

TIGER PAWS

2nd Edition 2018-19

The Results are in: State Report Cards



Recently State Report Cards were released and Allendale County Schools unquestionably has reason to celebrate.

Allendale-Fairfax Middle School and Allendale Elementary School met the requirement to exit State Priority Schools List as of January 31, 2019. A Priority School is defined as any school, differentiated by school type (elementary, middle or high), with a weighted point index at or below the 10th percentile.

Currently, Allendale-Fairfax High still falls in the category, District officials and school administrators are working diligently to ensure the high school has better results next year.

A Track for Champions

"Happy" doesn't begin to describe the emotion that the long time State-rank Allendale-Fairfax High School Track & Field team feels after finally getting their own track in the District. This \$1.2 million dollar investment from the state as well as grants has been several years in the making.

The groundbreaking for the event took place in December of 2017 and the project was completed in December 2018. The track and field was not only an investment for the school District, but members of the community are invited to use the facility as well.

"Our students have worked hard over the years and I'm glad they finally have their own track now," said Athletic Director, Coby Brandyburg.



ACS Caught in the Act



Allendale Students Win First Place in Regional Science Fair

Two students from Allendale County Schools participated in the annual Savannah River Regional Science and Engineering Fair held at the University of South Carolina Aiken (USCA) and won first place in their individual categories.

Sixth grader at Allendale-Fairfax Middle School, Arianna Priester, won first place in the health science category with a project using eggshells to explore which beverages are most likely stain human tooth enamel. Priester was also nominated to compete in the 2019 Broadcom MASTERS. This nomination designates Priester's project among the top 10% of middle school science fair projects in the United States.

Kiarah McKnight won first place in the physical science category. McKnight's project, "Going Green as You Clean," challenged the claim that conventional detergents are more toxic than environmentally friendly detergents. The tenth grader from Allendale-Fairfax High also won second place prize overall for all high school projects.

One hundred ninety-three projects from 52 schools and 7 counties in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) were judged in the Savannah River Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, partnered with the University of South Carolina Aiken and the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center to sponsor the event.

February Employees of the Month

- Teacher of the Month - Ms. Michaela Tison, FES
- Bus Driver of the Month - Ms. Willa Dean Bradley
- Custodian of the Month - Ms. Loretta Hartzog
- Food Service Employee of the Month - Ms. Linda Harris
- Technology Employee of the Month - Ms. Tejuan Cohen



A.E.S. Puts on a Show!

On December 19th, 2018, Allendale Elementary School students performed "A Christmas Carol" adapted from the Charles Dickens book originally published in 1843.

35 students grades 3-5 participated in this production and students practiced twice a week for about two and a half months with the help of volunteers from the District and the community and Principal, Sheila Leath.

"Our school performs school musicals as one way to provide extra curricular activities to our students. Students in rural areas don't always have access to theatre. Many of our students have never seen or participated in a live musical," said Ms. Leath

Many untapped talents have been discovered during the school musicals. Ms. Leath and others have witnessed students who are known for being shy gain confidence as a result of being in a performance.

"Our musicals are done for our students and for parents and the community," said Ms. Leath.



A.F.M.S. Presents: MLK Oratory Competition

On Thursday, January 24th, Allendale-Fairfax Middle School students entered the final round of the school's MLK Oratory Competition and the event was dubbed a "proud moment for Allendale County Schools" by District officials. Justin Joyner claimed first place and Jamarion Kirkland and Arian Williams won second and third places respectively.

The students were coached to deliver their memorized speeches in front of an audience and a panel of judges. Initially, students auditioned at the classroom level and progressed to become finalists for the schoolwide competition. The following students all competed as finalists: Dhailauna Taylor-Maner (6th grade); Amiyah Fields, Eulyssa Gill, Xzavion Miller (7th grade); Leah Duncan (8th grade).

Audrey Patterson, a Literacy Coach for Allendale-Fairfax Middle and High School, coordinated the competition and felt it would aid in sharpening public speaking skills for the students which is crucial in many career paths today. "Ultimately, I wanted our students to find their voices and master how to use it to help make the world a better place," Patterson said. "Teaching our students how to express themselves verbally helps our youth attain more success overall."

All contestants received a trophy and certificate to commemorate the event. 3rd place received \$25; 2nd place received \$50 and 1st place received \$100. Now that this year's competition is over, students are already excited about next year's competition.

The Superintendent's Corner

A school year is only 180 days for students, so moving with speed and purpose is paramount. The end of 2018-2019 school year is upon us. Watching teachers teach and students learn this year have been both rewarding and promising. It is my goal to debunk the myth that a student's race, neighborhood, or family income is a predictor of how a student fares in his/her K-12 years and beyond. I am convinced that you can't change what you're willing to tolerate. Allendale County Schools is committed to ensuring all students have rich learning experiences each day and become agents of their own learning.



Our commitment to the community is to promote every educational opportunity for students while providing a safe and nurturing environment for all. We are proud of our district and the collaborative efforts made in and out of the classroom that impact our students. Our students and staff take pride in their schools, their community, and in each other, because we believe that together we can change the headlines in Allendale County.

Know that as a district, we will continue to value students' ability to reach their fullest potential and take immense pride in ensuring that all students' academic, social-emotional and extra-curricular needs are met. Each school continues to require all students to challenge themselves academically and ask administration and staff to challenge themselves professionally, and finally ask the entire community get excited for the future of Allendale County Schools.

In this journey of continuous improvement, the district will be intentional about celebrating, elevating and uplifting the best of student and teacher successes. We have done that at each of our Community Meetings.

As we continue to build a unified district inclusive of students, teachers, administrators, staff members, communities, families, businesses, industries and churches, it is extremely important that we collectively support the learning experiences of ALL scholars and change the headlines....Allendale Forward.

Dr. Margaret Gilmore,
Superintendent of Allendale County Schools

Partnership for Financial Literacy

The Allendale County School District has worked diligently to create partnerships with businesses, industries and churches as a goal of the District's 3 Year Strategic Plan; SRP Federal Credit Union has a similar goal.

SRP hopes the donated funds will help the school district meet a previously unfulfilled need that will benefit the students and begin to close the financial literacy gap.

As part of the partnership, SRP will provide a \$50 gift card each month to Allendale County Schools' District Teacher of the Month and has also partnered with the district to offer an Affinity Debit Card Program. The card has a custom design with the school district's logo and will be available to order soon. The school district receives a donation for each eligible transaction made with the card. All SRP members are eligible to apply for the card. Existing members can request to change their card design to the Allendale design at no cost. New members will be able to choose the Allendale design from a list when their accounts are opened.



CHANGING THE HEADLINES... ALLENDALE FORWARD