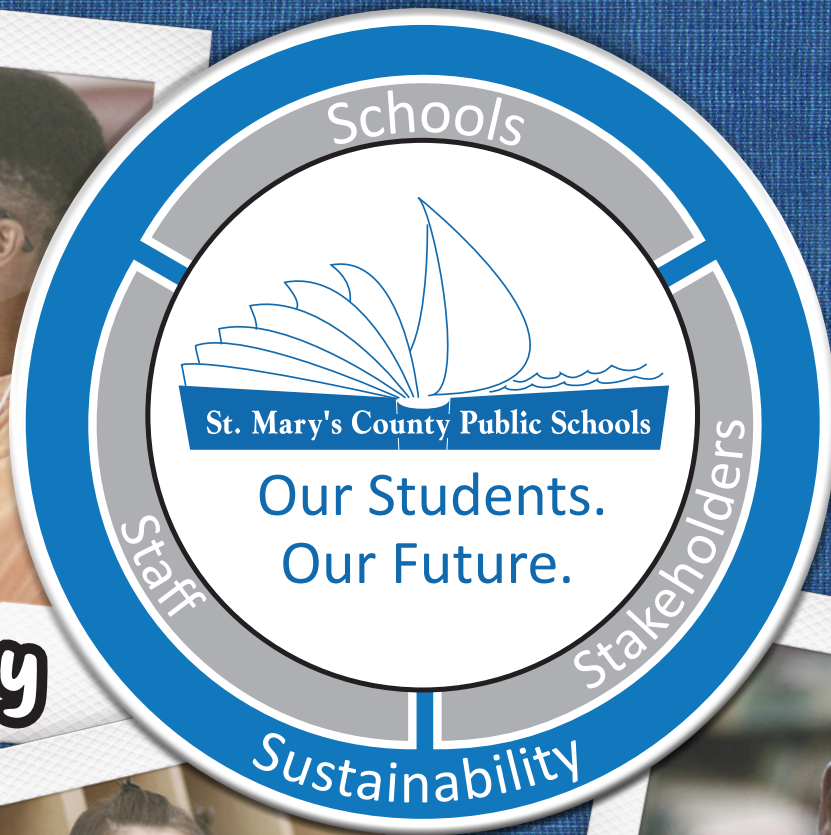


St. Mary's County Public Schools



Our Journey



to Support



the Whole Child

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Four simple words - see something, say something. If we all do exactly this, we will be safer, we will be more connected, and we will be more engaged. If we commit ourselves to not only saying something, but also listening to what others have to say, we will become more supportive, we will challenge ourselves to be better, and we will become more healthy - in our relationships and our lives. This aligns our work with the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development's (ASCD's) five tenets of the "Whole Child":

- Each student learns in an environment that is physically and emotionally safe for students and adults.
- Each student is actively engaged in learning and is connected to the school and broader community.
- Each student has access to personalized learning and is supported by qualified, caring adults.
- Each student is challenged academically and prepared for success in college or further study and for employment and participation in a global environment.
- Each student enters school healthy and learns about and practices a healthy lifestyle.

We know that success in school is more than a grade on a report card - it is understanding and managing emotions, setting and achieving positive goals, feeling and showing empathy for others, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and finally, making responsible decisions.

We are all committed to becoming our best - and we know that will happen when we all belong, feel significant, and focus on the joy of learning. This is the year for listening, learning, and sharing our story.

James Scott Smith
Superintendent of Schools

About us!

Welcome to St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) where 94% of our students graduate ready to take on the challenges of college or careers. We understand that education must engage students and align to their interests and aspirations. To do this, we provide a tailored educational experience to our learners, offering a choice of courses and academic pathways.

We are particularly proud of our signature academic pathways: the STEM Academy, the Academy of Global and International Studies, the National Academy of Finance, and the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts. Couple this with our Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center and the possibilities for our students reflect the needs of the 21st Century.

Social, Emotional, and Academic Learning

Our mission statement's words are never truer:

*Know the learner and the learning,
expecting excellence from both.*

*Accept no excuses, educating all with
rigor, relevance, respect, and positive
relationships.*

Work is focused on our support for students' social, emotional, and academic growth. To this end, SMCPS has embraced the tenets of ASCD's Whole Child Initiative.

Supporting the whole child

SAFE

Each student learns in an environment that is physically and emotionally safe for students and adults.

ENGAGED

Each student is actively engaged in learning and is connected to the school and broader community.

SUPPORTED

Each student has access to personalized learning and is supported by qualified, caring adults.

CHALLENGED

Each student is challenged academically and prepared for success in college or further study and for employment and participation in a global environment.

HEALTHY

Each student enters school healthy and learns about and practices a healthy lifestyle.

Priority Actions for School Safety

- Controlling and monitoring building access
- Monitoring the school and its visitors
- Increased presence of school resource staff
- Expanded communication systems

Building Access Control

All SMCPS schools are equipped with building access control and electronic door access control systems, and all schools have security vestibules that require access through the front office. As an additional enhancement, a front office security station has been installed at Great Mills High School. A uniformed safety and security assistant staffs the new station and monitors all school security systems throughout the school day.

The new security station has been designed as a prototype and will be evaluated for improvements with plans for installing a similar station in all St. Mary's County Public Schools over the next three years.



Monitoring Systems

Live camera feeds to safety and security staff assist with monitoring what is going on throughout the school. SMCPs is investing in additional cameras to assist with monitoring and response.

See Something, Say Something!

School safety is everyone's responsibility. We want each student, staff member, parent, or community member to feel safe as they walk through the doors of our schools. If anyone sees something suspicious, we want them to report it. Every report is thoroughly investigated. To make reporting easy, our website, www.smcps.org, has a quick button that allows anyone to anonymously report anything they think threatens school safety.

School Resource Officers

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office continues to provide School Resource Officers to work in all secondary schools. Additionally, through the "Adopt-a-School" Program, Sheriff's Officers and State Troopers volunteer to "adopt" and work with an identified elementary school, assisting students and staff with school security concerns, mentoring of students, and school emergency response planning.

Safety Coordinator



Mr. Charles Eible, III, School Safety Coordinator, will work with the Maryland Center for School Safety and local law enforcement on developing and implementing additional school security plans. SMCPs has and will continue to support Special Police Commissions for the Director of Safety and Security and the newly appointed School Safety Coordinator. This will provide for additional law enforcement coverage for all SMCPs schools.

Communication Systems

By building up our infrastructure of communication systems, staff can immediately notify first responders, administrators, and others of incidents and needs within the building. Additionally, communication systems are being expanded to further assist with notifying parents and community members in case of emergencies.

Making Connections

As students walk through the doors each day, we have an opportunity to begin anew. Each interaction is a chance to connect. Each moment is an opportunity to build a relationship. These connections will lay the foundation for a great year. In our classrooms, in our hallways, and throughout the school, you will see how staff welcomes students. These moments form positive connections that help each student engage.



Standards-Based Instruction

With ongoing feedback to students and their parents/guardians about how well they are doing relative to the learning standards, students, parents, and teachers will more clearly understand what is expected. This allows parents and teachers to work together to guide students, helping them to be successful. At the elementary level, detailed progress reports tell parents how students are doing relative to standards. Throughout the school year, the Home Access Center (HAC) provides ongoing information about students' work towards their instructional goals.



Student Voice

Throughout the year, student advisory councils meet both at the school level and system level. The Superintendent's Student Leadership Advisory Council meets quarterly with representatives from each high school. At the school level, Principals' Advisory Councils meet at least monthly. These students play an important role in the decisions being made for the school system.

Instructional Pathways

With different pathways for our students, every student has a chance to blaze their own trail. Academy programs are designed to offer specialized programs to students that align with their goals, aspirations, and talents. Beyond the academies, every student has an abundance of opportunity in their course selections and the variety of offerings in the Program of Studies.

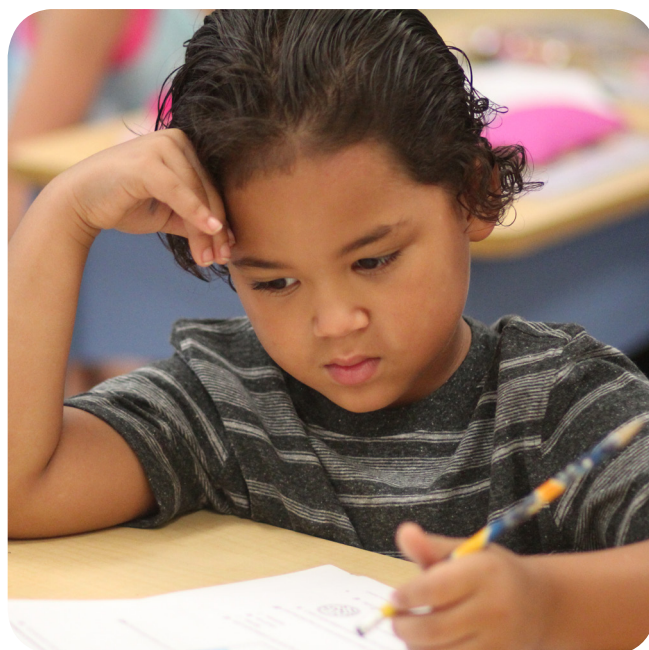
Fact: over 2,400 students are enrolled in instructional pathways!

Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

A proactive approach to instruction allows teachers to meet the needs of all students. UDL principles help to remove potential barriers before students enter the classroom. Through this approach, content is presented in different ways, including multimedia or visual representations, and students have a variety of ways to engage in learning and express what they know and can do.

Energy Conservation Initiatives

Students and staff are encouraged to take responsibility for conservation initiatives. Through instructional activities and schoolwide programs, this focus is far reaching and allows us all to conserve our valuable resources. Since 2006, 23 schools in SMCPs have been certified as Green Schools, meeting high standards integration of the environment throughout the curriculum and sound environmental practices within the school.



"If we can't first connect with our students' hearts, then we don't have a chance of connecting with their minds."

- Justin Tarte

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

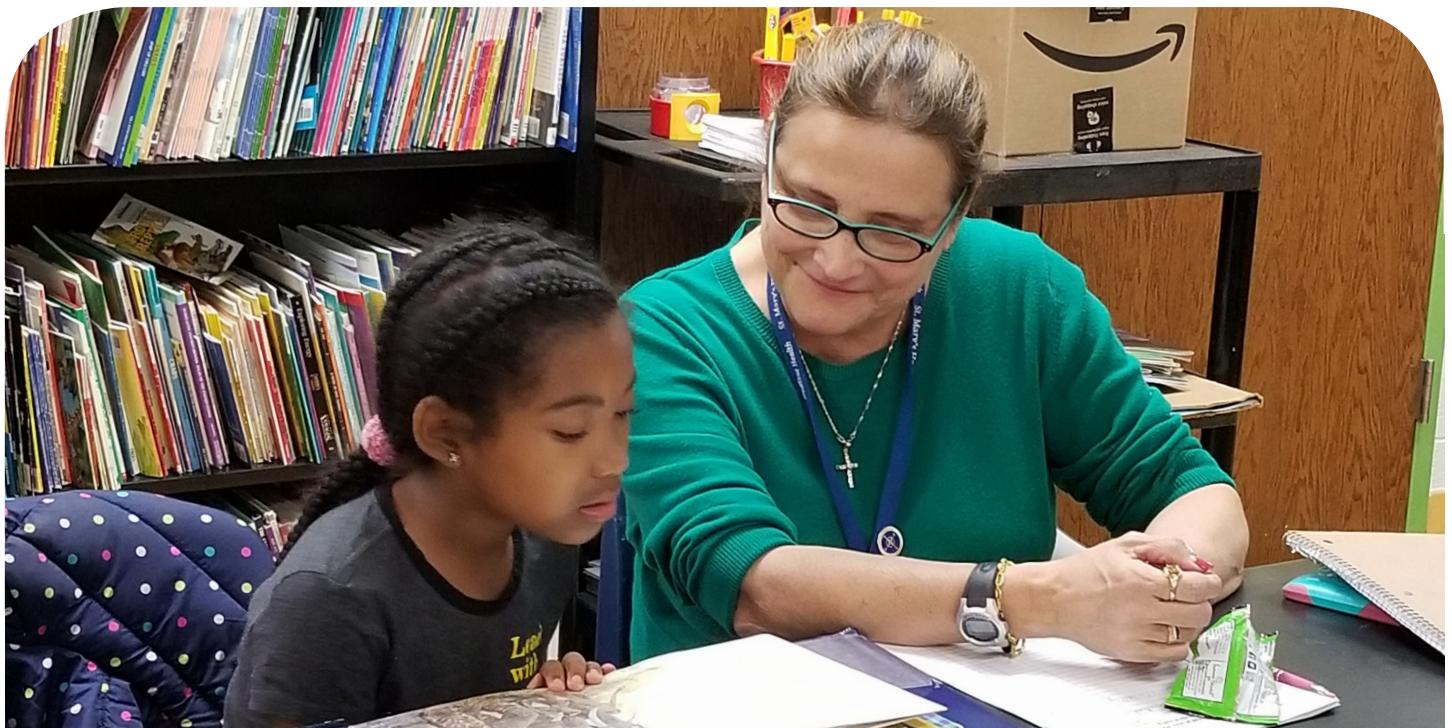
Our focus on supporting students starts with fostering, teaching, and acknowledging positive behavior. We recognize the critical need to keep students connected to school so that they may graduate college and career ready. Our schools focus efforts to provide intervention and positive reinforcement through a multi-tier system of supports. Interventions have been implemented this year to assist with challenging behaviors in an effort to not rely on out-of-school suspensions. Interventions include Zones of Regulation, Check and Connect, Check In/Check Out, Mentoring, and Morning Meetings. Second Step and Steps to Respect are the primary curricula used for teaching social and emotional learning.

Response to Intervention (RTI)

This multi-tiered approach helps to identify and support students with learning and behavior needs. The RTI process begins with high-quality instruction and universal screening of all children in the general education classroom. Struggling learners are provided with interventions at increasing levels of intensity to accelerate their rate of learning.

Goal Book/Pathways

The Goalbook Toolkit guides educators working with specialized student populations to varying levels of instructional support. Goalbook Pathways combines research-based resources, strategies, and training so that educators can design multiple pathways for ALL students to succeed.



Restorative Practices

A restorative approach is taken to resolve conflict and prevent harm. A range of strategies is used to prevent relationship damaging incidents from happening and resolving them if they do happen. SMCPs partnered with the Education Association of St. Mary's County (EASMC)

to train staff to use these valuable strategies. Currently, eight of our schools have teams that have been trained in these practices. Additionally, certified trainers are on staff to work with school teams to develop restorative practices. Future plans include expanding the programs across more schools and having additional staff members become trainers to support this initiative.

FROG STREET

This research-based curriculum integrates social and emotional learning into academics. It is a differentiated, theme-based program used to teach core content. We are using Frog Street in all of our Pre-K classrooms, Head Start, and Infants and Toddlers programs.

RESPONSIVE CLASSROOMS

Blending academic and social/emotional skills supports an environment for learning. There are shared practices, such as Morning Meetings, for teaching routines, using specific verbiage that engages students, and setting clear limits for students to learn from mistakes. This initiative is in place at many of our elementary schools.

CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE

This integrated approach focuses on classroom management strategies that address social-emotional learning, discipline, and self-regulation. Using these strategies in our early childhood programs, teachers spend less time addressing inappropriate behaviors and more time teaching developmentally appropriate life skills.

CAPTURING KIDS' HEARTS

The program, being implemented in some of our secondary schools, builds a school culture that tends to the social-emotional needs of students through relationships and connections. When teachers and kids are connected, the results indicate increased student achievement, decreased discipline, and increased attendance.

CHALLENGED

Rigorous & Aligned Standards-Driven Instructions

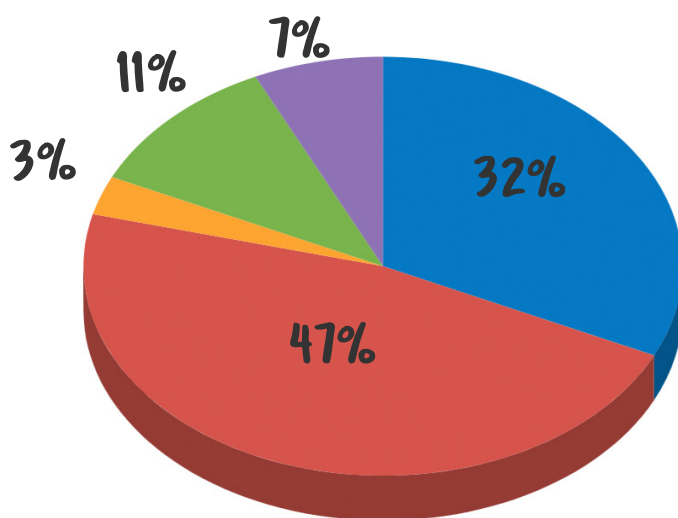
Instruction in SMCPS is fully aligned to the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards (MCCRS). The learning outcomes for our students place emphasis on higher levels of thinking, reasoning, modeling, written expression, and conventions of language. To that end, curriculum expectations continue to focus on increasing the rigor and depth of assignments and the inclusion of writing in response to text across all curriculum areas. This focus emphasizes analytical and higher-level thinking and comprehension, as well as, shared goals and expectations for what students should understand and be able to do in grades K-12 in order to be prepared for success in college and the workplace.



Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are rigorous, college-level courses delivered at each of our high schools. We encourage all students to take at least one AP course in their high school course of study. In the late spring, students in AP courses take the AP exam given by the College Board with an opportunity to earn college credit.

Fact: 1,569 students are enrolled in at least one AP class



Documented Decisions for Class of 2018

- Attend 4-Year College
- Attend 2-Year College
- Attend Trade/Technical School
- Enter the Workforce
- Enter the Military

Dual Enrollment

In partnering with the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) and other institutions, we help our students to be College and Career Ready. This focus has resulted in the expansion of dual enrollment courses both on and off campus for our students.

Dual enrollment courses available to our high school students include: Finite Math, Calculus, Human Anatomy, and College Prep English. In addition, over 25 courses at the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center have articulated credit agreements with seven colleges and institutes of higher education.

Fact: The four-year cohort graduation rate continues to outpace the state and the nation, with 94% of students graduating on time.

Career & College Ready

St. Mary's County Public Schools offers opportunities for students to choose their own path. Academy and completer programs help prepare students for colleges and careers. Programs ranging from diesel technology to global and international studies tap into the wide-ranging talents and interests of our students. As each student graduates from high school, they have either completed a Career and Technology completer sequence or University System of Maryland sequence; and many students complete both. Demonstrating our preparedness for students to be college and career ready has led to remarkable achievements in our graduation rate.

Fact: 1,106 students are eligible for Dual Enrollment



Workforce Development Programs

Preparing students beyond high school means ensuring they are both college and career ready. Career and Technology Education programs are designed to provide students with workforce skills and/or a seamless transition to a post-secondary education experience. Our goal is to offer programs that blend academic and technical skills with employability skills. Students enrolled in any of our 24 CTE programs are exposed to a wide range of current and emerging technologies, work-based learning opportunities, and extended classroom experiences, bringing each class to life.

Mental Health Coordinator



This new position has been implemented as part of the new Maryland Safe to Learn Act. Ms. Robin Schrader will help facilitate connections of mental health services and referral procedures within our schools, the local health department, social services, and local mental health organizations to ensure that referred students receive the necessary services. In addition, she will assist with professional development, behavioral health, and wraparound services.

Wellness Programs

Proactive approaches are in place for staff and students to promote healthy lifestyles and wellness. Schools and offices have wellness plans and incentives in place to promote good habits, activity, and behaviors.



Clean & Healthy Facilities

By utilizing team cleaning techniques, green-seal cleaning products, and advanced floor care methodologies, the Department of Operations cleans and maintains school buildings in an efficient, environmentally friendly manner. We are committed to ensuring that every child has a clean and pleasant environment in which to learn and thrive.





Nutritious Meals

Food and Nutrition Services is committed to providing St. Mary's County Public School students with well-balanced nutritious meals to support student achievement. Our focus is to aid student learning by educating and serving meals that reinforce lifelong healthy lifestyles. We encourage our students to participate in school breakfast and lunch which is available at all schools and provides students with the energy they need to learn and grow. We also offer afternoon snack and supper meals at eligible locations. Food and Nutrition Services offers a variety and well-balanced nutritious meals. By choosing breakfast, lunch, and supper at school, students learn to make healthy choices, reinforcing nutrition education taught in the classroom



FAST FACTS

28 Schools

Elementary	18
Public Charter	1
Middle	4
High	3
Career & Technology Center	1
Fairlead Academy	1

Enrollment 17,998

White	63.4%
African - American	18.3%
Hispanic	7.5%
Asian	<5%
American Indian/Alaska Native	<5%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<5%
Two or More Races	7.9%

Students Receiving Special Services

Title I (Elementary only)	14.9%
Limited English Proficient	<5%
Free/Reduced Meals	32%
Special Education	10.1%

Attendance

Attendance—Elementary	94.6%
Attendance—Middle	94.2%
Attendance—High	92.8%

Student Mobility (SY17)

Elementary	18.1%
Middle	12.4%
High	9.8%

Our Staff

Professional Staff	1468
Classified Staff	787
Teachers' average years of service	13.50

Average Class Size

Grade Pre-K	20
Grade K	18
Grade 1-2	19.5
Grades 3-5	21
Grades 6-8	24
Grades 9-12	22

Educational Pathways Enrollment

Chesapeake Public Charter - Grades K-8	440
Fairlead Academy - I: Grades 9-10	156
II: Grades 11-12	80
J.A. Forrest Center - Grade 9-12	1,019
Academy of Finance - Grade 9-12	144
Academy of Visual & Performing Arts - Gr. 9-11	74
Global & International Studies - Grade 9-12	128
STEM Academies - Grades 4-12	407

Class of 2018

Graduation Rate (four-year cohort) (Class of 2017)	93.9%
Dropout Rate	3.7%
Attend a 4-year College	32%
Attend a 2-year College	47%
Attend a Trade/Technical School	<5%
Enter the Workforce	11%
Enter Military	7%
Scholarships Offered	\$29.2M

ELL Program

Approximately 279 students participate in the program for English Language Learners (ELL)

Early Childhood

There are 165 spaces in Head Start, a federally funded early learning program for income eligible 3 and 4-year-olds. There are 800 Pre-K spaces with 760 spaces for half-day and 40 for full-day spaces. There are 68 half day spaces for Pre-K 3. Full-day Kindergarten is currently held at all St. Mary's County public elementary schools.

FAST FACTS

Supporting Services

Staff of the Division of Supporting Services has worked collaboratively through the local capital improvements program to develop annual funding for replacement of building components that extend the life-cycle of major systems and improve the learning environment. This collaboration has reduced the deferred maintenance of these systems from five years to two years, resulting in improved facilities for our students and staff.



Maintenance

Staff	39.45
Work Orders Processed	22,337
Maintenance Dollars Per sq. ft.	\$1.23
Sq. ft. of Building Maintained	2,535,638
FY 18 Projects Completed	\$900,000
Projects in Progress	\$1,800,000

Operations

Staff	138
Sq. ft. to building service worker ratio	19,724
Customer Satisfaction Survey Rating	94.6%

Design and Construction

Staff	4
Projects in Design	6
Projects Under Construction	8
Current Local Projects Funding	\$27,270,264
Project Savings	\$45,106

Transportation

Staff	9
Buses, Including Field Trip	275
Bus Contractors	42
Miles Traveled Per Year	4,200,000

Food and Nutrition Services

Staff	150
Breakfasts Served	795,974
Lunches Served	1,277,581

Capital Planning

Staff	3.5
State Capital Funds (FY 2019)	\$6,400,000
Local Capital Funds (FY 2019)	\$6,958,000
Utility Cost Per sq. ft.	\$1.97

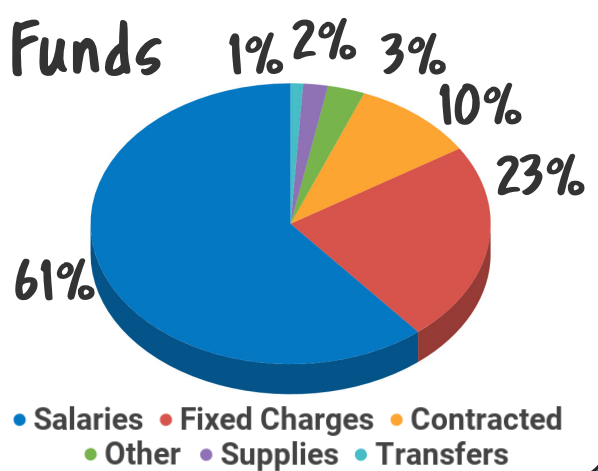
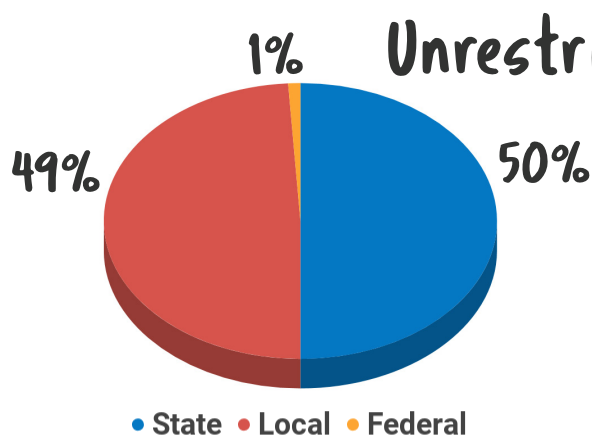
Information Technology Services

Desktops and Laptops	12,914
Apple iPads	4,730
Internet Bandwidth	4.1 Gbps
Physical and Virtual Servers	313

BUDGET

Fiscal Year 2019 Adopted Budget

Revenues			
	FY2019 Unrestricted Revenues	FY2019 Restricted Revenues	FY2019 Total Revenues
Summary of Revenues			
Local	\$104,052,525	\$30,000	\$104,082,525
State	106,348,590	970,709	107,319,299
Federal	2,765,300	17,484,441	20,249,741
Other	1,093,500	3,136,300	4,229,800
Total Unrestricted and Restricted Funds	\$214,259,915	\$21,621,450	\$235,881,365
Expenditures			
	FY2019 Unrestricted Expenditures	FY2019 Restricted Expenditures	FY2019 Total Expenditures
Summary of Expenditures by Object			
Salaries & Wages	\$129,807,407	\$9,577,656	\$139,385,063
Contracted Services	20,998,766	3,885,715	24,884,481
Supplies and Materials	5,046,873	2,419,730	7,466,603
Other Charges	6,334,681	1,747,085	8,081,766
Land, Buildings, and Equipment	130,000	119,042	249,042
Transfers	2,124,180	293,395	2,417,575
Fixed Charges	49,818,008	3,578,827	53,396,835
Total Unrestricted and Restricted Funds	\$214,259,915	\$21,621,450	\$235,881,365
Note: Includes Chesapeake Public Charter School			



STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Exceptional Staff

Each year we not only thank our teachers, but principals, administrative and support staff as well. Every employee makes an important contribution to the success of our students. Presented here are seven of our celebrated and hard working staff members from the 2017-2018 school year.



Becky Loker

Supervisor
of Elementary Mathematics
2017-2018 SMCPs
Leader of Excellence



Chuck Dunbar

Assistant Principal
of Great Mills High School
2017-2018 SMCPs
Leader of Excellence



Heather Husk

Social Studies Teacher
at Leonardtown Middle School
2017-2018 SMCPs
Washington Post Teacher of the Year



Sarah Lorek

Music Teacher
at Chopticon High School
2017-2018 SMCPs Maryland
Teacher of the Year



Beth Ramsey

Principal
of Captain Walter Francis Duke
Elementary School
2017-2018 SMCPs
Washington Post Principal of the Year



Heather Russell

Secretary I
at Chopticon High School
2017-2018 SMCPs
Educational Support Professional
of the Year



Patricia Herr

Pre-K 4 Paraeducator
at George Washington Carver
Elementary School
2017-2018 SMCPs
Educational Support Professional
of the Year

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TALENTED STAFF!

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Mrs. Karin M. Bailey
Chairman
District 03
Term Expires 2018



Mrs. Cathy Allen
Vice Chairman
At-Large
Term Expires 2020



Mr. James J. Davis
Member
District 02
Term Expires 2020



Mrs. Mary M. Washington
Member
District 04
Term Expires 2020



Mrs. Rita Weaver
Member
District 01
Term Expires 2018



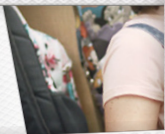
Ms. Laik Meadows
Student Member
Term Expires 2019



Dr. J. Scott Smith
Secretary/Treasurer
Superintendent of
Schools

For many current residents, history was made in December 1996, when the county-elected school Board took the helm, ending a long tradition of operating under an appointed Board. St. Mary's County Public Schools is governed by a Board of Education consisting of five members and a nonvoting student representative. The Board of Education of St. Mary's County's power and duties include the authority to adopt, enforce, and monitor all policies for the management and governance of the school system. Board of Education members are guardians of the public trust. Through the policies they make, Board members are ultimately responsible for the success or failure of local public education. The Board serves as the advocate for educational excellence for the community's youth and puts those interests first. The policies Board of Educations make dictate the standards and philosophies by which schools are run and the criteria used to judge whether they are being run well.

LET'S HAVE A GREAT YEAR!



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE
COMMITTED TO ACTION
COMMITTED TO STUDENTS



St. Mary's County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, or disability in matters affecting employment or improving access to programs. For inquiries related to this policy or to contact Board of Education members, write: Board of Education of St. Mary's County, 23160 Moakley Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Email messages can be sent to: boe@smcps.org. Phone messages can be left at 301-475-5511, ext 32177. Visit the Board of Education online at www.smcps.org.

To obtain additional copies of this report, contact St. Mary's County Public Schools at 301-475-5511, ext. 32178, or review an online copy at www.smcps.org/super.