

# January

## Happy New Year

FROM ACPS



# WELCOME!

**Dear ACPS Friends and Families!**

Just a short message of introduction and a sincere “thank you” for the warm welcome I have received. After 36 years in education, the excitement that accompanies first days never really goes away and today has been no different. I am looking forward to learning all about ACPS, especially the wonderful things that are happening in our classrooms. A friend told me many years ago that “you can’t lead sitting behind your desk,” so don’t be surprised when and if you see me in your school, your office, your classroom, etc. If you see me, please don’t hesitate to say hello and introduce yourself.

I shared with staff this morning that my role is to help you, help our students, and help ACPS in general. That mission begins today and, although I am here for a relatively short period of time, I promise to support the mission of providing “...a safe, engaging, student-centered environment where all learners are challenged, encouraged, and supported.” Our primary objective is to provide students with the tools they need in order to become the absolute best versions of themselves. As I am sure you know, it is much easier to achieve this mission when we work together. Looking forward to meeting and working alongside all of you!



Best,  
David C. Jeck  
Interim Superintendent



# Elementary

## ACCAWMACKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



**Our Girls On The Run (GOTR) team participated in the Happy Pace 5K! We are so proud of them for all their hard work this season. Keep doing great things girls!**



**BARRIER  
ISLANDS  
CENTER**

A special thank you to our many community partners who hosted our Pre K and Kindergarten students for real world, hands-on experiential learning this December.



**UNITED STATES  
POSTAL SERVICE**



**30 bright and talented AES students were inducted to BETA this month!**

**Teachers must have been extra good this year. They were treated to a Holiday breakfast sponsored by BETA club and a Holiday Luncheon.**





# Staff spotlight

**Staff member: Hunter Liddle**

**Position: Technology Support Specialist**

We are excited to welcome Mr. Hunter Liddle as our new Technology Support Specialist! A graduate of our very own ACPS school system, Hunter brings both technical expertise and a deep connection to our community. With training from our very own Badger program and a passion for helping others, he is dedicated to ensuring our technology runs smoothly, supporting both students and staff. Hunter's familiarity with our schools gives him a unique understanding of our needs, and we are thrilled to have him on board. Please join us in welcoming Hunter to our school family!



**Teacher: Sara Beebe**

**Position: Kindergarten teacher**



We are excited to recognize Ms. Sara Beebe, an exceptional kindergarten teacher whose dedication and passion for early education shine through every day. Ms. Beebe creates a warm, nurturing classroom where children thrive academically and socially through hands-on learning. Her creativity and thoughtful approach make lessons both fun and meaningful. Beyond her teaching skills, Ms. Beebe is known for her kindness, empathy, and strong connections with her students as well as school faculty and staff. She works tirelessly to ensure each child's success, and we are grateful to have her as a valued member of our school community!

# CHINCOTEAGUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**\*It was 'Career Day' at CES on November 25th. Students were able to talk with representatives and learn about the various professions and careers paths on the Eastern Shore: Accomack County 911 Center, Assateague Island National Seashore, Jesters Plumbing, Virginia State Police, US Fish and Wildlife, Virginia Marine Police, Chincoteague Police Dept., VDOT, ANEC, Riverside Hospital, and Dublin Farms.**



**\*Coastal Wilds at Barn Hill Preserve from Delaware visited on November 26th. Students enjoyed a 45 minute presentation that featured some of their animal ambassadors-a Chinchilla, Spectacled Owl, Guinea Pig, Tortoise, and Skink. Several students were able to take photos with Godzilla the Skink.**

**\*On December 12th, the students led by Music Teacher, Mr. Amenityro, presented 'An Old Fashioned Christmas' program at the Chincoteague Community Center. It was a fun-filled evening of songs, dancing, and celebrating the Christmas season.**

**\*DARE Graduation was held on December 17th. Winners of the DARE Essay were as follows: Mrs. Lewis 5th Grade-1st Connor Pruitt, 2nd La'Elle Scott, and 3rd Forrest Gibson; Mr. March 5th Grade-1st Place Samantha Dawkins, 2nd Caiden Chandler, and 3rd Olivia Cherrix; Over and Above DARE Award Nathan Davis.**

**Thank you to the Accomack County Sheriff's Department, and to Deputy Campbell, for sponsoring this program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) each year.**



**\*Kindergarten enjoyed an afternoon of making gingerbread houses together this month as well.**



## Upcoming Events:

**CES PTA 'Glow Into the New Year' Dance January 10, 2025  
PreK-2 5:30pm-7:00pm and  
Grades 3-5 7:00pm-8:30pm**





# CHINCOTEAGUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Staff spotlight

**Teacher : Becky Taylor-Jorgensen**  
**Position: Special Education Teacher**



Say hello to Becky Taylor-Jorgensen! She is new to Chincoteague Elementary School this year but has collectively taught over 10 years and as a Special Education Teacher for 3 years. She is from Baltimore, Maryland and has lived on Chincoteague Island with her family for several years. She considers herself a 'been here'r' now though. Mrs. Jorgensen enjoys traveling, spending time with her husband, dog, and kids, being outside, exercising, and listening to music. A fun fact about her is that she was a cable splicer/lineman for the telephone company for 8 years. Mrs. Jorgensen loves the 'ah-ha' moments in teaching and working with the misunderstood and struggling students. She is a very caring and organized teacher who is also very creative, especially with her door decor and bulletin boards each month. We are lucky to have her at CES!!

**Staff member: Kate O'Connor**  
**Position: Early Intervention Reading Initiative Tutor**



Kate O'Connor is one of our EIRI (Early Intervention Reading Initiative) Tutors. She has worked at CES for 3 years. Her 3 children attend Chincoteague schools as well-Julian 2nd grade, Phineas 4th grade, and Bence 6th grade. As a child Mrs. O'Connor lived pretty much everywhere including Utah, Pennsylvania, and moved to Chincoteague 3 years ago with her family. Her favorite things to do are cooking, baking, reading-Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings, and traveling. A fun fact is that she has traveled as far as India and China, and is not too shabby at laying down hardwood flooring apparently. We certainly love her baking here, every so often we get homemade cookies and cakes in the teachers lounge Yumm!! Thank you for all you do at CES for the students and staff, Mrs. O'Connor!

# METOMPKIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

During the month of December, MES has been a flurry of activity. This includes our Girls on the Run participating in the finale 5K on December 15th in Newport News. They donated over \$800.00 as a team! Our coaches, Tanequa Crosby and Nadine Brown, went above and beyond! We hosted The Penguin Patch, where students had the opportunity to buy small presents for all their family members. Lastly, Our Angel Tree - orchestrated by our Guidance Counselor Brianna Young - served over 50 families for the holidays!



Admin worked in the Cafeteria making and baking cookies for our staff!!

MES Eagles are anticipating an exciting 2025! Events include starting our after school tutoring program, field trips, and our Title 1 parent engagement events.





The graphic features the title "Staff Spotlight" in a large, blue, outlined font at the top. Five spotlights are positioned above the text, casting a warm yellow glow. The background is a light blue gradient with faint, stylized evergreen trees and white snowflake-like dots. At the bottom, there is a blue, tiered pedestal or stage.

# Staff Spotlight

**Teacher: Tiffani Ford**

**Position: 4th Grade Teacher**

Mrs. Ford's classroom is a vibrant hub of activity, where curiosity and creativity are encouraged. Her passion for teaching is evident in the way she tailors lessons to suit the diverse learning styles of her students, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to succeed. Beyond academics, Mrs. Ford is dedicated to fostering a nurturing and inclusive environment where every student feels valued and supported. Her commitment to her students extends beyond the classroom, as she often volunteers for school events and mentors new teachers. We are incredibly fortunate to have Mrs. Ford in our school community, and we celebrate her unwavering dedication to education and her students.

**Staff member: Tracey Taylor**

**Position: Nurse**

Her warmth and compassion are felt by every student and staff member she encounters. Nurse Taylor has become an invaluable part of our community. She is known not only for her expertise in handling medical emergencies but also for her ability to comfort and reassure those in her care. Her dedication to promoting health and wellness extends beyond the school walls. We are truly grateful for Nurse Taylor's unwavering commitment to our school community, and we celebrate her contributions with immense pride and gratitude.

# PUNGOTEAGUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The holiday season is known for being the season of giving and spreading cheer. Our Pungoteague family goes above and beyond in their efforts to bring joy to our students. We would like to highlight a few of our staff members who are going above and beyond. Starting off in Kindergarten we have Ms. Baylee Bennett and Mrs. Kendall Howard who have been spreading cheer all throughout the classroom by establishing an “elf on the shelf” to encourage students to be on their best behavior to receive a little gift in their very own stocking at the end of every day. Some of these gifts include pencils, stress balls, play-doh, and notebooks. They have also put together a gift to be given to students before break: a personalized cup with each student's name on it and a book that fits their specific interest.



**IT'S THAT TIME OF  
THE YEAR!**

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD  
BRINGS APPROPRIATE RECESS  
ATTIRE FOR THE COOLER  
MONTHS!**

**EVEN WHEN ANTICIPATING  
INDOOR RECESS, BRING YOUR  
COAT IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE  
DRILL OR EMERGENCY.**





# Staff spotlight

**TEACHER: Ashleigh Edwards**  
Early Childhood Special  
Education



Another PES teacher we would like to highlight is Ms. Ashleigh Edwards. She is an outstanding teacher who goes above and beyond to help. She has been at Pungoteague Elementary since January of 2023 where she first started as a long term substitute in first grade at just 19 years old. Then the next year she taught Kindergarten all year and then this past school year she taught 3rd grade as a long-term substitute and presently is teaching ECSC for the remainder of the year. We would like to congratulate her for graduating from Liberty University this week with a degree in Elementary education.

**STAFF: Barbara Davis  
& Bobby Walker**  
Bus Drivers



With lots of joy and cheer for all to hear...our amazing bus drivers Mrs. Barbara Davis and Bobby Walker have been staying busy volunteering in the Holiday Shop. Many bright faces that come in to spread some cheer of their own have been given the opportunity to be involved in the season's gift giving. Mrs. Davis and Mr. Walker help out by wrapping gifts and assisting students with picking out gifts.





# Secondary

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL

@ARCADIAFIREBIRDS

## SOL REMINDER

JUST A REMINDER - SOL TESTING BEGINS ON  
JANUARY 8, 2025.

JAN. 8 - ENG 11. (READING)

JAN. 9 - WORLD GEOGRAPHY

JAN. 10 - ALG I & GEOMETRY

JAN. 13 - RETAKES

JAN. 14 - BIOLOGY

JAN. 15 - EARTH SCIENCE

JAN. 16 - JAN. 21 - RETAKES & MAKEUPS



## UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN. 2 - CLASSES RESUME

JAN. 4 - SUCCESS ACADEMY 8AM-12PM

JAN. 8 - JAN. 15 - SOLS

JAN. 16 - JAN. 21 - SOL RETAKES

JAN. 20 - MJK, JR. DAY - NO SCHOOL

JAN. 22 - 1ST & 3RD BLOCK EXAMS

JAN. 23 - 2ND & 4TH BLOCK EXAMS

JAN. 23 - FIRST SEMESTER ENDS

JAN. 24 & JAN. 27 - TEACHER WORK DAYS/PD - NO  
SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

JAN. 28 - CLASSES RESUME/BEGIN 2ND SEMESTER

JAN. 31 & FEB. 1 - ROCK & ROLL SHOW 6:30PM

FEB. 3 - ADD/DROP DEADLINE

## WE ARE HIRING

**SPRING SPORTS  
COACHING POSITIONS :**

- BOYS' TRACK & FIELD
- JV BOYS' SOCCER
- VARSITY BOYS' SOCCER
- JV GIRLS SOCCER
- VARSITY BASEBALL



# Staff spotlight

**TEACHER: Dale Spilker**  
**Welding**



Dale Spilker continues to go above and beyond not only to build his welding program, but to make sure all his students are set up for success. In addition to his day-to-day operations in the welding shop, Mr. Spilker finds creative ways to help his students improve their skills in welding. Some examples include their participation in the MFG Maritime Welding Competition won by NHS Senior Austin Wert and the stocking holders created and sold at the Chincoteague Craft Fair by Welding II students. Additionally, Mr. Spilker has three students who have interviews with the Apprentice School. One has been accepted and the other two are awaiting their decision. As a graduate of the T.H. Badger welding program himself, Mr. Spilker has had an immediate impact on the program and our students based on his own experiences as a student and as someone who found success within the industry. We are very fortunate to have Mr. Spilker as one of our instructors in our T.H. Badger Program, and a valued member of the Firebird Faculty.

**Staff member: Bonnie Porter**  
**Nurse**



Mrs. Bonnie Porter has been working at a long term sub in our clinic for the last month or so. She has helped manage student health until our full time nurse joined us. She got certified to perform hydration and weight certification tests to assist our athletic department and wrestling team. Once our full time nurse joined us, Mrs. Porter continued to assist with her onboarding, training her with the policies, practices, and protocols of the clinic here at Arcadia High School. Her assistance and professionalism has been greatly appreciated.

# ARCADIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Congratulations to Coach Rice, Coach Robinson, and the students on our Girls on the Run team! They completed their 5k run December 15th. We look forward to another great run in the spring!**



**We had our Winter Concert on 12/11 and our 8th graders traveled to Norfolk to see "A Merry Little Christmas Carol."**



**After the winter holiday, we will begin issuing credit recovery hours for any students who have more than 5 absences in a class.**



# Staff spotlight

**TEACHER: Matt Bell**

7th grade Social Studies



Mr. Bell consistently provides excellent instruction to his students. He has been recently working on writing with his 7th graders, and 3 students had their essays selected to be posted in the Eastern Shore Post. Mr. Bell also recently had Arcadia Middle School (and Arcadia High School) alumni, Charles Baines zoom with his class. Mr. Bell has his students writing essays about their future goals, and he had them "interview" Mr. Baines about his various successful endeavors. Mr. Bell's students were prepared, and carried out their interview with enthusiasm and professionalism. Mr. Bell consistently brings out the best in his students, and we are grateful to have him here at AMS!

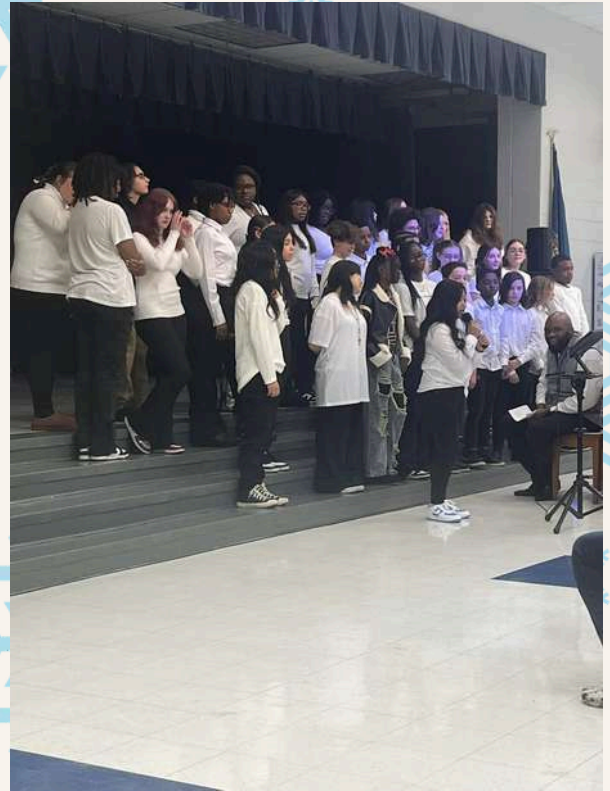
**Staff member: Treketta Harris**  
Technology Support Specialists



This month, we are excited to highlight Ms. Harris, our exceptional Technology Support Specialist. With her vast technical expertise and unwavering dedication, she has become an invaluable part of our school community. Whether troubleshooting technical issues, or setting up classroom equipment, Ms. Harris always goes above and beyond. Her positive attitude and problem-solving skills ensure that technology runs smoothly, helping create a more efficient and engaging learning environment. We are so grateful for her hard work and commitment to supporting both students and staff in their technological needs. Thank you, Ms. Harris!

# NANDUA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our Nandua Middle School Chorus was fantastic as they sang their hearts out December 17th! They brought the best harmonies and their joyful voices.



**Deck the halls  
with ugly  
sweaters.... Fa  
la la la la....  
Winter Break  
Spirit Week is  
so much fun!**



# Staff spotlight

**TEACHER: Anna Marie Parks**  
7th grade English



Mrs. Parks possesses the ability to inspire and engage students. She creates a welcoming classroom environment where every student feels valued. With a passion for literature, she introduces diverse texts that spark curiosity and critical thinking. Her teaching methods are innovative, often incorporating creative projects and discussions that make learning enjoyable. By providing constructive feedback and encouragement, Mrs. Parks helps students develop their writing and communication skills, fostering a love for language that lasts a lifetime.

**STAFF: DR. COLBERT**  
Vice Principal



Dr. Colbert is an exceptional vice principal who inspires and engages students daily. She fosters a welcoming environment where every student feels valued and motivated.

She brings a dynamic energy and unwavering commitment to creating a positive, inclusive, and thriving educational environment for both students and staff.

We are incredibly fortunate to have Dr. Colbert as part of our leadership team. Her tireless dedication to the success and well-being of our school reflects the very best in educational leadership.

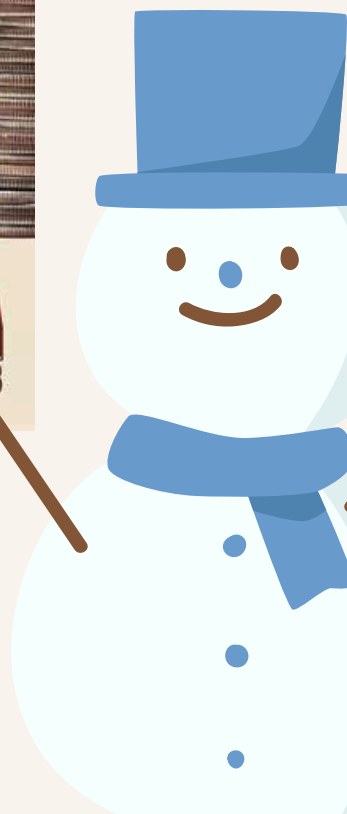
Please join us in celebrating Dr. Colbert for her outstanding service and unwavering commitment to excellence!

# NANDUA HIGH SCHOOL

## Booster Club Announcement!

**Save the Date for our Annual Quarter Auction - Saturday,  
January 25th!**

**Mark your 2025 calendars now for our biggest fundraiser of the year! Always great hosts, the Exmore Moose Lodge will again be hosting our awesome event in January! More details to follow after the holidays! But start gathering your quarters to bid on some great donations AND support our Nandua Booster Club!**





# Staff spotlight

**TEACHER: Lisa Lewis**  
**Spanish**



Lisa Lewis plays a vital role in fostering language proficiency and cultural appreciation among students. Through engaging lessons and interactive activities, she introduces learners to vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation, while also exploring the rich traditions and histories of Spanish-speaking countries. By incorporating multimedia resources and real-life scenarios, Ms. Lewis creates an immersive environment that encourages communication and critical thinking. Her passion for the subject inspires students to embrace a new language, enhancing their global awareness and opening doors to future opportunities. Overall, Ms. Lewis is instrumental in shaping students' linguistic skills and cultural understanding.

**STAFF: Beverly Wirth**  
**Media Specialist**



Beverly is an invaluable resource, fostering a love for reading and learning. She possesses extensive knowledge of literature and information management, guiding patrons in their research and discovery. Mrs. Worth cultivates a welcoming environment, encouraging individuals of all ages to explore new ideas. She also stays updated on technological advancements, integrating digital resources into her services. With strong communication skills, she connects people with the information they need, empowering them to enrich their lives through knowledge.



# CHINCOTEAGUE HIGH SCHOOL

## January Events



In December, Chincoteague High School, in conjunction with the Key Club, Senior Beta and FBLA, hosted a nonperishable food drive for the local Food Bank. Many thanks to those who donated.



Grinches spotted at CHS!



03 WED

Basketball vs Broadwater BJV/GV/BV 4:00/5:30/7:00

04 THU

Basketball vs Holly Grove BJV/GV/BV 4:00/5:30/7:00

06 SAT

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Saturday Success Academy

08 MON

Scholastic Bowl @ Northampton 4:00

15 MON

Martin Luther King's Birthday - No School

17 WED

Scholastic Bowl @ AHS 4:00

18 THU

Basketball vs Northampton BJV/GV/BV 4:00/5:30/7:00

22 MON

MS Basketball @ NMS 3:15

23 TUE

Basketball vs AHS BJV/GV/BV 4:00/5:30/7:00 Senior Night

24 WED

Exams

MS Basketball vs. AMS 3:15

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

CHS After-Prom's Pancake Supper

25 THU

Basketball @ Nandua BJV/GV/BV 4:00/5:30/7:00

End 9 Weeks

Exams

26 FRI

Masquerade Gala (CVFC Dining Hall)

5:00-6:30 6th & 7th grade dance

7:00-10:00 8th-12th grade dance

Teacher Work Day

27 SAT

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Saturday Success Academy

29 MON

Staff Development Day

30 TUE

Basketball @ Northampton BJV/GV/BV 4:00/5:30/7:00

Third Nine Weeks Begins

31 WED

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

MS Basketball @ Holly Grove

# WINTER



# Staff Spotlight

**Teacher: Lisa Beebe**  
**English Teacher**



This month, we are proud to highlight Lisa Beebe, an exceptional English teacher who inspires both students and colleagues with her passion for teaching and learning.

Known for her engaging lessons and unwavering dedication, Mrs. Beebe fosters a love of literature, language, and critical thinking.

She brings creativity and innovation to her teaching, incorporating diverse texts, multimedia resources, and real-world connections to make literature come alive for students. Whether guiding a thoughtful discussion on a classic novel or helping students craft compelling essays, Mrs. Beebe encourages every learner to find their unique voice and perspective.

Please join us in celebrating Mrs. Beebe for her extraordinary dedication and the lasting impression she makes on our students and school community!

**Staff member: Dawn McIntosh**  
**School Nurse**



This month, we are thrilled to shine the spotlight on Dawn McIntosh, who serves as a cornerstone of care and compassion in our school community. As our school nurse, Mrs. McIntosh goes above and beyond to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of every student and staff member.

She demonstrates unparalleled dedication and expertise and creates a safe, welcoming space where students feel comfortable seeking support.

We are incredibly fortunate to have someone like Ms. McIntosh as part of our team. Her commitment to excellence is a shining example of how one person can make a difference in the lives of many.