

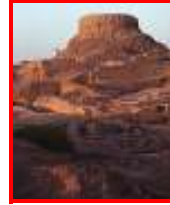
Additional copies of this newsletter are available at the Southampton County School Board Office, County Administration Building, WCR Library or Southampton County Public



## Family Educational Resources

### World Book Online

Southampton County Schools subscribes to World Book Online. This gives the parents and students that attend the schools in the county limitless access to this amazing online resource.



Included:  
**World Book Student**  
**World Book Advanced**  
**Spanish-language Encyclopedia**  
**World Book Kids**  
 Students can compile, create, and save research projects with World Book's research tools.

Visit [worldbookonline.com](http://worldbookonline.com) login: shcsd password: indians to begin making use of this amazing resource.



### Southampton County

To find out what's going on in your child's school, visit [www.southampton.k12.va.us](http://www.southampton.k12.va.us). Here you can follow the link to your child's school and find out what's for lunch as well as visit their teacher's page.

### Virginia Department of Education

Visit [www.doe.virginia.gov](http://www.doe.virginia.gov) then follow the link at the top of the page "For Parents" and discover the multitude of resources available for the parents and students grades K-12 to use at home to help meet the state standards (SOLs). On this site you will find so many resources that it may take you a while just to find your



Elementary parents visit the PALS website: [www.pals.virginia.edu](http://www.pals.virginia.edu) and click on the *For Parents* link. Make use of *Monthly Literacy Activity* and scroll to the bottom of the page to find additional links to sites such as Reading Rockets and Starfall, Phonemic Awareness and Reading Online Games.

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, SEX, AGE, RELIGION, DISABILITY, NATIONAL ORIGIN OR MARITAL STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT OR ANY OF ITS PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES. THE COMPLIANCE OFFICER FOR SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION ☞



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# Southampton County Public Schools Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 1

September 2009

## Mission Statement

The mission of Southampton County Public Schools through the combined efforts of staff, students, families, and the community is to ensure a quality education in a safe environment that will prepare students to be successful learners and productive citizens in an ever-changing society.

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# Congratulations

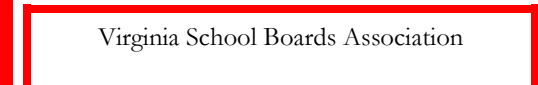


We congratulate all Southampton County Schools and their staffs, students and administrators for reaching **Full State Accreditation** status.

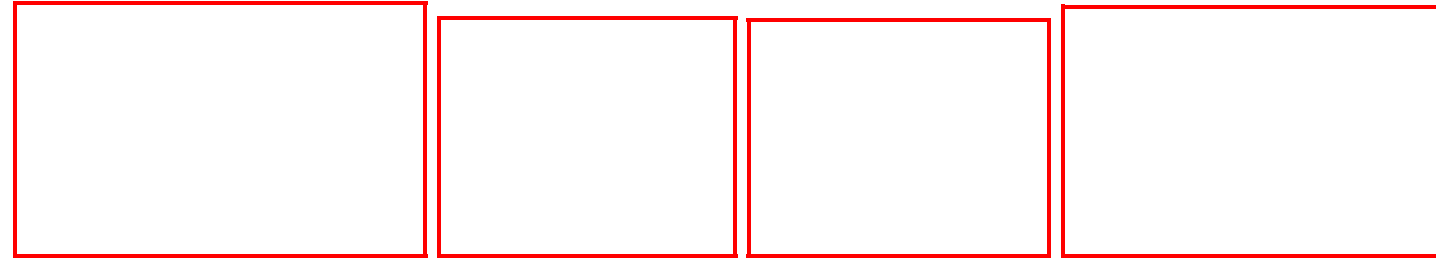
We also express appreciation to parents and the community at large for their support and assistance in our endeavors.

C. E. Turner,  
Division Superintendent

2008  
Region 2  
Superintendent  
of the  
Year



## Welcome Back



Fall is a time of new beginnings. The air is fresh with the anticipation and excitement of a new school year. The school shopping has been done. The classrooms are filled with old friends and new acquaintances. Football games, school dances, fall festivals, and other new and exciting adventures are about to take place. The first grader is excited about learning how to read and the high school senior is anticipating with mixed emotions the "last year" in school before college or a career. Each new day is a promise: a promise of a

brighter future. We in Southampton County Public Schools are excited to be a part of these adventures.

The schools are no longer just buildings but, with the return of our children, are revitalized into places of learning where we are charged with the most important task there is; the education of the youth in Southampton County.

We offer not only a safe, warm and friendly environment but the commitment to use every means possible to assure that our children are successful.

Parents can be assured that the classrooms in Southampton County Public Schools are equipped with the latest state of the art technology, ample quality books and supplies, and, most importantly, highly qualified teachers that will encourage each child to be a successful learner.

Together we begin a new year... students, parents, educators and community. So welcome back students and families. Welcome back to a fantastic 2009-2010 school year.

### Riverdale Elementary Welcomes New Administrators



Mr. James Battle, Assistant Principal

### Mr. Christopher Tsitsera, Principal

Mr. Tsitsera is a native of New York State where in 1995 he received a B. S. Degree in Elementary Education from the State University of New York. In 2002 he received a Masters in Urban Education with an endorsement in Administration from Norfolk State University and is now finishing his Education Specialist Degree from Capella University. He anticipates starting on a Doctorate in Educational Leadership this October. He comes to Southampton County from Virginia Beach City Schools. He is now a resident of Capron, Virginia.

Mr. Tsitsera says, "I love Southampton County. I love the country and the community. I am excited about this year at Riverdale Elementary School. With the staff, students and families that make up the school and community, I know it is going to be a great year."

Mr. Battle completed three tours of duty for the U.S. Army in Korea and served his country for twenty-two years. Upon his discharge, he enrolled in the **Troops to Teachers** program offered at ODU where he completed his Masters Degree,

He began his teaching career in a fifth grade class at Kiln Creek Elementary School in Newport News. He has served since then as an assistant principal for several schools in Newport News but is proudest of his years at South Morrison. In his first year there, the students' scores made such a turn-around that they were featured in a professional book.

Mr. Battle can be described as enthusiastic, focused and determined. As he says, "We are one school with one mission." He and Mr. Tsitsera work closely together with a vision of excellence...that will be realized.

## H1N1 and Your Child

Students in Southampton County Public Schools received a letter covering in detail the symptoms and procedures to follow with reference to the influenza A H1N1 virus. To assure that all parents and family members receive this vital information, we are following up with an outline of this information. If you would like an additional copy of the original letter in its entirety, please contact your child's school.

Since April, the H1N1 virus has been confirmed throughout Virginia. We expect this virus will continue to circulate and that clusters of illness will occur in schools. While it is uncertain how widespread or severe the virus will be during the upcoming flu season, the following information will help to protect you, your family and your community.

Flu viruses pass from person to person through coughing or sneezing by people with the flu.

### What you can do:

- Teach your child good cough and hand hygiene etiquette.
- Cover coughs and sneezes

with a tissue & discard tissues.

\*Wash hands frequently with soap & water for at least 20 sec.

\*Use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol

- Vaccinate your child for seasonal flu and for novel H1N1 if it becomes available.
- Monitor yourself and child for flu-like symptoms: fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, feverishness, cough, or sore throat.
- H1N1 flu might include additional symptoms: muscle pain, fatigue and sometimes vomiting or diarrhea.
- If you suspect that you or your child is getting the flu, stay home to avoid contact with others so that the virus does not spread.
- Plan now for your child's care if you or he/she become ill. If this happens, you or your child may be asked to stay home from work or school for at least 24 hours after you are without a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

ver without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

• Be sure to have a family plan that includes having adequate food and supplies on hand to decrease your need to be out in public.

• If symptoms worsen or cause you concern, contact your doctor's office by telephone for advice before arriving there in person.

• Stay informed. We encourage you to monitor the following Web sites:

- \* <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
- \* <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov>
- \* <http://www.doe.virginia.gov>

We appreciate your help in slowing the spread of this virus and keeping our children safe and healthy. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please call your local health department @ 757-653-3040 or call 877-275-8343.

Sincerely,

  
Christopher E. Turner  
Division Superintendent

  
Thea McCoy, MD, MPH  
Director  
Western Tidewater Health District

## New Administrative Assistant for Three Elementary Schools



Mrs. Sandra Pettigrew, Capron Elementary Principal, with Mrs. Tasha Ricks

The students at Meherrin and Capron Elementary Schools will be seeing a new face this year as Mrs. Tasha Ricks, the new Administrative Assistant, will be rotating to these two schools as well as Nottoway Elementary, where she taught first grade last year. Mrs. Ricks has been with Southampton County Schools since 2000. During that time, she has received her Masters Degree in Elementary Education/ Administration & Supervision from ODU and gone on to NOVA S. E. University to complete the coursework for her Doctorate in Educational

Leadership and is currently working on her dissertation.

Mrs. Ricks is excited about working with the three principals to mentor her with three different management styles. For a while Mrs. Ricks will shadow the principals as she learns the facilities, practices and procedures for each school. Soon, however, she will begin working with behavior management, student data and help teachers plan to assure that all students are successful in their classes and on state standards.