

# Shenandoah County School Board Goals and Strategies Report

## March 15, 2007

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### **SCPS Goal: 1**

#### **Comprehensive Plan Goal - 1**

**Strategy:** Each school will develop and maintain programs to recognize student and staff achievement.

**Description:** The Shenandoah County Public Schools sponsor a variety of Character Education Programs. The following report provides a summary of the North Fork Middle School Character Education Program and the diversity of its outreach to students, parents, and the community:

North Fork Middle School started the Renaissance program in 1998 to promote a positive school climate, academic excellence and teacher professionalism. The Renaissance program, which is sponsored by Jostens provides an essential framework for North Fork's program. The "Character Counts" committee meets on a regular basis to plan Renaissance activities. Members of the Student Recognition Specialist Team serve as Renaissance Committee members. Any staff member willing to serve is encouraged to join this committee. Some elements of the Renaissance program are described below:

**Good Citizen's Club** - All staff members of North Fork have a supply of red "Good Citizen" cards and are encouraged to award them to individual students in recognition of any positive behavior. The cards are perforated. The larger side of the card is sent home with the child. The staff member drops the smaller side in the appropriate box in the library. Each week, three student cards are drawn from the box to receive a prize. The staff member who awarded the card also receives a small prize. On Fridays the remaining small cards are redistributed to students during homeroom. Students bring these cards to lunch to receive a small treat. In this way, students receive recognition for their positive contributions to the school. The six "pillars" of Character are printed on the back of the cards for staff members to use to categorize the student behavior recognized.

**Academic Pep Rally** - Students who achieve honor roll grades during any six-week period are awarded Renaissance t-shirts during an academic pep rally. This event provides us with an opportunity to recognize those students who excel in the classroom and promote them in front of their peers.

**Renaissance Shirt Days** - Certain days are designated as Renaissance Shirt days. Students who have earned t-shirts are encouraged to wear them and receive small treats if they do and are also eligible to win a larger prize. Staff members are also encouraged to wear their Renaissance shirts on these days (red polo shirts with a North Fork logo). Shirt days allow us to promote a school culture in which it is cool to be a good student.

**Renaissance Gold Cards** - Students who maintain honor roll status earn a Gold Card, which entitles them to certain privileges, such as free computer or library time, or the opportunity to be the first excused to lunch.

**Renaissance Silver Cards** - Students who make academic improvement in a six weeks earn a Silver Card, which entitles them to certain privileges, such as free computer or library time. Individual teachers recognize students with silver cards for improvement in a specific area.

**Faculty Spotlight** - Business cards are distributed to all faculty and a small door prizes are awarded periodically. These small gestures serve as reminders of the importance of teachers in the educational process. We need to recognize and applaud ourselves for the demanding work that we do.

**Business Partnerships** - Local businesses have been invited to contribute to the Renaissance program and have responded enthusiastically. We, in turn, recognize these businesses in the North Fork newsletter.

**Renaissance Red Sneaker Award** - Teachers wear red high top sneakers to represent going the extra distance for our students. Each six weeks two students from each grade level that embody the six pillars of character receive the Renaissance Red Sneaker Award and a Red Sneaker Pin.

**Principal's Round Table** - Each month ten students are randomly selected and invited to have juice and crackers with administration in the forum in the morning. The purpose of this meeting is to offer students the opportunity to suggest ways to improve our school. The first roundtable is sometimes a special invitation to students new to the community.

**Parent of the Month** - The Renaissance program recognizes the importance of our parents by asking teachers to nominate parents on a regular basis for Parent of the Month. Parents selected are invited to lunch at school. The parent's names are also posted on the Renaissance bulletin board.

### **SCPS Goal: 1**

#### **Comprehensive Plan Goal - 1**

**Strategy:** Each school will develop and maintain programs to recognize student and staff achievement.

**Description:** The Shenandoah County Public Schools participate in a wide variety of programs which target academic and social needs among our student population. The following report is provided by Strasburg High School under the direction of Mr. Mike Dorman, Principal and Clarisse Bushman, Librarian. The programs described are specific to Strasburg High School, but are representative of those occurring throughout the district:

The Shenandoah County Public Schools participate in a wide variety of programs which target academic and social needs among our student population. The following report is provided by Strasburg High School under the direction of Mr. Mike Dorman, Principal and Clarisse Bushman, Librarian. The programs described are specific to Strasburg High School, but are representative of those occurring throughout the district:

The Strasburg High School Library Media Center is on a mission to address a phenomenon referred to as "aliteracy". Concern for the number of electronic activities that vie for the limited recreational time that secondary students have after school, sports, jobs, and other responsibilities, the library has created a successful reading celebration program that involves students in extracurricular library activities, increases reading, and most importantly: emphasizes reading as a FUN activity.

The Strasburg High School Library Media Center recognizes the importance of reading with regard to academic, SOL, and college entrance exam success. Last year a reading celebration program was started at the high school resulting in an increase in circulation of 164%. Through administrative support, the library was able to update critical research areas of the print collection and add new collections targeted at specific student populations: SAT/ACT prep, Career Collection, Graphic Novel Collection, ESL and Bilingual collection, and a new Bright Star collection (quick, easy reads).

Students are enthusiastically checking out books and the circulation statistics continue to improve due in part to the continued reading celebration program which is open to all students. For example, 240 students entered the Teen Read Week celebration held in October. Ten winning readers were given gift certificates for the annual Scholastic Book Fair held in the library. The Fall Fun reading celebration attracted 257 student entries with twenty-five winning readers claiming a variety of fun prizes. Two-hundred and fifty eight students read books to enter the "Copy Up to a Good Book" reading celebration with ten winners taking home a basket filled with treats.

Both the staff and the administration encourage students to participate in the ongoing reading programs sponsored by the library media center. This is an excellent way for the entire student population to participate in an extra curriculum program that allows social contact and fun while supporting academic goals.

The Teen Council has been directly affected by this increased interest in reading with forty members meeting monthly in the library. Last year the Council applied to be part of the American Library Association teen galley group. During the summer we were contacted with the exciting news that our group had been selected as one of fifteen young adult groups from both public and school libraries to participate in this program. Our Teen Council receives pre-published (galley) copies of young adult books to read and review. The reviews are sent to the publishers. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to be part of a national program.

The Teen Council continues to read and discuss new books purchased by the library as well as the galley books. In addition to meeting to discuss new books and

galley books, this dynamic student run organization is involved with a number of community service projects including collecting books for the Northern VA Daily Holiday Book Drive, collecting pet supplies for the county animal shelter, tutoring at Sandy Hook Elementary School, volunteering at the SHE library, and collecting items for soldiers in Iraq. The Teen Council maintains a webpage that allows all students access to student reviews and information on community service projects:

[http://www.shenandoah.k12.va.us/shs/tc/tc\\_index.html](http://www.shenandoah.k12.va.us/shs/tc/tc_index.html)

TC Picks are selected by the members at the end of the school year. These books receive a special designation and are showcased as being the best new young adult books for teens. Students enjoy reading books that their peers have selected as being great books.

Creating an ongoing “festive” environment in which reading and sharing good books is FUN has been met with success and enthusiasm by the students at Strasburg High School. The above are just a few examples of what our program involves. The entire student population is invited to participate on whatever level they feel comfortable. The library media center has been successful in its campaign to include all students in library related extracurricular activities and looks forward to improving and diversifying the program every year.

### **SCPS Goal: 1**

#### **Comprehensive Plan Goal - 6**

**Strategy:** All schools will maintain their status as “fully accredited” under the Virginia State Standards of Accreditation and will meet or exceed AYP as defined in NCLB.

**Description:** The 2004 reauthorization of Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) required each state to develop a State Performance Plan to measure special education programming. The Virginia Department of Education this past summer unveiled its SPP which is composed of 20 Indicators collected annually on selected special education criteria. The SPP will take the place of the former system of compliance which was an on-site visitation once every six years. Each school division in the state is now in the process of gathering data on these 20 Indicators and submitting it to the VA DOE. The results will be reported to the public annually.

To comply with this new requirement, our Pupil Personnel Services Supervisors have inserviced administrators, Child Study Chairs and each school faculty on the implications and need to comply. Data is now being collected and reported to the VA DOE for these 20 indicators. By mid-summer we expect to learn our level of compliance with these new standards.

## **SCPS Goal: 2**

### **Comprehensive Plan Goal - 1**

**Strategy:** Recruitment and hiring practices will continue to support the staffing of talented and highly qualified teachers for each school.

**Description:** On Saturday, February 24, 2007, the Shenandoah County Public School Division participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Teacher Recruitment Fair. As a participating member of the Shenandoah Valley Teacher Recruitment Consortium sponsoring this event, SCPS makes every effort to promote and attract the most qualified candidates to our interviewers. Unlike many school districts, SCPS utilizes a large number of classroom teachers to greet, solicit, and interview prospective candidates. As a result of our efforts on the 24<sup>th</sup>, SCPS interviewed approximately 400 teacher candidates. The following information displays the professionals participating in interviewing teams used to effectively recruit the most qualified candidates:

### **Secondary (6)**

#### Room #128

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| #1 | Tara Mason (CHS)<br>Joandell Ventura (SHS)   |
| #2 | Mike Dorman, Mike McCormick, Karen Whetzel (rotate)<br>Holly Massie (CHS) - Room Captain |
| #3 | David Baker (SJHS)<br>Chris Cook (CHS)   |
| #4 | Ken Mason (CHS)<br>Adina McIntuff (SJHS)   |

#### Room #132

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| #5             | Gabby Ryman (SHS)<br>Nate Hissong (SJHS)                   |
| #6             | Debbie Litten (SJHS) – Room Captain<br>Chanda Greco (SKMS) |
| <i>Floater</i> | <i>Greg Smith</i>  |

### **Middle (2)**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| #7             | Chuck Everett, David Hinegardner, Gina Stetter (rotate)<br>Missy Hensley (SKMS) |
| #8             | Isaac Brunk (NFMS)<br>Keith Collins (PMMS)                                      |
| <i>Floater</i> | <i>Suzan Otto (see also Arts/Gifted/ESL)</i>                                    |

**Elementary (9)**

Room #134

- #9 Sherry Arey (WWR)  
Erika Richman (ALES)
- #10 Jim Grimley, Jeremy Raley, Holly Rusher (rotate) – Room captain  
Scott Schlentner (WWR)
- #11 Al Price (ALES)  
Mandy Roller (SHES)
- #12 Stacey Leitzel (SHES)  
Chad Burk (ALES)

Room #136

- #13 Ann Ross (WWR)  
Tara Brinkley (NFMS)
- #14 Daniel Smith (SHES)  
Bill Harlow, Sr. (NFMS)
- #15 Cindy Herr (NFMS) – Room captain  
Steve Povlish (SKMS)
- #16 Donna Belle Dove (NFMS)  
Dana Roderick (ALES)

Room #138

- #17 Melinda Sparacio (SHES)  
Darla Lisbon (SKMS)
- Floater Sandy Hart*

**Special Education (3)**

- #18 Jessica Yancey (PMMS)  
Lee Ann Povlish (SHES)
- #19 Ebbie Linaburg – Room captain  
Tracy Walker (NFMS)
- #20 Jaycee Bova (PMMS)  
Heather Miller (SHS)
- Floater Chip Belyea*

### **Arts/ESL/Gifted (2)**

Room #143

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| #21            | Kelly Storey<br>Amanda Furman (ALES)                      |
| #22            | Leigh Devier (ALES) – Room captain<br>Melissa Foltz (WWR) |
| <i>Floater</i> | <i>Suzan Otto</i>   |

### **Vocational (1)**

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| #23 | Brett Martin (PMMS)<br>Dana Fisher (CHS) |
|-----|--|

### **Related Arts/Other (2)**

Room #144

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| #24 | Joel Hartshorn (SKMS)<br>Melanie Woods (NFMS)                |
| #25 | Robin Shrum (WWR) – Room captain<br>Kristene Wellings (PMMS) |

Main Welcome Board - Brandi Estep (SHES), Dan Sahd (PMMS)  
Runners – Tracy Landes, Linda Williams

### **SCPS Goal: 3**

#### **Comprehensive Plan Goal - 2**

**Strategy:** Technology will continue to be integrated into instruction.

**Description:** The amount of technology and its use in our school system has grown astronomically the last two school years. Three major pieces of hardware that are appearing in our classrooms are LCD projectors, SMART Boards and wireless keyboards. Implementing the proper use of these technologies with a networked classroom computer enables teachers to engage students like never before.

LCD projectors enable teachers to use various Microsoft applications such as PowerPoint to present information to students, and students to share their presentations with the entire class. Another popular use of the projectors is the ability to show instructional videos via unitedstreaming. This online video resource eliminates the need for a VCR or DVD player and all the videos are aligned to the Virginia SOLs. Information via the Internet can also be shared with the entire class, since the projector displays a screen image large enough for the entire class to view it.

The SMART Board allows teachers and students to interact with applications shown on the board with the touch of a finger. When talking to teachers that have access to a SMART Board, they all agree that students are more engaged in their learning and very motivated when the board is being used. Interactive websites and software that allows the moving of objects on the screen are popular with this tool. The SMART Board will allow annotations to be written right on the screen and is another form of interaction that can occur with this tool.

Wireless keyboards are another technology that allows teachers and students to interact with a computer anywhere in the room. Instead of the teacher having to be in front of the computer or SMART Board to control it, the wireless keyboard allows them to move around the room as they please. Being able to hand the keyboard off to students to allow them to key information or navigate an application without having to move to the computer saves valuable time and engages them more often.

Most of these technologies have been purchased via school funds, district level technology monies and grant money via Title IID. Via the Title IID grants we implemented projector purchases and training at all three of our middle schools. This past year we were also able to purchase SMART Boards for our elementary schools. Building principals have been instrumental in many purchases seeing the positive impact that technology has in their classrooms.

Another kind of technology we are just starting to implement in our school division is the use of Palm handhelds. We purchased a classroom set of thirty for Sandy Hook Elementary School two years ago via our Title IID grant. Since then an additional classroom set has been purchased by Sandy Hook Elementary. Ashby Lee Elementary School purchased a set last year as well. This technology allows for a one-to-one computing environment in which every student has their own to use. Wireless keyboards were purchased for each handheld, so students have the ability to type text documents. The text documents can be transferred to a computer to be further edited and/or printed. The handhelds also have various Math applications where students can practice math facts and problem solving. Handhelds are a fraction of the cost of laptops, but the capabilities are very similar.

Seen below is a table showing the number of projectors, SMART Boards, and wireless keyboards we have in each of our schools:

<b>School</b>	<b>Projectors</b>	<b>SMART Boards</b>	<b>Wireless Keyboards</b>
SHES	52	22	51
WWRES	55	16	3
ALES	25	25	24
SKMS	31	6	2
PMMS	39	29	5
NFMS	36	9	1
SHS	11	4	1
CHS	15	3	0
SJHS	8	5	1
TT/MGS	12	3	5

**SCPS Goal: 3****Comprehensive Plan Goal - 2**

**Strategy:** Schools will continue to develop after school programs such as concerts, orientations, parent nights, and tutorials and recreational programs for students.

**Description:** This marks the fourth year for the science fair at PMMS. All 575 students in grades 6, 7, and 8 were required to participate. The categories for the projects were divided among grade levels, so that students from each grade had at least three categories from which to choose. The PTA assisted PMMS by recruiting over 45 judges from the community, other professional organizations, and the high school. The effort of the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade science teachers was exceptional.

In the first round of the science fair, the top three projects from nine categories were given respective ribbons. The students that received honors are listed in the attachment below:

**Science Fair Winners:**

<b>Category/Students (grade)</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Place</b>
<b>Chemistry:</b>		
Lia Gosney & Emily Powell (8 <sup>th</sup> )	What wood burns the best?	1 <sup>st</sup>
Michelle Selwyn (8 <sup>th</sup> )	What is the effect of different amounts of salt on boiling water?	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Hillary Gochenour (8 <sup>th</sup> )	Sleep Apnea	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Physics:</b>		
Andrew Cardwell & Andrew Funkhouser (7 <sup>th</sup> )	How will different balls dropped from different heights affect momentum?	1 <sup>st</sup>
Jessica Barr (8 <sup>th</sup> )	What type of ball can be hit the farthest?	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Rebecca Wells (8 <sup>th</sup> )	Does a longer arm on a trebuchet throw farther?	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Engineering:</b>		
Hunter Philips & Foster Veach (8 <sup>th</sup> )	Which catapult fires a marble the farthest?	1 <sup>st</sup>
Marshall Brill & Cody Graham (8 <sup>th</sup> )	What type of soil is best to build on?	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Kate Reynard & Haley Spenser (8 <sup>th</sup> )	Which gumdrop toothpick model withstands the most weight?	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Andrew Selby & Seth Mantz (8 <sup>th</sup> )	What truss holds up the most weight?	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Microbiology:</b>		
Casey George (7 <sup>th</sup> )	Do dirty hands affect the growth of mold?	1 <sup>st</sup>
Sierra Medellin & Abbey Schectel (7 <sup>th</sup> )	Which area contains more bacteria, the school kitchen or the school bathroom?	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Dylan Stoneburner (7 <sup>th</sup> )	Which type of bread will mold faster?	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Behavioral:</b>		

Gregory Baker (7 <sup>th</sup> )	Are Goats Picky Eaters?	1 <sup>st</sup>
Christina Crider (7 <sup>th</sup> )	Do boys or girls smell different foods better?	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Kacey Horn (7 <sup>th</sup> )	Will a cat eat new food or its usual food?	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Zoology:</b>		
Jennifer Swan (7 <sup>th</sup> )	High Fives All Around (Dog paw dominance)	1 <sup>st</sup>
Tasha Holliday (7 <sup>th</sup> )	What will happen when you clip a goat's horns?	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Shane Sawyer (7 <sup>th</sup> )	How does sugar affect running ability?	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Environmental:</b>		
Mandy Moore (7 <sup>th</sup> )	Affect of Hard Water on Soil pH	1 <sup>st</sup>
Marie Gurganus (7 <sup>th</sup> )	What causes bananas to decompose the fastest?	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Lauren Didawick (6 <sup>th</sup> )	Which soil will grass seed grow faster in?	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Botany:</b>		
Kesia Batres & Abi Batres (7 <sup>th</sup> )	How do different liquids affect plants?	1 <sup>st</sup>
Kayla Spaur (6 <sup>th</sup> )		1 <sup>st</sup>
Hannah Richman (6 <sup>th</sup> )	Will a plant grow better in sunlight or artificial light?	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Nathan Richard (6 <sup>th</sup> )	How will liquids affect plant growth?	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Consumer Science:</b>		
Adam Marston (6 <sup>th</sup> )	Which paper towel will hold more liquid?	1 <sup>st</sup>
Dexter Richman (6 <sup>th</sup> )	Which Brand of Paper Towel is Most Absorbent?	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Rebecca Allar (7 <sup>th</sup> )	Which brand of paper towel absorbs the most water?	3 <sup>rd</sup>

These students then participated in a second round science fair to determine who would go on to the JMU regional science fair. Ten projects from the school were allowed to attend. Ten judges were selected, including from members of the community and school system. For this judging, the students had to present their project to the judge, and were then evaluated on their presentation along with their project. The following students are participating in the regional science fair at JMU on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Category:</b>	<b>Project title:</b>	<b>Grade:</b>
Lia Gosney & Emily Powell	Chemistry	What wood burns the best?	8
Michelle Selwyn	Chemistry	What is the effect of different amounts	8

		of salt on boiling water?	
Sierra Medellin & Abbey Schectel	Microbiology	Which area contains more bacteria?	7
Mandy Moore	Envi. Sci.	Affect of Hard Water on Soil pH	7
Dexter Richman	Consumer Sci	Which Brand of Paper Towel is Most Absorbent?	6
Andrew Cardwell & Andrew Funkhouser	Physics	How will balls dropped from different heights affect momentum?	7
Kesia Batres & Abi Batres	Botany	How do different liquids affect plant growth?	7
Jennifer Swan	Zoology	High Fives All Around (Dog paw dominance)	7
Gregory Baker	Behavior	Are Goats Picky Eaters?	7
Hunter Philips & Foster Veach	Engineering	Which catapult fires a marble the farthest?	8

**SCPS Goal: 4**

**Comprehensive Plan Goal - 1**

**Strategy:** School volunteers will be trained and honored annually at the school division level.

**Description:** The Shenandoah County Public Schools understands the benefits of parent volunteers and facilitates their inclusion in to the school setting whenever possible. The following report from Sandy Hook Elementary School highlights one of the many volunteer programs taking place in our schools:

*Sandy Hook currently hosts an after school tutoring program every Wednesday from 3:15 to 4:15 for Northern Campus students who speak English as their second language. Karen Tignor, first grade teacher, and Lauren Perkins, ESL teacher, have invited students in grades K-12 to participate in this program. These two individuals have donated their time outside of their normal contract duties to run this program. Although the teachers have organized the program and supervise its success on daily basis, this program has achieved success because of the support that is received from the community. Currently, community volunteers work one on one with specific students on skills that have been identified by staff members. For many of the volunteers, this is their second year in a row participating in this tutoring program.*

**SCPS Goal: 4****Comprehensive Plan Goal - 2**

**Strategy:** Parents will be included as members of school and division level committees.

**Description:** All Shenandoah County Public Schools utilize many methods of communication and feedback to assess and measure the satisfaction of the community they serve. This report highlights the efforts of Sandy Hook Elementary School to survey the varying levels of satisfaction of their school stakeholders:

*On January 26, 2007 Sandy Hook Elementary School's climate committee sent a survey to each child's parent. The purpose of sending this survey was to gain information from parents regarding the different aspects of our school culture. The information gained from this survey will be helpful in making decisions about program planning, changes, or revisions for the remainder of this school year and the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year. 365 surveys were returned by parents. The climate committee reported the results of this survey to staff members at the school faculty meeting on March 8, 2007.*

<b><i>SHES Parent Survey Results</i></b>	<b><i>Agree</i></b>	<b><i>Unsure</i></b>	<b><i>Disagree</i></b>
<i>1. My child's school provides a high quality educational program.</i>	91	8	1
<i>2. The buildings and grounds at my child's school are clean and well maintained.</i>	96	1	2
<i>3. There is adequate instructional space for teachers and students at my school.</i>	52	23	26
<i>4. I know the school's rules and behavioral expectations for my child.</i>	98	1	5
<i>5. When it comes to discipline at this school, my child has been treated fairly.</i>	91	7	2
<i>6. My child's school is a safe place.</i>	88	10	3
<i>7. The teachers and staff whom I know at this school are friendly.</i>	95	4	1
<i>8. Teachers in this school really seem to care about the students.</i>	92	7	5
<i>9. I feel welcome at this school.</i>	94	5	1
<i>10. When I have concerns about my child, I can count on the school for support.</i>	89	10	2
<i>11. If I call the school, I receive courteous attention.</i>	86	7	7

<i>12. This school promotes understanding among students from various backgrounds.</i>	72	26	2
<i>13. I receive enough communication from the school to keep me informed of its activities.</i>	91	6	3
<i>14. I would like to communicate with my child's teacher via email.</i>	69	15	16
<i>15. Does your child have supervised internet access at home?</i>	Yes 74	No 25	

**SCPS Goal: 5**

**Comprehensive Plan Goal - 1**

**Strategy:** Student achievement will be recognized across the continuum based on academic and personal growth.

**Description:** All Shenandoah County Public Schools have incorporated student incentive programs, which encourage students to excel at varying levels and meet a variety of academic or behavioral goals. The following report from Central High School is representative of the types of student incentive and recognition programs ongoing across the county:

*The Central High School Academic Boosters Club (ABC) has for the past year supported academics through posting of **A and A/B honor rolls**, sponsoring and serving **ice cream socials** for such students five times during the school year, financially assisting academic clubs and providing three **scholarships** to deserving graduates - worthy accomplishments for the first year of operation.*

*With a growing membership base, the club has new goals for the upcoming school year. One such goal is promoting and making effective the "**Falcons at their Best**" recognition program. This new program will recognize students who try very hard, demonstrate admirable character points and attempt to be successful in their work, though their grades may not reach the all A or all A/B honor roll. Based roughly on other character and academic programs, the idea is to encourage and recognize all students at Central High School for academic effort and excellence.*

*"Falcons at their Best" is a program that requires the teacher to honestly evaluate each student who may have stepped forward during the six weeks and demonstrated remarkable character and attitude while striving for personal academic excellence.*

## **SCPS Goal: 5**

### **Comprehensive Plan Goal - 3**

**Strategy:** School communities will demonstrate pillars of character and good manners in all school environments.

**Description:** As reported in March 2006 and continuing to date, the following announcement series serves as a reference for principals to comply with the stated goals of the School Board. The lists were distributed to the schools, and have been utilized at the discretion of the principal. These statements, and other like statements, are used on a systematic basis to bring clarification regarding the dangers of substance abuse, consequences of substance abuse, and School Board policy regarding substance abuse.

### **Elementary List**

*This year, four students have been removed from Shenandoah County Public Schools for having, sharing, and/or using alcohol and/or illegal drugs on school property or at school events. Alcohol and drugs are not only against school rules, but they are against the law.*

*The Shenandoah County School Board deals severely with students who break rules by having alcohol or illegal drugs in school. These students will be removed from our schools, and they will be reported to the police.*

*If you know someone who has brought alcohol and/or illegal drugs to school, notify your school principal (name) immediately.*

*How many of you have heard the expression "Get real!"? We may have different ideas about what that means, but for people who are recovering from drug and alcohol abuse, it means one thing. It means getting real with themselves and what they're doing. It means getting honest. It means quitting with the lies they keep telling themselves about their drug and alcohol abuse.*

*The truth is that just one experience with an illegal drug can matter. You can put yourself in a dangerous situation. You can endanger your health. You can put your feet on a path that leads nowhere.*

*If you are having trouble getting real about substance abuse, talk to someone you trust and get some help. Study the facts. Get in touch with the reality that substance abuse has very real and serious consequences.*

*Here's a news flash! Did you know that your brain will continue to develop until you are 24 years old? That's right. And did you know that all illegal drugs damage the part of the brain that controls your impulses? People who are high on drugs or alcohol literally don't have the brains to control themselves. They give all their personal power to a substance that controls them. That's why they do such silly things, wind up in jail, damage their brains, or damage their bodies from drug overdoses.*

*How many of you have ever had a day or maybe a week when you were really sad or depressed—when nothing you did made you feel better. It's not any fun being depressed. Now imagine having to go through life never feeling happy, content, or satisfied. Imagine going through the rest of your life depressed. That's what alcohol and drugs can do to you!*

*Standing up against drugs and alcohol is about getting real with the problem of substance abuse in our country. It's about not lying to ourselves and saying things like "It's only this one time. It won't matter, or "I'm a free person and I'm not hurting anybody." Taking illegal drugs supports the businesses of a lot of criminals.*

*You know that it is against school rules to have a controlled substance on school property. But what is a "controlled substance"? It's an illegal drug such as alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, and anabolic steroids. Anyone who brings any of these substances to school is breaking a very important rule. Students who break this rule are suspended from school and are often expelled and may not return. Please use good judgment and stay away from illegal drugs.*

*When you hear that drugs are not permitted on school property, do you ever wonder what exactly is "school property"? You might be surprised to know that, even though you are a student at (your school's name), you are on school property when you go to a football game at Central High School, or when you go on a school field trip to a museum. Anytime that you are attending a function at a school or traveling with your classmates, you must follow all school rules.*

*In order to keep schools safe and protect your health and safety, the school principal may sometimes need to search your book bags and other personal items. They may suspect that you have something harmful to yourself or others. You may not have thought about it, but desks and lockers are school property and may be searched at any time. Any illegal items which are found during a search are turned over to law enforcement officers. Students who have these things are suspended or expelled. Always be careful about what you bring to school.*

*I know you've heard about illegal drugs that are harmful to you and others, such as marijuana, cocaine and PCP. Those are the kinds of drugs that can lead to expulsion from school.*

*Drugs prescribed by a doctor or given to you by your parents when you are sick are legal and safe as long as they are taken as directed. Your school has a policy about bringing legal drugs into the building. Be sure to check with your school nurse or principal about how to handle these drugs in school.*

*You've got plenty of brainpower to understand the facts, and the facts are that it can take a full year for your brain to completely recover after you have abused drugs or alcohol. In some cases, the damage done can never be fixed.*

*A person who no longer does drugs wrote: “This is what I know now. Drugs aren’t cool. Being honest with myself and others is cool. Being productive and responsible is cool. And I believe that if just one person hears this message and gets some help, then we’ve made a difference.”*

*Listen up! Those who buy or use illegal drugs are not just saying “yes” to drugs, they’re saying “yes” to the kind of criminals who sell them. If you’re using illegal drugs or are tempted to, then walk away. You’re far too good to be part of that whole scene.*

## **Secondary List**

*Last semester, four students were expelled from Shenandoah County Public Schools for the possession, distribution, and/or use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs on school property or at school related events. Not only does such conduct violate Shenandoah County School Board policy, but even more significantly, it is against the law. It is the intent of the Shenandoah County School Board to deal severely with students who violate drug/alcohol related school board policy. Students who choose to disregard and violate policy should not only anticipate expulsion from school, but also prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.*

*A student who is determined to have brought a controlled substance, imitation controlled substance or marijuana onto school property or to a school-sponsored activity shall be expelled in accordance with Shenandoah County Public Schools Policy JGD/JGE.*

*If you have a drug or alcohol related problem or you know someone who does, please talk with your principal or counselor. In addition, if you become aware of others who jeopardize the school community by possessing, distributing, and/or using on school property, notify your school administrator immediately.*

*How many of you have heard the expression “Get real!”? We may have different ideas about what that means, but for people who are recovering from drug and alcohol abuse, it means one thing. It means getting real with themselves and what they’re doing. It means getting honest. It means quitting with the lies they keep telling themselves about their drug and alcohol abuse.*

*The truth is that just one experience with an illegal drug can matter. You can put yourself in a dangerous situation. You can endanger your health. You can put your feet on a path that leads nowhere. So if you are having trouble getting real about substance abuse, talk to someone you trust and get some help. Study the facts. Get in touch with the reality that substance abuse has very real and serious consequences.*

*Here’s a news flash! Did you know that your brain will continue to develop until you are 24 years old? That’s right. And did you know that all illegal drugs damage the part of the brain that controls your impulses? People who are high on drugs or alcohol literally don’t have the brains to control themselves. They give all their personal power to a*

*substance that controls them. That's why they do such stupid things, wind up in jail, damage their brains, or die from drug overdoses.*

*How many of you have ever had a day or maybe a week when you were really sad or depressed—when nothing you did made you feel better? It's not any fun being depressed. Now imagine having to go through life never feeling happy, content, or satisfied. Imagine going through the rest of your life depressed. That's what alcohol and drugs can do to you!*

*Listen up, because this is important. Ecstasy is a popular party drug. Some kids call it "E" or "The Love Drug" or "The Party Drug." This is what scientists know about ecstasy. Ecstasy can cause a permanent rupture in a pathway in your brain that carries the chemicals you need to help you feel good emotionally. There are people who have permanently ruptured this pathway using Ecstasy. Imagine that for a moment. These folks are faced with a life filled with depression that can't be medically treated.*

*Standing up against drugs and alcohol is about getting real with the problem of substance abuse in our country. It's about not lying to ourselves and saying things like "It's only this one time. It won't matter, or "I'm a free person and I'm not hurting anybody."*

*You know that it is against school rules to have a controlled substance on school property. But what is a controlled substance? It's an illegal drug such as alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, and anabolic steroids. Anyone who brings any of these substances to school is breaking a very important rule. Students who break this rule are suspended from school and are often expelled and may not return. Please use good judgment and stay away from illegal drugs.*

*When you hear that drugs are not permitted on school property, do you ever wonder what exactly is 'school property'? You might be surprised to know that, even though you are a student at (your school's name), you are on school property when you go to a football game at Central High School, or when you go on a school field trip to a museum. Anytime that you are attending a function at a school, you must follow all school rules.*

*In order to keep school safe and protect your health and safety, the school principal may sometimes need to search your book bags and other personal items. They may suspect that you have something harmful to yourself or others. You may not have thought about it, but desks and lockers are school property and may be searched at any time. Any illegal items which are found during a search are turned over to law enforcement officers. Students who have these things are suspended or expelled. Always be careful about what you bring to school.*

*I know you've heard about illegal drugs that are harmful to you and others, such as marijuana, cocaine and PCP. Those are the kinds of drugs that can lead to expulsion from school.*

*Drugs prescribed by a doctor or given to you by your parents when you are sick are legal*

*and safe as long as they are taken as directed. Your school has a policy about bringing legal drugs into the building. Be sure to check with your school nurse or principal about how to handle these drugs in school.*

*You've got plenty of brainpower to understand the facts, and the facts are that it can take a full year for your brain to completely recover after you have abused drugs or alcohol. In some cases, the damage done can never be fixed.*

*A letter from a reformed drug addict said: "When I was in middle school, none of my friends wanted to wear the red ribbons. It wasn't a cool thing to do. Kids thought drugs were cool. I was hanging out with the "druggies" to fit in. Deep inside I knew I needed help, but was afraid to ask. A friend reached out to me and got me into a teen recovery program. I've been drug and alcohol free for four years now.*

*This is what I know now. Drugs aren't cool. Being honest with myself and others is cool. Being productive and responsible is cool. And I believe that if just one person hears this message and gets some help, then we've made a difference."*

*The Drug Enforcement Agency sent Kiki Camarena to Mexico to work as an undercover agent investigating a major drug cartel. He was eventually kidnapped, tortured, and murdered by drug dealers.*

*Listen up! Those who buy or use illegal drugs are not just saying "yes" to drugs, they're saying "yes" to the kind of criminals who killed Kiki. If you're using illegal drugs or are tempted to, think about Kiki Camarena. Think about his family and friends and how much they still miss him. Then walk away. You're far too good to be part of that whole scene.*

**SCPS Goal: 5**

**Comprehensive Plan Goal - 4**

**Strategy:** Relationships with area colleges and universities will be enhanced to provide onsite staff development and degree options.

**Description:** The Shenandoah County CRISS Training is a research-based, staff development program for teachers and administrators. Project CRISS, CReating Independence through Student-owned Strategies, was designed to help students learn more effectively throughout the curriculum. The training is designed to aid educators in fostering student achievement through active engagement in the learning process. Project CRISS focuses on teaching students how to learn through reading, writing, talking, and listening. This training spans the district's three school levels as well as all curricular areas. An overview of CRISS training was presented to the county's administrative team at their annual retreat in August of 2006. This presentation highlighted the CRISS Training components and provided an opportunity for administrators to understand how CRISS can be utilized in their schools. At this time, administrators were introduced to the county's CRISS District Trainer, Amanda Roller.

The county's District Trainer conducted a complete CRISS Training in August of 2006. Twenty-seven county educators participated in this three-day session. The participants consisted of elementary, middle and high school classroom teachers, special education teachers and administrators.

Sandy Hook Elementary, Ashby Lee Elementary and W.W. Robinson Elementary schools took part in CRISS mini- sessions. These mini-sessions were conducted with core classroom teachers, special education teachers and administrators. Sandy Hook's CRISS mini-session focus was on implementing CRISS strategies throughout the core curriculum, while Ashby Lee and W.W. Robinson's mini-session focal area was integrating CRISS with math instruction.