



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2022.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: _____ Chesterfield County _____

Program Title: _____ Connecting All Community Residents to Public Schools _____

Program Category: _____ Communications _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____  _____

Connecting All Community Residents to Public Schools
(Communications)

Abstract:

Public schools don't exist in a vacuum. In the best situation, they are a solid foundation for a thriving community. In less-than-ideal situations, public schools become adrift on a sea of community indifference or neglect. Chesterfield County Public Schools is working to build strong support in a community where a majority of residents are not connected on a daily basis to K-12 education. This is seen as an ongoing process where the tools utilized incorporate both informing a population about the school division's work while also building active involvement from the community-at-large as partners with the schools.

Problem or need for the program:

Chesterfield County Public Schools is growing: 63,000+ students at last count. An award-winning school system, CCPS is the largest school system in central Virginia, the fifth largest in Virginia and among the 70 largest school divisions in the country. But about 65% of Chesterfield County households do not have children 18 or younger:

- The heads of those households may have attended Chesterfield schools in their younger days.
- Their children may have previously graduated from Chesterfield schools.
- They may not have children, or they may have moved to Chesterfield County after their children aged out of K-12 education.

Connecting All Community Residents to Public Schools
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Even though a majority of our community is not connected on a daily basis to Chesterfield County Public Schools, we want all residents to be proud of Chesterfield schools and we believe that in providing an avenue with opportunities for community members to become involved is an essential process to demonstrate our support of our community members without children in schools at the same time. The need for a specific plan and format to foster and develop these connections were needed to help develop this awareness of how a strong public education system benefits everyone in Chesterfield County.

Description of the program:

The school system has created multiple approaches and opportunities to connect with the entire community, even those who do not currently have children 18 or younger. Community connections are at the core of Chesterfield County Public Schools, which sets this as one of its two strategic goals: “All students, staff, parents and community members will exemplify a culture of safety, personal responsibility and supportive relationships.”

Through these opportunities, all Chesterfield County residents can find a place to belong:

- Super Senior Passport
- Volunteering in schools
- Community partnerships
- Faith leaders network

Connecting All Community Residents to Public Schools
(Communications)

- PTAs
- Family and Community Engagement Office
- Speakers Bureau
- Hall of Fame and Bravo Awards
- School facilities rental
- Communication

Super Senior Passport: Designed to thank senior residents for their support and encourage them to remain active in Chesterfield schools, the Super Senior Passport is free and available to all Chesterfield County residents who are 60 or older (and all school system retirees). The passport provides:

- Discounted fees for Super Senior Passport classes and other adult education classes on a space-available basis (Discounted tuition in a particular class is not guaranteed. For more information, call 804-768-6140.)
- Free admission to school athletic events (except playoffs and tournaments)
- Free admission to music and theater productions in schools (seating may be limited at theater productions, so please call the school in advance)
- Free admission to certain other school activities for which fees are charged

Volunteering in schools: Willing hands and hearts are welcome in Chesterfield County schools, where volunteers play a vital role in the academic success of students. It is easy to participate — whether you can help every day, once a week, once a month or once a

Connecting All Community Residents to Public Schools
(Communications)

year. There are many ways to volunteer: reading to students, helping in a school office, selling tickets at a game, speaking at career day or filling another need. Please talk to a school PTA representative or the school volunteer coordinator about specific ways to help. Coming soon is an online portal to match potential volunteers with specific opportunities in schools.

Community partnerships: Robust, dynamic partnerships among schools, homes and communities make public education the best it can be. These partnerships not only provide needed resources for our schools, students and families, they also connect our students to relevant and engaging opportunities. Through these real-world opportunities, students learn in the most engaging ways and connect with their passions. There are many opportunities for business or community organizations or individuals to engage and become a part of Team Chesterfield.

Faith leaders network: For decades, Chesterfield County School Board members and the superintendent have met regularly with leaders in the faith community, a strong partner for Chesterfield County Public Schools. The quarterly gatherings include updates about school initiatives and ways to support students, teachers and schools. All leaders of churches, synagogues, mosques and other faith communities who would like to connect with Chesterfield County schools are welcome.

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PTAs: PTAs are open, as their name states, to parents and teachers but they are also open to community members who want to connect with specific schools.

Family and Community Engagement Office: The school system's Family and Community Engagement Office works to maximize partnerships between the school division, families and community.

Speakers Bureau: Chesterfield County Public Schools recently rolled out a brand-new Speakers Bureau to make it easier than ever for community groups to hear directly from school system leaders. This initiative seeks to share in a lively way the work of Team Chesterfield: our vision, people, operations and successes. Speakers Bureau presentations are designed to make connections and tell our stories while strengthening support for Chesterfield County Public Schools in particular and for public education in general.

Hall of Fame and Bravo Awards: The Chesterfield Education Foundation, one of the school system's strongest partners, organizes two awards designed to strengthen connections to Chesterfield schools. The Hall of Fame celebrates outstanding volunteers or school system retirees, while the Bravo Awards recognize graduates of Chesterfield schools who have made a difference in the world.

Connecting All Community Residents to Public Schools
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School facilities rental: Many school facilities are available for rental, and scheduling is online and automated. For information about how to request the use of a school facility, rental rates and policies, go to mychesterfieldschools.com/community/facilities/.

Communication: Tying together all of the outreach opportunities to community members who are not connected to school on a daily basis is communication, and the school system uses a variety of methods to share information. Here are some of the communication tactics that reach into the full community:

- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn)
- Town hall meetings to share info and get feedback
- Printed newsletter mailed to every residential address in the county (Three editions are set for each school year, with the CCPS on the Go newsletter is initially funded through federal relief funds to improve the reach of communication throughout the school district. All of the outreach efforts to the full community will be included in at least one edition of the newsletter.)

Cost of the program:

Most programs (Hall of Fame, school facilities rental, etc.) are cost neutral or negligible. The cost for each edition of the printed CCPS on the Go newsletter is approximately \$50,000.

Connecting All Community Residents to Public Schools
(Communications)

Results/success of the program:

Here are data points connected to the programs detailed above:

- Thousands of older residents hold Super Senior Passport.
- More than 200 faith leaders receive school system communications.
- Chesterfield County Public Schools social media channels are robust: 59,656 Facebook followers; 28.1K Twitter followers; 6,186 Instagram followers; 1.99K YouTube channel subscribers; and 9,512 LinkedIn followers.
- Feedback from printed editions of the newsletter was overwhelmingly positive and came mostly from residents who do not currently have students in Chesterfield schools.

Worthiness of award:

Chesterfield County Public Schools previously focused on connecting with parents of students, and parents remain a vital part of the school system. But the school system has expanded its outreach to the greater community because it does, indeed, take a village to raise a child. Local school systems throughout the country could benefit by knowing about the efforts of Chesterfield County Public Schools.

Supplemental Materials:

- CCPS on the Go! (ATTACHED)
- Additional information can be accessed as well at:
<https://mychesterfieldschools.com/ccps-on-the-go/>



CCPS on the Go!

Chesterfield County Public Schools

Fall 2021



New school year brings joy and challenges

For the first time since the 1980s, Chesterfield County Public Schools opened before Labor Day. Most schools opened Aug. 23-24; Chesterfield's two year-round schools opened in July. Three Chesterfield County school buildings are brand new: **Chester Early Childhood Learning Academy**, **Reams Road Elementary** and **Ettrick Elementary**.

Even with masks, it was easy to see the joy of students and teachers who were finally able to come together in the classroom after being apart for so long. There is no doubt that everyone has

grown weary of the COVID-19 pandemic, but we must remain vigilant to keep our kids safe and in school this year:

- Students, teachers and everyone in schools are following mitigation measures and wearing masks when indoors, on buses and when loading and unloading buses on school property. Complete guidance can be found at mychesterfieldschools.com/covid-19-guidance
- Students, teachers and everyone in schools are wearing masks and following mitigation measures.

continued on page 2

New school year continued from page 1

- Students and staff members complete a daily health assessment before coming to school.
- The school system strongly encourages, but does not require, available vaccinations for students and staff members.

In response to requests from Chesterfield families, the school system has expanded the data available on our COVID-19 guidance page and dashboard on mychesterfieldschools.com to include

- How many students at each school have been quarantined over the past seven school days
- Percentage of positive tests communicated to the school community over the past seven days
- Where cases are being reported: elementary, middle and high school
- How many cases are students and staff members

Additionally, FAQs and quick reference guides provide information about what happens when there is a positive COVID-19 test plus resources used for student support during a quarantine period or any extended absence.

Clearly, the start of this school year was like no other. The cheer of face-to-face teaching and learning was accompanied by challenges, including difficulties with transportation. A national shortage of school bus drivers caused a ripple effect and created stress for everyone – families, teachers, bus drivers and other employees. Through partnership

with Chesterfield County, the school system was able to increase driver pay to \$20.21 per hour, which attracted hundreds of applicants. Chesterfield County Public Schools appreciates support and patience as we continue working to improve transportation.

More than anything, we all want kids to be back in the classroom safely and back to a more normal school experience. Families and staff members want to have a regular routine again.

The school system is committed to providing students with a safe, supportive and nurturing learning environment and will continue working diligently to make that happen.



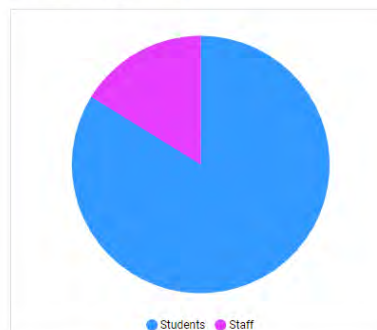
Superintendent Merv Daugherty

COVID-19 DATA OVERVIEW

CASE DETAILS OVER LAST SEVEN DAYS

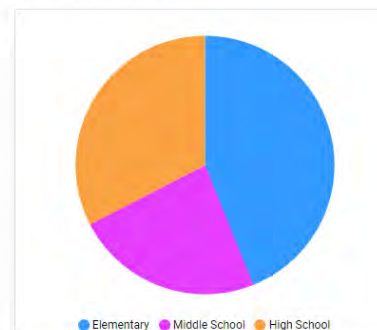
Percent of in-person school population with a positive test communicated over the past seven days	0.31 % Student	0.47 % Staff	
Positive cases communicated over the past seven days	197 Student	38 Staff	235 Total

Who is testing positive?



Students: 197
Staff: 38

Where are the cases?



Elementary: 101
Middle School: 54
High School: 75

QUARANTINE DATA BY SCHOOL

The data below includes students coded in the school's attendance system as quarantined each day. These numbers include those who tested positive and those who are in quarantine due to an exposure.

+ Students Quarantined (Last 7 school days)

Numbers from the COVID-19 dashboard are from Sept. 23, 2021.

What is CCPS on the Go?



Chesterfield County Public Schools is growing: more than 62,000 students at last count. We're an award-winning school system known throughout Virginia and the nation for having high standards and doing what is right for children.

But about 65% of Chesterfield County households do not have children 18 or younger. Even though a majority of our community is not connected on a daily basis to Chesterfield County Public Schools, we want all residents to be proud of Chesterfield schools. That's one reason we're launching this publication, which is being delivered to every home in the county. A strong public education system benefits everyone in Chesterfield County.

We packed this first edition of CCPS on the Go with info from many Chesterfield schools. Don't worry if you don't see your school here: Every school will be included in at least one of the 2021-22 editions of CCPS on the Go.

If you have questions or comments about CCPS on the Go, please email ccpsinfo@ccpsnet.net. We'd love to hear from you! A digital version of this newsletter is available on our website, mychesterfieldschools.com, in English and in Spanish.

This publication is initially funded through federal relief funds to improve reach of communication throughout the school district.

Just the facts

Academics

- 100% of schools accredited
- 92% on-time graduation rate
- 96% daily attendance rate
- 4,540 graduates in the class of 2021; 59% earned advanced diplomas
- \$27 million in scholarships for the class of 2021

Schools

- 62,000+ students in 65 schools
- 39 elementary schools (grades K-5)
- 1 prekindergarten
- 12 middle schools (grades 6-8)
- 11 high schools, which include 13 specialty centers (grades 9-12)
- 2 career and technical centers
- 7 National Blue Ribbon Schools: Midlothian High 2019; Cosby High 2015; Winterpock Elementary 2014; Grange Hall Elementary 2009; Robious Elementary 2005; Clover Hill Elementary 2003 and James River High 2000.
- 7 National ESEA Distinguished Schools: Ettrick Elementary in 2018, Bensley Elementary in 2016 and 2002, Elizabeth Scott Elementary in 2014, Bellwood in 2011, Beulah Elementary in 2010, Harrowgate Elementary in 2006 and Chalkley Elementary in 2005.

Students and staff members

- Almost 40% of students are economically disadvantaged; 12.7% have disabilities; and 12.2% are English learners, representing about 100 different languages.
- Student population is 46.1% White, 26.3% Black, 18.7% Hispanic, 5.2% multiple races, 3.4% Asian, 0.2% American Indian and 0.2% Native Hawaiian.
- 3,445 staff members have master's degrees, 131 have doctorates, and 112 are National Board Certified Teachers.

Operations

- \$703.7 million operating budget (69.5% for instruction; 11.2% for operations and maintenance; 8.1% for debt; 5.5% for transportation; 3.3% for administration, attendance and health; and 2.4% for technology)
- \$11,365 cost per student
- 7,494 full-time and part-time positions in operating fund

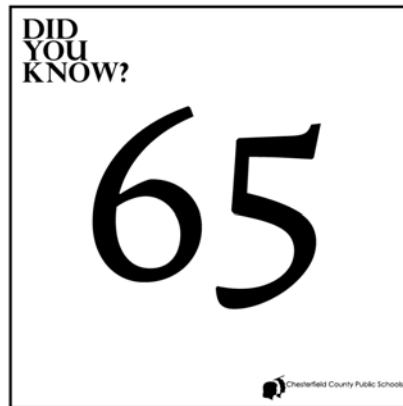
An oldie but a goodie

Fifth-graders at **Hopkins Elementary** practiced science investigation concepts by testing which soda would explode the highest when mints were added. Throughout Chesterfield County Public Schools, teachers use hands-on activities to spark student interest and engagement. Goal 1 of the school system is all students and staff will embody an infinite learner mindset.





Marguerite Christian Elementary continually recognizes students for positive behavior and for exhibiting the school's ROAR expectations of being respectful, organized, achieving and responsible.



Did you know about 65% of Chesterfield County households do not have children 18 or younger? Even though a majority of our community is not connected on a daily basis to Chesterfield County Public Schools, we want all residents to be proud of our award-winning school system. A strong public education system benefits everyone in Chesterfield County.

PTA[®]

everychild.onevoice.[®]

You can make a difference with the PTA

Did you know that anyone who believes in the mission of the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) can join? Thousands of parents, teachers and students in Chesterfield County are PTA or PTSA members (the "S" is for students). Joining us are grandparents, business owners and other community members who care about our children and education. Our students and our schools benefit when we come together to make sure our children have the resources they need to reach their potential. PTAs have never been more important for school success.

PTAs offer community members many opportunities to make a difference in their schools and to connect with other people who want to invest in our future.

As the oldest and largest child advocacy association in America, the PTA forms a nationwide network. School PTA and PTSAs are connected across the county, across Virginia and across the nation. All community members are encouraged to join the PTA because we can do more for our community when we work together.

If you would like to join the PTA, please contact your school or contact Dr. Ben Pearson-Nelson, president of the Chesterfield County Council of PTAs, at president@cccptas.com.

Let's stay in touch

Chesterfield County Public Schools is on the go, sharing successes, information and stories in multiple ways. Here are ways to keep current:

- School division website (mychesterfieldschools.com)
- School websites, which you can reach from mychesterfieldschools.com
- Facebook (www.facebook.com/chesterfieldschools)
- Twitter (twitter.com/ccpsinfo)
- Instagram (instagram.com/oneccps)
- YouTube (www.youtube.com/ccpsva)
- Chesterfield EdTV on Comcast channel 98, Verizon channel 28 and online at chesterfieldschoolsva.swagit.com
- Weekly digital newsletter (sign up at bit.ly/CCPSconnections)

Volunteer in Chesterfield schools

Willing hands and hearts are welcome in Chesterfield County schools, where volunteers play a vital role in the academic success of students. It is easy to participate — whether you can help every day, once a week, once a month or once a year. There are many ways to volunteer: reading to students, helping in a school office, selling tickets at a game, speaking at career day or filling another need. Please talk to a school PTA representative or your school's volunteer coordinator about specific ways to help. Volunteers are asked to complete a confidential electronic registration form that is available on mychesterfieldschools.com.

Exclusively for senior residents

Apply for a Super Senior Passport

Designed to thank senior residents for their support and encourage them to remain active in Chesterfield schools, the Super Senior Passport is free and provides:

- Discounted fees for Super Senior Passport classes and other adult education classes on a space-available basis (Discounted tuition in a particular class is not guaranteed. For more information, call 804-768-6140.)
- Free admission to school athletic events (except playoffs and tournaments)
- Free admission to music and theater productions in schools (seating may be limited at theater productions, so please call the school in advance)
- Free admission to certain other school activities for which fees are charged

Chesterfield County residents who are 60 or older are invited to apply for a Super Senior Passport: Fill out this online application: <https://bit.ly/SeniorPassport>.

Sign up for a Super Senior Passport in person at the School Administration Offices at CTC@Hull, 13900 Hull Street Road. Are you part of an organization or group? Call 804-639-8690 ext. 1111 or email ccpsinfo@ccpsnet.net to ask that a CCPS representative attend a group meeting to register you and other members for Super Senior Passports.

How to rent school facilities

Many school facilities are available for rental, and scheduling is online and automated. For information about how to request the use of a school facility, rental rates and policies, go to mychesterfieldschools.com/community/facilities/.

First responders were special guests, and speakers included a World Trade Center first responder. The **Meadowbrook High** JROTC and **Cosby High** men's choir participated.

Higher bus driver pay increases applicants



Through partnership with Chesterfield County, Chesterfield County Public Schools was able to increase pay and offer additional bonus incentives to help attract and retain school bus drivers. Since the announcement, hundreds of potential bus drivers have applied to the school system.

Like many school systems across the country, Chesterfield County Public Schools began the school year with a shortage of about 100 bus drivers. The additional funding from Chesterfield County means starting pay for bus drivers was increased from \$17.21 to \$20.21 per hour. Additionally, current transportation employees who hold a commercial driver's license saw a pay increase and will be eligible for a bonus up to \$3,000 during the 2021-22 school year.

Over the past several weeks, schools have worked diligently to increase efficiencies for pickup and drop-off procedures, and there have been improvements in the length of bus runs. However, the only way to completely solve the problem is to fill vacancies. Are you interested in driving a bus, or do you know someone who would like to get behind the wheel? Go to mychesterfieldschools.com for more information.

DID
YOU
KNOW?

62,000+



Did you know Chesterfield County Public Schools is the largest school system in central Virginia, the fifth-largest school system in Virginia and among the 100 largest school systems in the United States? More than 62,000 students attend Chesterfield County Public Schools.

DID
YOU
KNOW?



Did you know integrity, equity, teamwork and ingenuity are the values of Chesterfield County Public Schools? Preparing students for success includes helping them grow into upstanding citizens.



Vans connect CCPS with families

Chesterfield County Public Schools recently unveiled two vans designed to connect with students and families where they are:

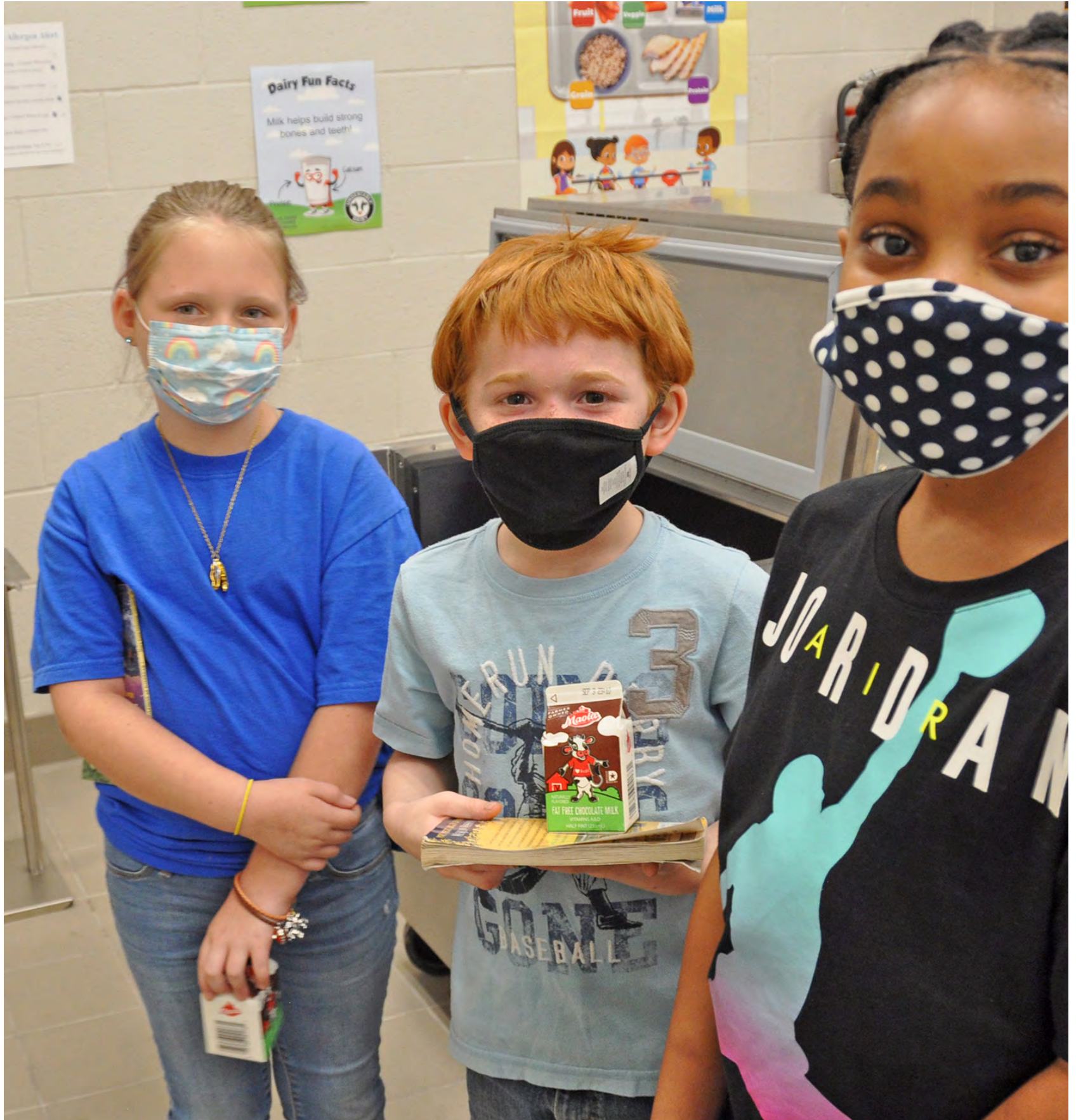
The **bookmobile van** promotes reading in neighborhoods around **Falling Creek Middle** and **Meadowbrook High**. Lisa Signorelli of Falling Creek Middle and Kristin Thrower of Meadowbrook High are the book ladies who previously used their personal cars as bookmobiles to promote reading and help students create home libraries.

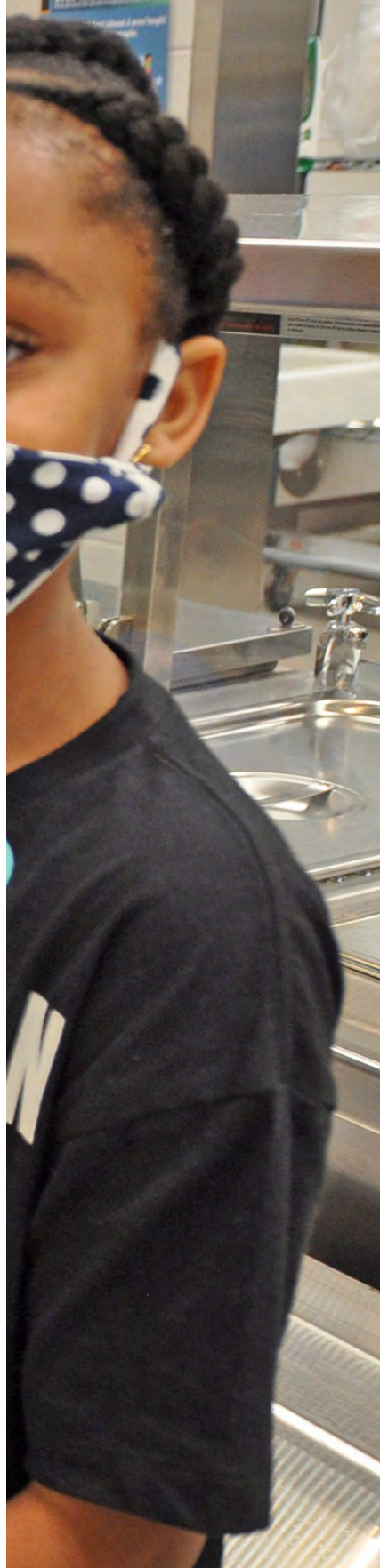
The **Family and Community Engagement van** is packed with everything schools need to connect with families in a fun, easy-to-access way. Shawn Smith, chief communications and community engagement officer, and the Family and Community Engagement team are the driving force behind the FACE van, which will not only bring the fun of popcorn and snow cones but will also bring wi-fi and Chromebooks to support families.

"Both vans show how Chesterfield County Public Schools is on the go, connecting with students and families where they are," said Dr. Merv Daugherty, superintendent of Chesterfield County Public Schools. "We are not waiting for families to come to us: We are on the go and heading out to meet our families where they are."



School system leaders thank Chesterfield County government for donating the used vans to the school system and thank the Chesterfield Education Foundation, TowneBank Chesterfield, Uptown Alley and Fast Signs of Midlothian for supporting the transformation of the vans.





Free school meals for all continue

USDA has extended national waivers for all students to continue receiving free breakfast and lunch daily during the 2021-22 school year. Meals will be available curbside for students learning in a virtual environment. Face-to-face elementary and middle school students who bring their lunch from home to school may add a fruit, a vegetable and a milk free. Face-to-face high school students who bring their lunch from home may choose from these free options:

- Add a fruit, two vegetables and a milk
- Add two fruits, a vegetable and a milk
- Add two fruits, two vegetables and a milk

Five days of breakfasts and lunches for children under the age of 18 will be distributed curbside 3:30-4:30 p.m. every Tuesday at **Bon Air Elementary, Crenshaw Elementary, Matoaca Elementary, Carver Middle, Elizabeth Davis Middle, Manchester Middle, Providence Middle, Salem Church Middle, Bird High, Cosby High, Thomas Dale High, Meadowbrook High, Monacan High and CTC@Hull**. Children do not have to be present for pickup.

Questions? Call Food and Nutrition Services at 804-743-3717. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Hours and hours of practice lead to success for the **Clover Hill High** band and all Chesterfield County marching bands.

Soaring together

Old Hundred Elementary

students worked with art teachers Bridget Hendricks and Claire Cullen to create an art installation. Every student had a hand in painting the SOAR wall sculpture, which is part of Old Hundred's mantra of "Belong, grow, soar together."



Successes



Virginia's K-12 World Language Teacher of the Year works in Chesterfield County Public Schools. **Kai Chen** teaches Chinese at **Gates Elementary**, where students have

the opportunity to become acquainted with the Chinese language and culture. This is the first time in many years that an elementary teacher has received the Foreign Language Association of Virginia's K-12 award.

Joey Richeson was selected as the 5A/6A Athletic Administrator of the Year by the Virginia Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. This statewide award recognizes

Richeson's tireless efforts and professionalism to create opportunities for student-athletes. Director for student activities at **Meadowbrook High**, Richeson has been with Chesterfield schools for 26 years.

Recognized for her commitment to students and education, **Yvonne Mullins** was named Virginia's FBLA Adviser of the Year. She teaches accounting and business classes in the career and technical education area of **Midlothian High**. Future Business Leaders of America is the largest career student business organization in the world.

Andrea Nadeau, who teaches fifth grade at **Beulah Elementary**, is the only Virginia teacher selected for the 2021-22 Javits-Frasier Scholars Program hosted by the National Association for Gifted Children.

Student successes



One of only six elementary students to be honored nationally, **Sanuthi Henkanathgedara** won the President's Environmental Youth Award for region 3. Sanuthi is in fourth grade at **Clover Hill Elementary**. For her Lake Barga biodiversity project at Albright Scout Reservation, she

helped make a documentary about a pond in the 568-acre camp and spent many hours sampling, photographing and recording species.

Clover Hill High student **Quyen Nguyen** won first place in the animation category of the 2021 film festival of the Virginia High School League. Guided by art teacher **Amanda Berneche**, Quyen won for "Loving Life's Lies," which can be viewed on the VHSL YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhLE5B4xlf0>. She based her digitally hand-drawn rotoscope animation on three original poems.

Students in the **Mathematics and Science High School at Clover Hill** presented their research at the 2021 Virginia Junior Academy of Science research symposium and won these awards:

- **Charles Redding**: first place in medicine and health
- **Magnolia Matzen**: third place in medicine and health
- **Cherish Bland**: third place in chemistry
- **Zachary Burgess**: honorable mention in engineering
- **Richard Jones**: honorable mention in engineering
- **Madeline Cheatham**: honorable mention in physics
- **Ryann Remias**: honorable mention in medicine and health

Caroline Klotz represented **Clover Hill High** nationally at the American Junior Academy of Sciences. A student at the **Mathematics and Science High School at Clover Hill**, she now serves on the student advisory committee of the Virginia Junior Academy of Science.

In the Virginia School Boards Association's annual art contest, **Manchester High** junior **Melanie Lloyd** won first place in the Southside region and **Tomahawk Creek Middle** eighth-grader **Taylor Paisley** earned second place.

Chesterfield County Public Schools has two of Virginia's five nominees for the 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholars for Career and Technical Education:

- **Monacan High** student **Anna Grace Carns**, health and medical sciences therapeutic pathway
- **Midlothian High** student **Sarah Nugent**, dual pathways for business management administration and finance

Three **Matoaca Middle** eighth-graders are national winners in C-SPAN's StudentCam video documentary competition, which invited students to address the issue they most want the president and Congress to address in 2021.

- **Kennedy Coffin** and **Ella Hoskin** won third place for their video "Aim for What? Finding the Balance Between Gun Violence and Rights." Here is a link to their video: <https://www.viddler.com/v/2eae502>
- **Kessler Hedblom** won an honorable mention for his video "The Cybersecurity Crisis." Here is a link to his video: <https://www.viddler.com/v/ba0e0bf9>

Chesterfield County dominated track and field in Class 5 of the Virginia High School League. The **Midlothian High** women won team championships in indoor and outdoor track and field, and the **Bird High** men won team championships in indoor and outdoor track and field.

James River High's perfect boys volleyball season ended with the school's third-straight Class 6 state championship. The Rapids topped cross-county rival Thomas Dale 28-26, 25-19, 25-20 to win the state title. This state championship is the Rapids' seventh overall and was a rematch of the 2018 state final, also won by James River.

Katelyn Hubbard and **Hayley Glen** are VHSL tennis champions. Katelyn is currently a junior and Hayley a senior at **Cosby High**, where they are coached by **Christopher Hartman**. During VHSL Class 6 playoffs in June, Katelyn and Hayley teamed up to win the state title in doubles. In their final match, they defeated James Madison High players 5-7, 6-2, and 6-4. The next day, Katelyn also won the state singles championship. In her final playoff match, she went 6-1 and 6-1 against a player from South County High.

Coached by **Ray Jeter**, **Cosby High's** softball team won the VHSL Class 6 state championship and finished the 2021 season undefeated. The final game of the state playoffs pitted Cosby against South County High from Fairfax County. After a grand slam in the bottom of the fifth inning, the Cosby Titans beat the Stallions 6-3.

For the fourth time, **Cosby High** claimed the Wells Fargo Cup in athletics for Class 6 schools in the Virginia High School League. This award represents the best Virginia high schools have to offer. The Wells Fargo Cup in athletics goes to the school in each VHSL group classification that has achieved the best overall record in state-level competition in 27 sports. In effect, the Wells Fargo Cup signifies being the state champion of state champions!

Successes

The baking and pastry arts program of the **Chesterfield Career and Technical Center** is Virginia's top career and technical education program for 2021. Each year, the Virginia Department of Education and Virginia Community College System sponsor the Career and Technical Education Creating Excellence Awards. Chesterfield County Public Schools won these 2021 awards:

- **Meadowbrook High's Academy for Developing Entrepreneurs** (instructor **Shannon Tual**) won the Region 1 award in the category of business and industry partnership for its connection with the Entrepreneur Game.
- The **baking and pastry arts program of the Chesterfield Career and Technical Center (CTC@Hull instructor Elise Chonko and CTC@Courthouse instructor Sarah Jurewicz)** was named the top CTE program in Region 1, then went on to be honored as the top CTE program in the entire state. The program combines academic study with hands-on development of technical skills, giving students a well-rounded educational experience.

The Virginia Association of School Librarians selected **Meadowbrook High's** library as the state's best school library program in 2021. **Kristin Thrower** and **Thea Paul** are the Meadowbrook High librarians.

Falling Creek Middle and **Meadowbrook High** were honored as National PTA Schools of Excellence in 2020. The award celebrates partnerships between PTAs and schools and recognizes commitment to building an inclusive and welcoming school community. A total of 10 Chesterfield schools have achieved this honor: **Bailey Bridge Middle, Clover Hill Elementary, Crestwood Elementary, Ecoff Elementary, Falling Creek Middle, Gordon Elementary, Meadowbrook High, Robious Middle, Spring Run Elementary** and **Swift Creek Middle**.

In recognition of exemplary commitment to a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program and an exemplary educational environment, **Elizabeth Davis Middle** was named a Recognized ASCA Model Program in 2021. **Gordon Elementary** earned the same national recognition in 2020. Since the American School Counselor Association began this program in 2004, about 700 schools have been recognized nationally.

Chesterfield County Public Schools is recognized by Forbes as one of America's Best-In-State Employers 2021. This recognition was created through a survey of 80,000 U.S. employees across 25 industry sectors. The school system is 34th on the Virginia list.



In the Virginia School Boards Association's Food for Thought Competition, Chesterfield County Public Schools won in the Healthy School Meals category. The winning program – "Virginia Farm to School: Healthy Habits Take Root Early" – was created by the **Food and Nutrition Services Department**. The program included creating gardens and engaging third-graders at **Chalkley, Falling Creek, and Bellwood elementary** schools in planting seeds. This is the second straight year Chesterfield County Public Schools has won; the school system won in 2020 in the Meal Access to Fight Hunger category.

In 2021, for the seventh consecutive year, **Chesterfield County Public Schools** comprehensive budget document was recognized with the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials International. The award recognizes excellence in the preparation and issuance of the school division's fiscal year 2021 operating budget.

Tracey Curcio, a math specialist at **Elizabeth Scott Elementary**, is one of Virginia's four finalists for the 2020 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. One of the nation's highest honors for math and science teachers, the award recognizes educators who engage and motivate students to improve their learning through innovative, high-quality instruction. Curcio is known for transforming the school's math instruction from memorizing algorithms into a student-centered classroom where students work through problems using methods and strategies that emphasize making sense of numbers and place value.

Two Chesterfield County teachers have been named 2021 Outstanding Teacher of the Gifted for Region 1: **Shannon Hayes** of **Swift Creek Middle** and **Elizabeth Clark** of **Manchester Middle**. Traditionally, the Virginia Association for the Gifted names one outstanding teacher in each of Virginia's eight regions, but Hayes and Clark are such strong educators that the association named both of them as Outstanding Teacher of the Gifted for Region 1, which covers 11 counties and four cities in central Virginia.

Courtney Rodgers was named the Virginia Elementary School Technology Education Teacher of the Year. When she won the award, Mrs. Rodgers was the STEAM teacher at **Spring Run Elementary** but she recently became a Center Based Gifted enrichment teacher in the **Gifted Education Department** of Chesterfield County Public Schools. Rodgers received the Virginia Elementary School Technology Education Teacher of the Year award from the Virginia Technology and Engineering Education Association in mid-July. She will also receive a Teacher Excellence Award from the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association in March 2022 during the association's conference.

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What do you think?

Will you share your thoughts about this issue of CCPS on the Go? You can fill out this five-question survey and mail it to Chesterfield County Public Schools, Creative and Media Services Department, P.O. Box 10, Chesterfield, VA 23832 or you can fill out the online version at bit.ly/OntheGosurvey.

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Dorothy Heffron, Debbie Bailey, Ryan Harter, Ann Coker and Kathryn Haines serve on the Chesterfield County School Board.

Chesterfield County School Board

The School Board is the governing body of Chesterfield County Public Schools. Board work sessions and business meetings are held in the Public Meeting Room, located at 10001 Iron Bridge Road. The board's meeting calendar, video from previous meetings and policies are available at bit.ly/CCPSBoard. Meetings are shown live on Comcast channel 98 and Verizon channel 28 and are live streamed at chesterfieldschoolsva.swagit.com/live. For more information, call 804-748-1897 or email ccpsschoolboard@ccpsnet.net.