HAPPENINGS:

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION OATH OF OFFICE

Savannah-Chatham County Public School board members were sworn in Wednesday, January 2, 2019, at the Yamacraw Center for Performing Arts.

Newly-elected members included Board President Dr. Joe Buck - who served two terms in that capacity before, Dr. David Bringman representing District 6, and Dr. Tonia Howard representing District 8. Dr. Buck says the transition has been a smooth one. In addition, Mr. Shawn Kachmar was re-elected to his seat representing District 4 and Mrs. Irene Hines was re-elected to her seat representing District 5.

Other Board Members are Mrs. Julie Wade, representing District 1, Dr. Dionne Hoskins-Brown representing District 2, and Mrs. Cornelia Hall, representing District 3, and Mr. Michael Johnson representing District 7. Congratulations to them all!!!

News You Can Use:

- Choice Application Closes – January 27th
- Appeal Process Begins – January 28th
- Auditions for Garrison February 9th (Band, Chorus, Orchestra and Piano) February 16th
- Auditions for Savannah Arts Academy – February 23rd
- Appeal Process Ends – March 1st
- Lottery – March 8th
- Parents Notified of Choice Results – March 13th
- Less than a month until the Pre-K Lottery Application process begins for the 2019-20 School Year! Find out more information here: bit.ly/1PT1g19
- District Achievement Showcase – February 19th
- Medical Preceptorship Program – March 12th
- Ready to Work Student Job Fair – March 27th
- JROTC Superintendent’s Cup Competition – April 6th
- Family Engagement Day – April 13th
- Business Partner Appreciation Event – April 24th

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Savannah-Chatham County Public School System

SCCPSS ADMINISTRATION AND SCHOOL BOARD MET WITH LEGISLATORS TO DISCUSS PRIORITIES

Board of Education and SCCPSS Cabinet members met with our area legislative delegation for an annual luncheon to discuss legislative priorities for the upcoming session. The Legislative Priorities as determined by the Board are listed below:

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES (GOALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- The following items represent key Legislative Priorities for the 2019 Legislative Session as supported by the Board of Education.

Legislative Implementation Process:
We believe that effective implementation of new initiatives brought about by legislative action should include sufficient time for planning, budgeting, and implementation. With this in mind:
- Ensure educational legislation allows for an adequate delay of at least one-year prior to implementation, thereby allowing for effective implementation and time for adjustments.
- Any mandate provided by state government should be funded by the state in a manner that does not impose financial burden on local school districts.

Increase Quality Basic Education (QBE) Funding Formula:
- We urge the General Assembly to modify the existing QBE formula that was developed in 1984 to properly account for current cost realities. The QBE shall be indexed yearly for increases in inflation.

Relief from Unfunded Mandates associated with Increased Cost of the State Health Benefit Plan and the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia:
- Increased costs associated with the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) and the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) of Georgia have continuously shifted to local districts creating an additional burden on education budgets that are already underfunded. We support, as a state funding priority, an increase in education funding to offset anticipated increases.

Funding Priorities:
- We urge the General Assembly to ensure increased funding through the Legislative Appropriations Process in support of the following priorities:

School Safety
- Provide state funding for at least one school resource officer in every Georgia school.

Support for Student Well Being
- Ensure the appropriate state funding levels to decrease the ratio of school counselors to students from 1 in every 450 to 1 in every 250, as is nationally recommended.

Support for Georgia Teachers
- Provide adequate state funding to increase the starting salaries for Georgia teachers in a manner that ensures Georgia is nationally competitive.

Early Learning – Pre-K
- As a high demand district for Pre-K services, we support increases in Pre-K program funding that will ensure greater access to early childhood programs by adding Pre-K classes in Georgia schools. Further, we support the restoration of funding to improve state salary schedules for Pre-K Teachers.

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SCCPSS Administration and School Board Meet with Legislators to Discuss Priorities (continued)

Transportation Funding:
- State transportation funding is provided at just 9% of the total cost to transport students. The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System transports more than 24,000 students a day over 33,000 miles. We urge the General Assembly to fully fund transportation costs for all students.

Career, Technical and Agricultural Education:
- The Board opposes any movement for the programmatic transfer of the Career, Technical and Agricultural Education programs from the State Board of Education to the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia.

Consistency in the State Accountability Model (CCRPI):
- We urge state leadership to commit to an accountability tool that will remain unchanged for a minimum of three years. The commitment to minimize CCRPI changes is imperative as it directly impacts the five-year performance contract districts have with GaDOE and GOSA.

Fair and Equitable State Accountability System:
- We advocate for a proper CCRPI weighting measure for middle grade students who take high school courses. The lack of differential scoring for middle school students taking the End of Course versus End of Grade tests fails to recognize the advanced level of rigor undertaken by a middle school student who completes a high school course and passes the End of Course test. Furthermore, not rewarding schools that provide middle grade students with access to advanced learning opportunities creates a disincentive for school offerings in exchange for maximizing the CCRPI score.

Reform Tax Credit Program (QEE):
- Current legislation provides the Georgia Qualified Education Expense (QEE) Tax Credit Program. Individuals and corporations can make tax-credit donations to authorized non-profit organizations that in turn fund scholarships at private schools. We support reform of this legislation to provide the same tax-credit donation opportunity for public schools (districts) in the state of Georgia.

Education Technology:
- We support increased state contribution for local education technology and staffing needs to improve and enhance classroom instruction to achieve the following: fulfill state statute §20-2-281 mandated online assessment; support state statute §20-2-319.4 expanded access to digital resources and virtual instruction; and to assist with the mandated collection and reporting of student achievement and teacher quality data.

Greater Access to International Baccalaureate Exams:
- The Board urges the state to appropriate funding that shall account for expenses associated with International Baccalaureate exams for any student attending a Title I School.

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THE 10TH ANNUAL STUDENT SUCCESS EXPO & STEM FESTIVAL

The 10th Annual Student Success Expo and STEM Festival was held on Saturday, January 5, 2019, at the Savannah Mall. In addition to college and career information, attendees enjoyed interactive displays and learned about all public schools options across the district while gaining valuable information related to program pathways. For a second year, the Expo featured a “Teddy Bear Clinic” which focused on the Healthcare Science fields and showcased a collaboration between the school district and local healthcare professions and post-secondary institutions.

The 2019 Student Success Expo Planning Committee also provided free CPR classes to the community. In addition, the Young Entrepreneurs and Young Inventors Corner was showcased for a second year! The purpose of this showcase was to spotlight the students in our schools who currently own their own business or who have invented products that make everyday life better. School District programs highlights included: Performing Arts, Engineering, Welding, Aviation, Cosmetology, (Hair, Nails and Barbering), Culinary, Medical & Allied Health, Construction, Automotive Repair and Collision, Fire Fighters, and Logistics - just to name a few. Students and parents found a wide range of educational pathways that are sure to inspire the thirst for knowledge and higher learning. Students had the opportunity to apply and speak to college representatives from Fort Valley University, Georgia Southern University, University of Georgia, Savannah State University, Savannah Technical College, Morehouse, Spelman, St. Leo and other major colleges and universities.

The Student Success Expo and STEM Festival is an event that has continued to grow – drawing thousands of participants each year to learn about the seamless transition from elementary, middle, and high school to post-secondary education. The event helps make the connection between our programs of study and college and career options through information available at school, collegiate, and business displays. The expo included student competitions, interactive booth displays, a robotics competition, and prize giveaways. It was made possible in part by the Savannah Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Power, Gulfstream, MembersFirst Credit Union, Savannah Schools Federal Credit Union, Savannah Mall, the Career Education Advisory Council (CEAC) and International Paper!

The event also included student competitions and a VEX Robotics competition. The STEM Festival, (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) is made possible in partnership with the Georgia Department of Education. In addition, SCCPSS Choice Program offerings were highlighted in advance of the Choice Program application window, which opened on January 5, 2019 and will close on January 27, 2019! Click on the link to view all of the pictures from this awesome event: https://sccpss.smugmug.com/Student-Success-Expo-Jan-5-2019/

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In Loving Memory of Angel Deloach

We are saddened by the sudden passing of beloved Professional Learning Coach: Classified Personnel, Mrs. Angel Deloach. Mrs. Deloach passed on January 17, 2019. She devoted her life to her family, church and work. Angel Deloach, never met a stranger and loved working with the staff. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with her husband Mr. Joseph DeLoach, her family and the staff of the SCCPSS Professional Learning Department as we remember such a kind, gifted and loving person!

In Loving Memory of Kate Lovering

We are also saddened by the sudden passing of beloved Mrs. Kate Lovering, a Special Education teacher at Alfred E. Beach High School. Kate also spent 2 years prior teaching at Effingham High School in Springfield, GA. Kate spent over twenty-three years passionately teaching special education to all ages. She was best known as Ms. Lovering walking the halls with a smile on her face every day. She touched so many children and peers’ lives over the years as a dedicated educator. She was one who wanted to lift people up and encourage the best in everyone surrounding her. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with her husband Mr. David Lovering, her daughter Jessica Pimentel and many family members spread across the country. Kate will be missed and loved by all her friends and family.

SCCPSS Celebrates New Student Affairs Support Services Center with an Open House for the Community

An Open House to introduce the new SCCPSS Student Affairs Support Services Center (SASSC) to the community was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019. The Student Affairs Support Services Center (SASSC) helps to eliminate barriers to students’ academic success and assist families in gaining stability which often correlates to a student’s academic experience.

Many of the student/family issues are addressed through our School Social Workers. The Center can provide assistance with guardianship through the process of Non-parental/Grandparent/Fictive Kin Affidavits. Other services include Proof of Residency Affidavits, Safety Transfers, House Bill 224 (Military School Choice), Summer Registration, GED Classes, and Preschool Assessments. Collaborative partners were also onsite to meet and speak with guests. The SASSC is located inside East Broad K8 School.

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STEM ACADEMY AT BARTLETT RECEIVES STEAM CERTIFICATION

STEM/STEAM Program Specialist for the Georgia Department of Education, Ms. Felicia Cullars, visited the STEM Academy at Bartlett on Wednesday, January 23rd to present a banner in recognition of the school’s certification as a Georgia STEAM middle school last fall. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. The STEM Academy at Bartlett was the state of Georgia’s first STEM-certified middle school and is just the second STEAM-certified middle school in the state.

STEAM is the integration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics infused with meaningful arts integration. To be awarded STEAM certification, schools must submit an application showcasing they meet specific criteria, including evidence of teacher collaboration, business and industry partnerships, high levels of math and science instruction, and an integrated, project-based STEAM curriculum. As well, multiple site visits with a team from the Georgia Department of Education are conducted to observe programs, interview faculty, students, parents, and community partners, and engage in student learning.

STEM ACADEMY AT BARTLETT RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE TOP STEM MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN THE NATION

The STEM Academy at Bartlett has been recognized by the Future of Education Technology Conference as having one of the top middle school STEM programs in the nation. The school is one of the top three finalists for the FETC STEM Excellence Award which will be announced on January 30th.

The finalists were determined by the FETC STEM Advisory Committee, consisting of a seven-member panel of high-ranking educational professionals from across the country. The group evaluated hundreds of applications before selecting three finalists, in each age level. The FETC STEM Excellence Awards recognize excellence and innovation in the field of STEM education at the primary, middle and high school levels, with winners selected from each level. STEM Excellence Awards applications are evaluated based on the use of Interdisciplinary Curriculum, Collaboration, Design, Problem Solving and the STEM Experiences offered.

The three finalists from the middle school category also include:

- Mater Academy Charter Middle School, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Hialeah Gardens, Fla.
- McHenry Middle School, McHenry School District 15, McHenry, Ill.

The award will be presented at the FETC Conference in Orlando, Florida on January 30, 2019. A team from The STEM Academy @ Bartlett is scheduled to attend the conference and lead a presentation on STEM integration in the middle school.
FIFTEEN SCCPSS STUDENT-ATHLETES AND FOUR SCCPSS COACHES PARTICIPATED IN ANNUAL BLITZ BORDER BOWL VERSUS SOUTH CAROLINA

Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools was well represented at this year’s 2nd Annual Blitz Border Bowl pitting student-athletes from the Coastal Empire against student-athletes from the Low Country kicks off at Memorial Stadium. The all-star high school senior football game was created through a partnership between WSAV-TV and the Savannah Morning News. Proceeds from the game benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

The fifteen SCCPSS student-athletes participating were among a total 45 players making up Team Georgia. The game took place on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at Memorial Stadium!

LARISSA GOMEZ NAMED STUDENT OF THE MONTH - DECEMBER 2018

The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System recognized Larissa Gomez at this month’s board meeting as the Superintendent’s Student of the month of December 2018. Our featured student is a senior attending New Hampstead High School. Larissa is described as “a strong energetic leader with astonishing problem-solving skills.” Her teachers note she has a positive attitude towards her studies and is very eager to learn. She displays a strong sense of responsibility and works very hard to do her best in striving for excellence.

With an overall GPA of 93, Larissa is very focused on school-related activities. She has recognized as a Microsoft Word specialist and has served as both the brass captain and drum major in New Hampstead’s marching band. Additionally, she’s been active on the pep rally and homecoming committees. When Larissa was asked what motivates her to strive for academic success, she quotes her mom saying, "You're the one I don't have to worry about. Don't make me have to worry." After graduation, Larissa plans to either join the Air Force or attend Kennesaw State University. Her areas of interest include culinary arts and nursing. She would like to own her own bakery shop. We are proud to announce the Superintendent’s Student of the Month for December 2018 is Larissa Gomez! Congratulations to our student, her family, and the faculty and staff of New Hampstead High School!

“Savannah Students Put Their Heads Together for K-12 Inventure Prize Competition”

Young minds worked together for the K-12 Inventure Prize Competition for student inventors. Students were tasked with brainstorming ideas for inventions. “You can go to the map of the world and click on a continent, then click on a region and it will give you information about all the water in that region,” said Destiny Allen, Savannah Arts Academy Team. Then, they arrived at solutions. “Along the way, teams of students used imagination, creativity, and critical thinking to compete with inventions - and just maybe solve world problems big and small. “It’s really remarkable to see how passionate the kids are about their ideas,” said Tim Cone, Georgia Tech Savannah Ceismc, Program Director. “I had several judges come up to me and tell me I was judging the elementary level and I found myself getting teary-eyed because of how impressive it was to see kids get involved and care about the world around them.” Dozens of students competed in this area’s first regional qualifier for the K-12 Inventure Prize at Georgia Tech Savannah with two elementary school, two middle school, and two high school teams advancing to state competition. All of the teams got an opportunity to demonstrate their collective teamwork. Three first-place and three second-place teams from the regional qualifiers advanced to the state competition, which will be held March 13, 2019 on Georgia Tech’s Atlanta campus.
Coastal Middle School is once again recognized as a National Lighthouse School to Watch! The designation is in effect for the years 2019 to 2022. Coastal Middle has been in the program for six years and has to go through a re-designation process every three years.

The Schools to Watch® initiative was launched by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform in 1999. Through the Schools to Watch® initiative, the National Forum identifies schools across the United States that are well on their way to meeting the Forum's criteria for high performance. Forum members believe that three things are true of high-performing middle-grades schools:

- They are academically excellent — these schools challenge all students to use their minds well.
- They are developmentally responsive — these schools are sensitive to the unique developmental challenges of early adolescence.
- They are socially equitable — these schools are democratic and fair, providing every student with high-quality teachers, resources, and supports.

To achieve this level of performance, high-performing schools establish norms, structures, and organizational arrangements to support and sustain their trajectory toward excellence. They have a sense of purpose that drives every facet of practice and decision-making.

Observers who visited Coastal Middle during the most recent re-designation process stated in their report that they were extremely impressed with the continued progress of the school in all areas of criteria and that all staff members should be commended for their continued persistence at raising the bar at the school.

Coastal Middle School will be recognized at the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders conference in Athens on January 28th, as well as at the annual National Forum Schools to Watch conference in Washington, D.C. in June.

The STEM Academy at Bartlett became the district's second school to be designated as a Lighthouse School to Watch in 2018.
HELEN RUFFIN READING BOWL

On Saturday, January 26, we held the first ever district-wide Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl at Savannah High School and was coordinated by Tammy Kemp and her team of library media staff. This bowl included competitions for our 4th grade through 12th grade students. A total of 300+ students represented their schools in this event.

The following schools competed:

**Elementary Division**
- May Howard Elementary
- Andrea B. Williams Elementary
- Hesse
- Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts
- Jacob G. Smith
- Butler Elementary
- Marshpoint Elementary
- Bloomingdale Elementary
- School of Humanities at Juliette Low
- Hodge Elementary
- Rice Creek Elementary
- West Chatham Elementary
- Isle of Hope
- Otis J. Brock Elementary
- East Broad School

**Middle School Division**
- Godley Station
- The STEM Academy
- Mercer Middle
- Hesse
- Southwest Middle
- Coastal Middle
- Charles Ellis Montessori Academy
- West Chatham Middle
- Myers Middle School

**High School Division**
- Savannah Arts Academy
- Islands High School
- Jenkins High School
- Woodville Tompkins
- New Hampstead
- Savannah High/Early College

The first and second place in each division will represent Chatham County in the Regional Competition at Valdosta State University on February 9, 2019.

The first and second place in each division will represent Chatham County in the Regional Competition at Valdosta State University on February 9, 2019.

The top three schools are listed below for each level.

**Elementary Level (Grades 4-5)**
- First Place – May Howard Elementary
- Second Place – Andrea B. Williams Elementary
- Third Place – Hesse

**Middle School Level**
- First Place – Godley Station (6th – 8th)
- Second Place – STEM Academy
- Third Place – Mercer Middle

**High School Level**
- First Place – Savannah Arts Academy
- Second Place – Islands High School
- Third Place – Jenkins High School

Here is a link to the folder of photos we are collecting from the event.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gsituCIQN-nX7X4CC8AryktNL98KZymi?usp=sharing

Congratulations to all of our schools for continuing to instill a love of reading in their students!

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Enhanced District Benefits and New Vendors effective 1/1/2019

Savannah Chatham County Board of Education increased the district paid Basic Life Insurance for all full time employees (benefit eligible status .50 – 1.0 positions) effective 1/1/2019 from $10,000 to $20,000. In addition, the district added a supplement for dependents to this benefit that includes employees’ spouses and dependent children. The dependent life coverage is $5,000 each effective 1/1/2019. Please remember to call our broker, ShawHankins, at 1-844-550-9717 or log onto bSwift and enter your dependents names, birthday, etc. for dependent identification. Also, it is time to review and/or update you beneficiary information to ensure accuracy. You can call ShawHankins at 1-844-550-9717 to review by telephone or access the website at: www.sccpss.bswift.com

Username: 10 digit employee ID (0000012345)

To learn more about your District benefit options, please visit the Benefit Resource Center at: https://shawhankinsbenefits.net/sccpss/

Click on the “Employee Benefits” link located at the top of the page. A drop down menu will appear where you can select the benefit that you would like to learn more about.

In the spring of 2018, we issued an RFP for Group Critical Illness, Group Accident, and Group Hospital Indemnity benefit plans. AFLAC was the successful vendor offering enhanced benefits, higher coverage amounts, and lower premiums for these benefits effective 1/1/2019. All employees who carried these benefits with UNUM were crossed-over automatically from UNUM to AFLAC unless an employee elected to end these coverages effective 1/1/2019 during the annual open enrollment process.

Health Insurance

All new hires who are full time, benefit eligible employees must make your medical insurance elections through the State Health Benefit Plan enrollment portal located at: https://myshbpaga.adp.com/shbp/ or by phone at 1-800-610-1863. First time users will need to enter the registration code: SHBP-GA. New hires have a 30-day new hire window from the hire date to enroll in health coverage.

2019 SHBP-sponsored Biometric Screening Events

SHBP sponsored Biometric Screening Events are held at different worksite locations throughout the State of Georgia from March 2019 through September 2019. We are in process of scheduling these events at our locations. Once scheduling is complete, State Health will open these events for scheduling appointments. We have some tentative locations as follows and will update you as soon as scheduling has been completed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Confirmed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Office at 208 Bull Street (Room 103)</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 2, 2019</td>
<td>8 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gadsen Elementary</td>
<td>Friday, March 29, 2019</td>
<td>8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>NO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garrison School for the Arts (Yamacraw Center)</td>
<td>Friday, April 5, 2019</td>
<td>7 a.m. - 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown K8 School</td>
<td>5/1/19, 5/2/19, 5/3/19</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampstead High (Auditorium)</td>
<td>Monday, April 1, 2019</td>
<td>7 a.m. - 2 p.m.</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oatland Island</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 3, 2019</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Hope</td>
<td>Thursday, May 2, 2019</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodville-Tompkins, Lower Campus</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. G. Smith Elementary</td>
<td>May - TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
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