

Sumter County SPEDucator

September 2016

HOOORAY!

Shout out to all teachers who met the August 26th deadline for Persons Responsible forms!

Mrs. Luke
Mrs. Evans
Ms. S. Sharp

Mrs. Thomas
Mr. Jones
Ms. F. Sharp

Mrs. Pritchett
Mrs. T. Davis

IMPROVE YOUR PRACTICE

"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." It's been said so many times, but while this statement may feel like a bit of a cliché, it is absolutely true. Building meaningful relationships with students is the first step to real learning taking place. Here are a few tips for building authentic relationships.

- **Ask questions about life outside of school.** Curiosity about "real life" indicates interest in more than just grades and test scores.
- **Seek common ground.** Shared interests could be opportunities to build bonds.
- **Take time to listen.** A few minutes of undivided attention can go a long way toward building trust.
- **Plan opportunities for fun.** School is stressful! Providing a little time for non-academic activities reduces the pressure and allows kids to really be themselves.
- **Set high expectations and hold students to them.** Everyone enjoys meeting goals, including children. Set the bar high then provide the tools and skills students need to meet your expectations. Nothing compares to the feeling of accomplishing something difficult!
- **Provide encouragement after setbacks.** We all mess up. Our students need to see that a mistake (or ten mistakes) doesn't have to mean the end of the world. Teach your students how to acknowledge what went wrong and try again. Students need to be reminded that giving up is never the best option.
- **Celebrate success.** Many times our students struggle to complete tasks and assignments at school, which can lead to a feeling of defeat. Identify what your students do well and point it out as often as possible. Who doesn't like receiving a compliment?

BE
SOMEBODY
WHO MAKES
EVERYBODY
FEEL LIKE A
SOMEBODY.
-KID PRESIDENT

online resources

- gamequarium.com online learning games for all subjects
- www.funbrain.com online learning games on a variety of topics
- coolmath-games.com online math games sorted by topic
- mathplayground.com online math games sorted by grade level
- multiplication.com online practice for multiplication skills
- xtramath.org FREE online basic math facts practice
- rif.org variety of reading resources
- pbskids.org resources for a variety of topics, especially reading

What's going on?

DON'T FORGET!

- Observations begin this month.
- See updated schedule for referral, reevaluation, and eligibility meetings for 2016-2017.

234

THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES IN OUR DISTRICT AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2016.

Thursday, 9/1	SCHS volleyball v. Meridian
Friday, 9/2	SCHS @ Marbury
Monday, 9/5	Labor Day
Tuesday, 9/6	Board Meeting LJHS vs. Robert Brown SCHS volleyball v. Central SCHS volleyball @ Meridian
Thursday, 9/8	eligibility CVFs due schedules due
Friday, 9/9	Field Day on the Quad (UWA) SCHS vs. Jemison (UWA stadium)
Monday, 9/12	8:00 – 11:00 LJHS meetings 12:00 – 3:00 SCHS meetings
Tuesday, 9/13	8:00 – 11:00 KJHS meetings 12:00 – 3:00 YWEJHS meetings LJHS @ Robert Brown
Wednesday, 9/14	8:00 – 11:00 NSJHS meetings
Thursday, 9/15	SCHS volleyball @ Demopolis
Friday, 9/16	SCHS vs. Dallas County
Tuesday, 9/20	LJHS @ YWEJHS SCHS volleyball @ Thomasville AAGC begins (Mrs. White out of office)
Wednesday, 9/21	
Friday, 9/23	AAGC ends SCHS @ Selma
Tuesday, 9/27	YWEJHS @ LJHS SCHS volleyball @ Greensboro
Wednesday, 9/28	Head Start meetings
Thursday, 9/29	SCHS volleyball vs. Choctaw County
Friday, 9/30	SCHS homecoming (v. Central)

AAA updates

New information was shared by ALSDE at the Back to School Meeting on August 29, 2016. A hard copy of the Power Point provided by ALSDE at this meeting will be shared with all teachers, principals, assistant principals and counselors before Friday, September 2, 2016. As soon as an electronic version is provided by ALSDE, the link will also be shared.

Overview of 2016-2017 AAA assessment

- tests reading, math and science in grades 3-8 and 10 (see PPT for specifics)
- administered April 3 – May 12 (our testing dates will be in this window)

This year, our students will be completing a PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT. ALSDE described it as a 24-26 question test that will be administered in a one-on-one setting. There will be a manual for the test administrator (likely the special education teacher), a student booklet and an answer document. Basically, it will look a lot like the ACT Aspire assessment, but be completed in a one-on-one setting.

The assessment will be based on 2105 Reading Alabama Extended Standards, 2015 Math Alabama Extended Standards and 2016 Science Alabama Extended Standards and will include questions at numerous depths of knowledge. Students will be allowed accommodations on this assessment (must be indicated on the State Assessment Page in the IEP) and will be allowed to answer questions in a variety of formats.

We will still collect work samples/pieces of evidence for some standards, but not all of them. More information will be coming about our exact procedures for assessment and evidence collection. Please be on the lookout.

So what does that mean?

1. Continue teaching all Extended Standards for students on AAA.
2. For now, continue collecting evidence for all standards.
3. Be prepared for more information from Mr. Bell, Mrs. White and building test coordinators once more information is received.