

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

## A Brief Recap of the Board Meeting & News from Savannah Chatham County Public Schools



Video highlights from the August 11 Board Meeting from Public Information Manager Sheila Blanco. Click [here](#) to watch.



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### SCHOOL BOARD

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### State Teacher of the Year Recognized

The District's 2021-22 Teacher of the Year, Hesse K8's Cherie Dennis, was announced this past weekend as the new State Teacher of the Year and will move forward as Georgia's representative in the National Teacher of the Year program. Ms. Dennis was recognized by members of the Board during the Regular meeting.



### Return to Learn Navigation Plan

At the Informal Board Meeting, the Board received a report from Academic Affairs detailing teaching and learning models over the past school year as well as the enrichment programs the district put into place over the summer to help mitigate learning loss and prepare students to return to the classroom in the 2021-22 SY. Staff also apprised Board members of strategies being used to assist students academically, socially, and emotionally as they return to school this year.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C5CR5G673106>

## **Superintendent's District Operational Update**

An Operational Update was provided during the Superintendent's Report to the Board to detail accomplishments and planning by staff as they prepared to welcome our students back into the classroom five days a week for in-person instruction. The Forward to School Expo and Media Roundup were cited as ways the District worked to get return to learn information out to our families and the public. The district exceeded first day expected enrollment by more than 150 students. Current priorities include maximizing transportation routing for priorities 1, 2 and 3, alleviating traffic hotspots in some areas during arrivals and dismissals, and contact tracing for COVID Case management.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C5CQXW6718B6>

## **PTSA Awards**

National PTA School of Excellence is a recognition program that supports and celebrates partnerships between local PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students. Marshpoint Elementary PTA, Hesse K8 PTA and Coastal Middle School PTA have all been named a 2021 PTA School of Excellence. Two of our school PTAs have been recognized as Model PTAs for 2021. The Model PTA is Georgia PTA's premiere family engagement program and is designed to encourage and direct the local PTA to provide tools and define an effective process for family engagement. Congratulations to Hesse K8 PTA and New Hampstead High School PTSA for receiving this honor!

See the complete Good News Report here:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C5CQXT6718B3>

## **New K-8 Bell Times Ratified**

The Board approved the ratification of the modified Bell Time Schedule for K8 schools implemented for the 2021-2022 school year to maximize resource efficiency within the District's Pupil Transportation program.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C5CR9Q67DDC9>

## **ESPLOST UPDATES**

Facilities staff presented an update to Board Members on ESPLOST III projects currently underway. Those include:

**Jenkins High** – A Temporary Certificate of Occupancy for new building was received and the school opened on time for return of staff and students. Punch list activities, installation of furniture and equipment, and cleaning are ongoing. Construction of remaining parking lots and playing fields continues.

**New Hampstead K-8** – Construction is expected to be completed this fall and the school ready for staff and students after the winter break. In progress: Exterior windows/ storefront Terrazzo, restroom tile, site work, irrigation, BDA addressing noncompliance issues, VCT install, install of metal panels.

**Beach Auditorium** – The Certificate of Occupancy has been received and the punch list is being completed.

**Savannah High Stadium** - In progress: site work- concrete, sidewalks, parking lot, site utilities, track and field install, fencing, interior finishes.

## **ESPLOST UPDATES (continued)**

**Woodville Tompkins Gym and Auditorium** - In progress: Architectural, mechanical, electrical, punch list preformed, TCO on phase I issued on 7/20/2021, demo of items in existing gym, overhead HVAC, plumbing, electrical phase II.

See the complete report here:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/sccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C5CR4P67194F>

### **SCCPSS Teams Up with Coastal Care Partners To Offer Vaccine Clinic For SCPSS Students 12 years and older**

The CDC recommends everyone 12 years and older receive a COVID-19 vaccination to help protect against COVID-19. Widespread vaccination is a critical tool to help stop the pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated can resume activities that they did prior to the pandemic. Children 12 years and older can get the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine at a VACCINATION CLINIC, SATURDAY, AUGUST 21<sup>ST</sup> at Hesse K8 School from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Registration is required for this venue. No walk ups! Parents will receive an email to register their child for the vaccine. Find more details here.

<https://spwww.sccps.com/Pages/Vaccination-Clinic-To-Be-Held-Saturday,-August-21-for-SCCPSS-Students-12-and-older.aspx>

## **GOOD NEWS FROM SCPSS!**

### **Hubert Middle Students Earn Silver Medals at the 2021 FCCLA National Leadership Conference**

sccps.com, July 12

Not even a global pandemic can stop Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) members from making a difference in their families, careers, and communities. Although this past school year looked a bit different, Hubert Middle School FCCLA member's perseverance, tenacity, and resilience shined through as students nationwide participated in **Student Taking Action with Recognition (STAR)** Event projects.

<https://spwww.sccps.com/Pages/Hubert-Middle-Students-Earn-Silver-Medals-at-the-2021-FCCLA-National-Leadership-Conference.aspx>

### **SCCPSS Accepted into GaDOE Economic Development Partnership SY 2021-22 Cohort**

sccps.com, July 15

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) recently accepted the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System into the 2021-2022 Economic Development Partnership (EDP) Designation program. The EDP is a district wide certification process that prepares school districts to adopt best practices and behaviors that support economic development, strengthen their programs, and align education with key regional industries. In terms of Economic Development, the EDP elevates the capability of school systems to fill their role in the community business recruitment and expansion efforts and as a catalyst for talent development in the community.

<https://spwww.sccps.com/Pages/SCCPSS-Accepted-into-GaDOE-Economic-Development-Partnership-SY-2021-22-Cohort.aspx>

### **STEM Academy Student Graduates from Space Camp**

sccpss.com, July 14

STEM Academy student Noah Feinberg recently attended Space Camp at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, home of Space Camp®, Space Camp® Robotics™, Aviation Challenge® and U.S. Cyber Camp®. The Rocket Center is a Smithsonian Affiliate and NASA Marshall Space Flight Center's Official Visitor Center.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/STEM-Academy-Student-Graduates-from-Space-Camp.aspx>

### **SCCPSS announces open house schedule for upcoming school year**

WTOC, July 14

All Savannah-Chatham County Schools will hold an open house just before the new school year starts. Teachers and school leaders will be able to answer parent's questions on everything from uniforms to COVID-19 protocols and more.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2021/07/14/sccpss-announces-open-house-schedule-upcoming-school-year/>

### **Savannah-Chatham parents must answer ridership survey as transportation concerns bubble at meeting**

Savannah Morning News, July 14

"We have the buses. We have the money. We just need the drivers," said Joe Buck, board president at the board's informal meeting on Wednesday morning.

<https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/2021/07/14/savannah-chatham-aggressively-recruiting-bus-drivers-fill-shortage/7894466002/>

### **STEM Students Win Third in National Stock Market Game**

sccpss.com, July 14

Three STEM Academy at Bartlett students won third place in the middle school division of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)'s national Stock Market Game (SMG). Students Gianluca Carimando, Brayden Peterson, Khushi Patel, Jayda Riley, and Martha Atena achieved the recognition. Dr. Jimmie Cave, STEM principal, says, "I'm incredibly proud of what these students have been able to accomplish. Their high placement in the National Stock Market Game speaks to their ability to translate the skills learned in FBLA to real world application. "

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/STEM-Students-Win-Third-in-National-Stock-Market-Game.aspx>

### **Early College Rising Senior Recognized for Summer Internship**

sccpss.com, July 29

In celebration of National Intern Day, Goodwill Southeast Georgia proudly celebrated the incredible achievements of their summer interns. Corey Straughter, Jr., rising senior at Savannah Early College High School, completed his summer internship through the Bank of America Student Leaders® program.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/Early-College-Rising-Senior-Recognized-for-Summer-Internship.aspx>

### **Savannah-Chatham County Public School System hosts job fair for bus drivers**

WJCL, July 13

"Anyone who applies today, they can expect to receive a call from us no later than the end of the week to set up an interview," said Tammy Perkins, lead director of transportation for Savannah-Chatham County Public School System. "We'll interview those candidates, successful candidates can look forward to going through our hiring process and in our training program hopefully within a couple of weeks."

<https://www.wjcl.com/article/savannah-chatham-county-public-school-system-hosts-job-fair-for-bus-drivers/37014371>

### **SCCPSS Human Resources Department Recognized with State and National Awards**

sccpss.com, July 14

The Human Resources department of the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System was recently recognized by the Georgia Association of School Personnel Administrators (GASPA) with a number of awards. The team has been awarded a platinum award in strategic partnerships, a gold award in recruitment and best in class for the district's employee handbook at the organization's spring conference.

<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/SCCPSS-Human-Resources-Department-Recognized-with-State-and-National-Awards.aspx>

### **15 Savannah-Chatham County schools join GRE4T Initiative toward personalized learning**

WSAV, July 15

The Georgia Department of Education is welcoming 53 schools to the second year of the GRE4T Initiative: Georgia's Pathway to Personalized Learning. Fifteen of those are part of the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS), including two that are pilot schools from the first year of the initiative.

<https://www.wsav.com/now/15-savannah-chatham-county-schools-join-gre4t-initiative-toward-personalized-learning/>

### **Phlebotomist training for Beach High students**

WTOC, July 22

Beach High students are taking their skills from the classroom to the clinic as they get ready to start a brand-new school year. It is hands on training as a phlebotomist. Drawing blood from their classmates.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2021/07/22/phlebotomist-training-beach-high-students/>

### **J.C. Lewis Health Donates Masks to SCCPSS**

Sccpss.com, August 13

J.C. Lewis Primary Health Care Center has partnered with the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System for National Health Center Week! They recently donated 2500 youth masks and 500 adult masks to the district. Dr. Rena Douse, Chief Executive Officer of J.C. Lewis, said, "We just wanted to do something help during this time of need. Some children don't have masks or they may need a replacement."

Click [here](#) for photos.

**'Both excited and nervous': Savannah-Chatham students, parents prepare for first day of school**

Savannah Morning News, August 3

A student's first day of kindergarten; other students' first day at a new middle school and a new high school — all are being met with the usual jitters and excitement.

<https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/2021/08/03/new-schools-new-rules-students-parents-savannah-ga-chatham-county-georgia-sccpss/5452346001/>

**Students, staff excited by opportunities available in new Jenkins High**

WTOC, August 5

“Walking into the building was honestly super surreal because I was here, I was here my freshman year and some of my sophomore year at the old building and there I could do a lot of things, but here the opportunities are endless,” Jenkins High senior Dan Ha said.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2021/08/05/students-staff-excited-by-opportunities-available-new-jenkins-high/>

**PHOTO GALLERIES FROM THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

Enjoy these photos of our scholars on the first day of school! A bunch of cuties!

Savannah Morning News

<https://www.savannahnow.com/picture-gallery/news/2021/08/04/savannah-chatham-county-public-schools-students-back-classroom/5484994001/>

WSAV

<https://www.wsav.com/back-to-school/photo-gallery-first-day-of-school/>

SCCPSS.com

<https://sccpss.smugmug.com/Forward-to-School-First-Day-2021-August-4-2021/>

Facebook

<https://fb.watch/7d49o8qKpL/>

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**BOARD AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, August 26, 2021 – 8:00 AM

Whitney Administrative Complex - Building G

2 Laura Avenue

**BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Informal Meeting at 11:00; Regular Meeting at 2:00

Whitney Administrative Complex - Building G

2 Laura Avenue