

The Cardinal's Tweet

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

A Message From The Principal

Greetings SSAC Parents!

What a beautiful time of year it is! Most of the leaves have changed into their brilliant autumn colors, reminding us that this is the season of harvest. The same holds true for our teaching and learning here at Southside STEM Academy at Campostella as our faculty, staff and parents work diligently to see our harvest after each assessment that measures the progress and the growth of our students.

We are all aware of the importance of the 'three-legged stool' and the teamwork that is required with all of us—the

school, the home, and the community--working together to provide a balanced education for the success of our scholars. During this season of harvest and thankfulness, the faculty and staff at Southside STEM Academy at Campostella extends gratitude to all of our dedicated parents for assisting your child with homework, for sharing the importance of following school rules, daily attendance and for communicating regularly with your child's teacher. We want to thank our Community Partners for the awesome work that they do for the support of our school. We cannot do what we do with-

out you! Last but not least, thank you to our teachers who make it happen each and every day through lesson planning, implementation and execution of daily lessons and for going above and beyond the work day to make it happen!

With that being said, the administrative team extends to each of you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Your Administrative Team,
Mrs. Willie-Clark, Principal
Mrs. Howard, Elementary AP
Mr. Brian Tooley, MS AP

Counselor's Corner

What a busy month we had for October! It's Dr. Neal and Mrs. Gregory, your Elementary and Middle School Counselors with a Spotlight on the School Counseling Department.

If you need to speak with your school counselor, you can see us in a variety of ways. YOU are important to us! We are never too busy to check in, help you decompress, strategize, and support you so you can RISE like the Cardinals you are!

1. Fill Out the 'I Want to See the School Counselor' Form and place in the Hall Mailboxes (3-8). The boxes will be locked and only Dr. Neal and Mrs. Gregory will have the key.
2. Ask your teacher to email Dr. Neal at aneal@nps.k12.va.us or Middle School Scholars can email Mrs. Gregory at bgregory@nps.k12.va.us.
3. We will have a link on your Canvas page that you can fill out electronically for students in Grades 4-8!
4. Parents you can also email us, request us to speak with your

scholars, or call us with your concerns at 757-494-3850.

The Character Value for the month of November is *Caring*. A caring Cardinal is willing to help another Cardinal out when they see they are having a hard time on a subject. A caring Cardinal also ensures that our school is clean by making sure they do their part and throw trash away in the cafeteria and bathrooms. Caring Cardinals also use kind words to uplift their classmates. Caring Cardinals also care about their education. They participate in class and allow the teacher to instruct everyone. Caring Cardinals show they value their education by ensuring they complete homework, class work, and all assignments given by their teachers as well as listen, pay attention and do their best. With every assignment, quiz, and tests coming up...you can and WILL be successful scholars! To help you continue to score, we want to remind you about another key to caring. . .empathy.

Empathy is the ability to understand the thoughts, emotions, and feelings of others. Have you ever heard the statement "take a walk in someone else's shoes?" That's empathy. It goes past sympathy which means to feel care for the pain and suffering of others. We are learning to empathize by creating a culture of caring and respect. We speak and act with kindness and caring; remember a caring and kind act can start a chain reaction of caring.

We all have to take responsibility for our actions, words, and even our inactions. Our goal is for our positive behaviors to increase and negative actions to expire.

Have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving!

Dr. Neal
Mrs. Gregory
Professional School Counselors



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

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Upcoming Events

November 2nd: Election Day. Asynchronous Virtual Learning Day for students/Teacher's Workday.

November 3rd: 2nd Quarter begins

November 3rd: Parent Workshop *Device Training*, 1:30 pm. Zoom or Face 2 Face at the Richard Tucker Library

November 7th: Daylight Savings Time Ends



November 10th: Parent Workshop *Preparing for IEP Meetings*, 1:30 pm. Zoom or Face 2 Face at the Richard Tucker Library

November 10th: 1st Annual *Open House, Governor's School of the Arts*, 254 Granby Street, 6:00pm - 7:00 pm, (park at MacArthur Center).

November 11th: Veteran's Day, NPS closed.

November 17th: Parent Workshop, 1:30 pm *Mental Health Awareness - Let's Talk About It* Zoom or at the Richard Tucker Library

November 24th: 9:30 am *Identified - ABC's of Gifted Education* Zoom or at the Richard Tucker Library

PTA
everychild.onevoice.

STEM NEWS

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

STEM

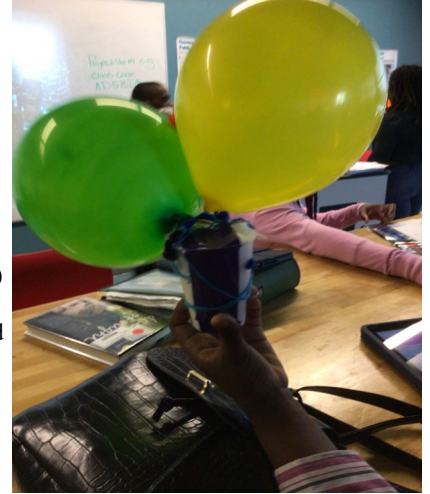


Science • Technology • Engineering • Math

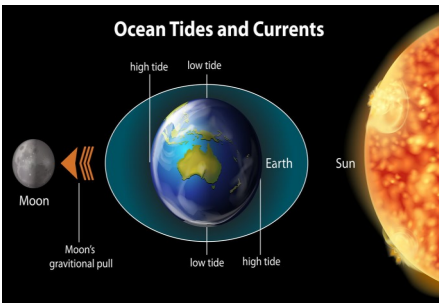
Our Elementary School students are engaged in an innovative, problem-based learning model centered around STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The students solve real-world problems by assuming a potential career and applying learning gained throughout the unit of study. Students work collaboratively using a design process that encourages critical thinking and problem solving. Students continue to excel as they explore the exciting World of STEM.

Foundation of Technology Class Participates in The Egg Drop Challenge

Could you design a container with limited materials that could safely protect an egg from a second floor drop? That's the question that eighth graders in Ms. Jones' Foundations of Technology class answered for their most recent project. Students used the Engineering Design Process and the skills they learned in class to design containers that resisted the force of gravity and allowed an egg to fall 20 feet without cracking. They also had to stay within a designated "budget" when deciding on what materials to use. Prototypes were made and tested then redesigned. The most successful designs employed both methods to slow the descent and to absorb the force of impact. By the end, four groups were successful and their eggs survived the drop. The picture to the right is one of the successful designs. The team used toothpicks and cotton balls inside the cup to create an internal structure to cushion the egg and balloons to slow the descent.



Middle School Upcoming Unit Test



Sixth Grade Unit Assessments

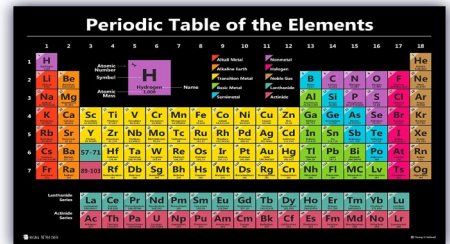
ELA	Unit 1	10/28-11/12
	<i>Childhood</i>	
Math	Unit 2	10/25-11/10
	<i>Integer Operations & Coordinate Plane</i>	
	Unit 3	11/10-11/26
Science	Unit 4	10/27-11/5
	<i>Earth/Moon Interactions</i>	
	Unit 5	11/17-11/24
	<i>Energy</i>	

Eighth Grade Unit Assessments

ELA	Unit 1	10/28-11/12
Pre-Algebra 8	Unit 3	11/10-11/26
Science	Unit 3	10/27-11/5
	<i>Periodic Table of Elements</i>	
	Unit 4	11/17-11/24
	<i>Classification of Matter</i>	
History/SS	Unit 2	10/28-11/12
	Unit 3	11/30-12/14
Pre-Algebra 6/7	Unit 2	10/20-11/5
	Unit 3	11/10-11/26
Algebra I	Unit 3	11/10-11/26
	<i>Equations</i>	
Geometry	Unit 3	11/17-12/3
	<i>Coordinate Geometry</i>	
World Geography	Unit 2	10/20-11/3
	Unit 3	11/18-12/2

Seventh Grade Unit Assessments

ELA	Unit 1	10/28-11/12
	<i>Generations</i>	
Math	Unit 2	10/28-11/15
	<i>Problem Solving and Expression</i>	
Science	Unit 3	10/27-11/5
	<i>Cellular Organization</i>	
	Unit 4	11/17-11/24
	<i>Cell Division</i>	
History/SS	Unit 2	10/28-11/12
	Unit 3	11/30-12/14



Take a DEEP BREATH, go with the flow.
 JUST do your best and
 show what you know!

GRADE LEVEL NEWS

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

Kindergarten News

As the air chills and the winds begin to blow in November, we begin to settle into school, Kindergarten continues to focus on building foundational learning skills. In Communication Skills, we will be building Phonics skills by continuing to learn letters and sounds. We will begin to use those letters and sounds in writing to create simple word labels for our drawings. Encourage your child to begin listening for sounds that they hear at the beginning of words. We will also be working on matching print to speech. Remember when you are reading with your child to point to each word as you read it aloud. This will help your child to develop their concepts about print skills.

In Math, we will begin the month identifying, describing, and comparing shapes. The month will end with exploring repeating patterns. We will also continue counting 0-50. In Social Studies, we will learn about past and present and the holiday of Thanksgiving. In Science, we will continue to explore and observe our environment by sorting, comparing, and contrasting living and non-living things. Please remember to read with your child nightly and complete homework Monday - Thursday.

Thank you for your support. Happy Thanksgiving from the Kindergarten Team!!

4th Grade News

To our wonderful parents and amazing 4th grade students, we are excited about the upcoming quarter where we will continue to review, teach and learn reading strategies that will enhance and strengthen our students' knowledge, preparing them for upcoming assessments. We will review the acronym PIE to identify the author's purpose. We will compare and contrast stories and characters, question the author's choice of language through their characters, settings, and plots. We will be able to identify sensory words and the following: synonyms, antonyms and homophones.

Science/Social Studies-we will be reviewing the Motions of the Earth, Sun and Moon; characteristics and size of the sun and planets and more, including seasons and moon phases. **Math**-Students will delve into creating multiplication charts to practice and perfect memorization of multiplication facts, learn to easily identify factors and multiples, continue to strengthen their skills in addition, subtraction, comparing, rounding and ordering whole numbers, while preparing for division.

1st Grade News

First grade is trekking forward and making moves!

We are moving into learning to create mental images to understand text and sequencing events in text. We are learning to compose descriptive writings about people, places, or things.

In Social Studies we will be learning how to visualize and show how Virginia was different in the past.

During math we will work on fractions and learning to share a whole item equally with 2 sharers and 4 sharers. We will also be discussing tables, picture graphs and dissecting data.

In Science, 1st graders will investigate the basic needs of plants.



Whooh! So much to learn, but we'll continue to soar.

5th Grade News

It's finally Fall!

During the month of November our 5th grade students are looking forward to learning about:

Math – Numerical Operations

Reading - Historical Fiction

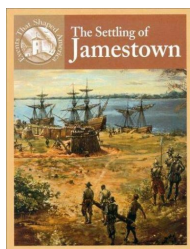
Writing – Descriptive Writing &

Prepositional Phrases

Science – Earth's Resources

(Energy)

Social Studies – Settling and Surviving Jamestown

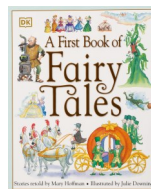


Please remind your student to bring water (no other beverages) to school each day. They also should be reviewing their white binder nightly and return it to school each morning.

2nd Grade News

Second grade has enjoyed the fall weather while learning at Camp Young.

We will be traveling back in time through the magical genre of Fairy Tales in Reading this month. We will be using our imaginations to write fun and exciting 'Once Upon a Time' stories.



Second grade will make numbers easier to add and subtract by learning to round to nearest ten.

In Science, like in Star Wars, we will be using FORCE! We will investigate ways we can move something without touching it...ask your student how! (Hint: it is NOT by using Jedi).

In Social Studies we will look closer at some American holidays and then move into the geography of our world. Do you know how many oceans and continents there are on planet Earth? Your student will!

3rd Grade News

For the month of October, third grade has been very busy learning a lot of new and exciting things.

Writing is focused on Descriptive Writing. Students created a monster and used adjectives in their sentence structure.

In **Math** they are learning how to add and subtract up to four digit numbers.

In **Reading** students are finding the main idea and details and just finished poetry and the elements of poems.

A **Social Studies** unit on Economics was recently completed. Students learned about needs versus wants, specialization, goods and services, and economic choice and opportunity cost.

In **Science** our scholars are learning about the River Otter and how they can create a compound machine to help clean up an area in Norfolk that has impacted the River Otters. They are also learning Universal Solvent and what kind of liquids and solids can and cannot mix with water.

The third grade team is grateful for the continued support of our parents and making sure that our students have the needed supplies for school.

Greetings From the Parent Center

Hello Southside STEM Academy Families!

There's exciting news from your Parent Center! November is Family Engagement Month to recognize the contributions of parents and to raise awareness of the important roles parents play in their child's education.

This month we will kick-off **Workshop Wednesdays!** In celebration of Family Engagement Month, there will be four workshops. The months following, there will be two workshops per month. RSVP attendance sheet will be sent home. Please complete, send back to me or email your response to ljordan616@nps.k12.va.us.

November's Workshops

- ◆ **November 3rd:** 1:30 pm **Introduction/Celebration Family Engagement Month/Device Training** – Please bring your cell phone. There will also be loaner iPads available for practice. F2F Z R TML
- ◆ **November 10:** 1:30 pm **Painting the Big Picture: Important Information regarding your child's IEP meeting and how to prepare for it.** F2F Z R TML
- ◆ **November 17:** 1:30 pm **Mental Health Awareness – Let's Talk About It** F2F Z R TML
- ◆ **November 24:** 9:30 am **Identified – ABC's of Gifted Education** F2F Z R TML

Z – Zoom [https://norfolkpublicschools.zoom.us/j/95851251520?](https://norfolkpublicschools.zoom.us/j/95851251520?pwd=QUtCWmcwRDUydnBRblZlXNGV5WFFQdz09)

pwd=QUtCWmcwRDUydnBRblZlXNGV5WFFQdz09

F2F - Face 2 Face R – Recorded Session TML – Richard A. Tucker Memorial Library 2350 Berkley Ave Ext Norfolk, VA

Volunteer at SSAC! See the NPS website and select our school.

Need resources to help with homework? The Family Engagement Specialist is your contact for any needed resource.

Please let me know if I may be of assistance. Contact me via email at ljordan616@nps.k12.va.us or by phone at (757) 494-3850, ext. 3195.

“Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!”

Ms. La'Shon Jordan, Your Family Engagement Specialist

Red Ribbon Spirit Week

Southside STEM Academy at Campostella will celebrate “Red Ribbon Spirit Week” November 1st to November 5th. We will have a different theme for each day. The theme is a reminder that everyday Americans across the country make significant daily contributions to their communities by being the best they can be because they live Drug-Free!

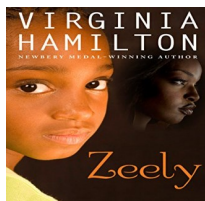
- ◆ Monday November 1st: ‘Put A Cap On Drugs’ (Hat Day)
- ◆ Tuesday November 2nd : Asynchronous Virtual Learning Day/Teacher Workday/Election Day
- ◆ Wednesday November 3rd: ‘Shade Out Drugs Day’ (Wear Sunglasses)
- ◆ Thursday November 4th: ‘Be On A Drug Free Team Day’ (Wear Your Favorite Team Gear/with uniform bottoms.)
- ◆ Friday November 5th: ‘From Head to Toe I’m Drug Free’ Crazy Hair and Sock Day

Gifted Education & Academic Rigor



The Governor’s School for the Arts (GSA) is hosting its **very first Open House** on November 10th from 6:00pm-7:00pm. **ALL** students (Elementary included) and their parents are welcome to attend for a free tour of the facilities, plus see some demo performances. The Governor’s School for the Arts is located on 254 Granby Street. Parking is best at MacArthur Center.

One School, One Book



Student Spotlight

Kindergarten: **Ryan Norman** is fond of the color red. Ryan enjoys playing basketball and football. His favorite subject is math but, he also loves learning about the ABCs. When Ryan grows up, he wants to be a firefighter. Ryan continue to strive for excellence!

1st Grade: **Mikaela Graves** is a 1st grade student in Ms. Brown class. She participates in class and completes her assignments. She is a hard worker, quiet and willing to learn. She loves to read books and excel in all she does. She is a great example to all her classmates.

2nd Grade: Our spotlight is on **Amiracle Barron**. Amiracle shines bright in the classroom, giving 100% everyday! She is kind to everyone, a friend to all, and a role model. She makes the right choices even when no one is watching. Keep up the good work, we are all proud of you!

3rd Grade: For the month of October our PBIS character focus is responsibility. Mrs. Alcala would like to shine light on **Kaleb P.** for showing how to be responsible inside the classroom and through the building. He surely is showing Cardinal Pride by coming to school everyday and completing his work in a timely matter, as well as leading by example.

4th Grade: **Jaleah Oakley** from Mrs. Kellam’s fourth grade class is an amazing scholar, focused and determined to put in the hard work for successful results. She is a class helper who participates in all aspects of her learning environment. She follows school and class rules and exhibits excellence in the entire school. Keep up the great work, Jealeah!!!

5th Grade: **Jerriona Williams** comes to us from Virginia Beach City Public Schools. She is a very diligent and conscientious student. Jerriona recently earned Room 234’s Student of the Month award for “Responsibility”.

Faculty Focus

Mr. Joseph Williams, Educator SSAC Middle School Science Department

A Native New Yorker, Mr. Joseph Williams was born and raised in the Bronx. Growing up near the world famous Bronx Zoo which houses hundreds of species of animals as well as the sprawling New York Botanical Gardens which features its own rainforest, plus living in close proximity to the Hudson River, is it any wonder that Mr. Williams decided to become a biology teacher? Mr. Williams is a prime example of how we can use our environment and our dreams to shape our future.

After high school, he

attended Delaware State University, earning his Biology Degree, then furthered his education with a Masters Degree in Biology Education from Touro College. Mr. Williams has been teaching for four years, this being his second year in Norfolk Public Schools with both years at Southside STEM Academy.

Mr. Williams’ Teaching Philosophy is “I believe that all students are individuals, and everyone learns in their own unique way. I want to prepare my students for success inside and outside of the classroom.”

Mr. Williams is not only an avid sports fan but personally enjoys basketball, football, tennis, track & field and swimming. Sharing his love of sports with our students, he is involved with SSAC’s STEM Sports program and is determined to start SSAC’s Chess Club very soon.

Mr. Williams resides in the Hampton Roads area with his wife, his three year old son and his one year old daughter. He wants to add a dog to the family once the children get a little older but until then, he loves his happy home!