

CCS Staff In the Know



Dr. Janice Duffie



Mrs. Betsy Gatchel



Mr. Matthew Hische

Congratulations

TO OUR NEWEST LEADERS



Mrs. Nakia McCall



Mrs. Josey Thompson



Ms. Lea Wedesky

Help Us Congratulate our Newest Leaders

In August, the Board of Education approved several new leaders for our district. We know they have done an amazing job since school has started so please help us celebrate the following:

Dr. Janice Duffie, Assistant Principal West Craven High-

Dr. Duffie has dedicated her time to education in Pitt County where she worked at all three levels; elementary middle, and high school. She had an opportunity to be a wonderful classroom teacher making a difference for 10 years and then continued to serve as a Special Education Teacher for 7 years at the high school level. She then decided to expand her career by entering administration where to worked at JH Rose High School for 4 years as the Assistant Principal and at Farmville Central High School for 5 years.

Dr. Duffie is most excited about opportunities for new experiences and new connections. She is excited about being a part of CCS' mission, which is "to educate all learners to personal, professional, and civic success through challenging and personalized instruction. A good education is the foundation for a better tomorrow. Dr. Duffie is very honored to be a part of this process, and she is looking forward to awesomeness at West Craven High School.

Mrs. Betsy Gatchel, District Student Programming Coordinator-

Mrs. Betsy Gatchel is the new Coordinator for Student Programming, working primarily with the English Learners Program, Academically and Intellectually Gifted Program, and Cultural Arts. An educator since graduating in 1993, Mrs. Gatchel has worked the majority of her career with Craven County Schools. She has taught elementary, pre-school, college-aged and adult students with many years spent working at WJ Gurganus Elementary and Brinson Memorial Elementary. In addition, she has served as a Title 1 Interventionist, Literacy Coordinator, and District Learning Systems Coach. She earned her undergraduate degree from Davidson College and two graduate degrees in Elementary Education and School Administration from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and East Carolina University. Mrs. Gatchel is a product of Craven County Schools and has been blessed with a husband and two children who currently attend college/graduate school. She looks forward to her new role with this school system that has shaped her as an educator and continues to develop her as a life-long learner.

Mr. Matthew Hische, Assistant Principal New Bern High-

Mr. Matthew Hische began his educational career in 2013 at New Bern High School after graduating from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education. In 2020, he achieved a school administration focused Master's degree from Appalachian State University. After eight years of teaching social studies and serving as the faculty administrator of the after-school credit recovery program at New Bern High, Mr. Hische will be transitioning to his new role of Assistant Principal. Mr. Hische shares, "As an educator at NBH, I've seen and experienced the benefits of working with passionate teachers and administrators. I am excited to take on a new role with the understanding that my decisions will be instrumental in fostering students' and teachers' social and academic growth."

Mrs. Nakia McCall, Principal Craven Virtual Academy-

Nakia McCall will serve as the principal of the new Craven Virtual Academy. Mrs. McCall, who is Eastern North Carolina born and bred, began her career with Lenoir County Public Schools. She was a classroom teacher for fourteen years before deciding she was interested in growing as a leader. She served as a curriculum specialist and assistant principal at the secondary level before moving into the role of a school administrator. With over 23 years of experience, Mrs. McCall has supported teachers, principals, and superintendents across the state of North Carolina. She shares, "Eastern, North Carolina is my home and being an administrator in a virtual learning environment makes my work and support of students even more exciting. Every day I have a chance to mold and shape the minds of our future leaders from elementary to high school and beyond. As a virtual principal, I have a considerable effect; not only do I have an opportunity to impact students, but I have a chance to support their families and the community in which they live through a digital platform.

Mrs. Josey Thompson, Assistant Principal HJ MacDonald Middle-

Mrs. Thompson is so incredibly honored to start her 1st year as Assistant Principal at The H.J. Mac Donald Middle School. Mrs. Thompson started her educational journey as a Biology and Physical Science Teacher at Kinston High School. After three years, she transferred to Rochelle Middle School, where she taught 7th and 8th grade Science for eight years. These past five years, she has enjoyed teaching Chemistry, Physics, and Earth/Environmental Science at Greene Early College High School. Mrs. Thompson earned her National Boards while simultaneously earning her Masters in Educational Leadership at Concordia University, as well as her Masters in Administration and Masters in Science Education at East Carolina University, Arrrgh! She is ready for the new experiences, opportunities, and challenges to help her continued growth and development as a leader.

As your Assistant Principal, she is looking forward to building new relationships, learning, service, and supporting all stakeholders. Mrs. Thompson is excited to be back with the most ambitious and curious middle school students. Most importantly, she is ready to motivate

and encourage teachers to develop the most efficient and effective way to improve classroom instruction to help students achieve excellence through experiences.

Ms. Lea Wedesky, Assistant Principal Havelock High-

Ms. Lea Wedesky grew up in a small town in Michigan where her love for education and athletics began. She completed her Bachelors and Masters degrees from Eastern Michigan University and embarked on her journey within education. She has been a high school Special Education and Mathematics teacher as well as a women’s basketball coach throughout her 13 years in education. She dedicated the last 7 years to West Craven HS serving in leadership roles such as the EC Department Chair, Head Women’s Basketball Coach, and School Improvement Team Chair. Now her journey takes her to the East side of the county where she will serve as an Assistant Principal at Havelock High School.

Ms. Wedesky shares, “I’m blessed to have the opportunity to step into another leadership position and become part of the #RamFam, continuing to serve Craven County Schools and its communities.”



COVID-19 Dashboard

The number of positive cases is newly reported for the week. Quarantines are based on an individual(s) being considered a close contact. A close contact is within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes cumulatively over a 24-hour period.

For the Week of September 3rd-September 9th

12,800	Total Number of Students	137	Total Confirmed new positive cases (staff & students)
1,587	Total Number of Staff	1,561	Total quarantined (staff & students)

If you are experiencing any COVID-like symptoms please contact your school nurse and/or healthcare provider for the next best steps.

Follow our social media channels for up to date information:



@cravencountyschools



Save the Dates

STUDENT SERVICES
COUNSELOR MEETINGS

9/23/21 @ HJM
11/15/21 @ BOARD ROOM
2/1/22 @ BOARD ROOM
3/14/22 @ BOARD ROOM
5/16/22 @ BOARD ROOM

MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED
FROM 9:00 - 11:00 AM



CONSTITUTION DAY RESOURCES

The Richard Dobbs Spaight Constitution Week Committee has compiled some educational resources to help you with Constitution Day on September 17th. Usually, we would be visiting the elementary schools to talk with the students about the Constitution and sponsoring programs at the high schools about the Constitution during Constitution Week.

Unfortunately, once again, COVID-19 has changed the way we are providing information to the students. This will be the second year we have sent out information electronically. Hopefully, you will be able to find something inspiring for your Constitution Day lesson plan. Last year, Liz Henderson, Ashley McDaniel and Rebekah Cianfaglione from Creekside Elementary School used some of the educational materials from our packet, interviewed members of the Sons of the American Revolution and developed a wonderful video for their students. The Richard Dobbs Spaight Chapter Constitution Week Committee has selected Liz, Ashley, and Rebekah to receive an award for their work. Thank you for everything you are doing to enrich the lives of our children.

[Click Here to Access Resources](#)

Economics & Personal Finance Professional Development

For any high school teachers who may be teaching this course now or in the near future, this professional learning opportunity should be beneficial to the teaching and learning process.

The training is provided by the North Carolina Council on Economic Education (NCCEE). The upcoming dates and offerings are listed on their website with descriptive information: <https://www.nccee.org/financial-literacy-programs/professional-development/>

mClass Benchmark Window Extension

DIBELS measures at each grade level

Measure	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Letter Naming Fluency	✓	✓		
Phonemic Segmentation Fluency	✓	✓		
Nonsense Word Fluency	✓	✓	✓	✓
Word Reading Fluency	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oral Reading Fluency		✓	✓	✓
Maze (Basic Comprehension)			✓	✓

Required additional measures at each grade level below

Oral Language	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vocabulary	✓	✓	✓	✓

The Benchmark Window for students in Grades K-3 has been extended to September 24. Please make sure you have completed all of the required measures.

The window for students in Grades 4-5 has been extended to September 30. Please contact Jason Griffin if you have any questions.

2021

Hispanic
Heritage Month



Hispanic Heritage Essay Contest

Suddenlink and Univision invite middle and high school students to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

Write an Essay (500 words or less)

In 500 words or less, name a Hispanic or Latino, past or present, who inspires you and explain why.

Win Great Prizes

Grand Prize: \$1,500 scholarship

3 Finalists: iPads

Separate prizes for middle and high school categories.

Visit suddenlink.com/hhm for details and official rules.



You don't have to be a teacher or CCS employee to join - anyone can be a member of PIE!

Parents, community supporters, and staff in all CCS departments are encouraged to join PIE!

When you join and support PIE, designate your membership to the school of your choice to help them win cash for their operating funds.

Support your school through PIE membership for just \$15!

Learn how at cravenpartners.com!



Schools. Business. Community.

Craven County Partners in Education

For a list of PIE School Ambassadors, a Membership Form, and a link to the grants offered by PIE, visit cravenpartners.com or contact Darlene.Brown@Cravenk12.org.

Return your completed Membership form to your PIE School Ambassador or to PIE at Central Services.

How can you join PIE? There two are two ways!

One-time Payment Member (Everyone is Eligible)

And be eligible for each consecutive drawing!

- ⇒ Join by September 27 to be eligible for the \$150 drawing on September 29
- ⇒ Join by October 4 to be eligible for the \$125 drawing on October 6
- ⇒ Join by October 11 to be eligible for the \$100 drawing on October 13
- ⇒ Join by October 18 to be eligible for the \$75 drawing on October 20

Each school level (elementary, middle, high, & early college) with the highest percentage of participants will be awarded \$500 (80% participation is required to be eligible—parents and staff, help your school be eligible!).

Make a One-Time Payment for as little as \$15!

Payroll Deduction Member (CCS Employees Only)

- ⇒ Join by October 18 and be eligible for the Dr. Miller's Challenge drawing for \$500 at the end of October!

The school with the highest number of participants in the Payroll Deduction Program will be awarded \$1,000!

Minimum \$100 per year to join through Payroll Deduction.

Become a Sustaining Member for automatic renewal!

All money awarded is the personal property of the winner!

Teachers: As a member of PIE, receive one extra point on your total grant score for TRAA Art Grants, PIE Grants, International Paper Math and Science Grants, and Superintendent's ECP Grants.

And, win money for your classroom and your school!



2021-22 Grants Administered by PIE

- ⇒ *International Paper Math and Science Grants - \$250 per grant, four grants awarded per cycle. Math and/or Science focus. All grade levels, multiple grants per school allowed. Two Cycles - **Due 9/22 and 2/9, 5:00 pm.***
- ⇒ *Superintendent's Exceptional Education for Exceptional Children Grants - \$500 per grant, two grants to be awarded. All ECP teachers at all grade levels are eligible. Multiple grants per school allowed. **Due 10/20, 5:00 pm.***
- ⇒ *PIE Grants - up to \$1,500 - any subject. PIE Grants are cash awards offered by Craven County Partners In Education to encourage innovative and creative educational projects that have the potential of encouraging long-range growth in educational performance. All grade levels, multiple grants per school allowed. All PIE Grant winners win one free ticket to the PIE Luncheon! Two Cycles - **Due 10/6 & 1/12, 5:00 pm.***
- ⇒ *Aspire to Inspire Grant - up to \$500, one grant awarded - all **4th-grade** teachers are eligible - Math and/or Science focus. One grant per school allowed. **Due 10/20, 5:00 pm.***
- ⇒ *The Bate Foundation Individual School Grant - up to \$5,000, \$30,000 to be awarded - all principals are eligible - art, music, health and fitness, and athletics focus. One grant per school allowed. **Due 10/20, 5:00 pm.***
- ⇒ *Dr. Bryan Johnson STEM Grant - up to \$2,000 - all principals are eligible - STEM focus. One grant per school allowed. **Due 10/20, 5:00 pm.***
- ⇒ *International Paper Literacy Grant - \$5,000, two grants will be awarded - all principals are eligible - literacy focus. One grant per school allowed. **Due 10/20, 5:00 pm.***
- ⇒ *TRAA Art Grant - \$250, eight grants be awarded - any grade, all art teachers are eligible. Multiple grants per school allowed. **Due 10/20, 5:00 pm.***
- ⇒ *Toyota of New Bern Tech Grant - up to \$3,000, one grant will be awarded, all principals are eligible - technology for your school! One grant per school allowed. **Due 12/21 5:00 pm.***
- ⇒ *Donna & Team New Bern Music Grants (**available to ALL schools in the Craven County Schools district**) - four grants awarded at \$1,000 each, \$4,000 to be awarded. Open to all music-related classrooms and programs. All grade levels, multiple grants per school allowed. **Due 12/1, 5:00 pm.***

To apply, visit cravenpartners.com/ and visit the grant section.

Be sure you are signed into your Rapid Identity account through Craven County Schools email when you access the grants link to the shared CCS Google Drive.

As a member of PIE, receive one extra point on your total grant score for the PIE Grants and International Paper Math & Science Grants and help your school win money! Ask your PIE School Ambassador or visit <https://cravenpartners.com/> to learn how.

*If you have questions about these grants
or becoming a PIE member, contact
Darlene.Brown@cravenk12.org.*

**Thank you for supporting Partners In Education,
as we support our educators in Craven County Schools.**



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