



VOL. XXVII, NO. 2 • FEBRUARY 2020, WINTER ISSUE

**SMYRNA
MESSENGER**



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



**FEB. 2020
WINTER
ISSUE**

**FRONT
COVER:**

Aidan Sanchez, Natalie Dias, and Devonte Hunter roar with the crowd at the 2019 Homecoming Pep Rally.

**BACK
COVER:**

Lathan Pearson and Paisley Massey celebrated Veterans Day at Clayton Elementary.

DISTRICT DIRECTORY

CENTRAL OFFICES

Mr. Patrik Williams, Superintendent
Mrs. Deborah Judy, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. June Wicks, Director of Curriculum
Mr. Jerry Gallagher, Director of Finance
Ms. Angela Socorso, Supervisor Human Resources
Mr. Ryan Buchanan, Supervisor of Instruction
Mr. David Morrison, Supervisor of Instruction

653-8585

SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mrs. Kelly Holt, Principal
Mrs. Whitney Irwin, Associate Principal
Mr. Kent Robinson, Associate Principal
Guidance
Nurse

653-8584

**653-8308
653-8823**

SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Stacy Cook, Principal
Mr. John Camponelli, Associate Principal
Mr. Leon Clarke, Associate Principal
Mr. Clarence Davis, Associate Principal & Dean of Discipline
Mrs. Dainelle Hampton-Morton, Associate Principal
Mrs. LaTonya Pierce, Associate Principal
Nurse

653-8581

653-3137

CHILD NUTRITION OFFICE

Mr. Roger Holt, Supervisor

653-3134

MAINTENANCE OFFICE

Mr. Scott Holmes, Facilities Supervisor

653-3132

SPECIAL SERVICES OFFICE

Dr. Rachael Rudinoff, Director
Dr. Marcia Mayhew, Assoc. Director

653-3135

TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

Ms. Sharon Almondo, Supervisor

653-3142

TECHNOLOGY OFFICE

Mr. Jody Sweeney, Supervisor

653-2754

**SUPERVISOR OF
SCHOOL CLIMATE & SAFETY**

Mrs. Jessica Weller

653-4330

CLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Katherine Wood, Principal
Mr. Michael Daws, Associate Principal
Nurse

653-8587

653-3147

NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Stephanie Smeltzer, Principal
Dr. Amber Augustus, Associate Principal
Mr. Erik Wilson, Associate Principal
Nurse

653-8589

653-3145

SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Cynthia McNatt, Principal
Mr. Mikell Reed, Associate Principal
Nurse

653-8588

659-6286

SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY

Mr. Patrick Grant, Principal
Mrs. Irene Buscemi, Associate Principal
Nurse

653-2808

653-2760

CLAYTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Mr. David Paltrineri, Principal
Mrs. Heather Moyer, Associate Principal
Nurse

653-2761

659-6401

JBM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Mr. Steven Gott, Principal
Mrs. Amy Mumley, Associate Principal
Nurse

659-6297

659-6280

*Celebrating 136 Years
of Smyrna School District
Graduations*

**I Love the
Smyrna School District Day**

**Smyrna High School
Sat., February 22, 2020
8:30am - 4:30pm**



SMYRNA SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION
43rd Annual Smorgasbord

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020
5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Adults: \$12 • Children: 12 & Under \$5 • 3 & Under FREE



ROAST BEEF	BRUSSEL SPROUTS
BAKED CHICKEN	SUCCOTASH
BAKED HAM	BROCCOLI SALAD
PEAS & DUMPLINGS	SEAFOOD SALAD
BAKED ZITI	PASTA SALAD
MASHED POTATOES	PRETZEL SALAD
AU GRATIN POTATOES	SALAD BAR
ASSORTED DESSERTS • COFFEE, ICED TEA, MILK	

Benefits SSNA Scholarship Fund

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



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From the Superintendent's Desk...

Happy New Year 2020 to the Smyrna School District Community on behalf of our instructional and support teams, as well as the Smyrna School Board of Education. I want to express gratitude to all of our schools, and in particular, our music teachers, along with support from their related arts colleagues, parents and community members, for hosting such spectacular holiday concerts during the month of December. From energetic student choirs featuring traditional seasonal songs to spectacular musical/theatrical productions to exceptional choral and instrumental concerts, our district's dedication to the arts is magnificent. Thank you to all who helped to make the holiday season a celebration of our students' talents.

During the 2019/20 school year, our Community Core Value of the Year is Integrity, defined over 20 years ago by a community committee as follows: *A steady and faithful observance of a code of moral values. This includes honesty in word and deed and a sense of right and wrong.* On "I Love Smyrna School District Day", Saturday, February 22, 2020, we will once again affirm this Community Core Value and celebrate our students, our schools and our community during a full day of student-centered events at Smyrna High School. Breaking from tradition a bit, we will be honoring our student essay award winners throughout the day at the conclusion of various musical performances in the Smyrna High School auditorium. The program will clearly list the time for each school's award recognition ceremony so that every family member will have ample time to make his/her way to the auditorium.

On February 22, we will also be asking our community to come out to the polls at Smyrna Middle School, Smyrna Elementary School and the Kenton Ruritan Club between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to support a major capital improvement project. For fewer than \$3 a year we will ask our community to help support the repair/replacement of the mechanical system and the roof at North Smyrna Elementary School, both of which are critical needs as our enrollment there continues to swell. Following the holidays, we will be hosting a community meeting to lay out the details and address questions about this state-approved and financially supported project.

I also want to share some exciting news for our district and community. During the week of March 23 through March 26, contemporary artist, **Jesse Ruben** from New York City, will be returning to the Smyrna School District. Last year, Jesse Ruben spent a week in our district, singing his original songs and introducing our students to the "We Can Project". As part of the "We Can Project", Jesse shares his personal story of perseverance and responsibility through his original song, "We Can", and he teaches our students to find ways to share his message. He teaches every student to find his/her "I Can" and then asks everyone to join together to pick a "We Can" project. Students learn to discover their own talents, their own gifts and their own interests. Most important, they learn that they *matter* and that they *can* make a difference in their own lives, the lives of others, their community, and, ultimately, their world. More information about the "We Can Project" can be found at: <https://www.wecanwecanwecan.com/> and the video of his song is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59Aj9E5ICn0>

Again this year, Jesse will visit each of our schools throughout the week, and he will present a benefit concert on March 26, with all donations supporting the Smyrna-Clayton Boys and Girls Club. Showtime is 7:00 PM in the Smyrna High School auditorium, so please save the date and come out for a wonderfully positive celebration of our students' "We Can Project" 2020!

We look forward to seeing all of you on February 22, at "I Love Smyrna School District Day," where we will celebrate our dedicated students, our wonderful administration and staff, and our supportive community families.

Stay warm this winter and remember to always eat your breakfast.

Special Services Winter Harvest





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CLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (CES)

Special Olympics



During the week of October 21, twenty-two students began practicing for the Special Olympics Basketball Skills. These students met once a week for about thirty minutes. With the help of Mrs. Shanklin, these students were taught the proper way to dribble, pass, and shoot. Then on December 4, 18 students attended the Special Olympics Basketball Skills event at the Smyrna High School. Three of our students, Jackson, Bristol, and Huntley, helped to start the ceremony off by walking out with police officers and a torch to represent the start of the games. Every student did a wonderful job and they all earned medals.

Special Olympics is a program that helps create inclusion and community, in which everyone is accepted and welcomed, regardless of ability or disability. This year our school plans on participating in the Cool Schools Challenge, Spread the Word to End the Word, and Soccer Skills Competition. More information about the Cool Schools Challenge and Spread the Word to End the Word will be coming home after the New Year. We will be starting soccer skills closer to the spring time. If your child would be interested in participating, please contact Jennifer Ross at Jennifer.Ross@smyrna.k12.de.us or Lauren Shanklin at Lauren.Shanklin@smyrna.k12.de.us.

Clayton Physical Education



We have been having lots of fun in physical education the first half of the year! The third and fourth grade students started out the year with a Lacrosse unit. We practiced throwing and catching, offense, and defense.

Then the students completed the state mandated Fitnessgram testing which tests the different components of fitness. Each child received an individual report of how well he/she scored in each area of fitness. We will repeat the test in the spring to see if the scores improve. The first and second grade students learned their locomotor skills at the beginning of the year and then moved on to activities that helped make their heart and muscles stronger. We worked on finding our pulse and our resting and working heart rates. Kindergarten has been primarily focused on learning how to move safely in general space and chasing, fleeing, and dodging. Before the holidays, all the students worked on Speedstacking. Speedstacks is a great sport that helps students develop hand-eye coordination, ambidexterity, and hand speed. In January, we will be starting the New Year with basketball and jump rope units.

Mrs. Shanklin has also been busy working with our fourth grade Safety Patrol, Recycling Club, and our Anti-Ash Brigade. The Recycling Club visited the DE Recycling Center in Oct. and learned all about the importance of recycling. We had a great time!

In November, we had an awesome turnout for our third and fourth grade Dodgeball Tournament. The kids had a blast and the money we raised will be used for the third grade to go on a STEM field trip in March to the Dover Skating Rink. We can't wait! Be on the lookout for information about our annual Jump Rope for Heart event in February!

CES Having Fun!



CLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (CES)



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Jonathan (J.D.) Kastle

Clayton Elementary would like to congratulate Mr. Jonathan (J.D.) Kastle for being selected as our Education Support Professional of the Year!

J.D. is a wonderful custodian who continually goes above and beyond his daily responsibilities. In school, J.D. helps out in any way that he can and is often called on to do many unpleasant jobs throughout the school. He is always willing and does these duties with a smile and pleasant attitude. J.D. is often seen entertaining students during lunch with his various magic and card tricks.

Outside of the school day, J.D. loves spending time with his son, working on his Ford Mustang, and baking amazing cupcakes and cakes. No matter how busy J.D. is, he always finds time to help others!

Clayton Elementary School's Veteran's Day Program

Clayton Elementary School kept traditions alive with their annual Veteran's Day Program on November 7. Our third grade chorus led by music teacher extraordinaire **Leslie Carlson** honored our Veterans through songs of patriotism and heart-felt letters of praise. We kicked the event off as usual with a delicious breakfast prepared by our Child Nutrition staff. This allowed for our guests of honor to mingle with friends and family prior to the start of the event. As usual the event was a tremendous success and our students performed beautifully.



A CHRISTMAS LINE! A North Pole Musical



On December 12, fourth graders presented a Broadway style musical entitled, "A Christmas Line!" Main characters were played by: **Quade Gray, Jolene Mikhail, Kole Kassner, Amariya Chen, Damien Ramsey, Ava Elias, Wyntre Royce, Shauna Fisher, Logan Johannsen, and Aiden Sacco** respectively. Announcers **Zuri Blackwell, Samuel Sawyer, and Grace Walker** did a superb job broadcasting. **Kaitlyn Chaplin, Ian Raser, and Zoe Townsend** entertained everyone with their amazing Super Bowl worthy commercials. The full scale musical included several dances, as students cut a rug with Cane Dancing, Top Hat Dancing, Jazz, and Ballet. Beautiful ribbon dancers featured our very own in house ballerina, **Maya Mancini**. Students also show-cased their recorder skills with a jazzy performance of "Clayton Cool Cats," by Don Muro. Amazing scenery depicting the lights, camera, action theme, AND the North Pole was created by **Monica DeHart** and Art Teacher, **Brenda Fitzwater**.





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NORTH SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (NSES)

North Smyrna Elementary Hosts the Second Annual Amazing Learning Race

This year's Amazing Race was a heart-pounding competition as families raced around NSE to complete challenges in reading, math, STEM, and physical fitness. The challenges were leveled per grade so everyone could participate. It was a fantastic night full of fun and learning. At the end of the adventure, students could select a free, new book and parents received other fun resources to continue to support learning at home. We wish to thank all those who attended!



North Smyrna Elementary Partners with Smyrna Middle School STEM Students

Recess is a time for fun! It is a time for letting out energy and playing with friends. But what about our youngest students who are still learning how to communicate and have so many options for play at recess? In the near future, a new piece of playground equipment will help! NSE's Early Childhood program has partnered with SMS STEM students to build a communication device for students to use on the Early Childhood playground. This sign will help students communicate to staff members how they want to play. SMS STEM students and their teacher, **Mrs. Boyles**, were eager to take on the project. In no time, they made their first visit to NSE to take measurements and to begin the design process. We can't wait to see the final product in use later this year!



Mrs. Collins

**Congrats, Mrs. Collins,
North Smyrna Elementary's
ESP Award Recipient!**

Congrats to Mrs. Collins for being selected as NSE's Education Support Professional Award Recipient for 2019-2020! Mrs. Collins joined the Smyrna School District in 2007 and has been a paraprofessional at JBM and NSE. In order to be eligible for this award, the recipient must be a positive role model in the school and community, demonstrate strong involvement in the school district, and exhibit outstanding professional practice. Mrs. Collins does all this and more as a paraprofessional in NSE's Early Childhood program. Students and staff members alike know Mrs. Collins for her warm, embracing nature. No matter the weather, she always brings the sunshine! Ms. Collins says the best part of her job is working with the students and the connections she makes with their families. Her motto is "Have a great day on purpose" because a lot of things can happen in a day, but we have the power to make it good. Our staff and students are truly appreciative of all she does, and we are so very proud to have her represent NSE.

NORTH SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (NSES)

North Smyrna Elementary's Kindness Project



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"If we all do one random act of kindness daily, we just might set the world in the right direction." – Martin Kornfield. This perspective prompted two NSE teachers, **Mrs. Pertschi** and **Mrs. Schultz**, to create the NSE Kindness Committee. This committee is based on the idea of finding ways to practice random acts of kindness in our community. They have organized projects which, with the help of school staff, students, and their families, have benefited numerous individuals. The September project was in support of a Delaware National Guard unit which was sent overseas at the end of August, 2019. Donations poured in from our school, and on September 26 students, families, and staff members came in to make cards and pack up the donations for shipment. The October/November project was the creation of "Everything but the Turkey" Thanksgiving bags to be donated to local food pantries. Once again, donations of every Thanksgiving side you can imagine were sent into NSE by our students and their families. On November 14, our NSE community joined together again to assemble the bags for delivery before Thanksgiving. This project has brought so much joy to NSE, and we look forward to the projects yet to come!





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SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SES)

Smyrna Elementary Students Study Ancient History

Studying the ancient world of prehistoric cave art and ancient Egypt, taking students on a journey through ancient “Classical” Greek & Roman times is a great step in their art history exploration. Architecture, pottery and mythology are just a few of the subjects explored this month. Form is also a main focus from creating 3D projects using paper plates, like Kindergarten Spartan shields, and chenille pipe cleaners to create Medusa’s snakelike hair with a few third grade classes. In addition, students are amazed to learn that our U.S. Capitol and White House buildings are inspired by Greek and Roman architecture! Since the Art through the Ages timeline is so vast, some classes and grades will be splitting lessons between Greek / Roman art and Medieval art- where they will dive into a world of castles, knights, royalty, and stained glass which sets the stage for what’s to come with the Renaissance. Children will create art inspired by life during the Middle Ages that incorporates color theory, symmetry, architecture, and different mediums, and much more. The essential questions that will be considered in each grade level are:

GREEK/ROMAN PERIOD

K/First - How are my life experiences similar to or different from people living in the Classical World?
Second & Third - How did artists from the Classical World communicate messages and tell stories through their art?

MEDIEVAL PERIOD

K/First - How can my artwork tell a story about life in the Middle Ages?
Second - How did artists in the Middle Ages use images to communicate ideas?
Third - How was life in the Middle Ages similar to and different from my life?

FROM MS. HEMPHILL: PARENTS, I'm sure you are wondering...Where is my child's artwork? It's safe in the art room! I will be sending work home shortly. Some of the work will be held back for our “I Love Smyrna Day in February”, to be displayed at the high school.

If anyone is available to hang some of these gorgeous works of art in our school, please email me at: liliane.hemphill@smyrna.k12.de.us. I would appreciate it greatly, and I know your children would love it! I am so grateful to be a special part of your child's life! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my love of art with them.

Smyrna Elementary Students Love Physical Education and Health



Your child has been very busy participating in a variety of fun activities all designed to show them how to be a “CHAMPION” in PE, while reinforcing our “The Good Sport Code”. We are having fun and cooperating with our friends every day!! This month's focus has been on Physical Fitness and Body Management.

In kindergarten and first grade, the students have been focusing on Physical Fitness and Body Management. They have been learning their warm up routine which consists of two laps around the gym and some dynamic stretching. They have participated in a variety of stations designed to engage the students and encourage lifelong physical fitness. Ask them about the shuttle run, push-ups, curl-ups, hurdles, tricep dips, and standing long jump just to mention a few.

In second and third grades, the students have also been focusing on Physical Fitness and Body Management. They have added to their warm up routine, which consists of four laps around the gym and dynamic stretching. They have participated in a variety of stations designed to engage the students and encourage lifelong physical fitness. We have been learning about our Components of Fitness through our stations. Some of the stations were: Jump Rope, Trunk Lift, Power Frog Jump, Trunk Lift, Mountain Climbers, Shuttle Run, Jogging, Wall Sit, Sit-n-Reach, Hurdles, Standing Long Jump, Curl Ups, Push Ups, Side Leg Lifts, etc. The third graders have also completed their State Pre-Test for PE and are in the process of completing their Physical Fitness Assessment Pre-Tests.



Melissa Miller

Congratulations to Ms. Melissa Miller, the SES ESP of the Year!!!

Ms. Miller starts her day at SES with helping greet the students who are dropped off in our car line each morning. Ms. Miller makes sure the student attendance is accurate, and enters all parent notes/medical notes into the system. Throughout the day she works with students who are having a rough time in class and may need to take a calming walk to get them redirected back into class. She has also pushed into the classroom settings to help with some students in order to keep them on task during the learning process. Ms. Miller feels working close with some of these students who have a hard time adjusting to some classroom work has helped her better understand where she is needed the most. Over the summer she took classes to get her RBT certification. She is excited to be able to use her training as an RBT here at SES. She feels it will come in handy while working with students and their needs. Also at SES, she started the recycling program about six years ago, which has been a success. Ms. Miller helps with after school activities like our fall fest. Ms. Miller, along with other teachers participate in cooking for the Ronald McDonald house each year. Ms. Miller feels there's nothing better than giving back to our community.

SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SES)



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Smyrna Elementary Students Participate in Library Contest



Congratulations to all of the entries and winners from our third annual book character pumpkin contest! We loved all of the unique book characters, and hope that you were able to check out our collection of pumpkins at the SES fall fest.

KINDERGARTEN: Oliver W. for No David!

FIRST GRADE: Daniel F. for Pete the Cat

SECOND GRADE: Ella H. for Biscuit

THIRD GRADE: Julia P. for the Rainbow Fish

IN THE STAFF CATEGORY, Mrs. VanName/Mrs. Alexander took first prize, and we had a tie for second place with **Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Casterline/Mrs. Weston**. These teachers won a choice of flexible seating like wobble chairs and story time cushions for their classroom.



Our library classes are staying busy. Kindergarten and first grade classes are learning about sequencing and retelling a story in the order the events happen through the works of Laura Numeroff's *If you give a...* series. They learned about Tony Sarg, inventor, puppeteer and founder of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade and created their own balloons to line our office hallway during the parent/teacher conferences. Second grade students have begun the "recipe for a good book" unit and are studying story elements, including setting, characters, conflict, and resolution. Our third graders have been learning the distinctions of different genres of fiction, including, but not limited to realistic fiction, historical fiction, and science fiction.



Our PLC students have been learning about teamwork and solving engineering challenges as they work together to solve problems.

Smyrna Elementary Students Learning Technology



In kindergarten, we are still working on mouse skills and had to put the Code and Go mice on hold until they are more independent leaving **Mrs. Lewis** to work with small groups. She shows them how to fix common things that happen (clicking an ad by mistake, minimize the window, etcetera) and we are moving along. We are still working on the letter of the week each week using www.starfall.com/h/ and start off with the letter song on YouTube from Have Fun Teaching, <https://www.youtube.com/user/havefunteaching>. (Be careful, the songs get stuck in your head!)

First grade is signing onto the generic account with NO HELP! Mrs. Lewis can't keep up with making the snaps but should be ahead of the game next week. We have used the Ozobots and have done an introductory lesson with partners. We'll add more challenges as the year continues.

Ozobots have been working hard in second and third grade too! Hopefully everyone will have had a chance to work with a partner. We are still typing and Ms. Lewis is really impressed with the progress some of the students are making.

For all students, the second week in December was Hour of Code, (it's like Christmas for Technology teachers) and we did some unplugged activities to gear up. Check it out at www.hourofcode.com.

If you have any questions please feel free to let Mrs. Lewis know. She updates her web page with resources, videos and pictures frequently. There is also a folder of links for each grade level to make things easier to manage.

Smyrna Elementary Students Get Into Music



In kindergarten, students have been exploring their unique instrument - "The Voice," in four different ways. Games & activities have included the Falling Leaves song with scarves, Telephone Game, Cookie Jar Game, and more! They have also had fun dancing the "Turkey Tango."

First graders have also been dancing the "Turkey Tango." Each first grade class prepared a dance presentation for the Winter Concert on December 20. Dances included a mix of dances from around the world.

Some second graders have been dancing the "Turkey Tango" while others have been performing "Shake Them 'Simmons" in groups of four. Second graders finished up the Fall Poem playing four instruments -

woods, metals, small drums and large drums. We are now playing our newly purchased Remo hand drums.

In addition to performing "Shake Them 'Simmons" in a group, third graders have been practicing recorder playing techniques on their recorder instruments. If your student is still in need of a recorder, please print the form from the recorder page on **Ms. Evans** teacher webpage and have your student turn it in along with \$10. This will be an instrument that your student can enjoy for many years. Ms. Evans still has her recorder from college!



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SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sunnyside Elementary Putting an End to T1D, One Step at a Time

On December 5 Sunnyside students participated in a school wide walk to support Juvenile Diabetes, coordinated by school nurse, **Staci Simpson** in conjunction with the JDRF- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Each day, 40 children are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes (T1D) in the United States alone. That's the equivalent of an entire classroom full of students. Diabetes is one of the most costly chronic diseases, and children who have T1D will never outgrow it. To stay alive, they must take multiple insulin injections or use an insulin pump, and they test their blood sugar by pricking their fingers about six times a day. Several students in Sunnyside elementary are affected by type 1 diabetes. There is no cure but there is hope, and Sunnyside students helped give hope one step at a time!

Students participated in an educational assembly in November where they learned about diabetes and JDRF. Following the assembly students collected donations to help raise funds for JDRF which is the only global organization working on critical T1D research. Top fundraisers got the opportunity to toilet paper their staff member of choice! To celebrate their efforts, raising more than \$1500 the school walked to raise awareness about T1D.

To learn more about JDRF or how you can help please visit www.jdrf.org



Melissa Williams

Congratulations to Mrs. Melissa Williams for being selected as Sunnyside Elementary School's Educational Support Professional of the Year!

Mrs. Williams works for the Smyrna School District as an Administrative Assistant and is a dedicated professional who is always willing to go the extra mile. She loves to spend time with her husband and daughter. Melissa loves to travel and cook in her free time. She is a team player and is very dedicated to our school and the students. Mrs. Williams is respected by the students and by her colleagues. She is a tremendous asset to Sunnyside and we are very proud to have her as part of our team.



SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



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Minute to Win It

At Sunnyside we began our year by clearly defining the behavior expectations in all areas of the school including classroom, hallway, cafeteria, bathroom and bus. The related arts team planned fun and engaging games, activities and lessons for the students to learn our common language around the school. We had each grade level meet together and we geared the activities to be age appropriate. We had our school wide kick off assembly the final day of the week. We created a "Minute-to-Win-It Game Show". The teachers were asked questions about Sunnyside behavior expectations, and teachers competed against students in a variety of Minute-to-Win-It games. The game show was a very engaging and positive way to teach our students the expected behaviors at Sunnyside.



Ronald McDonald House

Sunnyside Elementary School strives to teach our students to be compassionate and instill the importance of helping those in need. The Ronald McDonald House fundraiser unifies our district by working toward raising money and opening our hearts to help and promote a great cause. In addition to the monetary donation, the students are encouraged to collect pop-tops which are delivered to the house where they are recycled for money. Through our generosity and our Smyrna School District families the house can provide an affordable place where families can sleep, share a meal and find comfort from other families in similar situations at Nemours/Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children.



Veteran's Day

Sunnyside Elementary School celebrated and honored all who have served our country with a Veterans Day Ceremony. We asked family members and local members of our community to visit our school and participate in this celebration. The students of Sunnyside Elementary School demonstrated their deep gratitude to the Veterans through heartfelt singing, reverence, respect, and the delivery of personal statements about our country. This experience deeply impacted the hearts of our students and showed them a real life experience of exemplifying our community core values. We are proud to honor the heroes of our country.





2019 Homecoming



GH SCHOOL

MECOMING





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CLAYTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (CIS)

Geography Bee 2019

Our students participated in the Geography Bee on December 11. The top ten participants were Rhys Cook, Travis Dixon, Aedan Eichholz, Max Evans, Gus Jones, Gray Judy, Emori Metts, Tegan Muehlethaler, Anthony Nacrelli, and Jonah Taylor. The students did a tremendous job and we are proud of each and every one of them. The top three finalist were:

- FIRST PLACE: ANTHONY NACRELLI**
SECOND PLACE: TRAVIS DIXON
THIRD PLACE: GRAY JUDY



Jodi Glew

Congratulations to Jodi Glew, CIS Educational Support Person

Jodi Glew is a valued Library Paraprofessional at Clayton Intermediate School. She does not only fulfill the job duty requirements as a library paraprofessional, but she steps in to fulfill many more such as assisting teachers, helping students, and holding the position of PTO president. Mrs. Glew always has the best interest of kids in mind and is a team player in every situation. Mrs. Glew is a huge contributor to our school, whether it is leading an event or volunteering to help at an event. In addition to her dedication to CIS and the Smyrna School District, she has earned the respect of all her co-workers. We are very proud to have Jodi Glew represent Clayton Intermediate School. She truly is the "Glew" that keeps us together.

Clayton Intermediate Starts With Hello

CIS students celebrated "Start with Hello" week to implement skills needed to reach out and include others who may be isolated. For an entire week, the students participated in opportunities in related arts classrooms to learn more about including others.

On Monday, students participated in an activity that began with signing a banner in the cafeteria during lunch pledging "We Can Be Kind and Make People Smile." In addition, the students placed encouraging and positive words on leaves of a large tree in our main stairwell.

On Tuesday, students participated in a game during gym class called "Save a Friend." The theme of the game is making sure they include others and make friends with their peers.

On Wednesday, students created positive tweets during technology class, turning social media positive and showing that they can make good choices online.

On Thursday, students created personalized, handmade stickers to give to peers. The stickers were kind, inspirational words that represented respect and inclusion.

On Friday students learned an original rap song written by Mr. Nabi. They were taught how to say hello in 15 different languages and learned more about these cultures around the world. They explored the ways they can use hello to spread kindness. The song was then performed by students during lunches.



CLAYTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (CIS)

Clayton Intermediate School Student Events



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Throughout the school year at Clayton Intermediate School we have many events that showcase our students, entertain our students, and celebrate our students. Beginning in the fall we began the year with a PBS/Smyrna Pride assembly where the high school drum line came to perform for our students and deliver inspiring messages to motivate them to do their best. Students were motivated by these amazing high school students who share their messages on reaching success throughout their school careers.



Our students show great compassion and responsibility throughout the year collecting money and items to donate to charities. In October students wore pink to support Breast Cancer Awareness month and collected \$415 to donate to the Breast Cancer Coalition of Delaware. Throughout the month of November, our students collected 2,171 cans to stock the food pantry at Smyrna Middle School. Students also collected over \$1900 to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. In addition, each classroom adopted a resident from the Delaware Home for the Chronically Ill to provide them with gifts to make their Christmas special. Our November theme was to show kindness each day. We had a Random Acts of Kindness calendar that students and staff participated in to show each other kindness.

Random Acts of Kindness Calendar					
We Can be Kind!					
November 4th Give high-fives to your classmates.	November 5th Give a compliment to 5 people.	November 6th Pick up trash around school.	November 7th Write a poem for someone at school.	November 8th Help someone do a job or chore.	
November 11th Write a thank you note to a veteran.	November 12th Bring in 1 can for the food drive. Smile at everyone you see.	November 13th Bring in 2 cans for the food drive. Say something nice to a classmate.	November 14th Bring in 3 cans for the food drive. Play with someone new at recess.	November 15th Bring in 4 cans for the food drive. Hold the door for someone.	
November 18th Write a thank you note to a staff member at CIS.	November 19th Bring in a donation for Ronald McDonald House.	November 20th Tell a friend why you are thankful for them.	November 21st Say good morning to all of your classmates.	November 22nd Share a family tradition with your class.	

In addition to fundraising events, students also had an opportunity to have fun and participate in many different clubs and activities. In October our students and staff dressed up for Halloween and attended our annual Halloween dance. Many clubs met after school such as Recycle Club, Girls on the Run, I Run Club, Dance Club, and Drama Club. The dance club performed their dances at lunch for students and staff and did an amazing job. Drama Club performed their first performance of the year called, "Ho, Ho, Ho The Santa Claus Chronicles," and it was a tremendous hit! Homework Club is off to a great start allowing students to stay after school twice per week to get academic assistance and complete homework with help of teachers.



We are very proud of our students – CIS is a great place to be!



UPCOMING STUDENTS EVENTS

FEBRUARY 7

Valentine's Day Dance • 3:45 – 6:00 p.m.

MARCH 20

St. Patrick's Day Dance • 3:45 – 6:00 p.m.

APRIL 2 & 3

Drama Performance • 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 7

Chorus Concert • 6:30 p.m.

APRIL 7

Band Concert • 7:30 p.m.





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JOHN BASSETT MOORE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (JBM)

Fall Festival

In October, JBM hosted our annual Fall Festival. Students and families took part in face painting, dancing, games, a hay ride, and a moon bounce. The highlight of the event was our Haunted Basement! Students and families were having a terrifyingly fun time! It was a huge success thanks to all of our amazing staff, students and parents who planned, set up and attended! We hope to see you back next year!



“A Whole New World” Family Night

JBM has been a whole new world with our fourth graders joining us this year. Our teachers, students and families came together to share



a meal, engage in math, reading and geography activities and watch the new “Aladdin” movie. All students were given a book and bookmark and most families won a raffle prize. We hope you join us in the spring for our next family night!



Meet Jax!

As part of our district-wide social and emotional learning support initiative, JBM has partnered with PAWS for People (Pet-Assisted Visitation Volunteer Services). JBM now has our very own therapy dog, Jax. He is doing an amazing job supporting our students and staff. We are so thankful Jax is with us and we are proud of him.



JOHN BASSETT MOORE **INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (JBM)**



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Brooke Matthes

**Congratulations, Mrs. Matthes
JBM's Educational Support
Professional of the Year!!!**

JBM is thrilled to celebrate Brooke Matthes as our Educational Support Professional of the year! Mrs. Matthes has been a Paraprofessional at JBM for four years and this year she is JBM's Behavioral Interventionist. Mrs. Matthes provides support to all of our students and staff and is a consistent ray of sunshine to all of us. Mrs. Matthes helps students develop coping skills to manage their feelings and promote positive decision making. We are all thankful for Mrs. Matthes' ability to give us motivational pep talks and to help us get into our best head space every day. Mrs. Matthes' overall goal is to help students develop into the best versions of themselves and become positive, productive human beings. Congratulations, Mrs. Matthes!

Fire Prevention Winners

Fourth graders from Mrs. Daniels' and Ms. Staats' team took the top three awards in the Smyrna Fire Prevention Essay Contest! Congratulations to the following winners:

FIRST PLACE: ELENA HATTON
SECOND PLACE: ASLYN MERRELL
THIRD PLACE: MILAH SIMPSON

Congratulations to Elena Hatton who also won second place for Kent County! Way to go, girls!



Governor Carney Visits JBM!

Governor John Carney, along with a group of state representatives, spent a few hours touring JBM in September. The visitors walked through classrooms, talked with students in the cafeteria and interacted with staff members throughout the day. The students loved the opportunity to see and speak with Governor Carney and were excited to show off their school.





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SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL (SMS)

Team Building Field Trips

The students at SMS have had a busy first semester experiencing team building field trips. The students on the blue and yellow team got to go to the Dover Skating Center for the day. The green team students got to experience The Great STEMporium, Old New Castle, or The John Dickinson Planation. Lastly, the red team took their students to the Dover AMC movie theater, where students were able to see "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" or "Harriet." All staff and students had a wonderful time building team relationships.



Career Fair

Our eighth grade students participated in a career fair with the opportunity to visit six different guests of their choice. Guests included law enforcement, military, aviation, small business owners and technology opportunities to name a few. Guests shared presentations and provided students with the opportunity to ask questions.



Food Pantry

The Food Pantry located at Smyrna Middle School, in partnership with the Harry K. Foundation, serves families throughout the Smyrna School District. Recently, all the schools in the district came together to support the pantry by donating items to add variety to the existing stock. With these donations, the pantry



was able to expand. We are humbled by the overwhelming generosity of the community to support such a great cause that will continue to help our local families. In addition to food, the pantry also offers a variety of clothing in all sizes. If families in the Smyrna School District are in need of these services, please contact the guidance office at Smyrna Middle School at **653-8308** or email **Jennifer Scott** at **JenniferL.Scott@smyrna.k12.de.us**.



SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL (SMS)



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Music Notes

Congratulations to **Taylor Wallace (Soprano)** and **Vanessa Bib (Alto)** for auditioning and being accepted into the Delaware All-State Jr. High Chorus! Taylor and Vanessa will be performing in a concert with the ensemble on February 22, 2020 at Dover High School at 4pm.



Renee Caldwell

Congratulations to Renee Caldwell, Smyrna Middle School's ESP Representative!

Ms. Caldwell has been a custodian in the district for 17 years. She serves as the district SEA vice president for custodians. She was selected by our staff because of her pleasant nature and her willingness to help out.



GO BABY GO!

During the 2019/20 school year, we are excited to be able to modify off the shelf ride-on cars for a child in our community who happens to have mobility challenges.

Smyrna Middle School, STEM teachers **Brian Hurd** and **Denise Boyles**, recently earned grants from Del-One Credit Union and Delaware Retired School Personnel Association towards the modifications of ride-on cars.

If you are a community member or organization that would like to learn more about our program, or would like to nominate a child in need, please visit, <https://docs.google.com/a/smyrnaeagles.org/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfVYv0PJxXmRi4yBfPWwQSLM2y6AXQtMXR0zZysDcYJJwayBA/viewform> or contact Denise Boyles, denise.boyles@smyrna.k12.de.us to learn more.





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SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL (SHS)

Career & Technology Education (CTE) Ambassadors, NEW AT SHS



Smyrna High School for the 2019-2020 school year would like to welcome the Career & Technology Education Ambassadors group to the ranks of its student organizations. The CTE Ambassadors are an elite group of student representatives, hand selected by teachers at Smyrna High School to represent the various programs of study offered in the building. The group is overseen by former longtime Smyrna FFA Advisor- **Mr. Jay Davis**, who is now the CTE Specialist for the building and works with Work Based Learning programming. The CTE Ambassadors, similar to a student council have already established a monthly meeting routine and act as spokespersons for their individual Career & Technology Education pathways. The group recently traveled to Smyrna Middle School to assist with a career fair and also spoke at the December Smyrna School District Board of Education meeting.

In the very near future, the CTE Ambassadors plan to raise funds for student events, as well as create an Ambassador scholarship to be awarded on an annual basis. The following are the inaugural class of CTE Ambassadors:

The School of Agricultural & Natural Resources

- Agricultural Power & Engineering - **Aiden Pepetta**
- Agricultural Structures & Engineering - **Kimon Haldas**
- Animal Science - **Kaitlyn Collins**
- Natural Resources Management - **Aaliyah Street**
- Plant Science - **Paola Pagan**

The School of Education

- Early Childhood Education - **Kennedy Smith**
- K-12 Teacher Academy - **Amy Slattery**

The School of STEM & Professional Studies

- Allied Health - **Deanna Sinclair**
- Project Lead The Way - **Lily Griffiths**

The School of Business, Finance & Marketing

- Academy of Business Information Management - **Kelly Barr**
- Academy of Finance - **Brittaney Kalb & Jenna Carroll**
- Accounting - **Chris Mannering**
- Computer Science - **Addie Smith & Ryan Malone**
- Marketing Management - **Alyssa Hubert-Toussaint**

The School of Life Centered Career Studies

- Digital Communication Technology -
William McGinnis & CJ Mederious

SHS Business Professionals of America (BPA) Student Certification Series

Students in Business Professionals of America demonstrated their knowledge of the CTSO, by completing the Student Certification Series. The purpose of this certification is to prepare students to be successful members of the organization by providing basic information in the following areas: Torch Awards, BPA Cares; Competitive Events; Managing Chapter Finances and Fundraising; and Making the most of Your Conferences Experiences.

There were 18 students that completed the certification, along with advisor, **Ms. Angie Hewes**. Those students are: **Samantha Ahrm, Abigail Anderson, Adriana Ayala, Jill Ballard, Jenna Carroll, Philip Emile, Rebecca Gibson, Jeffrey Hepner, Sheldon Johnson, Erik Larson, Jeremy Netsch, Machaela Owsusu-France, Adriana Prado-Burris, Thomas Smith, Beyoncé Stevenson, Seth White, Gabriela Wilcos, and Adriana Wright.**



Stephanie Greim

**Congratulations,
Mrs. Stephanie Greim
SHS 2019-2020 Educational
Support Professional of the Year**

Mrs. Stephanie Greim joined the Smyrna School District in 2007, first as a Substitute Teacher, then as a part time Para educator working at North Smyrna Elementary in what was then RTI. She then became a full-time Para educator in the library again at North Smyrna Elementary. In 2014 Mrs. Greim came to Smyrna High School as the Library Para educator. She is also the Para educator that runs and works with the students in the Smyrna High School Copy Center.

Originally, from Wisconsin, Mrs. Greim and family relocated to Smyrna in 2007 after supporting her husband's 24 year career of active duty Air Force service in the Carolinas. Mrs. Greim is a member of the Smyrna/Clayton Fourth of July Association and helps monthly at the Salvation Army Soup kitchen in Dover once a month.

This is Mrs. Greim's second Nomination as ESP of the year. Mrs. Greim has previously been awarded that distinction by North Smyrna Elementary School for the 2013-2014 School Year.

SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL (SHS)

SHS Cross Country Team



The girls had an impressive 2019 season. They were undefeated in the normal season. They won the Lake Forest Invite, the County meet, and the Conference meet. They ended third in the division 1 state meet. This was the second most successful season we have had. Collectively, from the first meet to the last meet, the ladies dropped a total of 48 minutes on the season.

The team was led by seniors: **Sarah Larose**, **Raegan Sebastianelli** and **Melissa Perez**, juniors: **Audrey Price** and **Gabby Wilcox**, Sophomore **Kelly Barr** and Freshman **Alyssa Young**.

The boy's team had a 2-6 record on the season. They finished fourth in the county, sixth in the conference and twelfth in the state. They had impressive season revenge wins over Sussex Tech and Millford at the conference meet. The team was led by Senior **Dylan Andruzzi**, Juniors **Zach Cosme** and **Brett Mathis**, Sophomores **Liam Meginess** and **Auden Jones**, and Freshman **Connor Wilson** and **Wyatt Miller**.

SHS Ed Rising Newsletter

In December, Educators Rising were in full planning mode for our Holiday Hoopla. The event was held on December 19 at the high school. Many different winter holidays were featured, such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Diwali, Kwanzaa, and the New Year. It was a community event, and lots of families came out to have their children participate. Our members worked hard to plan out crafts and activities for the children to do. In addition to the Holiday Hoopla, members were getting ready to present their Educators Rising competitions. Every student in the K-12/ ECE pathway spent a lot of their class time working on their projects. We started presentations in class to get members prepared for the local competition, which is taking place in January. Furthermore, our Ed Rising officer crew volunteered to assist at the Delaware Transition Conference that took place on December 13. They were able to gain valuable insight on preparing students with disabilities for the transition from high school to the workforce.



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SHS Hosts 2019 Special Olympics Basketball Skills Challenge

Smyrna High School hosted the Special Olympics Basketball Skills Challenge on December 4 for 171 athletes and unified partners from elementary schools located in Kent County. The Smyrna High School Air Force Jr ROTC presented the colors while members of the Regiment of Red Marching Band played the National Anthem. **Mr. Pat Williams** gave the opening remarks and welcomed everyone to the event. The continued success of Special Olympics Delaware is a result of the thousands of volunteers who unselfishly give their time and talents and whose commitment and effort, much of it behind the scenes, makes this event possible.



Led by Advisor **Whitney Reed**, sixty student volunteers from Smyrna High School worked together to make the event run smoothly. Students from the high school will also participate in the Polar Bear Plunge held the first Sunday in February with the whole Smyrna School District's team called the Plunging Peers. These students truly demonstrate the Smyrna School District's Core Values of Compassion, Responsibility, Respect, Perseverance and Integrity.

SHS Winter Concert Packed House

The Smyrna High School Music Department presented their Winter Concert to a packed house on December 11, 2019. The evening began with our Jazz Ensemble presenting three pieces that featured many student soloists. One of the crowd favorites was "25 or 6 to 4." Our Select Ensemble Choir followed with beautifully performed pieces, and concluded their segment with a candlelight rendition of "Silent Night".

The Symphonic Band included crowd favorites such as "Christmas Festival." Our full choir featured our senior soloists, **Gregory Long** and **Hannah Brennan** on our traditional singing of "O Holy Night".

To finish the concert, the Symphonic Band and full choir presented a rousing rendition of the "Hallelujah Chorus." Congratulations to all of our student musicians.



ATHLETICS





Smyrna High School 2019-2020 Winter Athletic Schedule

BOYS BASKETBALL, Head Coach Andrew Mears

DATE	TIME	TEAMS	H/A	OPPONENT
2/4/2020	3:30 PM	Fr, JV, Var	A	Sussex Central
2/6/2020	3:30 PM	Fr, JV, Var	A	Cape Henlopen
2/11/2020	3:30 PM	Fr, JV, Var	A	Caesar Rodney
2/14/2020	4:00 PM	Fr, JV, Var	H	Polytech HS
2/18/2020	5:15 PM	Var	A	William Penn

GIRLS BASKETBALL, Head Coach Dwight Burke

DATE	TIME	TEAMS	H/A	OPPONENT
2/4/2020	6:00 PM	Var	H	Sussex Central
2/6/2020	6:00 PM	Var	H	Cape Henlopen
2/11/2020	6:00 PM	Var	H	Caesar Rodney
2/13/2020	6:00 PM	Var	H	Al duPont HS
2/14/2020	6:00 PM	Var	A	Polytech HS
2/18/2020	6:15 PM	Var	H	Christiana HS

WRESTLING, Head Coach Aaron Harris

DATE	TIME	TEAMS	H/A	OPPONENT
2/5/2020	6:00 PM	JV, Var	H	Sussex Tech
2/7/2020	6:00 PM	JV, Var	H	Milford HS
2/15/2020		Var	H	DIAA Duals
2/21/2020	5:00 PM	Var	A	Henlopen Conf Championship
2/22/2020	11:00 AM	Var	A	Henlopen Conf Championship
2/28/2020		Var	A	DIAA Individuals
2/29/2020		Var	A	DIAA Individuals

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD, Head Coach Maura Schafer

DATE	TIME	TEAMS	H/A	OPPONENT
2/6/2020	3:00 PM		A	Henlopen Conference Championship
2/22/2020			A	DIAA Championship

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BOARD MEETING DATES

(remainder of 2019-2020 School Year)

February 19, 2020

Smyrna Middle School

March 18, 2020

Clayton Intermediate School

April 8, 2020

Clayton Elementary School

May 13, 2020

John Bassett Moore Intermediate School

June 17, 2020

Central Office