

The Cardinal's Tweet

Newsletter of The Southside STEM Academy at Campostella K-8 School

A Message From The Principal

Hello Amazing Southside STEM Academy at Campostella School Families,

I hope all is well with everyone. We have made it through the month of April and are now in the marvelous month of May. This is a very busy time of the year because the entire school is ready to cheer on all of our 3rd-8th grade students who are preparing for the SOL's while our students in kindergarten through 2nd grade are preparing for their PALS Assessments and year end instructional activities.

In order for all of our students to finish strong, we need everyone at home on their assigned days and logged in on time for those who are in the virtual environments. Parents, you all have worked extremely hard and for that we commend you for staying the course. Our cafeteria workers, our custodial team members, our paraprofessionals, our teachers, our administrators, our bus drivers and our crossing guards along with everyone who had a hand in this process for teaching and learning have worked extremely hard every day throughout this pandemic. Thank you for your continuous support! Everyone has a job to do to ensure our students are safe, secure, and successful! I encourage you to check your child's academic progress.

Now is the time to sign up for the Summer Basic Skills Program and the Summer Innovation Program. Contact your child's teacher today to find out more information. Until next time, stay safe.

Mrs. Willie-Clark

Greetings From The Parent Center

Greetings, Parents!

It seems like the school year just started but it is actually ending! I want to take the time to thank you for your support during this unpredictable and unusual time in the wake of the pandemic. Despite the struggles, this has been a wonderful school year! Thank you for staying the course. We are very grateful to you.

As we move toward the summer months, please continue to encourage your children, correction—our children because we ALL care about them as if they were our own, to learn something new each day. A wonderful way to do this is reading together as a family, visiting the library, visiting the zoo, or by spending family time together talking.

I wish everyone a safe, enjoyable, and relaxing summer! I look forward to working with each of you during the 2021-2022 school year as we continue on our journey of GREATNESS AT THE NEST!

Please let me know if you have any workshop ideas for next year.

Rowshawnda Johnson,
Family Engagement Specialist

SUMMER PROGRAMS



Southside STEM Academy
at Campostella
1106 Campostella Road
Norfolk, VA 23523

Volume V, Issue 7

May/June 2021

Upcoming Events

May 2nd-8th: Children's Book Week at Norfolk Public Libraries

May 3rd-June 9th: SOL Testing (see page 3 for additional information)

May 7th: Last day to apply for most Summer Programs

May 31st: NPS Closed for Memorial Day

June 14th-17th: Early Release Days

June 17th: Last Day of School



June 28th-July 22nd: Camp Einstein Summer Enrichment Camp

June 28th-July 22nd: Elementary ESL Newcomer Program

Middle School ESL Step Ahead Program

June 28th-August 3rd: SSAC Summer Innovation Program

STEM NEWS

We Make Learning Effective Through Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking & Creativity



Have fun with STEM challenges and create some exciting projects! Here is a list of activities you could build:

- Design a floating raft that holds the most pennies, using plastic straws and string.
- Build the tallest possible tower using the fewest number of toothpicks and gum drops.
- Build the tallest possible tower that supports the weight of a book using only 10 index cards. You can bend or tear the cards however you like, but you cannot use scissors, glue, or other tools.
- Use paper plates, cardboard tubes, and masking tape to construct a marble roller coaster. You can cut the plates and tubes as needed.
- Make a working jump rope from two plastic grocery store bags and 12 inches of duct tape.
- Fold a single sheet of paper into a cup that will hold water for at least 30 seconds without leaking.
- Create a bubble solution recipe from water, dish detergent, and glycerin (or corn syrup) that makes the longest lasting bubbles.
- Stack plastic cups into the tallest tower you can in 1 minute.
- Design a paper airplane that can hold the most cargo (coins taped to the plane). The plane must fly at least 8 feet.
- Build a house with at least two rooms using wood craft sticks and glue.
- Create a musical instrument using supplies like index cards, paper clips, tape, rubber bands, plastic straws, etc.

If you would like to enjoy additional activities, please visit <https://www.weareteachers.com/fifth-grade-stem-challenges/>

Get Ready, Set, Go....STEM Challenges!

Middle School News

Greetings From the SSAC Middle School Course Electives

Middle School Spanish

SSAC has two levels of Spanish course offerings for middle school scholars— Exploratory Spanish, offered to grades 6th through 8th, and Spanish I which is only offered to our 8th grade scholars.

Exploratory Spanish is offered for one semester where students learn basic phrases and how to ask & respond to questions in Spanish. They also learn about the geography and culture of some Spanish-speaking countries, as well as Spanish culture within the United States. We cover greetings, classroom phrases, numbers, months, days of the week, colors, family members, and adjectives.

Spanish I is a credit bearing class that is offered for the entire year. This means that our scholars receive a high school credit upon their completion of the class. Spanish I covers all of the topics that are discussed in Exploratory Spanish with more detail and focus on engaging in speaking, reading, listening, and writing

activities in order to increase proficiency in Spanish.

Virtual teaching & learning has been quite challenging but with the fast pace of technology we have found creative new ways to keep our scholars engaged.

Middle School Art

As we all know, Virtual Learning has impacted classroom instruction as a whole, but especially for Visual Art. No longer were students allowed to use classroom supplies, which there are quite a variety of, but students now had to purchase their own materials for home, and get creative with other materials they could use for assignments. Luckily, most students were successful in doing so! Middle School Art has two (2) courses: Exploratory Art, and Introduction to Art. Exploratory Art is available to grades 6th -8th, which lasts only one semester. In Exploratory Art, students learn the basic foundational skills for drawing, painting,

and sculpture. During Virtual Learning, the focus has been on drawing, with some sculpture assignments sprinkled in! There is no doubt that our students have developed their drawing skills throughout this year!

Introduction to Art is an 8th grade course with High School credit. The students learn Art History and expand on their knowledge and technical skills. Like Exploratory Art, Intro to Art has mainly focused on drawing during Virtual Learning and skills have improved tremendously. In both Exploratory Art and Intro to Art, the SOLs range from developing the fine motor skills to discussing the cultural importance of Art in our society. Other SOLs from Core Content is sometimes brought in too, including Literacy and Science, as well.

The students who have taken Art this year have learned what it means to be responsible and how to take care of their Art work.

GRADE LEVEL NEWS

We Make Learning Effective With Our Instructional Strategies: Justification, Higher Level Questioning, Vocabulary Development

Kindergarten News

The year is almost to a close and we are wrapping up Kindergarten. During May we have our end of the year assessments in math and reading. We're excited to see how our students have grown from the beginning of the year until now! They have shown such resilience during a pandemic. Kinder students, your teachers are proud of you! But the learning hasn't stopped.

We will continue to read books that are fiction and non-fiction and discuss what the books are about. We are continuing to learn about how to write, but for informational purposes.

For Science we will be studying recycling. In Social Studies we will wrap up the year talking about occupations.

In Math we will discuss measurement as well as learn about graphing.

This has been an awesome year!

4th Grade News

For the months of May and June, our 4th grade students will be focusing on previously learned reading strategies to enhance reading comprehension as we prepare for the upcoming SOL tests.

We will review Nonfiction and Fiction Literary texts while focusing on our strategic focus: Visualizing, Inferring, Questioning, Determining Importance, Summarizing, and Synthesizing.

Science/Social Studies

We will continue our study of Oceans and the Scientific Investigation.

Social Studies we continue to learn about a Divided Nation and the Civil War.

Math

Students will continue to review Number and Number Sense, Computation and Estimation, Measurement and Geometry, Probability and Statistics, and Patterns, Functions, and Algebra as we prepare for the Math SOL test.

1st Grade News

May will be marvelous in first grade!

We will continue reading fiction and non-fiction stories. With these stories students will be asking and answering questions, identifying the main idea, characters, setting and important events.

In Math, we will focus on fractions and money.

In Science, we will be learning about animals! Did you know humans are mammals?



While in Social Studies, we will learn all about money! You can save and spend money on things you need and want. We are also focusing on consumers and producers.

We are looking forward to sharing innovative STEM activities we have planned for our scholars!

5th Grade News

During the month of April, our 5th graders participated in virtual field trips sponsored by the Virginian Air and Space Center, Jamestown Foundation, Chrysler Museum, and the Mariner's Museum. Please have your scholar share what he/she experienced during our virtual excursions. May is SOL assessment time. This is a great opportunity for students to demonstrate that, whether virtual or in-person, learning still takes place. Study guides were sent home by our in-person students, and placed in the main office for pick-up by our students who remained virtual.

Please continue to check Synergy, CANVAS, and Google Classroom with your student to ensure he/she remains current with assignments.

We are extremely grateful for your continued support in helping your child navigate this unprecedented academic year.

2nd Grade News

Second grade kicked off the quarter with poetry. While we learned about lines and stanzas

...in math, we knew what time it was.



It was exciting learning about plant and animal life cycles. We even planted beans!



We continued to study famous Americans as we hope to show up in the history books ourselves.



3rd Grade News

Greetings,

April Showers brings May Flowers for the month of May for our Third Graders. The Third Grade Teachers are not only continuing teaching and reviewing with our scholars, but they are preparing the scholars for the SOL Assessments.

In Reading, our scholars will continue learning and reviewing Poetry as well as learn about the Four Forms of Poetry, which includes Free Verse, Narrative, Humorous, and Lyrical.

Writing will consist of Personal Narrative and grammar focusing on 'I' usage in compound subjects.

In Math, we will be learning Geometry: Spatial Relationships. Science carries us to the exploration of humans' impact on the Ecosystem and the Natural Resources.

Our scholars in Social Studies will be taking an adventure to Ancient Mali, which is located in the western continent of Africa.

SOL Testing Dates

Week 1

May 3rd-7th: VSA Students
(All Content Areas)

Week 2

May 10th-14th: House A & House B
(History/Social Science)
May 12th: (Wednesday) VSA Makeups

Week 3

May 17th-21st: House A & House B (Reading)
May 19th: (Wednesday) VSA Makeups

Week 4

May 24th-28th: House A & House B (Mathematics)
May 26th: (Wednesday) VSA Makeups

Week 5

June 1st-4th: House A & House B (Science)
June 2nd: (Wednesday) VSA Makeups

Week 6

June 8th & June 9th: EOC Retakes

Extracurricular Activities

MEDIA CENTER

Book Blast!

Children's Book Week, May 2nd-8th at Norfolk Public Library! Celebrate with Norfolk Public Library for a chance to win Newberry Award winning books! All students in grades 3-5 are invited to tell about their favorite book in 30 words or less. Send all entries by May 8th to: Victoria.Lannetti@norfolk.gov include response, student's name, age, school and grade along with parents/guardians and telephone number. Winners will be notified on May 10th.

Mrs. V. Scott-Dixon
Media Specialist

Student Shout-Outs!

Two students from Southside STEM won 2nd and 3rd place after writing an essay for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The topic was "What patriotism means to me".

Second place was won by Z'nyiah Kimble and 3rd place won by Robyn Lampkin. They each received a monetary reward, plaque and certificate.

Fifth Grader Aalayshia Dowdell won 1st Place in an essay contest sponsored by the Norfolk-Virginia Beach Chapter of the Continental Societies, Inc.®. She will receive a monetary award and a certificate. Topic: Which learning environment is more effective—Remote/Virtual or Face-to-Face. Explain why.

Sixth Graders Iyanah Pridgen and Amari Smith were accepted into Camp Launch, a two-week summer program sponsored by the College of William & Mary.

Faculty Shout-Outs!

Congratulations to Ms. J. Williams, SSAC's newly elected Teacher of the Year!

Congratulations to Mrs. C. Hill-Potter won National Citizenship Education Teacher award presented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Kudos to Ms. R. Johnson was recognized as an 'Excellent Educator' for Norfolk Public Schools by WAVY-TV 10!



Student Spotlight

Kindergarten: **Jah'Zariah Fields** is a leader in her class. She participates and loves helping the teacher when she can. She enjoys going outside and playing with her dogs. She is a bright student with a bright future.

1st Grade: The first grade team would like to spotlight **De'Marri Pittman!** De'Marri is in Mrs. Bright's class. He is a spectacular first grader! De'Marri has shown so much improvement during the 3rd quarter. He is a hard worker and determined to do his best! Keep up the great work De'Marri!

2nd Grade: **Lilly Amos** is a star student and a role model for her peers. She is present and on time both virtually and in-person. Lilly is prepared and ready to complete what is asked of her everyday. She is a friend to everyone and always willing to help anyone who needs it. Mrs. Hobbs is very proud to give this month's student spotlight to Lilly Amos. "Keep up the great work!"

3rd Grade: **Samiyah Williams** arrived at Southside Stem Academy at Campostella on March 25, 2021. She is very cooperative and participates in all the class activities. Samiyah also completes most of her daily assignments. We welcome Samiyah to SSAC!

4th Grade: **Zion-Ra Rogers** is a phenomenal student who sets a great example for his peers. He is a helper to all, follows rules, is respectful, and an active participant in class. He is an avid reader with a vivid imagination. He completes his assignments in a timely manner and he is always on task. Zion-Ra is definitely a great asset to our class and school! Keep up the great work Zion-Ra!!!

5th Grade: **Emmanuel Washington** is a student leader who sets a great example for his peers, attends school regularly, completes all assignments in an exemplary manner, and has excellent behavior. Emmanuel's favorite subject is Math. His zest for learning and insightful thinking is to be commended. Keep up the good work, Emmanuel!

Middle School Spotlights Spanish & Art Electives

Spanish: Excelling within the virtual setting, these students have gone above and beyond this year and exceeded classroom expectations. **Amir Davis** (6th grade), **Destini Rogers** (7th grade) and **Angel Rodriguez** (8th grade).

Art: There are a few students who particularly excelled in Virtual Art this year; they are **Amani McGee** (Grade 6), **Deshawn Turnbow-Hall** (Grade 7) and **Vicenta Geconcillo** (Grade 8). They have shown up to every class, turned in every assignment on time and not only did their assignments look fantastic, but they really took the time to add details and put their personality into their Art work.

Faculty Focus Mr. Stuart Nations Middle School Health & Physical Education Teacher

Mr. Stuart (Stu) Nations was born and raised in Sterling, Virginia (half an hour outside of our nation's capital). He graduated from Dominion High School, and then attended Northern Virginia Community College. After his time at community college, he chose to continue his education at Radford University due to their excellent teaching program! He graduated from Radford's Exercise, Sport, and Health Education program with a focus in education and exercise science in 2013.

Mr. Nations grew up with two brothers, one older and one younger, and played sports year-round. When in high school, he would help out with his younger brother's baseball practice, and it was through this he found

out just how much he enjoyed sharing his love of content knowledge to others, so he decided then and there he wanted to be a Physical and Health educator!

Mr. Nations has been teaching in some capacity (either substitute teaching, full time teaching, or coaching) since 2014, but he made the move down to this area for the 2020 school year. Middle school is his favorite age group to work with, so Mr. Nations was THRILLED to accept a position here at Southside STEM Academy for the 2021 school year! His teaching philosophy is simple: "Learning to move, and moving to learn." The philosophy has had to change a little due to COVID, but students can look forward in the future to playing a host of games while

learning the benefits of exercise and health content.

In Mr. Nations' free time, he loves to watch and play sports (Go Braves and Liverpool), is an avid reader (sci-fi and mystery/thrillers), and is a gamer (video, board, and card... likes them all)! He enjoys spending time with his family and friends, traveling, and is a thrill seeker always open to adventure! Can you believe that the first time he was ever in an airplane was to go skydiving?! Once COVID is a thing of the past, Mr. Nations can't wait to begin traveling abroad again, and he definitely has going across the 'pond' to see a game at Anfield, and to see the sights around Germany is a must on his bucket list!