

Sussex County Charter School for Technology

# CHARTER NEWS

*Building Future Leaders in the STEM Community*

## Spooktacular 2016

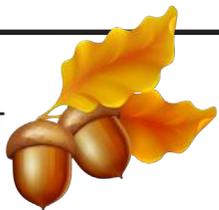


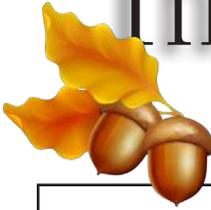
# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Over the last month, I have had the opportunity to spend time with our students outside of school, both at the Halloween Dance and at our Open House. I love seeing students in these settings because I get to see a different side of them. On both of these occasions, I had the same experience: true pride in the students at Sussex Charter. At the dance, they all seemed to have a blast. They danced and laughed and ran around but every single student was also extremely respectful and well-behaved. At the Open House, I was so impressed with the way that our students represented themselves and Sussex Charter. I watched them as they spoke to adults, led groups around the building and shared what they are doing in clubs. Guests came up to me commenting on how wonderful our students were to talk with. I want to thank all of our parents and guardians for the support you give us from home each and every day. I got to see firsthand that our students are taking our motto of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience outside the classroom in a big way. They are a shining example of what Sussex Charter is about.

-Deirdre Mastandrea

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Happy   
Thanksgiving!



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees meets the second Monday of every month. On even months we meet at 4pm, on odd months we meet at 7pm. We invite parents, teachers, students and staff to attend our meetings and to learn more about how our school operates and different ways to become part of our school community.

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# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Medaling at Nationals

Medaling at the 2016 Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) was a great experience. I was able to accomplish a goal I had been striving towards since I first started running competitive track at the age of 10 years old. The road to the Junior Olympics was difficult, but not nearly as hard as competing there.

During the indoor season my coach of Pure Acceleration Track Club knew with the athletes on the team we had a very good chance to medal on a national level. We all knew we had the ability as well. Once we heard our coaches say it was obtainable to medal, we became even more confident. The preparations for the Junior Olympics started in December of 2015 and didn't stop until we reached nationals in August of 2016.

In March of 2016 my teammates and I broke the USATF (United States Track and Field) Hershey Youth Indoor National record in the 4x400 relay. Our vision was looking even brighter coming out of the indoor season, as we began the outdoor season when we were able to have one of the fastest 14-year-old boys in the state to join our team. When he joined our team our chances of medaling at the Junior Olympics increased tremendously. In practice we all were excelling in our events, which pushed us too a lot harder at meets. Our practices are a lot harder then [sic] our meets, but I was having tons of fun at both. Our relay team was looking great with the new addition, as we were undefeated throughout the developmental and invitational seasons.

Once early June arrived we began our championship season. The first meet we had to get through was the AAU state district Qualifier. I had to compete in this meet and finish top 16 in your age category to then move on the regional level. I won the 13-year-old division for the 200m and 400m and my 4x400 relay team won too. I then advanced to compete in the AAU region 1 national qualifier held in Connecticut. There were teams from New York, Connecticut, North Jersey, Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. This meet was very crucial because only the top 6 finishers of each age category moved on to compete at the Junior Olympics. I finished first for all 13



year old boys in the 200m, 400m, and won the 4x400 relay. At regionals we ran a decent 4x400 time, and were seeded 7th in the nation going into the Junior Olympics.

In Texas it was extremely hot; it was above 98 degrees every day with a high amount of humidity. This was a challenge for the runners from our area. It was very hard to get used to it but we adjusted. My first race was the 200m. I was pleased with my time. I had two days off then I had the 400m to run which is my strongest event. I ran a season best in the 400m. The next day was the 4x400 relay. I ran and handed the baton off to George, but we had a bad exchange and dropped the baton. To our advantage we were 100m meters ahead of the other teams so we did not embed their lane and were not disqualified, we won our heat even with the dropped baton. We did lose 5 seconds off our time but still made it to the finals. We had to run the race of our lives for the finals because we were seeded 7th going into the finals and were assigned a bad lane due to the error of the baton in the semi- finals. We increased by one spot in the finals and finished 6th in the nation with the tile of All American.

My experience was great. This had been my 4th Junior Olympics and while I had medaled many times before at the USATF Indoor Nationals this was my very first Junior Olympic medal with some of my best friends. I had worked hard the entire season. Once I finally got my medal it was amazing. Being part of a team that makes national is special. Making the finals and earning a national medal is even more special.

- Connor Cooper

# BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month the Board of Trustees received our annual financial audit. We are required by law to hire an outside firm that goes through all of our books and financial activities on a yearly basis. I am happy to report to you that, as with each year that I have been on the Board, our auditors again concluded that they have no recommendations concerning any of the areas audited. In other words, it seems that we have been handling the funds sent to us by our various sending districts, and other governmental agencies, in a proper and responsible manner. I would like to congratulate our business office personnel for a job well-done.

This is important to me as a tax-payer in Hampton Township, as it should be to you. As a charter school in New Jersey, the Sussex County Charter School for Technology receives most of our funding from those districts that send students to the school. Each district is assessed 90% of its average per pupil spending for each child attending SCCST from that district. These funds are due monthly. We also receive smaller grants from state and federal programs, such as No Child Left Behind. What this means is that the SCCST Board has no control over the amount of funds available to us in any given year. That control rests in the various budgets of the sending district and the variable funding available to us from other agencies. There are two times during the year that we have an opportunity to anticipate what funds will be available to us. In the Spring, the state releases its own funding formula, and local Boards of Education adopt their budgets for the following year. Then in October we have a picture of exactly how many students we have from each district and the amount per pupil we can anticipate receiving for the rest of the year.

The good news for local tax payers is that, unlike some charter schools, ours is managed by educational professionals. Some state laws allow Boards of Trustees to contract with management companies which then operate the schools, taking some of the funds slated to support the schools' instructional programs and applying them instead as corporate profit. All funds received by the SCCST Board of Trustees go towards our educational programs in the form of professional salaries and benefits, instructional materials, training, building maintenance, and so on. If you ever have questions concerning our school's financial status or activities, you are always welcomed to attend our monthly meetings.

-Dr. Edwin Selby

## UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>  
PTO Meeting (6 PM)

NOVEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>  
Pie Sale Pick Up

NOVEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Early Dismissal

NOVEMBER 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>  
Thanksgiving  
(School Closed)



DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>  
Application Deadline for  
2017/2018 Admissions Lottery

DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>  
Admissions Lottery

DECEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>  
Board of Trustees Meeting (4 PM)

**GIVING GIFT  
CARDS FOR THE  
HOLIDAYS?**

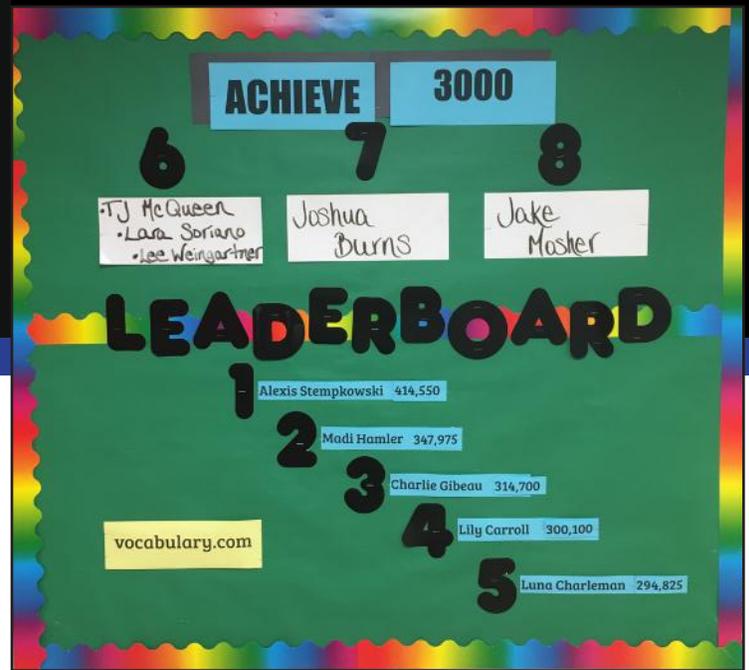
The PTO will be placing the next  
Scrip order on December 5th!  
Visit the PTO Facebook page for more details.

# SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

## What is Achieve3000?

We at the Sussex County Charter School for Technology are so excited to have integrated Achieve3000 into our rigorous curriculum. This program has become the leader in online differentiated instruction. It serves millions of students all over the world. It reaches students at their precise Lexile® reading levels and guarantees to deliver significant reading gains, as it assesses and adjusts as the year progresses. This system is designed to help our students evolve into college and career ready citizens. It is an informational text focused program which delivers articles of varying topics at each student's individualized reading level. The reading of these high interest articles, over 17,000 available, is just one part of the 5-step process each student participates in.

Each week, the students at Sussex Charter complete the 5-step routine for two selected articles. This routine guides them through a process of polling, reading and analysis, interacting with PARCC like comprehension activities, and a "Thought Question" written response section. The written response requirements vary depending on the article. Students may be asked to recall pertinent information from the text, while integrating their personal opinions supported by text citations, or they may be required to compose a narrative. This program marries beautifully with the Common Core Curriculum Standards and not only helps teachers assess student progress, but enables them to highlight weaknesses to better inform their instruction.



This very individualized program monitors each student's activity and adjusts to meet their needs each month, raising or dropping the Lexile level as is appropriate. It prepares the students for the PARCC, educates them on specific science and social studies curriculum themes, and motivates them through point and badge reward programs. Through the "career center", they can investigate their career of choice and the reading level required for their desired field. The system then monitors their progress in meeting that level. Encouraging our students to become forward-thinking individuals who prepare for the future is our key goal.

As a school for technology, dedicated to the academic achievement and success of each and every student, we take the privilege of having access to such an innovative and advanced program very seriously. We are dedicated to arming our little scholars with all the tools they need to be well-rounded, successful men and women who are college and career ready. Achieve 3000 supports both students and teachers alike in meeting this goal.



## PTO NOTES

On behalf of the PTO, we would like to thank the wonderful SCCST students, parents, guardians and staff for a successful fundraiser and Spooktacular Dance. The amount of food and clothing donated was overwhelming. It was great to meet so many new families and have the opportunity to get to know one another. The PTO couldn't have done it without you. We very much look forward to the next dance and clothing drive in the Spring. Please join us at the next PTO meeting on November 17th and December 15th @ 6:00pm to be part of the growing community at SCCST.

Email us at: [Sussexcharterpto@hotmail.com](mailto:Sussexcharterpto@hotmail.com)