientist, using the approach of the scientific method, and to be skeptical and critical of much of the information in our world. In other words, he advised students to always evaluate information like present day scientists and scientists through history have done.



Students were intrigued when D.T. showed and discussed real historical examples that were believed to be real science at one time, though today with the approach of scientific thinking, we know are not true and even seem to be nonsense. D. T. spoke of the importance of his job and the many who depend on the information that he provides about short term and long term weather. He presented photos and spoke of what can happen when forecasts are inaccurate. He said that the sciences and math school subjects that proved most important for his job today were science, including Earth Science, Chemistry, Physics, Algebra, and Geometry. He said that although in school he had at one time struggled with math, he advised students to stick it out because it would really be worth it in the end.

## 1st Annual Ralph Joyner Classic Basketball Event



On December 16, Sussex Central High School held its first annual Ralph Joyner Classic basketball event to honor a SCHS Hall of Famer and district legend. Coach Joyner was joined by friends and family during a night of fun, food, and basketball. Special thanks to Ms. Alvina Matthews (Principal), Mr. Curtis Jefferson (Athletic Director), Mr. Ivin Parker (Head Boys Basketball Coach), and Mr. Cornell Turner (Asst. Boys Basketball Coach) for their hard work with making this event a success. We also want to thank the following



teams for participating: Carver Academy, Franklin, Western Branch, Prince George, Northampton, Surry, Bluestone, Greenville, Nottoway, and Sussex.

### Biography:

**Mr. Ralph Joyner** has been married to Brenda Joyner for 45 years and they have one son, Ralph Aljamont Joyner. He graduated from Winston Salem State University in 1960 with a B.S. in Biology. He earned a Master’s of Education Degree from Virginia State University in 1980.



His memorable career with Sussex County Public Schools (SCPS) began in 1969. During his tenure with SCPS he served in many capacities which included Biology, Math, Physical Science, and Earth Science teacher (1969-2002), Middle School Assistant Principal (2002-2005), and Athletic Coach (1970-2005). He received several accolades during his coaching tenure which included: Winning 1st Peanut District Tournament (1982); Coached SCHS Boys’ Basketball Team to 4 State Playoffs; Coached 1992 State Basketball Championship Team; Coached the 1992 VHSL All-Star Basketball Team; 3 time recipient of the All-Region Coach of the Year and All-District Coach Awards; and Winner of the 1992 VHSL Coach of the Year Award.

His professional and civic affiliations include: member of the Sussex County Retired Teachers Association; President of the Fuquay Consolidated Alumni Association; and volunteer with the Meals on Wheels Program. In his spare time, he enjoys watching drag racing and old western movies. He also enjoys serving as an active member of First Baptist Church in Holly Springs, NC.

# SCPS Celebrates Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week was October 23rd to the 27th and Sussex Central Elementary school participated in various activities in an effort to educate students to maintain a drug-free environment and make healthy choices. The theme this year was "Your future is key, be drug free"! Activities included essay contests for fourth and fifth graders, coloring contests for kindergarten through 3rd grade, making pledges, wearing bracelets and pinning red ribbons on students. Essay winners were announced Friday before dismissal and each student received a prize. The essay winners posed for a photo with the school counselors.



**Pictured L to R:** Counselor McCain, Chelsea Wolford, Ah'miyah Drewry, Laniyah Taylor, Cydney McKoy, Daniyah Barrow, Counselor Jackson

## SCPS Students Take the Red Ribbon Pledge



Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco, and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign observed in October and held annually by school districts nationwide. Sussex Central Middle School celebrated Red Ribbon Week this year from October 23rd to 27th. During this time, student-centered activities were planned to recognize the importance of living a healthy and drug-free life. Students participated in Red Ribbon activities such as a door decorating contest, poem contest, as well as students signed a "We Pledge to be Drug-Free" banner.

# Sussex County Public Schools – Informational Fiesta

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



On Friday, December 1, 2017, the SCPS ESL Team of Sussex County Public Schools hosted our fourth annual **ELL Parental Engagement Workshop**. This was a wonderful opportunity for the families of our ELL students to engage in dialogue on best practices that foster student success. Agenda topics included the following: the new ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 assessment, updated parental contact info, strategies for parental involvement to help children at home and identifying support within the school division. In addition, families had opportunities to have one-on-one conferences with ESL teachers to discuss their students' academic progress. At the conclusion of the Information **Fiesta**, all attendees celebrated and enjoyed Mexican, Honduran and American cuisine. Each family prepared their favorite dish and shared it with all in attendance. It was truly a delightful experience!

Dr. Davis would like to personally thank all who supported this initiative: Dr. Arthur Jarrett, Mr. Julius Hamlin, Mrs. Barbara Blount, Mrs. Adriene Stephenson, and Mr. John Broderick. A special thanks is also extended to the ELL families in attendance and Mr. Nestor Llamas (ESL program instructor) for his work with all SCPS children.



# SCPS Fights Against Cancer

## Pink Out At SCMS

SCMS also conducted several fun events to raise awareness and money for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Two "Pink Outs" were held in which students and staff showed their support by wearing lots of pink. Also, students purchased pink ribbons to be displayed in the front hallway. The initiative raised \$236 for The Pink Pearls, an organization that supports breast cancer patients and survivors.

## SCES ALSO SUPPORTS THE FIGHT!

In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness, the staff and students have staged a "Pink Out" at Sussex Central Elementary School. Many staff and students from Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth grade came dressed in pink to show solidarity with breast cancer patients, survivors and care givers. This is a noteworthy event at SCES that all staff and students look forward to participating annually.

