



**SMYRNA
MESSENGER**





OCT. 2020
FALL
ISSUE

**FRONT
COVER:**
Smyrna
High School
Volunteers
at a Special
Olympics
Event

**BACK
COVER:**
Naomi Phillips
(Left)
Rachel Carney
(Right)

DISTRICT DIRECTORY

CENTRAL OFFICES

Mr. Patrik Williams, Superintendent
Mrs. Deborah Judy, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Kelly Holt, Director of Curriculum
Mr. Jerry Gallagher, Director of Finance
Mr. Roger Holt, Director of Operations
Mr. Ryan Buchanan, Supervisor of Instruction

653-8585

CLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Heather Moyer, Principal
Mr. Michael Daws, Associate Principal
Nurse

653-8587

NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dr. Amber Augustus, Principal
Mrs. Amanda Noll, Associate Principal
Mr. Erik Wilson, Associate Principal
Nurse

653-8589

SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

653-8588

SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY

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

653-2808

CLAYTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Mr. David Paltrineri, Principal
Mrs. Melissa Buchanan, Associate Principal
Nurse

653-2761

JBM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

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

659-6297

659-6280

SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mrs. Stephanie Smeltzer, Principal
Mrs. Whitney Irwin, Associate Principal
Mr. Kent Robinson, Associate Principal
Dr. Christine Seitz, Associate Principal
Guidance
Nurse

653-8584

653-8308

653-8823

SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Stacey 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

Mrs. Kristen Kahl, 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

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



From the Superintendent's Desk...

This summer has been unlike any other we can remember. Daily, we face challenges to our daily routines and habits. Still, our district has been actively preparing for months to provide a safe instructional plan for our students. As we open our classrooms **virtually** to students this fall and prepare for a rolling **hybrid** return to our schools, beginning October 5th, we are excited to share how this will look.

Barring further changes in Governor Carney's order, we are spending the month of September in virtual instruction and then "rolling" into hybrid instruction, beginning in early October:

- From Sept. 8 through Oct. 2, Grades PreK-12 Virtual Instruction.
- From Oct. 5 through Oct. 23, Grades K-3 Hybrid; Grades PreK and 4-12 Virtual.
- From Oct. 26 through Nov. 13, Grades PreK - 6 Hybrid; Grades 7-12 Virtual.
- From Nov. 16 through Dec. 4, Grades PreK - 8 Hybrid; Grades 9-12 Virtual.
- From Dec. 7 until Gov. Carney issues a new order, All Students Grades PreK - 12 Hybrid.

Beginning Wednesday, September 16th, and every *Wednesday* during both virtual and hybrid instruction, each school building will be closed in order to complete deep cleaning, sanitization and supply replacement. However, all students, teachers, educators, and paraprofessionals will participate each Wednesday in virtual instruction, interventions and academic support *from their homes*.

There are many issues, of course, surrounding our district's re-opening, and our task force teams examined them this summer, establishing protocols for all of us. For example, our Supervisor of Transportation, Mrs. Sharon Almondo, is creating routes that accommodate our families' needs during hybrid instruction later this fall and support social distancing, mask wearing and all safety precautions. Siblings who reside in the same household will be scheduled to attend schools on the same days during the hybrid instructional period to make it easier on our families. Meals—breakfast and lunch—will be provided daily in the school to students who report once hybrid instruction begins, and in the meantime, we are providing remote meal service to our families during virtual instruction. Details are available on the Smyrna School District Child Nutrition Program site. Our primary efforts focus on supporting healthy and safe education for everyone during the student day. Consequently, the "rolling" hybrid instructional model will require all **students and staff** to adhere to Division of Public Health mandates, including but not limited to social distancing, regular sanitizing and **mandatory mask wearing**.

We understand that this is a stressful time for you, for your children, for all of us. Our mission is to provide meaningful instruction in a safe and healthy environment. Please take care of yourselves, and thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Smyrna Technology Online Resources for Families, Students & Staff

Smyrna Technology has developed a new page on the Smyrna District website to share resources for our families, students and district staff. Information provided is for those families who are still seeking a device to use while we are distance learning. At this point, we are placing names on a waiting list. If your family needs a device, please contact your school as soon as possible.

Also provided is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section. In this section, we attempt to answer the most commonly asked questions concerning logging on to a district Chromebook, errors that appear and what to do, and how to reach us for help. We include

a list of locations throughout the District where you can access free Internet services, including areas around our schools, local businesses, and the Town of Smyrna wireless areas in key locations throughout town.

Finally, we have a list of short videos prepared by Technology and Curriculum for using Google products, such as Classroom, Drive, Docs, Slides, and Sheets. There are videos for FlipGrid, Nearpod, and Jamboard. We have also included videos on using alternative devices such as tablets. These videos continue to expand, so please check back often.

SMYRNA DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HOLLY HUFFORD



Holly Hufford, Agri-science teacher at Smyrna Middle School is a 1999 graduate of Smyrna High School. Mrs. Hufford strives to establish a curriculum that is thought provoking, hands-on and encourages higher level thinking skills. In most cases, the Agri-science classroom is the first encounter these students have with knowledge about livestock, commercial agriculture, greenhouse production, and floral and landscape design. Holly uses their energy and need for knowledge as a motivator to create lessons that are engaging, relatable, and important for her students' lives.

As an Agri-science Exploratory Instructor, Holly feels much of her duty is to provide a base knowledge for her students. Not all of Mrs. Hufford's eighth graders will take the opportunity provided to enter the Agri-science Pathway at the high school but all of them will eventually be consumers of agricultural products. Her goal is for each and every student who exits her classroom to have the problem-solving skills and knowledge to be able to decipher the facts in agriculture versus misconceptions and untruths. Holly strives for them to be able to communicate these truths versus the common misconceptions with people who do not know any better. After completion of eighth grade Agri-science, they will be able to spread their knowledge making even more people educated consumers.

One way to engage students and create an environment that they want to discuss outside of the classroom to others, is for them to have experiences with hands-on applications. Students in Mrs. Hufford's classroom have had an active role in animal grooming, training, and in the canine whelping process. It is Holly's goal to provide them with experiences they will not soon forget, and will want to discuss with students, adults, and community members outside of the classroom.



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CLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (CES)

Welcome back CES Family

A lot of exciting things have been happening at CES in preparation for the start of the 20-21 school year. We absolutely cannot wait to see our staff and students whether it is in-person or virtually. We will continue small-town traditions while imparting dynamic and worldly knowledge to each student. Through our ongoing partnership with the community, Clayton Elementary School will continue to maintain a focus on student centered curriculum, positive and nurturing relationships, and a dedication to ensuring comprehensive student success.

A Big Thank You to Custodial Crew

Our Custodial Crew has done an amazing job this summer beautifying CES. Our staff and students will be in for a huge surprise when they return! They have transformed the appearance of CES by painting every wall and changing the trim color around every door and window to RED to better fit with Smyrna School District color palette. They have also worked hard at "deep cleaning" our building, installing hand sanitizing stations, and focusing on the safety and well-being of every student and staff member upon our return.



New Staff

CES is extremely excited to welcome **Lindsey Sawyer** as a new paraprofessional within our building. Lindsey comes to us with an extreme enthusiasm for working with children and will be a welcomed member to our family.

Volunteers needed CES PTO

Clayton Elementary loves volunteers to help out with our PTO. This is an organization that is very few in numbers but does a tremendous job in supporting the students and staff at Clayton Elementary. We welcome new people with new ideas and are currently looking for someone to fill the Secretary position. Meetings take place the 2nd Monday of each month at 4:00 pm in the school library. Please find the time to help out this wonderful organization. More information on when the first meeting will be will be sent home once school starts. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Child Nutrition

When CES closed its doors in March due to the pandemic, we still wanted to uphold our Core Values and commitment to our community. We were very fortunate to be deemed a food distribution center for any and all families within the greater Smyrna community. Our child nutrition team worked tirelessly to prepare bags of food for our families in need. Every Thursday from 12:00-12:30 you could see the cars wrapped around CES waiting for their friendly delivery from our Child Nutrition staff. We couldn't be prouder of their hard work and dedication to feeding the families of the Smyrna community.



CLAYTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (CIS)

Child Nutrition and Custodial teams are Super Stars!

Clayton Intermediate School is so fortunate to have the best Child Nutrition and Custodial teams! These two groups have been hard at work this summer!!

Our Child Nutrition team worked throughout the week to make meals for the families in our community. From chicken salad to zucchini bread, they worked tirelessly to ensure that our community was well fed. They made over 19,000 meals this summer to help feed the Smyrna/Clayton community.

The Custodial team has been working constantly since March to ensure that CIS was sanitized and clear of any virus. They have spent this summer cleaning, organizing, and re-sanitizing our entire school to ensure that it is ready for teachers to return at the end of August. CIS is truly thankful for their dedication to our school and our community. These groups have made sure that we are all safe and well-fed this summer.



Welcome to the Clayton Intermediate Family



Angelia Kowalczyk

Hi everyone! My name is Angelia Kowalczyk and I am excited to be joining CIS this school year. This will be my fourth year teaching fifth grade. I graduated from the University of Delaware in 2017 with my Bachelors and from Wilmington University in 2019 with my Masters. When I am at home, I love to spend time in my garden and finding new plants to grow. I am looking forward to being a part of the CIS family and working with you all!



Justin Solito

My name is Justin Solito. I am a New Jersey native, but Delaware has been my home for a very long time. I am a Delaware State University graduate, and I am a current Wilmington University student. I am very happy to be working in education because our children are the future, and being able to help them succeed in their studies is an honor. I am looking forward to the new school year as we are all going to strive for greatness!



Missie Buchanan

I am so excited to start this new chapter of my career at Clayton Intermediate School, as the new Associate Principal! I have worked in the Smyrna School District for 20 years as a high school teacher and as an instructional specialist. Over my career, I have developed a love and a passion for education, making sure that I always do what is best for kids. I look forward to working with and meeting all of the new students and families at CIS. This school and the Smyrna Clayton community, are truly a special group of people and I am so fortunate to be a part of it!!



Rebecca Urian

Rebecca Urian has been teaching fifth grade for the past four years. She recently moved back to her hometown of Clayton, Delaware, after attending college and beginning her career in Nebraska. She is a 2016 graduate of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, with a degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. She is a 2020 graduate of Doane University with a master's degree in Educational Leadership. She has a vested interest in incorporating technology and BlendEd learning into her classroom. She looks forward to teaching math and science in the fall at Clayton Intermediate School.



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NORTH SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (NSE)

Welcome to North Smyrna Elementary!

Welcome back NSES students and families! As we plan for a beginning like never before, rest assured our vision is still clear: To Inspire, Nurture, and Celebrate Every Child, Every Day. The challenge of the spring sprouted new opportunities of growth and learning for staff, students, and families alike. Through this season, the commitment of the Smyrna community remained true and incredibly strong. As we venture into the 2020-2021 school year, the staff at NSES is committed to high standards of safety, equity, and quality instruction. We look forward to working with all students and families in the year ahead!

– Dr. Augustus, Principal



The Kindness Project: Pets

The Kindness Project initiated by teachers Mrs. Pertschi and Mrs. Schultz was created as a way to connect the school and the community through acts of kindness. Through the winter months of 2020, students and families from North Smyrna Elementary donated various animal supplies for local animal shelters. As a culminating activity, our NSES community joined together and created amazing braided dog toys made from donated t-shirts! Tug-a-war has never looked so fun! The Kindness Project has surely been an inspirational part of NSES and we're looking forward to the future projects that will positively impact our students and community!



Spanish Immersion BIENVENIDOS

This year NSES is welcoming the fifth cohort of Spanish Immersion learners! The Spanish Immersion Program provides a unique learning experience that provides students with an opportunity to learn English as well as Spanish. Using the same curriculum and standards as non-immersion classrooms, students are supported by two teachers' daily, working with both teachers for ½ day in each content area. Bienvenidos estudiantes y familias!



Mrs. Daniels



Mrs. Mullins



Mrs. Troutman



Senora Crespo

Welcome New Faces of North

A local educator with over nine years of experience at Del Tech in the Visual Communications Department, Mrs. Troutman is NSES' new art teacher! Welcome Mrs. Troutman!

With over 22 years of administrative assistant experience, Mrs. Mullen is the new smiling face you will see in the front office! Welcome Mrs. Mullen!

Senora Crespo is joining our Kindergarten team from Puerto Rico as the Spanish Immersion teacher. Bienvenidos Senora Crespo!

Welcome back Mrs. Daniels! Entering her ninth year of teaching, Mrs. Daniels is a Smyrna Eagle committed and dedicated to her craft!

Stay Connected to North News



THANK YOU!

Thank you NSES Child Nutrition and Custodial staffs for your continued dedication to the families in our community! We appreciate you!

NORTH SMRYNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (NSE)

Read, Read, Read and Love it!

Who loves to read?! Reading has the ability to take one on limitless adventures! Over the last year, NSES students engaged in more reading than ever! Through the partnership with the American Reading Company, students were offered a variety of book selections based on individual needs daily. Students built their reading stamina each and every day through a special time called Eagle Reading. Just remember to read, read, read, and love it!



Teacher of the Year: Deborah Thompson



Congratulations to North Smyrna Elementary's 2020 Teacher of the Year, Ms. Deborah Thompson. Ms. Thompson joined the Smyrna School District in 2014 and has worked in the district's Early Childhood program teaching three-year-olds. Known to most as Ms. Debbie, this amazing teacher believes building relationships is the key to instilling a life-long love of learning. Her educational philosophies are rooted deeply in kindness, play, social interactions, and inclusion. In fact, one of her favorite quotes as stated by Fred Rogers is "Play is the work of childhood." Her classroom encourages creativity, promotes curiosity and fosters compassion. She develops joy in her learners through free play, music, dance, crafts, and stories. She is known for taking her students on bear hunts, exploring new places, and introducing each story as one of her favorite books ever! Ms. Debbie's sweet disposition and incredible passion for teaching our youngest learners has been impactful to so many. Ms. Deborah Thompson is a highly respected and valued member of the NSES family!

Meet the Administration Team

Meet the new principal of North Smyrna Elementary School, **Dr. Augustus!** While not a new face to the school, Dr. Augustus is taking on a new role as principal. She will continue her work in nurturing a collaborative culture established on strong relationships, support high levels of learning, and focus on students' needs above all. Dr. Augustus is committed to all of the staff, students, and families and is looking forward to the new school year! Amber.Augustus@smyrna.k12.de.us



Mr. Wilson is entering his third year at NSES as an associate principal. He takes pride in the staff, students, and families and is eager for the upcoming year! Erik.Wilson@smyrna.k12.de.us



Welcome **Mrs. Noll** as the newest associate principal at North Smyrna Elementary! Mrs. Noll has worked at NSES for over 14 years, both as a teacher and the reading specialist. With a high commitment to learning, Mrs. Noll is dedicated to the staff, students and families and is excited for the new year ahead! Amanda.Noll@smyrna.k12.de.us



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JOHN BASSETT MOORE

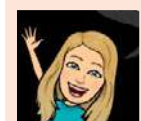
Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year!

Although this school year is going to be different from any school year that we have previously experienced, we are eager to begin! We look forward to being back in our school building, seeing all of our amazing teachers at work in their element, and interacting with all of our wonderful students. We have spent the past few months planning and preparing for this year and we are ready! While we will spend the first few weeks interacting virtually and from a distance with our students and families, we do have new opportunities planned for you to get to know us, including a Virtual Open House. Visit our website for updates, our monthly newsletter, and our new Virtual JBM Office (<http://jbm.smyrna.k12.de.us/>).



Mr. Steve Gott
Principal
steven.gott@smyrna.k12.de.us
302-659-6297

Mrs. Amy Mumley
Associate Principal
amy.mumley@smyrna.k12.de.us
302-659-6297



JBM Welcomes Six New Staff Members!

We are excited to welcome six new staff members to our JBM family this year. We welcome **Mrs. Abby Wood**, a 16 year veteran classroom teacher with a passion for healthy living, as our new Health teacher. New to our fourth grade team are **Ms. Alycea Watson** and **Mrs. Naomi Johnson**. Ms. Watson is a Delaware native who recently moved back from Virginia to launch her teaching career. Mrs. Johnson has been teaching in Delaware for the past few years and is excited to join our Smyrna School District. Joining our sixth grade team are **Mrs. Andrea Davis** and **Ms. Megan Wright**. Mrs. Davis moved to Delaware recently and is eager to begin her career in her own classroom with us at JBM. Mrs. Wright is a Delaware native who recently moved back from Virginia and is looking forward to expanding her classroom experience to sixth grade. **Mr. Javier Benavides-Moncada** is a multilingual, native Spanish speaker who is thrilled to begin teaching JBM's first Spanish Immersion class at JBM! With so many new additions to our JBM team, we are looking forward to the start of the 2020-2021 School Year!

Bienvenidos a Nuestra Escuela

JBM is thrilled to welcome the fourth grade Spanish Immersion program to our JBM community. The team of students who have been in the Spanish Immersion program at North Smyrna Elementary School since Kindergarten are now fourth graders and are moving up to JBM this year. We are so excited to have the opportunity to become part of the Spanish Immersion community and look forward to building our fluency in the Spanish language. Mr. Javier Benavides-Moncada and Ms. Julia Wood are going to lead our Spanish Immersion team. Our staff members who are working to refresh their Spanish vocabularies recommend trying out the free App, Duolingo!



JBM 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year

**Congratulations to Ms. Shayla
Evans, JBM's 2020-2021
Teacher of the Year!**

**Ms. Evans is a fifth grade ELA
and Social Studies Teacher.
Ms. Evans has been part of the
JBM Team for the past four
years. Students and staff alike
have a deep respect and love
for Ms. Evans. We are proud of
Ms. Evans and her
accomplishments!**

Thank you to our Custodians & Child Nutrition Staff!

We are so thankful for their continued commitment to the health and wellness of our Smyrna families.

SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SES)

Welcome from Mrs. McNatt and Mr. Reed

The Administrative Team at Smyrna Elementary School would like to welcome all new and returning students and families to the 2020/2021 school year! We understand that this school year will look different, but our team has been working for months to ensure that we will continue to provide students with enriched learning opportunities through the use of technology and engaging curriculum. In addition, communication will be extremely important throughout the year, so please make sure you visit our website <http://ses.smyrna.k12.de.us> for any updates. We look forward to a successful school year!!!



Mrs. Cynthia McNatt
Principal, SES
cynthia.mcnatt@smyrna.k12.de.us
302-653-8588



Mr. Mikell Reed
Associate Principal, SES
mikell.reed@smyrna.k12.de.us
302-653-8588

End of the Year Student Celebration!

Our school year concluded with an end of the year "Drive by Celebration". Students and families were greeted by our wonderful staff and PTO to pick up student belongings and special gifts! It was a day filled with lots of smiling, love, and music!



SES Welcomes Carlene Wilson



The Smyrna Elementary family would like to welcome Carlene Wilson, from North Smyrna Elementary, as a Paraprofessional in our Comprehensive Learning Program. She moved from New York 17 years ago with her husband and three children. She has been working with special needs students for about 25 years. Mrs. Wilson is one of the SSD's Registered Behavior Technicians. She has spent the last seven years involved with the deaf community learning American Sign Language in order to teach and help them gain access to bible knowledge in their heart language. Mrs. Wilson loves her students and enjoys seeing them accomplish small and big goals. She is especially happy when our parents get to see their child reach milestones that seemed impossible.



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SES Teacher of the Year Mrs. Heather Marker



Smyrna Elementary is proud to announce our 2019-20 Teacher of the Year was Mrs. Heather Marker. Mrs. Marker was also awarded the 2019-20 Smyrna/Clayton VFW Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Marker lives in Smyrna with her husband Joe, son Luke, and daughter Paige. This will be her fifth year of teaching third grade at Smyrna Elementary. Outside of school, she enjoys spending time with her family, reading, camping, and being outdoors.

SES Welcomes Back Taylor Ryan



Smyrna Elementary is excited to welcome back Ms. Taylor Ryan. Ms. Ryan started her educational career at SES providing small group support to students. Ms. Ryan returns to us from North Smyrna Elementary as a paraprofessional in our Comprehensive Learning Program. Ms. Ryan was raised in Dover, Delaware. She graduated from Dover High in 2015 and started working for Smyrna School District in 2018. Ms. Ryan loves coming to work every day and seeing the smiles on kids' faces ready to learn and grow! She cannot wait for another wonderful year!



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SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SSE)

Sunnyside Teacher of the Year 2020-2021- Erin Sukowaski



Mrs. Sukowaski started her teaching career as an Art Teacher in 2007 at Smyrna High School in the ninth grade academy and part time Art Teacher at Sunnyside Elementary School. Mrs. Sukowaski uses her creativity to educate students, colleagues, families, and the community. She passionately believes the success in education begins with building relationships and strong connections. She graduated from Millersville University in 2007 with a dual major, Bachelor of Fine Arts with Digital/Graphic Arts and Bachelor of Science in Education with certifications in Art K-12, and Exceptional Children Special Education. She later attended University of Delaware and Wilmington University. She earned her Masters of Education in School Leadership from Wilmington University. From the moment Sunnyside Elementary School opened its doors in 2008, Erin Sukowaski has been the

building block of all Social Emotional Learning programs. She enjoys being a part of the Social Emotional Learning programs and planning events at Sunnyside Elementary School. She is very passionate about educating and making a difference in our student's lives.

Great Job by Custodial Crew

Sunnyside Elementary would like to thank our custodians for their hard work and dedication over the past few months. They have done a great job cleaning and preparing the building for our students and staff. From painting, installing new hand sanitizing stations, making sure everything is in working condition and deep cleaning, they have been very busy. Our school looks great! Thank you!



Thanks to our Child Nutrition

Sunnyside Elementary would like to thank our child nutrition staff for their energy and hard work over the past several months. They have prepared food and distributed it to our students and the children of our community. We are so lucky to have such a hard working Child Nutrition staff in our building!

Welcome New Staff at Sunnyside

Sunnyside Elementary would like to welcome the following individuals to our building: **Ryan Kirch** and **Shi'Erra Hilliard** will be joining us this year as teachers and Heidi Lamb, Eileen Taylor, Joanna Cobble and Annette Berry will join us as para-professionals. We are very excited that they have joined our team and would like to welcome them to our Sunnyside family!

Lunch time with our School Resource Officers (SROs)

Smyrna School District's SROs stop by Sunnyside to have lunch with a group of students! Thank you Officer (Cpl.) Carrigan and Officer (Cpl.) Donner for eating lunch with these awesome first graders.



SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SSE)

Message from Mr. Grant, Principle

Sunnyside Elementary School would like to welcome all of our students and their families to another great school year! As with the opening of every school year, the upcoming year promises to bring excitement, wonderful learning opportunities, and a variety of new experiences, especially this school year. The summer has been busy for our administrators, administrative assistants, teachers and custodial staff as we have been planning for the upcoming school year. Over the past several weeks, we have been diligently preparing for our student's first day of school on Tuesday, September 8, which will begin with virtual instruction for all of our students. We look forward to working with everyone throughout the school year. Over the course of the year, please visit our website often so you don't miss out on important information and the great things going on at Sunnyside. In the mail, you will receive a letter from your child's teacher with lots of great information to acquaint you and your child(ren) with their new classroom and teacher. Parental support and participation is a key factor in accomplishing our goals. Please take an active role in your child's education. As we gear up for another Sunnyside school year, we will work together as we are "Building the Future - Every Child, Every Classroom, Every Day!" We look forward to a great school year. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the school at 302-653-2808.



To view current school information, visit <http://sse.smyrnak12.org/index.jsp>. Follow us on Twitter @ sdsunnyside Follow us on Facebook @ Sunnyside Elementary School

PAWS for People

As part of our district-wide social and emotional learning support initiative, the Smyrna School District has partnered with PAWS for People (Pet-Assisted Visitation Volunteer Services), a local, nonprofit pet therapy company that works with a variety of organizations, including schools, to support the well-being of our students. These trained dogs and their volunteers work with all students and spend time with our students learning throughout the school day.



We Love Sunnyside!



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SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL (SMS)

NEW SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

We would like to congratulate Stephanie Smeltzer on becoming Smyrna Middle School's new Principal. Mrs. Smeltzer has been in education for eighteen years and is a proud Smyrna Eagle. Most recently, she was the Principal at North Smyrna Elementary School. She is excited to meet her new students and to be with some of her former students and families again.



Mrs. Stephanie Smeltzer

NEW SMYRNA MIDDLE ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Dr. Christine Seitz joined Smyrna Middle School in January 2020, as an Associate Principal. She has been in education for the past fifteen years and is happy to be a part of the Smyrna community. One thing that she noticed quickly about Smyrna Middle School is the commitment and dedication of the staff with providing the best educational experience for every child. She is proud to be a part of this amazing team.



Dr. Christine Seitz

2020-2021 FFA OFFICERS

Congratulations to our 2020-2021 FFA Officers: Riley Horsey, Mariah McKinney, Erin Neal, Matthew Spencer, and Taylor Wallace



SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL (SMS)

NEW SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF



Amanda Ruquet

Hello! My name is Amanda Ruquet and I am very excited to be teaching at Smyrna Middle School this year. I grew up in New Jersey and studied at Rutgers University where I earned a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in science education. After college, I taught science for three years at a middle school in New Jersey. In 2008, my husband and I moved to Delaware and I decided to take a break from teaching to stay home with our three children. Now that our children are older, I am eager to get back in the classroom. I am thrilled to be joining the Smyrna Family and looking forward to an awesome year!



Ameer Watson

My name is Ameer Watson, and I'll be joining the Smyrna Middle School staff as a para educator this upcoming school year. I am a Smyrna graduate, and excited to come home in order to give the knowledge back to the community that I have been able to gain from my journey thus far.



Amy Bandy

My name is Amy Bandy and I am excited to be the new 7th grade art teacher at Smyrna Middle School. I am originally from West Chester, Pennsylvania, I attended Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia and graduated with my Bachelors of Fine Arts and Post-Baccalaureate in Art Education, and I am currently pursuing my Masters in Art Education from the University of Florida. My teaching experience spans 10 years, teaching elementary and middle art in both Texas and Delaware. My lifelong love of the arts is what has led me to be an art teacher. As an art teacher, I encourage my students to be thinkers, problem solvers and explore their imagination. I not only want my students to experience art, but to understand how much it affects their lives.



Olivia Hubbard

Hello there! My name is Olivia Hubbard and I am very happy to be joining the Smyrna School District family this upcoming year. Coming from Maryland, I went to Salisbury University and moved to Delaware just last year. In my free time I love to be outdoors and explore new areas, but also relax at home with Netflix and some good snacks. I'm so excited to meet you all virtually and in person soon!



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SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL (SHS)

SHS Recognized as Special Olympics Unified Champion School CONGRATULATIONS!

On behalf of Special Olympics Delaware, we are honored to declare Smyrna High School an official Special Olympics Delaware Unified Champion Banner School for the 2019-20 school year! Under your leadership, the Smyrna High School staff and students have demonstrated their commitment to inclusion through Unified Sports, youth leadership opportunities for students with and without disabilities, and whole school engagement.

Through the efforts led by you and key staff members, your school community has shown impressive determination and is helping us move toward our collective goal of creating a truly 'Unified Generation' of young people who embrace differences and lead social change. You are literally redefining the future as you make your communities more inclusive of people with intellectual disabilities, and in doing so, making the world a more accepting place for all. Thanks for all you do to help make our schools and our communities more inclusive.



Smyrna High School FFA Celebrates Student Accomplishments



37 Smyrna FFA members attended the Delaware FFA State Convention held on March 11 and 12, 2020. Members competed in a variety of contests and leadership workshops. Highlights included our Sr. Parliamentary Procedure team placing first in the state as well as two American Degree Candidates (**Josh and Tyler Meixell**), ten State Degree Recipients (**Justin Barber, Delaney Tome, Aaliyah Street, Aiden Pepeta, Logan Strauss, Ashley Daniels, Zane Kerr, Autumn Legar, Kaylee Davis, and Brynn Rifino**), one State Star in Agri-business recipient (**Delaney Tome**), and four Delaware Proficiency Winners (**Ashley Daniels, Delaney Tome, Raelyn Wiley, and Aiden Pepeta**). Our members continued to persevere through the spring COVID-19 shut down and hosted

several virtual events including our Annual Parent/Member Banquet, which ran in four segments on our Chapter Facebook page and was linked through Schoology. During the event, members were awarded based on their academic successes in their agri-science courses, seniors were awarded scholarships, Star Greenhand and Star Chapter awards were given to **Isabella McMullen and Gabryele Carter** (respectively), **Delaney Tome** was announced our Outstanding Senior, and **Logan Strauss** was announced as the 2020 DeKalb Recipient.

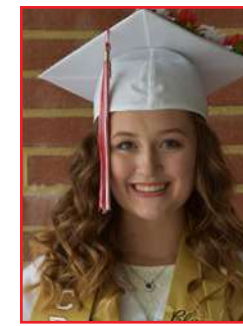
Smyrna FFA ran our first ever #TaggedBySHSag program in which local businesses and first responders that remained open and active during the entire COVID-19 shutdown were recognized in the community by placing geranium planters in front of their locations in order to encourage people to support these places. Big THANK YOU to the community for supporting our annual spring plant sale despite COVID-19!! Smyrna FFA has again been announced as the top chapter in the state for our National Chapter Award.



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LEILA SEBASTIAN



MIA DAVIS

SHS Class of 2020 Valedictorian Leila Sebastian

Leila Sebastian graduated from Smyrna High School with a 4.17 GPA and will be attending Georgetown University as a Government major and English minor!

SHS Class of 2020 Salutatorian Mia Davis

Mia Davis graduated from Smyrna High School with a 4.14 GPA and will be attending University of Delaware as a Pre-Veterinary Medicine major!

Elise Sampson Represents



Elise Sampson, a junior at Smyrna High School, has been selected to serve as the student representative on the State of Delaware Board of Education for the 2020-2021 school year. During a rigorous application process, Elise was selected from seventy applicants statewide to serve in this very important position. She will utilize this opportunity to give a student's perspective on the many important issues that the State Board of Education discusses over the course of the year. The entire Smyrna School District community is extremely proud that Elise has earned such a prestigious honor.

Smyrna High School Students Earn MOS Certification

The Business Education division of Career and Technology Education at Smyrna High School is proud to announce that seven students achieved Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification in various different Microsoft Office 2016 Programs during the 2019-2020 school year. In addition, all students became MOS Masters. MOS certification testing is administered online through Certiport, the leading provider of value-added test delivery services for the global workforce and academic markets. This is a universally recognized certification accepted by both colleges and employers as verification of mastery of word processing skills. MOS certification helps students differentiate themselves in today's competitive job market, broadens employment opportunities by displaying advanced skills.



SHS 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year VALERIE COLL

Valerie Coll is a Master prepared Early Childhood Education teacher and has been a part of the Smyrna School District family for the past nine years. She is a dedicated and compassionate teacher who goes above and beyond for her students. Being part of the Career and Technical field, Valerie has been able to grow and expand the Early Childhood Education program in the district. The expansion of this program has led her to become an Adjunct Professor at Delaware Technical Community College so she can enable her high school seniors to receive college credit. In addition, Valerie collaborates with the Delaware Department of Education on developing Early Childhood Education curriculum. She provides her students countless hands-on experiences in and outside of the classroom, from field trips, to community outreach, as well as CPR certification. Not only a teacher, Valerie is also an adviser to the Career and Technical Student Organization, Educators Rising, where she has been able to take students to state and national competitions throughout the years. Valerie is also currently a member of the Mindfulness Committee, where she works with colleagues to provide students opportunities to work on their personal well-being and self-care. Valerie's biggest goal is to always have a warm and welcoming environment classroom and is always striving to do better for her students, her district, and her community.



GRADUATION

CLASS OF 2020

Smyrna School District Teachers & Staff are proud of our Class of 2020 Students!





Smyrna School District
82 Monrovia Ave
Smyrna, DE 19977

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UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

OCTOBER 21, 2020
NOVEMBER 18, 2020
DECEMBER 16, 2020
JANUARY 20, 2021
FEBRUARY 17, 2021
MARCH 17, 2021
APRIL 21, 2021
MAY 12, 2021
JUNE 16, 2021