



SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT

SEPTEMBER 2024

We Are One: Party on the Plaza

4TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

On Saturday, August 10th, the annual "We Are One: Party on the Plaza" event brought students, families, and staff together for a festive start to the new school year. Held on the school district education plaza, the event provided an opportunity for students to pick up their schedules, meet their teachers, and enjoy a variety of fun activities. The atmosphere was filled with excitement as hundreds of students and their families enjoyed food, games, and entertainment.

A special highlight was the generous giveaway of hundreds of free school supplies, ensuring that students are well-prepared for the year ahead. We want to thank our sponsors, vendors and entire Spartan community for making this a wonderful event. SMSD Board Members were also in attendance, showing their support for the district's commitment to a strong and united start to the school year! We Are One!



Stafford College & Career Center *Update*

The 2024-2025 school year marks 13 years since the Stafford College & Career Center (SCCC) opened its doors. Thanks to visionary superintendents, school board members and the Stafford community that made it happen with the 2011 Bond, we now have a successful program that is saving families at least \$35,000 per student in college expenses. Students are able to graduate with 60 college hours and an Associate's degree. Our high school program allows our students to not only save in tuition, textbooks, and fees, but also enter college/university as a junior, giving them a 2-year advantage right out of high school. Through our partnership with HCC, our students are automatically accepted to the University of Houston for a seamless



and easy transition. SMSD is the only school district in the greater Houston area that does not charge tuition or fees to our students. We were also the first to graduate high school students with Associate's degrees in Fort Bend county. Visit our website at www.staffordmsd.org for more.

The SCCC has gone from graduating 3 Associate and 10 Workforce Graduates in 2020 to 63 Associate and 45 Workforce Graduates last May.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 2 Labor Day
- 4 SSMA Open House
- 9 School Board Meeting
- 11 Middle School Open House
- 12 Elementary & SECC Open House
- 20 Homecoming Parade and Game
- 21 Fiesta on the Plaza
- 26 Early Dismissal
- 27 Fort Bend County Fair Day

STAFFORD EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER NEWS

This year Stafford ECC is celebrating the theme “A Whole New World”. Each year Principal Hynes along with her “Mouseketeers” spend time team building and participating in rigorous professional development sessions to prepare for the baby and toddler Spartans. Stafford ECC is a Family Friendly campus and invites you to partner

with them to focus on innovative activities and initiatives. Business partners are welcome and PTO participation is highly encouraged.

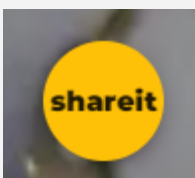


“Here at SMSD we are expanding the boundaries of discovery, with every student gaining the skills for college or career, and life. It’s our job to prepare each student to become a critical thinker and an ethical, productive citizen.” - Dr. Robert Bostic, Superintendent of Schools

SUPERINTENDENT BOSTIC’S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! On behalf of all our Super Spartan Staff and School Board we want to welcome everyone back on campus! Last school year was filled with many triumphs to celebrate and now we are here to continue building on that success. Our staff has worked diligently over the summer to make sure we had a successful first day of school and I want to thank our community who came together for this. From the Stafford Police Department to our parent volunteers to the “Dad’s on Duty” at the middle school.

This year we celebrated the 2024 SMSD Convocation with the inspiring message that drives the school year: “One Team, One Mission...Building a Better Future.” Our commitment to the “Best Little School District” in Texas only grows day by day. This school year is also an extra special one to me. It marks ten years I have been at Stafford MSD and it has been rewarding to see SMSD grow and flourish. When I first arrived our Stafford College and Career Center had just been opened with only six full time teachers and an enrollment of 14 students. Fast forward to 2024 we now have 24 full time instructors—and that’s not only at the high school but includes the middle school. We have a strong partnership with HCC that even allows our students to use their resources at both the Stafford and Missouri City campuses. SMSD is definitely the place to be! With campuses equipped to care for the smallest Staffordians at 6 months old at our Early Childhood Center, to full day pre-k 3 and pre-k 4 to the STEM Magnet Academy to our College and Career Center and our newest addition—the P-Tech Early College High School. Under the direction of Director Deborah Nordt, we welcomed our first cohort this school year. Last year SMSD received a \$150,000 grant from TEA to expand our offerings and offer an Associate’s of Applied Science degree. No wonder we have a record high number of transfer applications from neighboring districts and charter schools!



I look forward to another outstanding school year and am honored to continue working with our city, community and parents. Thank you for trusting SMSD with your children. We give our all to provide our students with a safe and successful school setting. I invite you to visit our campuses and attend the many events we have scheduled. Lastly, I want to remind you about a great communication tool we have on our website. I call it the ShareIt button. You can anonymously (or identify yourself if you’d like) submit the good, the sad or the bad. Any questions, comments, concerns, suggestions,

compliments or requests are welcome. And don’t forget to follow our SMSD Facebook page for updates on student achievements, inclement weather announcements, school closings, district events and news. Go Spartans!

We Are Flying...

STEM DRONE PROGRAM

Students at Stafford High School (SHS), Stafford Middle School (SMS), and Stafford STEM Magnet Academy (SMA) are being part of an exciting program that showcases SMSD's commitment to integrating cutting-edge technology into the curriculum. The Drone Program provides students with hands-on learning experiences that prepare them for future careers in STEM fields. Students at SHS are taking Robotics I as their second level course in their pathway. On the other hand, students at SMS are taking Unmanned Aerial Vehicle course where they will receive safety endorsements. Likewise, students at SSMA are learning drone safety and careers within drone certification.



Stafford Elementary: Building a Reading Culture

Our students are encouraged to make reading a book a daily habit because it opens up new worlds, enhances critical thinking, and improves language skills. Reading fosters imagination and cultivates empathy, making it an essential tool for personal growth and lifelong learning. We want to see students reading a book when they arrive to school and sitting to wait to be picked up by their teachers. If you want to help build our culture of reading, come by and listen to our students read at the Kathy Ratcliff Community Engagement Center!



OUR 5TH GRADE TEACHERS ROCK!



Our fifth grade teachers attended the Natural Science Museum to participate in workshops that will help their students ace in science. They walked away with free materials and other resources to help them prepare the students for a grand field trip to explore biodiversity!

2024-2025

Open Enrollment

**STEM MAGNET
ACADEMY**

STEM Magnet Academy enrollment opens
October 4, 2023

Scan QR code and Apply Today!

(281) 261-9200
ext. 3861

<https://stem.staffordmsd.org/admissions>



SHS HOMECOMING ACTIVITES

SPARTANS FOREVER

- Spirit Week on Campus for Students
- Homecoming Parade – Friday, 9/20 2:00pm, Constitution Ave.
- Homecoming Pep Rally (SHS Students Only) – Friday, 9/20 2:45pm, SHS Competition Gym
- Homecoming Game vs. Port Lavaca Calhoun – Friday, 9/20 7:00pm, Spartan Stadium
- Homecoming Dance (SHS Students and Guests Only) – Saturday, 9/21 8:00pm-11:00pm, SHS Cafeteria

STAFFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

HEART SAFE



Stafford Middle School recently received the prestigious **Heart Safe School Designation**. The designation reflects the school's efforts to equip its facilities with AEDs and provide staff training in CPR and emergency response. Thank you SMS for showing your commitment to creating a safer environment for our students and staff.

STEM ACADEMY

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The STEM Ambassador program is a wonderful initiative aimed at motivating and involving young individuals in the realms of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). This program bridges the gap between academic learning and practical career requirements. Students ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade can become STEM Ambassadors. Professionals and enthusiasts from diverse STEM fields collaborate with SMSD and benefits students in networking opportunities, motivation and enhanced learning.





Manuel Hinojosa
Board President



Ash Hamirani
Board Vice-President



Jacqueline Jean-Baptiste
Board Secretary



SMSD Board of Trustees



Joyce Wilkins
Trustee



Suzette Thompson
Trustee



Patricia Soza-Montelongo
Trustee



Adam Sanchez
Trustee

The SMSD Board of Trustees meets monthly on the second Monday in the Leonard Scarcella Administration Building. Meeting agendas, information about each agenda item and past meeting videos are linked to the district website at www.staffordmsd.org.

The Board consists of seven members elected by the City of Stafford community to serve for terms of three years each.



On Monday, August 19th, the **SMSD Board of Trustees** met at a special called board meeting at 8:30 A.M. and approved the immediate repair and payment for temporary air conditioning and permanent fixes to the aging air condition system for Stafford Elementary, STEM Magnet Academy and High School.

A huge thank you to the Board for their swift and effective action in addressing the recent air conditioning concerns! Your dedication to the well-being of our students and staff is truly appreciated.

Thank You!

Houston Elks Lodge No. 151

For your generous donation!

STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Your generous donation will enhance resources and support in the SMSD Special Education Department!

STAFFORD MSD ACHIEVES NOTABLE GAINS IN STAAR ASSESSMENTS

Stafford MSD is proud to announce a notable improvement in the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) scores for Spring 2024. Despite statewide challenges and slight decreases in state averages, our district demonstrated resilience by achieving overall growth compared to Spring 2023. What makes this achievement even more impressive is that all Stafford MSD campuses outperformed neighboring schools, securing a competitive edge within the region. As we anticipate an improved accountability rating from the Texas Education Agency (TEA), we are also expecting higher ratings than those of our neighboring

school districts. This reflects our focused efforts on personalized learning, data-driven instruction, and student-centered practices that have helped drive our success. These gains highlight not only the strength of our academic programs but also the unwavering commitment of our educators to nurture and challenge every student to reach their full potential. We celebrate this success and remain focused on our mission to continue providing high-quality education. We are excited for the future and confident that Stafford MSD will continue to shine as a leader in educational excellence.

STAFFORD CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE

Fiesta at the Plaza FUN DAY

SATURDAY
21 SEPTEMBER
10AM TO 4PM

Hispanic Heritage Alliance (H2A) in partnership with the City of Stafford and Stafford Municipal School District cordially invite you and the family to celebrate the City of Stafford's rich Hispanic Cultural!

Come play, eat, laugh, listen to music and create beautiful memories with the Familia!

Mayra Moreno
Channel 13 Anchor

Stafford Trailblazer
Recognitions

Stafford Early Childhood
Center Choir Performance

Mariachi Aguila Real

Ballet Folklorico Herencia
Mexicana de Houston

Danza Azteca Holy Ghost

Food Trucks * Vendors
Moonwalks * DJ * Art




1633 Staffordshire Rd., TX 77477

STAFFORD COMMUNITY CENTER DONATION



Thank you **Julia F Thompson, (JFT,Inc.)** for gifting the Stafford Community Center with two desktop computers, a printer/copier, toner and paper. When the Community Center opens, we will be ready to meet the needs of the members. Thank you for supporting Stafford MSD and the community. Stayed tuned for opening details!

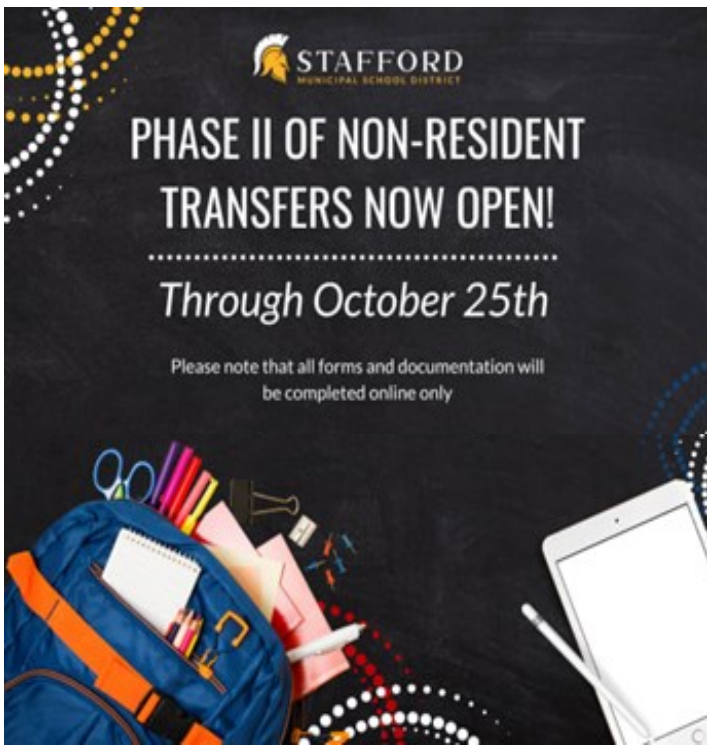


PHASE II OF NON-RESIDENT TRANSFERS NOW OPEN!

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Through October 25th

Please note that all forms and documentation will be completed online only




SMSD
Bus Cleanup



A huge **THANK YOU** to *Omar Colmenero* and his team from our local Starbucks (Missouri City) for stopping by to help clean school buses for the start of the new year!! We are delighted to have you as a part of our village.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STEM TEACHERS

2024 **NISE GRADUATES**



Xiaoju Cheng Tiffany Fondal Ivonne Gibbs

Jordan Honore Amy Norris Carolina Sievers

At the STEM Magnet Academy, eight dedicated teachers completed 15 actions over the course of a year to earn their credentials and NISE certification. The NISE certification is a respectable credential that enables teachers to become certified in STEM education. This rigorous process not only enhanced their knowledge but also brought national recognition and prestige to the teachers and the academy.

Additionally, Dr. LaKenya Perry-Allen achieved a significant milestone by obtaining a designation that will help the school receive authorization as a National STEM campus. This accomplishment is a testament to the school's commitment to advancing STEM education.



STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1633 STAFFORDSHIRE ROAD
STAFFORD, TEXAS 77477

WWW.STAFFORDMSD.ORG



FACEBOOK.COM/SMSD82