

South Meck Students, Families and Staff,

Happy Friday....and what a week.

Celebrations

First, let us congratulate two students who placed in the Carolina Freedom Foundation Art Contest. Senior Joanna - 1st place \$1,000 prize and Senior Dulce - 2nd place \$500 prize. In addition, we'd like to congratulate both the Women's and Men's Cross-Country Teams for qualifying for the Regional Meet. During the Regional Meet earlier today, the Women's Cross-Country Team qualified for the NCHSAA State Meet and members of the Men's Cross Country Alec, Caleb, and Max qualified for the NCHSAA State Meet as well. The NCHSAA State Meet will take place on Friday, January 22, 2021 and we can't wait to cheer them on virtually.

Second, what better way to end the day yesterday than to celebrate the 77 students who were Mid-Year Graduates. Check out highlights from the event here: <https://bit.ly/SMMidYearGrad21>

In addition, we'd like to celebrate our Teacher of the Year 2021 Mrs. Fyniss Nixon. Check out highlights from the announcement here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DxmLo6cJy6Wqru31XEWke5L0HP29-Tja/view?usp=sharing>. On behalf of the entire faculty, staff, and students of South Meck, Congratulations Mrs. Nixon!!!

Remote Learning Extended

As a follow up to the recent CMS Board of Education decision, below you will find very important information:

- Students will remain in full remote learning until at least February 12th. High School EC Extensions students will return on site for in-person learning on February 15th. All other high school students will report on site for in-person learning beginning February 22nd based on their assigned rotation (A, B, C).
- South Meck will be closed for non-essential business. Our main office will be open from 7:00am-3pm daily for essential business include but are not limited to answering phones, issuing new/replacement Chromebooks, Driver's Eligibility Certificates, processing enrollments/withdrawals, receiving and processing deliveries/mail, etc.
- No in-person sports, marching band, clubs or student activities until no earlier than February 15th.
- The PSAT/NMSQT will not be administered on January 26th. Alternative means of qualifying for National Merit Scholarship will be pursued but are not available to the public at this time.

Yes, the board decision means we will not return on-site for in-person learning on Tuesday, January 19th as previously scheduled. All students will remain remote and will follow the #SabreNation Remote Learning Schedule.

Understanding many South Meck families may be uneasy with the idea of returning to school even on the new date, we have extended the option for families to opt-in to the Full Remote Academy. The extended South Meck deadline is Thursday, January 21, 2021. Please contact our registrar Ms. Nazario at diamilet1.nazario@cms.k12.nc.us if you would like to change to from in-person learning to the Full

Remote Academy. This extended South Meck deadline is the final deadline and only applies for those interested in changing to the Full Remote Academy.

Straight Talk with Starnes

Have questions that need answers? During the PTSA Meeting on Tuesday, we will host Straight Talk with Starnes at 7pm on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. No new information will be shared however this is an amazing time to ask questions or seek clarity regarding any matter, specifically our return to in-person learning. The link to join is <https://bit.ly/PrincipalStarnesZoomRoom>. This information will also be posted on social media.

Sabre University Survey

As we aim to provide families with information and access to varied supports, we are asking all Sabre families to take a few moments and complete the Winter Sabre University Survey to help us guide the planning of our next Sabre University. You can find the survey at <https://bit.ly/WinterSabreUniversitySurvey>. This survey will be open until January 29, 2021.

Senior Ads in the School Yearbook

Senior Ad Sales are open for LIMITED TIME with LIMITED SPACE. To purchase your ad, please go online to **Jostens.com** and search South Mecklenburg High School or use the direct hyperlink below. Jostens is managing our school's yearbook ad sales so please do not contact or send materials to the school. Please make sure all submitted material is appropriate for our school's publication and submitted by February 11th.

Direct link: <https://www.jostens.com/apps/jcom/router.mvc?affiliateId=1051413>

Food Drive Update

On behalf of the Principals at South Meck, Quail Hollow and Smithfield, we would like to thank ALL of our community members and key partners like you that have supported our food drive since March of 2020. Many of you supported the individual schools before then and we know you will continue to support us as we transition the food drive program back to each of our schools. We have said time and time again that we never anticipated that this consolidated program would have the impact that it has. Our last combined distribution will be Thursday, 1/25. We will include a gift card along with the weekly food package to help with the transition time frame. With your amazing support, we will hit a major milestone, distributing over 3500 weeks' worth of food, helping ~100 families a week.

As positive Covid numbers in our county continue to rise, we are going to have to limit our volunteer activities to staff members only. This means we will need to transition the program back to each school and cease our weekly distributions. The need has not changed, so we encourage everyone to continue supporting the program as they can through monetary donations. We will not be able to collect/store bulk food in the short run and will focus on distributing gift cards to our highest need families. Please feel free to reach out to each school (see info below) to discuss opportunities or if you would like to do something across all three schools, you can still contact Staci McBride ([704-965-3749](tel:704-965-3749)/stacib@bellsouth.net) to coordinate this. For monetary donations, you can send a check or transfer money via Venmo and PayPal.

Again, without YOU, over the last 10 months we would never have been able to make such a huge impact for families every week. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

SCHOOL CONTACT AND DONATION INFORMATION (Checks can be made out to the PTSA of each school with a note in the memo section for the food drive):

South Mecklenburg High School

PTSA – Food Drive

8900 Park Road

Charlotte, NC 28210

980-343-3600

PayPal: https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=VXQ6M2TPFXBEC

Quail Hollow Middle School

PTSA – Food Drive

2901 Smithfield Church Road

Charlotte, NC 28210

980-343-3620

Venmo: @QHMS-ptsa

Smithfield Elementary School

PTSA – Food Drive

3200 Smithfield Church Road

Charlotte, NC 28210

980-343-6550

Venmo: @SmithfieldElem-PTA