

Apollo to offer CSforALL



AHS engineering and computer science teacher Jonathan Leohr listens to a presentation at the CSforALL workshop last week. In the background is a map designating locations of the 30 schools selected to participate in this national program.

Apollo High School is one of only 30 schools in the nation – and the only school in Kentucky – selected to send a team to the CSforALL workshop in Alexandria, Va., Feb. 26-28.

Schools were invited based on their work in establishing quality computer science opportunities for students and

strong ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) programs – both areas in which AHS has excelled.

The AHS CS vision/implementation team included Principal Rick Lasley, Air Force JROTC instructor Chief Franklin Smith, engineering and computer science teacher Jonathan Leohr, mathematics and computer science teacher Michelle Pagan, and DCPS director of secondary education Charles Broughton. The team learned how to take Apollo’s existing computer science and coding pathways to higher levels, while adding cybersecurity classes as part of their AFJROTC program, toward a goal of developing Advanced Placement computer science career pathways and cybersecurity pathways at Apollo High School.

Apollo High School was specifically selected to assist in creating a model for the Department of Defense to eventually fund schools in integrating computer science and cybersecurity pathways. The AHS team received intensive and specialized training in implementing these courses, which will then be available for student enrollment in March.

CSforALL is collaborating with the U.S. Air Force JROTC headquarters to launch the JROTC-CS Demonstration Project. According to CSforALL project director Tina Boyle Whyte, the project will “design and

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test implementation models for the long-term scale up of computer science and cybersecurity education programs within the JROTC program and the schools that host JROTC programs.”

“We are very excited and honored to be a part of this opportunity,” Rick said. “We made a decision two years ago to invest in more coding/programming opportunities for Apollo students based on the increasing demands of work available in this field. To be able to add cybersecurity to this list allows our students a more vast array of offerings to prepare them for future roles.”

Jonathan said benefits of this opportunity are far-reaching for AHS students. “Like the universe, the world of CS is constantly expanding,” he said. “We are thrilled, through our partnership with CSforALL, to keep Apollo High School on the cutting edge of technology and CS education by reinvigorating our CyberPatriots teams. We are excited about the many partnerships we created this weekend with Intel, Google, Lockheed Martin, NICE and many others. This is truly another exciting chapter for Apollo High School.”

Michelle said she is excited about returning to the classroom and being part of a team that challenges students to reach their highest levels of potential. “To enhance Apollo’s already growing computer science academy we are working with CSforALL and the Air Force JROTC to help give opportunities to our cadets and all our students,” she said. “They will learn about the basics of the internet and how it works, importance of cybersecurity, and introduction to JavaScript and basic programming fundamentals in two places: JROTC CyberPatriots and in Advanced Placement computer science principles.”

Franklin said this opportunity takes Apollo’s AFJROTC



Above: Michelle Pagan, Jonathan Leohr and Chief Franklin Smith plan steps for fully integrating CSforALL into the Apollo High School curriculum.

Below: Michelle Pagan and Jonathan Leohr focus on an assignment during the CSforALL workshop.

programs to even higher levels of relevance for cadets. “CSforALL and the Air Force JROTC partnership will enhance opportunities for Apollo students by providing career pathways to cybersecurity for both the civilian and military communities,” Chief Smith said. “In the near future, the Air Force will provide a scholarship opportunity for our cadets who meet the requirements of being a member of the CyberPatriot Team, completing the AP Computer Science Principles and a successful score on the AP exam. As one of just 30 schools in the nation to be selected for this program, we are honored, and look forward to partnering with local, state and national agencies to equip our classrooms with the 21st century technology required to train these future leaders in the CS/Cybersecurity field.”

Charley provided an overview from the district level as he said, “As a district, we are excited about the partnership between CSforALL and Apollo High School. We believe that the opportunity to increase AHS students’ exposure to computer science will be of great benefit and may serve to introduce new career pathways to many students. Our district is supportive of this endeavor and we are looking forward to a successful partnership.”

In addition to its strong tradition of AFJROTC, AHS added a four-year code pathway program in August 2019.

Learn more at <https://www.csforall.org/>



DCPS FRYSC in the Spotlight

Representatives of our Daviess County Public Schools Family Resource and Youth Service Centers attended a legislative reception in Frankfort on Feb. 27.

The theme of the event was “Celebrating 30 Years of FRYSC.” Coordinators from across the state met with the governor, legislators and state leaders to promote the work they are doing in our schools and communities.

Megan Nicodemus, who serves as the Youth Services Center coordinator at Daviess County High School, reported that Gov. Andy Beshear had remarked, “FRYSCs are amazing people, doing amazing work. You epitomize the Kentucky Team!”

“I believe in events like this because it is a good moment to expose FRYSCs at the state level,” said Lucas Vilorio, FRC coordinator at Sorgho Elementary School. “Every region displayed pictures and stories about how we are impacting not just children, but the entire family. It was rewarding to hear the governor speaking to us, knowing the facts about what we do as FRYSCs and expressing his continuing support.”

Following the reception, FRYSCs attended a training session that focused on trauma-sensitive mindfulness and how simple practices can improve mental, emotional and physical well-being. The session also included an introduction to the Early Warning system in Infinite Campus.



Sorgho Elementary School FRC coordinator Lucas Vilorio, left, takes a selfie with Gov. Andy Beshear during the recent legislative reception. The Feb. 27 event was an opportunity for elected leaders to meet with Family Resource and Youth Services Centers coordinators from across the state of Kentucky to develop relationships and plans to benefit the students and families of our state.



Pictured from left: Megan Nicodemus, Daviess County High School; Kelly May, Audubon Elementary School; Heather McCarty, formerly of Apollo High School, now Region 2 regional program manager; Lucas Vilorio, Sorgho Elementary School; Megan Brannon, Deer Park Elementary School; Amy Nonweiler, College View Middle School.

Healthy Lifestyle Tip of the Week

You don't need to be an athlete to benefit from better flexibility.

Loosen up this Monday with some light stretching.



#MoveItMonday

MoveItMonday.org

**MOVE IT
MONDAY!**

Don't underestimate the importance of stretching. It's not just for athletes, runners and gymnasts.

First, understand that it's not necessary to stretch every muscle in the body. Focus on the core muscle groups that most impact your daily life, such as your lower body – calves, hamstrings, hip flexors, pelvis, quadriceps – because these muscles affect your mobility and balance.

Secondly, remember to properly execute each stretch. Before starting any new workout regimen, consult a trainer or physical therapist. Basic stretching practices include:

- Always warm up because you need to get blood flowing to the area to make the tissue more pliable
- Hold a stretch for at least 30 seconds
- Feel tension in a stretch, not pain
- Don't ever "bounce" while you stretch

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the benefits and proper techniques of stretching. Whether you are stretching before a more robust workout or just to relieve tension after a hard day at work, stretching "the right way" is beneficial for your health and overall well-being. Make the commitment to "reach" for wellness today!

These weekly fitness reminders are brought to you by the DCPS Food Services Department. We care about you! Learn more at www.moveitmonday.org

We all need a helping hand sometimes.



Need Assistance? EAP is Here for You

Free – Confidential

Living requires dealing with problems. Usually we solve problems on our own and continue living in meaningful and rewarding ways.

But sometimes personal problems persist despite our best efforts. Issues that may have started as minor problems become progressively worse until they are overwhelming.

Whether the problem is social, emotional or physical – sometimes we just need help.

The Daviess County Public Schools district has contracted with Counseling Associates to provide an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for our employees and their families. This program allows each employee and family members in their household six free counseling sessions.

Counseling Associates is comprised of therapists who are licensed to meet the full variety of client needs, which include (but are not limited to) depression, stress, trauma, anxiety, marital difficulties, grief, dependence on alcohol or drugs, communications problems, low self-esteem, sexual abuse and more. Counseling Associates has been providing EAP services since 1987. They are committed to providing professional services in our community.

The Counseling Associates office is located at 1316 Frederica St. Private parking is available in the rear of the building.

If you or a family member, including adults, adolescents or children, are in need of counseling, please contact Counseling Associates for a confidential appointment by calling 270-686-7999.



Thank You, DCPS FRYSCs!

Click [HERE](#) for tribute video honoring these amazing people, and please join us in thanking the FRYSC coordinators and outreach workers at your schools for all they do support our students and families. “Whatever It Takes” — that’s what they do!



Staff Recognition Schedule

This schedule of DCPS staff recognitions is provided to assist schools/departments in coordinating and planning their celebrations. For more information, write to contact@dcps.org

March

Family Resource (March 2-6, 2020)
College Career Readiness / Favorite University
(March 16-20, 2020)

April

Media Specialists (April 4, 2020)
Volunteers (April 20-24, 2020)
Office Staff / Secretaries (April 20-24, 2019)

May

Teacher Appreciation Week (May 4-8, 2020)
School Health/Nurses/Health Assistants (May 6, 2020)

All recognitions will include: Minute with Matt, video on DCPS Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Grapevine, and Superintendent’s Report at Board of Education meeting. Teacher Appreciation Week will also include delivery of muffins to all DCPS schools and support offices.

Honoring Our Retirees

Donna Payne will be the guest of honor at a retirement reception from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Friday, March 27, at the DCPS Central Office. Donna is retiring after 27 years of service with our district, including the last 14 years as food service/after-school bookkeeper.



Donna Payne

Friends and colleagues are invited to extend best wishes to Donna on her retirement at the end of March.



District Calendar Update

This monthly feature provides information and updates about meetings and events taking place across our district.

March 2020

March 6 – Elementary Principal Meeting
March 6 – Personnel Department Meeting
March 9 – Instructional Coaches
March 11 – Human Resources Boot Camp
March 11 – PBIS Coaches
March 12 – Office of Teaching and Learning
March 13 – Make-Up Day
March 17 – District High Attendance Day
March 19 – Administrators Meeting
March 19 – KAS About Teaching Mathematics
March 20 – PBIS Discussion
March 22 – District Arts Showcase / Orchestra
March 23 – District Arts Showcase / Band
March 23 – Instructional Coaches Meeting
March 24 – District Arts Showcase / Choir
March 24 – Counselors Meeting
March 26 – District STLP Showcase
March 27 – Attendance Meeting

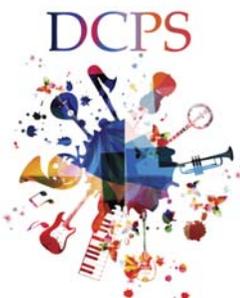
DCPS staff members are encouraged to be aware of what's going on in our district so you can share with family and friends.

Your Future Starts Now!



As students begin scheduling classes for the 2020-21 school year, we encourage families to be aware of the amazing learning opportunities that are available through the DCPS EmpowerU Academies. Click [HERE](#) to learn more!

DCPS Arts Showcase



The ARTS Make Us One!

The DCPS Arts Showcase will be open from Sunday through Tuesday, March 22-24, at the Owensboro Convention Center. The theme of this year's showcase is "The ARTS Make Us One!"

Kids First Support Staff Awards

Nomination
Deadline:
March 20



DCPS Customer Service Award

The DCPS Kids First Customer Service Award will honor members of our support staff who go above and beyond in serving our students and families, and valued. Click [HERE](#) to nominate a DCPS support staff employee for the Kids First Customer Service Award! Nomination deadline is Friday, March 20.

DCPS Support Professional Award

The Support Professional Award honors members of the DCPS support staff who are exceptional at their job and provide exceptional support to DCPS students and/or staff. Click [HERE](#) to nominate a DCPS support staff employee for the Kids First Support Professional Award! Nomination deadline is Friday, March 20.

Preschool and Kindergarten Registration March 9-20

Visit www.dcps.org for more information



Come Learn
With Us!

Preschool-Kindergarten Registration: March 9-20

Click [HERE](#) or visit www.dcps.org to learn about how to register children for DCPS preschool or kindergarten programs to begin in August 2020.

DCPS Transfer & Tuition Applications Accepted March 2 - June 1

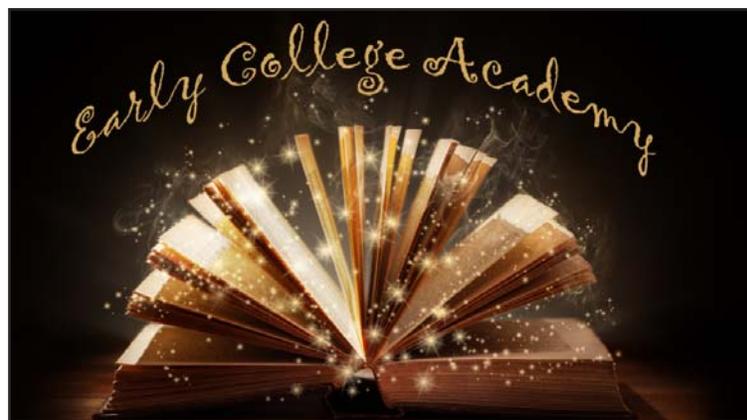
Visit www.dcps.org for information



Transfer & Tuition Applications Now Accepted

Click [HERE](#) or visit www.dcps.org to learn more about the DCPS transfer and tuition application process. The deadline to submit applications for the 2020-21 school year is June 1.

Full-time DCPS employees who wish for their children to attend a school that is not in the attendance zone of their home residence may submit "Employee Choice Student Enrollment Option Form," available [HERE](#). (Scroll down to bottom of page.)



Early College Academy Applications Due March 13

Click [HERE](#) or visit www.dcps.org to learn more about this opportunity for current high school sophomores or to submit an application.



BES Champions for Kids Shirt Sale

Burns Elementary School is selling shirts with a “Champions for Kids” design. Shirts are available in a variety of colors and styles, including short- and long-sleeved T-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts and baseball T’s. Click [HERE](#) or place secure online order at <https://champions2020.itemorder.com/sale> Order deadline is Wednesday, March 4. Proceeds benefit the Norton Children’s Heart Institute. For information: Larkin Wetzel at larkin.wetzel@daviess.kyschools.us



DCPS Apparel Store Open March 13-30

The DCPS Kids First apparel online store is open March 13-30 for orders to be delivered in April. The store features two designs with our district’s 2019-2020 theme of “Rise Up / Be the One!” as well as our classic “Kids First” logo designs. This is the last order window for the year.

Click [HERE](#) to view selection of short- and long-sleeved T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies and accessories in a variety of colors, sizes and styles for men, women and children.

For more information, contact Seth Daugherty at Central Screen Printing, sethD@centralscreenprinting.com or 270-977-8393.

Looking for Master’s Program Options?



Georgetown College will present information about its affordable master’s programs for teachers during informational sessions at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, at the DCPS Central

Office. Teachers who are interested in this online program may attend either of those sessions to learn more. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

CPR/First Aid Classes

Saturday Option Now Available!



DCPS staff members are invited to sign up for CPR and First Aid training sessions. Cost is \$10 and includes the mandatory American

Heart Association handbook. Classes will take place at the Burns Elementary School media center and will last approximately three hours.

CPR includes infant/child and adult procedures. First aid covers choking, burns, cuts, seizures, heat exhaustion and much more. Your investment of time and training will prepare you to respond to emergencies at school and beyond ... and may save a life you love!

- 9 a.m. Saturday, March 14 – Click [HERE](#) to register.
- 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 29 – Click [HERE](#) to register.
- 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 6 – Click [HERE](#) to register.

For more information, contact school nurse Michelle Jones, RN, AE-C, michelle.jones@daviess.kyschools.us





Thank You, Community Partners!



DCPS student assistance coordinator Lura McElhearn distributes materials to those attending a Love and Logic program at Owensboro Christian Church on March 3. In the background at left, presenter Dr. Charles Fay greets people as they arrive.

The Daviess County Public Schools district partnered with Owensboro Health to present a “Love and Logic” program featuring Dr. Charles Fay during a special evening of entertaining and practical information about how to raise respectful, responsible children.

Upcoming Love and Logic events in our community include “Putting an End to Arguing, Backtalk and Begging” at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, at Western Kentucky University/Owensboro Campus and at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at the DCPS Learning Center; and “Teaching Responsibility Without Losing Their Love” at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, at WKU-O and at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 23, at the DCPS Learning Center.

Special thanks to DCPS district social worker Christina Dalton for her work in making these life-changing learning experiences available to our community!



The Life Science Academy hosted Dr. Brandon Taylor and Kimberely Taylor on Feb. 28. Dr. Taylor, a dentist at the Owensboro Community Dental Clinic, talked to LSA students about how to perform oral surgery on patients and provided several visual and hands-on examples throughout the presentation. Students practiced suturing, which is the process of stitching a wound after surgery, on rubber practice kits (pictured below). DCPS is committed to providing students with real-life learning experiences every day! We appreciate the support of our community partners. Thank you to Dr. and Mrs. Taylor for visiting the Life Science Academy and talking with our students about careers available in the field of dentistry and oral surgery.



Buy and Sell with DC-bay!



DC-bay! is a monthly feature of the Grapevine. The deadline for the next DC-bay! feature is Friday, March 13. Send a description of item(s) for sale, including price, your name, school/site, phone number and photos to grapevine@dcps.org

DCPS Staff Spotlight: Brian Murphy



Brian Murphy, visual art teacher at Sorgho Elementary School, won honorable mention in the Owensboro Art Guild exhibition at the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art for “Harlem Nights,” pictured above. There were more than 150 submissions for the 2020 event and only about 60 were selected for this show, including both of Brian’s collage pieces: “Harlem Nights” and “Mandolin Rain.”

“Both of these pieces were inspired by musical influences and periods of time with cultural significance,” Brian said. “Collage is a simple technique with simple materials, like scissors, paper and glue. They can be used to create narrative art to tell a personal story. Inspired by artists like Basquiat, Andy Warhol and Keith Haring, along with collage artists like Romare Bearden and painters Stuart Davis and Jacob Lawrence, I try to relay the message to my students that everyone has a story to tell, and the more personal your art is, the more creative and unique it can become.”

Brian said collage is an interesting form of artistic expression. “Collage is simply using paper to cut, paste and arrange together, a lot like composing musical notes

or completing a puzzle,” he said. “I often like to use vivid colors and images from popular culture, music and fashion – images that are accessible to everyone.”

Brian is passionate about introducing young students to the world of art, and said his participation in the OMFA show is another element of teaching. “I believe the arts, in its many forms, are for everyone, regardless of gender, skills or background. After some encouragement from my family, I realized that if I teach students in the community about the value and importance of art, it is important that I ‘practice what I teach’ and submit my work for others to see, respond to, and hopefully appreciate.”

Brian said it was exciting to have two of his pieces selected for display at our local art museum. “I am honored that both of my pieces were selected for the event,” he said. “As a child, I often visited the museum and set a goal for myself to one day have my work on display here among the other works of art. I instill the idea of goal-setting with my students and my own children, so I am happy at some level to have accomplished this personal goal for myself and hopeful inspire others to create art that others can appreciate and enjoy. Not everyone may become an artist, but everyone can appreciate art, support the arts and encourage others to express themselves through the arts.”

This is Brian Murphy’s second year at Sorgho and his 18th year in public education, including working as a visual art teacher for eight years at the elementary and middle school levels.

Share Your Story!

DCPS staff members are encouraged to share stories about your hobbies, experiences and achievements! Send staff spotlight stories and photos to grapevine@dcps.org

Don't Miss Out!

Too busy to read last week’s newsletter? Want to review an article?

The Grapevine is archived on our district website.

Visit www.dcps.org

and click on STAFF in the red menu bar, then select ‘Grapevine.’

Don’t miss out on important news you need to know!

