



SMYRNA MESSENGER

VOL. XXVIII, NO. 2 • MARCH 2021, WINTER ISSUE



SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT • 82 MONROVIA AVE. • SMYRNA, DE 19977



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ISSUE

DISTRICT DIRECTORY

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Mrs. Deborah Judy, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Kelly Holt, Director of Curriculum
Mr. Jerry Gallagher, Director of Finance
Mr. Roger Holt, Director of Operations
Mr. Ryan Buchanan, Supervisor of Instruction
Mr. David Morrison, Supervisor of Instruction

653-8585

SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mrs. Stephanie Smeltzer, Principal
Mrs. Whitney Irwin, Associate Principal
Mr. Kent Robinson, Associate Principal
Dr. Christine Seitz, Associate Principal
Guidance Office
Nurse's Office

653-8584

653-8308
653-8823

CLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Heather Moyer, Principal
Mr. Michael Daws, Associate Principal
Nurse's Office

653-8587

NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dr. Amber Augustus, Principal
Mrs. Amanda Noll, Associate Principal
Mr. Erik Wilson, Associate Principal
Nurse's Office

653-8589

SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Mr. Mikell Reed, Associate Principal
Nurse's Office

653-8588

SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY

Mr. Patrick Grant, Principal
Mrs. Irene Buscemi, Associate Principal
Nurse's Office

653-2808

CLAYTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Mr. David Paltrineri, Principal
Mrs. Melissa Buchanan, Associate Principal
Nurse's Office

653-2760

JBM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Mr. Steven Gott, Principal
Mrs. Amy Mumley, Associate Principal
Nurse's Office

659-6297

659-6401

659-6280

SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Stacey Cook, Principal
Mr. John Camponelli, Associate Principal
Mr. Leon Clarke, Associate Principal
Mr. Clarence Davis, Associate Principal & Dean of Discipline
Mrs. Dainelle Hampton-Morton, Associate Principal
Mrs. LaTonya Pierce, Associate Principal
Guidance Office
Nurse's Office

653-8581

653-3133
653-3137

CHILD NUTRITION OFFICE

Mrs. Kristen Kahl, Supervisor

653-3134

MAINTENANCE OFFICE

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653-3132

SPECIAL SERVICES OFFICE

Dr. Rachael Rudinoff, Director
Dr. Marcia Mayhew, Supervisor of Special Programs
Jennifer Morris, Supervisor of Support Services

653-3135

TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

Ms. Sharon Almondo, Supervisor

653-3142

TECHNOLOGY OFFICE

Mr. Jody Sweeney, Supervisor

653-2754

SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOL

CLIMATE & SAFETY

Mrs. Jessica Weller, Supervisor

653-4330

SMYRNA DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR DONELLA BERRYMAN



Congratulations to the Smyrna School District Educational Support Professional of the Year, North Smyrna Elementary's Mrs. Donella Berryman! Mrs. Berryman is NSE's Financial Administrative Assistant. Putting people first is her main priority. From families to students and the staff, she welcomes all and focuses her energy on making others feel safe and valued. Over the years, she has created the school's yearbook, organized the Smyrna Fire Company events for students, and has been the contact person for the holiday food drive. The famous line that she quotes each morning is "In a world where you can be anything, be kind." Mrs. Berryman is a model of the Smyrna School District's Core Values and is a valued member of the NSE staff!

From the Superintendent's Desk...



Happy New Year 2021 to the Smyrna School District Community on behalf of our instructional and support teams, as well as the Smyrna School Board of Education. I want to express gratitude to all of our schools, our families and our entire community for your steadfast support during an incredibly difficult year. We have all learned so much during the only global pandemic in our lifetime and the first one in over a century. We are so appreciative of everyone's patience as we have pivoted between virtual and hybrid instruction this year in response to data-based decisions that have impacted our students. As winter soon ends, and we look forward to spring, we also look forward to better days ahead.

During the 2020/21 school year, our Community Core Value of the Year is "Respect", defined over 20 years ago by a community committee as follows: A high regard for oneself and others. This would include self-worth, pride, physical well-being, contentment, peace, humor, appreciation for differences and individuality, fairness, respect, and tolerance. This may include faith in God. This year, due to the state restrictions in response to the pandemic and the subsequent state of emergency, we will be celebrating "I Love Smyrna School District Month", throughout March. There will be virtual events planned and made available, representing each school, all showcasing our students' efforts this year. We will also affirm this year's Community Core Value and honor our student essay award winners on Wednesday, March 3rd. Our upcoming program of events will list the details for proud parents and family members.

The month-long celebration will also feature a free, live-streamed concert on Thursday, March 25th, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. by contemporary New York City songwriter, recording artist and friend of the Smyrna School District, Jesse Ruben. As part of the "We Can Project", Jesse shares his personal story of perseverance and responsibility through his original song, "We Can", and he teaches our students to overcome challenges and develop their own talents. More information about the "We Can Project" is available at <https://www.wecanwecanwecan.com/> and the video of his song is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59Aj9E5ICn0>.

On March 23rd, we will also be asking our community to come out to the polls at Smyrna Middle School, Smyrna Elementary School and the Kenton Ruritan Club between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to support a major capital improvement project and current expense proposal. We will be asking our community to help support the purchase of a parcel of land and the construction of a new elementary school to be built there, as well as expansion to Clayton Intermediate and North Smyrna Elementary Schools, and associated operational expenses, all of which are critical needs as our enrollment continues to swell.

We look forward to seeing all of you this spring, as we continue to celebrate our dedicated students, our wonderful administration and staff, and our supportive community families. Please stay healthy and remember to always eat your breakfast.

Dr. Patrik Williams
District Superintendent

The Smyrna High School Wellness Center is Open

The Wellness Center has been open and available for in person or virtual appointments. Students and parents can call or email to schedule an appointment today. The Wellness Center welcomed a new counselor this year who comes to us from Buffalo, NY, Alexis Lelito LCSW, CADC. Ms. Lelito is a Graduate of SUNY where she received her Master's in Social Work. She is a Certified Drug and Alcohol counselor and a Licensed Clinical Social worker. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience and is com-

mitted to providing the students at Smyrna High School with the tools they need to succeed. Amy Burnett, MSN, FNP-C has been providing medical services for the Wellness Center for the past 10 years. Kimberley Ramsey, CPC, CPB our certified biller and coder continues to manage our scheduling and coordination of services for students and parents. Call or stop by today for an appointment. For more information, call 302-653-2399 or email wellness@smyrna.k12.de.us



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SHS Nursing Office Bulletin
**Important
COVID-19 Health
Reminder for
Students**

Please continue to do your part in helping ensure a safe and healthy school environment for our students and staff by following these steps before sending your student to school.

1. Mask Up

Please wear your face mask throughout the entire school day. Please make sure that your student's mask fits properly and covers the nose and mouth. We are all in this together!

2. Check

Students must complete the Covid-19 Self-screener every day before coming to school. If your student has any of the symptoms on the checklist, keep your student home and follow up with your healthcare provider. Keep your student home if feeling ill. If your student visits the school nurse for any symptoms listed on the Covid-19 Self-screener, he or she will be sent home with further instruction from the school nurse about eligibility to return to school.

3. Notify

If your student or another member of your household has tested positive for Covid-19 or has been in direct contact with a Covid-19 positive individual, immediately contact your school nurse. Do not send your student to school.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your student, please call your school nurse. We are here to support you.

PUMPING UP FOR KINDERGARTEN



A Kindergarten Overview
for all incoming families
through self-paced videos.

**SMYRNA
SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

- What to expect in Kindergarten
 - School Readiness Topics
 - Spanish Immersion
- How to register your child for Kindergarten

Beginning March 11th

Register by visiting <http://bit.ly/ReadyforKn>

WWW.SMYRNA.K12.DE.US

I Love Smyrna School District Month



"I Love Smyrna School District Day" is a yearly signature event that brings our school and community together. This year we will showcase each school's accomplishments and our shining students through a virtual celebration. Please join us this month as we recognize our 2020/2021 school year successes.

Visit our "Smyrna School District Virtual Field Trips" page at
www.facebook.com/wecanweekssd

"SSD Virtual Field Trips" YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrWYaffd89OHaMOMxVaL1Vw>

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Tuesday, March 2nd – North Smyrna Elementary School

Wednesday, March 3rd – "RESPECT" Essay Contest Winners

Thursday, March 4th – Clayton Elementary School

Tuesday, March 9th – Smyrna Elementary School

Thursday, March 11th – Sunnyside Elementary School

Tuesday, March 16th – John Bassett Moore Intermediate School

Thursday, March 18th – Clayton Intermediate School

Tuesday, March 23rd – Smyrna Middle School

Wednesday, March 24th – Child Nutrition Program

Thursday, March 25th – Smyrna High School

Thursday, March 25th – Jesse Ruben *LIVESTREAM Concert* 7:00pm-8:00pm

S M Y R N A 

Special Thank You to the Building and Grounds Team!



Our team has been very busy cleaning and sanitizing our buildings. We have been painting our buildings to add a fresh new look. We have been performing preventive maintenance on all areas of our buildings

and grounds. We have been updating lighting throughout the district, replacing old expensive lighting with new LED lighting. We have replaced old mechanical equipment with new improved technology equipment. We

continue to focus on the safety and well-being of our students and staff. Our team is anxiously awaiting the full return of all students and staff.

Keep your school password super secret

All Smyrna School District students have multiple UserIDs and Passwords to access the District networks and educational applications. As the school year continues in a hybrid/virtual setting with many school events occurring online, please encourage your student to protect access information at all times. Passwords, online codes for meetings, and other personal information should never be shared with anyone.

Students in grades K-6th do not have the ability to set their own passwords. Students in grades 7th through 12th can set their own passwords, but do not have the ability to initiate a change to that password. Call us at 653-2754 between 7am and 4pm on any school day, and we can initiate a password change that allows you to set your



password. If your account information accidentally gets shared with someone else, Smyrna Technology is here to help. Reach out to technology at (302) 653-2754 if you are in need of or would like to reset your passwords.

Students in grades K-6 need adult assistance, and grades 7-12 can contact us on their own.



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C L A Y T O N E L E M E N T A R Y S C H O O L

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Happy New Year to our CES Families

We are extremely fortunate to have such wonderful students and families. The staff at CES would like to wish all of our families a Happy New Year! We are excited to start a new year with new opportunities. We value all of you and look forward to a positive end to the school year.



Honoring Alicia Sierra Educational Support Professional of the Year

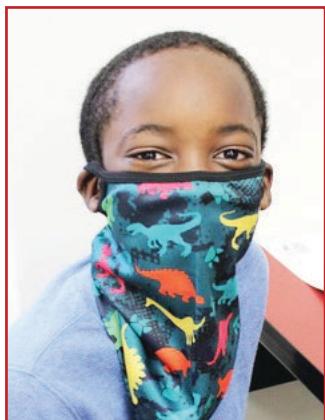
Congratulations to Mrs. Alicia Sierra for being selected as Clayton Elementary School's Educational Support Professional of the year. Mrs. Sierra grew up in Hamilton, NJ and graduated from Cedarville University in 2001. She worked in cardiology for several years before hanging up her stethoscope to stay home with her children. She and her family moved to Delaware in 2017, and she joined the Smyrna School District shortly thereafter. Mrs. Sierra has fulfilled roles as both an instructional and behavioral paraprofessional. She enjoys working with students and looks forward to helping each child achieve his or her full potential. She loves being a part of the CES team and is thankful that she gets to work alongside such amazing educators. In her spare time, Mrs. Sierra enjoys painting, reading, attending Lifehouse Smyrna, and spending time with her friends and family.

Stay Connected to CES News



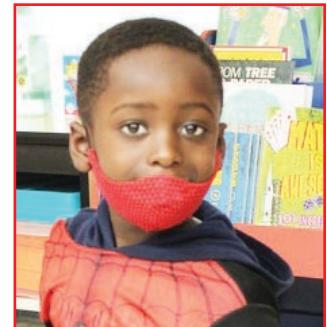
Still smiling... even under the masks!

We are amazed at the resilience of our students and staff. They have maintained a positive attitude through all of the changes we have incurred. With masks on or masks off, students and staff are always smiling! CES Strong...Smyrna Strong!



Halloween!

Halloween was incredible! Students showed their Halloween spirit by dressing up in their favorite costumes.





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Message from the Principal



Dr. Amber
Augustus
Principal

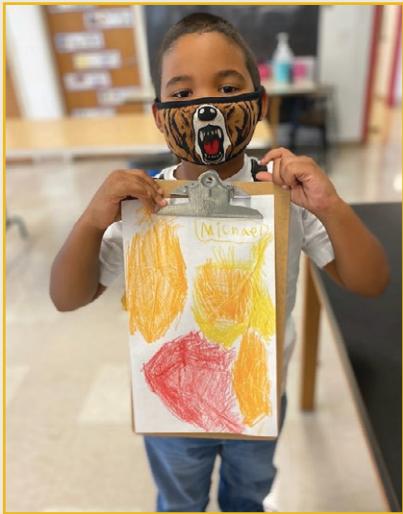
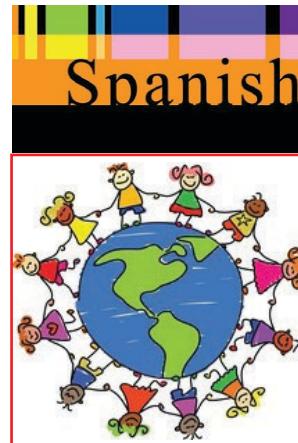
Through collaboration, perseverance, and determination our families, students, and staff have shown true resilience this school year. Our school is filled with an amazing group of students and a dedicated staff. We are fortunate to spend our days working with incredible young people who one day will be our future scientists, doctors, nurses, engineers, teachers, leaders, tradesmen, entrepreneurs, and the list goes on. For all that has changed, these are the things we continue to hold at the forefront of our thoughts and work. Thank you to all of our families for your continued commitment and partnership.



Spanish Immersion

Are you interested in your child becoming bilingual and biliterate?

The Smyrna School District offers Spanish Immersion at North Smyrna Elementary School. All Kindergarten students in the District have the option to apply to this academically enriching program that immerses students daily in Spanish language and culture. Being part of this K-12 program has proven to have several positive advantages. Research shows benefits to brain development and intellectual growth. Students also experience increased problem-solving skills and cultural awareness and sensitivity. Consider signing up today! Call NSES with questions at 302-653-8589 or email NSESRegistration@smyrna.k12.de.us For more information, go to our website <https://nes.smyrna.k12.de.us/>



Community Partners offer Art Supplies to NSE students!

LifeHouse Church, from both Middletown and Smyrna congregations, supplied North Smyrna Elementary with additional art room supplies. New brushes, watercolor paper, and paint along with a gift card were purchased to support the arts at North Smyrna Elementary School!

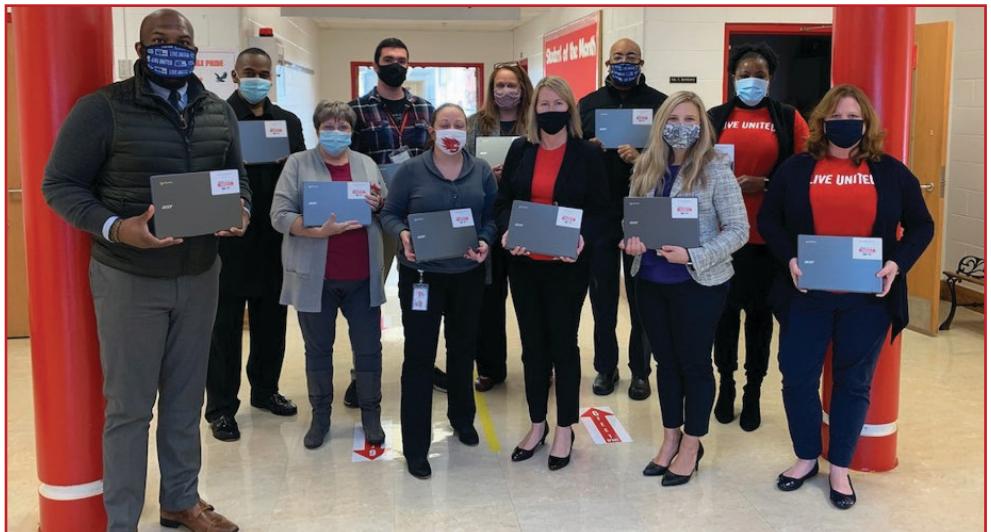


Stay Connected to NSE News



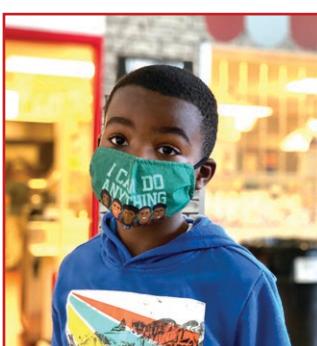
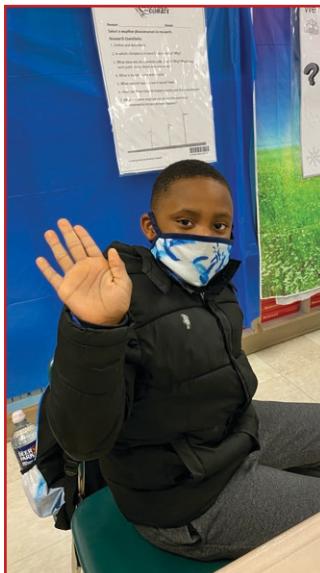
The United Way Partners with NSE

The United Way, a nonprofit organization aims to improve lives in communities around the world through caring acts in order to create a better society for all. In November 2020, the United Way donated 50 Chromebooks to North Smyrna Elementary School. These devices will provide more students access to digital learning opportunities while in their hybrid cohorts.



GOING HYBRID!

2020 and 2021 has taught us a new way to teach and learn.





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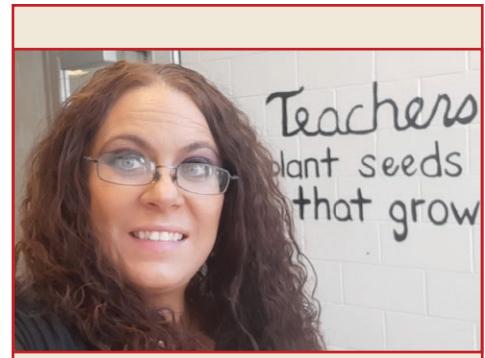
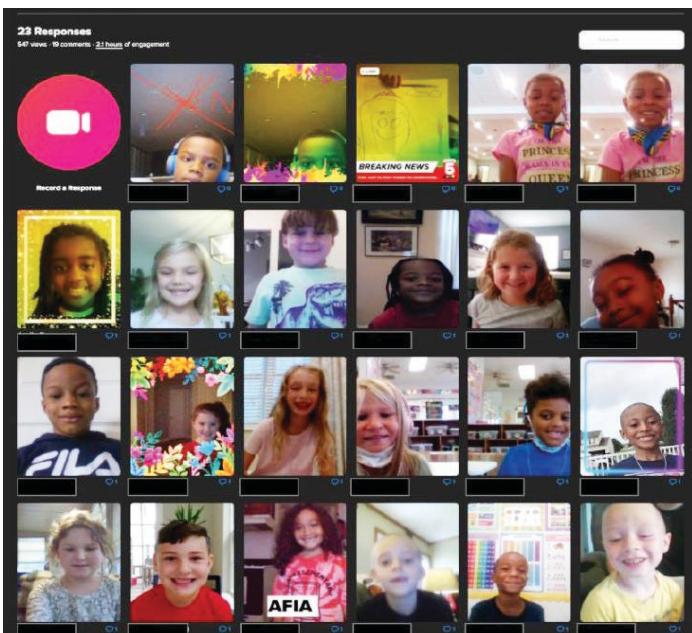
MUSIC 2020 - 2021

Music, Flipgrids & Fun, Oh My!

Music class this year looks a little different but is filled with the same joys of making music. We have found safe and unique ways to dance with ribbons, turn pool noodles into instruments and have fun with paper plates. Who would have known it would be so interestingly fun?!

Flipgrids have turned into great spaces for connecting with students, teaching and learning, performing name games, beat chants, singing, dancing and playing instruments, like percussions and recorders. My virtual bitmoji music classroom and YouTube channel are now on students' Top 10 websites list! Yay! What looked in the summer to be an unknown, scary and daunting year has become one of the best years ever! As the quote says in the book Artie's Affirmations, "It's not hard, it's just new." We have learned to adapt in this new virtual learning environment. Look how far we have come in almost a year's time! It can only get better from here! I leave you with one of my mottos inspired by music educator and Music Play Online creator, Denise Gagne, "We don't just teach music, math, English, science, social studies, Spanish, etc., we teach children." So, whether teaching hybrid and/or virtual, I am happy, honored and grateful to be able to teach and inspire amazing children!

~Mrs. Kelly Evans, SES Music Teacher



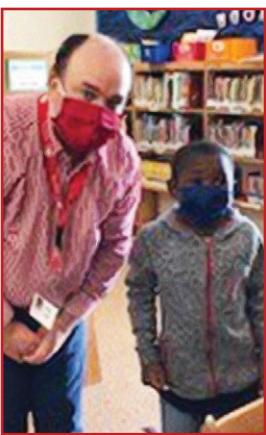
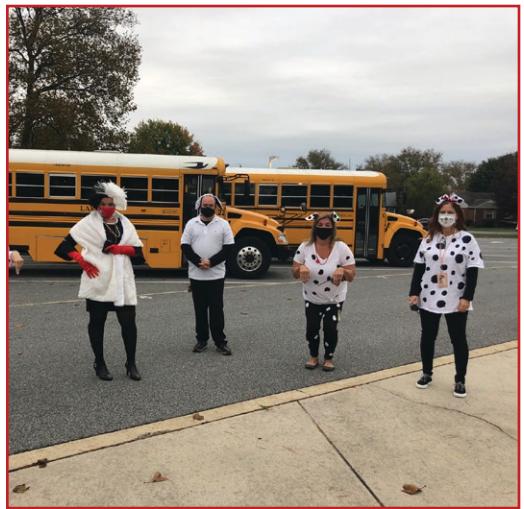
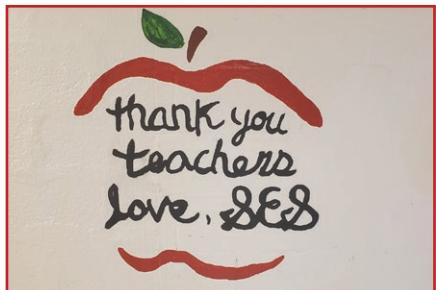
SES Educational Support Professional 2020-2021

Mrs. Alicia Hall

Congratulations to Mrs. Alicia Hall, Smyrna Elementary School Educational Support Professional for the 2020-2021 school year! Mrs. Hall began working in the Smyrna School District in 2016. She has been a wonderful addition to our custodial staff. Mrs. Hall not only works hard to keep our classrooms and building clean and safe, she also likes to paint murals and inspirational quotes. This summer she took the time to decorate our walls at SES with murals and quotes just like the one you see behind her.



Hybrid Learning Here We Go!



Art is on Fire in 2021!



Thank you to Mrs. Fran Strosser and Smyrna Elementary PTO for organizing, purchasing stencils and painting fun games outside for our students.





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SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Sunnyside Educational Support Professional of the Year Erin Easton

Erin Easton has been a paraprofessional at Sunnyside Elementary over the past three years and is currently working in a virtual third grade classroom. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters, reading, and going to the beach. Even though this year has been challenging, and she misses working with students in person, there have been many bright spots along the way for her. She has watched students shine in their new learning environments, watched them try things they never would have had the opportunity to do before,

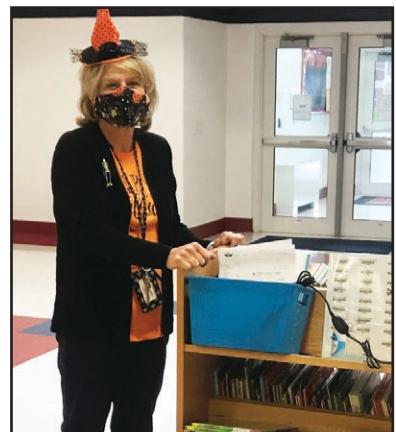
and she is learning a thing or two about technology! Mrs. Easton is excited to see how much the students grow through this unique experience. Sunnyside Elementary is very lucky to have Mrs. Easton, and we appreciate all of her hard work and dedication with everything that she does!



Mrs. Correll - Maria Correll
Zooms into Halloween with festive flair for her virtual students.



Mrs. Christie - Teacher Lauren Christie uses creative props to engage kindergarten for unique learning.



Mrs. Asbury - Mrs. Asbury, Library Professional, gears up for an exciting day of mobile library for kids.



Mr. Grant - Principal Pat Grant, at the helm of SSE, walks students to their cars at the end of the day.



Mrs. Distler - Angela Distler
Zooms on her broom for some Halloween fun.



Mrs. Mohamed - Music teacher Lauren Mohamed welcomes children with a friendly tune.

**We Love
Sunnyside!**

Play it Safe!

Students around the building adorned with costumes and masks for safety and celebration!



*Stay Connected to
SSE News*





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Max is in the House!



Max is a five-month-old Goldendoodle who is eager to join our JBM family. Max will join Jax as JBM's therapy dogs. Max loves to take walks around school, be loved on by humans and play with his toys. He loves meeting and greeting new people. Max is super chill and laid back. Max belongs to the Masten Family outside of school and has completed his therapy training with Mrs. Masten. Max plans to spend his days at school as often as possible and looks forward to being in classrooms and engaging with students. Max is eagerly waiting for students to read to him and learn new things. He loves a good book!

JBM Spirit Week

Our staff and students had fun participating in a Holiday Spirit Week prior to Winter Break!



Winter Door Decorating Contest

Staff and students were invited to decorate a door at their home with a winter theme. The first place winner of our contest was Lexi Lineberry! Veda Ipnar came in second place and Danica Colbert came in third place.



Educational Support Professional of the Year - Rachel Uffner

Mrs. Uffner has been employed in the Smyrna School District since 2014 and has been a valued Para-professional at JBM for the past four years. Mrs. Uffner created two amazingly beautiful and calming lounges for our staff this year. She painted, redecorated and brought in new furniture to make the spaces inviting for all. In her free time, Mrs. Uffner enjoys spending time with her family and friends and camping. Her favorite book is Winter Garden. As part of our JBM Family, Mrs. Uffner works to provide daily support to our fourth grade students and finds joy in seeing our students grow and succeed. Mrs. Uffner loves that each day when she leaves, she feels a sense of accomplishment and gratitude.

WELCOME MS. KATHERINE CLARK

Hello! I am very excited to be teaching at JBM. After living in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina, I am very happy to be moving to the beautiful State of Delaware. After working with choral, theatre, and marching band and indoor groups of all ages, I am very excited to be teaching at JBM!



Stay Connected to JBM

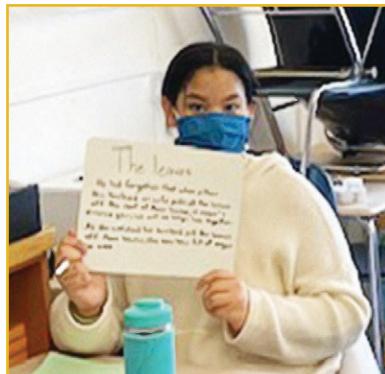


Follow us:
@JBIntermediate



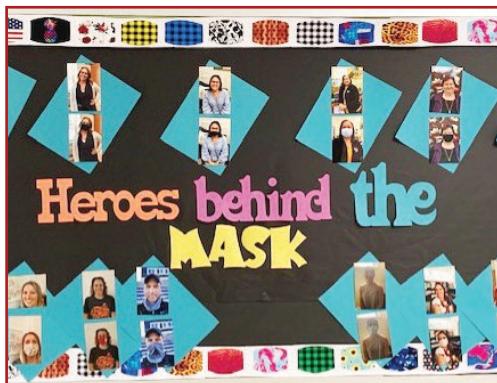
Donors Choose Projects

Congratulations to the following teachers for getting their Donors Choose projects fully funded: Laura Collins, Mallory Creasey, Amanda Cullen, Naomi Johnson, Kayla Knotts, Jenna Metz, Natasha Perry, Jackie Sloven, Whitney Snow, Mandy Thomas, Andrea Tobey, Jen Tracy, Patience Walz, Alycea Watson, Megan Wright, Emily Warwick, and Linda Staats. Each project was intended to benefit student learning and growth.



Welcoming our students back to our halls

Our students and staff were so excited to be back in our building, walking our halls, and interacting with one another. It is a joy to hear our students' voices, see their focus on learning and enjoying the opportunity to be together.





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CLAYTON INTERMEDIATE

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CIS Loves to Read!

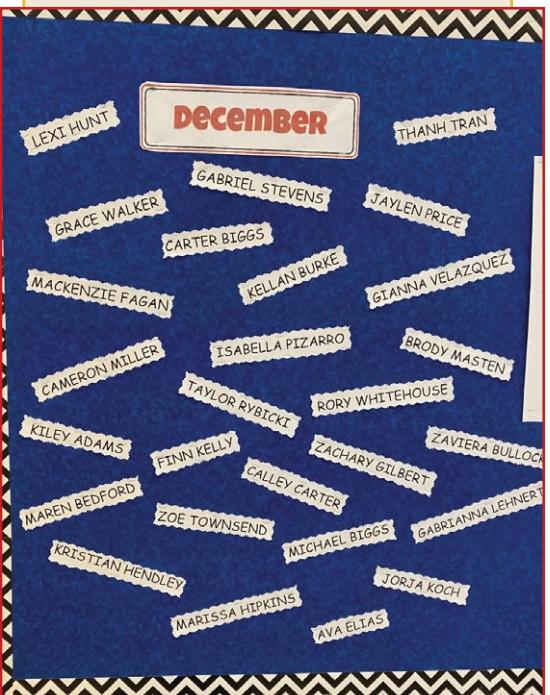
This year Clayton Intermediate School began Readers' Workshop during our ELA time, and CIS LOVES reading! Our students read for 30 minutes at school and 30 minutes at home earning STEPs as they read. The following students have earned over 200 STEPs in reading!

Edwin Gray, Marissa Hipkins, Anna Duke, Zaviera Bullock, Boe Evans, Grace Walker, Carmella Vascellero, Ian Raser, Samantha Mancini, Maya Mancini, Zoe Townsend, Mary Skaggs, Taylor Rybicki, Zaferjit Dhillon, Sophia Vallejo, Maren Bedford, Brayden Street, and Veronica Drummond. Congratulations to these outstanding readers!



Students of the Month

Congratulations to our top performers!



CIS Welcomes New Staff Members!



Jennifer Diaz

6th Grade Paraprofessional

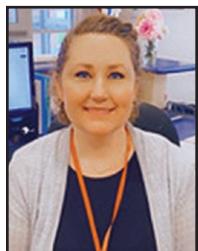
"Hi I'm Mrs. Diaz! I am new to Clayton Intermediate and so excited to be a part of this family. My favorite part of being a paraprofessional is making connections with the students and supporting them academically and emotionally! I absolutely love working on crafts and DIY projects when I am not in school with the kiddos!"



Rachel Oehler

Building Paraprofessional

"Hello there! My name is Miss Oehler. This is my first year teaching as a paraprofessional. I am an avid reader, I love pretty much anything outdoors, and I enjoy riding my motorcycle. I am super excited to be starting my career with this amazing family of mentors, educators, and I am enjoying getting to know all the students."



Jackie Reeder

Registration Secretary

"While this is my first year at CIS, it is my fourth year with the district. I am excited to continue supporting our teachers, administrators, and students in my new role. I live in Clayton with my husband, four children and two dogs. Currently, I am finishing my bachelor's degree in order to continue to be an asset to our staff and students. I feel very fortunate to be working in the district my children attend. #smyrnastrong"

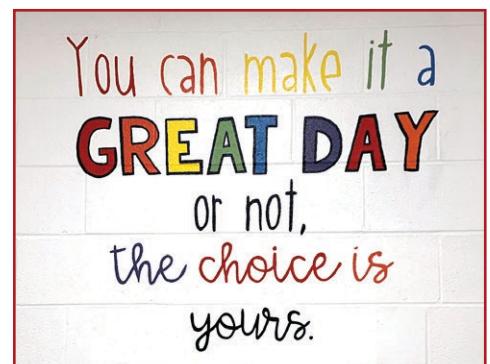
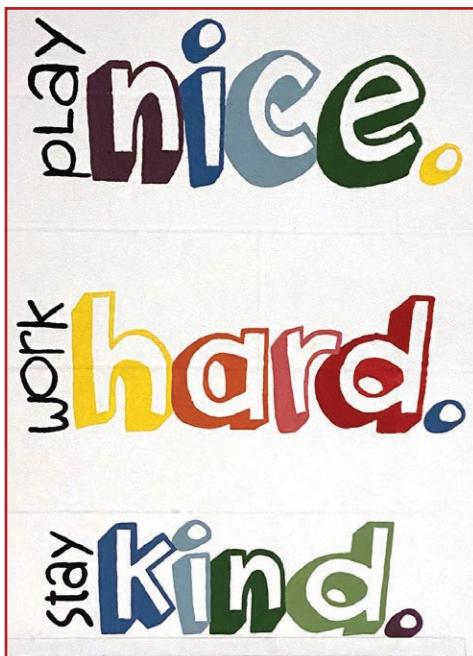
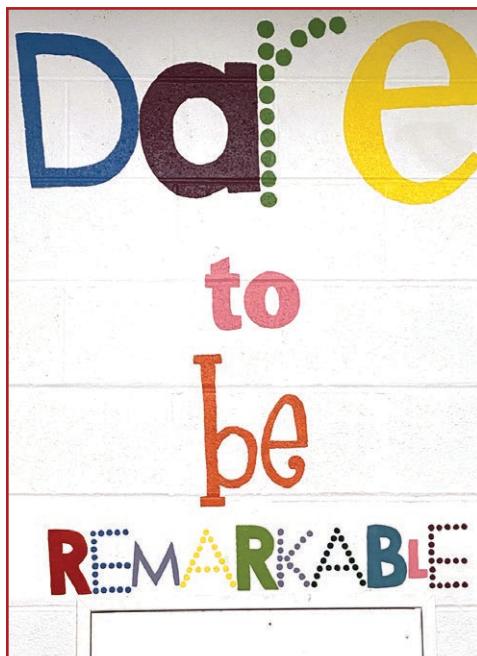


**CIS Educational
Support Professional
2020-2021
Anna Cruz**

This year Clayton Intermediate School is excited to honor, Annie Cruz as our ESP of the Year. Annie has been a member of the CIS staff for over five years and is truly dedicated to the beautification of our school. Annie worked to create stunning murals throughout CIS. Annie is an important part of our staff and always has a smile on her face. Thank you, Annie!!

New Murals Inspire

The CIS custodial staff was busy during December adding color and inspiration to the walls of CIS. They created a few murals throughout the building to spread cheer! Thank you to our staff for making Clayton Intermediate beautiful inside and out!





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SMS FFA decorated a tree at the Delaware Agriculture Museum

Smyrna Middle School's FFA members decorated a tree at the Delaware Agriculture Museum's "A Farmer's Christmas 1890-2020" event to raise money for the museum's programs. Our FFA officers received yard signs and recognition for their positions for the 2020-2021 school year. The strawberry sale is underway and members are beginning to train for the upcoming state-wide competition.



SMYRNA MIDDLE NEWS



National Junior Honor Society had their induction ceremony virtually using a candle-light ceremony. Our NJHS members participated in the virtual Polar Bear Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics.



Our principal, Mrs. Smeltzer connects with our hybrid students on a daily basis. We are grateful and enjoy having students in the building.



Smyrna Middle School's 2021-2022 Educational Support Professional is Mrs. Dianna Turner. She is such a hard worker and has been instrumental in implementing our Hybrid/Virtual learning plan. We are lucky to have her.



Our food pantry continues to serve the community. Families can call to make an appointment for a drive-thru pickup box of non-perishable food.



SMS used a conditioning program to help keep our athletes active and engaged during the 2020-2021 school year. There was a successful Fall and Winter session offered to our athletes, and we are looking forward to the upcoming Spring session.

Smyrna School District Teacher of the Year HOLLY HUFFORD

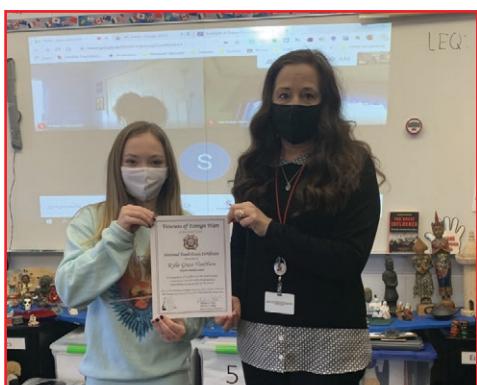
Our very own Mrs. Holly Hufford was selected as the Smyrna School District's Teacher of the Year. She has a special way of connecting with students and making learning fun. We are proud to have her at Smyrna Middle School.



Spirit Week



Essay Winners



**VFW
Teachers of the Year
Mrs. Freimuth &
Mr. Flamer**



Four students in Mr. Flamer's speech and debate class won the VFW "Patriot Pen Award" for their essays entered into the competition. (Pictured are Kylie Vanhorn, Anaya Pascascio, Tegan Muehlethaler and Hadassah Pierre-Louis)

Mrs. Stefanie Freimuth and Mr. Joseph Flamer were both recipients of the VFW Teacher of the Year award for the 2020-2021 school year.



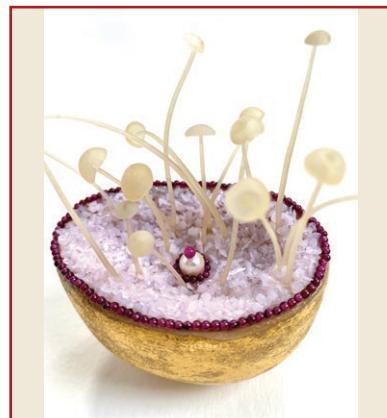
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SHS Art Teacher Wins Individual Artist Fellowship Award

Twenty-five Delaware artists were recognized by the Delaware Division of the Arts for the high quality of their artwork. Work samples from 121 Delaware choreographers, composers, musicians, writers, and folk and visual artists were reviewed by out-of-state art professionals considering demonstrated creativity and skill in their art form. Mrs. Shari Dierkes won a \$3,000 fellowship grant sponsored by the Delaware Division of the Arts. The grant is used to help support her artwork. She created a body of artwork this year and will hold a solo art exhibition at the end of the year. She will also be part of a group exhibit held over the summer at the Biggs Museum in Dover.



Smyrna High Counselors Win Award

SHS is Delaware's first Sapphire Award for Excellence in School Counseling winner. This new state recognition awards school counseling programs that are comprehensive, data-informed and designed to serve all students. "Smyrna High's school counselors should be commended for their commitment to students and their dedication to both self-evaluation and the continuous improvement of their services," Secretary of Education Susan Bunting said. Research shows that school counseling programs that are aligned

to the American School Counselor Association's (ASCA) National Model improve student outcomes. Through the Delaware Department of Education's partnership with the Delaware School Counselor Association (DSCA) and the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), Smyrna High School now is eligible to also receive ASCA's Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) award. If Smyrna High decides to pursue this nationally recognized award, it would be the first Delaware school to ever receive the RAMP designation.

SHS Choir Connects Through Songs & Love of Music

If you walk through the halls of Smyrna High School, you will still hear music resounding from the auditorium and chorus room! Although Covid-19 restrictions prevent the choir from having a typical vocal music rehearsal, students have still found a way to create music together.

With mask wearing, and social distancing in effect, students are learning music and persevering through a challenging school year. Although our typical and expected year of singing in our concerts and traveling for our annual Music Competition Festival have been cancelled, the students are still connecting through song and finding their love of music!

SHS Educational Support Professional of the Year Ginger Barkley

I am a Class of 1990 Alumnus of Smyrna High School. I have been working with the Smyrna School District for the past eleven years as an Administrative Assistant in the Student Support Services Office. Volunteering and giving back to the community that I lived in all my life, is something that I hold very dear to my heart. I love making connections with our students and being there for them in a time of need. Photography is a hobby that I enjoy, and it again helps me give back to our community. I look forward every year to take senior portraits for those who may not have the



means to purchase on their own. Many of these students I have watched play sports from tee ball, little wrestlers and Pop Warner, as I have volunteered with many local youth organizations. When Senior nights come around for the students in their respective sport or club, I get to feel the sense of satisfaction with them and their families having been there with them from the beginning. I enjoy the opportunity of taking photos of these events that families can treasure through the years.

SHS Senior Hasana Parker Earns QuestBridge Scholarship

Congratulations to Smyrna High School senior, Hasana Parker, for being selected as a QuestBridge Scholar. QuestBridge is a national nonprofit that helps connect high-achieving, talented students with some of the top colleges in the country through their two programs - College Prep Scholars and National College Match. Through QuestBridge's National Col-

lege Match program, Hasana will attend Pomona College on a full scholarship. Hasana has shared her experience applying for this scholarship, as well as her involvement with the TeenSHARP program, which provides high school students with intense academic preparation, support, and advising to position them to attend and succeed at top colleges. "I remember the first time I found out about QuestBridge. I wasn't sure what it was at first or if it was a legitimate program. I remember going to my counselor, Mr. Kiger, to learn more about the program. QuestBridge and the gift that they could potentially grant me felt like I had stumbled upon of pot of gold that could change my life forever."

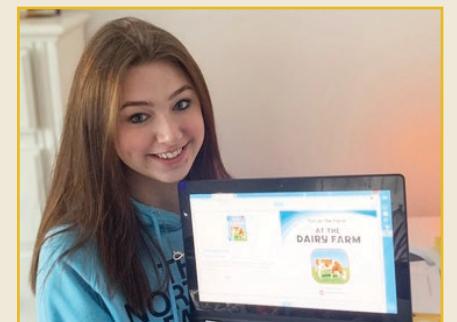


FFA News

Smyrna FFA members and advisors make fruit baskets during citrus sale.



FFA celebrates baby calf born on Christmas Day



FFA Officer Teaches Students

Cassidy Tinsley is a SHS FFA Officer participating in the Project Pals FFA community outreach education program where she teaches about agriculture and the FFA during elementary classroom Zoom sessions.



SHS Supports Toys for Tots

The Smyrna High School Staff was presented with a certificate from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve for outstanding support of the 2020 Marine Toys for Tots Program. We were able to present 400+ toys for the program thanks to all of your donations from SHS! The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and A to Z Cycles Charitable Foundations cannot thank you enough for your generosity. AMAZING!



ATHLETICS



CHEERLEADING



FLAG FOOTBALL



FIELD HOCKEY



BOYS SOCCER



GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY



VARSITY WRESTLING

BOYS BASKETBALL



VOLLEYBALL



SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL FALL SPORTS REVIEW

Fall Sports All-Conference And All-State Honors

Despite a delayed start to the season, Smyrna High School had a successful fall season. Both the Lady Eagles Volleyball team (9-1) and the Football team (6-0) won the Henlopen Conference North Division titles and qualified for the DIAA State Tournament. In addition to the success of the volleyball and football teams, the boys' soccer team returned to the DIAA State tournament for the first time in almost 20 years, finishing the regular season with a record of 7-4-1. To finish out the season, the Smyrna High School Unified Flag Football team competed in the DIAA State Tournament for the fourth straight year losing a hard-fought game to the eventual state champion, the Dover Senators.

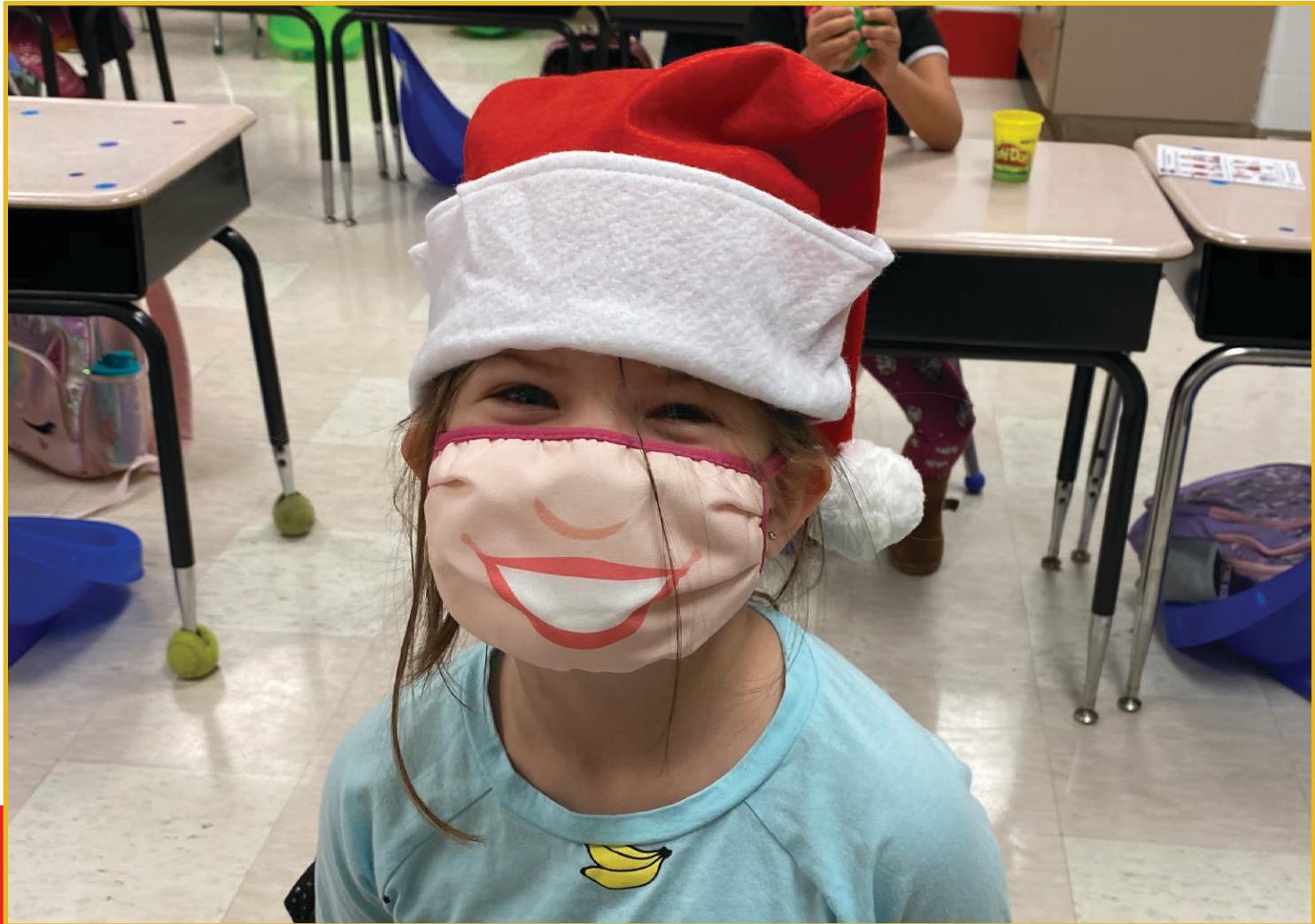
Connor Wilson	Cross Country - Boys	Honorable Mention All-Conference
Alyssa Young	Cross Country - Girls	1st Team All-Conference
Kelly Barr	Cross Country - Girls	2nd Team All-Conference
Brenna Bowers	Cross Country - Girls	Honorable Mention All-Conference
Madison Simpson	Field Hockey	1st Team All-State, 1st Team All-Conference
Meghan Shirey	Field Hockey	2nd Team All-Conference
Brynn Rifino	Field Hockey	2nd Team All-Conference
Regan Nacrelli	Field Hockey	Honorable Mention All-Conference
Devin Smith	Football	1st Team All-Conference
Yamir Knight	Football	1st Team All-State, 1st Team All-Conference
Elijah Statham	Football	1st Team All-State, 1st Team All-Conference
Evan Blaeuer	Football	2nd Team All-Conference
Kody Dean	Football	2nd Team All-Conference
Gordon Fletcher	Football	2nd Team All-Conference
Jermaine Earl	Football	2nd Team All-State, 1st Team All-Conference
Erik Larson	Football	2nd Team All-State, 1st Team All-Conference
Dwayne Ratcliffe	Football	3rd Team All-State, 1st Team All-Conference
Troy Hicks	Football	3rd Team All-State, 2nd Team All-Conference
Wayne Knight	Football	3rd Team All-State, 2nd Team All-Conference
Aidan Sanchez	Football	1st Team All-State, 1st Team All-Conference
Tyler Downward	Football	Honorable Mention All-Conference
Preston Marshall	Soccer - Boys	1st Team All-Conference
Lestath Savage Soley	Soccer - Boys	1st Team All-Conference
Easley Pierson	Soccer - Boys	2nd Team All-Conference
Zarek Kolakowski	Soccer - Boys	Honorable Mention All-Conference
Anna Richardson	Volleyball - Girls	2nd Team All-Conference
Sophia Basler	Volleyball - Girls	1st Team All-Conference
Gianna Romano	Volleyball - Girls	Honorable Mention All-Conference



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UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- MARCH 17, 2021**
APRIL 21, 2021
MAY 12, 2021
JUNE 16, 2021