Cumberland County Schools

WINTER 25/26

CTE Newsletter

DOUGLAS BYRD HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS THE BIG EQUIPMENT TRUCK RODEO!







Douglas Byrd High School hosted the Big Equipment Truck Rodeo in their bus parking lot on December 1st, 2025, where students had the opportunity to interact with professionals whose job involves large equipment. The FTCC CDL training tractor trailer was onsite, along with a dump truck from Barnhill Construction. The Cumberland County Sheriff's office brought the MRAP Search and Rescue vehicle for students to explore. The Hope Mills Fire department brought their 100 foot platform ladder and our very own Cumberland Road Fire Department brought an engine to demonstrate.





BACKPACK BUDDIES

In a world that often feels heavy with troubling headlines, rising costs, food insecurity, acts of violence, and a growing sense of disconnection, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed. Every day we hear about families struggling to make ends meet, children facing hunger, and communities searching for ways to care for one another. Yet, sometimes the most powerful reminders of hope come from the smallest among us.

Recently, Haymount Methodist Preschoolers reminded our community what compassion looks like in action by organizing a food drive for the Backpack Buddies program. All food was donated to Cape Fear High School. This program provides food for students to take home over the weekend for children who may otherwise face empty pantries when school meals are unavailable.

The lessons we learn in preschool, be kind, help others, listen, share, and care, are the same lessons that should guide us throughout our lives. Somewhere along the way, many of us forget them but these children remind us that even in difficult times, we can choose compassion.

As food was collected for Backpack Buddies, what was really gathered was something deeper, hope. Hope that if preschoolers can recognize the needs of others and step up to help, then surely we, as adults, can do the same.

Thank you to all those that donated and to those who helped organize this.







SPONSORING A BETTER HOLIDAY





Cape Fear High School's National FFA Organization officers and advisors sponsored nine local children and adolescents through the Salvation Army's Angel Tree.





Gray's Creek High School's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Chapter adopted a family for Christmas.

SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER





Pine Forest High School's chapters of Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), and SkillsUSA held a Christmas Toy Drive for Howard Hall Elementary School.







Seventy First High School Culinary Wins First Place Student Division, People's Choice Award, and Judge's Award for the Annual Dickens Holiday Gingerbread Contest.



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY @ SVHS

South View High School's National Technical Honor Society, led by Stacy Frazer and Shameka Johnson, undertook a community service initiative during the Christmas season with the goal of bringing joy to children in need. As part of this project, two children were selected from the Angel Tree located at one of the Walmart branches.

To fund this initiative, the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) members decided to hold a raffle featuring a bicycle as the main prize in order to raise funds for the event. The bicycle was sponsored by the South View High Soccer Coach, Mr. Thompson. The raffle was highly successful and generated the necessary funds to support the project.

With the funds raised, gifts were purchased for the selected children. The gifts were then delivered, fulfilling our promise and commitment to making two children happy during the Christmas holiday. This project not only brought joy to the children and their families but also reinforced the importance of service, teamwork, and giving back to the community.











SENSORY TOY DRIVE AT JACK BRITT







Jack Britt HOSA-Future Health Professionals (HOSA) successfully completed its Sensory Toys Collection drive, exceeding expectations and making a meaningful impact in the community. Sensory toys are designed to support individuals who benefit from sensory stimulation, including children with autism, ADHD, anxiety, or other sensory processing needs. These toys can help improve focus, reduce stress, encourage calmness, and support emotional regulation in classrooms, therapy settings, and everyday life.

The idea for the Sensory Toys Collection was created by Jack Britt HOSA President Ashna Upreti, whose vision helped inspire the chapter to take action and serve others in a meaningful way. With this leadership and the support of JBHS HOSA members the drive was a tremendous success. The original goal for the collection was 250 sensory toys, but thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of members, Jack Britt HOSA more than surpassed that target. By the end of the drive, an impressive 461 sensory toys were collected, nearly doubling the original goal.

The donated sensory toys will be distributed to The School of Hope, Stoney Point Elementary, and Jack Britt High School, where they will help support students who benefit from sensory resources in learning and therapeutic environments.

This achievement highlights Jack Britt HOSA's dedication to service, inclusion, and community wellness, demonstrating how leadership, teamwork, and compassion can create a lasting positive impact.

BRINGING HOME THE WIN AT SFHS

At the FCCLA Fall Leadership Coastal Plains Meeting held on December 10th, the Seventy-First High School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter represented their school with excellence, poise, and professionalism—and brought home major victories!

Please congratulate the following FCCLA Officers for their exceptional accomplishments:

★ Anthony Camacho-Berrios (President)
– 1st Place Winner (Level 3) – Hospitality & Tourism

★ Jayla Marable (Historian)
– 2nd Place Winner (Level 2) – Hospitality & Tourism

★ Eboni Jay (Vice President)
– 1st Place Winner – Public Service

These students demonstrated leadership, dedication, and mastery of their content areas, truly embodying the FCCLA mission and representing Falcon Pride at the highest level. Their success reflects not only their hard work but also the support of the faculty and the strength of the school community.



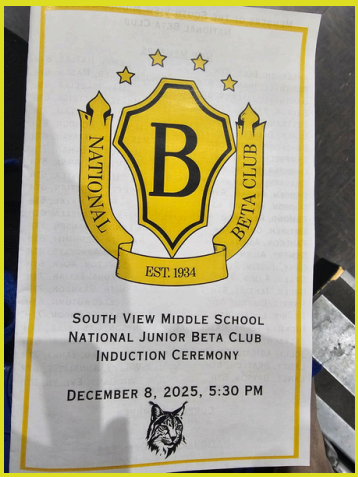
NATIONAL JUNIOR BETA CLUB IS BACK @ SVMS!

South View Middle School successfully hosted the National Junior BETA Club Induction Ceremony on December 8, 2025, marking the official reintroduction of the club after not holding an induction since 2019. The event was led by Advisor Ersertavia Godfrey, with Co-Advisors Ms. Alexis Robinson and Ms. Friday.

The ceremony was well organized, welcoming, and conducted in full alignment with National BETA Club guidelines. Students were formally inducted and received certificates, recognizing their academic excellence, leadership potential, strong character, and commitment to service, the four pillars of the National Junior BETA Club. Parents and guardians were present and showed strong support, reinforcing the importance of academic achievement and student growth.

The program featured a short yet heartfelt message from Dr. Tanya Williams-Leather, Chief Academic Officer (CAO) for Cumberland County Schools (CCS), whose words encouraged students to continue striving for excellence. Principal Mr. Shawn O'Connor personally presented certificates to the inducted members, adding a meaningful and celebratory close to the event.

Overall, the induction ceremony was a great success and highlighted South View Middle School's commitment to student leadership development, academic achievement, and college- and career-ready skills. The school looks forward to inducting another group of hardworking students who continue to shine and exemplify the values of the National Junior BETA Club.









CAPE FEAR PIPELINE ACADEMY

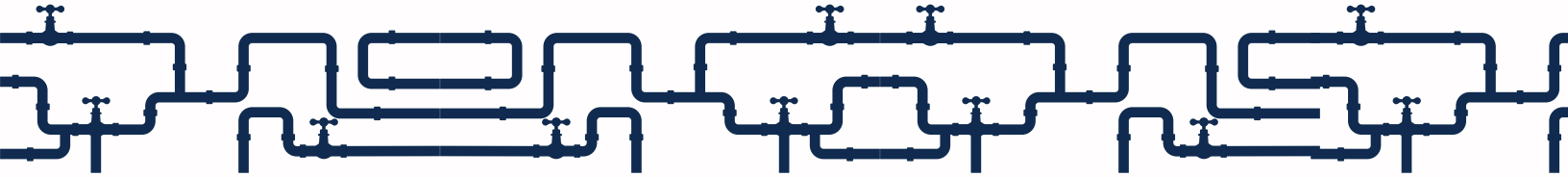


Cape Fear High School is redefining career readiness through the Cape Fear Pipeline Academy, an innovative, hands-on plumbing program designed to connect students with real-world skills, industry professionals, and postsecondary opportunities in the skilled trades. Founded by Assistant Principal Marissa Fux, the program was created with a clear mission: to provide meaningful, career-focused experiences for students who may not always thrive in traditional academic settings, while building a direct pipeline to workforce and technical education. Through partnerships with licensed plumbers and Fayetteville Technical Community College, the academy introduces students to the fundamentals of plumbing and opens doors to future careers.

The inaugural cohort included 22 students, who participated in a structured, six-session academy running from October through January. Students engaged in hands-on workshops covering tool safety, pipe connections, leak detection, toilet and faucet repairs, and fixture maintenance. A highlight of the program was a field trip to FTCC's plumbing lab, where students worked alongside instructors and experienced college-level training environments firsthand. The academy concluded with a certificate ceremony celebrating student growth, perseverance, and achievement.

The impact of the program has already extended beyond the classroom. Two students officially enrolled in FTCC plumbing courses through High School Connections, taking a significant step toward industry credentials while still in high school. For many participants, the academy not only built technical skills, but also confidence, purpose, and a renewed connection to school.

"The goal was never just to teach plumbing," said Fux. "It was about showing students what's possible—helping them see a future where their talents, interests, and hard work lead to real opportunities."





CAPE FEAR PIPELINE ACADEMY



Looking ahead, the program continues to grow. Grant opportunities, district partnerships, and alumni involvement are expanding resources and opening the door for paid internships and additional career pathways within Cumberland County Schools and the local workforce.

The Cape Fear Pipeline Academy stands as a powerful example of how schools, community partners, and educators can work together to prepare students for life beyond high school—one skill, one connection, and one opportunity at a time.

Thanks to Sealey's Well Drilling, H2O Plumbing, McKenzie's Plumbing, Billy's Plumbing, CCS CTE, South River Electric, Bright Ideas Grant, Bliss Adams, Jaqueline Turner, Garcia Family, Polished by Summer, Sweet Southern Macarons & LMNT for sponsoring this program.











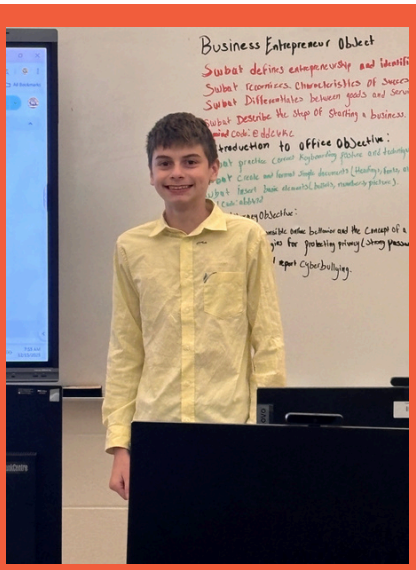
BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT MWMS

Twanna Fennell, the sole Business Education instructor at Mac Williams Middle School, designed a project called "Standing on Business" specifically for 8th grade Business Entrepreneurship students. This semester-long initiative enables students to explore the essential principles of launching and managing a small business.

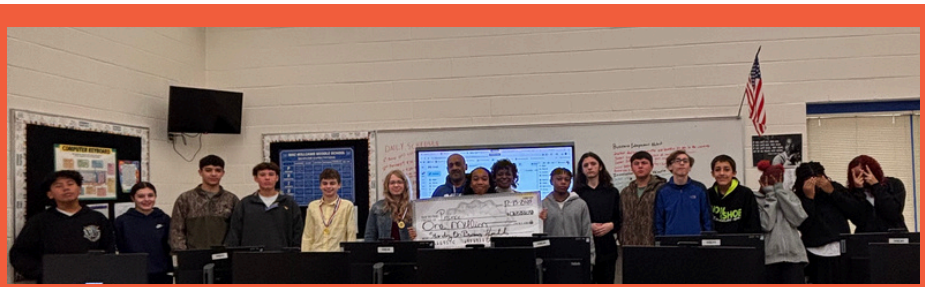
Working individually, students develop a business concept, establish a brand identity, and create comprehensive marketing strategies that include advertising, pricing, persuasive speech writing, and customer engagement. They apply financial literacy skills to build budgets, project profits, and design professional promotional materials. Each student then delivers a formal business pitch to a panel of judges, strengthening their public speaking, presentation, and persuasive communication skills.

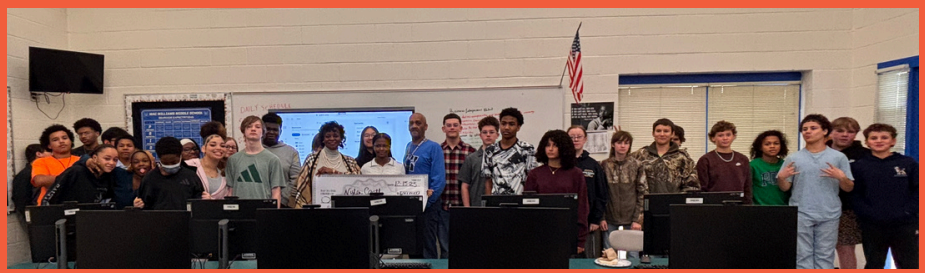
The project also incorporates a community service element, encouraging students to consider how their business ideas can make a positive impact within the local community. Overall, this experience promotes leadership, innovation, collaboration, and real-world problem-solving, allowing students to think and act like emerging entrepreneurs.

This year, the project was a tremendous success. The winning student received a ceremonial check for one million dollars, and the best-dressed participants were recognized with gold medals for their outstanding professionalism.











E.E. SMITH IS FIRED UP!



It is great to see the partnership between Cumberland County EMS and the E.E. Smith High School Fire Academy providing students with such valuable hands-on experience. This collaboration offers high schoolers a realistic look at the rigors of pre-hospital care and fire service operations.





KNOPROS AT CFHS!

Cape Fear High School was awarded $500 Honorable Mention on the KnoPro National Leaderboard for 2025! Hollie Meininger had 3 students win $100 gift cards for completing the daily skillbuilders. KnoPro is powered by NAF and allows students to complete real-world challenges for a chance to win gift cards.



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