

SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT

DECEMBER 2024



SMSD CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF DR. BOSTIC'S TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Stafford Municipal School District recently celebrated a historic milestone. Dr. Robert Bostic marked 10 years of dedicated service, making him the longest-serving superintendent in the district's history. During his tenure, Dr. Bostic has spearheaded transformative initiatives that have driven academic excellence, created and expanded campus programs, and fostered a culture of innovation and student success. His visionary leadership has positioned SMSD as a destination school district in the greater Houston area.

In a heartwarming ceremony held at the district's central office, local and state elected-officials gathered to honor Dr. Bostic's decade of service. Dr. Bostic was honored with a commemorative plaque from The Stafford Historical Society, a State of Texas Proclamation and a state flag. The event highlighted his enduring commitment to students, teachers, and families, with speakers praising his relentless pursuit of educational excellence and community partnership.



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ATTEND TRIAL OBSERVATION



Our **Stafford High School** HCC Criminal Justice Dual Credit Students attended a Trial Observation at the Harris County Courthouse in November. Students were provided the opportunity to tour the facilities and witness how due process works. District Court Clerk Marilyn Burgess, Judge Raul Rodriguez, and a slew of prosecutors and defense attorneys gave them great advice and guidance on how to achieve their dreams. Students were able to observe firsthand a major criminal trial proceeding where they took their notes for their deliberations afterwards. These amazing students thoroughly enjoyed their experience and are looking forwards to visiting again soon!

STAFFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY APPRECIATION

Our teachers and staff at **Stafford Elementary** were treated to a wonderful luncheon complete with ham and turkey plus the traditional sides! Of course, the pies were a hit as well! We are very proud of our teachers who come each day with big smiles to put in the work for the students! Stafford Elementary wishes everyone in our Stafford community a very blessed holiday season!



STAFFORD
MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

HOLIDAY

on the
Plaza

SATURDAY 3:00 - 6:00 P.M. DECEMBER 14TH 2024 EDUCATIONAL PLAZA

FUN | FELLOWSHIP | FOOD

1633 STAFFORDSHIRE RD., STAFFORD, TX 77477

Bring the whole family to enjoy a festive afternoon filled with holiday cheer, games, and pre-holiday fun. Our elementary school choir will be there, setting the holiday mood with Christmas carolling, and we have some special guests in store who will bring the kids joy!

Don't miss out on this family-friendly celebration—see you there!

COME VISIT SANTA!

THANK YOU SPONSORS!
Vineyard Church
Suburban Houston-Fort Bend Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Mark Your Calendar...

DEC 9

Board Meeting

DEC 16-19

Finals Week (SMA/SMS/SHS)

DEC 20

Early Dismissal

DEC 23-JAN 3

Winter Break

JAN 6

Spring Semester Begins

JAN 13

Board Meeting

JAN 17

Early Dismissal

JAN 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday

FEB 7

Early Dismissal

FEB 10

Board Meeting

FEB 14

Early Dismissal

FEB 17

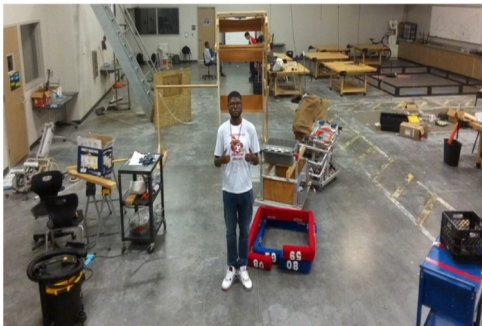
Presidents' Day Holiday



SMSD STEM IN ACTION

WE'VE GOT DRONES!

Did you know SMSD offers a competitive Drone Program and Class? Meet Brandon Cotton, the Drone Teacher and Head Coach, who is committed to enhancing the program by obtaining his FAA Part 107 certification, further enriching the curriculum with advanced drone operations and safety procedures. The program aims to expand its reach, offering more students the chance to engage with cutting-edge technology, explore career pathways, and gain a competitive edge.



NATIONAL STEM DAY REFLECTION

There were numerous exceptional highlights to commemorate on National STEM Day, such as the participation of more than 38 STEM professionals at the SMS STEM Pioneer Day. Other activities included STEAM awareness programs at SSMA and SES, along with a former NFL player engaging in STEM discussions with SMS football players.

Among these impressive STEM moments, we also had a NASA presentation. Students received a NASA unique patch and explored its significance within NASA's programs. They were then required to write a report explaining what their patch represented, with a reward offered upon completion. Three students — Lyric Gaither, Camila Echeverria, and Renee Donjuan — were rewarded for their efforts with a \$10 Chick-fil-A gift card.



LEARNING TAKES FLIGHT!

At the **Stafford Early Childhood Center** students soared to new heights as they explored the fascinating world of drones! This hands-on experience brought STEM learning to life, sparking curiosity and excitement in our youngest learners. National STEM Day was also celebrated with an inaugural white coat ceremony.



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.

THE STAFFORD COMMUNITY CENTER IS NOW OPEN!

Come visit the brand new **Stafford Community Center** at 1625 Staffordshire Road! The former district administration building has been transformed into a state-of-the-art facility.

Discover all the center offers—modern meeting rooms in various sizes available for rent, a top-notch workout room with affordable membership costs, and versatile spaces for any event. Whether you're planning a baby shower, a small wedding, a birthday party, a training

event, or any other special occasion, our flexible meeting rooms allow us to host multiple events simultaneously. Let's celebrate this exciting milestone and book with us today!

For room rental fees, membership fees, and more information email our center managers, **Adrian Herrera (Alumni)** and **Mrs. Moak (Retired SMSD teacher)** at smsdcommunitycentermanager@gmail.com or visit www.staffordmsd.org/meet-stafford/stafford-msd-community-center



MEET OUR CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Dovran Ovezov joined SMSD as the new Chief Financial Officer earlier this year. Mr. Ovezov is a seasoned professional with 15 years of experience in driving financial stewardship and operational efficiency across diverse organizations. He previously served as the CFO for North American University, where he played a pivotal role in enhancing the university's financial stability.

Mr. Ovezov's career is marked by his extensive experience in Big-4 public accounting, in real estate industry and an eight-year tenure in higher education. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree with a concentration in accounting. He is also a certified public accountant in Texas.

In his current role at Stafford Municipal School District, Mr. Ovezov is dedicated to leveraging his diverse background and financial expertise to support the district's mission.



A poster for the STEM Magnet Academy Open Enrollment. The top left corner features the "STAFFORD MSD STEM MAGNET" logo. The main text reads "STEM MAGNET ACADEMY OPEN ENROLLMENT" in large, bold letters. Below this, it says "STEM Magnet Academy enrollment opens October 1, 2024". A QR code is prominently displayed in the center, with the text "Scan QR code and Apply Today!" above it. The bottom of the poster shows a group of diverse students cheering with their arms raised in front of a chalkboard filled with math equations. The background is dark grey with various STEM-related icons like a magnifying glass, a ruler, a protractor, and a medal.



STAFFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRST FALL FESTIVAL

Students and teachers participated in the 1st **Stafford Middle School** Fall Festival and they did not allow rainy weather to ruin the fun! Students enjoyed hot cocoa and fun activities such as Tug-O-War, Pie-A-Teacher, Pumpkin Decorating, and dunk tank with "Dunk-a-Teacher!"

Special Thanks to the Yearbook Staff, Mrs. Burrell, Mr. Zepeda, and Mrs. Redmon, parent and staff volunteers for such a wonderful event!

SMSD LIBRARIES UPDATE



SMSD Libraries are dedicated to promoting literacy and fostering a lifelong love of reading by increasing book checkouts across all campuses. Here's a comparison of circulation numbers from this year (Aug-Nov 2024) vs. the entire 2023-2024 (August to May) school year:

Early Childhood Center: 771 books this year, surpassing last year's total of 726.

Stafford Elementary: A remarkable increase with 6,768 books this year, compared to 1,605 last year.

Stafford Middle School: 1,781 books checked out so far this year, compared to 8,809 last year.

Stafford High School: 2,044 books this year, nearly matching last year's 2,195.

These numbers highlight our efforts to engage students and support their reading journeys!

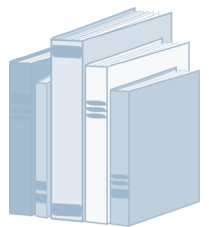


The SMSD Community Library offers a welcoming space with activities like board games, movies, coloring, and friendly connections. Join us for a fun, relaxing experience!

Public Library Hours:

Monday through Thursday, 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Link to the Library Survey: <https://tinyurl.com/3zd7n9ap>



Take Our Survey!

We're expanding our Library Programming in Spring 2025 and value your input. Help us create free and engaging activities that meet the needs of our students and community. Your feedback matters! Please scan the QR Code to the right and fill out the programming survey. Thank you for your time!



Congratulations Stafford Spartans Football!

We are proud to announce that the Stafford Spartans have advanced to the next round of playoffs! Your hard work, determination, and team spirit have brought us this far, and we couldn't be more excited to continue cheering you on.

To our players, coaches, and supporters—thank you for showing what true Spartan pride looks like on and off the field. Let's keep the momentum going as we take on the next challenge. Together, we are Spartan Strong!



**Stafford Spartans
Are Moving On**



STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1633 STAFFORDSHIRE ROAD
STAFFORD, TEXAS 77477

WWW.STAFFORDMSD.ORG



FACEBOOK.COM/MSD82

Stafford Alumni Jalen Pitre: *Walter Payton Man of the Year Nominee*

SMSD is beaming with pride as one of our very own, Jalen Pitre, a stand-out student and NFL player for the Houston Texans, has been nominated for the prestigious *Walter Payton Man of the Year Award*. This honor, presented annually by the NFL, recognizes players for their excellence on the field and their exceptional community service.

Jalen's achievements reflect his commitment to making a difference, and we are so proud of him and his incredible family, the Pitre family. Jalen, your SMSD family stands behind you as you continue to shine and serve as a role model for our students. We are grateful for the way you carry forward the values of integrity, perseverance, and community. Congratulations on this tremendous achievement!

