

TRUE BLUE

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH SPENCER REBELS



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- » High School Athletic Complex Completed
- » Middle Schoolers 'Start with Hello'
- » Supporting Student Growth and Success Through PBIS

The 2018-19 is off to strong start at South Spencer School Corporation! See inside for more information on the great things our school community has accomplished so far as we learn, work and play together.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The 2018-19 school year is off to a great start! Our students are discovering new things about themselves and the world as they learn, work and play together. As a corporation, we have many positives to report. We have continued our 1:1 technology initiative by adding Chromebooks in 5th grade and at the high school. As a result, each student has access to either a Chromebook (5th-12th) or an iPad (K-4th) to extend their learning opportunities and prepare him/her for life in an ever-growing and changing the technological world. Due to recent hires at the high school, we can continue to offer several AP, honors and dual credit classes. We continue to grow and succeed together, which is evident by the fact that our corporation performance percentage has increased over the past three years.

The positives extend outside of the classroom as well. Our band qualified for State for the second year in a row. The girls' golf team qualified for regional competitions, and the boys' soccer team earned their first sectional title in South Spencer history. Congratulations to all of our athletes!

Speaking of sports, if you've been to a home football game recently, you have probably noticed the newly completed Athletic Complex. This facility provides new locker rooms, ticket booths, concessions, storage and guest restrooms. The completion of the Athletic Complex is a reflection of how well the entire renovation project has gone so far -- continuing to stay ahead of schedule. Besides the improvements being made at the high school, we are always looking for ways to make all of our schools better. One recent initiative replaced the lighting at all of our schools with energy efficient LED lights.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to formally welcome Rick Hunt and Cheri Adams to administrative roles at South Spencer. Rick Hunt is the new principal at Rockport Elementary, and Cheri Adams is the new principal at Luce Elementary. They have gotten both buildings off to a smooth start this year. We are grateful for the excellent teachers and staff that invest in our kids every day. We are also thankful for the outstanding community support, which helps our schools and families thrive!

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ATHLETIC COMPLEX COMPLETED

The South Spencer Athletic Complex was completed on Sept. 17 -- just in time for homecoming activities!

Along with Homecoming, many football games have already been held in the new complex. Football parents have commented that the new



entryway is more convenient for dropping off and picking up, and the new lighting and accessibility make it easier for young and old alike to enjoy athletic events. The new space includes restrooms, a concession stand, locker rooms for the home team and visitors, a room for the officials, an entryway for spectators, as well as additional storage, vendor and meeting areas.

While the Athletic Complex has wowed the athletes and community already this fall, construction is continuing at the high school track. The track itself is being resurfaced. Lights and bleachers are being added, and the area inside the track will become the new home soccer field.

As a school district, we are very proud of the improvements that have been made and encourage everyone to come out, see the changes and support our athletes!

'START WITH HELLO' WEEK



Special activities were planned for each day of 'Start With Hello' Week at South Spencer Middle School, which were intended to help students step outside their typical group of friends and include others.

Inclusion can be as easy as saying "hello." South Spencer Middle School students, along with students throughout the U.S., participated in a week of activities designed to help students take small but easy steps



On Oct. 2, South Spencer Middle School's 8th graders visited AEP, Superior Ag, Diamond Trucking and MPW for Career Day. At each business, students learned about a variety of jobs such as chemist, financial analysis, truck drivers logistics manager, agriculture, farming, engineers, marketing and customer service. Prior to their trip, students took a career interest survey to identify with which career clusters they most closely identified, created a mini resume and learned about the "soft skills" employers are looking for, including: showing up on time, working hard, being respectful and being open to learning new skills.

to help others feel included. The week, called "Start with Hello," took place Sept. 24-28.

Special activities were planned for each day, which were intended to help students step outside their typical group of friends and include others. On one day, a photo booth was set up where students were encouraged to take pictures with others -- particularly other students outside of their friend group. On Mix-It-Up at Lunch Day, kids drew a color from a box and sat at tables with others who drew the same color. Together, each table competed in a trivia contest. "Start with Hello" week ended with a dress up day where students wore green.

"'Start with Hello' week allows us pay tribute to the individuals, who through a horrific act of violence, lost their lives at Sandy Hook Elementary," explained 8th grader, Mackenzie Hinton. "We hope that it never happens again, and we can show students that there are people who care and are willing to include everyone. No matter what they are facing, people are there for them."

LUCE STUDENTS START THEIR DAY ON THE RIGHT FOOT

Both students and teachers alike appreciate the opportunity Walking Club gives Luce Elementary students to start the day with movement.

"One major benefit to Walking Club is my students are able to get exercise in the mornings even when it is too cold to go outside for recess. The students look forward to walking every day. It really helps to get them ready to focus when class begins," explained fourth grade teacher, Kristi Lindsey.

Before the school day begins, students gather to walk on the school's walking path through the nature center. If the weather prevents walking outside, the club moves inside so every day can start with the benefits of Walking Club.

The club began when Luce became an upgrade school. Upgrade -- an initiative of the Well Born Baptist Foundation -- provides funding to teach children and families about healthy lifestyles. Walking Club is one way students can experience and learn about the benefits of exercise.

Brolen Powers, a student walker, says, "I just really like walking. I like walking with my friends and talking before school."

Students are benefiting socially and physically, but this time is also preparing them to be ready to learn when the bell rings. In addition to these perks, students can earn prizes; each student has a card with a QR code that can be scanned to track miles so they can walk their way to extra rewards.



Congratulations to all of our athletes for a great fall season, including our girls' volleyball team!

SUPPORTING STUDENT GROWTH AND SUCCESS THROUGH PBIS

At Rockport Elementary, PBIS (Positive Interventions and Supports) is improving student behavior by encouraging each student to be the best learner and citizen he/she can be. PBIS itself is a combination of interventions and supports, which help students develop social and behavioral skills.

At Rockport Elementary, PBIS aims to support a positive learning climate. Teachers spend time reinforcing common procedures and expectations of what it means to be a "Rockport Student." Rockport students are reminded how to "Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible." Having a few simple, positively-stated expectations facilitates the teaching of behavioral expectations across school settings.

In an effort to reinforce character development, Rockport Elementary integrates specific character traits into a program each month. At the end of each month, teachers select one student per class to be honored as a Character Trait of the Month winner. Students are also recognized and rewarded in other ways.

As a school community, Rockport works to show that success is a process, not a destination! Keeping a positive growth mindset around children's development in academics, character and citizenship is key. Parents and community members should take every opportunity to point out the intentional, purposeful practice it takes to get better at anything. When that happens, adults model true learning and students become the learners and leaders!



Before the school day begins, students at Luce Elementary gather to walk on the school's walking path through the nature center. The movement helps them get ready to focus when class begins.



Students at Rockport Elementary School shine bright with good character, which is encouraged by PBIS.

YOU'RE INVITED

You are invited to attend regular school board meetings. These occur the second Monday of each month at 6 pm.

SCHOOL BOARD

- Matt Bunner President
- Barbara Tuley Vice President
- Scott Richard Secretary
- Derek Allen Board Member
- Steve Haaff Board Member

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OUR WEBSITE

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There is always something to smile about in our elementary schools!



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THAT'S MY SPOT

South Spencer High School celebrated the Class of 2019 in a new way this fall. For the first time, seniors were invited to paint their own parking spots.

Principal Jim Bush launched the new idea: "I just wanted to be able to do something fun for the seniors. The kids came out and had a good time. It was all about the kids!"

Approximately 70 students painted their spots. Students were encouraged to purchase paint together. They were then set free to express themselves and to show their personality in their personal parking spots. Many students spent hours designing and painting their spots. Some were playful and whimsical while others were deep and thought-provoking. One student, Sarah Dunsworth, used her spot to remember a fellow classmate who was killed in a car accident.

"It was really fun and really cool for the school to do this," said Hannah Faubion, whose spot became a recreation of a Fallout poster.

After painting was completed, the community gathered for a cookout in the evening to view the work and kick off the school year. With such great feedback, the parking lot painting project will likely become a yearly tradition.



Shown are a few parking spots painted by this year's seniors.

ALL-SCHOOL CALENDAR

- Nov. 21-23 Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 21-Jan. 1 Christmas Break
- Feb. 25 and April 8 Assessment: ISTEP+ (Grade 10)
- Starting March 18 Assessment: IREAD-3
- March 25-29 Spring Break
- Starting April 22..... Assessment: ILEARN (Grades 3-8)
- May 11..... Graduation