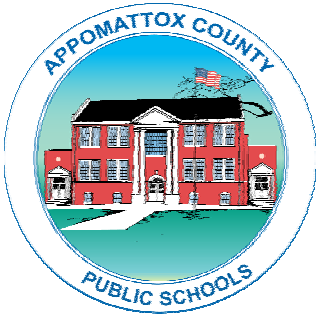


The Division Digest

A newsletter from the Office of the Superintendent



*Building relationships
one student at a time.*

Superintendent's Message

Dear Staff,

We are entering our 22nd week of school. Let's hope the January snow and ice has left us and will not return in February. We have missed six school days so far and have had several late openings and an early dismissal due to inclement weather. Make up days so far will be February 21 and April 25. March 24 and 25 may be added as makeup days.

The General Assembly is in the midst of its 45 day session. Below is a link to the General Assembly so that you can track bills and contact your legislators if you wish.

http://legis.virginia.gov/1_cit_guide/cit_welcome.html

Please read the information in this Division Digest as we work to increase communication to you and let you know of some of the activities going on in ACPS.

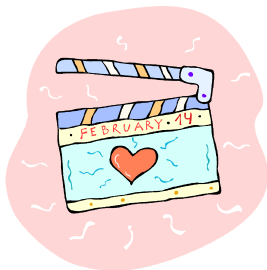
Note the Public Hearing set for February 24 at 5:30 p.m. here at the school board office. This is a time that you may address the School Board with ideas and suggestions regarding the 2011-12 school budget.

Thank you for your part in teaching our students. They watch us carefully, whether we are in the classroom, the cafeteria, the halls, the office, on the bus, or on the playing field. We are all playing a part in our students' education. This poem captures the gratitude of our students that I think sometimes we don't realize until the year is over:

If I Could Teach You, Teacher
 If I could teach you, teacher,
 I'd teach you how much more
 you have accomplished
 than you think you have.
 I'd show you the seeds
 you planted years ago
 that are now coming into bloom.
 I'd reveal to you the young minds
 that have expanded under your care,
 the hearts that are serving others
 because they had you as a role model.
 If I could teach you, teacher,
 I'd show you the positive effect
 you have had on me and my life.
 Your homework is
 to know your value to the world,
 to acknowledge it, to believe it.
 Thank you, teacher.
By Joanna Fuchs

Dorinda G. Grasty, Ed. D.
 Division Superintendent

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February School Board Meetings:

Interim School Board Meeting
 Regular Business Meeting

Thurs., February 8, 5:30
 Thurs., February 24, 5:30

Cafeteria Corner

Niki Kempton



The 2010 reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act has given schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program the opportunity to re-evaluate cafeteria practices for 2011-2012. The major amendments necessary to comply with the reauthorization regulations include:

Increases the amount of vegetables and/or fruits for breakfast and lunch. Some locations are doubling the amount that currently fulfills requirements.

Mandates a variety of vegetables including regular servings of dark green and orange vegetables and limits starchy vegetables. Starchy vegetables, including potatoes, are limited to once per week (meaning fries OR mashed potatoes only once per week at most).

1% White Milk and Fat Free Flavored Milk Only

Currently a variety of fat content milks are offered and flavored milks are 2%.

Half of the grains to be whole grain within 3 years

Our cafeterias have been slowly moving to whole grain rich entrees and side dishes over the past few years - this requirement will help include even more whole grains on the menu.

Sodium regulations

Gradually reduce the sodium limits over the next 10 years to be equal to or less than 500 mg for breakfast and 740 mg for lunch at ACHS (less in lower grades).

A minimum and maximum calorie level for each school:

BREAKFAST—PROPOSED MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM CALORIE LEVELS

Grades K-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
350-500	400-550	450-600

LUNCH—PROPOSED MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM CALORIE LEVELS

Grades K-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
550-650	600-700	750-850

This reauthorization will help to ensure our students receive a healthy breakfast and lunch to promote healthier youngsters and better learning!

School Closing and Emergency Information

In bad weather and other emergencies, Appomattox County Public Schools (ACPS) notify parents and staff about the status of school schedules in several ways. We utilize the following TV and radio stations:

WDBJ TV 7
 WVTF 89.1
 WSLS TV 10
 WKDE 105.5 FM
 WSET TV 13
 WROV 96.3
 WWBT 12 Richmond
 Spirit 103.7 FM
 WRLV 88.3 FM
 WSLQ 99.1 FM
 WFLO 95.7 FM
 K92 FM



Parents and staff can also go to <http://www.schoolsout.com/> and then go to "Virginia" to find Appomattox County Public Schools. From this page, a message appears regarding school closure.

We also use an automated calling system, Global Connect, to deliver phone calls to all parents regarding the status of school delay and closing.

It would be ideal to be able to notify all parents and staff the night before snow or ice occurs so childcare plans could be made early, however, in many cases the frozen precipitation may not begin falling until after midnight. We go out into several areas of the county to check road conditions when a snow/ice event occurs. We do our best to make a decision to close or delay by 5:30 a.m. There may be times when there is frozen precipitation in the western part of the county near Concord and no frozen precipitation on the eastern end near Pamplin. In those situations, we must close the entire school division as we must take into consideration all county roads on which our buses and students travel.

On days that we have advertised a two hour delay and the road conditions do not improve significantly before buses must leave for their route, we may have to move from a two hour delay to a closed status. We will put out all notifications as soon as possible when this situation occurs.

Should frozen precipitation begin to fall once school has begun, we will close schools as quickly as possible if that precipitation is scheduled to continue.

The safety of our students and staff is very important to us. We take these decisions very seriously and exercise caution when transporting the children of ACPS.

School News

APS News

On January 19, 2011, Appomattox Primary School welcomed 20 new students into the 4-Year Old Program, Bright Beginnings. Students are adjusting well to routines and procedures being established by their teacher, Mrs. Angie Dillon and teacher assistant, Mrs. Patsy Pierce. One aspect of the day includes the students eating breakfast together each morning in the cafeteria. This program is funded by Federal Stimulus money.

4 Year Old Program



AES NEWS

AT AES, THE MAGIC OCCURS AFTER-SCHOOL, TOO!



Abra-kadabra! Beginning January 24, 2011, the Appomattox Elementary School SCA is sponsoring after-school clubs for nine Mondays. Students are attending sessions such as: All Star Sports, Creative Writing, Fun with 4-H, Rocket Engineering, Art in Math, Scrapbooking, Cross-Stitching, Digital Photography, K'Nex, Construction, Crafts, and Science Fair—these are only a sample of fun learning times for our students.

A magical THANK YOU! to our faculty, our staff, and our community volunteers filling buckets with time to teach these lessons to our boys and girls. The response has been magical with at least 150 students choosing to attend.



The Wal-mart in Appomattox presented a check to each of our four schools on January 31, 2011, in the amount of \$2,000 each to use on SOL curriculum reading and science materials. We sincerely appreciate the support of Wal-mart in the education of our students. Above are our four principals with their school checks. Thank you, Wal-mart!

Please note the following weather and [Emergency Closing Codes](#), which will be communicated through local radio and TV stations, as well as Global Connect calls:

Code I—Administrators, teachers, clerical, maintenance, and custodial personnel report.

Code II- 12 month personnel report.

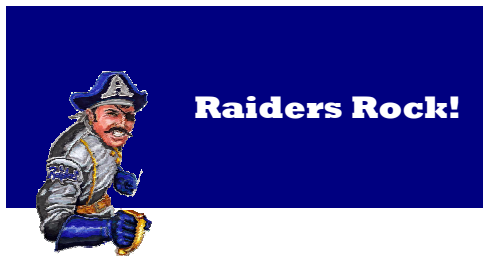
Code III- Designated central office administrators, custodial, maintenance, and bus shop personnel report.

Code IV - No one reports.

Remedial and Special Education

Beth Haught, Supervisor

Happy New Year! What are your summer plans? Vacation, travel, summer school? Yes, it is time to begin consideration of summer school plans. Summer school will be held July 11-29 at APS and AES with middle and high school sessions being held at ACHS this year. More details will follow soon; however, you may wish to begin your preliminary summer preparations now. Consider those students who may be in need of summer instruction and also any interest you may have in teaching. Once we have some prospective numbers for students at each school, we can determine how many teachers will be needed. Look for additional information in the next Division Digest.



Curriculum and Instruction

Annette Bennett, Director

High School Scheduling Committee

In the spring of 2010, at the direction of the Appomattox County School Board, a committee was formed to investigate an alternative to the current 4x4 block schedule that is used at ACHS.

The following teachers were asked to serve on this committee: Susan Hamlett, Ceil Fahrman, Brandon Mawyer, Joe Servis, Lorie Carwile, Ronda Matthews, Michael Myers, and Annette Bennett.

The process used by the committee included studying the advantages and disadvantages of several types of high school scheduling options. Input was gathered from the high school teachers, administration, guidance, students, and parents about the current 4x4 block schedule.

After extensive deliberation, the committee recommends that a **modified block schedule** be developed. The basic schedule would continue the 4x4 block designating one block (most likely 3rd block) to offer a number of 45 minute classes that will run year long. These classes would meet every day for approximately 45 minutes. To the extent possible, the menu of 45 minute courses

will likely include the following:

Foreign Languages, Fine Arts (Band, Art, Chorus), some entry level math and English classes, AP Courses (Lab Sciences would need an A/B alternating block)

With the help of teachers, guidance and parent recommendations, students would choose two courses that would be paired together for the block. Teachers teaching these classes would have two classes during the third block period and teach two additional blocks during the day.

Depending on student course selection, staffing resources, and other scheduling considerations (i.e.: AMS, CVCC, Gov. School), additional blocks and additional courses may also be considered to be included in the 45 minute classes.

Welcome To Our Staff

Mr. Steve Edwards, our new **Director of Business & Operations**. Mr. Edwards started on January 3rd and is replacing Billy Perrow who has decided to retire after more than 40 years of service to Appomattox County Public Schools. Mr. Edwards graduated from Wofford College in South Carolina with a degree in Business Economics. He has 20 years of business and operations experience in the field of education. Steve is married with two children and, in his spare time, enjoys outdoor activities, such as hunting and golfing. He is Scout Master of Boy Scout Troop #546 in Appomattox.



Congratulations!! Employees of the Month



APS - Joyce Whorley

AES - April Johnson

AMS - Julie Daily

ACHS - Sara Bowles

School News

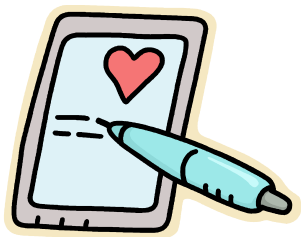
ACHS Welcomes New Teacher, Brittany McLean

ACHS welcomed several new teachers this year who are making a difference in the day to day lives of Appomattox students. One new teacher, Miss Brittany McLean, has made an immediate impact on student achievement. Miss McLean teaches mathematics at ACHS and two weeks ago 100% of her Algebra I students passed the SOL test on the first try. AWESOME job, Miss McLean!

Miss McLean grew up in the small town of Emporium, Pennsylvania. She attended the University of Pittsburgh where she graduated in 2007. She spent a semester teaching at the college level before teaching two years in the city of Lynchburg at the high school level. Her father had a huge influence on Miss McLean becoming a mathematics teacher. He instilled his love of numbers with her. Miss McLean loves making a difference as a teacher and one day may expand her role to work as a coach.

In her spare time, Miss McLean participates in athletics including basketball, softball, and golf. She likes to hike, work out, travel (including taking mission trips) and playing Sudoku. We know, from her results, that she spends a great deal of time planning for success in her math classrooms. Great job, Miss McLean!

Valentine's Day - February 14th



Remember: Make Up Day - February 21

Sports

Ron Carter, Athletic Director

Athletics at Appomattox County High School

Winter sports teams at ACHS are gearing up for tournament play in the next few weeks. The boys and girls basketball teams will be participating in the Dogwood District Tournament starting February 14. They are striving to advance to the Region B Tournament to be held the following week. The ACHS wrestling team is poised to take a shot at the Southern Sectional title when they travel to Cumberland High School on February 5. Our indoor track team has been participating in numerous meets and are positioning themselves for a successful spring season. The first day for spring practices is Monday, February 21.

Agriculture Students Pass National Exam

As part of state and federal education requirements associated with the Carl Perkins Program and No Child Left Behind, all students completing an agricultural career pathway at ACHS have had the opportunity to take industry credentialing exams. These tests are identified by the Virginia Department of Education as a method to document students' achievements in Career and Technical Education (CTE) coursework. All area employers are encouraged to remember that students passing these exams have demonstrated competency in their career field. Students took the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) written exams in Agricultural Mechanics and/or Agricultural Production.



The NOCTI Agricultural Mechanics written test evaluates a students' knowledge and skills in the areas of: safety, welding, power and machinery, electrical power and processes, agricultural structures, agribusiness, environmental and natural resource systems, and careers. The following students will receive the NOCTI Agricultural Mechanics Certificate: Andrew Demuth, Dustin Doss, Jordan Heinrichs, James Hudson, Jared Lancaster, Patrick Langley, William Lewis, Zach Love, Richard Mason, Gunnar Nelson, Spencer Richardson, Zach Shumaker, Dylan Watson, and Michael Williamson.

The NOCTI Production Agriculture written test assesses the students' comprehension and skills in the areas of: animal science, companion animals and aquaculture, land use and stewardship, plant science, agricultural mechanics, farm management and recordkeeping, and employability. The following students will receive the NOCTI Production Agricultural Certificate: Jacob Almond, Chris Charte, Jessica Hudson, Gunnar Nelson, Zach Shumaker, Rob Thomas, and Michael Williamson.

School News

AMS NEWS

Stellar Spellers from each English class at Appomattox Middle School recently competed in the school-wide Scripps Spelling Bee. Twenty-four sixth through eighth grade students vied for the position of AMS Speller champion. Classroom winners studied the Scripps Speller list to prepare for the competition. Round after round, students contended for the champion position by correctly spelling words such as: *homage*, *illiteracy*, *misanthropic*, and *mischievous*. The winning word, *feloniously*, was successfully tackled by 8th grader, Maya White. Alternate Mariah Hudson provided stiff competition through many rounds. Congratulations to Alternate Mariah Hudson, and Champion Maya White, who will move on to the regional competition in Lynchburg next month.



Attendance Reward

On Friday, January 14, 353 middle school students attended AJ's Skate World to relish a well-earned day away from the classroom. The activity was a reward for students who maintained excellent attendance during the first semester. Students and teachers alike enjoyed a day of socializing, eating, dancing, skating, and, for some, falling down. We look forward to the next reward activity at the end of second semester.



Maintenance Department Timmy Garrett, Supervisor

ACPS Maintenance Department consists of five contracted staff members. The Maintenance Department provides maintenance and service for approximately 460,000 square feet of buildings, as well as 80 acres of grounds, 5 school facilities - APS, AES, AMS, ACHS, AAEC, and 6 support buildings, School Board Office, Bus Garage, Drivers Lounge, Cannery Building, Maintenance Shop, Old Adult Learning Center, Sports Complex and irrigation systems on 5 playing fields. Some of these sites may have more than one building. These sites range in age from 10 years to nearly 100 years old.

The major functional areas that are the responsibility of Appomattox County Public School Maintenance Department includes the Crafts of Carpentry, Electrical, HVAC, Plumbers, Grounds, Locksmith, Masons, Painters, Networking Team, Support Services Team, Surplus/Movers.

- * Food services equipment repair
- * Elevator Services
- * Environmental Services (air quality, asbestos, pest control)
- * Fire Alarm Equipment
- * Maintaining equipment and facilities
- * Moving Service
- * Roofing Services
- * Surplus Management
- * Waste Disposal, grease trap
- * Lighting
- * Work with principals, Cleaning of buildings
- * Energy Management
- * Fire Suppression Equipment
- * Grounds Upkeep, Grass and Snow Removal
- * Maintenance of our vehicles
- * Painting Services
- * Security Monitoring Systems
- * Utilities - Power, Telecommunication
- * Video Camera Systems

The Maintenance Department strives to perform these diverse tasks in an efficient, timely and cost effective manner. Our mission is to provide prompt, efficient, and courteous service. Additionally, we constantly strive to improve our service to you.

Technology

Brette Arbogast, Director of Technology and Career Education

With so many new things that have occurred in technology during the past year in Appomattox County Public Schools, the technology department would like to say thanks for going that extra mile to learn new ways to do things. We would like to thank everyone for completing work orders. This new process allows our department to evaluate issues and work together to complete them. The new SharePoint is still available and many new departments and teachers have begun to implement this very useful tool. One department that has used it as a communication device would be the CTE department at ACHS and AMS. This has allowed each member to publicize their department and make decisions as a group. This website has also enabled Advisory Council Members to contribute outside of the three meetings a year. The web address on our internal site is <http://acpssharepoint/tp/cte>. Please take a look as some of the new ways things can be done.

The ITRT's have worked together to provide a calendar which will be updated every few months to enable staff to sign-up and attend different training sessions that will be offered throughout the county. To join any of the training sessions, please sign up with the instructor beforehand to enable a spot. In addition, the ITRT's have developed school plans that will give the department direction of what technology integration will occur at each school. Please see your school ITRT to give any suggestions that you may have.

We will be conducting a survey to all staff at the end of February to ask for your input on additional tech training. The link will be sent out through e-mail. Please take a minute to complete the survey and have a voice on what will be taught throughout the county. If you have an idea before the survey goes out, please e-mail Brette Arbogast.

I would also ask that if any staff members have questions or comments on technology to please drop me an e-mail. It's better to ask your question than to wonder why something is being done. So many of us hear about new technology being introduced in other areas of the state. Please let me know if you hear of something and the technology department will investigate. I thank all the individuals that have felt comfortable enough to send me e-mails to explain their views on technology in the county.

Human Resources

Bruce McMillan, Director

June 2011 License Renewals

This is a quick reminder for anyone who is up for license renewal in June 2011. Once you have compiled your 180 points and documented them on the License Renewal Form, you should meet with your principal. During this meeting, your principal will ask to see your License Renewal Form and all of your documentation. Once he or she has reviewed your points and documentation, they will initial each section and sign the form. Once they sign the form, a copy should be made of the form for your records, and the original should be sent to me. I will give it a quick review and send it on to Richmond. If you are going to use a college course, please attach a copy of the transcript. Email me with questions.

Teachers - Graduate Supplement Deadline is Feb 7th

If you have made progress toward your Masters Degree since September 2010, you might be eligible to move to the next level of supplements (9 hrs = \$700, 18 hrs = \$1,100, 27 hrs = \$1,500 & Masters = \$2,100). If this is the case for you, please request a new transcript be sent to us and contact Tracy Johnson to get a Graduate Supplement form sent to you. The supplements listed above are for a full year – if you go up a level now, your dollar increase will be half of the annual amount.



Transportation

Matt Lair, Supervisor of Transportation

Fuel mileage information about the Appomattox County Transportation Department

Most of us in our daily lives consider 24 miles per gallon or more to be good fuel mileage. Certainly anything over 30 miles per gallon would be considered excellent. So what kind of mileage does our school bus fleet average? For the 2009-2010 school year, our buses used 56,219 gallons of diesel fuel. We traveled 516,078 miles. If you do the math you will discover that is an average of 9.18 miles per gallon. That's a long way from 24 miles per gallon but is actually considered good fuel mileage for a large vehicle. The interesting part is that this average is more than double what we used to get when our buses were all gas. As a comparison, our school cars averaged 24.78 miles per gallon.

So what does this cost us? The average price for diesel fuel for the 2009-2010 school year was \$2.14 per gallon. This is much cheaper than the price you would pay at the pump. The pump price is approximately .70 cents per gallon higher because of the taxes that are added at the pump. When you multiply 56,219 times \$2.14 per gallon, you get a total of \$120,308.66. Unfortunately, fuel prices have risen for the 2010-2011 school year and no one knows what we will be paying for the 2011-2012 school year.



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
Appomattox County School Board
Public Hearing on Proposed 2011—2012 School Budget
Thursday, February 24, 2011 @ 5:30 p.m.
School Administration Building
316 Court Street, Appomattox, VA

Speakers addressing the School Board during the 2011-2012 School Budget Public Hearing do not need to notify the superintendent in writing at least one day prior to the meeting date to be placed on the agenda. Speakers will be asked to provide their name, address, and if they are speaking as an individual or on behalf of a group, the name of the group should be provided. Speakers will be requested to keep their comments to five minutes or less.

Director of Business and Operations
Steve Edwards

It has been a quick first month for me, but a very productive one. I have enjoyed meeting many of the great folks that work in our school system and seeing the facilities. I am particularly impressed with what we are able to accomplish with the resources we have available – that speaks volumes about the caring nature of our greatest resource – our people!

I have been introduced on many occasions as “the guy who is replacing Billy Perrow.” I cringe when I hear that because I’m just not sure that is possible. I am very fortunate to have Billy around for a while on a limited basis to show me the ropes, and appreciate greatly his expertise and insight. ACPS has been very fortunate to have had Billy, and I look forward to working with everyone in ACPS to continue providing the exceptionally high quality product for which our system is known.

Work on the FY 12 school budget has begun but is dependent on the General Assembly finishing its work, such that anything at this point is just speculation. We have developed a projected revenue budget based on the Governor’s initial budget proposal, but his proposal must pass both the state House and Senate and will most assuredly go through several reiterations before we have solid information from which to work. We will continue to monitor information coming out of Richmond as it applies to K12 funding, and adjust our “working budget” as it moves through the legislative process. Hopefully, the General Assembly will conclude its work on time and we will have solid information to work with by mid March.

Two facility projects to update staff on include the proposed PPEA renovations/additions to Appomattox Primary School and the ADA renovations to restrooms at the ACHS. The money for the ACHS project comes from Federal Stimulus funds. The money for the APS renovation/addition does not come from our yearly operating budget and the county has applied for Bonds for this project.

The American’s with Disabilities Act (ADA) required restroom renovations at the high school have gone out for bid, with proposals due in late February. Our goal is to have construction begin in March with the completion before school resumes in August.

The School Board hired Bill Gillespie to assist us with the PPEA renovation/addition to the APS. He has met with many of the staff and teachers at the school (and is arranging meetings with other user groups) to assess what the space needs are, and to develop EdSpecs that will be used to generate final proposals for construction. Our hope is to have the construction process at APS begin early this summer.

