



SPCAS NEWS

April 2018



Sunset Park Center for Accelerated Studies

1036 Ogden Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730
803-981-1260
Fax: 803-981-1269

Principal

Dr. Tammy White

Assist. Principal

Keri Beth Brown

Mission

We will create a child-centered learning environment where ALL children will learn at high levels.

Vision

At SPCAS the faculty and staff will...

- Purposefully collaborate.

- Empower students to discover, develop, and accelerate academically, creatively, and socially.

- Use practices that are research based and responsive to the needs of our students.
- Collaborate and communicate with all stakeholders to ensure student success.

Upcoming Events

2nd-6th- Spring Break

11th- 5K field trip

13th- Academic Recognition Ceremony

14th- K5 Registration @ D.O. 9am-12pm

18th- Papa John's Spirit Night 5pm-8pm

23rd- Johnson/Werts field trip

23rd- 4th grade field trip

24th- Schoen/Cooper field trip

25th- Terrific Kid Program

26th- Progress Reports go home

26th- Showcase of Accelerated Studies
5:30pm-6:30pm

PTO News:

We had a very successful Read-A-Thon last month. Thank you to everyone that helped make it a success! We raised \$8,119.97. Our students read a total of 231,170 minutes. The March Madness basketball competition was a huge hit! Congratulations to our first place winner, Ms. Emerick's class, second place winner, Ms. Costner's class, and our third place winner Mrs. Switzer's class.

Message from Our Leader: Dr. White

Hello!

Happy Springtime to everyone! What a beautiful and exciting time of year it is right now! I can hardly believe that we are already into the fourth nine weeks' grading period. Time really does fly when you are having fun! And speaking of having fun, have you seen what wonderful things are going on here at school? Our students and staff members are up to all kinds of wonderful things. We would love to have you come by to visit our classrooms if you have not done so in a while!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents who have attended and helped support our efforts during the open enrollment process for next year, provided additional information at various parent meetings, and those who have been vocal advocates for our school. As we expand our Accelerated Studies Program, your feedback and support is essential. Please continue to share your thoughts with us as we continue to design programs that will benefit all of our students. I, as your principal, want you to know that we are providing your children with the highest quality of education that our district can offer. It is my personal goal for every child to have a strong, differentiated academic experience here at Sunset Park. We hold high expectations for ourselves and our students. Please know that your children are our most precious resource in our Rock Hill community. They will always receive our very best!

Did you know that children who regularly eat meals with their families tend to do better in school and avoid risky behavior? Eating dinner together is great, but other meals count, too. If you work at night, maybe you could make time for a family breakfast. Or, you might try a picnic lunch on the weekend.

If you have not been to Sunset Park lately, let me extend a very special invitation to you. I would like to encourage our parents to join us for lunch any day and to stop by our classrooms to observe instruction. We are very proud of our students!

Sincerely,

Tammy T. White, Ph.D.

Principal



Message from Mrs. Brown:

Students in 3rd-5th grade will take the South Carolina State Assessments (SCREADY & SCPASS) this spring. The information below will provide important dates and information regarding the assessments. Please try to schedule any doctor/dentist appointments around these dates. Students need to be at school and on time each day!

Assessment Dates:

SCREADY ELA (2 days): May 8-9, 2018

SCREADY Math: May 15, 2018

SCPASS Science: May 16, 2018 (Only 4th grade students)

SCPASS Social Studies: May 16, 2018 (Only 5th grade students)

Students may not be in possession of any electronic or other device that can be used for communicating, recording, timing, creating, or storing images. These devices include, but are not limited to, cell phones, iPad, smart watches, etc. Any electronic devices at school will be collected.

Assessment Formats:

SCREADY ELA (3rd & 4th): Traditional "paper/pencil" method (Students will have a test booklet & answer document.)

SCREADY ELA (5th): Computer based assessment (Students will be asked to leave their school assigned computer (& charger) at school prior to testing.)

SCREADY Math: (3rd- 5th): Computer based assessment for all students.

SCPASS Science (4th) & Social Studies (5th): Computer based assessment for all students.

Please feel free to contact me at 803-981-1260 if you have any questions or concerns regarding state assessments!

MAP testing will also take place for Kindergarten-5th grade beginning mid-April through the end of May. Teachers will send out specific dates as the time draws closer.

**Parents/ Guardians:**

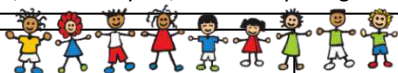
We all had a ball participating in our Career Day on Thursday, March 15, 2018. Students were able to learn about different career paths from professionals in various fields. Please view our schools website as well as our Facebook page to view pictures taken during this event. Also, please speak with your children about some of the things they may have learned and seen during our Career Day.

In classroom guidance, we have started our career exploration unit. This unit will provide the students with more career choices (that may not have been viewed on Career Day) and kid-friendly interest inventories & search tools that can be used to research a number of careers. We will also continue with our Safer, Smarter Kids curriculum. The students seem to be enjoying both topics.

Lastly, in addition to classroom guidance if you feel your child has a need for individual or small group counseling services, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. The goal is to help our students succeed in school—I am here to help us reach that goal. As always, please know that I am available should you wish to speak with me regarding your child's needs at Sunset Park. Have an astounding April!

**Media Center News from Mrs. Gray:**

Congratulations to the Battle of the Books Team: Cameron Douglas, Jaelyn Foster, Aleksei Mills, Kaitlyn Suthers, Sydnei Taylor, and Jaylin Pickett. The team competed in the District's Annual Competition on Saturday, March 24th at Independence Elementary School. The team also joined other schools for the Elementary Media Specialist's Annual Read-In Celebration on Thursday, March 29th, at the Boyd Hill Recreational Center. In addition to food, fun and reading, the celebration included a representative from Scholastic Book Fairs, the York County Library, athletic mascots, and Storyteller Tom Sonfelt. Thank you to Chrisaun Jones, Sharon Gayton, and Wendy Douglas for volunteering to help.

A Note from Mrs. Hartgrove:

Reading at home is very important for all students. As we get closer to the end of the school year students are often busy with sports and other extracurricular activities. Sometimes it is hard to find time for reading. A great idea might be to keep a book or two handy in the car so your child can pick one up and read as you travel from place to place. Even a few minutes a day is better than none. Be sure to pack books as you prepare for any Spring Break travel your child might be doing. You might also include paper, pencils, and crayons/markers. This gives them a chance to create a mini journal. They don't have to share if they don't want to, but it keeps those skills sharpened. Happy Reading!

**MUSIC NOTES FROM MR. SIMON:**

Dear Sunset Park Family,
I want to give special shout-outs to the 2nd graders and kindergartners for a job well done on their recent performances of "Seussical, Jr." and "Spring is Here", respectively. Thanks for providing us with great experiences!!

RECORDERS HAVE BEEN ORDERED!!! 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will begin their recorder units the week we return from spring break. Students who ordered a recorder will receive them at that time, and students who already own a recorder should bring them to school starting that week.

Thank you all for supporting music and the arts at the Park!

March Madness Read-A-Thon Basketball Disguise



1st Place- Ms. Emerick's
1st Grade Class



3rd Place- Mrs. Switzer's
2nd Grade Class



2nd Place- Ms. Costner's
2nd Grade Class

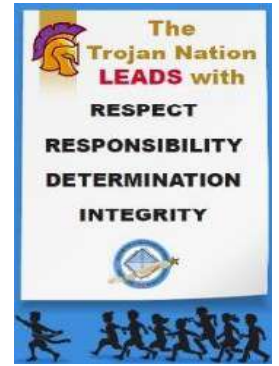
News from Mrs. Blackwell:

Congratulations to the following students that were selected as student leaders for the month of March. These students were chosen for exhibiting characteristics of responsibility!

Sydnei Taylor
Jahliyah Davis
Madeleine Jones
Brandon Martin
Callie Cason
Kennedi Johnson
Tiffany Simpson
Carlin McFadden
Anthony Ajaonu
Antonia Hopkins
Amera Pendergrass
Jayden Pickett
Madison Foster
Christopher Higgins
Christian Nelson

O'Shea Brice
Jaelyn Sullivan
Asar White
Rielle Davis
Lucas Lyvers
Brantlee Huddleston
Marissa Olivo
Joydin Brooks
Haylee Tedder
Rhaniyah Gaines
Rhylynn Brooks
J'Kai Whitehead
Garrett Shaw
Jake Chadwick

Amare Scruggs
Kenzley Barber
Grayson Darby
Katherine McGehee
Gage Johnson
Lauren Curenton
Eric Wright
Liam Starnes
Liam Mouyeos
Gavin Sliva
Ava Land
Nevaeh McCoy
Jeremiah Harden
Tyler Starnes
Caylee Gilfillan



A Note From Mrs. Dieguez:

Let's talk attendance:

It is very important for our students to arrive on time. It starts their day on a positive note and allows our teachers to begin teaching on time. If your child is tardy, please come into the office and sign them in. We need to know they have entered the building and are safe. The door in car rider locks when the tardy bell rings at 7:45 am. Remember if 10 unexcused tardies are accumulated an Attendance Plan will be written. Excessive tardies and absences are referred to our District Office for additional intervention.

If your child is absent, please send a note or Dr.'s excuse when they return to school. Parents may write 5 notes per year which are excused. Students who have 5 unexcused absences or 3 consecutive unexcused absences will have an attendance plan written. If you have any question regarding attendance please call me at 803-981-1263 or email me at ddieguez@rhmail.org.

The last week for students to win attendance prizes will be May 21st. Prizes are drawn weekly for students who have not had any unexcused tardies the prior week. There will also be a prize for one class in grades K-2 and one class in grades 3-5 with the best attendance. I hope all classes will earn 100 stars and choose a game for their classroom. We have not had a day this year with zero tardies, if we do, the entire school will receive free ice cream. We can do this!

Physical Education Update from Ms. Bundy:



Save the Date for Field Day!

Our SPCAS field day is a day filled with fun and fellowship to celebrate our school year. In order for our field day to be successful we need many volunteers. Please save the date Friday, May 18, 2018 so that you may join us for our field day.

Congratulations to our fourth grade students who completed our Red Cross certified swim course at the Rock Hill Aquatic Center. Each student who completed the course received documentation of the swim level she/he achieved during the course, a certificate, and a coupon to visit the RH Aquatic Center. If you are interested in follow up swim lessons please visit the following City of Rock Hill webpage for more info: <http://cityofrockhill.com/departments/parks-recreation-tourism/sports/swimming>. Registration begins May 7, 2018, lessons are free, and classes fill up quickly.

5210 League- Healthy Together



What's *Healthy Together*?

Healthy Together encourages kids and families to join the 5-2-1-0 League by following the 5-2-1-0 behaviors. The *Healthy Together* initiative is aimed at tackling childhood obesity by promoting healthy behaviors through the guidance of Carolina's Health Care/Levine's Children Hospital. The Ultimate goal is a healthier generation of kids!

- 5- Five Healthy Servings of Fruits and Vegetables every day
- 2- Two Hours or Less of Screen Time Per Day
- 1- One Hour or More of Physical Activity Per Day
- 0- Avoid sugary drinks, instead aim for water and/or low-fat milk

Please visit the [www.http://CarolinasHealthCare.org/HealthyTogether](http://CarolinasHealthCare.org/HealthyTogether) website to begin your family's journey to a healthier lifestyle.
(Adapted from www.letsgo.org)

A NOTE FROM OUR NURSE:



Spring is here, and summer is coming soon! While spring and summer means fun in the sun, make sure you're not getting too much of a good thing. The CDC makes these recommendations:

Sunscreen: Use sunscreen with sun protective factor (SPF) 15 or higher, and both UVA and UVB protection. Reapply at least every 2 hours as well as after swimming.

Clothing: Wear clothing to protect exposed skin. Loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts and long pants made from tightly woven fabric offer the best protection from the sun's UV rays. If wearing this type of clothing isn't practical, at least try to wear a T-shirt or a beach cover-up.

Hats: Wear a hat with a wide brim to shade the face, head, ears, and neck. Remember to apply sunscreen to your ears and back of neck.

Sunglasses: Wear sunglasses that wrap around and block as close to 100% of both UVA and UVB rays as possible. Sunglasses protect your eyes from UV rays and reduce the risk of cataracts. They also protect the tender skin around your eyes from sun exposure. https://www.cdc.gov/media/subtopic/matte/pdf/summer_burned.pdf

Our School was highlighted in the Winthrop University Newsletter!

Winthrop University-School
Partnership Network

Partnership Community

Sunset Park Elementary Students Score a VIP Experience with the Carolina Panthers



LEFT: Sunset Park Elementary students pose with Carolina Panthers player Kawaan Short and mascot Sir Purr shortly after being surprised with an exciting field trip opportunity to attend an NFL football game in the Queen City.

BELOW: Sunset Park students and teachers 'dab' outside of the Bank of America Stadium before rushing the field for their VIP experience with the Carolina Panthers.

In a visit on September 19, Carolina Panthers defensive end Kawaan Short surprised 20 Sunset Park Center for Accelerated Studies students with the news that they would get to run out of the tunnel during pre-game introductions with the team when they played the New Orleans Saints.

During the surprise visit, fourth and fifth grade students were recognized for good grades and good behavior and received a NFL 'Play 60' Panthers' jersey and shorts so they would be ready for game day. On game day, the students loaded the bus and headed to Charlotte for a day of adventure sponsored by the

organization *Fuel Up to Play 60*. Once in the city, the students were able to take part in the 'Play 60 Kids Combine' at Romare Bearden Park where they got to learn football skills and drills, meet TopCats cheerleaders, and hear the PurrCussion drumline. Students even had the opportunity to play a practice game on the Panthers' practice field. Shortly before kick-off the students lined up in the tunnel and were able to run onto the field and stand near the players for the National Anthem. Win or lose, these students will always remember their VIP experience with the Panthers.

