

Doug Brubaker, Ph.D.

WEEK OF JUNE 25, 2020

GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR MUSICAL EXCELLENCE



RYAN JACOBS



KARINA AVILA

FORT SMITH
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NHS AND SHS STUDENTS RECEIVE GOVERNOR'S AWARD

Please join us in congratulating Southside High School graduating senior Ryan Jacobs and Northside High School graduating senior Karina Avila for receiving the distinguished Governor's Award for Musical Excellence.

This award recognizes one outstanding high school senior at each public school in Arkansas for their commitment to excellence in music. Recipients were nominated by school music instructors based on the high standards of musicianship, teamwork, dedication, character and attitude. The award medallion may be worn at the graduation ceremony. We are so proud!

GRADUATION UPDATE

At a called Board of Education Meeting on Thursday, Fort Smith Public Schools presented graduation ceremony options to the Board of Education, all of which were submitted, reviewed and approved by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The Board of Education voted unanimously to approve Plan 1A with an inclement weather and contingency plan.

The planned ceremony dates for Plan 1A are Thursday, July 16 (Northside) and Friday, July 17 (Southside).

Plan 1A: On the Field - One Graduation Ceremony

One graduation ceremony is held for each high school at their respective stadiums at 8:00 AM on July 16 (NHS) and July 17 (SHS).

- Two guests per graduate.
- A live stream will be provided.
- No faculty attending.
- Guests will have assigned seating determined by lottery.
- In the event of inclement weather at 8:00 AM, the ceremony will be postponed until 8:00 PM the same day at the same location.
- In the event that it is raining at 8:00 PM, the ceremony will be held at the Fort Smith Convention Center Exhibit Hall with students only, no guests.

Fort Smith Public Schools continues to plan for safe graduation ceremonies and is committed to organizing a memorable event for the Northside and Southside Classes of 2020. The district will continue to advise seniors and their families of Plan 1A. We thank our seniors for their continued support and patience, and look forward to celebrating with them soon.

FSPS LAUNCHES VIRTUAL/BLENDED TEACHING & LEARNING ACADEMY (VBTL) FOR CERTIFIED STAFF, OFFERS \$500 STIPEND UPON COMPLETION

CERTIFIED STAFF:

As we approach the start of the 2020-2021 school year, it is important to first recognize the incredible work of our staff during the remaining months of the 2019-2020 school year to deliver remote learning to FSPS students in a time of great uncertainty and change. Thank you for all you have done to ensure learning continued. That collective experience has completely changed the game for how we instruct and how our students learn, and now more than ever, we need to be prepared to face the challenges of remote learning and virtual instruction head-on. Please take a moment to review the information below regarding the inaugural FSPS Virtual/Blended Teaching and Learning Academy (VBTL).

FSPS VIRTUAL/BLENDED TEACHING & LEARNING ACADEMY

In the May 22 *FSPS Weekly* edition, we first announced the launch of the FSPS Virtual/Blended Teaching & Learning Academy for teachers. The purpose of the Academy is to further equip teachers with the knowledge and skills needed to meet the needs of students in a quickly-evolving education landscape. We gave you a brief overview of the Academy, including the delivery models and schedule, which can be found below.

BOARD APPROVAL

On Monday, June 22, the Board of Education approved FSPS' recommendation to designate 18 hours of the existing 54 hours of required professional development for the 2020-2021 school year to be district-led and facilitated virtual instruction and remote learning. This requirement will be for all certified staff and the 18 hours will be created and facilitated by district staff. With the approval, CARES Act funding will be used to award certified staff members a \$500 stipend upon completion of Level 3.

LEVEL 1 ACADEMY INFORMATION

There are three Level Academies. The Level 1 Academy is centered around the basic concepts and skills to gain the confidence to successfully teach and facilitate student learning regardless of the physical look of school this year. You may choose to participate from three delivery models that will include a performance assessment to demonstrate mastery. Level 1 Academy will earn certified staff 11 professional development hours and a digital Level 1 badge. There are three pathways to achieve Level 1 Proficiency:

1. Live via Zoom
 - a. 4 days- AM or PM
 - b. Multiple sessions
 - c. Facilitated via Zoom
 - d. Includes performance assessment
2. Self-Paced
 - a. Occurs in Schoology
 - b. You control the time/place/space
 - c. Includes performance assessment
3. "CLEP"
 - a. Performance assessment only

LEVEL 1 SCHEDULES

FSPS Virtual/Blended Academy Level 1 SCHEDULE

LIVE (via Zoom) Options

AM: 8:30-11:30 OR PM: 1:00-4:00

Cohort 1: June 15-18 (Mon-Thur)
 Cohort 2: June 22-25 (Mon-Thur)
 Cohort 3: July 7-10 (Tue-Fri)
 Cohort 4: July 13-16 (Mon-Thur)
 Cohort 5: July 20-23 (Mon-Thur)
 Cohort 6: July 27-30 (Mon-Thur)

Self-Paced OR "CLEP" Option

Available in Schoology
 Monday, June 15 -
 Tuesday August 4

Enroll anytime &
 complete at your own
 pace.

Live via Zoom: Live-facilitated sessions are differentiated by grade band and run concurrently:

PK-2
 3-6
 7-9
 10-12

Each live session is offered both AM (8:30-11:30) and PM (1:00-4:00).

The weeks are:

June 15-18 (Mon-Thur)
 June 22-25 (Mon-Thur)
 July 7-10 (Tues-Fri)
 July 13-16 (Mon-Thur)
 July 20-23 (Mon-Thur)
 July 27-30 (Mon-Thur)

Registration and sample schedules are available in KALPA. A schedule overview for the academy can be [found here](#).

Self-Paced and "CLEP": The self-paced and CLEP options will be available in Schoology starting Monday, June 15 through Tuesday, August 4. Enroll anytime and complete at your own pace.

Enroll Now for Level 1 Academy: *You can enroll for one of the three options in [KALPA](#).*

Level 2 and Level 3 Academies Coming Soon: Level 2 and 3 Academies are in the final stages of development and will be available in early July. Levels 2 and 3 will take a closer look at research and best practices for virtual learning and culminate with the development and implementation of a Blended Learning unit plan. Please read the FSPS Weekly and check your email for more information as it's released.

Upon successful completion of all three levels, participants will earn a digital badge, 18 hours of Professional Development, qualification for the March Flex Day, and a one-time \$500 stipend. Additionally, the first 900 Level 3 certified educators will receive VIP access to AJ Juliani's Online Learning Master Course.

If you have questions about the VBTL, please email [Sandy Adams](#). To check your eligibility, please contact your supervisor.

REMINDER: ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS 2020 SUMMER DEAD PERIOD

FSPS Athletics and Student Activities will observe 2020 Summer Dead Period June 29-July 3. For questions about the Summer Dead Period, please contact Athletics and Student Activities at 479-785-1227.

CHILD NUTRITION REMOTE KITCHEN FOR HIGH SCHOOLS IN 2020-2021

In accordance with the District's current construction schedule, Southside will be without a Child Nutrition (CN) kitchen for the first four months of school in FY21. The CN serving line facility will be the east safe room for this same period. Northside will be without both a CN kitchen and a CN service line facility for the entire upcoming school year.

Therefore, Northside will require the purchase of an additional serving cottage (formerly known as a portable building). This building, located on the Northside campus for the full school year, will provide appropriate spacing for social distancing and allow CN staff to prepare salads and other meals not requiring to be cooked.

The lack of kitchens at the high schools required creative thinking. The resulting solution will be presented to the School Board on Monday. CN will propose to rent the commercial kitchen equipment and facilities from Grand

Avenue Baptist Church (GABC). CN staff will cook the meals at GABC for both high schools and transport the food daily to the two campuses for the first four months. For the remaining school year, the GABC equipment and facilities will be utilized for preparing only Northside meals.

The lease agreement with GABC will cover the entire fiscal year to allow CN staff to begin prepping the GABC facilities for the school year. CN staff plans to bring in additional equipment to the GABC facilities for storage and food prep purposes. While many venues were reviewed, the GABC equipment and facility was chosen for its size, accessibility, location, and availability.

Additional cost of this remote kitchen include the purchases of cargo vans and heated transport cabinets. Just like the serving cottage, these items will be available for CN and the District after the remote kitchen operations are complete. Total costs for the remote kitchen set up and operations are estimated to be \$400,000.

SECURITY UPDATE

Fort Smith Public School Police

Fort Smith Public Schools Police Department is currently researching the potential development of a Police Advisory Board. This board would serve as a connection between the school campus communities and the police department. The Police Advisory Committee gives the police the opportunity to engage with students, staff, parents, and others on policies and specific philosophy of community policing, crime prevention, and strategies on our school campuses. The committee would be made up of a diverse group of students, staff, parents, and community members that would serve as advisors to the FSPS Chief of Police.

FACILITIES UPDATE

ELECTRICIANS

Installed conduit and wire for new dehumidifiers at Euper Lane
Replaced batteries on all elementary fire alarm panels
Installed new perimeter lighting at Cook

UTILITY CREW

Mowed at all school location
Removed furniture from five schools

PAINTERS

Continue to paint interior at Bell Point, Cavanaugh and Orr
Continue to paint exterior handrails at Sunnymede

PLUMBERS

Unclogged kitchen drain at Ramsey and Kimmons
Repaired water fountain at Barling and Bonneville
Repaired sink at Cook

VISION 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Internal demolition continues for cafeteria
Building pad continues for gym
Attached Storm Shelter pad has been poured
Building Pad for ninth grade center continues

SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Steel is being erected at ninth grade center
Framing continues for Front Office

Internal Interior demo is underway
Cafeteria and gym wall being prepped for demo
East safe room is now connected to South Gym

RAMSEY JUNIOR HIGH

Concrete slab - complete, column bases to be poured after steel is complete
Steel - ongoing, to be completed next week
Exterior metal framing - to start after steel
Sewer line inspection - completed but still under review
Interior Renovation - demo complete
Interior framing - almost complete
HVAC - new ductwork being installed
Electrician - following framing