

SUSSEX COUNTY CHARTER SCHOOL FOR TECHNOLOGY CHARTER NEWS

October - November 2018

BASF Awards Grant for Sustainable Earth Education

Sussex County Charter School Science and STEM teacher, [Mrs. Mary Lou DeCaprio](#), was awarded an educational grant of \$5,000 by the BASF Science Education Foundation. The company was very impressed by her proposal entitled, ***Greenhouse Sustainable STEM and Science Learning for a Sustainable Earth***. The proceeds will be used to purchase equipment



and supplies at the Sussex County Charter School to support the STEM and Science educational programs benefiting all Charter students for years to come.

BASF Corporation invites all public schools to submit a proposal summarizing their specific science education needs and how a grant would help students explore STEM.

BASF offers these educational grants to a maximum of 20 New Jersey schools each year. This year, the company received 101 proposals from 20 counties. BASF Corporation, headquartered in Florham Park, New Jersey, is the North American affiliate of BASF SE, Ludwigshafen, Germany. BASF has more than 17,500 employees in North America, and had sales of \$16.2 billion in 2016.

Harlem Wizards Enthrall Students at Special Assembly

The Harlem Wizards visited the school to promote their upcoming special event, and selected 7th grader *David Perez* to demonstrate some incredible basketball handling skills. The event, hosted by Sussex County Charter School for Technology, Sussex-Wantage PTO, and the Rose House, at High Point High School is scheduled for [Sunday, November 11th at 2 pm](#), and will help benefit local elementary and middle school students, as well as adults with developmental disabilities. Tickets can be purchased online at www.Harlemwizards.com. Prices for tickets purchased before the event are \$17 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors. Tickets can also be purchased at the door the day of the game at High Point High School for \$20 for adults and \$17 for students and seniors while they last.





Walk to Culver's Lake Fire Tower Inaugurates School Year Hiking Program

[Mr. Nick Fialcowitz](#) led his 5th hike (1st of this 2018-2019 school year) on Sunday 9/30. The hike loop was found on *All Trails* and is called the

Normanook Loop. It starts at the Culver's Lake Parking Lot off of Sunrise Mt. Road. It's a 5 mile loop that leads into the Coursen Trail, continues to the Fire Tower Trail up to the Culver's Lake Fire Tower and then south on the Appalachian Trail.

Almost immediately some wildlife was found by Mr. Fialcowitz's dog Kona. Kona found a porcupine right off the Coursen Trail. Luckily, he did not suffer any quills in the face. Many newts were almost stepped on. Woolly bears, and millipedes were a common trail obstacle. Just before the summit onto the Appalachian Trail, the group had to cross a log over a roaring stream. This was a challenge for some but no one fell in. Everyone successfully crossed the log with the help of others. The Fire Tower was the spot they stopped at for lunch and all the students found the Fire Tower to be like a giant jungle gym. It was a perfectly calm day with great views. Everyone is looking forward to the next hike at the end of October or first weekend in November to see the fall color Sussex County is known for.

“*Game of Kings*” draws scores of students into strategic thinking and play.



Social Studies teacher [Jim Baldini](#) started the Chess Club at the Sussex County Charter School. We had a strong show of support among the students with over 50 joining the club on the first day. All students at all levels of ability, from beginner to advanced, are welcome. Students and staff help those who have never played to learn how to play and more experienced students learn how to play at higher levels of skill. In school teams and tournaments were created for friendly yet

competitive play, designed to enhance creative thinking, planning and strategy. Our plan is to have other activities, possibly tournaments with other schools in the area, plus a fundraiser for an outside stone board.

URGENT: 8th graders! Please bring in your baby picture for the 2019 yearbook to Ms. Andersen or Mrs. Devito

National Red Ribbon Week

OCTOBER 22 - 26, 2018

MONDAY 22	TUESDAY 23	WEDNESDAY 24	THURSDAY 25	FRIDAY 26
<p>Sock it to Drugs!</p> <p><i>Wear the craziest socks you can find.</i></p>	<p>Team up Against Drugs!</p> <p><i>Wear your favorite sports jersey.</i></p>	<p>Hats Off to Red Ribbon Week!</p> <p><i>Wear something red on your head.</i></p>	<p>Everyone Wear Red Day!</p> <p><i>Wear red clothing.</i></p>	<p>Hero Day!</p> <p>Heroes don't do drugs. <i>Dress like your favorite hero. No costumes please.</i></p>

- Red Ribbon Week is a national drug awareness campaign that began in 1985 in response to the murder of DEA Agent Enrique Camarena.
- Students will be encouraged by their writing teachers to submit an entry to the *What's Your Anti-Drug Contest* which is run by the Center for Prevention & Counseling. A winning entry from each school that participates will be published in the NJ Herald on November 5th.
- Mr. Demsak, our counseling intern, has been asking students to pledge to be substance free by signing a red ribbon which will be displayed in the gym during Red Ribbon Week.

Students signing the pledge to Stay Drug Free



Raising Trout in the Classroom-II

Following last year's very successful release of trout into the local streams, **Trout in the Classroom** (TIC) continues this October. **T.I.C.** is a science-based program that teaches children about the importance of coldwater conservation through a hands-on approach to learning.

Through the process of raising trout from eggs provided by the Pequest Trout Hatchery to fingerling size for release, students learn about the importance of clean, cold water, not only for the trout they are raising, but also for the other

organisms, including people.



[Mrs. Jennifer Duncan](#) has led T.I.C. at SCCST and students from all grades have enthusiastically participated in raising Brook Trout, the official State Fish. The program is cross-curricular and encompasses many subject areas such as science, math, art, language arts, reading, technology, and more. Future career paths are also introduced including Biologist, Ichthyologist, Limnologist, Aquaculturist, Environmental Scientist, and careers in medicine.

As an added bonus, just prior to the introduction of eggs, the students were able to observe several crayfish in the classroom tank; studying their behavior and growth.



SeaPerch ROVs launched by Charter's Society of Women Engineers (SWE)

SeaPerch is an innovative underwater robotics program that provides educators with the resources and tools to guide their students in building an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). The SeaPerch Program is part of the U.S. Navy's Office of Naval Research effort to bring science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs into middle-school grades, with a special focus on marine engineering. SeaPerch aligns to the national science standards and lends itself well to interdisciplinary projects.

This is the first year the students in Mary Lou DeCaprio's science class have used the kits, worth about \$1700 and awarded as a grant, to build their own battery-powered and remote-controlled submarines. All of the kits contain the same basic plans through which the students learn



engineering and science concepts. Mrs. DeCaprio incorporated this program into her Society of Women Engineers Next Generation club in conjunction with the school's STEM club.

Our school received five kits. 20 students from grades 6, 7 and 8 were divided into teams to build the submarines. The submersibles are built around

a piece of PVC pipe and have three motors that work propellers for left and right turns and the third to raise and lower the vehicle in the water. The students use a control box connected to the vehicle by a leash to perform basic functions underwater. The students met afterschool for several months in the winter and spring, soldering, drilling and testing the motors and buoyancy of the perches.

On Thursday, June 7th, the students put their finished projects into the Kittatinny pool, raced them and ran them through homemade PVC obstacles. Kittatinny's Physical Ed Swimming director kindly hosted our group. Along with our own Mrs. Sior, we had two lifeguards standing by. Mrs. Lazuriuk joined us during the festivities to cheer on the kids.

KEY DATES

October 22 - 26	Spirit Week / National Red Ribbon Week
October 23	8th Grade to Sussex Tech: Career Exploration Day
November 4	Daylight Savings Time - Set clocks <i>back</i> 1 hour
November 8-9	School Closed - NJEA Annual Conference
November 11	Harlem Wizards at High Point High School
November 21	½ day Early Dismissal
November 22 - 23	School Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday



20 Book Challenge

SCCST will participate in another reading challenge! This year we don't want to stop at 20 books, but rather encourage all students and teachers to read and explore as much literature as they can. We have three incentivized challenges. These include individual, grade-wide, and Reading Class competitions. You can find all information about our book challenge on the Google Site below. In order to participate, all books must be logged on the site through the Google form posted. Log on to check it out!

<https://sites.google.com/sussexcharter.org/bookchallenge>

Happy Halloween

