

SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT • 82 MONROVIA AVE. • SMYRNA, DE 19977

#### **DISTRICT DIRECTORY**



**FALL ISSUE** 

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#### Mr. Steven Gott, Principal Mrs. Amy Mumley, Associate Principal Nurse's Office **659-6280**

653-8585	SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL Mrs. Stephanie Smeltzer, Principal	653-8584
ndent	Mrs. Whitney Irwin, Associate Principal Dr. Christine Seitz, Associate Principal	
ce	Mr. Erik Wilson, Associate Principal Guidance Office	653-8308
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	Mrs. Stacey Cook, Principal	000 0001
653-8587	Mr. John Camponelli, Associate Principa Mr. Leon Clarke, Associate Principal	al
653-3147	Mr. Clarence Davis, Associate Principal Dean of Discipline	
653-8589	Mrs. Dainelle Hampton-Morton, Associa Guidance Office Nurse's Office	653-3133 653-3137
653-3145	CHILD NUTRITION OFFICE	653-3134
653-8588	Mrs. Kristen Kahl, Supervisor	
	MAINTENANCE OFFICE	653-3132
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653-2808	SPECIAL SERVICES OFFICE Dr. Rachael Rudinoff, Director	653-3135
	Dr. Marcia Mayhew, Supervisor of Spec	-
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659-6297	SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOL	
650 6280	CLIMATE & SAFETY	653-4330

CLIMATE & SAFETY Mrs. Jessica Weller, Supervisor

#### smyrna district teacher of the year & sunnyside teacher of the year Mrs. Lauren Mohamed



Congratulations to Mrs. Lauren Mohamed as Smyrna School District Teacher of the Year as well as Sunnyside Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Mohamed has worked for the Smyrna School District since 2017 and always demonstrates excellent professionalism, creativity, and initiative. Mrs. Mohamed is always very creative in whatever she does and loves connecting with her students through music. She creates engaging lessons for her students, and plans and prepares both third and fourth grade choir and grade level performances for our school and district. She also plays a key role in planning school wide assemblies with her team and is not shy to add her originality to make each experience fun!

## From the Superintendent's Desk...

Responsibility Second Comparison of the second seco On behalf of our Smyrna School District Board of Education President Vetra Evans-Gunter, Vice-President Kristi Lloyd, and members Chris Malec, Pastor Scot McClymont and Dr. Charlie Wilson, as well as all of our employees and students, we are all excited to welcome our community back to school on Wednesday, September 8, 2021.

The 2021/22 school year will be an exciting journey for all of us as approximately 92% of our students return to in-person instruction in our eight schools, while 8% have chosen to remain virtual. Additionally, parents/ guardians of roughly 360 students have requested "wraparound" beforeand after-school care through the Smyrna School District in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Smyrna-Clayton. We are busy making all of the necessary preparations as we anticipate a full return to all of our schools.

We are also planning for a celebration of our return to our schools this year by hosting an outdoor district "Fall Festival" at Smyrna High School on Saturday, October 16th.

While we will release details as we get closer to the date, we will be hosting a variety of live musicians, including local band Party Fowl and local singer Jovon Newman, as well as national recording artists, Jesse Ruben and The Wind & the Wave, who have performed at Firefly. Additionally, we will be offering a variety of outdoor activities and celebrations, as well as food trucks, throughout the day. Please save October 16th (with a rain date of October 17th) on your calendars!

At the time of this letter, our Summer Learning Academies are wrapping up, as many students have enjoyed the opportunity to build a learning bridge to 2021/22. Our students have spent up to 16 hours a week working individually and in small groups with their teachers, paraprofessionals, interventionists, and specialists. Activities have included core content instruction, breakfast and lunch, physical education, and even community event days on Thursdays as our partners, such as Citizens Hose Company, have provided demonstrations for our students. Our custodians and maintenance crews have been busy in all of our eight schools, ensuring that they are ready for our students and teachers. Our technology, child nutrition, transportation, and school climate/safety teams have also been working long days to ensure that our entire district is ready to open the school year. Finally, our instructional and special services teams have been working with our staff to provide the latest instructional strategies and interventions in 2021/22. A special note of gratitude to all of our staff who have diligently and tirelessly worked not only this summer, but for the past 16+ months to educate our students.

We also welcome a variety of new staff to our schools. A few administrators, teachers and support staff have moved from one school to another, and a few new faces have joined our team. It is always exciting to welcome new folks to the district, and we look forward to adding their expertise in each school and department.

On the sports field our football, unified football, soccer, field hockey, volleyball, cross country, and cheerleading teams are all busy at practice, preparing for another competitive season. We are so proud of our coaches and our student-athletes who daily exhibit our core values, whether they are in the classroom or on the fields. Please come on out to support them and cheer for them as they compete this year.

Finally, as we all know, COVID-19 is something that will likely be with us for the foreseeable future. As Governor Carney and the Delaware Division of Public Health have repeatedly advised at the writing of this letter, all eligible Delawareans 12 years and older are strongly encouraged to become fully vaccinated against COVID by the start of school. All unvaccinated individuals are strongly urged to wear face coverings while inside our schools. Any deviation from this guidance puts our in-person instructional model at risk, and we all have simply endured too much and worked too hard to allow that to happen. For the sake of all our 6,000 students who long to remain in our classrooms for all of 2021/22, please consider getting fully vaccinated and/or wearing a face covering.

As we all gear up for the start of what promises to be yet another exciting school year in the Smyrna School District, I wish to thank our community, our staff, and our families for their commitment to our students. Welcome back to the start of another exciting school year!

> **Dr. Patrik Williams District Superintendent**



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# A Year of Promise

As with the opening of every school year, the upcoming year promises to bring excitement, wonderful learning opportunities, and a variety of new experiences. The summer has been busy for our administrators, administrative assistants, teachers and custodial staff as we have been planning for the upcoming school year. Over the past several weeks, we have been diligently preparing for our student's first day of school on Wednesday, September 8. We look forward to working with everyone throughout the school year. Over the course of the year, please visit our website often so you don't miss out on important information and the great things going on at Sunnyside. In the mail, you will receive a letter from your child's teacher

with lots of great information to acquaint you and your child(ren) with their new classroom and teacher. Parental support and participation is a key factor in accomplishing our goals. Please take an active role in your child's education. As we gear up for another Sunnyside school year, we will work together as we are "Building the Future - Every Child, Every Classroom, Every Day!" We are so excited to see all of our students and their families for another great school year! If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at 302-653-2808. You may also view current school information on our school website at https://www.smyrna.k12.de.us/Domain/15. We look forward to a great school year. Enjoy the remainder of your summer!



Mrs. Balcerak Mrs Balcerak encourages students to dream big.



**Library Books Travel** Students have full access to books during the 2020 - 2021 school year.



**Rock your Socks!** Students and teachers show off their fancy feet.



The Future is Bright! We are proud of all our students for the hard work they put in each day.



What do you want to be when you grow up? Students dream about a future career



**Drive By Day for Fourth** Graders





















#### DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION



### Welcome to Kent Robinson, Transportation Supervisor

Smyrna School District Transportation would like to welcome Mr. Kent Robinson as the Transportation Supervisor. Kent Robinson is a lifelong resident of Smyrna. He is a Smyrna School District Graduate (Class of 1997) and a Graduate of Delaware State University (2003). Kent has served our District as a Smyrna Middle School teacher, Wrestling Coach, Baseball Coach, Athletic Director and most recently as a Smyrna Middle School Associate Principal. He resides in Smyrna with his wife and two children. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Kent Robinson to our Transportation team!

### Happy Retirement to Sharon Almondo

Smyrna School District Transportation is sad to announce the retirement of Ms. Sharon Almondo in December 2021, after 15 years of service with the Smyrna School District. Before working for Smyrna School District, Ms. Almondo had previously worked at Red Clay School District, Christina School District and DART. She has served our District well with a total of 45 years of experience in Transportation. She is well loved and will be missed. Sharon is looking forward to traveling and spending more time with her family and friends. Please join us in wishing Ms. Sharon Almondo all the best in her retirement.



#### SEPT. 2021 FALL ISSUE

## Welcome Back from Mrs. Moyer and Mr. Daws!

Welcome back CES students and families! We are looking forward to an amazing year with enriched learning opportunities and unforgettable memories. Soon students will be welcomed into their classrooms to meet their teacher, and we are very excited to see each one. We are also eager and excited to work with all of our families. As you know, communication is key and we value your partnership with us. The home/school connection is vital in the success of your child. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at any time.

Mrs. Heather Moyer Principal, CES Heather.moyer@smyrna.k12.de.us 302-653-8587 Mr. Michael Daws Associate Principal, CES Michael.daws@smyrna.k12.de.us 302-653-8587

## New Staff Profile: Megan Dempsey-Byler



My name is Megan Dempsey-Byler, and I am excited to call Clayton Elementary my new home! I have been teaching for eight years with experience in grades first through fifth. I have had a passion for teaching since I was young. I enjoy working with students both inside and outside of the classroom. In my free time,

I volunteer with local 4-H and FFA members to help them prepare their livestock projects for the Delaware State Fair. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in Special Education from the University of Delaware and a Master's Degree in Teacher Leadership from Walden University. I believe every student can succeed, and I help the students in my class do so through hands-on learning experiences!



#### Honoring Mrs. Lauren Kassner Teacher of the Year

Clayton Elementary School is pleased to have Mrs. Lauren Kassner represent them as their Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Kassner is a third grade teacher and has been working at Clayton Elementary School for 17 years. She has served as department chair, SEA representative, Science Lead Teacher, and Social Studies Lead Teacher. In addition to her many job duties at school, Mrs. Kassner stays extremely busy with her children, all of whom attend Smyrna School District. CES is very proud to have Mrs. Kassner as their Teacher of the Year.

## New Staff Profile: Jackie Harris



Hello! My name is Jackie Harris and I am so excited to introduce myself as a new teacher at Clayton Elementary School. This will be my fifth year in education, but my first year as an elementary teacher. I look forward to making the transition from preschool to elementary school this school year. My philosophy of teaching is that relationships come first. My favorite part of teaching is building a positive classroom community and creating a safe and engaging learning environment for all my students. I am a grad student at Wilmington University, completing my Master's Degree in Special Education. I am also a mom to an amazing little boy who will be joining CES this year as a kindergartner. I enjoy music, crafting,

and spending time with my family. I am thrilled about this school year and look forward to meeting everyone!

# **Trees are Terrific!**



Sara Carney, a kindergartener at CES, won the Arbor Day Contest this year. The theme was "Trees are Terrific", and she submitted a poster, winning the contest in Kent County. Posters were judged on originality, theme, neatness, and artistic expression. A representative from the program came to CES and Sara's class participated in a tree planting event. We are proud of you, Sara!

# Clean Team!



The custodial crew at Clayton Elementary is absolutely amazing. We are grateful for Chief, Shawn Allen, who goes above and beyond to maintain the school, keeping it clean and always being a team player. Shawn's incredible crew, Beth Neill, Richard Shockley, JD Kastle, and Josh Seibert, work daily to keep CES in great condition.

**Thanks** to Mrs. Shanklin and the entire related arts team, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Carlson, Mrs. Snyder, Mrs. Zolper, and Mrs. Fitzwater, the students were able to participate in relay races and obstacle courses for the day.





### Fourth Grade Graduation

The fourth graders were celebrated at an award ceremony at the end of the year. We recognized their successes and wished them the best of luck moving on to the next level as fifth graders.







## **Congratulations**



The kindergarten "Moving Up" ceremony was held in June. Students performed three songs and all received a certificate and an award for their hard work and determination this year.







#### SEPT. 2021 FALL ISSUE

8

# *Welcome to the 2021-2022 School Year!*



**Dr. Amber** 

Augustus

Principal

Mrs. Amanda Noll - Associate Principal The North Smyrna Elementary staff is excited to welcome back our students and families to a new school year. The 2021-2022 school year promises to be filled with high standards of learning along with fun adventures as

students explore an array of topics across all grade levels. On Wednesday, September 8, NSES will open our doors once again to welcome back our returning students and eagerly meet and greet our new students in kindergarten through third grade. Thursday, September 9, will be the first day of school for our early childhood students. Stay in touch with NSES by joining our social media and our Remind app to stay up-to-date with the latest North News. We look forward to working with all students and families in the year ahead!



## Hometown Hero: Nurse Hastings

Mrs. Trudy Hastings, North Smyrna Elementary's incredible nurse, is a true hometown hero! Nurse Hastings ensures all students are cared for each and every day with compassion and care. This hometown hero is an integral part of the NSES team!



Stay Connected to NSE News





#### VFW State Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Kristi Schultz

Through the Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Program, the VFW recognizes outstanding teachers who exhibit the highest levels of citizenship in their classrooms, schools and communities. They inspire students to become good citizens. Mrs. Schultz is recognized as the most outstanding teacher for grades K-5 by the Department of Delaware Veterans of Foreign Wars for the 2020-2021 school year.



#### NSES Teacher of the Year: Lauren Schwager

Congratulations to North Smyrna Elementary's 2021 Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Lauren Schwager. Mrs. Schwager joined the Smyrna School District in 2017 and is currently a teacher in the Early Childhood program. Mrs. Schwager's educational philosophies are strongly rooted in inclusion, kindness, and social play. Within her classroom setting, students are immersed in an environment that promotes creativity and curiosity with high expectations for learning. Mrs. Lauren Schwager has an incredible passion for educating our youngest learners and is a valued member of the NSES family!

## Kindness Project: NSES is CEREAL-ously AMAZING!

The Kindness Project, started by teachers Mrs. Schultz and Mrs. Pertschi, was created as a way to connect the school and community through acts of kindness. In the spring, families from NSES donated over 300 boxes of cereal! To celebrate this incredible donation, students enjoyed an epic cereal domino chain! The cereal was donated to the Smyrna Middle School Food Pantry. NSES is CEREAL-ously AMAZING!





## NSES End of the Year Drive-Through Celebration

NSES hosted an end of year drive-through celebration to honor students' and families' dedication to learning this past school year. Staff members were present to celebrate and congratulate students' efforts with an exciting parade filled with music, balloons, and cheering galore!









## Kona Ice

NSE celebrated with a visit from Kona Ice at the end of the school year! With music playing and a flavor wave of choices, staff and students alike enjoyed this delicious, icy treat!







## Movie Night

Families joined together for an outdoor movie night like never before. With a huge inflatable movie screen at the center, families relaxed with chairs and blankets under the night sky!





## Welcome Back from Mrs. McNatt and Mr. Reed

The Administrative Team at Smyrna Elementary School would like to welcome all new and returning students and families to the 2021/2022 school year! Our team has been working all summer to provide our students with enriched learning opportunities through the use of technology and engaging curriculum. In addition, communication is extremely important throughout the year, so please make sure you visit our website http://ses.smyrna.k12. de.us for any updates. Also, please feel free to reach out with any questions. We look forward to a successful school year!!!



Mrs. Cynthia McNatt Principal, SES cynthia.mcnatt@smyrna.k12.de.us 302-653-8588



Mr. Mikell Reed Associate Principal, SES mikell.reed@smyrna.k12.de.us 302-653-8588

# Kelly Rawley Evans

Kelly Rawley Evans, a native of Newark, DE, is the music teacher at Smyrna Elementary School, where she has been for six years and calls home. Mrs. Evans has had the opportunity to inspire many students through her creative and engaging general music classes, choral



programs, musical productions, and insightful music field trips. Over the 21 years of teaching in the public school setting in North Carolina and Delaware, she has taught music in grades K-12, directed choruses, musicals and orchestras, taught private piano and vocal instruction, and directed music for a national hit stage play. In addition to music,

Mrs. Evans has served as a curriculum director and Spanish teacher. She enjoys teaching both youth and adults and serves in the community as Choral Director of the Delaware Volunteer Firefighters Association and Ladies Auxiliary DVFA Memorial Choir; Musician of the Chancel Choir and Covington Ensemble, and Worship Co-Chair & Media Director for Simpson United Methodist Church; and Technology Coordinator for the Delaware Juneteenth 2021 Family Enrichment Program & Pageant.



#### New Staff Profile: Ronnie Griffin

Hello, my name is Ronnie Griffin and I am very excited to meet each of you while working in the library this year! I was born and raised here in Smyrna, Delaware where I, too, attended Smyrna School District until transferring to Polytech to begin studying in the Teacher Academy. After graduating, I attended Delaware State University where I majored in English and Special Education. I am so excited to get to see all of you on the first day of school. This is going to be an AMAZING year!

#### Students Plant Trees on Arbor Day



# Third Grade Fly Away!

The school year concluded for our third grade students with an end of the year "Fly Away Celebration". Student's accomplishments were recognized by administration and teachers in individual classrooms. In addition, students and families were greeted by our wonderful staff during a drive through celebration to pick up special gifts given by our PTO. Families were able to take pictures of their child by our SES marquee, decorated with a beautiful balloon arch! It was a day filled with lots of smiling, love, and music!





# **Special Olympics!**

On June 14, 2021, Special Olympic athletes at Smyrna Elementary participated in an exciting game of bocce ball! The core value of Special Olympics is for students to embrace themselves and do their best every day. The athletes definitely showed their perseverance, teamwork, and kindness during the competition as sounds of laugher, encouraging words, and "Ya-Woos" filled the air. Each athlete took home either a bronze, silver, or gold medal based on individual or group scores. Congratulations to all of our athletes! SES looks forward to participating in bocce ball again in the fall to kick off the 2021-2022 Special Olympic games.



Coaches: Cynthia Atkinson, Mandi Baldwin, Heather Hudson, Phillip Nix, Ryan Taylor, Ann Walker, Carlene Wilson, Esther Arhinakwah. Special thanks to: Cpl. Phillip Bishop, Rebecca Carter, Troy Day, Katy Evans, Leslie Gregory, Kristen Lloyd, Cynthia McNatt, Kelsey Queen, Mikell Reed, Megan Thomas.

# Ice was Nice on a Hot Day

Thank you to our wonderful PTO! Our students and staff enjoyed a special treat by the Kona Ice Truck.







**SEPT. 2021** FALL ISSUE

## Welcome Back from Mr. Paltrineri & Mrs. Buchanan

We are so excited to usher in the new school year! We hope you enjoyed a summer vacation filled with fun and exciting memories with your loved ones. We are thrilled to welcome all of you to a new school year of learning and growing as we work to return to normal! The CIS office staff, the administrative team and the custodians have been hard at work this summer getting things prepared for your child's first day of school. We are eager and excited to work with each of you to ensure that your time spent with us will create lasting memories, strong friendships, as well as a love and passion for learning. As always, please feel free to reach out with questions or concerns.

#### **David Paltrineri** Principal

david.paltriner@smyrna.k12.de.us

Melissa Buchanan Associate Principal melissa.buchanan@smyrna.k12.de.us

## **CIS Welcomes New Band** and Choral Director



Hi everyone! My name is Mrs. Jennifer McCutchan and I am the new Band and Chorus Teacher here at CIS! For the past 16 years. I have been working at Smyrna Middle School as the Band and Chorus Director. I have been teaching instrumental and choral music for the past 24 years and truly love

6th Grade (all students)

□ 2- Loose leaf paper

□ 1- two pocket folder

□ PENCILS - A LOT!

Colored pencils

Cap erasers

Glue sticks

□ Scissors

□ 1- Earbuds (bring back & forth)

Expo-dry erase markers - 5

Handheld pencil sharpener

□ 1- pack highlighters (Multi-colors)

□ 1- large pencil bag (Not box type)

Hand held pencil sharpener

□ 1 - Hand Sanitizer

□ 1 - Disinfecting Wipes

Box of tissues

Personal Mask

what I do! I am so excited to get the opportunity to work with the students here at Clayton Intermediate and to get them excited about learning a new instrument, singing and performing.

#### **BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST**

**5th Grade (all students)** 

- □ 1- Earbuds (keep at school) Backpack PENCILS Eraser caps Colored pencils Crayons Markers 2-Packs of loose leaf paper 2- two pocket folder □ 3-4 Dry erase markers □ 1- pack highlighters (Multi-colors) Glue sticks Scissors □ 1- large pencil bag (Not box type)
- Hand held pencil sharpener
- □ 1 Hand sanitizer
- Box of tissues □ 1 - Disinfecting wipes
- Personal mask



## **Congratulations** to CIS Teacher of the Year, Candace Wyre!

Candace Wyre is a sixth grade Math and Science teacher at CIS and has been teaching since She is a Smyrna High 2013. School alumni and earned her Bachelor's degree from Delaware State University. She also has a Master's in Applied Behavior Analysis and is earning her Master's in School Leadership. When watching Ms. Wyre's classroom, it is easy to see why she was chosen as Teacher of the Year. Ms. Wyre creates an engaging and fun, but also challenging and rewarding classroom environment. Candace truly feels the Smyrna School District has shaped her into the person and teacher she is today, and wants to make that same impact on each and every one of her students. She sees the classroom as a place where she can inspire students to learn and grow not only academically, but also as people. She strives to build a classroom family that works together, welcomes mistakes, challenges each other, and strives to be their best every day. Her compassion and dedication to her school and community is clear. Outside of school, Ms. Wyre is a board member of the Smyrna Clayton Soccer Club and a former assistant coach of the SHS Girls Soccer team.

# Sixth Grade Recognition Ceremony

Clayton Intermediate School's sixth grade class, the future Class of 2027, was truly outstanding. They learned, persevered, and conquered many things throughout the 2020-2021 school year. The staff at CIS wanted to recognize students for their dedication, growth and hard work throughout their time at CIS. The administration attended both the in-person and virtual recognition ceremonies.

We are so proud of you, Class of 2027! Continue to make us proud!







# Events for September

September 7 Staff Inservice Day

September 8 First Day of School!

September 13 Open House (Virtual)

September 13 - 17 Book Fair

September 17 School Picture Day

# Fun Day Excites Students

A great time was had by all at Fun Day, in June, at Clayton Intermediate School! Students participated in a variety of events; from basketball relays to tug-of-war and everything in between. Good sportsmanship, social distancing, and mask wearing were all key contributors to the successful day! Be on the lookout for our next Fun Day and other exciting events this year at Clayton Intermediate.











FALL ISSUE

JBM INTERMEDIATE

# *Welcome to the 2021-2022 School Year!*

Our JBM staff is looking forward to welcoming all of our new and returning families to our JBM school community. We are thrilled to welcome all of our students back in the building five days a week. This year, JBM is embarking on a few new endeavors, most exciting is that JBM is going to become a Responsive Classroom school. The Smyrna School District also has new grading guidelines for all grade levels. One highlight for students at our school is that instead of four marking periods, we will have three trimesters. Please thoroughly review all of the changes to our district grading guidelines by visiting the Office of Curriculum and Instruction website. Visit our website, Facebook page and read our monthly family newsletter to stay up to date with our school happenings! Please reach out with questions. The first day of school is September 8, 2021! We are looking forward to a great school year!

Mr. Steve Gott Principal, JBM steven.gott@smyrna.k12.de.us 302-659-6297

Mrs. Amy Mumley Associate Principal, JBM amy.mumley@smyrna.k12.de.us 302-659-6297

#### NEW STAFF PROFILE: Ms. Stummer



My name is Jessica Stummer and the 2021-2022 school year will be my third year working for the Smyrna School District, but it will be my first year working at JBM. Previously, I worked at Smyrna Middle School. Currently, I am going to school at Wilmington University to become an Elemen-

tary Education teacher. In my free time I like to hang out with my family and friends, as well as, going to Lowe's to find things for my new house. I look forward to joining the JBM team and meeting everyone in the upcoming year!

#### NEW TEACHER PROFILE: Ms. Alvarado



Hello! My name is Grisell Alvarado Colón. I am very excited to join the Spanish Immersion Team as a fifth grade teacher at John Bassett Moore Intermediate School! I was born in Puerto Rico, a beautiful Island in the Caribbean. I graduated from the University of Puerto Rico, with a Bache-

lor of Arts Degree in Education in Elementary School and Special Education. I have 30 years of experience teaching K-6 grade students in a variety of classroom settings.



### JBM 2021 Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Mrs. Holly Willey, JBM's 2021 Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Willey is a fourth grade teacher who has been part of the JBM Team for the past two years and part of the Smyrna School District family for 21 years! Mrs. Willey loves the beach and spending time with her husband and four children. She is looking forward to welcoming her new fourth grade students to JBM this year!

NEW TEACHER PROFILE: Mrs. Jennifer McCutchen

"Hi everyone! My name is Mrs. Jennifer McCutchan and I am the new Band and Chorus Teacher here at JBM! I am super excited



to get the opportunity to work with the students here at JBM this year and to get them excited about learning a new instrument, singing and performing."

Mrs. McCutchan will divide her time between JBM and Clayton Intermediate. See more about her on Page 14.







## Bienvenidos a Nuestra Escuela



JBM is excited to add fifth grade to our Spanish Immersion team! We will also be welcoming a new group of incoming fourth grade Spanish Immersion students to our JBM community. Mr. Javier Benavides-Moncada and

Ms. Julia Wood will continue to teach our fourth grade Spanish Immersion students, while Mrs. Grisell Alvarado Colon and Ms. Jackie Sloven will teach our fifth grade Spanish Immersion students. Our Spanish Immersion students will continue to spend half their day learning in Spanish for Math, Science, and Spanish Literacy and the other half of their day will be in English for Reading, Writing, and Social Studies. We look forward to continuing to build our Spanish Immersion community. All of our Spanish Immersion students now have an iXL account for Spanish. Students are encouraged to use their iXL Spanish accounts to practice their Spanish literacy skills at home. Research shows that the more immersed students are in the language, the stronger their language skills will be. Students definitely need your support and encouragement to find success in Spanish Immersion!

#### **4TH GRADE SUPPLY LIST**

- $\Box$  (2) Composition notebooks
- $\Box$  (3) 2 pocket folders
- □ 1 inch binder
- □ #2 pencils
- Eraser caps
- Pencil box

#### **5TH GRADE SUPPLY LIST**

- Composition Books (4)
- □ Folders 2 pocket w/prongs (4)
- Glue Sticks (3 or more)
- □ #2 Pencils
- Pencil Box or pouch
- Handheld pencil sharpener

#### **6TH GRADE SUPPLY LIST**

- $\Box$  2 inch 3 Ring Binder (1)
- □ 5 Tab Dividers (1 packs)
- Loose leaf Paper (5 packs)
- □ Folders (4)

Lysol wipes

□ #2 Pencils (5 packs)

- □ Hand sanitizer
- Handheld Pencil Sharpener Crayons / Colored Pencils □ Highlighters (4 colors) Dry erase markers & eraser □ Pair of earbuds CLASSROOM WISH LIST Ziploc bags (sandwich & gallon)
  - Tissues Extra pencils

□ Highlighters

Glue sticks

□ Pair of earbuds

Crayons / Colored Pencils

Dry erase markers & eraser

Crayons / Colored Pencils

Dry erase markers & eraser

□ Scissors

□ Erasers

□ Scissors

□ Highlighters

□ Pair of earbuds

# What has Max been up to this summer?









In the 4th of July Parade







# Congratulations to SMS Teacher of the Year, Lauren Lucca

Ms. Lauren Lucca is a middle school science and special education teacher at SMS. She graduated from University of Delaware in 2011 with her Bachelor's in Elementary Education and Middle School Science. She got her Master's Degree in Educational Technology from Wilmington University in 2015 and is certified to teach elementary education K-6, middle school science 7-8, and special education K-12 in the state of Delaware. Ms. Lucca is currently the PLC lead for the seventh grade science department and enjoys incorporating Chromebooks and other technology into her science lessons using the Amplify science program. She has been involved in many activities outside of school including summer school, summer camps, tutoring, the after school homework help program, the 21st Century Science Club, the Smyrna Pride Behavior Committee, the Differentiation Committee, the SMS Track and Field team, and mentoring of a new science teacher.



#### **SMYRNA MIDDLE NEWS**



## We will miss You!

Happy Retirement to three of our wonderful staff members: Karen Pritt (Physical Education), Curtis Heath (Chief Custodian) and Kathy Kowalick (ELA teacher). Thank you for all of your years of service. We wish you all the best.



## Cafeteria Mural

Our students have been working on some inspirational wall art in our cafeteria, led by our amazing cafeteria manager, Mrs. Gilbert. Our students were able to "leave their mark" at SMS by putting their thumbprint inside the artwork. This project will continue this coming school year.

#### **Stay Connected!**

We look forward to welcoming all of our returning and our new students to Smyrna Middle School. The most up to date information can be found on our district website www.smyrna.k12.de.us/Domain/14 Below is a list of our social media accounts:

@SmyrnaMiddleDE (Twitter)
Smyrna Middle School (Facebook)
SMS Athletics – Delaware (Facebook)
@smyrnamiddleschool (Instagram)

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## SMS Celebrates Eighth Graders with Car Parade

We are so proud of our 492 eighth graders. We celebrated all of their hard work with an amazing car parade. Students and their families received a gift from our SGA and Child Nutrition programs. Our amazing staff sent many congrats by waving, blowing whistles, creating signs, shaking cowbells, and yelling their names as the students rode by with their families. Congrats to all!

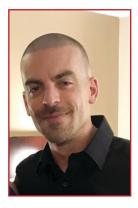


# Junior Honor Society Members Give Back

Our National Junior Honor Society members donated to Buckets of Love, the SMS Nurse's office, Square Dog Ranch, and the SSD Food Pantry for their final community involvement project. These students completed 750+ hours of community service and we are very proud of their work. Thanks to our amazing NJHS leader, Mrs. Scott, for her guidance and support.



# SMS Welcomes New Staff MembersMr. John TobeyMr. WilsonMs. Amari Rickards



I have been in the district for nine years and recently became the chief of Smyrna Middle School. I live in the Smyrna area with my wife, Andrea and twins, John and Victoria,

who recently turned four years old. In my off time, I enjoy going to the beach and surf fishing.



coming to us from North Smyrna Elementary as an Associate Principal. He is looking forward to joining the Smyrna Middle School Family.

Wilson

is

Mr.



Amari Rickards is a graduate of West Chester University of Pennsylvania, where she studied Music Education with a minor in Music History. Her favorite part about music is how universal it

is and how we are all connected through music. Ms. Rickards is excited to get to know her students and make beautiful music for everyone to enjoy!



**FALL ISSUE** 

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## Congratulations Daniel Semenick, 2020-2021 SHS Teacher of the Year

Dan Semenick is the Smyrna High School Teacher of the Year. Mr. Semenick has been teaching in the Smyrna School District since 2008 and has been sharing his passion for chemistry and science with anyone who is willing to receive it and even to those that might not be willing. Making connections with students and getting them to learn and experience science is what drives Dan to be the teacher he is today. His classes are a nice mix of humor, off topic conversations, explosions, talk of vegetables, and innovative curriculum. Dan and his wonderful wife Kristen live in Smyrna and have raised two amazing children, Raina and Mason. Outside of school, Dan enjoys traveling, running, biking, hiking, cooking, brewing beer, watching the Steelers and Penguins win titles, and spending as much time with his family and friends as possible.



# Smyrna High School FFA News Brief

The 45th Annual Parent/ Member Banquet was held May 10, outside and via Zoom. We had over fifty kids in attendance, either in person or online. An abbreviated 91st Delaware FFA State Convention was held June 22-23, 2021 with over twenty members participating in some fashion. Highlights included: four members receiving American Degrees; a State Nominating Committee member, Sarah Dinsmore, helped to select the new State Officer Team; Faith Hewes was named the State Star Chapter Degree Recipient; Nick Shane was the State Star in Agricultural Placement; and Mrs. Cook and Dr. Pierce received Honorary State FFA Degrees.

We just held the first ever Smyrna FFA Summer Camp for three days with fifteen kids in attendance. We held workshops on interviewing, resume writing, professionalism, public speaking, and SAE Development. Students also worked on Fair displays for themselves and the chapter during that time.

CDE Teams that competed in June: Horse Evaluation (2nd in the State), Ag Mechanics (3rd in







the state) and Faith Hewes and Brynn Rifino won first in the state in Agriscience Fair. Eighteen members will be competing on the following CDE Teams at the State Fair: Poultry Evaluation, Agronomy, Floriculture, Tractor Driving, Livestock Evaluation,



and Dairy Handling.

Our 2021-2022 Officer Team will be selected August 3, and will complete a 2 day leadership training August 4-5.

# Wellness Center News

Summer is coming to a close and we are gearing up for a new school year. The staff at the Bayhealth Wellness Center at Smyrna High School hopes that you have had a safe and enjoyable summer. We look forward to serving the students of our community in the future. Bayhealth's Wellness Centers provide Delaware's teenagers with health services in cooperation with each teen's family physician. The center provides physical, mental, nutritional and educational health services for its members. The goal of the Wellness Center is to promote healthy lifestyles, increase school attendance and improve the student's ability to concentrate. All students in grades 9-12 are eligible to access Wellness Center services.

To participate in the Wellness Center, a parental consent and teen health history form must be completed on each student. Your child will receive a Wellness Center packet on the first day of school. Please feel free to call 302-653-2399 with any questions.

Courses	Student Certification	Assessment Process
9-10 American Heart Heartsaver	CPR, AED , First aid ( 2 years)	Aligned with 9-10 American Heart Heartsaver course requirements
11-12 American Heart Healthcare Professional	CPR, AED, First aid ( 2 years)	Aligned with 11-12 American Heart Healthcare Professional course requirements
12-EOC from the National Consortium of Health Science Education	If passed(70%) will open more doors for college acceptance TEST	Aligned with NCHSE National Health Science Assessment
Fundamentals of Health Sciences (FHS)	Students will receive articulated credit at Delaware Technical Community College for the following course: BIO100-Medical Terminology (3 credits)	Aligned with Fundamentals of Health Sciences (FHS) course requirements
Essentials of Health Careers (EHC)	Students will receive articulated credit at Delaware Technical Community College for the following course: HLH100-Intro to Health Careers (1 credit)	Aligned with Essentials of Health Careers (EHC) course requirements
Anatomy & Physiology I (A&P)	Students will receive dual-enrollment credit at Delaware Technical Community College for the following course: BIO120-Anatomy and Physiology 1 (5 credits)	Aligned with Anatomy & Physiology I (A&P) cours requirements
Allied Health Program of Study and Chemistry	Students will also have the opportunity to enroll in the following course at Delaware Technical Community College after graduation and prior to the Fall semester. BIO121-Anatomy & Physiology II (5 credits)	Aligned with Allied Health Program of Study and Chemistry requirements
DSU English Composition 101 & 102	Students can earn Del State credit for these classes, which can transfer to other colleges as English credits or elective credits.	Aligned with DSU English Composition 101 & 102 course requirements
AP Calculus	Students will receive college credit at some institutions, depending upon the student's score and major.	Aligned with AP Calculus, AB exam requirements

Please also note the following information: Many of the Allied Health programs offered at DTCC have connected degree programs with colleges and universities including Delaware State University, Immaculata University, Salisbury University, University of Delaware, Wesley College, Widener University, and Wilmington University.

Smyrna Career and Technical Education Student Certifications					
Pathway	Student Certification	Assessment Process			
Digital Business Communication	Adobe Dreamweaver Photoshop InDesign	Online through Certiport			
Accounting	QuickBooks	QuickBooks Assessment			
Administrative Services 3 & 4	Microsoft Office Specialists, Word: Core/Expert, Excel: Core/Expert, Access, PowerPoint	Online through Certiport			
Agricultural Structures III	OSHA 10	Online through CareerSafeOnline.com			
Ag Mechanics	Briggs and Stratton Service Technician I, National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operator Program	Briggs & Stratton Penn State			
Plant Science I, II, III AP Environmental	Delaware Nutrient Management Certification Delaware Pesticide Certification	Complete State licensing/application tests			
Animal Science	Elanco Fundamentals of Science Certification AMSA Meat Evaluation Port Quality Assurance (PQA)	Online coursework and assessment CEV Multimedia Via National Port Board			
ECE III	CPR First Aid	State Test			
Allied Health	American Heart Association HeartSaver First Aid CPR AED BLS First Aid, CPR, AED	Skills and writing tests			

For additional SMYRNA CTE Certification information please see the attached link below: http://www.techprepdelaware.org/2015-2016\_Individual%20School%20Articulations/2015-2016-Art\_Smyrna.pdf

## Class of 2021



#### Valedictorian Marie Youngcourt

Marie Youngcourt graduated from Smyrna High School with a 4.15 GPA and will be attending Northwestern University this fall!



#### Salutatorian Rachel Youngcourt

Rachel Youngcourt graduated from Smyrna High School with a 4.13 GPA and will be attending University of New Hampshire this fall!

#### Attention Parents of 9th Grade Students

Upcoming ninth graders must have an updated physical on file within two years, one dose of TDAP (adult booster), and one dose of Meningococcal vaccine. To learn more, go to www.DOE.K12.DE.US/PAGE/2871 or www.SMYRNA.K12.DE.US/HEALTH



FALL ISSUE

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## Child Nutrition Program will continue Seamless Summer Option

The Smyrna School District Child Nutrition Program will be operating under the Seamless Summer Option through school year 2021-2022. The USDA has allowed school food authorities to operate under this program to provide additional support to serve children meals while maintaining safety measures. While operating under Seamless Summer Option at all schools, breakfast and lunch meals will be provided to students at no cost. Ala carte items may be available for purchase. Child Nutrition looks forward to fueling students for success and reconnecting with them through breakfast and lunch meals this fall. For nutrition facts, menus and more information regarding the Child Nutrition Program, please visit our website at http://smyrna.healtheliving.net/.



# Smyrna School District Changes Grading Procedures for 2021-2022

The Smyrna School District recognizes that grades provide a measurement of student progress and achievement of content area standards. Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, Smyrna School District elementary schools (K – 5) will shift to a standards-based grading approach. The purpose of this shift is to provide students, parents / guardians, teachers and administrators a more accurate and detailed synopsis of students' progress in academic and personal growth. Research supports standards-based grading and reporting as a basis of communication that will help students learn more effectively through better feedback for teachers, students and families.

Likewise, the Smyrna School District will shift to a 4-point grading scale beginning with the 2021-22 school year at the secondary schools (6 – 12). In the place of points or percentages, teachers will simply enter a letter grade for each graded assignment or assessment. The familiar A, B, C, D, and F scale will be the indicators used to facilitate the 4.0 scale. Subsequently, only letter grades (A, B, C, D and F) will appear on the marking period and final report cards.

Please visit the Curriculum & Instruction page at the Smyrna School District website or contact your child's school for more information.

## Smyrna School District Providing Chromebooks for All Students

The purpose of the Smyrna School District 1:1 program is to promote the effective use of technology and improve learning outcomes for all students. Our belief is that student use of technology improves and maximizes the impact of their work. The 1:1 program is designed to enhance student-learning experiences

both inside and outside of our schools with a consistent delivery of high-quality educational experiences for all students. The 1:1 program will increase student engagement, provide access to learning materials from anywhere at any time, and engage students in instantaneous inquiry. The devices provide all students the ability to research, collaborate, connect, and produce content that can be shared locally and globally.

For more details and information, please visit the "Smyrna School District 1:1 Initiative" section on the district or your school's website.



#### Field Hockey Head Coach Nicki Shirey

Date	Time	Teams	H/A	Opponent/Location
9/10/21	TBD	V/JV	А	Padua Academy
9/14/21	4:00 PM	V/JV	Н	Woodbridge HS
9/16/21	4:00 PM	V/JV	А	Polytech HS
9/21/21	5:30 PM	JV/V	А	Dover HS
9/28/21	4:00 PM	V/JV	А	Lake Forest HS
9/30/21	6:00 PM	JV/V	А	Cape Henlopen HS
10/5/21	4:00 PM	V/JV	Н	Caesar Rodney HS
10/7/21	4:00 PM	V/JV	Н	Caravel Academy
10/12/21	4:00 PM	V/JV	Н	Indian River HS
10/14/21	4:00 PM	V/JV	А	Sussex Central HS
10/16/21	11:00 AM	V/JV	А	Archmere Academy
10/19/21	4:00 PM	V/JV	Н	Sussex Tech
10/21/21	4:00 PM	V/JV	А	Delmar HS/MS
10/26/21	4:00 PM	V/JV	А	Milford HS
10/28/21	4:00 PM	V/JV	Н	St. Andrew's School

#### **Boys/Girls Cross Country**

Head Coach John Haller

Date	Time	Teams	H/A	Opponent/Location
9/11/21	11:00 AM	B/G	А	Lake Forest Invitational
9/15/21	4:00 PM	B/G	А	Dover HS
9/22/21	4:00 PM	B/G	н	Smyrna HS
9/29/21	4:00 PM	B/G	А	Brecknock Park
10/13/21	4:00 PM	B/G	А	UD - Marine Studies
10/20/21	4:00 PM	B/G	Н	Smyrna HS
11/6/21	2:00 PM	B/G	А	Henlopen Conference Championships
11/13/21	TBD	B/G	А	DIAA Champ.

#### Middle School **Boys/Girls Cross Country**

Date	Time	H/A	Opponent/ Location
9/20/21	4:00 PM	н	Postlethwait MS
9/27/21	4:00 PM	А	Chipman MS
10/1/21	4:00 PM	н	Providence Creek Academy
10/4/21	4:00 PM	А	Dover Central MS
10/18/21	4:00 PM	А	Fifer MS
10/25/21	4:00 PM	Н	Magnolia MS
11/1/21	4:00 PM	А	St. Anne's School

#### Middle School Field Hockey

Date	Time	H/A	Opponent/ Location
9/22/21	4:00 PM	Н	Woodbridge MS
9/27/21	4:00 PM	н	Dover AFB MS
10/4/21	4:00 PM	A	Beacon MS
10/6/21	4:00 PM	A	Postlethwait MS
10/11/21	4:00 PM	н	Chipman MS
10/13/21	4:00 PM	A	Milford MS
10/18/21	4:00 PM	н	Fifer MS
10/20/21	4:00 PM	A	Georgetown MS
10/25/21	4:00 PM	н	Seaford MS
10/27/21	4:00 PM	Н	Milford MS
11/1/21	4:00 PM	А	Dover Central MS

#### Varsity Football Head Coach JV Football

-			IVIIKE JUDY
Date	Time	H/A	Opponent/Location
9/4/21	2 PM	А	Bergen Catholic HS (NJ)
9/10/21	7 PM	Н	Arundel HS (MD)
9/17/21	7 PM	Н	Middletown HS
9/24/21	7 PM	Н	Caesar Rodney HS
10/1/21	7 PM	А	Sussex Central HS
10/9/21	12 PM	А	St. Georges Tech HS
10/22/21	7 PM	Н	Dover HS
10/29/21	7 PM	А	Salesianum School
11/5/21	7 PM	Н	Appoquinimink HS
11/12/21	7 PM	А	Cape Henlopen HS

Date	Time	H/A	Opponent/Location	Date	Time	H/A	Opponent/Location
9/13/21	4 PM	Н	Arundel HS (MD)	9/8/21	4 PM	А	Cape Henlopen HS
9/20/21	4 PM	А	Middletown HS	9/22/21	4 PM	н	Middletown HS
9/27/21	4 PM	А	Caesar Rodney HS	9/29/21	4 PM	Н	Caesar Rodney HS
10/4/21	4 PM	Н	Sussex Central HS	10/6/21	4 PM	А	Sussex Central HS
10/11/21	4 PM	Н	St. Georges Tech HS	10/14/21	4 PM	А	St. Georges Tech HS
10/25/21	4 PM	А	Dover HS	10/27/21	4 PM	н	Dover HS
11/1/21	4 PM	Н	Salesianum School	11/4/21	4 PM	А	Salesianum School
11/8/21	4 PM	А	Appoquinimink HS				

Unified Flag Football Head Coach Andrew Mears Schedule To be Announced

#### Volleyball Head Coach Danny Wandless

-				-
Date	Time	Teams	H/A	Opponent/Location
9/14/21	4:00 PM	JV/V	н	Sussex Academy
9/16/21	4:15 PM	JV/V	А	Milford HS
9/21/21	4:00 PM	JV/V	А	Lake Forest HS
9/23/21	4:00 PM	JV/V	н	Cape Henlopen HS
9/25/21	3:00 PM	JV/V	А	Padua Academy
9/28/21	4:00 PM	JV/V	Н	Indian River HS
9/30/21	4:00 PM	JV/V	А	Caesar Rodney HS
10/5/21	5:00 PM	JV/V	А	Caravel Academy
10/7/21	4:00 PM	JV/V	н	Sussex Central HS
10/12/21	3:45 PM	JV/V	н	St. Mark's HS
10/14/21	4:00 PM	JV/V	н	Polytech HS
10/21/21	4:00 PM	JV/V	А	Dover HS
10/26/21	4:00 PM	JV/V	А	Sussex Tech

#### **Soccer** Head Coach Joshua Katz

Date	Time	Teams	H/A	Opponent/Location
9/14/21	5:00 PM	JV/V	н	Laurel HS
9/16/21	5:00 PM	JV/V	Н	Polytech HS
9/18/21	11:00 PM	V/JV	А	Brandywine HS
9/21/21	5:30 PM	JV/V	А	Dover HS
9/28/21	4:00 PM	V/JV	А	Seaford HS
9/30/21	5:00 PM	JV/V	Н	Cape Henlopen HS
10/5/21	5:00 PM	JV/V	А	Caesar Rodney HS
10/9/21	1:00 PM	V/JV	А	St. Andrew's School
10/12/21	5:00 PM	JV/V	Н	Lake Forest HS
10/14/21	5:00 PM	JV/V	Н	Sussex Central HS
10/18/21	5:00 PM	JV/V	н	Hodgson Vo-Tech
10/21/21	5:00 PM	Vr Only	А	Early College HS
10/26/21	5:00 PM	JV/V	Н	Milford HS
10/28/21	4:00 PM	JV/V	А	Sussex Tech
11/2/21	5:00 PM	JV/V	Н	Middletown HS

#### Middle School Football

Miluuie	SCHOU	FUC	Juan		
Date	Time	H/A	Opponent/ Location		
9/22/21	4:00 PM	А	Milford MS		
9/30/21	4:00 PM	Н	Chipman MS		
10/7/21	4:00 PM	Н	Fifer MS		
10/14/21	4:00 PM	А	Postlethwait MS		
10/21/21	4:00 PM	Н	Magnolia MS		
10/28/21	4:00 PM	А	Woodbridge MS		
11/4/21	4:00 PM	A	Dover Central MS		
Middle School Volleyball					

9/27/21	4:00 PM	А	Fifer MS
9/29/21	4:00 PM	Н	Postlethwait MS
10/4/21	4:00 PM	Н	Chipman MS
10/6/21	4:00 PM	А	Mariner MS
10/11/21	4:00 PM	Н	Beacon MS
10/13/21	4:00 PM	Н	Woodbridge MS
10/18/21	4:00 PM	Н	Georgetown MS
10/20/21	4:00 PM	А	Millsboro MS
10/25/21	4:00 PM	А	Dover Central MS
10/27/21	4:00 PM	А	Milford MS
11/1/21	4:00 PM	А	Providence Creek Acad.



**Freshman Football** 

#### **SHS Unified Track** & Field Team Earn **DIAA State Championship**

We placed in EVERY event at the Special Olympics' invitational track meet. We walked away with 13 medals - SEVEN gold, TWO silver and FOUR bronze! Our students demonstrated all five core values without being asked! They were so kind, thoughtful, and encouraging, as they helped to set up and break down the fields. They also cheered for every athlete as they competed in each event throughout the day. We are so proud of all of them!

#### Middle School Boys Soccer

Date	Time	H/A	Opponent/ Location
9/20/21	4:00 PM	Н	Providence Creek Acad.
9/22/21	4:00 PM	Н	Woodbridge MS
9/27/21	4:00 PM	н	Dover AFB MS
10/4/21	4:00 PM	A	Beacon MS
10/6/21	4:00 PM	A	Postlethwait MS
10/11/21	4:00 PM	н	Chipman MS
10/13/21	4:00 PM	A	Milford MS
10/18/21	4:00 PM	Н	Fifer MS
10/20/21	4:00 PM	A	Georgetown MS
10/25/21	4:00 PM	Н	Seaford MS
10/27/21	4:00 PM	н	Milford MS
11/1/21	4:00 PM	A	Dover Central MS

Schedule Subject to change. Check Eagles-Sports.com for most current schedules and times.



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#### **UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 OCTOBER 20, 2021 NOVEMBER 17, 2021 DECEMBER 15, 2021 JANUARY 19, 2022 FEBRUARY 16, 2022