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School Board Meeting
Thursday, November 9, 2023



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Suffolk Public Schools



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Good News Report

Communications & Community Engagement

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Alumni Highlight: Where are they Now?

Nansemond River High School/PLTW Biomed Graduate

- **Alysha Johnson, Sophomore, University of Virginia
Double Major in Chemistry and Spanish**
- **Presented research on Alzheimer's Disease at the 12th
Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium at Vanderbilt
Institute of Nanoscale Science and Engineering**
- **Actively working to improve diversity efforts in science;
Recipient of the Advancing Science Grant for the National
Organization for Professional Advanced Black Chemical
Engineers and Chemists**



Suffolk Public Schools Elementary Students Creatively Take A Stance Against Bullying



- **Skylar Beckett - 2nd Grade - Elephant's Fork Elementary**
- **Zoe Booth - 4th Grade - Oakland Elementary**
- **Kayla Booth - Pre-K - Oakland Elementary**
- **Laila Watkins - 3rd Grade - Booker T. Washington Elementary**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W57jbCVuwJA>

King's Fork High School Recognizes Breast Cancer Awareness Month & Celebrates Breast Cancer Survivors



A special thank you goes to Ms. Shameka Council, a King's Fork High School teacher, the KFHS Watch D.O.G.S. Club, and the Suffolk Police Department for hosting the 5th annual Breast Cancer Survivor Ceremony at KFHS, celebrating Breast Cancer Awareness Month and breast cancer survivors in our community.

November is Month of the Military Child: JYMS, CFCMS, & FBES Receive Purple Star Designation Award to join NSES!

The Virginia Purple Star Designation is awarded to military-friendly schools that have demonstrated a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military.



Suffolk Public Schools Students Participate in the Amazon Future Engineers Robotics Camp



On Wednesday, Oct. 25, Amazon took its investment in computer science and STEM education to the next level with its Amazon Future Engineer (AFE) Robotics Camp. Amazon hosted local high school seniors from Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Hampton, York, Newport News, Portsmouth, and Norfolk at its robotics fulfillment center in Suffolk, ORF3. *(Read more at suffolknewsherald.com)*

Lakeland High School - Audrey Marie Howell
Nansemond River High School - Braedon Dennis
King's Fork High School - Ralph Anderson

John F. Kennedy Middle School Ceremonial Groundbreaking



Construction has officially begun on the new John F. Kennedy Middle School building. Doors are set to open in Fall 2026.

Athletic Wins

- Nansemond River High School Cheerleaders Advance to the State competition after winning the Region 5B Cheer Championship!



Athletic Wins

- Nansemond River High School Field Hockey Advance to the State Quarterfinals competition after winning the Region 5B Championship!



Athletic Wins

- Nansemond River High School Elijah Oliver is the winner of the 2023 Virginia Silver Gloves State Championship.



2023 Southeastern District Champions

- King's Fork High School Varsity Football Team (Undefeated 10-0 season)
- Nansemond River High School Varsity Field Hockey Team



Junior District Orchestra Members from Suffolk Public Schools

Junior District Orchestra *includes Portsmouth, Chesapeake and Isle of Wight*

Abigail Puentes, Director:

Lorelei McBrayer Col. Fred Cherry MS 7th grade Second Violin
Alexander Nelson Col. Fred Cherry MS 7th grade Cello
Imani Ferebee Col. Fred Cherry MS 7th grade Bass
Ryan Ball Col. Fred Cherry MS 8th grade First Violin
Ruby Joyner Col. Fred Cherry MS 8th grade Bass
Melanie Fisher Col. Fred Cherry MS 8th grade Violin (alternate)
Aleah Ward Col. Fred Cherry MS 8th grade Viola (alternate)

Elizabeth Browns, Director:

Chloe Rush Forest Glen MS 7th grade Second Violin
Oliva Hickok Forest Glen MS 8th grade First Violin
Aiden Knapp Forest Glen MS 8th grade Bass

Linda Hurwitz, Director:

Mackenzie Reynolds John Yeates MS 8th grade Second Violin



Virginia Music Educators (VMEA) Outstanding Administrator - Dr. Joleen Neighbours



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Congratulations to our

VMEA

Virginia Music Educators Association, Inc.

**2023 Outstanding
Administrator**

Dr. Joleen Neighbours

October Teacher Spotlight

- Scott Dempksi - JYMS
- Angela Whitehead - JYMS
- Jamie Hockaday - CES
- Dr. Amanda Carmelitano - KFHS
- Agither Jackson - NSES
- Christy Fowler - HES
- Jenifer Banks & Briana Overdiep - OES
- Trenton Dusseau - KFMS
- Kara Dorsey - KFHS





Teacher Spotlight

<p>Scott Dempksi JYMS</p> <p>Mr. Dempksi, Mathematics Teacher, is committed to the ongoing enhancement of his teaching skills. He actively seeks ways to engage students in meaningful mathematical learning experiences. His leadership within the school is marked by a collaborative spirit and a dedication to push all students towards success in mathematics.</p> 	<p>Angela Whitehead JYMS</p> <p>Ms. Whitehead, Health and PE Teacher, is a deeply compassionate and nurturing educator who brightens her students' days with her caring approach. Her unwavering support extends to actively participating in various school activities, making her an invaluable asset to the school community.</p> 	<p>Jamie Hockaday CES</p> <p>Mrs. Hockaday, Music Teacher, has revitalized the talented music program at Creekside Elementary. Her dedication extends to helping high and middle school teachers and students prepare for district auditions. Mrs. Hockaday is a true team player, advocating for music division-wide and shining brightly at Creekside. Our heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Hockaday!</p> 
<p>Dr. Amanda Carmelitano KFHS</p> <p>Dr. Carmelitano, a distinguished educator and teacher leader in the King's Fork IB program, has taken on the role of sponsoring the Sister Cities Club this year. Her dedication is fostering global awareness and responsibility in her students. Thank you, Dr. Carmelitano, for your outstanding contributions!</p> 	<p>Agither Jackson NSES</p> <p>In her first year at Suffolk Public Schools, Ms. Jackson has proven to be an invaluable addition to the Early Childhood Special Education team. Her exceptional teamwork, dedication to nurturing young minds, and commitment to creating a safe, stimulating learning environment are truly inspiring. Ms. Jackson is a remarkable asset to the team.</p> 	<p>Christy Fowler HES</p> <p>Mrs. Fowler's diligent efforts to prioritize social studies instruction involve establishing dedicated PLCs for social studies planning and promoting data-driven teaching. Beyond her building, she contributes to the social studies curriculum development team and shared her expertise as a pre-service presenter. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Mrs. Fowler for her invaluable contributions.</p> 
<p>Jenifer Banks & Briana Overdiep OES</p> <p>Jenifer Banks and Briana Overdiep are a dynamic 5th-Grade Team that excels at fostering science discourse and gives students ample opportunities to explore and articulate scientific concepts. We commend these dedicated educators for empowering student voices to steer daily class discussions.</p>  	<p>Trenton Dusseau KFMS</p> <p>Mr. Dusseau, CTE Teacher, brings an enthusiastic commitment to inspiring students with creative and innovative approaches to everyday decision-making. He provides students with opportunities to cultivate practical skills that can be applied in real-life situations. We are delighted to have him as a member of our CTE team.</p> 	<p>Kara Dorsey KFHS</p> <p>Ms. Dorsey, English Teacher, has cultivated a culture of collaboration in her classroom that fosters engaging discussions and respectful debates among students. We appreciate her dedication to not only teaching English standards but also guiding students in applying their knowledge to real-world contexts.</p> 

October 2023

SPS College and Career Academy Receives a \$15,000 Grant from TC Energy



The College and Career Academy plans to use the grant money to fund new equipment and materials for CCAP, such as mannequins for the EMT program and special equipment for the EMT and Cosmetology courses.

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