THE REBEL REPORT

Strom Thurmond High School

Pride
Class
Courage
Will To Win

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Falling into fun during school break

By Isabella Mora

With the first nine weeks officially wrapped up, Strom Thurmond students are looking forward to a well-earned two-week fall break. Some are planning to travel, others will be working, and many just want to relax and enjoy some time away from school.

For junior Jordyn Richter, fall means slowing down and enjoying traditions. “I’ll probably just sleep in, but I’m excited to carve pumpkins too,” she said. Senior Jayden Auguestin is also ready to unwind: “I just want to chill. Having two weeks off means I don’t have to wake up early every day.”

Not everyone is planning to rest, though. Junior Londyn Tolbert shared, “I plan to work the entire break. I’m mostly excited to make money, but it’ll still be nice to step away from school for a bit.”

Other students are excited about special outings. Junior Khole Isaacs said, “I’m going to a concert, and I hope to make it to Carowinds too. I definitely need the break from school and the chance to just have fun.” Junior Aerial Brown is also considering a trip: “I want to sleep, maybe go on a cruise. After all the work we’ve had, a break is definitely needed.”

Freshman Richard Richter is keeping things simple. “I’ll probably just stay home and catch up on sleep. I don’t miss waking up early,” he said. Sophomore Allie Wise agreed, adding, “I’m most excited to sleep in and not worry about schoolwork for a while.”

While plans vary, most students agree the break comes at just the right time. The first nine weeks brought challenges—from adjusting to new teachers and classes to handling tough subjects like Algebra II and U.S. History. Having two weeks off gives students a chance to recharge before the second quarter begins.

For those still looking for something fun to do, Sarah’s Farm Adventure is hosting Pumpkin Fest and Jack O’ Lantern Lane every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through November 16. It’s the perfect way to enjoy the season, spend time with family, and make the most of fall.

Whether traveling, working, catching up on sleep, or enjoying fall activities, one thing is certain: Strom Thurmond students are ready to make the most of their break.



Dedicated staff support faculty and students

By Chandler Gagnon and Nathaniel Gagnon



Custodians Ms. Hartley and Ms. Ryan

Dedicated staff at Strom Thurmond High School support students and teachers in their respective professions. These hardworking members of our school always try their best all year.

Ms. Shirly Hartley, known as Ms.Shirley, is one of the dedicated custodians at Strom Thurmond. Ms. Shirley has worked here for five years primarily doing clean up and trash pick up, along with the other custodians. Before coming to Strom Thurmond she worked for quite a time at other schools, a nursing home, and a clothing store.

Her favorite part of working at Strom Thurmond is talking to students and teachers like Ms. Grennor during the lunch periods. Additionally, she enjoys the flexible hours of the school schedule.

Meanwhile, in her job, she finds challenges with trash cans from lunch, bathrooms where problems occur as often as they are fixed, low pay, and sometimes being short-staffed.

Another custodian is Ms. Shantel Ryan, who has worked at Strom Thurmond for fourteen years. Ms. Ryan oversees the cleaning of halls B and C and the bathroom in C hall. She joined and has stayed a custodian at Strom Thurmond because she finds the work easy and “likes to clean”. Her favorite aspect about her day is “interacting with others”.

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Spotlight on STHS students

By Taylor Mealing and Nia Mack

Students at Storm Thurmond High School often have different ideas about their school experience and career goals.

Junior Londyn Tolbert's biggest interest is photography and art. Londyn had gained a lot of interest in photography " I'm really good with camera values and angles," Londyn said. Her school experience has included taking art classses offered at STHS.

Londyn has important goals for the future. " I want to be a cinematographer because I enjoy cameras a lot." Londyn values patience, understanding and taking her time, which can lead to better outcomes. " I shouldn't try to rush work because I can end up not focusing as hard as I should," Londyn said.

Her journey has taught her that there is no such thing as " bad art." " I feel like no art is bad in reality." Londyn is committed to improving her skills to become a successful cinematographer.

As she continues to explore her creative talents, her commitment to art and her academic achievements reflect a promising future.



Junior Londyn Tolbert

Early graduate Zariya Phillips has really never liked school and she feels "great to be an early graduate because I don't have to go to high school anymore," Zariya said.
A goal that Zariya has is she "would like to go to college and get my degree in nursing." Zariya feels she has the skills to be a nurse. She describes herself as " nice, helpful, and caring." Zariya wants to go to "Albany State to become an ultrasound technician because that is my dream job," Zariya said.

Students often want some advice coming into high school. Zariya feels it's important to " be yourself, don't follow up behind people because if you follow behind people that's only going to lead to trouble."

Though Londyn and Zariya have had different experiences in school, they each have goals and furture pland that they are determined to complete.



Senior Zariya Phillips

STHS welcomes officer Hill

By Bryanna Jackson and LaKhia Norris



Officer Archie Hill

In the fall Officer Archie Hill began serving as a school resource officer at STHS.

Officer Hill was a police chief in another town but things didn't work out. " I was contacted by the Edgefield county office saying that there was an opening at the Career Center, and I have really enjoyed being at Strom Thurmond." Officer Hill chose the law enforcement profession because he wanted to be a positive role model for youth, and to also help his community by solving crimes. He has been an officer for 30 years. If officer Hill didn't become a police officer then he would have joined the military.

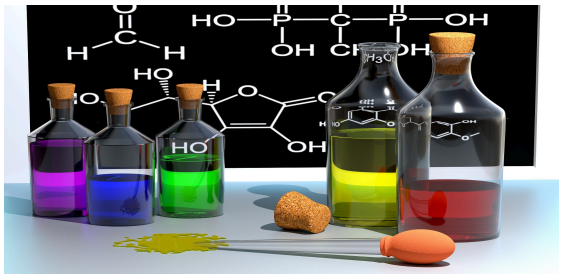
One of Officer Hill's biggest goals as a School Resource Officer is leaving that positive mark for all the students who leave her. "If you want to be a police officer, I say give it a try because we need minorities, not just males but also females. Officer Hill advises students to listen, show respect to adults and don't be a follower; be a leader.

Being a police officer can be challenging. "With everything going on in the world, with all the officers not being the same, I face those challenges because of other officer's mistakes. It falls on all the officers," Officer Hill said. The most eye opening experience that Officer Hill has had this year is with all the violence in the world that's going on right now.

As this year continues at STHS, Officer Hill continues to be a vital part of keeping the STHS safe.

AP classes challenge students to dig deeper

By Rayterious Richardson and Kevin Palma



At Strom Thurmond High school are several Advanced Placement course choices students can select to better prepare for college. Two of those courses are AP Chemistry and AP Macroeconomics.

Amy Hardy has taught AP Chem for seven years. The qualifications for teaching this class are having a good background in chemistry through college coursework and attending an AP Chemistry Summer Institute to learn about the program. The hardest part of teaching this class is the pacing. “I have nine units that need to be taught, ideally before Spring Break. Our exam is at the beginning of May. So we only have about two weeks after Spring Break to review for the exam.” She also feels rushed when preparing for class.

To take the course students need to make a B or higher in Honors Chemistry and be enrolled in PreCal or another higher level math class.

Mrs. Hardy believes that the most important quality an AP student should have is “The willingness to work outside of class. Students never understand how important it is to do work on their own without it being assigned by me. This is a college course, and students need to study on their own.”

As a college class, AP Chemistry goes over the same material as an entry level chemistry course in college. The most difficult aspect of the class for students is the material; it’s brand new, never heard of material to the students. They actually begin to understand how chemistry and math work hand-in-hand so they need math to back up the theory.

Due to the difficult material, the final exam is one of the top two hardest AP exams. The STHS exam pass rate is 17.7% compared to the state’s 60.75% and the global’s 61.38%. In the end, the class is worth it for students because they “will be prepared for college coursework in chemistry on any level. Even if students do not pass the exam, exposure to the material makes future coursework much easier,” Ms. Hardy said.

Mr. Bundy has been teaching AP Macroeconomics for two years. Mr. Bundy feels “the biggest challenge in teaching an AP class is that it’s considered a college level class, so you have to change how you approach the class.” He went on to say that he had to change his approach in teaching the class to use more of a lecture style than what he normally does in his other classes.

Mr. Bundy believes that, “the most important quality a student can have to be successful in AP Macroeconomics is being able to interpret information and questions being asked in a way that you’re able to understand exactly what it is that they’re trying to find out from you in your answers.”

Macroeconomics primarily focuses on national and global level economics so students would learn issues like the gross domestic product, unemployment, physical policy, monetary policy, credit loans, and more.

Taking Macro Economics gives students a more in depth understanding of the overall economy, not just the United States but of the world itself, as opposed to the basic economics. Macroeconomics goes more in depth and it's the type of material students see at the college level.

For the AP Exam, Mr. Bundy claimed it would be “tricky” and said the questions are written in a way that “if you don’t catch on to key phrases or key words it could throw you off. You also have to be very focused on graphing because there’s a lot of graphing involved in the questions and that could throw you off as well.”

Mr. Bundy says he thinks the most difficult aspect of Macroeconomics for the students is paying attention to the details, for instance, when it comes to graphing they emphasize that everything has to be correctly labeled and if a student doesn’t follow through with that, they can lose points very easily.

Overall, AP courses challenge students beyond average high school coursework. Students have to be willing to commit to the rigor of the courses or they will be left behind. AP students get out of AP courses what they put into them.



Bump, set, spike! STHS volleyball heats up

By Ivey Coleman and Trinity Brown

The 2025 volleyball team at Strom Thurmond High school led by players like Kaleigh Gibson and Kilnley French is focused on teamwork and dedication. These two players embody what it means to work hard.They have earned their spot on the team and are ready to leave it all on the court.

Kaleigh started her journey with volleyball in middle school and she has been content playing ever since. At STHS Coach Webb provides motivation. She encourages the team by giving them advice about what they are doing right or wrong while pushing them harder to keep going. Kaleigh's favorite position in volleyball is outside hitter.

As far as losses go, Kaleigh explained that when her team doesn't win, she reminds herself that they "tried their best," and to her that is what truly matters. Kailey's favorite pre-game meal is usually ¨pretty much anything we bring,¨Kaleigh said .



Kaleigh Gibson



Kinley French

Another player, junior Kinley French began playing in 7th grade. She feels the most important skills for success in volleyball are hard work and good sportsmanship on the court.

Kinley manages her performance by taking a deep breath and reminding herself that it is just a game.

Her advice would be to ¨always try your best no matter what . ¨ Looking back on her time in the sport, her favorite volleyball memory was ¨winning an away game and enjoying the bus ride home, and singing with her teammates,¨ Kinley said.



Coach Heather Webb

Coach Webb is the head coach for volleyball. This season was her 13th year coaching volleyball. She has coached at Butler High School in Charlotte, NC, Dreher High School in Columbia, SC, and this is her third year coaching at Strom Thurmond High School.

Coach Webb's coaching style is very adaptive. She has had to grow and evolve as more is put on the line with changes occurring every year. She cannot be the same coach that she was when she started in 2013.¨Now that doesn't mean that my standards and expectations have to change, but I have to change the way I approach things," Coach Webb said.

Coach Webb motivates her players in different ways.¨I have to be aware of who is in front of me and our team as a whole." As individuals, she can discuss topics with each of them differently. "Losing a game is hard. How do you handle it? It all depends on how each player responds to it. I have to have a one-on-one. If I can be blunt, if I need to have a whole team discussion, I just say it's okay y'all did good and move forward and to me in my eyes we won."

Every player is different, and it's important to Coach Webb that she knows her players in order to hold them accountable.

The Strom Thurmond High school volleyball team, led by Coach Webb, demonstrates the importance of hard work, dedication, and shows what it means to lead a strong team.

The dedication of Kalieigh Gibson, Kinley French and their teammates combined with coach Webb's evolving coaching style, creates great sportsmanship where players can learn, grow and strive for success. STHS has a strong foundation for their future achievements, and builds on hard work and most of all team spirit.

Volleyball Game Schedule

August 12	Scrimmage vs Mid-Carolina	JV 5:30 / V 7:00
August 19	Scrimmage @ Brookland Cayce	JV 5:30/V 7:00
August 21	Scrimmage @ Silver Bluff (VAR)*	V 6:00
August 26	@ Mid Carolina	JV 5:30 / V 7:00
August 28	@ Clinton	JV 5:30 / V 7:00
September 3	@ Emerald	JV 5:00 / V 6:30
September 4	vs Clinton	JV 5:30 / V 7:00
September 9	vs Emerald	JV 5:00 / V 6:30
September 10	@ Swansea	JV 5:30 / V 7:00
September 16	vs Batesburg-Leesville	JV 5:30 / V 7:00
September 18	@ American Leadership*	JV DH 5:30 / 7:00
September 23	vs Pelion	JV 5:30 / V 7:00
September 24	@ Abbeville (VAR)	V 6:30
September 25	@ Saluda	JV 5:30 / V 7:00
September 30	@ Ninety-Six	JV 5:30 / V 7:00
October 2	@ Batesburg-Leesville	JV 5:30 / V 7:00
October 7	vs Abbeville (VAR)	V 6:00
October 9	@ Pelion	JV 5:30 / V 7:00
October 14	vs Saluda	JV 5:30 / V 7:00
October 16	vs Ninety-Six	JV 5:30 / V 7:00
October 22	Playoffs begin	

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Ms. Ryan finds no significant difficulty working as a custodian at Strom Thurmond having been here for 15 years. She does agree that the bathrooms get messed up sometimes and that the pay could be more.

There are many different staff here at STHS that help support the school life of both students and teachers such as child nutrition staff that dedicate hours of work to provide meals.

One child nutrition staff member is Nalyn Herrin who has worked in child nutrition for twenty years, three as the Manager at the Strom Thurmond High School lunch room. As a manager in the STHS lunch room, Mrs.Herrin's responsibilities are supervising personnel, handling market orders, scheduling, and various other managerial duties.

What got Mrs. Herrin interested in being a child nutrition staff is having a job with the same schedule as her children's school. What kept Mrs.Herrin in the child nutrition industry and at STHS is getting to see the smiling faces of the students and staff. Mrs.Herrin's favorite part about being in child nutrition is that every day is different and filled with new challenges, it keeps her going.

One of the most difficult parts about Mrs.Herrin's job is the unfortunate misconception that child nutrition staff are mean and don't actually like students, but even on the tough days, they cherish every moment of it, no matter how limited the interaction.

One of the things about Mrs.Herrin's job as a child nutrition staff that she can't control is what is allowed to be served at lunch in contrast to what people would think; it is all set by state regulation.

One thing Mrs.Herrin would like to bring to our attention is that if one person likes the lunch there are five others who have a different opinion so the child nutrition staff try to explore fun and delicious but healthy options.



The child nutrition staff at STHS would gladly accept feedback on lunch as long as it is conveyed respectfully.They try to balance everyone's taste and opinions in making the food to make students' 20 minutes at lunch worth while.

Another important child nutrition staff member at STHS is Ruth Chrisco. Mrs.Chrisco has been working at STHS for fourteen years.Mrs. Chrisco's job is the lunch room assistant manager.

Mrs.Chrisco also got interested in child nutrition because of her kids, but instead of finding a job with the same hours as her children's school she looked for a job that could keep her busy while her kids were in school.

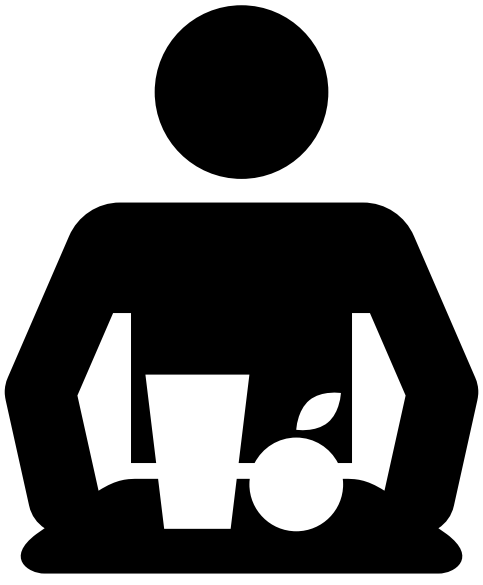
What kept Mrs.Chrisco at STHS is the fact she loves what she does Mrs.Chrisco's favorite thing about being a child nutrition staff is feeding the kids, especially on days when students really like what the lunch room is serving.

The most difficult part of Mrs.Chrisco's job is not being able to provide more food to students than what is required by the state. Mrs.Chrisco can't imagine anything that could make her days at STHS better because she already enjoys every day.

Mrs.Chrisco likes to interact with the students and teachers and ask them about their day. And it may be a surprise how some of the students open up to her when she just asks them how their day is going.

The busiest time of the year for the lunch room is Christmas and Thanksgiving, but the lunch room staff just has to plan ahead.

Without the dedicated staff at STHS, the school would have trouble getting through each day.



Announcements







