

WELCOME BACK TO BCPS!

Superintendent Dr. Kristy Somerville-Midgett visited all of the school sites on the first day of school. We welcomed back our students at all five of our schools. We are excited to have our learners back!

Collaboration is at the center of what we do and student voice is an important part of what makes us Brunswick Strong. As we prepare for our BCPS Communication Series, we would like to thank BHS students, Jadamichelle Bruce and Xzorian Tyler for joining Dr. Midgett during Friday's session. We can't wait to share the great happenings in BCPS.

BCPS Difference Makers enjoying STEM fun at Russell Middle School! The administrative team worked with the students in completing the "Lunar Lander" activity.



Dr. Midgett & Students



Dr. Midgett & Staff



BRUNSWICK COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Q1 2022-23 NEWSLETTER

NEW STAFF ENGAGE IN TRAINING TO START THE YEAR

In August, teachers new to BCPS for both the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years came together to learn about creating aligned lesson plans. This highly interactive mini-professional development, presented by our Division Instructional Coaches, was hosted by the HR Department.

Participants shared that they enjoyed the engaging activities and the delicious meal. To top off the afternoon's activities, several lucky participants went home with some great prizes!



INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES MAKE AN IMPACT

Our Instructional Coaches have been busy supporting teachers by providing professional development, co-teaching, and modeling! While their main focus so far has been on supporting new teachers, they have also worked with veteran teachers to implement new programs and share new resources.



BCPS TRANSPORTATION FOCUSES SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Over 1,000 students ride a BCPS bus each day, and the division's Transportation Department has a primary focus on safety. The most dangerous time during a bus route is when the bus stops to load or unload students. Before a school bus stops, the driver turns on the amber warning lights. The warning lights should give motorists time to slow down and prepare to stop, but sometimes they speed up to pass the bus before the red stop lights and the stop sign are activated.

When vehicles pass the bus in this way, it puts children in danger. We urge all drivers to use caution when approaching school buses.

Multiple agencies play a role in keeping bus routes safe for students. BCPS works with the Virginia Department of Transportation to identify areas where school bus stop ahead signs are needed, or where tall grass and brush obstructs views and needs to be cut down. The Brunswick County Sheriff's Office patrols roadways where bus drivers report aggressive drivers, while Virginia State Police Troopers provide safety training for bus drivers each year and also patrol the roads.

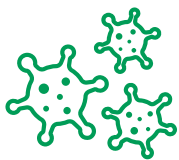
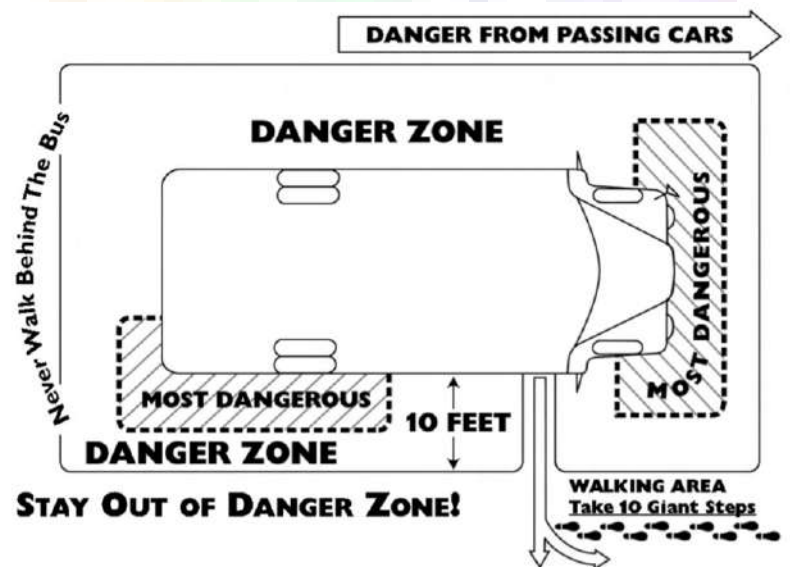
BCPS purchased and installed stop-arm cameras on school buses in 2021. The camera records the license plate, time, date, and GPS location when a vehicle passes a stopped school bus. BCSO Sgt. Shavonda Stith has used the stop arm camera video to issue traffic tickets, which can lead to serious consequences and fines in court.

"We all share the responsibility of keeping our children safe while they are traveling by bus," Sgt. Stith says. "Please be alert while driving and make sure to stop for all buses. Our children are precious cargo, and we want them to get to school and return home safely."

Parents, please review this list of bus stop safety strategies with your children:

- Use flashlights and reflectors to increase visibility
- Wait at least 10 feet from the roadway until the bus comes to a complete stop
- Look in both directions before walking into a road
- Wait for the driver to signal that it is safe to cross the road
- Stay out of the danger zone and walk 10 feet away from the front of bus while crossing
- Never walk behind the bus

Together, we can ensure the safety of all students when they're riding the bus each day!



Our BCPS COVID Coordinator is Lawanda Tatum. Get the information and resources you need regarding COVID-19 [at this link](#).



**STAY SAFE
FROM COVID-19**

RED OAK-STURGEON ELEMENTARY



BACK TO SCHOOL AT RED OAK-STURGEON

Principal Dr. Mark Harrison welcomed all students, parents, and staff to the 2022-23 school year at Red Oak-Sturgeon Elementary School! We are excited to embark on another opportunity to work together to fulfill our mission to “empower our students to create their own future.”



CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

On September 8, students and staff at Red Oak-Sturgeon Elementary celebrated International Literacy Day!

The day was created by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1967. This year, it was celebrated worldwide under the theme of “Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces,” and was an opportunity to rethink the fundamental importance of literacy learning spaces to build resilience and ensure quality, equitable, and inclusive education for all.

As a special surprise, students were visited by Mr. Alonzo “Super Zo” Scott, Jr., an author from Sussex Virginia. He aims to make a positive difference in the world through his books and community work.

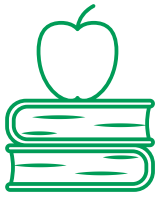
Mr. Scott is a competitive athlete. He has traveled the world playing basketball throughout the United States, South Korea, and the Philippines. He has won multiple dunk contests, and also is a PTB 1 on 1 Champion. Mr. Scott is a 2015 graduate of the Appomattox Regional Governor’s School.

Mr. Scott’s mission with books is to inspire everyone to become the best version of themselves. He visited all classrooms and spoke with the children about their aspirations. He also raffled off books per grade level. The children and staff had a wonderful time!



TOTARO ELEMENTARY

HAPPY 1ST DAY OF SCHOOL!



Students, staff, faculty and administration were excited about the first day of school at Totaro Elementary!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Each class's Attendance Apple is moved up daily on the "Attendance Wall" when the entire class is present. The "Attendance Wall" is part of the "Choosing Better" effort at Totaro Elementary.



Totaro Elementary fourth graders, along with teacher Ms. Duncan, celebrate winning the Attendance Trophy for the week!

CELEBRATING 'DOT DAY'

Totaro's Dot Day Celebration started with a parade downtown, joined by JSR Middle School's six graders and the BHS Band. County Administrator Ms. Leslie Weddington read the book, "The Dot," by Peter Reynolds. Students then sang "Make Your Mark," and sixth graders gave speeches. Students received a book and Dot candy, and also completed numerous dot activities!



5TH GRADERS CO-AUTHOR BOOK

Fifth-grade teacher Dr. Linda Richardson co-authored her second book with her 2022 fifth graders!



MEHERRIN-POWELLTON ELEMENTARY



STARTING OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT



JSR MIDDLE SCHOOL

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!

At JSR Middle School, faculty and staff collaborated in a team-building exercise after convocation. The exercise goal was "TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK."



The JSR administrative team served donuts and juice to staff after the first month of school to re-energize the staff and express their gratitude for all they do!



STUDENTS ENGAGE IN STEM ACTIVITIES

JSR Middle School students enjoyed their first two STEM activities for the 2022-23 school year. The first was a paper airplane challenge, while the second was a marshmallow challenge!



BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL



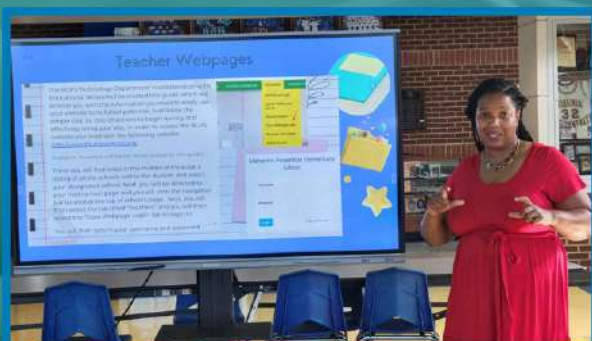
FBLA STUDENTS EARN HONORS

Mrs. Regina Williams and her FBLA students at BHS were recently awarded a "Champion Chapter" banner for their 2021-22 accomplishments. Several of the students were awarded first place in different categories throughout the state!



LEARNING THE IMPORTANCE OF CYBERSECURITY

BCPS Director of Technology Mrs. Stacy Newell served as the guest speaker in Mrs. Williams' Cybersecurity Fundamentals class! During the session, Mrs. Newell explained the importance of safeguarding electronic information and how cybersecurity impacts work and family life.



WI-FI WEDNESDAYS

The first Wi-Fi Wednesday session of the school year was a success at BHS! We would like to thank the BCPS Division ITRT's for providing an engaging session on Teacher Webpages and GoGuardian.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES



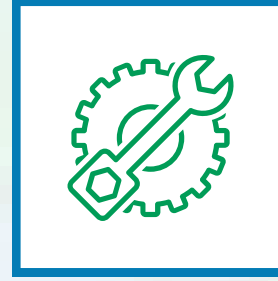
HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHILD NUTRITION

The BCPS Child Nutrition Department recently added two new staff members! Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Cornelia Rainey and Ms. Crystal Gillus to the Child Nutrition Department. They are both on the Meherrin-Powellton team.

Supervisor Ms. Rhonda Crutchfield reports that the division has applied for several grants that will benefit students. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program will provide elementary students with access to healthy goodie bags to take home for a delicious after-school snack. BCPS leveraged the No Kid Hungry grant to purchase a new walk-in freezer for food storage.

In October, the department will begin offering dinner to students in after-school enrichment or educational programs.

- National School Lunch Week is Oct 10-14 “Celebrating Peace, Love and School Lunch”
- Virginia Harvest of the Month: October is Apples ([Click here for K-5 Lesson Plans](#))



HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAINTENANCE

Our Maintenance team has been hard at work improving our schools' safety, energy efficiency, comfort, and appearance. The department recently completed its Virginia Department of Environmental Quality water quality testing. Team members also performed maintenance to increase door security at each school site, and have started servicing the boilers and heating systems to be ready for the winter months.

The Virginia State Fire Marshal's inspection has been completed, and all our schools are in compliance.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM TRANSPORTATION



The BCPS Transportation staff has been busy making sure all our students get a safe ride to and from school each day. This was the first summer BCPS has ever started the school year with air-conditioned buses. We purchased 10 new buses with AC last year, and had AC installed on six other buses this year. Almost half of our buses now have AC systems!

The division ordered five new diesel school buses in September, and we hope to have them delivered by early 2023. We submitted an application for the EPA Clean School Bus Program. This grant can be used to pay for electric school buses, and BCPS was considered a priority school district for the grant. The award announcements will be in October.

Finally, congratulations to Mrs. Myra Saylor, who drives for Meherrin-Powellton Elementary School. Mrs. Saylor will travel to a luncheon in Richmond on October 10 to receive an award as a Virginia Stellar Bus Driver from the Lucian Hunter Foundation of Hope!



**BRUNSWICK COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Brunswick County Public Schools

1718 Farmers Field Road
Lawrenceville, VA 23868



MEET YOUR NURSING STAFF!

Visit our School Health webpage
for parent information.



Deborah Steed, RN



Michelle Smelley, LPN



Brenda Hutcheson, LPN



Alicia Williams, CNA



Deanetta Gillis, CNA



Josie Seward, LPN