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DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP

Dr. Asia R. Jones, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Clark Bowers, Director of Student Services
John Lody, Director of Diagnostic and Prevention Services
Dr. Patricia D. Nelson, Director of Special Education
Donna M. Smith, Director of Special Education Procedural Support
Sarah Kish, Assistant Director of Special Education Procedural Support
Beth Robinson, Assistant Director of Special Education Specialized Instruction

LCPS Links

https://www.facebook.com/LCPSofficial/timeline/
https://twitter.com/LCPSOfficial
https://vimeo.com/lcpstv

Committed to “EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD” and to ensuring a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment for all students.
SCHOOLS & STAFF CELEBRATE AUTISM ACCEPTANCE DAY

A bulletin board at Sully Elementary School!

Department of Student Services Staff wear red for Autism Acceptance!
Hello Wonderful Educators,

On behalf of the Beta Eta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, I would like to thank you for applying for our teacher grant. We received eighteen innovative, creative, student-centered proposals. As fellow educators, we appreciate the time and effort that went into writing these grant proposals. The selection process was challenging and after much deliberation, we were able to decide upon the four grant recipients.

We truly wish we could have funded every proposal. You are an amazing group of educators, and we are thankful for all you do for your students. The following is a summary of the grants that will be funded.

**We Plant, We Grow** $500.00  
K-5 Special Education Students  
Belmont Station Elementary School  
Kristie Taylor

"This project will allow the students in the ID and Autism programs to participate in hands-on learning by planting vegetables, flowers and herbs in three raised planter boxes...the planter boxes will be built as an Eagle Scout Project...this will be an ongoing project and once the planters are built, they will be used throughout the years... While they are growing the students will be reading and writing about what they are observing.... Since social skills are a big need for our students, we will have them working with peers from the general education setting to help them practice their social and communication skills."

**KEVA Brain Builders** $488.60  
EDGE students, SEARCH students  
Pinebrook Elementary School  
Erin Wilhelm

"This project will provide all students in grades 3-5 and all EDGE students (2-5) to create 3 dimensional shapes from 2 dimensional pictures...focus on 3 of the 5 Thinking Skills (perceiving, connecting, creating) ...students must work collaboratively and build upon prior skills. The lessons are designed to foster excitement for learning and discovering by stimulating critical and creative thinking through problem solving and open-ended situations. After a few unusual years, the need to learn to work collaboratively is even more apparent than before"

**Health Matters Exercise Program** $435.00  
Returning students with disabilities ages 18-22 in Project SEARCH  
Program is open to applicants from all LCPS high schools/program based at Riverside High School  
Amy Caccamo

"Project SEARCH (PS) has a singular goal of placement in competitive, paid employment for our LCPS students with developmental disabilities. Our students typically need to increase their strength and stamina to perform well in their internships. PS curriculum puts a heavy emphasis on health and wellness. The students will benefit from this project in a myriad of ways. They will build strength and stamina and fine and gross motor skills to increase their skill sets and marketability for employment. They will be better prepared to master tasks required at the Lansdowne Resort internships."

**Games for the Gifted** $500.00  
All K-5 students in gifted education  
Sterling Elementary School  
Jennifer Daniel

“These games will get my gifted students thinking and work their brain power! Many of my students are not native speakers, so these hands-on games are essential in having the student show me their thinking without having to speak a word of English. It will allow them to take risks and soar - without a language barrier. I will be using these games for small group enrichment (EDGE), specifically with those students would need an extra push to unlock their genius within.”
INCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGY SPOTLIGHT

A recent update to Read&Write for Google Chrome has brought with it a new, highly requested feature! The Talk&Type button is a shortcut to activating the Voice Typing feature of Google Docs. Prior to this update, this feature only worked in the Speaker Notes section of a Google Slides presentation. Users needed to turn on the Enable Dictation feature in the Accessibility settings of Chrome to dictate directly into a slide. Now, users can use the Talk&Type button in Read&Write for Google Chrome when using Google Slides to use speech to text, essentially cutting down on navigation and providing a consistent experience between applications. This new feature provides learners with yet another option for how to compose text to show what they know! Watch this short tutorial titled Read&Write in Google Slides Speech to Text Update to see how it works.
The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association nationally recognizes the month of May as Better Hearing and Speech Month. The profession of school-based speech language pathologists, audiologists, and teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing represent a community of professionals who dedicate their lives to helping children and students in need and providing support in schools across Loudoun County. These professionals are crucial to each school’s special education team and are invaluable support resources for school and classroom teachers and parents. Speech language pathologists, audiologists, and teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing have a lasting impact on future generations by both providing exemplary services to our schools and developing interventions to support the individual needs of Loudoun County Public School students across all levels of education.
Rock Ridge High School's Community and Schools Together (CAST) program won the Loudoun Cares 2022 Outstanding Volunteer Award for Community & Civic Organization. We are so excited their volunteer service and heart for the community has been recognized. Thank you for continuing to serve and care for our students and community.

*From Catherine Moran, Career Transition Teacher...*

At the beginning of this school year, we committed as a CAST team, to volunteer once a week at Mobile Hope. As a workplace readiness and independent living skills focused program, we want to also provide opportunities to give back to our community and connect in ways that safely stretch our comfort zone, build communication skills, develop empathy/compassion, service/connection to community, build confidence and courage. We gained those things and so much more. We've made friends, learned to use Virginia Regional Treat (VRT) (developing patience...), laughed, and grown in connection with each other. Good stuff.
UNIFIED MENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

Spotlight on Harmony Middle School

According to Special Program Counselor, Christy A. Pierson, Harmony has held a Mental Health Week for the last several years. This year, during the week of April 4-8, Harmony’s United mental health team (UMHT) held a Wellness Week focusing on overall health and wellness. Some highlights from the week included:

**Daily Lessons during Advisory that were created by our team through Nearpod:**
- Review and Do Monday - A review of the upcoming week and students completed a Health Assessment
- Tech Tuesday – Becoming Tech-Intentional
- You’re Worth it Wednesday – Focusing on Self-Compassion
- Thriving Thursday – Social Connectedness
- Physical Friday – Connecting physical health to mental well being

**Students were welcomed each morning by a musical group and music was played over the intercom during class changes.**

**Our social worker designed a t-shirt and we secured two sponsors allowing us to give away approximately 280 shirts to students.**

**We held a Penny Wars during the week and raised $1,644.45 for the Ryan Bartel Foundation.**

Although it was a lot of work, we got positive feedback from students and staff. Our UMHT is awesome!!
Additional Photos from Harmony’s Mental Health Week!
Links to Student Services Newsletters/Sites
In case you missed it...

- Career & Transition Services: [November 2021](#); [October 2021](#); [Winter 2022](#); [Spring 2022](#)
- Dyslexia Awareness [Site](#)
- Parent Resource Services (PRS)
- LCPS Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **May 2022**: Educator Appreciation Month
- **June 15, 2022**: Last Day of School (Students)
- **June 20, 2022**: Juneteenth Holiday

4th QUARTER is HERE!
You’re in the home stretch!
For ALL you do, we appreciate you!