

The Division Digest

A newsletter from the Office of the Superintendent



*Building relationships
one student at a time.*

Superintendent's Message

Dear Staff,

The end of the 2010-11 school year has arrived! The last ten months have flown by in a flurry of activities and a vast amount of teaching and learning. We have endured bone-chilling cold, heavy rain, and extreme heat. We have also endured another very difficult budget year as the state and local economies continue to stall.

SOL testing has been occurring for nearly the last month. We have been preparing all year for these tests and we can now breathe a sigh of relief at their conclusion.

The end of the year has also been filled with many special activities. We have had field days, club banquets, field trips, athletic play-offs, reward activities, and recognition ceremonies.

Our seniors will graduate on June 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vines Center in Lynchburg. We will be graduating 156 students. Thirty-seven of those ACHS seniors are Honor Graduates and 14 students are CVCC Early College Scholars. Thirteen of our seniors will be proudly joining the military. At Class Day, our seniors amassed \$395,710 in scholarship awards from 39 different colleges, universities, and organizations. 46 graduates will be attending 2 year colleges and 73 will be attending 4 year colleges. 21 graduates will be entering the workforce and 4 students will be in apprenticeship programs. We are proud of our 2011 ACHS graduates and wish them the very best as they begin the next stage of their lives to reach their goals and aspirations.

Thank you for your many days and hours of hard work with our students this year. You have trudged forward tirelessly to teach and care for our students. You have prepared meals, driven buses, taken care of our buildings, and worked in our offices. Later in the Division Digest you will find a poem to parents that I believe you will enjoy; it is the essence of why we are all in education. We are here to make a difference in the lives of the children we see every day and to help them grow academically and personally. We must hold fast to this essence of hope – that we are truly making a significant, caring, and positively impacting our students' lives here in ACPS.

May you have a wonderfully relaxing and enjoyable summer spent doing those things that you love to do with family and friends.

Happy Summer! Thank you for a tremendous 2010-11!

Dorinda G. Grasty, Ed.D.
Division Superintendent

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School Board Meetings:

- Regular Business Meeting Thursday, June 16, 5:30 p.m.
- Close Out Meeting Wednesday, June 29, 8:00 a.m.
- Regular Business Meeting Thursday, July 28, 5:30 p.m.
- Interim Meeting Thursday, August 11, 5:30 p.m.
- Regular Business Meeting Thursday, August 25, 5:30 p.m.

Cafeteria Corner

Niki Kempton

A recent study by the CDC showed this generation of children may be the first generation in U.S. history to have a shorter life expectancy than their parents. The Food Service Department recognizes the need for positive changes in our program. We are committed to improving the food selections for our students in the coming years. We plan to do this by:

- Cooking more items from scratch to avoid preservatives and fillers
- Limiting sodium intake
- Switching from canned to frozen vegetables
- Banning trans fats & high fructose corn syrup
- Expanding our Farm to School Program
- Offering more healthy choices

We will be switching to more healthy varieties of items kids already love for 2011-2012. For instance, we will be incorporating a new 100% beef hamburger patty and also (back by popular demand) will be featuring our homemade potato wedges on a regular basis. We will be switching to Simply Heinz brand ketchup, a product line that uses no high fructose corn syrup and will experiment in making house salad dressings from scratch.

As you may already know after reading the last School Board Summary, lunch prices are going up \$.10 based on the mandatory raise required by the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act. Breakfast prices will also go up \$.05.

Feedback is always welcome. If you have any ideas on how to improve the Food Service Program in your location or would like to make a comment, please feel free to call me at 352-8251, ext 3, or send me an email at nakempton@appomattox.k12.va.us.

Have a GREAT SUMMER!!

Purchased in 2010-2011:

33,000	Slices of Whole Grain Pizza
27,000	Hot Dogs
25,000	Bottles of Water
20,000	Turkey Sausage Patties
1,000	Gallons of Ketchup
600	Gallons of Ranch Dressing

Appomattox Recycles!

Niki Kempton



In 2010-2011, Appomattox County Public Schools recycled **10 TONS** of paper & cardboard!!

Special thanks go out to:

- Jo Evans who picks up our recyclables from each location each week (which is not an easy task - those bags are HEAVY!).
- The Special Education Department whose contribution has been essential in the success of the program.
- Appomattox County Recycling Center, who provided us with helpful advice, as well as the gray collection bins.
- All staff and students who promote the program by recycling every day!

Adult Education

Mary Jo Pulliam, Instructor

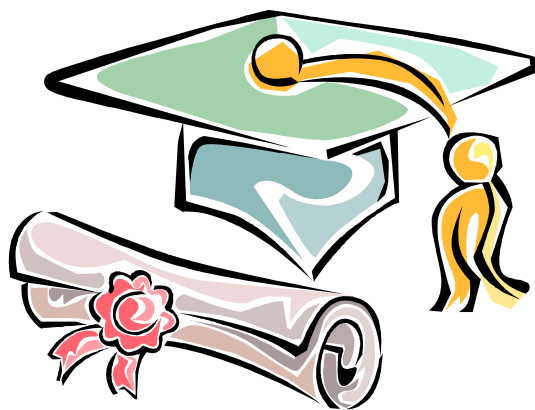
Appomattox County Public Schools, ACE (Adult Continuing Education) of Central VA, and CVCC joined forces last spring to ensure that the county's GED Program would survive despite severe local budget limitations.

The Adult Learning Center, established in 1989 and formerly housed at "the annex" by the bus shop, moved to its new location at the CVCC satellite in the Carver-Price Educational Complex in the fall of 2009.

There have been a total of 30 GED graduates during the current school year. Seventeen of these graduates participated in the Adult Education Program, and thirteen graduates were enrolled in ISAEP.

ISAEP is the only state-sanctioned GED program for high school students, and Appomattox has participated in this program since 2001. ISAEP students are able to prepare for the GED exam while gaining work-readiness skills with Amanda Wodke at the Appomattox Alternative Education School. GED classes are held in the adult GED classroom at the CVCC satellite with Mary Jo Pulliam.

For the first time, the ISAEP students will be allowed to participate in the ACHS Graduation at the Vine Center. A recognition ceremony for the adult GED graduates was held June 5 at CVCC.



Over the summer months, we will begin researching potential ways of storing our recyclables onsite. Being able to store the items onsite could allow us to turn them in for reimbursement to a recycling center in Lynchburg. Based on the current reimbursement rates and the volume of this year's collections, we would have received almost \$600.00 in reimbursements for 2010-2011 had we had the opportunity to take them for reimbursement. If anyone has any ideas on storage facilities or anything that could improve the recycling program, please call Niki Kempton at 352-8251, ext 3, or email nakempton@appomattox.k12.va.us.

School News

AES SPARKLES WITH SUMMER READING!



During the summer months, AES wants children to read. Our Summer Reading kick-off, beginning June 1 and ending on the last day of Summer vacation, features how reading can be fun, and how “jammin’” with a good book looks! Maybe we’ll have milk and cookies to enjoy with our good books. We also invite our parents to an evening of Summer Reading on Monday, June 6 from 7-8 pm. Our special guest readers will be bringing books to life! Can you think of a better way to spend a Summer evening than with a good book? AES wishes you a Sparkling Reading Summer!

AMS Encore Festival

Students gathered this year for the second annual AMS Encore Festival. Throughout the day, each grade level visited the booths set-up by each of the encore classes. The FFA had goats and homemade ice cream, the Spanish Club made piñatas, and everyone could make a craft at the art table. Students could test out new laptops and iPads, watch their LEGO creations in action, and play volleyball or soccer out on the back field. Mr. Moreno and Officer O’Brien volunteered to sit atop the dunking booth while students struggled to sink them. The weather was beautiful, and the festival was a success.



Important Dates

June 7	Last Day of School & ACHS Graduation, 7:00 p.m. @ Vines Center
June 8	Teacher Workday
June 9 and 10	Curriculum Summit @ AES 8:30 - 3:30
June 22	Region 8 Math Workshop- Nottoway High School, Time TBA
July 11 -29	Summer School
August 8	New Teachers Report
August 11	Veteran Teachers Report
August 17	Fee Day & 6 th Grade Orientation
August 18	Convocation
August 22	Students' 1 st Day

Remedial and Special Education

Beth Haught, Supervisor

Update on Summer School 2011: Applicants for summer school teachers, teacher assistants, substitutes, and coordinators were requested earlier this spring and many applications were received. **There is still a need for a middle school teacher.** If you are interested in this position, please let me know as soon as possible. Dates will be 7/11-7/29 with hours being 8:00 am-12:00 pm daily. This year AMS and ACHS students will be housed at AMS, with APS and AES students at AES. There are also positions available for substitutes. If you are interested in being added to the substitute list, please let me know.

Also, please join me in sending best wishes to Jenny Epling. Jenny has served the special education students of Appomattox Middle School for many years and will be missed as she embarks upon the relaxation of retirement. Thank you, Jenny, for all that you have done for our students!

Curriculum and Instruction

Annette Bennett, Director



Mathematics Textbook Adoption

This spring our schools have been working to review new Mathematics textbooks and make recommendations for adoption and purchase. The Math Standards of Learning were revised by the Virginia Board of Education in 2009 and full implementation of the standards begins in the 2011-2012 school year.

Textbook companies supplied sample books and materials to the schools and each school used a committee of teachers, administrators, parents and students (@ HS) to compare each textbook sample to the new standards.

Final recommendations will be presented to our School Board this summer. Purchases will be made based on the funds that are available in the school budget.

Thanks to the school committees and especially the chair people for organizing and completing this huge task.

Summer Staff Development

I wish I had a nickel for every time I have been asked "So, what do you do all summer?" Most folks outside of the educational system have no idea how much work continues to be done behind the scenes on behalf of our students. The job of a teacher does not end at 3:30 and many do not take much of a break in the summer months either. In addition to teaching summer school, and the many graduate level courses that teachers are taking, below is a list of the local and regional staff development opportunities that many of our teachers will be participating in this summer.

Curriculum Summit

Region 8 Math Institute

Region 8 Interactive Achievement Workshops

Region 8 Test Question Development Workshop

Central Virginia Collaborative for Developing STEM Lessons to Improve Learning in Grades 4 and 5- Sweet Briar and Lynchburg Colleges

COMPED - Math PD opportunity- Longwood College

Leadership Team Training- Differentiated Instruction

Technology classes including: Sharepoint for the K-12 Classroom, ActivInspire Software and The Interactive Classroom

Thanks to all of our dedicated teachers who continue to model the importance of life long learning!

Maintenance

Timmy Garrett, Supervisor

The Maintenance Department has already started on summer projects, with the first being ordering all the supplies for the next school year and lining up work to be performed this summer.

In-service training for all custodial and maintenance staff has been scheduled for the following topics: getting up to date on safety procedures dealing with material safety data sheets, blood borne pathogens, right to know laws, lawn mower safety and ladder safety, and good work practices.

The custodians will be scheduling restorative care on all classrooms, cleaning classrooms top to bottom, cleaning carpets, floors, and windows.

Maintenance will be starting preventive maintenance on cafeteria equipment and on air conditioning and heating equipment. We will be servicing the ventilation system, along with cutting grass and facilitating contractors working on the ACHS gym lobby/bathroom project and the APS renovation project. Summer is a busy time for us!

Congratulations!! Employees of the Month



APRIL

APS - Cathy King & LeeAnn Rasey

AES - Melva Franklin

AMS - Janet Franklin

ACHS - Edward McCann

MAY

APS - Kelly Hall & Lara Peterson

AES - Carolyn Lawson

AMS - Samantha Raitter

ACHS - Gayle Williams



School News

APS - Flat Stanley

Mrs. Wells' and Mrs. McConville's kindergarten classes have read Flat Stanley and were visited by parent, Bobby Swanberg, who read to the classes and created a giant Flat Stanley for the kids to take on an adventure around APS. Pictured are the students of both classes with their Flat Stanley's, as well as the giant Flat Stanley that came to visit the class. Students took their Stanley's home during spring break so that they could take Stanley on some adventures. Their Stanley's visited grandma's houses, went on Easter egg hunts, saw the beach, went to the park, and to the movies. Many more Flat Stanley's have been sent to different states, and the students are anxiously awaiting their return. This project has taught the students about not only the book, but about different places throughout the state and the country. It has been an activity that they have all enjoyed!



ACHS - First Annual FFA "Little Farmers Day" at APS

On April 13, 2011 a stroll across the Appomattox Primary School campus might have reminded you of a barnyard. ACHS FFA members planned and organized the first annual "Little Farmers Day" for the entire first grade at APS. The purpose of the event was to help first graders understand where their food comes from, how to care for animals, and to expose them to the wide variety of agricultural industries in Appomattox County. Over 45 FFA members spent the day at 9 different stations that ranged from beef cattle, equine, poultry, small grains, horticulture and more. Donning straw hats, each first grade student got to hold baby chicks, pet a pig, sheep, goat, horse and cow, plant a vegetable, milk a cow, make a grain art jar and meet Smokey The Bear.



The event would not have been possible without the generous support of many organizations and individuals who donated resources or time. The ACHS FFA would like to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to: APS first grade teachers, staff, and chaperones; Heather Mullins and Jason Bowyer, APS Administrators; Dodd's Farm Supply; Appomattox County Farm Bureau; Joanne Jones, Appomattox County Farm Bureau Young Farmers; Bonnie Tillotson and Bruce Jones, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Appomattox Office; The Southeast United Dairy Industry Association, Inc.; Virginia Soybean Association; Rick Butler and Shannon Lewis, Virginia Department of Forestry; Billy Perrow; Jack Baker; and the countless others who helped behind the scene. This activity demonstrates the FFA's commitment to premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.



Technology

Brette Arbogast, Director of Technology and CTE

This summer the technology team will be busier than ever. Every year the Technology Department must submit a Technology Plan that includes computer lifecycles, replacements, and additions. According to this year's plan, the primary and high school teacher and library computers will be replaced. New VoIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) phones will be installed and tested in the elementary/middle/high schools. New main switch will undergo its last configuration to establish a 10gb connection to the high school and an upgraded 50mb internet connection will be re-routed to the Tech Center. Middle school lab will be replaced. An old lab will replace a smaller lab at the elementary school; every computer in every lab will be either updated or reloaded. Other things include a new upgraded ASA switch, which controls access to the internet, will be installed to enable a redundant link in the event one of our ASA switches goes down, additional computers to be installed in business labs at the high school to accommodate the increase in students, rewiring one high school lab and installing a new switch to accommodate the additional wiring.

As you can see, many things will be happening in our department over the summer months. If you have any specific requests please contact your school/division ITRT or your technician. Thank you for being a great staff to work with and I hope all of you have a restful summer.



I am happy to report that the School Board approved an operating budget for the 2011 – 2012 year of \$19,364,994 and a Food Service Budget of \$1,065,246 May 26, 2011. While this budget does not allow us to purchase the 3 new buses we needed, or the requested money to allow for step adjustments, the team here in the school board office was able to find ways to balance the budget without forced loss of positions.

We recently received positive financial news on the insurance front – this time from our General Liability and Worker's Comp Insurance. We significantly improved our coverage limits and values, and our rates dropped. Much of the credit for this goes to our staff– by having relatively accident free work histories, it helps keep these rates lower.

This savings also is the result of going out for bid, and a softer insurance market. We hope to have similar results as we rebid our health insurance over the next month or so.

Construction Notes: Both the APS and ACHS construction projects will be hitting high speed on June 7th and 8th. At APS, look for bulldozers and graders to be on site about five minutes after the last school bus pulls out. The plans are to complete the site work and paving this summer. It will be a crazy place this summer, so my suggestion is to avoid the site if at all possible. The ADA renovations at the high school will also be in high gear with completion set for before the opening of school in August. The areas of construction will be cordoned off and the crews will be working nights and weekends. Please avoid the gym-lobby area entirely!

From business and operations – Have a GREAT summer! See you in the fall.

Business and Operations Steve Edwards, Director

Transportation

Matt Lair, Supervisor

Many people are under the mistaken idea that since we don't have school in the summer that bus shop employees are off for the summer. They are very wrong. In reality, summer seems to be busier than the regular school year. During the school year we get into a routine and the routine is entirely different during the summer.

During the summer, the mechanics have to perform a 180 day inspection on the buses and a Virginia State Inspection, steam clean the underside and engine compartments, change air filters, oil filters, water filters, fuel filters and replace radiator hoses, brakes and clutches where needed. In addition to these chores they also have to repair anything else in the fleet needing repair. After the buses, they have to do most of the same jobs to all of the schools cars, trucks and tractors.

We have a company that comes in and repairs all of our bus seats. After the seats are repaired, then we have two part-time people that wash the interior and exterior of the buses.

In the office we have many things to accomplish over the summer. Besides our year-end payroll we have summer school, summer sports trips, 4-H Camp, special schools and camps in Lynchburg, band camp and forestry camp in addition to some others that I am sure we missed. We have to review and build regular routes and special ed routes, hopefully train some new drivers (*If you know anyone interested in driving a bus, please send them our way*), and compile all the information for our final report that goes to the Department of Education.

All of this has to be accomplished, keeping in mind that my staff and I have to work vacations into the mix. During summer school one mechanic has to work, as well as one person in the office. As you can imagine, this can be very hectic at times. It definitely is a change of pace from the regular school year.



Human Resources

Bruce McMillan, Director

The Fifth Annual Recognition Banquet was held on Tuesday, May 31st to honor all of those employees who have decided to retire this year. In addition, we recognized several employees who are celebrating milestone years of service with Appomattox County (25, 30, 35, and 40). More than 60 people turned out for the big event which was held at the Appomattox Community Center. It certainly appeared to me that a good time was had by all!



HONOREES

40 Years of Service
Ms. Elizabeth "Biff" Gillam
35 Years of Service
Mrs. Lucy Harris
Ms. Regina Robinson
30 Years of Service
Mr. Doug Marshall, Jr
25 Years of Service
Mrs. Karen Cyrus
Mrs. Sue Waddell

IN MEMORY

Mr. Mario Luongo – 13 Years
Mr. Bobby Mitchell – 13 Years as School Board Member

2011 RETIREES

Mrs. Jenny Epling – 21 Years
Mr. Terry Epling – 17 ½ Years
Mrs. Zona Major – 14 Years
Mrs. Marie Morgan – 31 Years
Mr. Billy Perrow – 41 Years
Mrs. Beth Reynolds – 31 Years
Mrs. Donna Small – 13 ½ Years
Mrs. Anne Weakley – 19 ½ Years
Mrs. Maggie Whorley – 33 Years
Mrs. Gayle Williams – 15 Years

Dear Parents,

I give you back your child, the same child you confidently entrusted to my care last fall.

I give him back pounds heavier, inches taller, months wiser, more responsible, and more mature than he was then. Although he would have attained his growth in spite of me, it has been my pleasure and privilege to watch his personality unfold day by day and marvel at this splendid miracle of development. I give him back reluctantly, for having spent nine months together in the narrow confines of a crowded classroom, we have grown close, have become a part of each other, and we shall always retain a little of each other.

Ten years from now if we meet on the street, your child and I, a light will shine to our eyes, a smile to our lips, and we shall feel the bond of understanding once more, this bond we feel today. We have lived, loved, laughed, played, learned, and enriched our lives together this year.

I wish it could go on indefinitely, but give him back I must. Take care of him, for he is precious. Remember that I shall always be interested in your child and his destiny, wherever he goes, whatever he does, whoever he becomes.

His joys and sorrows I'll be happy to share. I shall always be his friend.

- Author Unknown

Appomattox County Education Foundation Scholarship

The Appomattox County Education Foundation, Inc. was established in 1988 by local officials and business individuals in the community for the sole purpose of providing college scholarships to deserving graduates of Appomattox County High School. During the past 22 years, 63 scholarships totaling \$31,500.00 have been awarded to ACHS graduates. Employees of Appomattox County Public Schools have generously contributed to this scholarship fund through payroll deduction since the foundation was established. Payroll deduction can be processed at a minimum monthly contribution of \$1.00 and forms are available by contacting Mitzi Letterman at mbletterman@appomattox.k12.va.us. If you are interested in contributing to this scholarship fund for ACPS students, you may set this up in September or January with Mrs. Letterman.