



PHOTO BY KEVIN BLACKBURN

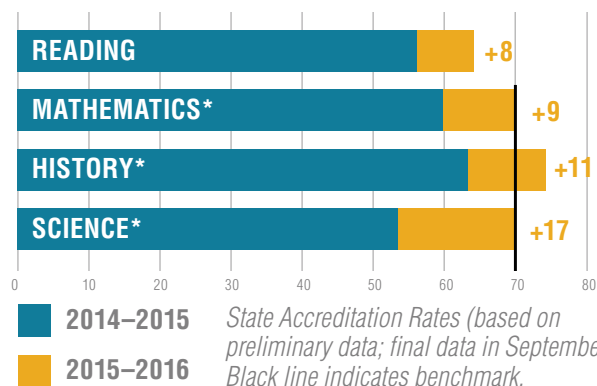
Bessie Weller Elementary School hasn't been without its challenges over the last year. However, a spirit of resiliency, optimism and the will to succeed are strong and vibrant in the halls of this elementary school.

Teachers worked together throughout the year to deepen curriculum and assessments, and students enjoyed expanded positive acknowledgements for academics and behavior such as Bessie t-shirts, wristbands and prizes.

The results are evident in the end-of-year test scores from the most recent school year. The data showed significant improvement in student achievement in all four tested subject areas—reading, mathematics, history and science—with Bessie students meeting or exceeding state benchmarks in three of the four categories.

The news was met with cheers from students, parents, and teachers. Families have become more involved in various school activities, and afterschool programs were expanded thanks to further involvement from community volunteers.

“I am so proud of the staff and students of Bessie Weller,” said Dori Walk, principal. “By focusing on learning all year, they have shown that Bessie Weller students can achieve at high levels. We made great gains and are well on the road to achieving even more next year!”



INVESTING IN OUR HIGH SCHOOL

While the School Board continues to advocate for a new high school, school administrators are doing their best to keep the current facility fully functional for students and staff.

Over the summer, the school's operations team made many repairs and improvements to make the environment at Robert E. Lee High School as inviting and operative as possible in the new school year.

While these are dollars well spent, the School Board believes that the best investment of dollars will be in the construction of a new high school, not in a short-term fix to the current facility. The School Board will continue to seek opportunities to provide a 21st-century learning environment for students, while maintaining the current facility.

More than \$220,000 were spent on repairs and improvements at the school this summer, including:



ROOF REPAIRS
\$146,000

NEW CHILLER
\$43,000

GYM FLOOR
\$19,000

OUTDOOR LIGHTING
\$3,500

TINTING OF
GYM WINDOWS
\$3,100

AIR DUCT COVERS
IN THE GYM
\$2,100

CAFETERIA LIGHTING
\$860

In addition to these significant projects the operations team completed an additional 145 work orders at the high school between June 1 and Aug. 6, 2016, totaling approximately \$2,800.

**raise
your
voice**

It's now up to City Council to provide funding for the construction of a new high school, which is estimated to cost \$75 million. **We encourage you to contact City Council to advocate for a school that meets the needs of our students**, and keep in touch with the School Board to share your thoughts.

 Learn more at www.staunton.k12.va.us.

GRADUATION SNAPSHOT COLLEGE BOUND

R.E. Lee graduates will attend the following colleges this fall:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Arizona State University | New River Community College |
| Ashworth | Radford |
| Blue Ridge Community College | Richard Bland |
| Bridgewater College | University of Colorado Boulder |
| Clemson University | University of Virginia |
| Eckerd College | University of Mary Washington |
| Emory and Henry | UVA at Wise |
| George Mason University | Virginia Commonwealth University |
| Hollins University | Virginia Tech |
| James Madison | Virginia Union |
| Kennesaw State University | West Georgia Tech |
| Lynchburg College | William and Mary |
| NC State | |

Congrats to the class of 2016!

DIPLOMAS GIVEN
180

HONORS

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

24

CUM LAUDE

35

TOP 2%

- MAHEK MEHTA
- EMMA DIDUCH
- MICHAEL LATERZA
- TRINITY BYERLY

SCHOLARSHIP
DOLLARS AWARDED

\$1,137,654

CARING FOR STUDENTS

Grant funding helps Staunton instructors co-teach

The instructional model of co-teaching, or using two teachers in the classroom, is becoming one of the most frequently used teaching methods in Virginia.

Here in Staunton, several local teachers are using the co-teaching model and blazing a trail for others across the state to do the same, thanks to \$15,000 in grant funding through the Virginia Department of Education (VADOE).

R.E. Lee High School teachers Roseanne Wykes and David Marino have participated in the grant since its inception, and their classroom has become a demonstration site where other co-teaching teams from across the Commonwealth come to see the instructional model firsthand. Today, their work, which includes videos and lesson plans, is showcased online as a resource for other teachers.

This past spring, two more co-teaching teams from Staunton City Schools were selected through a highly competitive application process to participate in this initiative. Ron Herr and David Woolston of R.E. Lee High School will participate as an Algebra 1 team and Maggie Huffer and Stephen Peters of Bessie Weller Elementary School will participate as an elementary math team.

Through their participation in this grant, these teams will provide both high-quality instruction to students and statewide leadership and expertise in highly effective teaching strategies. Staunton City Schools is proud to have these three teams' efforts and expertise recognized by the Commonwealth.



PHOTO BY JOEL MASON-GAINES

Lee students contribute research to national Holocaust Memorial Museum

Students at R.E. Lee High School have participated in a unique experience to be citizen historians for a national museum over the past two school years.

As members of a pilot group for a new United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) initiative now titled *"History Unfolded: U.S. Newspapers and the Holocaust"* students were able to engage with history in a new fashion while contributing research to a national institution. The outcomes of their research and that of other students and citizen historians nationwide will help the Museum and scholars answer the question, "What did Americans know about the events of the Holocaust as they were unfolding?"

Jennifer Goss, a history teacher at R.E. Lee High School, helped to bring this opportunity to students. She's also a member of the USHMM Regional Education Corps and a Teacher Fellow for the museum, where she facilitates educational programs for educators nationwide and explores new classroom applications.

Utilizing the research methods of professional historians, Lee students have contributed more than a dozen articles to the project, and more will be added during the 2016-17 school year. The information they collected has been entered in a national database via the official *History Unfolded* site.

To learn more, visit newspapers.ushmm.org.

NUTRITION MATTERS

Students win video contest promoting a healthy breakfast



Staff and students at Bessie Weller won \$1,000 for their school with a video they created called "Breakfast Fills Your Brain, Just Watch!"

The students combined joy, food, fun, and creativity and took their technology and editing skills to new heights as they participated in the Lights, Camera, Breakfast! Video contest sponsored by the Kellogg Company.

Centered around the 2016 School Breakfast Nutrition theme of Wake Up to Breakfast, the students created, edited and set to music a video showing classes all across the school receiving and enjoying their universal breakfast.

Since breakfast food preparation begins long before the students arrive, even the cafeteria workers learned videography skills to videotape each other during their early morning work and the School Nutrition Supervisor, Amanda Warren wrote the lyrics to the video's song.

Mary Heishman, technology teacher at Bessie Weller said, "I was able to teach the students to use "iMovie" on their iPads to record small segments around the school to be merged into the final, one-minute video."

Congrats to all involved!



PHOTO BY DAVID FRITZ

A student uses a computer donated through the Computers for Education program at Ste. Bernadette School in the city of Anse-a-Galets on the island of La Gonave, Haiti.

CARING FOR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY

Refurbished laptops donated to students and families

Because reliable access to technology is an essential way to further a child's education, the school division's technology department has been refurbishing and distributing laptops to families in need locally and abroad.

Locally, 600 students received laptops, while nearly two dozen were donated to the Computers for Education project, which provides refurbished computers to students abroad.

The organization reconditions the computers, installs a Linux operating system and open-source educational software and then gifts them to Virginia groups working with schools in third-world countries, said David

Fritz, who facilitates the delivery of the laptops to students abroad.

"They've become essential educational tools in technology starved schools elsewhere," Fritz said. "A number of computers have ended up in Haiti through such local partner organizations, including Fishersville's Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church, Mary Baldwin College, Staunton's St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church and Harrisonburg's Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. Other computers from the group have supplied schools as far away as Liberia and Paraguay. These machines will go to good use and a place where they'll be most appreciated."

CARING FOR STAFF

"First Fridays" for planning, collaboration

Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, Staunton City Schools began an early release for students on the "First Friday" of most school months in response to requests from teachers for more unencumbered planning time.

The primary purpose of this schedule change was to offer teachers the opportunity to team up, beyond the short amount of time built into the school day, and develop collaborative expertise. Teaching staff meet with other teachers within the same grade, department, and/or subject area to:

- Discuss upcoming units, and plan lessons together
- Create assessments to measure student learning
- Examine student work and recent assessments to determine next steps
- Discuss and integrate best teaching practices that impact students

The time also allows for staff across the division to come together and plan and exchange ideas and best practices.

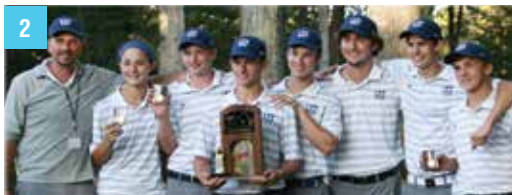
"First Fridays has provided intentional planning for our team to work collaboratively on our ultimate goal of student success," said Lauren Shifflett, an elementary school teacher. "This uninterrupted time was extremely helpful when it came to planning for our students. The time allows our team to cohesively examine student data and plan forward to meet their individual needs."

SCS HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016



1

1. Lyon Oravitz wins two state championship titles: Congratulations to Lyon Oravitz, winner of the state championship in the 400-meter dash and the 200-meter dash! Pictured (l to r): Coach Whitney Vaughan, Lyon Oravitz & Coach David Marino



2

2. Golf team wins championship: Congratulations to the R.E. Lee High School golf team, who brought home the state championship last school year! Pictured: (l to r) Coach Corbett, Jesse Bartley, Thomas Otteni, Jordan Plogger, Madison Davis, Gunner Cook, Austin Rehfield, Banner Robson



3

3. Athletes signed for college: Five R.E. Lee High School seniors announced their plans to play college football on signing day earlier this year: (l to r) Colby Boxler, Zach Simmons, Casey Taylor, Tavian Brown and Mikal Dobbins. We wish them much success in this next chapter!



4

4. Little Mermaid production a family affair: Last spring, R.E. Lee High School's drama department's put on a musical presentation of Disney's, *The Little Mermaid*, which turned out to be quite the family production. The cast and crew had an astounding number of sibling groups and family connections, including 19 sets of siblings, one family of five, one mother and son, and one grandmother and grandson.



5

5. Staunton students win writing contest: During the annual Writer's Ear contest, hosted by the Staunton Music Festival, students from Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County shared written pieces that they created based on inspiration from musical selections. We congratulate the following SCS Writer's Ear winners: (*Pictured)

- First Prize:** Reagan Anderson*, WE, grade 5; Jonathan Heishman*, BWE, grade 5; Aurora Schwaner*, ME, grade 5.
- Second Prize:** Trinity Nolette*, ME, grade 5; Ky'Nasia White*, BWE, grade 5.
- Honorable Mention:** Corwin Harman, WE, Grade 3; Richard "Jamie" King, BWE, Grade 5.



6

6. Shelburne Ukulele Crew performs at state conference: Shelburne's very own Ukulele Crew had the pleasure of representing Staunton City Schools last year at the Virginia School Board Association Conference in Williamsburg. The "Uke Crew" performed several popular songs for school board members from around the state at the Student Achievement Fair section of the conference. Members of the "Uke Crew" (pictured l to r) are Grace Daughtrey, Alice Cormier, Laura Craft, Reese Goodson, Sarah Becker, Nellie Garrison, and Grace Melvin.

SCS literacy program wins national award

Thanks to its years-long efforts to improve its literacy program, Staunton City Schools was nationally recognized by *District Administration* as a "District of Distinction." The school division redesigned its literacy program with direct involvement with reading consultants and the establishment of a 2½-hour daily literacy block for reading instruction, group reading, writing and word study. The school division began to apply changes in the program in grades K-2 in 2011 with full implementation of the K-5 program in 2013-14.





WE: Ware Elementary / BWE: Bessie Weller Elementary / ME: McSwain Elementary

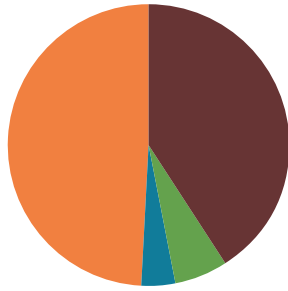


FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT




PROJECTED FY17

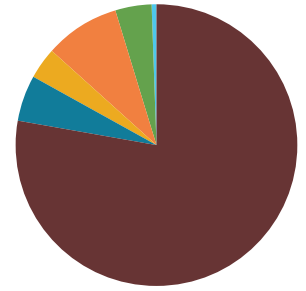
REVENUES

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|------------|
|  | CITY OF STAUNTON | 41% |
|  | FEDERAL GOV | 6% |
|  | GENERAL REVENUES | 4% |
|  | COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA | 49% |



EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------|
|  | INSTRUCTION | 74.6% |
|  | ADMIN, ATTEND, HEALTH | 7.8% |
|  | PUPIL TRANSPORTATION | 3.5% |
|  | OPERATIONS & MAINT | 8.9% |
|  | TECHNOLOGY | 4.6% |
|  | OTHER FUNDS TRANSFER | 0.5% |



CARING REQUIRES DAILY ACTION

A Message from the Staunton City School Board and Superintendent

As you read the feature stories about our children and staff in this publication, you might have noticed a theme interwoven throughout. That theme, A Year of Caring, served as a guide for the 2015-16 school year.

Themes are often feel-good messages you find in a presentation or performance, but far too often, they fail to become daily action. Here in Staunton City Schools, we do our best to ensure it translates into actionable work.

Our willingness to invest in caring for each other and to express care for our neighbors has guided our work for many years, and especially in the last year. We provided a universal breakfast program for our students; made improvements and repairs to our high school; prioritized the allocation of resources for competitive staff compensation; used our resources to help students in need locally and abroad; and created opportunities for our students both within and beyond our school walls, to name a few.

Acts of caring and kindness, too many to innumerate, were demonstrated in Staunton City Schools all throughout the year.

In the 2016-17 school year, we'll continue to demonstrate this caring in the choices we make. Choices to make instruction paramount. Choices to ensure that children have access to the technology and resources that provide them with a top-notch education. Choices to increasingly create an environment in which our staff feels empowered to generate new ideas and be well compensated for their work.

We hope you'll recognize the benefits and positive results of these choices in our community this school year.



Ron Ramsey
Chair
Staunton City School Board



Dr. Linda Reviea
Superintendent
Staunton City Schools



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Staunton, VA 24401

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Dr. Linda Revieva, Division Superintendent

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Shelburne Middle School

Mrs. Jennifer Morris, Principal
300 Grubert Avenue
(540) 332-3930

Bessie Weller Elementary School

Mrs. Dori Walk, Principal & Exec. Dir.
600 Greenville Avenue
(540) 332-3940

T. C. McSwain Elementary School

Ms. Kim Crocker, Principal
1101 N. Coalter Street
(540) 332-3936

A. R. Ware Elementary School

Dr. Sharon Barker, Principal
330 Grubert Avenue
(540) 332-3938

Dixon Educational Center

Dr. Jelisa Coltrane Wolfe, Executive Director
1751 Shutterlee Mill Rd.
(540) 332-3934

STAY IN THE KNOW

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 facebook.com/stauntoncityschools

 SCS-TV, Channel 13

 www.staunton.k12.va.us

SCHOOL BOARD GOALS

Staunton City Schools is committed to:

INSTRUCTION

Providing a rigorous course of study for all students and to ensuring that all students read on grade level and become mathematical problem solvers.

SAFE AND SECURE SCHOOLS

Providing a safe and secure environment for all students, staff, and visitors.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Increasing the diversity of the workforce to better reflect student population and the community at large.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Communicating effectively with stakeholders and values their input.

OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Committed to providing a functional and operational instructional work environment.

BUDGET

Committed to providing and allocating resources to sustain a high-quality educational system.