

September 30, 2022

AMHERST COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Hello Team Amherst,

With September coming to a close today we have completed over six weeks of school and students are beginning to settle into their routines. We have had a great start to the school year and I am looking forward to see the great things that our students and the school division will accomplish this year.

Students from AMS and MMS participated in an environmental education study on the James River at River Edge Park as part of a grant from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in cooperation with the James River Association. The students participated in water quality sampling, learned about the James River and Chesapeake Bay watershed, and participated in food web activities that focused on the organisms that live in upper James River watershed. On Monday September 26, students from AMS were able to see the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources conduct electrofishing research while on their JRA field trip at River Edge Park. The students were able to see several species of fish that were shocked in the river to include two large flat head catfish.

Show Up Day, as part of our #ShowUpAmherst initiative, was today and all of the schools in the division had activities for their students. This was a great way to recognize our students and staff for Showing Up today. It also provided opportunities for our community to Show Up for our students and for our schools to recognize members of our community. I want to thank our staff at the division and school levels for all the work they put into organizing the Show Up Day events.

As part of our #ShowUpAmherst initiative, I want to take a moment to discuss school attendance. We need our students in school. They cannot learn if they are not in school. Students who miss two or more days a month are considered chronically absent. Please encourage your students to attend school daily.

I have been attempting to reach out to our families and community members to encourage them to volunteer in our schools. We want our families and community to re-engage and with our schools and actively participate in school events. We desire to reconnect with our community, and request families and community members to get involved in our schools and support our teachers and students. We want you to know that we are open and welcome your assistance and support. If you are interested in volunteering at one or more of our schools, you can contact the school or the school administration office for more details.

As always, please feel free to contact me if I may be of assistance or if you have any questions regarding Amherst County Public Schools. Stay safe this weekend as the remnants of Hurricane Ian move through our area.

Sincerely,

William

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ☒ October 10-11: Fall Break
(No school for all staff and students)
- ☒ October 21: End of Grading Period
- ☒ October 24: Teacher Work Day
(No school for students)
- ☒ October 28: Report cards



Thank you!



The response from our schools, families, and the community to show up for each other has been great! We all know that it takes each and every one of us in order for our students to be life ready upon graduation. Let's keep up the good work and continue to SHOW UP for each other!



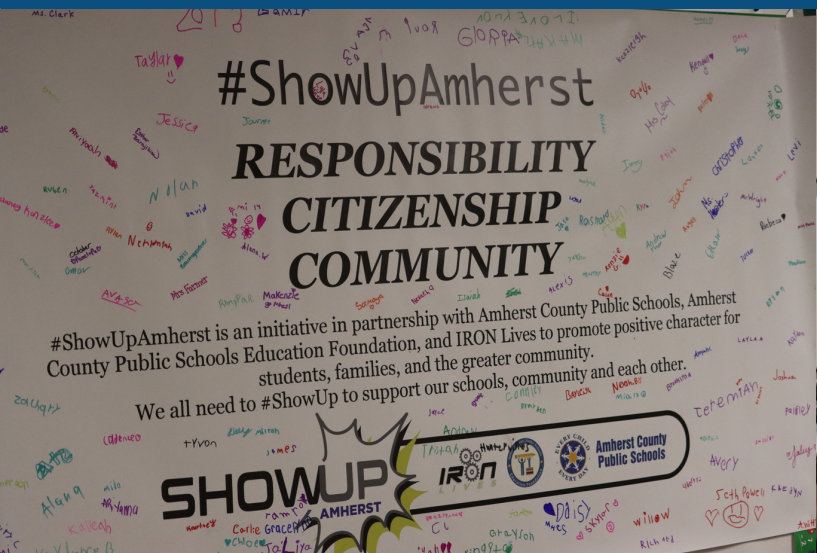
There are so many ways to show up!

- ☒ Volunteer!
- ☒ Be kind!
- ☒ Help a friend!
- ☒ Show up at school and your community!



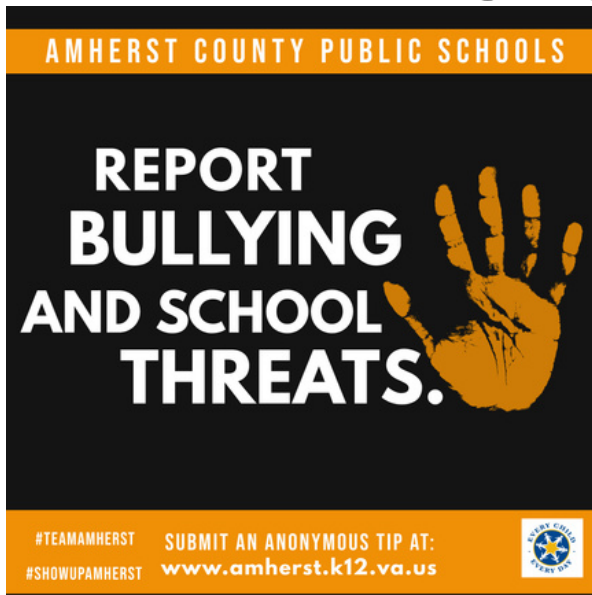
Today, September 30, was Show Up Day! All of our schools have been working hard behind the scenes on exciting plans to celebrate. What happened when your student showed up today??? Use #ShowUpAmherst on social media to share what happened at your student's school!

SHOW UP DAY!





Bullying Prevention



[Click Here](#)
[to](#)
[Report Bullying](#)

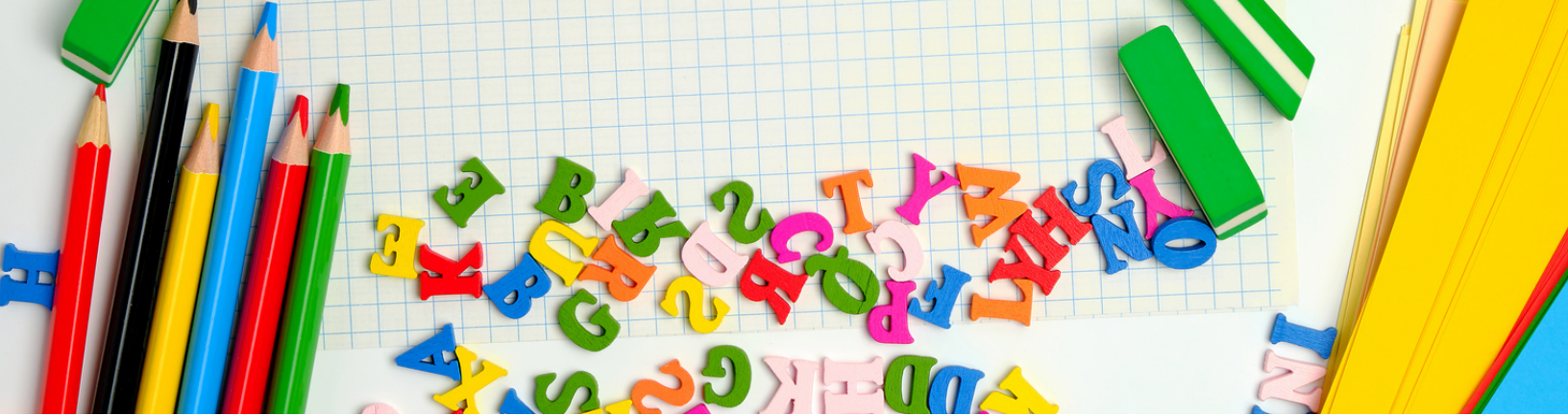
[Click Here](#)
[for the](#)
[Bullying Policy.](#)

October is bullying prevention month. ACPS takes bullying very seriously and recently passed a new policy related to bullying. If you have concerns about bullying in our schools, please contact your student's principal or report bullying using the portal on our website.

Unity Day is October 19th. All students are encouraged to wear orange on that day to show their support for a bullying-free learning environment.

School safety is a top priority in Amherst County Public Schools. We will continue to practice drills and lockdowns at schools. We encourage you to take time to discuss school safety and please remind your students that if they “see something, say something” to an adult. School safety is a collaborative effort between the schools, families, and the community. We need to continue to work together to provide for a safe educational environment for students and staff.

SCHOOL SAFETY



AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

30% off monthly internet service
+ \$100 off a device

ACPS STUDENTS QUALIFY!

LEARN MORE AT [GETINTERNET.GOV](https://www.getinternet.gov)

The FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) allows qualifying households to reduce their internet costs by up to \$30/month (\$75/month on Tribal lands). [Getinternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov) is a simple, easy-to-use website with details on how households can sign up for ACP and find participating providers in their area. According to the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), all ACPS students would qualify for this program! Visit www.getinternet.gov to learn more and apply. Please contact your school for any needed documentation during the application process.





Amherst County Public Schools is going ELECTRIC!

Amherst County Public Schools began running two electric buses earlier this month! We would like to thank the Amherst County School Board, the Amherst County Board of Supervisors, and the staff at American Electric Power for the funding to make this possible. We appreciate the staff at Sonny Merryman for their partnership in providing these buses. We would also like to thank Dr. Wells, Dr. Hoden, Gary Roakes, and Rhonda Campbell and her staff, Pam Cash, Bea Campbell, Shari Hammett, and Bill Cox for their hard work to make this endeavor possible. We have been awarded an additional grant from AEP that will allow us to purchase a third electric bus, which is being built at this time. These buses provide zero emissions and noise pollution and a greater savings on maintenance and fuel costs. The addition of electric buses is exciting and will be a window to the future of student transportation!



James River Association Field Trip!

Students from AMS and MMS participated in an environmental education study on the James River at River Edge Park as part of the NOAA B-WET grant in cooperation with the James River Association. The students participated in Biotic and Abiotic water quality sampling, learned about the James River and Chesapeake Bay watershed, and participated in food web activities that focused on the organisms that live in upper James River watershed. On Monday September 26, students from AMS were able to see the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources conduct electrofishing research while on their JRA field trip at River Edge Park. The students were able to see several species of fish that were shocked in the river to include two large flat head catfish.

