

The ABCs of SCPPS

A QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM ST. CHARLES PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ISSUE #1 | 2026



ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, & THE ARTS

ACADEMICS:

National Recognition Highlights Strong Academics

St. Charles Parish Public Schools recently gained national recognition in the February 2026 edition of *Business View Magazine* for its innovative approach to preparing students for success in Louisiana's River Region. The feature, titled "Building the Workforce of Tomorrow in Louisiana's Energy Corridor," highlighted the district's integration of strong academics, student well-being, and career pathways that align with regional workforce needs.

The district emphasizes a "whole child" approach, combining high-quality instruction with social-emotional learning, mental health supports, and safe, welcoming campuses. Early literacy performance remains a top priority, with SCPPS recognized statewide for its achievements and plans underway to expand universal Pre-K offerings.

Career and technical education programs connect students directly to in-demand industries, including energy, manufacturing, logistics, technology, and biomedical sciences. Partnerships with local employers and higher education institutions allow students to experience real-world applications of classroom learning, from STEM integration to hands-on training at the Satellite Center.

Superintendent Dr. Ken Oertling explains, "Our purpose is to provide every student with opportunities to become lifelong learners and positive contributors to our local economy and community." By blending rigorous academics with industry-aligned experiences, SCPPS ensures students are prepared for both college and career, while cultivating the skills and mindset needed for long-term success.

ST. CHARLES PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BUILDING THE WORKFORCE OF TOMORROW IN LOUISIANA'S ENERGY CORRIDOR

Learn more about SCPPS' national recognition in *Business View Magazine*: [Read the full article.](#)

AT A GLANCE
ST. CHARLES PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHAT: A public school district that prepares students for success by combining rigorous academics with social-emotional learning and career pathways.

FACTORING IN COMMUNITY
PARTICIPATION, INNOVATION

In Louisiana's River Region—where global industry, logistics, and energy infrastructure shape day-to-day life—St. Charles Parish Public Schools is treating education as both a community mission and an economic strategy. District leadership

TRIPLE



ACADEMICS • ATHLETICS • ARTS



ATHLETICS:

SCPPS Launches Inaugural Girls' Flag Football

St. Charles Parish Public Schools is officially expanding its athletic horizons this spring. Through a partnership with the New Orleans Saints and the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA), the district has launched its first-ever girls' flag football program, introducing one of the nation's fastest-growing high school sports to the parish.

When surveys were sent out in January, more than 100 students at each school expressed interest in vying for a spot on the inaugural rosters. Following weeks of intensive preparation, official league play started on March 16.

This initiative aligns with a broader national movement, supported by the NFL, to increase female participation in competitive athletics. Duane Foret, SCPPS Athletic Director, views the program as a vital investment in the district's future.



"The addition of girls' flag football underscores our commitment to providing inclusive and diverse opportunities for all students."

DUANE FORET
SCPPS Athletic Director

"Supported by the NFL, this initiative positions our district to align with national trends in secondary athletics," said Foret. "It ensures more students have access to valuable team experiences that promote development and well-being."

Looking forward, the district aims to build on this momentum. Foret indicated that the long-term vision includes developing a premier competitive program and exploring the potential expansion of flag football to the middle school level.



ARTS:

18 Years of Creativity: ArtsFest 2026

St. Charles Parish Public Schools continues to provide dynamic arts opportunities for every student through programs like the Lafon Arts Center’s Artsperiences, which offers students the opportunity to attend a free, curriculum-connected performing arts experience during the school day. This year, more than 7,000 students engaged directly with artists from around the world, gaining hands-on experiences that complement classroom learning.

ArtsFest, the district’s 18th annual celebration of student creativity held on March 14, highlighted student participation and engagement while inviting the community to explore hands-on stations, demonstrations, and student-led activities in theatre, dance, music, and visual arts.



Attendees experienced activities ranging from sculpture and digital media to piano and percussion, culminating in a collaborative performance by Broadway star Mandy Gonzalez with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and SCPPS middle school students.

ArtsFest featured visual arts exhibits alongside performing arts, giving attendees a full view of student creativity across disciplines. One highlight this year was “The Colors That Run Through Us,” a tapestry celebrating America’s 250th anniversary with contributions from art students of all levels. This installation, symbolizing a continuous history, intergenerational connection, and the shared spirit of the community, is one of several exhibits displayed throughout the Lafon Arts Center.



The ArtsFest gallery remains open to the public Wednesday–Friday from 12 noon to 4 PM through April 10, offering ongoing opportunities to experience student creativity.



ST. CHARLES PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MILLAGE RENEWALS

THESE ARE NOT NEW TAXES - THEY ARE RENEWALS THAT KEEP OUR SCHOOLS STRONG BY FUNDING:

- TEACHER SALARIES
- 1:1 STUDENT TECHNOLOGY
- UNIVERSAL PK4
- ON-SITE MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING
- MODERNIZED FACILITIES
- SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS
- ADVANCED SECURITY TECHNOLOGY
- CAMPUS MAINTENANCE
- 150+ COLLEGE CREDITS & INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS



Taxpayers saved **\$58.8M** in 2020-2025 from SCPPS millage reductions.



Proposition 1: **4.18 Mills Lower** than Current Authorized Tax Rate

What's On Your Ballot?



Operations & Maintenance



Construction & Improvements

VOTE

SATURDAY, MAY 16
7:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.



WEARESCPPS.ORG/RENEWALS

SCPPS Millage Renewals on May 16th Ballot

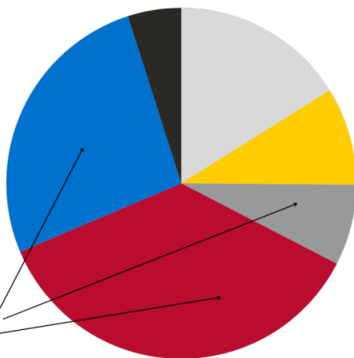
On May 16, St. Charles Parish voters will have the opportunity to vote on two school system millage renewals. The two SCPPS millages are not new taxes, just renewals of existing taxes already paid by St. Charles Parish property owners, with one of the renewals proposed at a rate lower than the current authorized rate.

The funding provided by these two millages makes up 36% of the school system's annual budget and is a critical component of the district's success, helping fund necessities like teacher salaries, special resources and programs, safety and security tools, state-of-the-art technology, and facility improvements.

Renewing these millages is essential to sustaining the high-quality education St. Charles Parish students know and deserve.

Superintendent Dr. Ken Oertling emphasized the importance of millage funding, saying, "Renewing these vital millages maintains the progress we've made as a district and allows us to continue to deliver exceptional educational opportunities, keep our classrooms equipped with modern technology, ensure facilities are safe and up-to-date, provide our teachers with competitive pay, and support every student in reaching their full potential."

Without millage funding, the district could face significant challenges in meeting ongoing operational and instructional needs. St. Charles Parish residents are encouraged to head to the polls on May 16 to make their voices heard. For more information about the upcoming election and ballot details, visit www.wearescpps.org/renewals.



- Sales Tax Revenue 26.44%
- Ad Valorem Tax Revenue (Renewable) 36.05%
- Ad Valorem Tax Revenue (Permanent) 7.44%
- Federal Funding 9.01%
- State Funding 16.12%
- Other Revenue 4.9%



The St. Charles Parish School Board approved the renaming of the East Bank Head Start Center in Destrehan to M. M. Bethune Early Learning Center.



Board Approves Renaming of Early Learning Center

THE ST. CHARLES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD APPROVED THE RENAMING OF THE EAST BANK HEAD START CENTER IN DESTREHAN TO M. M. BETHUNE EARLY LEARNING CENTER AT ITS FEBRUARY 25TH MEETING.

The renaming follows a review process led by a district task force, which examined the rationale and feasibility of the change before making a recommendation to the superintendent. After reviewing the findings, the superintendent presented a formal recommendation to the board. The decision supports a goal of aligning the naming of the district’s early childhood facilities.

The newly named center honors Mary McLeod Bethune, a nationally recognized educator and civil rights advocate who dedicated her life to expanding educational opportunities for African American students. She founded a school for African American girls in Florida that later became Bethune-Cookman University and served as

an advisor to U.S. presidents on education and civil rights. Her name also holds local significance. Mary M. Bethune High School in Norco, which opened in 1952, served African American students until 1969, when schools were integrated and high school students began attending Destrehan High School.

This connection to the district’s history also aligns with its other early childhood campus, G.W. Carver Early Learning Center. With this renaming, both sites share a consistent designation as early learning centers, each honoring former schools within the parish that closed as result of integration.



Listening, Learning, and Improving Together



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK DURING THE **STAKEHOLDER SURVEY**

OPEN APRIL 13-24

TO HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF
ST. CHARLES PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS.



Beginning April 13, you can access the survey through the QR code or by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/r/26SCPPS_ParentSurvey.

In St. Charles Parish Public Schools, continuous improvement begins with listening to our employees, students, and families. A key way we do this is through our annual Upbeat Engagement Survey and Stakeholder Survey, which provide meaningful insight into the experiences of those we serve each day.

The Upbeat Engagement Survey, administered to all employees each fall and again in the spring, measures how supported, valued, and connected our staff feel in their roles. Research shows that when employees are engaged, they are more effective and better able to support student success. Using these results, school and district leaders develop targeted action plans to strengthen workplace culture, support employees, and enhance teaching and learning.

Equally important is the feedback we receive from students and families through the Stakeholder Survey. This survey gathers input on key areas such as school safety, communication, academic expectations, and interactions between teachers, students, and families. It also provides opportunities for open-ended feedback, allowing families to share what is working well and where improvements can be made.

Results from both surveys are used at the school and district levels to guide continuous improvement efforts. These tools provide real data to guide decisions, target resources effectively, and address the needs of every student and family we serve.

The Stakeholder Survey will be open for families from April 13-24, and your participation is essential. Feedback collected during this window directly informs school and district decisions that affect students every day. Taking a few minutes to share your perspective ensures that your voice is part of the improvements shaping the school year and beyond.



DR. KEN OERTLING
Superintendent





Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at Hahnville High School Triple A Alumni Center

SCPPS Celebrates Grand Opening of Triple A Alumni Centers

ST. CHARLES PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS CELEBRATED THE GRAND OPENINGS OF THE NEW TRIPLE A ALUMNI CENTERS AT DESTREHAN AND HAHNVILLE HIGH SCHOOLS WITH RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONIES HELD ON MARCH 4 AND MARCH 13, 2026.

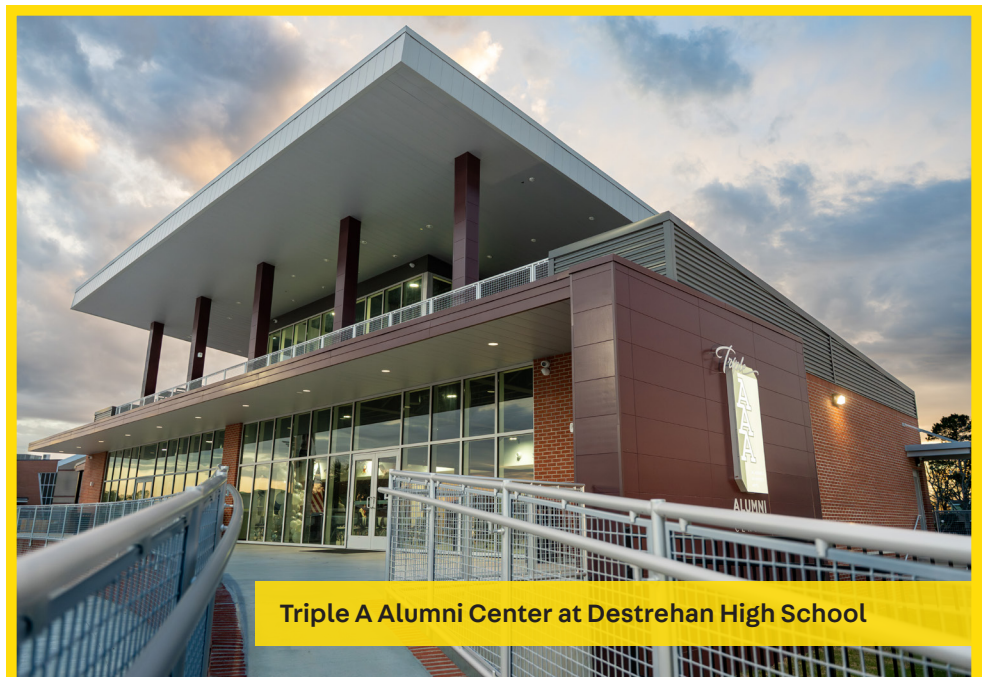
The new facilities honor the district’s longstanding history while creating modern spaces that support students and strengthen connections with alumni.

The name “Triple A” represents the district’s three pillars of excellence: Academics, Athletics, and the Arts. Each center serves as a welcoming hub for students, alumni, and community members to gather, recognize achievements, and preserve the legacy of their schools.



“These centers represent more than just new buildings. The Triple A Alumni Center is a physical testament to what we value most. Whether you walked the halls decades ago or are a student today, this space is a tribute to our shared journey and an investment in people, legacy, and the future of our schools.”

DR. KEN OERTLING
Superintendent



Triple A Alumni Center at Destrehan High School



DEVELOPMENTS & DIRECTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

SCPPS Celebrates Grand Opening of Triple A Alumni Centers

Each Triple A Alumni Center features historical timeline walls, interactive kiosks with digitized collections, and displays of donated memorabilia. The spaces were intentionally designed to preserve the legacies of Mary M. Bethune High School and George W. Carver High School, recognizing their foundational roles in the community and the students they shaped. Community members can explore the same digitized collections of yearbooks and historical records available on the onsite kiosks remotely at:

- ▶ [Triple A Alumni Center Kiosk at Destrehan High School](#)
- ▶ [Triple A Alumni Center Kiosk at Hahnville High School](#)



Triple A Alumni Center at Hahnville High School



Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at Destrehan High School Triple A Alumni Center



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SCPPS Celebrates Grand Opening of Triple A Alumni Centers

In addition to preserving history, the centers will serve as active campus spaces for academic ceremonies, testing, athletic signings, arts celebrations, alumni gatherings, and student recognition events. With the opening of the Triple A Alumni Centers, SCPPS continues its commitment to celebrating tradition while creating spaces that support student success and community pride.





Alumni Associations Begin Formal Organization Process



Newly elected officers for the Alumni Association of Bethune-Destrehan High School and the Alumni Association of Carver-Hahnville High School recently came together for a joint kickoff meeting to begin formalizing both groups.

The meeting marked the start of a coordinated effort to establish each association as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Leadership teams are currently focused on key initial steps, including filing Articles of Incorporation, developing bylaws, and creating a plan to guide future growth and engagement.

As the associations take shape, the focus remains on strengthening connections among alumni while creating opportunities to support current students.

Additional information on how to join and get involved will be shared as the formal process progresses.