

Superintendent's Annual Report 2016-2017

Fauquier County Public Schools

www.fcps1.org

Letter from the Superintendent

Dear friends of FCPS,

The state requires that each year, every division superintendent produce a divisional report, or "checkup," regarding the overall health of the school division. I am happy to report that FCPS is healthy, vigorous, and strong.

2016-2017 was a very good year, and not just because we only had a few snow days. Our average SAT scores rose by 68 points to an all-time high of 1125. Our graduation rate was 95.5% for the class of 2017. This is a remarkable number, good enough to be ranked #1 among school divisions with enrollments between 8,000-15,000, and 16th overall. FCPS also saw 18 of 19 schools earn full state accreditation (one school is considered "approaching" accreditation, missing the benchmark in reading by one point).

We have a lot to be proud of. As you read about the accomplishments of our students and staff, you will see why we are so proud...and so healthy. Students and staff have been recognized regionally, state-wide, nationally, and even globally! I've stated since the day I arrived here that we have remarkable students and teachers. I am so proud and humbled to serve as their superintendent.

Still, we have work to do. Achievement among our neediest students lags behind the general student population. Our discipline data demonstrates additional inequity among various student groups just as it does among those identified for gifted and talented services, dual enrollment, AP, and Governor's School. Our greatest challenge as a school division, in my view, is ensuring that the playing field is level for all students, that all students are exposed to a rigorous and engaging curriculum, and that we maintain high expectations for all students. In order to accomplish this, we have to differentiate for kids...meet them where they are, and raise the tide so that ALL of our vessels rise together. We can do this! All it takes is a lot of hard work and tremendous efficacy: the belief that all kids can be successful.

Lastly, I thank you for reviewing this document and for your support of our school system.

Mission Statement

Fauquier County Public Schools, an innovative learning community, is committed to developing creative, confident and knowledgeable citizens who are globally competitive by cultivating the potential of each learner.

Senior Staff

- Major Warner, Associate Superintendent for Instruction
- Prashant Shreshta, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Planning
- Frank Finn, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services and Special Education
- Dr. Amy Acors, Director of Instruction
- Louis McDonald, Director of Technology

- Janelle Downes, Director of Human Resources

A LOOK AT THE FACTS & FIGURES

Graduation Rate at Record High

Fauquier County Public Schools' on-time graduation rate in 2017 increased to a record high 95.5 percent, ranking FCPS at 16th (in a tie with Loudoun County) out of 132 school divisions in the Commonwealth. The on-time rate refers to first-time ninth graders who entered high school in the fall of 2013 and graduated on time in 2017. Exceeding the 2017 state rate of 91.1 percent, Fauquier's on-time graduation rate ranked first among the 18 school divisions in the Commonwealth with similar-size student enrollments, ranging from 8,000 to 16,000 students.

SAT Scores

The 2016-2017 SAT scores were at the highest level locally than any time in the division's 30-year history of recording SAT scores. The average SAT scores for FCPS students were

- **575** in evidence-based reading & writing
- **550** in mathematics
- **1125** Total
- Virginia 1102
- Global 1071

Per Pupil Expenditures

Per Pupil Expenditures (PPE) measure a school division's disbursements by ranking among the 132 school divisions in Virginia; the chart below shows where FCPS ranked in comparison to all Virginia school divisions in Fiscal Year 2016.

- Disbursements 24th
- Instruction 23rd
- Administration 67th

FCPS Pupil-Teacher Ratios

Standard 2M of the Standards of Quality (SOQ) for public schools in Virginia stipulates that the school division must report to the public the actual pupil/teacher ratio in elementary classrooms for the current school year. This ratio includes fulltime classroom teachers and cannot include resource personnel:

- Bradley: 20:1
- Brumfield: 21:1
- Coleman: 19:1
- Greenville: 23:1
- Miller: 21:1
- Pearson: 21:1
- Pierce: 21:1
- Ritchie: 22:1
- Smith: 20:1

- Thompson: 21:1
- Walter: 22:1

Standard 2M further requires that the school division report the ratio with resource and teacher personnel included — teachers of art, music, health and PE, speech, technology, and special education along with reading and math specialists, psychologists, and diagnosticians:

- Grades K-7: 12:1
- Grades 8-12: 11:1

Federal Accountability

The new Every Student Succeeds Act designated 2016-2017 as a transition year during which the U.S. Department of Education issues final regulations, and each state develops an implementation plan. Therefore, this is the final year Federal Annual Measurable Objectives (FAMO) will be reported here. The following chart indicates the percentages of FCPS students passing FAMO in 2016-2017 in core subject areas.

FAMO	FCPS	STATE
Reading	80	80
Writing	79	79
Math	79	79
Science	85	82
History	82	86

Please see www.doe.virginia.gov for more detailed reports

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Finalist in National Merit Scholarship Program

Kettle Run High School senior Nicholas Seyler advanced to Finalist in the 62nd annual National Merit Scholarship program. He received a Certificate of Merit in recognition of this accomplishment as one of 15,000 Finalists considered for a National Merit Scholarship. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test — a test which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.6 million entrants each year. Nicholas plans on studying biomedical engineering.

Centurion Award for Financial Literacy

Finn Cook, Fauquier High School junior, received the Centurion Award during a ceremony in June at The Museum of American Finance on Wall Street in New York City. The award honored Finn for scoring 100 percent on the National Certified Financial Literacy Test. Approximately 200,000 students in 46 states took the test, and Finn’s 100 percent score landed him in the top 0.4 percent in the nation. He took the Personal Finance course his junior year with teacher Karen Chipman.

National Online Math Contest Winners

Second graders Eoin O’Keefe from Thompson Elementary School and Timothy Furness from Smith Elementary ranked third in the nation along with 11 other students from across the United States in the Online Math League contest for high-achieving math students in grades 2-5. The contest takes place

throughout the school year with students taking three math tests for which their scores are compiled and entered online along with those from other students across the nation. Eoin and Timothy tied for first place in Fauquier County and in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In Nation's Top Ten in DECA competitions

Gillian Tocheny, a DECA student from Liberty High School, placed in the top 10 in the nation in the personal financial literacy event, and Erin Jones, a DECA student from Fauquier High School, placed in the top 10 in the nation in the business services marketing category (after placing second in the state) at the International Career Development Conference in April. FHS student Oliver Wrigley won first place in sports and entertainment marketing at the state level in March.

First in State in Future Health Professionals Competition

Liberty High School students Jennifer Garay and Sidney Kaczar placed first in the state in forensic medicine competition at the HOSA-Future Health Professionals State Leadership Conference in Williamsburg in March; the two are pictured with Tammy Jenkins, RN, HOSA-Future Health Professionals advisor at LHS. Fauquier High School students Meredyth Canard and Natalie Barrera placed third in the state in the medical photography and epidemiology category, while Haleigh McGuin and Kenyi Juarez from Liberty placed fourth in the state in the medical innovation advanced category.

First in State in FBLA Competition

Fauquier High School student Ron Borta placed first in the state in agribusiness competition at the Virginia Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference in April in Reston and also placed fifth in the state in introduction to business competition. Liberty High School student Genevieve Hebert placed fourth in the state in the business communication competition at the conference.

Second in State in FCCLA Competition

Mindy Hale, a junior at Fauquier High School, placed second in the state in the nutrition and wellness category at the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America State Conference held in Virginia Beach in April. For the competition she created a family plan project entitled "Living a Better and Healthier Life," which included a 10-minute oral presentation with a PowerPoint to explain her plan to the judges.

National Geographic State Bee Semifinalists

Taylor Middle School student Elizabeth Ott and Warrenton Middle School student Josie Hutt were two of 100 semifinalists in the state eligible to compete in the 2017 Virginia National Geographic State Bee at Longwood University in March. The National Geographic Society invited 100 of the top-scoring students in each of the 50 states to participate in state-level bees. Both Elizabeth and Josie had won their own school geography bees and then took a qualifying test to become eligible for the Virginia National Geographic State Bee.

All-Virginia Middle School Honor Choir

Seventh-grade students Annelise Borst of Auburn Middle School and Mikey Goltry of Warrenton Middle School were selected by audition to participate in the 2017 American Choral Directors Association's All-Virginia Middle School Honor Choir. Out of 1,096 submissions, 318 students from across the Commonwealth were selected to be part of the state choir. They participated in a concert at Virginia

Tech in April. To compete for a position in the state choir, each had to audio record a music scale, “My Country ‘Tis of Thee” and a song of their choice.

Fauquier County Spelling Bee Champions

Lily Von Herbulis, a fifth-grade student at Smith Elementary School, won the 11th annual Fauquier County Public Schools spelling bee in January. First runner-up was Jake Goldman, an eighth-grade student from Marshall Middle School. Forty-six FCPS elementary school and middle school spellers competed, all of whom were winners or runners-up in their own school’s spelling bee. Students from all 11 elementary schools and all five middle schools competed.

Middle School Geography Tournament Winners

Taylor Middle School won the second annual Fauquier County Middle School Geography Tournament in February; team members were Noah Bonnaire, Elizabeth Ott, Haley Strong and Lane Ways. Four teams competed, demonstrating their knowledge of world geography. Placing second was the team from Marshall Middle School, composed of students Lola Banta, Evan Hunter, Andrew Locke and Marley Rowell.

First Place in NASCAR Top Tech Challenge

Fauquier High School automotive technology students Cody Heyl and Wadell Bourgeois won first place in the NASCAR Top Tech Challenge at UTI in North Carolina in February. FHS students Justin Bean and Tyler Newman placed third in the competition. The first-place team won \$10,000 in scholarships and over \$3,000 in tools for the Fauquier automotive technology program. The students competed in automotive technician disciplines including brakes, electronics and scan tools and also participated in an interactive technician question-and-answer challenge.

First Place in Flag Design

Savannah Johnson, a senior at Kettle Run High School, won first place in the high school division of the annual statewide Youth Art Month flag design contest. In the middle school division Warrenton students Josie Hutt and Erin Soldon won second place and honorable mention respectively.

Regional Science & Engineering Fair Winner

Mountain Vista Governor’s School/Liberty High School junior Heather Wotton took top honors at the Fourth Annual Fauquier Regional Science & Engineering Fair, senior division (9th-12th grades), in March for her project entitled “The Effect of the Removal of Mass on the Calculated Efficiency of Structural Beams.” Her project won second place (engineering category) at the Virginia State Science & Engineering Fair at VMI in late March; also taking second at the Virginia competition were MVGS/LHS student Caroline Duckworth (microbiology) and MVGS/Kettle Run High School student Ellyse Sutliff (plant science).

Participant in the Virginia Senate Page Leadership Program

Audrey Fisher, eighth-grade student at Marshall Middle School, served for seven weeks as a page in the Virginia Senate Page Leadership Program during the January-February legislative session. She was one of 46 students selected out of 191 applicants. The rigorous, highly structured program is modeled much like a college-preparatory boarding school. She kept up with her MMS studies by working in a two-hour study hall each evening and also at home on weekends. She performed work assignments at the Senate and gained valuable experience observing and participating in the legislative process of Virginia.

Middle School Entrepreneur

Marshall Middle School seventh-grade student Brandy Payne took a skill she learned in school and turned it into a successful business all her own. She learned how to make fabric wreaths in teacher Tracy Riedel's sixth-grade family and consumer science class and enjoyed it so much she decided to begin selling her creations. At first she made the wreaths solely for friends and family as gifts, but the wreaths were so popular that she began selling them and reinvesting the profits to pay for additional supplies. Adults have advised her to continue her entrepreneurial pursuits, which she plans to do.

Destination Imagination Global Finals

The Destination Imagination team from Pierce Elementary won second place at the DI state tournament in April, qualifying to compete in the DI Global Finals in Knoxville, TN, in May. Team members were McKenna Cupka, Alexa Meriwether, Josh Cooper, Drew Kolb, Ashley Brod and Lilli Ferguson with Pierce art teacher Karla Kolb as team manager. DI teaches the creative process and interpersonal and management skills through critical thinking and creative problem solving.

First at State Fair in Auto Program

Students from the Fauquier High School automotive technology program took first place and fourth place in the SkillsUSA Auto Services Contest at the Virginia State Fair in September. In a 10-school field, the team of Justin Bean and Waddel Bourgeois took first, and the team of Luis Bendek and Cody Heyl took fourth.

FFA State Fair Winners

Liberty High School FFA members claimed three second-place finishes at the Virginia State Fair. In the log-throwing competition, Patrick Dean took second in the junior division and Ken Mayhugh took second in the senior division. Chris Kuhler placed second out of 23 competitors in the senior division of the agriscience demonstration category.

First in State in TSA Competition

Fauquier High School seniors Emma Winters and Morgan Miller won first place in the children's stories category at the TSA Technosphere State Conference in May in Hampton. The technology education students had to create an illustrated pop-up story of high artistic, educational and social value focusing on science, technology, engineering and math.

Auto Tech Student Third in State

Justin Bean, a student in the automotive technology program at Fauquier High School, took third in the state in automotive service technology at the 53rd Annual SkillsUSA Virginia State Leadership Conference in April. The competition consisted of 15 stations that included electrical diagnosis and testing, state inspection, and steering and suspension.

24 Math Game Tournament Winners

Top individual winners in the 8th annual 24 Game Math Tournament were Javier Contreras (Thompson ES) in the Junior Tournament (grades 3 and 4); Jack Pechin (Coleman ES) in the Elementary Challenge (grades 4 and 5, double digit); and Colin Doyle (Marshall MS) in the Middle School Challenge (grades 6-8, double digit, fractions and decimals). Team champions were Pierce Elementary School and Taylor Middle School.

FFA State Champs in Quiz Bowl

The four-member FFA Quiz Bowl Team from Cedar Lee Middle School took top honors in state-level competition at the 90th Virginia State FFA Convention in Blacksburg on the campus of Virginia Tech. Members were Cathryn Wolfe, Megan Day, Riley Hines and Dylan Frederick. Fifteen four-member teams from throughout the Commonwealth competed against each other, taking a 50-question, multiple-choice test and answering “round-robin” questions about educational policy related to agricultural education, parliamentary procedure, FFA history, etc.

Seven High School Students Attend Governor’s Schools

Seven FCPS students spent part of their summer pursuing further academic excellence: two at Summer Residential Governor’s School and five at a Governor’s Foreign Language Academy. Liberty student Alanis Gordillo attended the four-week Humanities Governor’s School at Radford University, and Kettle Run student Liam Whitted attended the four-week Governor’s School for Math/Science/Technology at Lynchburg College. The two were involved in classroom and laboratory work, field studies, research, individual and group projects and seminars with noted scholars. Attending a three-week full immersion Virginia Governor’s Foreign Language Academy at Washington and Lee University were Kettle Run students Fiona Coulson and Brianna Jenkins (Spanish Academy) and Gehrig Faircloth (French Academy). Fauquier High student Illa Rochez attended the Japanese Academy, and FHS student Timothy Ruff attended the Latin Academy, both at Randolph-Macon College.

Residential Wiring Winners

Two students in instructor Randy White’s second-year residential wiring class at Fauquier High School took top honors in the Skills USA District 10 electrical construction wiring contest in January. Fauquier High student Shane Campbell won first place, and Kettle Run High School student J.R. Mills, the previous year’s winner, took second.

Junior Division Winners at Regional Science & Engineering Fair

Top honors at the 4th Annual Regional Science & Engineering Fair, Junior Division (6th-8th grades) went to Buddy Ball, Sophia Carey, Elise Henry, Conner Mollberg, Nathaniel Ribeiro, Clay Sailor, Ella Salzman, Kendall Schlueter, Maddie Settle, Rachel Singleton and Paris Thornburg.

STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cedar Lee Agriculture Teacher Selected as Teacher of the Year

Kim Matthias, now in her 26th year of teaching agriculture and her fourth year at Cedar Lee Middle School, was named the FCPS Teacher of the Year in April. She loves her middle schoolers’ enthusiasm and authenticity and has high expectations for her students. She taught horticulture and agriculture in Florida for 7 1/2 years before relocating to teach agriculture at Liberty High School for 14 1/2 years; over the years she has guided students to state and national rankings in various FFA events. Matthias serves as state president of Alpha Delta Kappa, an international organization of women educators.

‘Master of the Middle’ Teacher of the Year

Peggy Recker, seventh-grade civics and economics teacher at Warrenton Middle School, was named the Virginia Middle School Association’s “Master of the Middle” Teacher of the Year in October 2016. The 26-year veteran teacher has taught at WMS for the past 19 years. Principal Barbara Bannister said, “Civics is the arena in which she thrives. Her love of teaching civics and how the federal government

works is her passion.” Bannister said Recker is one of a kind. “Only she can teach the way she teaches,” she said. “Others have tried, but her style is *her* style.”

Rookie Teacher of the Year

John Malone, special education teacher at Liberty High School, was selected as the FCPS Rookie Teacher of the Year for 2017. The Pennsylvania native said building relationships is his favorite aspect of teaching. “The best part of my job is that I get to work with some remarkable and hardworking students in my favorite subject area. I feel like my content knowledge of social studies, mixed with building trust and relationships with students makes for a structured and inviting atmosphere for students and allows me to assist my co-teachers in any way possible,” he said.

Regional Award to WMS Art Teacher

The National Art Education Association selected Marisa Pappas, art teacher at Warrenton Middle School, as the Southeastern Region Middle Level Art Educator for 2017. This prestigious award annually recognizes the exemplary contributions, service and achievements of an outstanding NAEA member; the Southeastern Region consists of 12 states and the Virgin Islands. Pappas taught art for three years at Walter Elementary and has taught art at WMS for eight years. “Everything I do I do for the students,” she said. “I try to inspire and motivate them to be the best they can be in all that they try.”

Dr. Jeck Region IV Superintendent of the Year

The Region IV Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS) named Dr. David Jeck, superintendent of Fauquier County Public Schools, as the 2018 Superintendent of the Year for Region IV, which includes 19 school divisions in Northern Virginia. Dr. Mark Ginsberg, dean of the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University who was a participant in the selection process, said, “Our staffs are our ‘secret sauce’ that yield success, and Dr. Jeck’s demonstrated ability to lead in ways that embrace motivation for excellence is most impressive.”

Nurse to the Rescue

Venus Bowen, nurse at Coleman Elementary School, saved the life of a Fauquier County plumber’s assistant by administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation to the unconscious, non-breathing employee who became ill while repairing a leak in a sink at the school. Bowen said she was worried that she wouldn’t be able to bring him back. “My training kicked in immediately, and I just kept going in hopes that his heart would start again.” Her CPR efforts were successful, and the County employee was discharged from the hospital the next day. “In the end,” Bowen said, “I was doing my job, and the outcome was joyous.”

Virginia District 8 VFW Citizenship Teachers of the Year

David Kuzma from Kettle Run High School and Gail Angelos from Smith Elementary School were selected as the District 8 VFW Teachers of the Year following their nomination by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9835 in Warrenton. The local VFW Post had selected them at the Post-level as Teachers of the Year along with Selena Dickey at Taylor Middle School. The VFW Citizenship Teacher of the Year program honors teachers who instill a sense of national pride in students by teaching citizenship education topics, promoting America’s history and traditions, and promoting civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism.

Excellence in Education Grant Recipients

Eleven teachers were recipients of Fauquier Excellence in Education Foundation Fellowship Awards, enabling them to attend conferences, seminars, workshops and cultural programs to further their professional development. Grant recipients were Lisa Larkin, Nicole Dearborn, Nancy Fermoselle, Cheryl James, Rebecca Harre, Kim Niskanen, Linda Hume, Lori Kissell, Jennifer Linthicum, Julie Kuzma and Kim Hesel.

10 Classified Employees Honored with Annual Tree Awards

The Fauquier County School Board honored 10 FCPS classified employees with special recognition and a cash award as first-place and second-place winners in five categories of Tree Awards. Now in its sixth year, the program recognizes employees for their outstanding work accomplishments, interaction with others, demonstration of initiative, training and development activities, and their ability to improve the work process.

- Aspen Tree Award for Bus Drivers: Melanie Corboy, 1st place, and Lori Jenkins, 2nd place
- Maple Tree Award for Custodians: Jerry Spiker, 1st place, and Sheila Quinn, 2nd place
- Oak Tree Award for Assistants: Laura Chapman, 1st place, and Jo Leslie Pittman, 2nd place
- Pine Tree Award for Nutrition Staff: Brenda Jenkins, 1st place, and LeAnna Roberts, 2nd place
- Willow Tree Award for Support Staff: Thelma Gaskins, 1st place, and Robin Winkel, 2nd place

Teacher of the Year Nominees

Sixteen schools nominated teachers in the annual FCPS Teacher of the Year competition. In addition to winner Kim Matthias, other nominees were Susan Aylor, Jessica Beach, Cheryl Budd, Amy Cackowski, Kimberly Carter, Blaire Conner, Ellie Kay, Karen Martin, Jessica Murphy, Helen Olinger, Barbara Rich, Lisa Stafford, Betsy Stone, Jane Turner, and Sarah Ventresco.

SCHOOL DIVISION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Five Schools Recognized as VTSS Trailblazers

The Virginia Department of Education recognized five schools — Bradley Elementary, Brumfield Elementary, Marshall Middle, Cedar Lee Middle and Liberty High — as Virginia Tiered System of Supports (VTSS) Trailblazers in July 2016. VTSS is a data-driven decision-making framework for establishing the academic, behavioral and social/emotional supports needed for a school to be an effective learning environment for all students.

FRESH Update

The PATH Foundation-funded school health initiative known as FRESH (Fauquier Reaches for Excellence in School Health) grew feet during school year 2016-2017. FRESH Integration Team Specialists (FITS) worked with over 100 teachers and 2,000 students to integrate SOL content with physical movement, the new FRESH chef worked with cafeteria managers to assess equipment and procure new, and six schools created FRESH after-school clubs involving 180 students.

All Three High Schools 'Blue Star' Schools

The Working in Support of Education (W!SE) program recognized Fauquier High School, Kettle Run High School and Liberty High School as Blue Star Schools for their financial literacy education. To earn the national recognition, students must achieve a 75% passing rate on the W!SE Financial Literacy

Certification Test and have a majority of students on a given grade level take the test or have the students who took it achieve an average score of 85% or higher.

KRHS Publications Amass Awards

For the first time in Kettle Run High School's history, the school newspaper, *The Chronicle*, received the VHSL's highest ranking, Trophy Class, for superior rankings in content, writing, editing, art, photography, design and production. The KRHS yearbook, *Prowl*, was one of 13 yearbooks in the nation to receive a "First Place with Special Merit" in the American Scholastic Press Association contest. ASPA placed *Prowl* in the top 10 "Most Outstanding High School Yearbooks for 2016."

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

Students Interact with Veterans at Veterans Day Activities

Many Fauquier County Public Schools were awash with red, white and blue the week of Veterans Day as students and staff held special programs and activities in honor of veterans. Smith Elementary School held its first Veterans Day parade featuring 20 current and former military service personnel. The most honored guest was "Uncle Eddie," a veteran of World War II and the great uncle of a second-grade student at Smith. Many schools held assemblies featuring participation of veterans and students. School bands and choruses played and sang patriotic songs as part of the festivities.

Schools Host Local Legislators

Two schools hosted Delegates Michael Webert (R-18th District) and Scott Lingamfelter (R-31st District) for tours as part of the Virginia School Boards Association's annual "Take Your Legislator to School" event. The two delegates visited Greenville Elementary School and Kettle Run High School in December. Greenville fifth graders told them about the "Engineering is Elementary" program there, and Kettle Run students in the iSTEM class described and demonstrated submersibles they had made. The delegates also visited culinary arts, graphic imaging and cosmetology classes at KRHS.

FHS FFA Students Demonstrate Mobile Aquaponics at Forum

Jessica Gray and Dylan Kezele, Fauquier High School FFA members, attended the Forum for Rural Innovation, an event that showcases new projects and programs that enhance farm or rural business profitability. At the forum, held in Winchester in March, Dylan described the Mobile Aquaculture Display, a joint venture among the Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Virginia State University and Fauquier High School. A complete aquaponics system, growing fish and plants together, the display is constructed on a 20-foot trailer that can be moved to events throughout Virginia.

WMS Theater Program Uses Digital Backdrops

The musical theater program at Warrenton Middle School received a grant from the PATH Foundation to purchase a special backdrop and projector that allowed the group to work with digital backdrops. WMS showcased the new digital technology when students performed the *Wizard of Oz* in March. The WMS students worked with Fauquier High School graphic arts students to create the tornado and Wizard scene as well as the still scene of the Emerald City and a few other backdrops. Several cast members went to FHS to film their parts in front of the green screen and then edited the scenes.

Hacksaw Ridge Producer Skypes with KRHS Film Students

Students in Kettle Run High School journalism teacher Shelly Norden's film class had the opportunity to Skype with *Hacksaw Ridge* co-producer Steve Longi on the film's opening day in November. The opportunity presented itself because one of Norden's students is the cousin of the Hollywood producer. Longi described how the film *Hacksaw Ridge* came to be, how he first got into film production, how the roles of a director and producer differ, and what his typical day as a movie producer is like. Longi encouraged the budding film makers to be passionate about their work.

FCPS Students Participate in TubaChristmas at Kennedy Center

Forty-three tuba and euphonium students from Auburn, Cedar Lee and Marshall Middle Schools as well as Fauquier High School attended the 43rd annual TubaChristmas Dec. 14 at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. FCPS students, along with 300 other amateur and professional tuba and euphonium performers, gave a concert in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall with the musicians on stage and surrounding the entire hall from the balconies. FCPS participation in TubaChristmas has been an annual tradition since 2000.

Students Enjoy Unique Travel Opportunities

On Sea

Over 20 students from Kettle Run and Liberty High Schools (at right) combined to form a jazz ensemble in response to an invitation to perform on Norwegian Cruise Line's "Breakaway" in October. Students traveled to New York City, set sail for Bermuda and performed for a crowd in the ship's "Fat Cats Lounge." They learned about Bermudian history while on the island.

On Land

Fifty-six eighth-grade French students from Warrenton Middle School, accompanied by 20 parents and teachers, spent five days in January on a French-immersion adventure. Activities included dog sledding, snow shoeing, tobogganing down a 100-yard slide, taking a ferry across the frozen St. Laurence River, snow tubing, and meeting their pen pals and sharing a pizza lunch with them. They were able to hear and speak French in a natural setting.

MORE FACTS & FIGURES FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2016-2017

- 18 schools fully accredited and 1 school partially accredited, based on 2016-2017 assessments
- 11,060 students enrolled
- 27.19% subsidized meal participants
- 15.1% students receiving special education services
- 15.3% students receiving gifted/talented services
- 6.1% English language learners
- 3 days missed for inclement weather
- 8 National AP scholars
- 1 National Merit Scholarship finalist
- 1,710 industry certification tests taken by students
- 1,389 industry certification tests passed by students
- 6,627 students ride buses
- 153 bus routes

- 3.2 million miles traveled by buses
- 2,765 bus stops
- 935 teachers in FCPS
- 46 teachers with 30 or more years of service
- 798 classified employees
- 1,022 certified employees
- 45 employees retired
- 19.3% teachers hired who were FCPS graduates
- 30 buildings house schools and administrative offices
- 709 total acreage at all 20 schools
- 896 graduates in class of 2017
- 2.4% drop-out rate for class of 2017
- 69 FCPS students attended Mt. Vista Governor's School
- 1.5% increase in FY2017 school budget from previous year