


Smyrna School District's
Smyrna Messenger



The mission of the Smyrna School District is to ensure that the students of the community are prepared, as effectively and as efficiently as possible, to become responsible and productive citizens possessing the knowledge, the problem-solving skills, and the positive attitudes necessary to successfully adapt to and function in an ever-changing environment.

82 Monrovia Ave. • Smyrna, DE 19977

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SPRING ISSUE

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MAY 2016

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From the Superintendent's Desk...

Spring Message from Deborah D. Wicks

On Saturday, February 27, 2016, the Smyrna School District and our communities of Clayton, Kenton, Townsend, and Smyrna celebrated our 18th "I Love the Smyrna School District" day. With well over 6,000 people attending, the day was filled with student mini concerts, art shows, curriculum displays, and informational booths from churches, local businesses, and community organizations. See page 8 & 9 for photos of the day.

At the end of the day, many students received awards for winning our annual values essay contest. This year's community core value was respect. Smyrna School District Board of Education President Ron Eby was honored as a role model of respect for his 50 year commitment to the education of our students. His service to our school family exceeds any other staff member past or present.

More good news about the Smyrna School district can be found on our website www.smyrna.k12.de.us by clicking on the updated March 2016 "State of the District". This report is published each year and contains "indicators of progress" towards our mission and our goals plus information on numbers of students and staff.

The Class of 2016 graduates on Saturday, May 28, 2016, at 10 a.m. on the Charles V. Williams Athletic Field. With 363 members, (the largest class so far) this class is the 132nd class to be awarded a Smyrna High School diploma. Events that will point to how outstanding the class of 2016 is include: the Annual Athletic Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, May 24 (6:30- 9 p.m.); the Baccalaureate at the first Presbyterian Church, on Wednesday, May 25 (7-8 p.m.); and the Senior Awards on Thursday, May 26 (6:30-8:00 p.m.). Congratulations to each member of the 2016 class as they begin the next phase of their life.

Thank you, as always, for your support of the Smyrna School District family and our community core values of perseverance, respect, responsibility, integrity, and compassion.

Career Pathways of Smyrna High School

The Best CHOICE

AGRISCIENCE

- Power & Technical Systems
(Power mechanics and machinery repair)
- Animal Science
(Anatomy & Physiology, Nutrition, Reproduction, and Management of Agricultural Animals)
- Plant Science
(Greenhouse, plants, soil, crops, landscaping, turf management,
- Agriculture Structures
(Building construction, plumbing, wiring, masonry, interior & air-conditioning)
- Natural Resources & Environmental Science
(Conservation, natural resources, forestry and the environment)
- ALLIED HEALTH**
(Variety of health services)
- BUSINESS, FINANCE, & Accounting**
(Accounting principles, personal finance)
- Administrative Services
(Instruction on the use of Microsoft Office Suite)
- Digital Business Communications
(Web development and Graphic Design)
- (Marketing strategies for various types of business)*

EDUCATION

- (Instruction & Application of skills required for careers in education)*
- Family and Consumer Science
(Services for families and individuals)
- Exploring Childhood
(Careers focused on early education)

JOBS FOR DELAWARE GRADUATES

- (School-to-work transition competencies, leadership skills and citizenship)*
- Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps AFJROTC
(Historical, scientific and technical aspects of aerospace with leadership and discipline skills)

PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC

- (Advanced Placement, Honors, and College Prep Courses)*

STEM

- (Science, technology, engineering, and math related college degrees)*

VISUAL OR PERFORMING ARTS

- (Courses in art, music and/or theatre)*

Smyrna's Education Support Professional of the Year

Each year, the district staff members nominate an Education Support Professional (ESP) from their building. ESPs include custodians, paraprofessionals, secretaries, and technicians. Smyrna is fortunate to have many dedicated support professionals that help our buildings run and our children flourish. In order to be considered for the ESP award, the person must be a full-time district employee, have worked in the district for three years, and be a member of the Smyrna Educators Association. Once selected by the building, a district-level committee reviews the nominee applications to select a district ESP. The committee looks for someone who promotes a positive image, demonstrates strong involvement within the district, shows personal involvement in the educational process, and exhibits outstanding practices in his or her area.



Superintendent Mrs. Debbie Wicks, Mrs. Jodi Glew, and CIS Principal Mr. David Paltrineri

At the February Smyrna School District Board meeting, all of the building Educational Support Professionals were honored. Mrs. Jodi Glew was selected as the district's ESP of the Year. Mrs. Glew is the Library Paraprofessional at Clayton Intermediate School. She has worked at CIS for 3 1/2 wonderful years. She and her husband along with their 15-year-old daughter Shannon relocated to Delaware in 2006 from Long Island New York where Mrs. Glew was born and raised. As a family, they enjoy spending time at the beach, planning vacations, back yard grilling, and enjoying their pool with family and friends.

CLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Clayton Elementary 2016/17 Teacher of the Year Mrs. Leslie Carlson



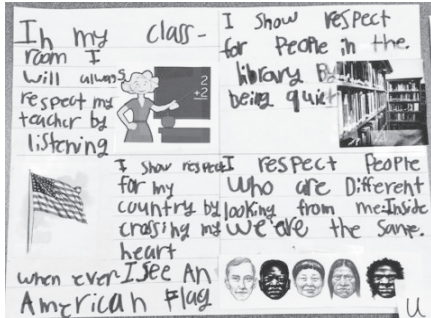
Congratulations to Mrs. Leslie Carlson for being selected as Clayton Elementary School's Teacher of the Year for the 2016-2017 school year! Mrs. Carlson graduated from Caesar Rodney High School in 1979. She then graduated from James Madison University in 1983, earning a Bachelor of Music Education Degree, Piano Major with Vocal Concentration. This is Mrs. Carlson's 4th year at Clayton Elementary. Previously, she worked in the Brandywine and Appoquinimink School Districts as well as a few years in Augusta County, VA as a High School Choral Music Director. In her spare time she enjoys cooking, biking, sewing, going to the beach, spending time with family, reading and helping Three Stones Church with their Vacation Bible School, where her family attends. She lives in Clayton with her husband Mark, daughter Madeline and son Clayton, and yellow Labrador Angel. Leslie Carlson is an outstanding representative of the teachers at Clayton Elementary and we are proud that she has been selected as Teacher of the Year for the 2016-2017 school year. Mrs. Carlson will now compete for Smyrna School District Teacher of the Year. We wish her the best of luck.

2nd Grade Dodgeball Fundraiser

Clayton Elementary students held their 2nd Annual Dodgeball Tournament on March 23 to benefit the PTO's new playground equipment fundraising efforts. A total of 11 teams composed of 3rd & 4th grade students played hard with the Purple Team coming out with the win!! CES would like to thank Clayton Intermediate for hosting our tournament this year. This provided family and friends the ability to watch the events. A total of \$900 was raised!!



Tournament Winners: Purple Team, left to right: Patrick Watts, Anna Fowler, Chase Jones, Nathan Donahue, Macey Masten, Aiden Johnson, Katie Massie



RESPECT Poster Contest
1st Place - Lindsey Roscoe (CES)
See article on pg 12

American Legion Post 14 Donates for Playground



Pictured from left to right are: Executive Officer, Mike Schroeder; Adjutant, Owen Cole; Commander, Scott Holmes; PTO Secretary, Heather Jones and Principal, Stephanie McGuire

Clayton Elementary and the PTO would like to thank the David C. Harrison American Legion Post 14, for generously donating a total of \$3000 to their organization. The money will go towards new playground equipment for the school.

Clayton Elementary 4th Grade Spelling Bee Winners

Clayton Elementary held its 4th Grade Spelling Bee on February 8, 2016. Everyone did a great job!



Left to Right: 3rd place: Allyson Holmes, 2nd place: Taylor Voshell, 1st place: Alina Bartlett

3rd Grade Does Hagley

During the month of February the third grade team traveled to The Hagley Museum in Wilmington, Delaware. Students were able to see where the DuPont's lived and worked long ago. While on the field trip we traveled back in time and witnessed what life was like during the Industrial Revolution. Students learned about the daily chores of a family during that time in history. In the foreman's restored home we baked cookies in a wood stove, did laundry on a wash board, dressed up in the clothing of the times, used an old fashioned iron, and washed dishes using the water from the well. At Brandywine Manufacturer's Sunday School on Workers Hill, the students learned short lessons typical of a nineteenth-century school. After that, we relocated to The Factory System Workshop. Students formed an assembly line to make labels for gun

"Using the Force"

Fourth grade students at Clayton Elementary "used the force" throughout the "Magnetism and Electricity" Full Option Science System (FOSS) Unit to create "out of this world" magnetic projects! According to FOSS, "The Magnetism and Electricity module consists of five sequential investigations, each designed to introduce or reinforce concepts in physical science. The investigations provide opportunities for students to explore the natural and human-made worlds by observing and manipulating materials in focused settings using simple tools." Students were challenged to see how magnets are used every day. They created magnetism projects which demonstrated knowledge of magnetic forces (attraction and repulsion). Students also included an explanation of how the project worked. When you view the projects, "may the force be with you..."

powder kegs. Each child had their own special job to keep the production line running smoothly. When the trip was done, most of the children agreed that although they had a blast, life today seems a lot less strenuous than back in those days. Oh, the benefits of technology!



2nd Graders Have Great Performance

Second graders are ready to take a bow after their performances in Readers' Theatre at Clayton Elementary in March. Students practiced their reading skills, worked together, and let their creativity shine all while having fun! They created backdrops, props, and costumes. Their hard work was showcased in performances for other classes and teachers. Special guest Mrs. McGuire also attended the performances.

1st Graders Ready to Finish Off Strong!

The 1st grade classes at Clayton Elementary are back from Spring Vacation and ready to finish off the year strong! We are still working hard through our Reading and Math series. The student's writing has exploded and they love to share their opinions, write informational reports, and compose animal folktales. We are currently exploring the lives of Organisms in Science and are looking forward to creating woodland and freshwater habitats in our classrooms. We will be creating aquariums to house female and male guppies, pond snails, Elodea, and Cabomba plants. We will also be creating terrariums to house millipedes, pill bugs, tree seedlings, and moss. The students always have so much fun playing with the millipedes before putting them in their habitats!

Our final field trip of the school year is to see a production of Junie B. Jones' Essential Survival Guide to School. This musical adventure is based on one of

Barbara Park's popular books, which are always a hit in our 1st grade classrooms! In this production, Junie B. shares her expertise and shows us all how school is sometimes scary... sometimes super fun...and always something to sing about. We are looking forward to this field trip!



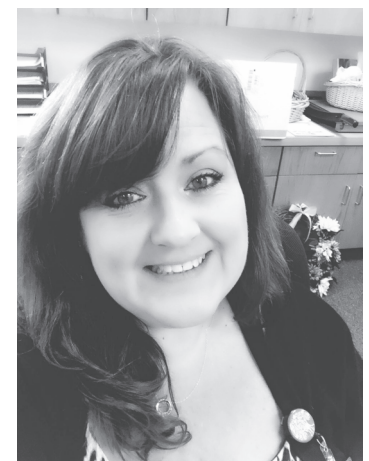
Essay Award Winners from the Favorite Public School District Survey



4th Grade Magnetism Projects

Clayton Elementary 2016/17 Education Support Specialist of the Year Mrs. Brenda Darrell

Congratulations to Mrs. Brenda Darrell for being selected as Clayton Elementary School's Education Support Professional of the Year for the 2016-2017 school year! Mrs. Darrell is a 1984 Smyrna High graduate and is proud to work in the same school district she attended. She has worked as the registration secretary at Clayton Elementary School for the past 15 years. Mrs. Darrell has been married to her husband Brian for 27 years and loves spending time with him and their two sons, Brian and Matt.



NORTH SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

North Smyrna Elementary 2016/17 Teacher of the Year Ms. Jessica Allabaugh



I fell in love with school at a very young age and teaching was always a dream of mine. I was born and raised in Smyrna and graduated as a Smyrna Eagle in 2005. Following high school, I began my bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education at the University of Delaware, where I minored in Leadership. Following U of D, I gained my master's degree in Special Education from Wilmington University. While receiving my master's, I started as a substitute teacher in the Smyrna School District and was then hired in the fall as a fourth grade teacher at Sunnyside Elementary. There I taught an amazing classroom of eager and intelligent students for three months before

stepping foot in my dream job as a preschool teacher.

I am incredibly grateful for the amazing six years I have enjoyed in early childhood so far. I am blessed beyond words to have met so many incredible families throughout my teaching career. I will always hold a special place in my heart for my students and I am never ashamed of the tears I shed on the last day of school. Yes, it is a moment of sadness, but also a great deal of pride as I know how far they have come and how much they will continue to succeed. It has been a wonderful experience having the opportunity to work with so many of the teachers who inspired me when I was young.

Outside of education, I have been happily married for six years. I am a very proud, loving, and as most would say, obsessed, aunt of four BEAUTIFUL and perfect children. Some of my interests include golfing, skiing, crafting, and almost anything Penn State. I have a 25 lb. temperamental cat and a very friendly bunny who's second home is my classroom.

I am very proud to represent North Smyrna Elementary and the Early Childhood Program. I thank everyone for their love and support through this memorable experience.

Rock Your Socks Day



In celebration of World Down Syndrome Day on, Monday, March 21, staff and students at North Elementary School wore their "crazy" socks. Two weeks prior to the event, socks sold for \$1 a pair and we sold close to 600 pairs of socks!!!

As quoted from the Down Syndrome Association's web page, World Down Syndrome Day was created to create a single global voice for advocating for the rights, inclusion and well-being of people with Down Syndrome in our school, community and around the world. March 21 was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which leads to Down syndrome.



**New in Smyrna School District
for 2016-2017
Kindergarten
Spanish Immersion
at North Smyrna Elementary**

**Registering Students Now!!
More Information on Page 15
Or Call 653-8589**

Ronald McDonald Visits North Smyrna PreK Classroom

Mrs. Allabaugh's 3-year-old Early Childhood class was visited by Ronald McDonald in recognition of raising the most money during the fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House. During Ronald McDonald's visit the children enjoyed watching Ronald juggle, ride his unicycle, and a snack that consisted of cheeseburgers and french fries.



North Smyrna and Smyrna Middle team up for Big Buddy Program

On February 5th, members from the Smyrna Middle School Junior National Honor Society walked

over to North Smyrna Elementary to "buddy up" with selected students from 2nd through 4th grade. Each member was teamed up with an elementary student for a "getting to know you session". Once the students were able to get acquainted with one another, they collaborated on designing sock snowman for which the elementary students were able to take home. It was a huge success leaving the younger students wondering when we can do it again! The plan is to have members from the Junior National Honor Society visit monthly for approximately 30 minutes to do teamwork activities and games. The goal of this program is to give elementary school students a positive role model to encourage confidence in academic and social school settings.



2016 School Calendar

April 26th	- In-service Day, school closed
April 27th	- 3rd Grade Field Trip to Philadelphia Zoo
May 9th	- Mid-Marking Period
May 11th	- Board Meeting, Central Office - 7 pm
May 13th	- Progress Reports Issued
May 18th	- 1st Grade Field Trip to Killen's Pond
May 24-25th	- 1st Grade Field Trip to Del. Recycling Center
May 27th	- Field Day
May 30th	- School Closed, Memorial Day
June 3rd	- ½ day, In-service - dismiss at 12:30 pm
June 6th	- ½ day, In-service - dismiss at 12:30 pm
June 7th	- Last Day of School, dismiss at 10:30 am

READ ACROSS AMERICA

With the careful coordination of Mrs. Noll and Mr. Sfamurri, baseball players and cheerleaders from Smyrna High School and football players from Wesley College volunteered their time at North Smyrna Elementary School on Thursday, March 3, 2016 for Read Across America Day. This day is celebrated nationally to honor Dr. Seuss' Birthday. Volunteers read aloud an array of Dr. Seuss books to students from Pre-K to fourth grade.



Essay Award Winners from the Favorite Public School District Survey

North Elementary 2016/17 Education Support Specialist of the Year Ms. Lori Scott



I began working for the Smyrna School District 13 years ago as a Paraprofessional in our Early Childhood Program. I found my passion in working with the students and helping them succeed and grow. Words cannot express how thankful I am for the wonderful and compassionate team I work with at North Smyrna Elementary.

I have been happily married to my husband for 31 years and raised two wonderful children that I am extremely proud of.

SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Smyrna Elementary 2016/17 Teacher of the Year Mrs. Candace Alexander



Mrs. Candace Alexander was selected by her peers to represent Smyrna Elementary as Teacher of the Year. This year marks Mrs. Alexander's tenth year of teaching at Smyrna Elementary School, nine of which have been in third grade. Mrs. Alexander explains that she loves teaching third grade because the students are still eager to learn, but also gain a lot of independence throughout the year.

Candace's colleagues describe her as a kind, creative, and sincere educator who

goes above and beyond to modify teaching methods based on student needs and personalities. When asked about working at Smyrna Elementary, Mrs. Alexander states, "I am honored to work here with such a supportive staff. The students and families here are awesome too. Smyrna Elementary is very special to me because I was once a student here myself."

When she is outside of school, Candace enjoys spending time with her husband, Keith, and two year old daughter, Breanne, reading, enjoying the outdoors, and relaxing at the beach. Smyrna Elementary is proud to have Mrs. Candace Alexander represent us as Teacher of the Year.

First Grade Supports the SPCA



The First Grade classes at SES will be hosting a special furry guest from the SPCA, (along with his handler). They will be learning about animal shelters in Delaware and how they can help. After the visit,

each class will be compiling a list of donations that they would like to collect for the SPCA. Classes will then work to gather and deliver these items for the animals in need.



Second grade students from SES gathered food and clothing to donate to Code Purple during the months of December, January, and February.

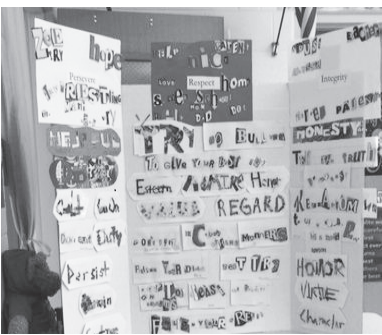


Smyrna Elementary 4th graders participated in anti-bullying week. Tangled Tuesday was a crazy hair day in support of not getting tangled up with bullies.



Essay Award Winners from the Favorite Public School District Survey

3rd Graders Learn About Recycling



In February, the students at Smyrna Elementary visited The DSWA Facility in Wilmington. Students had a blast learning about recycling. They had the opportunity to tour the center where trash and recyclables are sorted. After seeing where these materials were sorted, students were able to work together and sort recyclable items on a conveyer belt. Our students loved the hands on activities that they were exposed to during this trip. This trip inspired students to create a display for "I Love Smyrna School District" day. They created words related to our district core values out of recycled boxes.



Keeping it Cool in Kindergarten

We have enjoyed a great year, thus far, in Kindergarten. We had a fun start to the beginning of the 2016 New Year. January was a time for re-acclimating ourselves to the school routine after being off for two weeks over Winter break. We learned about and celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and how we should judge people by the content of their hearts not by their appearance. In February, we celebrated the 100th day and 101st days of school. On our 100th day, we completed many math activities which involved counting to 100 by tens and ones. On the 101st day, our students wore spotted shirts we made in class and pretended to be 101 dalmatians. March was a month filled with leprechauns, Smyrna Pride and Easter bunnies. We had a blast dressing up for our Anti-bullying Spirit Week to show our support against bullying. We also enjoyed hunting for all the eggs our parents so generously supplied! Looking ahead to the end of the school year, we will celebrate Earth Day by cleaning up and beautifying our school, we will learn about embryology and hatch chicks in our classroom, we will begin collecting books as our grade level service project to donate to new babies born at Kent General and much, MUCH more!

THE SUN WILL COME OUT



Smyrna Elementary School's 3rd and 4th Grade Chorus presents its production of Annie KIDS beginning May 12, 2016. Smyrna Elementary Chorus students, who all have different strengths and

interests, have worked together to offer their own unique interpretation of this musical to the community. Smyrna Elementary Chorus will present Annie KIDS at three separate show times. For more information, please go to <http://ses.smyrna.k12.de.us> and click on Mrs. Kelly Evans' web-page.

Show times are as follows:
Thu, May 12th at 7:00 P.M.
Fri, May 13th at 2:00 P.M.
Sat, May 14th at 2:00 P.M.



Spread the Word to End the Word!!



SES Staff and students pledged to show respect to everyone as they signed the "Spread the Word to End the Word" banner on March 2, 2016 in support of Special Olympics, Cool Schools program.

"Rock Your Socks"

In celebration of World Down Syndrome Awareness Day.

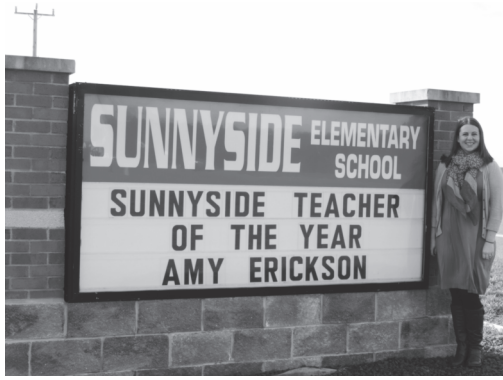


SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sunnyside Elementary 2016/17 Teacher of the Year

Ms. Amy Erickson

Sunnyside Elementary is proud to be represented by one of our exceptional fourth grade educators, Mrs. Amy Erickson. Mrs. Erickson graduated from University of Delaware with a degree in Elementary Education dually certified in Special Education in 2011. She just recently graduated from Wilmington University with a Masters degree in School Counseling.



Mrs. Erickson has worked at Sunnyside Elementary since her graduation as an undergraduate. She is the team leader and PLC manager for the fourth grade team. Recently, she spearheaded the campaign to departmentalize fourth grade and notes her team sees tremendous growth and maturity in her students as they have more personal responsibility and need for time management skills.

Amy is one of those teachers everyone enjoys working with. She always has a "can do" attitude and is willing to give up her own personal time to volunteer at school events such as the Fall Festival, Title One Game Night and the PTO Quarter Auction.

Sunnyside couldn't be luckier to have such an exceptional person and teacher on staff. We wish Mrs. Erickson the best as she competes for the Smyrna School District Teacher of the Year!



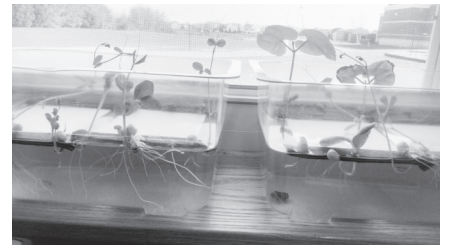
Essay Award Winners from the Favorite Public School District Survey

Kindergarteners Blossom

April showers are bringing Kindergarten flowers here at Sunnyside! We have had one busy winter! We celebrated the 100th Day of School, the 101st Day, and Valentine's Day. We are looking forward to a busy, fun-filled Spring as well! Before Spring Break, we celebrated Spring with a Luau themed party and an egg hunt. In April, we took advantage of the windy weather, by flying kites with our families! We have been busy, blossoming into First Graders!

4th Graders Learn Plant LifeCycle

Over the last several weeks, Sunnyside's fourth graders have been working collaboratively on our Structures of Life Science unit. In this unit, students are exposed to the life cycle of plants and crustaceans. We have taken four types of seeds and introduced hydroponics to grow the seeds without soil. Hydroponics is a way to grow plants in nutrient rich water when soil is unavailable. The plants are continuing to grow at a fast rate and the students are fascinated with how the plants bloom from such a small seed! Our new classroom pets, crayfish also known as crawdaddies, have made quite the splash during our science class. Students have learned while observing the crayfish about their anatomy and how they behave. We have all really enjoyed these hands-on activities to learn about life cycles and taking care of classroom pets!



Spring into Music!

The Sunnyside Music department is busy planning for our Spring Concert and Community Performances!! Please come join us on Thursday, April 28 at 7pm for our Spring Musical. This year, we have moved to the Smyrna High School Auditorium to accommodate our supportive Sunnyside families!! The students are

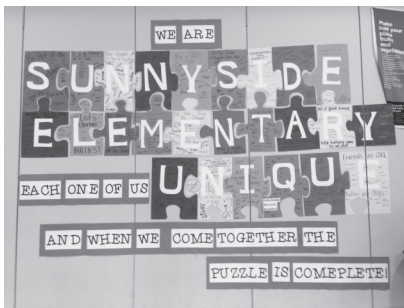
very excited to appear on the BIG STAGE!

Our first grade students will be performing "Music All Over Me" followed by our third and fourth grade Chorus who will perform a variety of songs that everyone will enjoy!

In May, our Fourth Grade Chorus will be performing "America The Beautiful" for a Blue Rocks game. We are so excited!

Sunnyside Anti-Bullying Week

Sunnyside Elementary students and staff participated in our district-wide Anti-Bullying Week. We had a fun filled week that focused on being unique. Our school slogan was "We are Sunnyside Elementary each one of us UNIQUE and when we come together the puzzle is complete". Each class signed a puzzle piece and we made a puzzle displaying our anti-bullying classroom slogans. Each day the students participated in activities focusing on Bullying Prevention. We created a compassion chain and all the students were given opportunities to write down acts of kindness throughout the week. We had "The Brain Show" assembly where the student participated in an action filled game show while learning about Bullying Prevention in School. Sunnyside Elementary always encourages our students to go above and beyond to demonstrate acts of kindness.



3rd Grade Researches Endangered Animals

The third grade students at Sunnyside have been busy researching endangered animals. Through the use

of Chromebooks and Google Classroom, they gathered information regarding conservation statuses, diets, habitats, and ways to help these animals. Once the research was complete, students organized this information into a five paragraph explanatory essay. Not only did the students learn from one another, the teachers learned some interesting facts as well!



Sunnyside Family Game Night



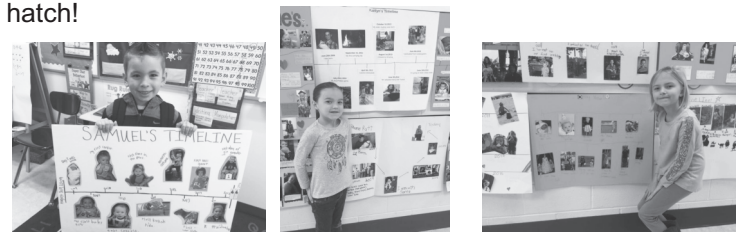
On March 2, Sunnyside Elementary families came out to our Math and Literacy Family Game Night! We celebrated reading and math by playing lots of fun educational games. Students and parents were having fun and discovering games that they can play to encourage good, fun learning. Parents were given resources to help support their child at home(materials were age/grade level

appropriate), information regarding the Common Core State Standards, and a pamphlet with reading or math specific games to utilize at home for further support. Every child who attended the event was given a free item(s) to take home (flash cards, books, pencils, erasers, games, etc.).

1st Graders Share Their Personal Timelines

First graders at Sunnyside have been working hard in Social Studies! In our history unit, we learned all about history and changes over time. Students each created their own personal timelines! It was so fun to see how much each child has grown and changed!

Coming up in science, we will be exploring and learning about plants and animals in our organisms unit. We will plant seeds, observe fish and insects and even watch baby chicks hatch!



Sunnyside Elementary 2016/17 Education Support Specialist of the Year Mr. Ron Craig



Ron Craig has been a paraprofessional in the Smyrna School District for nearly five years. Working in schools is a second career for Mr. Craig. He spent 35 plus years in the business world working in a quiet office crunching numbers and filing rate cases with the federal government. Though he had no idea what awaited him after retirement, he quickly discovered his calling, working with kids and not knowing what is coming next! Currently he is a para that works with students which

move in and out of the Level B special education setting throughout the school day. He is assigned to two students as a one-on-two but has also accepted the responsibility of three other students who travel with him from class to class. His patient and calm personality has enabled the students he works with to excel in all areas of the school. He is always willing to help out whenever necessary regardless of which student/teacher needs help. One teacher remarked that she has personally witnessed two students not be able to make it through one class period unsupported, in the past, move towards excellence in that same class with Mr. Craig's help. Ron's ability to see the positive in every student is greatly appreciated and commended. Mr. Craig shows an interest in every student with whom he works across all subject areas. His level of commitment extends beyond students to parents, as well as, staff. He continually supports the students emotional, social, and cognitive development with a warmth and compassion that is beyond expectations. Ron is truly an asset to the educational environment at Sunnyside.

CLAYTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Clayton Intermediate 2016/17 Teacher of the Year Mrs. Jacqueline Yerkes



Mrs. Yerkes is a native of Philadelphia and moved to Clayton, DE in March of 2006. She has been married to Timothy for 23 years, and they have two beautiful children. After moving around with the U.S. Army, Mr. and Mrs. Yerkes decided that Smyrna School District was the place they wanted their children to be. Nathan is a senior and Meghan is a junior, both at Smyrna High School.

Mrs. Yerkes attended the Art Institute of Philadelphia and worked for 15 years at various newspaper firms as a graphic artist, including the Stars and Stripes military paper. After volunteering in her children's classrooms, she decided that teaching was what she wanted to do next and was hired as a paraprofessional at JBM in Smyrna. She attended Wilmington University and graduated in 2011 with an Elementary Education degree; then thought, "I'm too old and having too much fun to quit now," and continued on to obtain a Masters in Gifted and Talented Education Degree in 2013. She is also certified to teach special education and art. Mrs. Yerkes is currently teaching math and science at Clayton Intermediate, where she also serves as the Smyrna Pride Leader and a New Teacher Mentor. Mrs. Yerkes enjoys fishing, reading, relaxing on the beach with her children, and walking with her husband and dog, Sadie.

CIS Chorus Performed at Board Meeting

At the March Smyrna School District monthly School Board meeting, the dedicated members of the Clayton Intermediate School Chorus proudly displayed their musical talents before our District School Board, administrators, and assembled parents. Student Council members of the chorus first led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the chorus singing our National Anthem and ending with the Smyrna High School Alma Mater.

The chorus is very grateful for the continued support of Mrs. Wicks, our School Board, Mr. Paltrineri, Mrs. McNatt and the staff of Clayton Intermediate School and we look forward to sharing our efforts in our April 21 Spring Chorus Concert, at 7pm, in the CIS Cafetorium.



CIS Dance Team

This is the 3rd year for the CIS Dance Team. The team consists of girls and boys in 5th and 6th grade. The students meet once a week after school to learn and practice their dances. They perform at lunches every other month. April 28 will be the last performance for this school year.

The students also performed at "I Love Smyrna School District" day in February. They had a fantastic performance. The spring team consists of the following students: Tyree Archer, Michelle Barksdale, Paige Birchfield, Lorenzo Bishop, Arnesa Chery, Kaitlyn Collins, Danielle Conn, Kylee Fellows, Kylie Finfinger, Laila Gilliam, Amari Grant, Kylee Hershberger, Kaitlyn Heverin, Hope Hopkins, Dayja Hughes-Wilson, Kayci Kosky, Emilee Lewis, Diana Perez, and Zariah Russell.

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the fall and spring dance team.

St. Patty's Day Dance

The St. Patty's Day Dance was amazing. Approximately 150 students attended. There was a lot of dancing and many games provided opportunities to win prizes. In addition, a basket was raffled off to raise money for Relay For Life. The dance was held on March 11 from 5pm-7pm in the CIS cafeteria. Staff and students had an amazing time!



CIS Basketball Tournament



On Thursday, January 21, 60 CIS students competed in the first annual Clayton Intermediate School Basketball Tournament. Twelve total teams competed in ten minute games throughout the evening. As the night went on, our students battled their way through stiff competition. In the end, five students stood as champions; Jordan Frank, Kevin Woodruff, Alexia Inhoff, Naytan Guma, and Tre Pierce. The following day, the first and second place teams joined together to take on the CIS teacher team in the Winter Classic. This Smyrna Pride event was held in the gymnasium for the entire school to see. Both events were considered a great success and will return in the 2016/2017 school year.



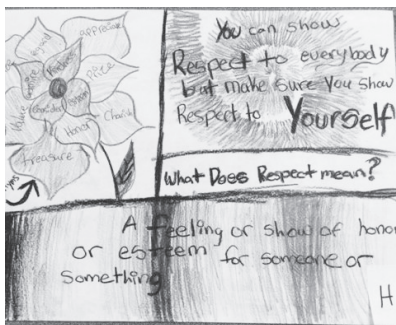
Essay Award Winners from the Favorite Public School District Survey

CIS 2nd Annual Dodgeball Tournament



CIS held the 2nd annual Dodgeball Tournament on February 25. It was a huge success - this year we added four teams due to the high interest of our students, which allowed 21 teams and 210 students to participate in this event. The bleachers were packed with fans cheering on their favorite team. The event was double elimination, guaranteeing at least two games per team. The teacher team took on several student teams and lost in the consolation rounds causing the crowd to go wild! Congratulations to our winning Dodgeball teams: First place was the All American team, second place was the Avengers, and third place was the Average Joe's.

RESPECT POSTERS



2nd Place - Kristin Keister (CIS)



3rd Place - Jade Hendricks (CIS)

Geography Bee

On January 15, the top ten Geography Bee finalists competed against one another for 1st place in the National Geography Bee. The field of competition started with about 490 students to 30. The 30 finalists were then narrowed down to ten students in the preliminary round to the final three finalists. The winner of the National Geographic Bee was declared after a close finish.

The ten finalists included (left to right in the front row) Isabel Wilson, Leandro Villanueva, Kelsey Morris, (middle row) Rebecca King, Shaun Atkinson, Liam Meginniss, (top row) Nick Richardson, Kenny McDade, Bradley Evans, and Michael Blair.

Michael Blair was the third place winner, followed by Isabel Wilson, the second place winner during the competition. Kenny McDade triumphed by answering the most questions correct to receive the gold medal for first place.

He will be qualifying to compete against the winners from other schools in the state of Delaware at the state level Geography Bee on Friday, April 1, 2016 at the Alfred G. Waters Middle School in Middletown.

Great job to Kenny and the other finalists! We are proud to have you represent the Smyrna School District.



JOHN BASSETT MOORE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

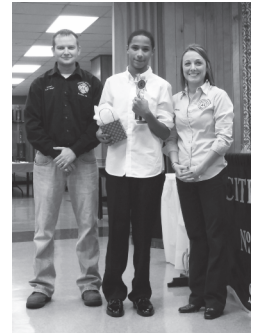
John Bassett Moore Intermediate 2016/17 Teacher of the Year

Mr. Ryan Matthews

Ryan Matthews is a fifth grade language arts and social studies teacher at JBM Intermediate School. He is currently in his seventh year of teaching. Ryan received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Delaware in Elementary, Middle School English, and Special Education in 2009. He has also earned a Master's Degree in Special Education and is currently working on his Autism Certification. He has



served as the ELA Department Head for the past two years, serves on the PBS committee, played for the bowling team, and acted in the Teacher Talent Show. In addition, Ryan has demonstrated his excellence as a cheerleader to the entire Smyrna School District staff during one "End of the Year" luncheon. He also spends time tutoring students after school, serving as a homebound educator, and working for the Summer Learning Academy as a kindergarten-3rd grade teacher for the Comprehensive Learning Program. Ryan loves working in and for the Smyrna School District. In addition to teaching, Ryan has worked as a basketball coach for the Boys and Girls Club and DJing local events for his school and the community such as a Daddy-Daughter dance and the Winter Harvest Festival put on by Special Services. He even married a Smyrna High School graduate, Emily Matthews. They welcomed their first son, Liam, in February and can't wait for him to be a Smyrna Eagle one day too. In addition to his family, Ryan enjoys reading, writing, playing and watching basketball, and The Walking Dead.



Devonte' Garnett receives 1st at local and County Level and 2nd at State Level for Annual Fire Prevention Essay/Poster Contest



JBM Band and Chorus

JBM Band and Chorus members are excitedly getting ready for their spring performances! The JBM Chorus Spring Concert is Wednesday, April 27 at 7pm. The JBM Fifth Grade Beginning Band and Sixth Grade Concert Band will share the evening of May 20 for their performances, with the Beginning Band performing at 6:30pm and the Sixth Grade Band performing at 7:30pm. Save the Dates!

JBM March Madness

During the month of March, students at JBM participated in their own March Madness! During lunches, student representatives from each homeroom competed against one another to earn points for their homeroom. Students raced on scooters, ate dangling donuts, had a basket toss, a relay race and a hula hoop contest. The messiest of all is the bubble blowing contest where students had to find a piece of gum hidden in whipped cream and use it to blow a bubble. The winning homerooms were Mrs. Knotts, Mrs. Tobey, Mr. Matthews, and Mr. Christiano, all of whom were awarded Rita's Water Ice!

JBM Team Dynamite



Congratulations to the JBM Odyssey of the Mind team. Team dynamite won second place in their Odyssey of the Mind

tournament held on March 5, 2016. The children placed second in a category that had 13 schools from the ocean region of our state. The children performed exceptionally well. They will be moving onto the state competition on April 9, 2016. We are very proud of our young OM'ers and look forward to them doing well at the state tournament. Pictured left to right: Nathan Merrill, Alex Avila, Elyse Baerga, Lily Griffiths, Patrick Crutchfield and Pam Denny-Griffiths.

JBM Intermediate Annual Spelling Bee



L-R: Nathaniel Louis-Pierre, Donovan Clark, Kyle Sutter

JBM Intermediate School held our annual JBM Spelling Bee on Friday, February 12, 2016 in the JBM Library. Our Champion was 6th Grader, Nathaniel Louis-Pierre. 2nd Place was 5th Grader, Donovan Clark. 3rd Place was 6th Grader, Kyle Sutter. Our JBM Champion will not be able to participate in the State Level Spelling Bee, therefore, Donovan Clark, represented JBM at the Delaware State Spelling Bee on March 5, 2016. The event was held in the Anna Graham Theater at Saint Mark's High School.

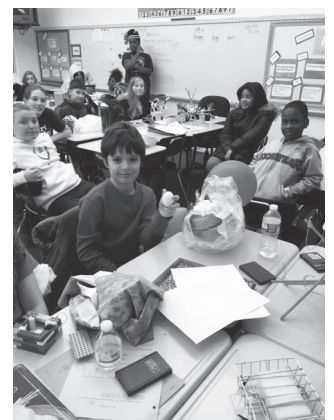


Essay Award Winners from the Favorite Public School District Survey

6th Grade Egg Drop

As a summative assignment for the 6th Grade Forces and Motion Unit, the Sixth Grade students at John Bassett Moore Intermediate participated in an egg drop on Friday, February 12, 2016. Students had several weeks to design and build a contraption that would hold and protect an egg from breakage after being dropped out of the second story window. All of the designing and building of egg drop contraptions was completed at home. Prior to the drop, students hypothesized which devices would or would not protect the egg. Egg drop contraptions were then dropped from a second story window as classes observed.

During each drop, students recorded the time that it took for their project to fall from the window to the ground. Upon returning to their classrooms, students examined the success of their project by checking their egg for cracks. Students then determined the speed at which their project fell. Students compared the design of their projects with the falling speed and the success of keeping their egg safe. Student's excitement and engagement were obvious throughout the drop and could be observed by listening to their intense conversations surrounding each project.



Art Poster Contest

John Bassett Moore's 5th and 6th grade students participated in the 2015 National Association of Conservation Districts Conservation Poster Contest during their art classes. This year's theme was "Local Heroes-Your Hardworking Pollinators"



L-R, Kenzey Curran-2nd, Ocean Elswick-3rd, Felicia Alexander-1st

Posters were judged on conservation messages, artistic originality, and visual effectiveness.

JBM 2016/17 Education Support Specialist of the Year Ms. Cathy Austin

Cathy Austin was named JBM's ESP for the school year 2015-16. Cathy has lived in Smyrna for ten years and she has worked for the Smyrna School District seven years. She enjoys coming to work with a great staff at JBM. When she is not working she enjoys being with her family and friends and traveling.



JBM Pep Rally/Positive Energy Week

#EAGLEUP! JBM had such an amazing beginning to the month of



March. Smyrna Pride treated students to a Pep Rally to positively motivate our students for their Smarter Balance Testing and to kick off our JBM's Positive Energy Week/(Anti-Bullying Week). The students' enthusiasm and spirits were pumped high by our special guests from Smyrna High School. We had the pleasure of the National Anthem being presented by the Color Guard escorted by Col. Heterly, Mr. Josh Palmer directing the Drum Line, Mrs. Whitney Reed and Mr. Michael Shaner with the Eagle Mascot, Cheerleaders and

Dancers. Our very own Miss Davis designed and created with the students in art class, spirited hats in red and white along with the red and white bulletin board that hailed the Spirit Stick! Students competed in Red against White in "Minute-to-Win-It" activities such as Balloon Relay with Red/White, Wrap the Teacher and Basketball competition, were entertained/ humored by the teachers dancing to "Bet You Can't Do It Like Me Challenge" Flash Mob, cheering for the teacher/high school tug-of-war and viewing a video to inspire by Kid President. Mr. Starkey lifted students' spirit even higher as he hovered around the gym getting the students to chant and cheer. JBM's gym roared with excitement! A great time was had by all! While the spirit was contagious and very motivating, the white team rocked it just a bit ahead of the red team to come out as our Spirit Stick Winners! We kept the energy going that we

ignited from the Pep Rally with JBM's Positive Energy Week. In the beginning of the week, students took a pledge to do their best and be positive while dressing up in "Superhero" themed clothing. Next they "doubled" their positive energy with friends and teachers dressing alike on Twin Day, with teachers wearing their B+ shirt. Then on Wednesday students shined bright with their positivity by wearing neon colors. Thursday was "Mix and Match Day" because when mixed together - everyone has positive energy and finally, students with "Red and White Unite Day" had a special message from "Impact" an energetic assembly bringing a very positive message. Along with all this, the cafeteria provided a delicious ice cream treat to all the students. While all of the fantastic moments may be over, the positive spirit, energy, and enthusiasm continue on as JBM believes in our students.

I Love Smyrna -- Center Spread

I Love Smyrna -- Center Spread

SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Smyrna Middle School 2016/17 Teacher of the Year Ms. Jennifer McCutchan



Mrs. McCutchan is a graduate of the University of Delaware and is in her 17th year of teaching, with nine of them here at Smyrna Middle School. Mrs. McCutchan is a member of the community and she shared that "It is an honor to get work with our young talented musicians each day and have the opportunity to unlock their musical potential. I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to work with such outstanding and supportive staff members and administrators here at Smyrna Middle School."

SMS Jobs for Delaware Graduates Hold Ceremony

The Jobs for Delaware Graduates K.E.Y.S. Student Organization held their Annual Initiation and Installation Ceremony on December 18, 2015. K.E.Y.S. Student Organization's officers including President Kaylah Briscoe, Vice-President Ja'Nae Sudler, Secretary Leah Hurns, and Treasurer Sunice Massaquoi hosted this prestigious event. Officers participated in the candle-lighting installation as the K.E.Y.S. leadership team and all members received their pins inducting them officially into the organization. In this year's theme, "Motivation to Move Forward", students shared stories, inspirational passages, and song.



SMS Concludes Black History Month with "Carrying on the Torch"



On February 25, SMS was treated to two great guest speakers with the theme of "carrying on the torch" as our next generation of productive citizens. Ms. Pat Edwards, a counselor from the DAFB spoke to the students about character, leadership, and carrying forward "that torch". Mrs. Barbara Wright, a 43 year veteran teacher here at SMS spoke to the entire student body about the experiences she endured during the days of segregated schools and she being one of the first African American girls to attend Smyrna High School.

SMS 2016/17 Education Support Specialist of the Year

Mr. Larry Koehler

Congratulations to Mr. Larry Koehler, a one-on-one paraprofessional here at Smyrna Middle School who has worked in the Smyrna School District for ten years as a substitute teacher and also a paraprofessional.



Science Field Day at SMS

One hundred and twenty students were selected to participate in the Science Field Day, which took place on March 24, during school hours. It was a fun day filled with activities and experiments.

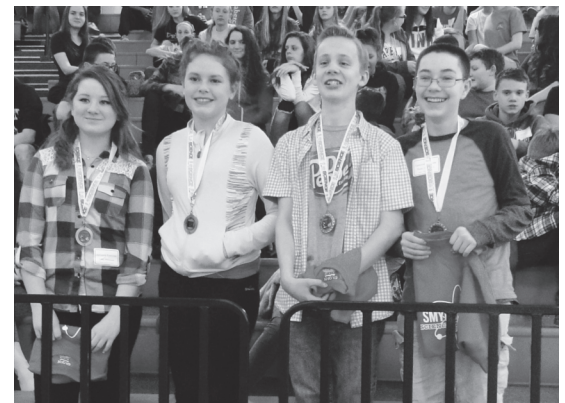
Sixty students from each grade participated. They were part of a four-person group. Their group included two students from 7th grade and two students from 8th grade. Each group participated in a friendly competition that involved seven different activities, trying to earn the most points. The event and the awards assembly was held in the gymnasium. The field day began at 8:45am and the awards assembly started a 1:00pm, where we announced the winners of the annual field day. It was an exciting and educational day!



The 2nd place winners are: L-R, Kayleigh Reed, David McKeown, Spencer Frawley, Ava Acton



The 1st place winners are: L-R, Jabria Carter, James Demezak, Zane Kerr, Hannah Osborne



The 3rd place winners are: L-R, Adrianna Kaminski, Tymber Mitchell, Jonathan Dean, Cameron Salzman

Well-Known Teen Author Visits

Over 250 students earned their way to meet author Priscilla Cummings on March 4 and hear one of her informational sessions by independently reading one of her books and passing an Accelerated Reader quiz. Students learned about the writing process, biographical background from the author, and how her story ideas come about (often times from real life experiences or things she has read about in the newspaper). Students also asked questions and got special insights from this great writing talent. This was an exciting opportunity for students rewarded for their reading.



Spelling Bee Champions Crowned

On February 12, 2016, SMS held its annual Spelling Bee. Among 40 competitors from each of the language arts classes, three students were crowned spelling bee runner up and champion. The champion will compete at the state level in March. Jon Justice (middle) was named SMS's Spelling Bee Champion, Sydney Harrison 2nd place, and Taylor Hinson 3rd place.



Geography Champions Crowned

On January 22, 2016, SMS held its annual Geography Bee. Among the 36 competitors, three students were crowned the top finishers in the bee, with the first place student qualifying for the state competition later in the school year.



Pictured (left to right) is Andrew Dunn, 1st place, Tristan Rybicki 2nd place, Logan Young and Jacob Roddy 3rd place.



SMS Spread the Word!

During a week in March, SMS students signed a pledge that is displayed in the school to "Spread the Word to End the Word." SMS worked in cooperation with SHS students who visited SMS during lunches to educate our students about kids with disabilities and use the District's core values to be kind to each other. The banner has over 800 student names on it along with the 80+ staff members. Way to go SMS!



SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL

Smyrna High School 2016/17 Teacher of the Year Ms. Jennifer Lindell



I knew when I was little that I wanted to be a teacher. It wasn't until middle school that I decided what type of teacher I wanted to be. My middle school field hockey coaches were both special education teachers and our team had students with disabilities that would always come to practice. I quickly learned that these students are some of the happiest children you will ever meet and they have such an absolute love for learning. When their faces light up, your heart just feels a little fuller. Since then I have worked diligently to become the best teacher that I can be. I have been teaching for 11 years. I spent my first three years teaching at Dover

High School and I have been teaching at Smyrna High School since 2008. I currently teach science 2 TAM, science 3 TAM, and anatomy and physiology. I previously taught basic math. I am currently the Class of 2016 Advisor, Letterman's Club Advisor, and the high school's Sportsmanship Chair. I coached softball from 2009 - 2012 and I coached field hockey from 2009 - 2015. I also help with girls/boys basketball and track and field by keeping score at all home contests. The following quote from an unknown author truly sums up my thoughts on teaching: "You laugh, you cry, and you work harder than you ever thought you could. Some days you're trying to change the world and some days you're just trying to make it through the day. Your wallet is empty, your heart is full, and your mind is packed with memories of kids who have changed your life. Just another day in the classroom."

Jay Davis Advocates Education in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Jay Davis, Agricultural Education teacher at Smyrna High School attended the National Policy Seminar, sponsored by the Association for Career & Technical Education in Arlington, Virginia on February 29 through March 2, 2016.

The event was designed for education professionals to gain insight on new educational law and policies related to the Every Student



Succeeds Act (ESSA), Carl D. Perkins Federal funding along with investments in workforce development. As a part of the seminar, over 400 attendees had the opportunity to visit with members and legislative liaisons on Capitol Hill to share success stories and request support for local CTE programming needs. Davis spoke with members from Senator Chris Coons and Thomas Carper's offices along with Representative John Carney's office about the current state and future trends of career & technical education. Davis was also able to exchange dialogue with Senator Carper, who had been a longtime supporter of CTE and the student leadership organization- FFA.

The Washington visit also allowed Davis to meet with curriculum officials from the JumpStart Coalition for Financial Literacy and Executive Director- Laura Levine.

"Whether you're involved in the Agriculture, Allied Health, Business, Consumer Sciences, or STEM pathways, Career & Technology Education is providing students with real world, hands-on learning opportunities that translate to the workforce and higher education, while impacting our local and state economy," said Davis about the 1200 students who are involved with Career & Technical Education at Smyrna High School.

Smyrna High School 2016/17 Education Support Specialist of the Year Mr. Keith Parker



Keith Parker has been working in the Smyrna School District and Smyrna High School going on five years. During that time he has worked a lot of wonderful events ranging from athletic sporting events, to band concerts, drama performances, and so on. Keith has expressed the pleasure of meeting a lot of great people that he

is proud to call his colleagues. Keith has been a diligent and dedicated employee of the Smyrna School District and Smyrna High School, and he is looking forward to more positive experiences that the future has to bring as a Smyrna Eagle.

SHS AFJROTC Cadets Take Flight!

Air Force Junior ROTC's mission is to "Develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community". In short, it can also be said that AFJROTC is a leadership and citizenship program. However, let us not forget the A in Air Force JROTC because aviation is the focus of our program at SHS!

This explains why 15 cadets recently got to experience flight in a small single-engine airplane and actually pilot a plane through the air over the Smyrna School District. Cadet Snow even remarked that she was learning to fly a plane before she even learned to drive a car! How cool is that?

This also explains why all of the cadets who enroll in the AFJROTC elective (listed as Aerospace Studies and Leadership in the school's course catalogue) study History of Aviation and the Science of Flight. Cadets who complete these two courses are also given the option of enrolling in the Aviation Ground School elective. This course is a FAA-approved formal education that takes students one step closer to earning their Private Pilot certificate.

AFJROTC's focus on aviation is also one reason why cadets are expanding the Model Rocketry Team, adding radio-controlled aircraft and a multi-copter to their after-school activities.



SHS Art Department



The Smyrna High School art students have been very productive this spring, creating works that have been entered in various local art contests. The first contest was held here at the high school, displaying the

work on our new hanging system in the auditorium lobby. Several of our Art Majors and AP students created portraits of SHS teachers. The portraits were voted on during lunches and Mary Lemma's portrait of Mr. Buchanan took the first place prize. The show has been on display for a few weeks and will be replaced with our Senior Art Show at the end of April.

Each year the Women's VFW of Clayton holds a Patriotic Art Contest, which we have participated in the past. This year, Jeffery Thomas, Jamal Pope, Allana Peck, and Autumn Hoffman have submitted pieces for this contest and we look forward to hearing how they did.

Lastly, several of our students have submitted works of art for the Holly Branch Art Contest at the Dover Public Library. We are still waiting to hear how our students did in this contest as well; however, their artwork will be on display in the library for the next few months. Please feel free to stop by the library to see the wonderful work that our students have done.



SMYRNA FFA PLACES AT 86TH ANNUAL DELAWARE FFA CONVENTION

By Erin Smallwood

The Smyrna FFA chapter attended and competed at the 86th Annual Delaware FFA State Convention held at Delaware State University in Dover, DE. Over 30 members attended the two day event on March 10 - 11, 2016.

The Smyrna FFA had a record breaking seven members qualify for their American FFA Degree, which is the highest degree of membership the FFA can give to its members. Smyrna High School graduates: Tyler Niblett, Tyler Hartsock, Sarah McHale, Ryan Harris, Gabrielle Virdin, Jared Zolper, and Jason Voss will attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana to receive this honor.

Seven members from the Smyrna FFA received their State Degrees, the third level of membership. Smyrna had the most recipients for the State Degree over any other high school in Delaware. These seven students included: Angela Haldas, Ashley Hurd, Samantha Jamison, Kayla Johnson, Cole Sebastianelli, Rebecca Wroten, and Meghan Yerkes.

State Proficiency Awards were won by seven students from Smyrna FFA to recognize achievement on S.A.E projects- each earning a \$250 award. Winners included: Samantha Jamison, Ag Education Placement; Ryan Harris, Agricultural Sales Placement; Allison Wheatley, Dairy Production; Gabby DiRusso, Diversified Ag Science Research; Dylan Wilson, Fiber & Oil Crop Production; Tyler Meixell, Landscaping Management; and Ryan Wheatley, Vegetable Production.

The Smyrna FFA chapter competed in seven Career Development Events (CDE's) including: Ag Sales, Creed & Public Speaking, Meat Evaluation, Floriculture, Dairy Products Evaluation, and Parliamentary Procedure.

Competition Results

1st Place Agricultural Sales Team (Members: Allison Wheatley, Gabby DiRusso, Meghan Yerkes and Derica Nyameke) Individual Results: Gabby DiRusso (1st), Allison Wheatley (2nd), Derica Nyameke (3rd) and Meghan Yerkes (6th)

2nd Place Parliamentary Procedure Team (Members: Cassidy Cook, George Class-Peters, Erin Smallwood, Jessica Bright, Wade Solloway and Trey Thompson)

2nd Place Meat Evaluation Team (Members: Anthony Baker, Justin Johnson, Kristophe Smith and Sierra DeBenedictis-Bayne) Individual Results: Justin Stafford (6th) and Anthony Baker (7th)

3rd Place Floriculture Team (Members: Kathryn Emerson, Erica Malloy, Marissa McClenton and Karla Pagan) Individual Results: Kathryn Emerson (2nd)

4th Place Job Interview: Ashley Hurd

**SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2016/17 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

AUGUST

August 22-26 Full day Inservice (All)
August 29 School Open for Students (K-9)
August 30 School Open for Students (10-12)

SEPTEMBER

September 1 School Open for Students
September 2 School Closed
September 5 Labor Day – School Closed
September 13 Primary Election – School Closed
September 29 Mid-marking Point

OCTOBER

October 11 Progress Reports Issued
October 14 Full day Inservice (All)
October 31 End of Marking Period

NOVEMBER

November 8 Election Day - School Closed
November 10 Report Cards Issued
November 11 Veterans' Day – School Closed
November 21 Full day Inservice (K-8) Parent Conferences
November 22 Full day Inservice (K-8) Parent Conferences
November 23-25 Thanksgiving – School Closed

DECEMBER

December 9 Mid-marking Point
December 19 Progress Reports Issued
Dec. 22-Jan. 2 Winter Vacation – School Closed

JANUARY

January 3 School Reopens
January 16 Martin Luther King Day – School Closed
January 18-20 1/2 day Inservice (Grades 9-12) Exams
January 20 End of Marking Period
January 23 Full day Inservice

FEBRUARY

February 1 Report Cards Issued
February 20 Presidents' Day – School Closed
February 23 Mid-marking Point
February 24 Full day Inservice (All)

MARCH

March 3 Progress Reports Issued
March 24 Full day Inservice (All)
March 29 End of Marking Period

APRIL

April 10 Report Cards Issued
April 14-21 Spring Break
April 24 School Reopens

MAY

May 5 Mid-marking Point
May 16 Progress Reports Issued
May 19 Last Senior Day
May 29 Memorial Day – School Closed

JUNE

June 8-9, 12 1/2 day Inservice (9-12)
June 9, 12 1/2 day Inservice (K-8)
June 13 Last Pupil Day
June 14 Last Teacher Day

The calendar is based on legislation requiring students to attend school 1060 hours (grades K-11), and 1032 hours (grade 12) - with no minimum number of days. The extra hours for students can be banked for inclement weather; however, teachers will have to make up inclement weather days in order to reach the 188 teacher days required by law. Any inclement weather days will be made up by staff immediately following the last teacher day.

Approved by the Board of Education, March 16, 2016



NOTICE OF FERPA RIGHTS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age the following rights:

Inspection

You may inspect the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access. You should submit to the Principal a written request identifying the record(s) you wish to inspect. The Principal will notify you of the time and place of inspection.

Amendment

If you believe education records are inaccurate, you may request the records be amended. Such a request must be in writing, and directed to the Principal. The request must identify the part of the record you want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the District denies your request, the District will notify you of the decision, advise of the right to a hearing, and provide the hearing procedures.

Consent

You have the right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception

permits disclosure without consent to school officials with legitimate educational interests. School officials include District employees, Board members, a person or company retained by the District to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist), or a parent or student serving on a committee or assisting another school official. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the District will disclose education records without consent to officials of another district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

Complaint

You may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

**LEAD 360 -
JEFFERSON AWARD**

The Smyrna School District applied for an award entitled "Lead 360 – Jefferson Award". This award demonstrates all the outstanding aspects that build the foundation for a successful education. On April 6, at an awards ceremony at the Smyrna Opera House we were honored to be selected as a finalist in the category for "Outstanding Student Led Service Project with the Lead 360 Challenge". This award is to honor our school district's work with the Ronald McDonald Fundraiser organized by the districtwide ide Smyrna Pride Committee. The Ronald McDonald House project unifies our school district and community by working toward raising money and opening our hearts to children and families in need of a safe and comfortable place to stay. The impact of our project demonstrates just how much our school district and community work together to raise awareness of the importance in helping others and promoting our community core values. The administration, teachers, support staff and students perseverance has helped us to reach and exceed our goal and expectations for this local and worthy cause. On April 18, Debbie Wicks, Angela Socorso, Aerin Donovan, Erin Murphy, Jenna Donovan, Shawn Atkinson, and Shauna Waltz will be representing the Smyrna school District at the state Jefferson Awards ceremony at the DuPont Hotel.

**SHS National Honor Society
Community Service**



The Smyrna High School National Honor Society has been working on multiple spring projects brainstormed and organized by our student officers. Throughout the month of March, NHS collected books and toys for Nemours/A. I. DuPont Hospital for Children and items for the Delaware Hospital for the Chronically Ill. Over Spring Break, members worked with Habitat for Humanity in Dover to build a home for a local family. During the month of April, NHS is collecting canned foods for local food banks in the Smyrna-Clayton community and helping the Student Government Association to clean up Duck Creek Parkway. The students will be collecting items to send overseas to our troops in the month of May.

RESPECT Poster Contest



1st Place Winner Lindsey Roscoe receives her award, with Angela Socorso and Crystal Sweeney

We are pleased to announce that RESPECT is alive and well in the Smyrna School District! Clayton Elementary 2nd grade student, Lindsey Roscoe, clearly exemplifies this in her message:

**In my class, I will always respect my teacher by listening.
I show respect for people in the library by being quiet.
I show respect for my country by crossing my heart whenever I see an American flag.
I respect people who are different looking from me...inside we are all the same.**

The Smyrna Pride Committee sponsored a RESPECT poster contest to celebrate this year's community core value. Many students district-wide participated in the contest and winners were awarded prizes. At the district level, three students received top honors. With the help of Central Office staff, the three students selected were as follows:

- 1st place: Lindsay Roscoe – Clayton Elementary Grade 2
 - 2nd place: Kristen Keister – Clayton Intermediate Grade 5
 - 3rd place: Jade Hendricks – Clayton Intermediate Grade 5
- Their posters can be seen on the individual school pages 2 and 6.

Posters were also displayed at the Smyrna Pride table during the "I Love Smyrna School District" day held on February, 27, 2016. They are now on display in the main hallway at Central Office. Great job to all participants!

Smyrna Eagles Basketball Camp Set

Smyrna Eagles Basketball Camp



Smyrna High School will be hosting a basketball camp for boys entering grades 3 through 8 on June 27 to June 30 (Monday-Thursday) from 9:00am-3:00pm. The camp will consist of daily skill development,

game strategy and tactics, as well as team basketball principles.

With the help of Coach Mears' high school basketball staff and returning players, campers will be coached the game of basketball with a 5 player to 1 coach ratio. Our campers will be exposed to four days of basketball fun.

For the camp brochure and more information email Andrew.Mears@smyrna.k12.de.us.

A PARENT'S RIGHT TO KNOW

Under the **No Child Left Behind Act** a parent has the right to know the following information:

- » The qualifications of the school staff providing instruction to their child.
 - » Their child's level of achievement in each state academic assessment.
 - » Whether their child has been assigned to or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher of a core academic subject who is not highly qualified.
- Upon the parents request the school is to provide the following information:
- » Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
 - » Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
 - » The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any graduate certification or degree held by the teacher and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
 - » Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and if so their qualifications.

tain information about your child's classroom teachers, and requires us to give you the information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- » Whether the Delaware Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- » Whether the Delaware Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- » The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- » Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide Title I services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

A website has been setup for you to obtain this information at: <http://deeds.doe.k12.de.us> You may access this information by going to this website and click "Parents/General Public" on the left-hand side of your computer screen. Click "Search" for an employed Delaware public / charter school educator." Enter the last name of your child's teacher and click "search." Click the "profile" link after your child's teacher's name. You will find the teacher's certification under "credentials" and college major under "qualification."

If you are unable to obtain the necessary information, you may call you child's principal for this information, or our Personnel Office at (302) 653-8585.

The following letter will provide details on how parents may easily access information regarding their child's teacher(s).

Dear Parent:

As a parent of a student in the Smyrna School District you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for cer-

TITLE 14 EDUCATION DELAWARE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

200 Administration and Operations 258 Federal Programs General Complaint Procedures*

1.0 Programs Covered by the Complaint Process

This complaint process shall apply to the following programs: Title I Part A Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Education Agencies; Title I Part B-1 Reading First; Title I Part B-2 Early Reading First; Title I Part B-3 William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program; Title I Part C Education of Migratory Children; Title I Part D Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who are Neglected, Delinquent, or at Risk; Title I Part F Comprehensive School Reform; Title I Part G Advanced Placement; Title II Part A Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund, Grants to States; Title II Part A-5-2151(B) School Leadership; Title II Part D 1 and 2 Enhancing Education Through Technology; Title III Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students; Title IV Part A Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities; Title IV Part B 21st Century Community Learning Centers; Title V Part A Innovative Programs and Title V Part B-1 Public Charter Schools.

2 DE Reg. 217 (8/1/98)
7 De Reg. 161 (8/1/03)

2.0 Right to File a Complaint

An organization or an individual may file a complaint regarding an alleged violation of Federal Program Statutes or regulations by the Delaware Department of Education or the Local Education Agency. For purposes of this regulation, a Local Education Agency shall also include charter schools. A written and signed complaint shall be filed with the Delaware Department of Education.

- 2.1 The complaint shall include a statement specifying the alleged violation by the State Education Agency or a Local Education Agency. Such statement shall include facts and documentation of the alleged violation.
- 2.2 The Delaware Department of Education shall investigate the complaint and issue a written report including findings of fact and a decision to the parties included in the complaint within sixty (60) working days of the receipt of the complaint. An extension of the time limit may be made by the Delaware Department of Education only if exceptional circumstances exist with respect to a particular complaint.
- 2.3 The Delaware Department of Education may conduct an independent onsite investigation of the complaint, if it is determined that an on site investigation is necessary.
- 2.4 The complaint shall allege a violation that occurred not more than one (1) year prior to the date that the complaint is received.

2 DE Reg. 217 (8/1/98)
7 De Reg. 161 (8/1/03)
12 DE Reg. 208 (08/01/08)

3.0 Complaint Made to the Local Education Agency

An organization or an individual is encouraged to file a written, signed complaint with the Local Education Agency, prior to submission of the complaint to the Delaware Department of Education, concerning an alleged violation by the Local Education Agency of a Federal statute or regulation that applies to the Local Education Agency's program.

- 3.1 The complaint shall include a statement specifying the alleged violation by the Local Education Agency. Such statement shall include facts and documentation of the alleged violation.
- 3.2 The superintendent or the agency head of the Local Education Agency shall investigate the complaint and issue a written report including findings of fact and a decision to the parties involved in the complaint within sixty (60) working days of the receipt of the complaint,

TITLE 14 EDUCATION DELAWARE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

- 3.3 An appeal of the Local Education Agency decision may be made by the complainant to the Delaware Department of Education. The appeal shall be in writing and signed by the individual or by an individual representative of the organization making the appeal. The Delaware Department of Education shall resolve the appeal in the same manner as a complaint, as indicated in 2.0.

2 DE Reg. 217 (8/1/98)
7 De Reg. 161 (8/1/03)
12 DE Reg. 208 (08/01/08)

4.0 Review of Final Decision by the U.S. Department of Education

Any party to the complaint has the right to request that the Secretary, U. S. Department of Education, review the final decision of the Delaware Department of Education. The request for an appeal of the decision to the Secretary, U. S. Department of Education, shall be made in writing to the Delaware Department of Education within sixty days of the receipt of the decision.

2 DE Reg. 217 (8/1/98)

5.0 Complaints and appeals to the Delaware Department of Education shall be mailed to the following address:

Secretary of Education
Delaware Department of Education
401 Federal Street Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901-3639

*IDEA Part B, as amended, has other specific remedies and procedural safeguards specified under Section 615 of the Act to protect students with disabilities. See 14 **DE Admin. Code** 923 Children with Disabilities Subpart B General Duties and Eligibility of Agencies.

2 DE Reg. 217 (8/1/98)
7 De Reg. 161 (8/1/03)
12 DE Reg. 208 (08/01/08)

TITLE I NOTIFICATIONS

In the Smyrna School District, the faculty of each elementary school is committed to providing a quality education for all students and recognizes the essential role of parents and the value of their input. We believe a partnership must exist and we strive to promote communication and participation of parents in the education of children. To learn about ways that you can be involved in your child's education, please visit the Title I portion of our website and read through the Parent Involvement information. You may find this information at:

http://www.smyrna.k12.de.us/specialservices/title_1

Dr. Rachael S. Rudinoff Office: 302 653-3135
Supervisor of Special Services Fax: 302 653-2766
E-Mail rachael.rudinoff@smyrna.k12.de.us

Smyrna BPA Students Earn Honors at State Leadership Conference

Students in Smyrna Business Professionals of America demonstrated their workplace skills learned through business education curriculum by earning honors at the Delaware BPA State Leadership Conference held at Dover Downs on Feb. 23, 2016. Gabi Bush, Frantz Desir, Owen Dill, Malik Henry, Boaz Menard, Jacob Mitchell, Danger Morrissiey, Justin Nash, Tiamira Ramser, Alison Sayers, Allison Wheatley, and Payton Zolper were awarded with the coveted Torch Award. Torch Awards are a way for students to show their involvement in their community and Business Professionals of America.

There were 42 students that attended the State Leadership along with advisors Angie Hewes, Lori Holford, Kevin Rudolph, Jessica Scott, and Alexandra Ulrich. Students attended workshops, sessions, and participated in the Workplace Skills Assessment Program competitive events to bring awards home in the areas of finance, business administration, digital communications, management, marketing and communication, and information management.

There were 22 students that earned top awards and qualified to attend the upcoming national BPA Conference in Boston, MA in May. Students won the following awards:

Financial Analyst Team, 1st Place-Cassidy Cook, Malik Henry, Boaz Menard, and Justin Nash

Economic Research Individual, 1st Place-Joshua Smith

Advanced Word Processing Skills, 2nd Place-Tosin Ibranke, 3rd Place-Joshua Meixell

Basic Office Systems & Procedures, 2nd Place-Danger Morrissiey

Advanced Spreadsheet Applications, 4th Place-Jacob Mitchell, 5th Place-Ruby Robles

Database Applications, 1st Place-Justin Nash, 2nd Place-Frantz Desir, 3rd Place-Jacob Mitchell

Medical Office Procedures, 4th Place-Kelly Talmud

Fundamental Desktop Publishing, 5th Place-Gabi Bush

Fundamental of Web Publishing, 2nd Place-Ariel Immel

Advanced Interview Skills, 2nd Place-Alison Sayers

Human Resource Management, 1st Place-Nathan Seward

Parliamentary Procedure Team, 1st Place-Bryan Horton, Danger Morrissiey, Tiamira Ramseur, Nathan Seward, Allison Wheatley, and Payton Zolper

Administrative Support Concepts-Open, 4th Place-Tiamira Ramseur, 5th Place-Kelly Talmud

Parliamentary Procedures Concepts-Open, 3rd Place-Bryan Horton

SHS FFA AGRI-SCIENCE BRIEFS

The Agri-Science Department at Smyrna High School has been very busy this semester and would like to share the following updates:

- 82 FFA members qualified for the Greenhand FFA Degree, which is the first year of membership for students enrolled in Agricultural Education classes on February 24, 2016.

- Nine students in the Plant/Environmental Science pathway on March 18, 2016 participated in a wetland planting day through the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control with coordinator Mr. Tom Barthelme. Students worked hard planting hundreds of wetland trees, shrubs, sedges and rushes around five wetland cells.

- On March 20, 2016 the Animal Science pathway added a new addition to the school farm, as an eighty pound bull calf was born. Mother and newborn are doing just fine.



- The Smyrna FFA Annual Plant Sale will be held on April 16, 24, and 30 and May 7 and 14 from 9 am – Noon at the Smyrna High School greenhouse. Please stop by, to pick up your spring annuals; prices vary.

SHS Math League Attends State Finals



On Tuesday, April 5, three of the Smyrna High Math Leaguers attended the Delaware State Math League Finals. The 10th-12th Grade Team comprised of Sam Mace (sophomore), Jacob Raser (junior), and Chris Kline(sophomore) earned

the 2nd place in the Regional Competition. Sam Mace earned a 1st place individual trophy and Jacob Raser earned a 2nd place individual trophy. What makes this team so unique is that most teams are comprised of five students. Each student earns individual points and the cumulative points determine the team place. Smyrna's team of only three students was able to cumulate enough points to keep up and surpass all but one of the five-person teams in our division. The team is hoping to recruit more math-loving students for next season so we can become the first place team!

SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT'S NOTICE OF RIGHTS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment affords parents, students who are 18, and emancipated minors the following rights regarding the District's conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams.

Protected Information Surveys
The District is required to obtain consent permitting your child to participate in certain school activities, or you may elect to opt out of such activities. These activities, known as protected information surveys, include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation concerning one or more of the following:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parents;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;

7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Notice & Opportunity To Opt Out
At the start of each school year, the District will notify you of dates of the following activities, and provide an opportunity to opt a student out of participating in such activities:

1. Any protected information survey, regardless of funding source;
2. Any non-emergency, in-vasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing, or to sell or

otherwise distribute the information to others.

Inspection

You may, upon request, inspect the following:

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum.

Adoption of Policy

The District will adopt policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The District will notify you of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes.

Complaint

If you believe your rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

NOTICE CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN STUDENT INFORMATION

The Smyrna School District ("the District") may disclose certain information, known as directory information, in its discretion without consent. Parents, or students eighteen years of age or over, may refuse to permit the release of any or all directory information. If you do not want directory information released, you must send written notice annually to the Superintendent of the District (at the address listed below). Such notice must be received within 30 days of the publication of this notice. The following student information is directory information: (1) name, (2) address, (3) telephone number, (4) date and place of birth, (5) major field of study, (6) grade level, (7) participation in officially recognized activities and sports, (8) weight and height of members of athletic teams (9) dates of attendance, (10) degrees and awards received, (11) the most recent previous education agency or institution attended by the student and (12) photographs of students in school or school activities provided the photographs do not reveal information concerning academic placement.

Smyrna School District
Superintendent
82 Monrovia Ave.
Smyrna, DE 19977

COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION OF SEX OFFENDERS

While community notification of sex offenders is the responsibility of local law enforcement, the Smyrna School District believes it has an appropriate role to play in improving community awareness of the potential threat posed by sex offenders. This includes a responsibility to educate our students about personal safety and to let you know when an offender is living in our district or has enrolled in public school. Each of our schools and the district office has this information in a binder available for your review.

DISTRICT DIRECTORY

CLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 653-8587

Ms. Stephanie McGuire, Principal
Mr. Mikell Reed, Associate Principal
Nurse

653-3147

NORTH SMYRNA ELEMENTARY 653-8589

Ms. Kelly Holt, Principal
Ms. Stephanie Smeltzer, Associate Principal
Nurse

653-3145

SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 653-8588

Mr. David H. Morrison, Principal
Ms. Katherine Wood, Associate Principal
Nurse

659-6286

SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY 653-2808

Ms. Deborah Judy, Principal
Mr. Patrick Grant, Associate Principal
Nurse

653-2762

CLAYTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 653-4512

Mr. David Paltrineri, Principal
Ms. Cynthia McNatt, Associate Principal
Nurse

653-3271

JBM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 659-6297

Ms. Elyse Baerga, Principal
Ms. Cynthia McNatt, Associate Principal
Nurse

659-6280

SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL 653-8584

Mr. Steven Gott, Principal
Mr. John Camponelli, Associate Principal
Ms. Aerin Donovan, Associate Principal
Guidance

653-8308

653-8823

SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL 653-8581

Ms. Stacy Cook, Principal
Mr. Clarence Davis, Dean of Discipline
Mr. Marc Deisem, Associate Principal
Ms. LaTonya Pierce, Associate Principal
Mr. Leon Clarke, Associate Principal
Mr. Michael Carrigan, School Resource Officer
Nurse

653-3137

CENTRAL OFFICES 653-8585

Ms. Deborah Wicks, Superintendent
Mr. Patrik Williams, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Alexander Shalk, Director of Curriculum
Mr. Jerry Gallagher, Director of Finance
Ms. June Wicks, Supervisor, Reading & Instruction
Ms. Angela Socorso, Supervisor Human Resources

CHILD NUTRITION OFFICE 653-3134

Mr. Roger Holt, Supervisor

MAINTENANCE OFFICE 653-3132

Mr. Scott Holmes, Supervisor Systems & HVAC
Mr. George, Wicks III, Supervisor Facilities & Operations

SPECIAL SERVICES OFFICE 653-3135

Dr. Rachael Rudinoff, Supervisor

TECHNOLOGY OFFICE 653-3787

Mr. Jody Sweeney, Supervisor

TRANSPORTATION OFFICE 653-3142

Ms. Sharon Almondo, Supervisor

DISTRICT NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

TITLE VII, TITLE IX, and Section 504 Compliance Notification

The Smyrna School District does not discriminate in employment or educational programs, services or activities based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability in accordance with state and federal laws, as required by Title VI and VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, and the Federal Occupational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Inquiries should be directed to the Smyrna School District Superintendent, Administrative Office, 82 Monrovia Ave. Smyrna, DE 19977. Phone: (302) 653-8585.

El distrito escolar Smyrna no discrimina en empleo o programas educacionales, servicios o actividades, basados en raza, color, religion, nacionalidad, sexo, edad o discapacidad en conformidad con las leyes estatales y federales

It is also the policy of this District to ensure that curriculum content and instructional materials used by our schools reflect the cultural and racial diversity found in our country, and to create an awareness of the rights, duties, and responsibilities of each individual as a member of the multi-cultural, nonsexist society.

Inquiries about compliance with Title IX, Title VI, or VII may be directed to the compliance coordinators appointed in the district.

COMPLIANCE COORDINATORS

The following individuals have been appointed to serve as the District's compliance coordinators. These coordinators can be contacted at the following locations.

TITLE VII: CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1974

(Nondiscrimination in employment practices)

TITLE IX: CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1972

(Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex, educational programs)

Compliance Coordinator
Patrik Williams,

Assistant Superintendent
82 Monrovia Ave.
Smyrna, DE 19977
(302) 653-8585

SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Compliance Coordinator
Dr. Rachael Rudinoff,

Supervisor of Special Services
Special Services Office
22 South Main St.
Smyrna, DE 19977
(302) 653-3135

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) OF 1982

Compliance Coordinator
Scott Holmes,

Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds
Thomas D. Clayton School
80 Monrovia Avenue
Smyrna, DE 19977
(302) 653-3132

NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX

(Compliance Violation Grievance Procedure)

Any student or employee of the Smyrna School District shall have the right to file a formal complaint alleging noncompliance with regulations outlined in Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 or in

Level One – Principal or immediate supervisor (informal)

A student with a complaint of sex discrimination shall discuss it with the teacher, counselor, or principal.

Level Two – Title IX Compliance Officer

If the grievance is not resolved at level one and the student wishes to pursue the grievance, the student may formalize the grievance by filing a complaint in writing on a Compliance Violation Form, which can be obtained from the Title IX compliance officer. The complaint shall state the nature of the grievance and the remedy requested. The filing of the formal written complaint at Level Two must be within 21 days from the date of the event giving rise to the grievance, or from the date the grievant could reasonably become aware of such occurrence. The grievant may request that a meeting about the complaint be held with the Title IX compliance officer. A minor student may be accompanied at that meeting by a parent or guardian. The Title IX compliance officer shall investigate.

the complaint and attempt to resolve it. A written report from the compliance officer about action taken will be sent to the grievant with 21 days after receipt of the complaint.

Level Three – Superintendent

If the complaint is not resolved at Level Two, the grievant may proceed to Level Three by presenting a written appeal to the Superintendent within 15 days after the grievant received the report from the compliance officer. A decision will be rendered and conveyed to the grievant by the Superintendent or his/her designee within 15 days after receipt of written appeal.

Level Four – Other agencies

The grievant may file formal complaints with the Delaware Civil Rights Commission or other agencies available for mediation or rectification of affirmative action grievances, or may seek private counsel for complaints alleging discrimination.

Note: The District appoints compliance coordinators for Title IX, Title VII and for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as required by law. These compliance coordinators serve as grievance officers and are responsible for the District's efforts to comply with nondiscrimination requirements under Title IX, Title VII, and Section 504.



Smyrna's Spanish Immersion Program

Beginning in Fall 2016, the Smyrna School District will offer a Spanish language immersion program. This new option will provide elementary students with an opportunity to engage in learning in a non-traditional and exciting way – by immersing them in two languages and cultures – Spanish and English – from kindergarten through 12th grade. Students in the program will become proficient in both languages while learning the same content as their peers outside the program.

What is immersion language study?

It is the fastest-growing and most effective type of world language instruction currently available in U.S. schools. Immersion offers children an opportunity to learn a second language the same way we learn English – by living it. No other type of instruction, short of living in a non-English speaking environment, is as successful.

How does it work?

Immersion offers a rich bilingual experience for young learners. In the classroom, students benefit from not one, but two highly-qualified educators – one for each language. A Spanish-speaking teacher delivers lessons in Spanish language arts, science, mathematics, and some social studies topics for half the day. During the other half of the day, an English-speaking teacher provides instruction in reading, writing and some social studies topics.

The Spanish language teacher will speak entirely in Spanish and communicates

Annual Public Notice of Nondiscrimination

(As required by the 1979 Guidelines for Eliminating Discrimination in Vocational Education Programs (34 CFR Part 100, App. B, IV-0))

Smyrna School District is pleased to announce that it is offering, among other programs, the following Career and Technical Education Pathways for the 2014-15 school year:

Smyrna High School Agriscience

Courses are offered as part of five pathway strands:

Animal Science: Animal Science I, II, and III, Agribusiness

Natural Resources: Natural Resources and Environmental Science I, II & III

Plant Science: Plant Science I, II & III

Power & Systems: Power & Tech Systems I, II, and III

Structural Systems: Structures I, II, and III

Business

Courses are offered as part of two pathway strands:

Accounting: Accounting II, III and IV.

Business Information Technology: BIT II, III and IV.

Administrative Services: Admin Services II, III, and IV

Marketing Management: Marketing Management II, III & IV

Family and Consumer Sciences

Courses are offered as part of two pathway strands:

Early Childhood Education: Early Childhood Education I, II & III

Family & Community Services: Family & Community Services I, II & III

Jobs for Delaware Graduates

JDG is designed to help students reach academic and career goals. The four goals are: leadership development, citizenship service, social awareness, and career preparation. **Courses offered are:** JDG II, III, IV

Admission to these programs is open to all students enrolled in Smyrna High School. Enrollment in higher level courses often requires a pass in lower level courses in the same pathway.

The Smyrna School District does not discriminate in employment, educational programs, services or activities based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in accordance with state and federal laws. The District offers additional services to students with limited English language skills or with disabilities so that they may benefit from these programs. For additional information and assistance, please contact:

School Admissions Programs

Stacy Cook Principal
Smyrna High School
500 Duck Creek Parkway
Smyrna, DE 19977

using a range of strategies including: pictures, songs, games, body language, expressions, drama, etc. Young learners are adept at acquiring language in meaningful contexts. After a brief period at the beginning of the year, students will be encouraged to speak only in Spanish during the Spanish-language portion of the day.

Immersion classes follow the same curriculum, in all content areas, that non-immersion students would follow in any other classroom. They use many of the same materials as their non-immersion peers.

Instructional Progression

The goal of the program is to create a continuous, K-12 immersion pathway. Each year, the immersion program will "add" a grade as our initial class of Kindergarteners moves on to the next level. By high school, immersion students will be able to take the AP Spanish course in Grade 9.

Proven Advantages

Immersion programs help us prepare our students for the jobs of tomorrow. They give students a tremendous economic advantage in an increasingly competitive world. Research has shown that exposing students to language at an early age has many benefits:

-Language Skills. Students can be expected to reach high levels of world language proficiency.

-Test Performance. There is a positive effect on brain development and intellectual growth. Immersion produces successful learners who perform as well or better than their peers on standardized achievement tests.

-Cognitive skills. Dual-language learners demonstrate better attention control, memory, and problem-solving skills.

-Cultural sensitivity. Students have a better understanding of, and appreciation for, diverse cultures.

Why Spanish?

-Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the U.S., and the fourth most important international business language.

-Knowledge of Spanish is an asset in professions with extensive Spanish-speaking networks.

-More than 50% of modern-day English words trace their origins to Spanish.

Who can participate?

The Smyrna School District will welcome our first class of language immersion students – Kindergarteners – in Fall 2016. The Immersion Program will be hosted at North Smyrna Elementary and is open to any Delaware resident.

Families who wish to enroll an incoming kindergarten student must complete an "Immersion School Choice" application. A lottery will be held to determine admission if requests exceed capacity. Please note: Children must be five years old on, or before August 31, to be eligible to attend Kindergarten.

Parent Responsibilities

-Commit to long-term participation in the immersion program so that your child can develop advanced-level language skills.

-Develop an understanding of immersion instruction.

-Read with your child in English 20-30 minutes daily.

-Encourage the use of Spanish outside of school.

-Encourage community support for immersion programs.

-Embrace the challenge and celebrate the results!

-Report cards, notices and newsletters are issued in English. Please be aware that you are expected to attend parent meetings held

throughout the year.

Registration Timeline

The Smyrna School District will introduce a Spanish Immersion Program in the Fall of 2016. Students registering at North Smyrna Elementary will be asked to select an Immersion class or Traditional class. As North Smyrna Elementary is open to "school choice" families may also apply for choice citing the reason as Kindergarten Immersion. Between January 1, 2016 and March 1, 2016 applications will be placed in a lottery. A random selection process to determine admission will occur and families will be notified in March. Families may continue to submit applications to the Kindergarten Immersion Program after the initial lottery. A second lottery process will occur with students who apply between March 2, 2016 and June 1, 2016. Families will be notified in June for this lottery. However, since space is limited, admission after the June 1st deadline will be based on a first come, first serve basis. Out of district families and students in other feeder patterns are encouraged to apply but will be responsible for transporting their child to and from school. Children must be five-years old on, or before August 31, to be eligible for Kindergarten Immersion.

Spanish Immersion Sample Schedule

What would a typical day look like for your child?

8:35-9:00	Morning Activities/Calendar
9:00-9:40	Reading Response to Intervention
9:50-11:10	Language Arts
11:10-11:30	Recess
11:30-12:00	Lunch
12:00-1:10	Math in Spanish
1:10-1:55	Special
1:55-2:40	Target Language
2:40-3:15	Literacy in Spanish
	Science in Spanish

SMYRNA WRESTLERS FOUR TIME STATE CHAMPS!!

Clear Channel

**STATE
WRESTLING
CHAMPS**
4 in a Row!




Those handful of close matches from the regular season are a distant memory.

Smyrna High left no doubt who the top team in Division I wrestling is this year. The top-seeded Eagles delivered a resounding performance in front of their home crowd for a 50-15 victory over second-seed Sussex Central in the final round of the Division I dual-meet state tournament on Tuesday night for Smyrna's fourth straight wrestling state championship.

The 35-point margin of victory is the largest in the Division I title match since 2008 and the third highest of all-time.

This state title is the ninth all-time for the Eagles' wrestling program, which includes five from Division II. It comes four days after Smyrna needed pins in the final two matches to rally from a six-point deficit against Cape Henlopen in the regular-season finale.

The Eagles also had minor scares during the year against Polytech (31-24) and Milford (32-30), too. But they had no difficulties on Tuesday night, winning their semifinal match in a rematch with Cape Henlopen, the fourth seed, 43-16.

"I think this was the perfect way to end it," said Smyrna coach Kurt Howell.

Smyrna hasn't lost to a Delaware opponent since the state championship match in 2012 against Caesar Rodney.

The Eagles pulled off such a large margin of victory by scoring plenty of bonus points. Out of Smyrna's 10 match wins in the final, they earned bonus points in all but one.

Smyrna recorded four pins, one tech fall, three major decisions and won one bout via forfeit.

"Bonus points are like a chain reaction," said junior 132-pounder Chase Archangelo. "One pin just fires us up to get another."

The Eagles clinched the title with three matches to spare thanks to sophomore Tony Wuest's pin at 182 pounds.

"We prepared better for this," Wuest said. "We didn't prepare for those other matches (during the season) like we should have. This week we did. We just worked hard this week."

"I think they recognized there was a little letdown last week," Howell said.

Chris Begatto (113 pounds), Archangelo, Nate Bryant (138) and Wuest had the pins for the Eagles. They led wire-to-wire when Nick Natarcola started the match off with a tech fall at 106 pounds.

Smyrna won the first three matches and five of the first six. They led 27-4 after the first six contests.

"It was a momentum swing for us," Archangelo said. "When kids are just winning and winning it makes us wrestle even better."

"It's nice we started out at 106 because we knew we had advantages down low."

Greg Baum (120), Kalen Wilson (160) and Hunter Moyer (195) provided the wins by major decision. Heavyweight Terren Carter won his match by forfeit while 220-pounder Jake Mitchell earned the lone Smyrna decision, 6-2.

Wilson, Mitchell and Carter were the only three seniors in the lineup on Tuesday night. Wilson has competed in the state dual final match every year of his high school career.

"This is the first class of seniors I can say, 'Boy, you guys are spoiled,'" Howell said. "It will be fun to reminisce at our banquet."

Over the course of the semifinals and finals, Smyrna dropped just eight total matches of a possible 28, and didn't surrender any pins.

"It was a really nice showing tonight," Howell said. "I was really impressed we won all the matches we should have won and even pulled out a couple of close ones that we shouldn't have."

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Blue-Gold Football Players and Cheerleaders at the Hand In Hand Party in March.

SHS FFA BUNNY HOP RAISES MONEY & CANS FOR FOOD BANK OF DELAWARE

Smyrna High FFA students organized a food drive on Thursday, March 24, 2016 that was leaps and bounds beyond what they expected. The "Bunny Hop" on the Thursday before Easter had two parts: the culmination of a canned food drive along with a walk to raise awareness about hunger in Delaware to collect monetary donations – all to benefit the Food Bank of Delaware.

"We had over 700 FFA members and students walk around the track," said FFA President Allison Wheatley. The goal of the fundraiser was \$1,200, but the students nearly doubled that, raising \$2,170. They also donated an estimated 1,100 pounds of food to the Food Bank of Delaware. "We wanted to find a new way to give back to our community and to help combat hunger in our community," said Wheatley. "We want to help the Food Bank of Delaware and help families have a nice Easter dinner."

Food Bank of Delaware Milford Branch Director Chad Robinson

accepted the donations and thanked the students. "Hunger is something that affects communities throughout the state and it's not going away," said Robinson. "It's always great when you see students giving back in such a meaningful way. We're so glad they did. We appreciate all their help."

The Food Bank of Delaware provides emergency food assistance through branches in Newark and Milford and through partner agencies throughout the state including school and church programs.

Robinson said the Food Bank provides help to about one in five Delawareans.

"It's important to realize what your donations are doing," he told the FFA officers. "People going to your school are receiving assistance from the Food Bank. You are doing something that's important in drawing attention about the hunger problem in Delaware, but you're also helping people right here in your school."

Organizing the project

For the food drive, FFA members collected donations from students and staff and brought in donations

themselves over the past several months. Then, for the Bunny Hop event, FFA officers called businesses and farmers to ask for donations and talked to FFA members, students, and teachers about supporting the project by walking laps around the track on March 24. The goal for the total number of laps kept increasing as the number of students participating grew and grew.

"Our original goal was 400 laps, but then we upped it to 1,400 and now we're trying to reach 4,400 because so many students came out to walk," said Wheatley. "I am completely overjoyed with the amount of people who have participated. It's not just our members. Its other students and teachers along with businesses and farmers."

Sponsors of the event included First State Bow Strings, Al Moor & Sons, Hufford's Electrical, Dixon Farms, Dixon Contracting, Route 300 Pets & Supplies, John's Well Drilling, PPC, ZS Technologies, Barkley Heating & Cooling, Southern States Smyrna-Clayton Cooperative, Anytime Fitness, Wilson Farms, Snow Farms, Cordel Farms, ACME, Kevin's A-1 Landscaping and Boondocks.

Delaware's Teacher of the Year

Sandra Hall is a fourth grade teacher at North Smyrna Elementary School in Smyrna, Delaware. She began teaching there in 2007 after she completed her Master of Education degree in Elementary Studies from Wilmington University. Sandra also has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Louisville and an Associate of Science degree from Goldey Beacom College. She is a 1981 graduate of Smyrna High School.

After working in advertising in her twenties, becoming a mother in her thirties, and moving back to Delaware from Germany in her forties, Sandra took an alternate route to teaching. Prior to her husband's retirement from the Active Duty Army, her dedication as a Family Readiness Group Leader in Germany for an Army community of 15,000 soldiers and family members helped her realize how her personality and skill set could help families with children. She was recognized for her devotion to the Army family as the 417th Base Support Battalion's 2003 Volunteer of the Year. After leaving Germany and the military world behind, Sandra became a substitute teacher in the Smyrna School District and a Sunday school teacher at her hometown church. These factors led Sandra to becoming a teacher full time.



Smyrna Teacher of the Year, Sandra Hall, speaks to the State Senators on behalf of all Delaware Teachers of the Year

Sandra currently serves as the 4th grade team leader at North Smyrna Elementary. In addition to those responsibilities, she is a Learning Focused trainer/coordinator and a summer school teacher. She also helps to coordinate the Bank at School Program, is a representative for the Smyrna Pride Team and a run buddy for the Girls on the Run after school club. She has been a Professional Learning Community Leader for the past several years and has represented 4th grade in any of the school district's curriculum based initiatives.

In April, Sandra was chosen as North Smyrna Elementary School's Teacher of the Year and in May was selected as the Smyrna School District Teacher of the Year. On October 20, 2015, Sandra was chosen to represent Delaware's teachers as the 2016 State Teacher of the Year. She will be attending the National Teacher of the Year Program Conference in San Antonio, Texas, in January, the National Teacher of the Year Recognition Week in Washington, D.C. in March, and the International Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama in July.

Sandra is married to Russell Hall, a retired Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army. They have two daughters, Allison Hall, a senior at the University of Delaware, and Anna Hall, a junior at St. Thomas More Academy.