



Chesterfield Township School District

Office of the Superintendent

Scott Heino

January 12, 2024

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR UPDATE

Welcome Back!

We welcomed staff and students back last week after a wonderful Winter Break. Students shared stories about the fun things they did while off, and I hope you took some time to see family and friends or ring in the new year with style.

Most people tend to start the new year by making a resolution. Experts recommend picking one or two attainable goals to focus on, plan well for each and hold yourself accountable. This makes it easier to reach your goal. Our own Special Services Department is using that approach after an audit recommended both smaller and larger goals to make positive changes in the department. By first focusing on the smaller goals, they will shift gears and tackle the larger goals to ensure long-term success. I am pleased to share information about their efforts along with other newsworthy topics below.



SECURITY

We continue to review security levels at Chesterfield Elementary. You may have seen Security Officer Bob or Officer Dave circulating around the building at arrival and dismissal times. They have become part of our school community. Our Threat Assessment Team has also been in place since September and helps to identify any prohibited or concerning behaviors. Your cooperation, including remaining outside the school as part of our security measures, also continues to mitigate risks and keep our school safe. Thank you!

STAFF NEWS

WELCOME to the newest members of the Chesterfield Elementary School Team:

- **Jheraldy Alvarez Medrano**-Custodian
- **Isairy Rosario de Rodriguez** – Custodian
- **Nicole Buchanan** -Interim 5th Grade
- **Rikki Hussain** -Lunch Recess Aide
- **Shivani Joshi** -Lunch Recess Aide
- **Paulina Loncosky** -Lunch Recess Aide
- **Mirella Troy** - PreK
- **Nicole Tyre** – Special Education

Starting later in the school year can sometimes be a bit challenging, but I know our team has already helped them settle in and navigate their new roles.

Inclement Weather or Emergency Notifications

Chesterfield uses the Blackboard notification system via Genesis Portal data to notify all parents/guardians and staff of an emergency situation or inclement weather closure. The loss of internet capabilities this week serves as a reminder to be sure your email and contact telephone number are up to date in the Genesis Parent Portal to receive timely notification. You can also check our [website](#) for information on closures to confirm the school's operating status.





SPECIAL SERVICES AUDIT: A PLAN FOR GROWTH

The Special Services Department is responsible for providing various support services in the district. To continue to improve the support we provide to our students, staff and families, the district contracted with an outside consultant to audit our Special Services Department.

The audit began in the spring of 2023, continued throughout the summer, and concluded in September 2023. The consultant examined all facets of the Special Services Department. This review included the individualized education plan (IEP) process, IEP goal writing, IEP assessments, and departmental procedures. The consultant also interviewed key staff members including administrators, teachers, and support personnel. Through this extensive audit, the consultant provided the district with a final report including outlining department strengths as well as those areas where we need to grow.

As a district we are currently using the audit as a guide to address identified areas needing improvement and build upon our strengths. Several growth areas have already been addressed by making simple changes, while other larger efforts will be carefully planned out to occur over time. For example, one of the changes we are making is we are returning to Annual IEP meetings rather than Anniversary IEP meetings. Annual IEP meetings allow the district to focus on one school year rather than an IEP that may span two school years. This is an important change in how we write and assess IEP goals.

Dr. Melissa Carlton, interim Supervisor of Special Services and the entire Special Services Department are recognized for their work this year by reaching shorter-term goals while setting longer-term goals to make positive changes within the department. It is not always easy work, but everyone in the Department is focused and with an eye on the future to achieve long-term success.

INSTRUCTIONAL COACH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Chesterfield Elementary has two instructional coaches on staff: Maria Martinez and Kristen McIntyre. I would like to share information about their crucial role within the school and the many benefits of having them on our team.

The Instructional Coach program aims to increase student learning by providing each educator with the support and tools to maximize their effectiveness and encourage professional growth throughout their career. Continual professional growth supports personalized learning and improves the engagement and achievement of all students. The Chesterfield professional learning community accomplishes this by conducting observations, collaborative planning sessions, and engaging in growth-focused conversations with educators. Guidance on research-based instructional practices, analyzing and using data to inform instruction, planning and delivering effective instructional design, and opportunities to enhance instructional practice are at the forefront of coaching strategies.

Effective coaching strategies are enacted through co-planning, co-teaching, modeling, and observing. The Instructional Coaches work with the administration to support professional growth, meet academic and instructional school goals, and increase student achievement. The Coaches also assist in planning and executing professional development sessions and school events such as curriculum nights, back to school nights and conferences.

Thank you, Ms. Martinez and Mrs. McIntyre, for all you do to support our teaching staff and students!

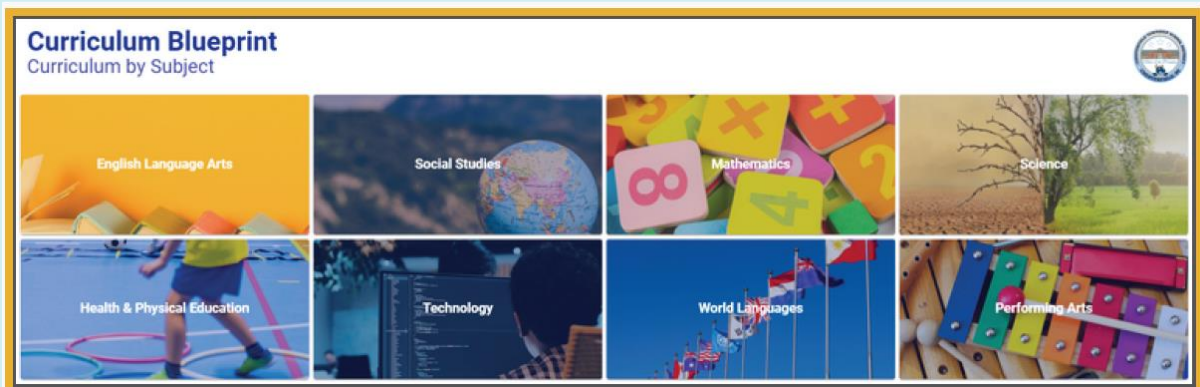
NEW! ACCESS CURRICULUM VIA *BLUEPRINT*

Chesterfield's Curriculum and Instruction department continually revises curriculum to reflect federal and state standards, keeps pace with changing technology and a changing global economy, and stays connected with Chesterfield's rich traditions.

I am pleased to share that under the direction of C&I Supervisor Ms. Jeanine May-Sivieri, the department recently launched an updated way to view the district's curriculum! The [Curriculum Blueprint](#) is a webpage housed within the Curriculum & Instruction department website that allows you to click into various subject areas and units taught by grade level.

This new way to explore subject matter for each grade level is extremely user-friendly. As the department continues to update the Curriculum Blueprint, subjects that are not available to view on the Blueprint can also be found on the [website](#).

If you have questions or experience any trouble navigating these documents, please contact Mrs. May-Sivieri at jmay@chesterfieldschool.com or by calling the department directly at (609) 298-6900, ext. 2318.



Winter Band Concert



The Winter Band Concert is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 24th at 6:00 pm.**

More detailed information to follow, but please mark your calendars. We look forward to highlighting our student musicians on this very special night!

BOARD OF EDUCATION REORGANIZATION MEETING

The Chesterfield Board of Education held its annual Reorganization meeting on January 3, 2024. A goal of the reorganization meeting is to elect BOE officers including a president and vice president. All new members are sworn in and are required to participate in trainings specific to being a board member, including ethics and governance training.

One of the first responsibilities of the newly elected Board President is finalizing Subcommittee assignments. Per [District Policy 0155](#) there are four Standing Committees: Student Services, Curriculum and Instruction, Human Resources and Finance and Operations. These subcommittee members will be appointed on or about the next Board meeting on January 17, 2024.

Board Members play a crucial role in overseeing the smooth operation of the school district. Subcommittee participation additionally offers a balanced way for Board members to provide valuable input into district programming and operations.

The following members were elected to serve in the following capacities and term lengths:



PRESIDENT
Christina Hoggan '26

VICE PRESIDENT
James Ivins '24

Mrs. Carol Cooper-Braun '25

Mr. Andrew Rochester '25

Mrs. Coby Sikorski '26

Thank you to our Board Members for their dedicated service to our school community!

THE THERAPY DOG: A PART OF THE CHESTERFIELD SCHOOL COMMUNITY

The Chesterfield Township School District offers all students the opportunity to visit with a beloved therapy service dog, Patron.

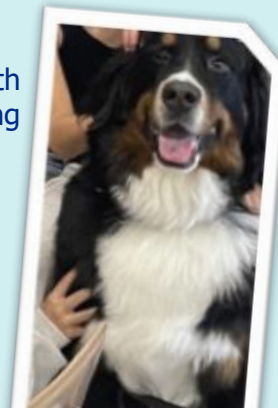
Patron and his handler, Dawn, have regularly scheduled visits throughout the month. When visiting classrooms, Patron works with students and teachers by calming students during reading, independent work, during math, or other times a classroom teacher feels students may benefit from Patron working his magic. So far this year, Patron has had the opportunity to visit most classrooms in the building. Ask your student about his visits to their rooms!

Parents were able to sign consent forms at the beginning of the school year. If you have any questions or health concerns, please reach out to the school nurse.

Be sure to look for Patron in the school's Yearbook!



Patron surrounded with love by students during class time.



WELCOME STUDENT TEACHERS!

Chesterfield Elementary continues its tradition of developing new teachers by hosting Student Teachers and pairing them with Chesterfield teacher-mentors. For the Spring 2024 Semester we welcome:

Kylie Newbon – 2 Midora

Calliane Shaw – T. Miller

Jessica Smink- 5 Prince/Casey