

*A Message from the Superintendent*

The events at Central Elementary School this past week have affected all of us deeply. I am thankful that all of our students and staff are safe. This incident could have been so much worse. I want to thank everyone for their support as we have worked through the events of this week. It was not easy, but I feel we handled everything as well as we could. I especially want to thank Ms. Erica Maddox, School Health Assistant at CES, for recognizing something was wrong and starting to put the pieces of the puzzle together. I also want to recognize the efforts of Officer Brandon Payne and Lead Nurse Blair Payne for their assistance in the case. Furthermore, we need to recognize Dr. Hoden, Mr. Roakes, Mr. Proffitt, and Ms. Pinn for their actions and diligence. Lastly, I want to thank the Amherst County Sheriff's Office and Amherst County Public Safety for all they did during the incident and the subsequent investigation. It was definitely a team effort and demonstrated how "Team Amherst" comes together during a crisis.

To our greater school community, our children need your help. None of our children should have to deal with what our children dealt with this week. I am asking our caregivers and community members to have serious talks with our children about accepting items from others. I am also asking that the adults take the time ensure that none of our children are exposed to drugs or other dangerous items in our homes or community. It is our responsibility to ensure the safety of our children. I urge you to do everything within your power to make sure our children are safe.

On a lighter note, we have made it to the Christmas Holiday break and we only have nine more shopping days left until the big day. I want to take a moment to wish everyone a happy holiday season. As we move into the holiday break, I encourage you to spend time doing the things you enjoy and take advantage of your opportunities to spend time with loved ones. I hope you all have a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year. I look forward to seeing the students return on January 2, 2024.

Sincerely,

*William*

# Upcoming Events

December 18-January 1

School closed for Winter Break

January 12

Grading Period Ends

January 15 - Holiday: No school for staff/students

January 16-Teacher Work Day: No school for students

January 19: Report Cards Go Home



ACPS is very community and family-focused, and we place an emphasis on supporting and valuing our educators. We believe that our educators have the single most significant impact on the lives of students. We have an exceptional mentoring program that provides you with a high level of support over the first two years with ACPS to help you become confident, competent, and connected in your school community.

*Congratulations Graduates!*

## ACPS wants you!

**Come join #TEAMAMHERST**



### *Teaching Positions Available*

Secondary Science Teacher  
Secondary English Teacher  
Secondary Agricultural Science Teacher  
Elementary Teacher  
Elementary, Secondary, and Special Education positions for the 24-25 SY

### *Why Choose Amherst??*

- High Quality Mentoring Program (first two years)
- Commitment to Meaningful Teacher Induction and Support
- Culture of Valuing and Developing Effective Teachers
- Promise to our Community of "Every Child, Every Day!"



Superintendent, Dr. William Wells, working with ACPS students during their trout release as part of the Trout in the Classroom Project.



Students in grades 3-5 participated in a visit from author/illustrator Jonathan Miller. Students learned how art can be created using construction paper alone and stories can be sparked with a little inspiration from everyday objects and characters.

**Apply Online Today!**

[www.amherst.k12.va.us](http://www.amherst.k12.va.us)



**Questions?**

**Contact Human Resources**

**(434)946-9376**

**hr@amherst.k12.va.us**

#ShowUpAmherst

Second  
Annual  
Community  
Dinner



January 25, 2024

Doors open at 5:30 PM  
Madison Heights Community Center  
424 Woody's Lake Road, Madison Heights

Join us for a FREE family style meal and board games at our community dinner event! We promise food and fun for all who attend! Please RSVP by January 10, space is limited to the first 200 registrants.

RSVP



Canned food donations for Neighbors Helping Neighbors appreciated