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Contact: Tricia Runyan, Communications Specialist
Phone: 540.743.3750 ext. 2403
Email: trunyan@pagecounty.k12.va.us

First Lady of Virginia Pamela Northam and Secretary of Education Atif Qarni Visit Page County High School

LURAY, Va. -- On Tuesday, April 20, 2021, First Lady Pamela Northam and Secretary of Education, Atif Qarni, stepped out of their vehicle at Page County High School with exclamations of the beauty of the mountains and scenery that surrounded them.

The First Lady of Virginia and Secretary of Education, along with their staff, were escorted on a tour around Page County High School and visited several classrooms to observe in-person instruction. Northam inquired from teachers and students, alike, about how they were doing, what kinds of challenges they had faced due to Covid, and personally thanked teachers and staff for all they were doing to help remote and in-person students during this most unusual year.

During the tour she stopped in the hallway and engaged in conversation with PCHS custodian, Lew Boston. She thanked him for all he does for the school and presented him with the First Lady's Challenge Coin as a token of appreciation. "I was going to ask her for her autograph, but this is way better!" Boston said, chuckling. She presented several other coins to staff and students. The First Lady presents Challenge Coins as special tokens. The coins are four colors: gold, green, blue, or pink, and have the Virginia seal on the front and a native animal or plant species on the back, such as a cardinal, a blue crab, or a dogwood tree.

In one classroom, while engaging in conversation with a student, she discovered it was his birthday and insisted that the entire group, of about 20 people, sing Happy Birthday! This was likely a birthday he won't forget. It's not often you get the First Lady of Virginia to personally sing Happy Birthday to you.

At the conclusion of the tour, the First Lady and Secretary Qarni again thanked everyone for all that we do for our students and assured us that our efforts have not gone unnoticed.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Tricia Runyan at 540-743-3750, or email at trunyan@pagecounty.k12.va.us