



FOUNDATION NEWS

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2013 RACE TO THE FUTURE 9/24/13

CHROMEBOOKS TO BE ADDED IN THE DISTRICT

On Tuesday evening, September 24th, the South Conway County Public School Foundation will host the 14th Annual "Race to the Future" Fund-raising Event. Funds raised during this year's campaign will be used to purchase Chromebooks for use at Morrilton High School.

Last year the Foundation raised funds to purchase iPad Labs for the Junior and Senior High School campuses. Because of the investment of countless Friends of the South Conway County Public School Foundation, our school district is on the cutting edge of technology among schools in Arkansas and throughout the U.S.

This year we want to continue that trend by introducing Chromebooks at the high school campus. Chromebooks look like traditional laptops but are substantially different. They are optimized for the web's vast educational resources and integrate rich content into lessons, inspire collaboration and

encourage students to create and share their own content with the world. Chromebooks are a simple, scalable and affordable way to put technology into the hands of more students and teachers.

Two of the biggest challenges schools face when implementing technology programs are budget and IT support. Deploying Chrome devices in place of traditional computers reduces IT headaches and overall cost by streamlining support, centralizing management, and reducing software purchases.

Our goal is to raise \$27,000 in order to purchase 90 Chromebooks along with some accessories for utilization in three classrooms at MHS. Students in these classrooms will utilize the Chromebooks daily, receiving assignments, doing research and creating and submitting assignments back to the teacher for evaluation. This process will give students experience with electronic assignment submission

that is common on college campuses and will greatly reduce paper consumption. The Chromebooks will also be available for use with new state mandated testing that requires a web enabled device to access and complete.

Inside this newsletter you will find an insert detailing how you can be involved in the Race to the Future event. We hope that you will consider contributing at one of the levels suggested and will join us on September 24th to learn more about *The Leader in Me* process that has now completed the first year in our district. This is an exciting development for our district that you will want to learn more about.

Send your support in early to be included in the printed program. If you prefer to give online we have added that to our web site at www.sccpsf.org.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of the Foundation.

Upcoming Events

**14th Annual
Race to the Future**
Tuesday
September 24, 2013
6:30 pm
Morrilton High School
Cafeteria

**Class of 2003 10-
Year Reunion**
September 6 - 7

Devil Dog Reunion
June 7, 2014

MHS ALUMNUS SHAWN HALBROOK NAMED SUPERINTENDENT



The Halbrook Family

The South Conway County School District is welcoming home one of their own in the position of Superintendent of the district. Shawn Halbrook grew up in Morrilton and graduated from Morrilton High School. He served as a teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent in the district earlier in his career. He is returning home from the Harrison School District where he was serving as the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction.

Halbrook is replacing Annette Henderson who left the South Conway County School District to take a position as an assistant superintendent in the Fort Smith School District.

Shawn, his wife Jennifer, also a Morrilton native

and MHS alumna, and their four children are looking forward to moving home.

After graduating from Morrilton High School in 1992 Halbrook attended Arkansas Tech University with his sights on becoming a physical therapist and then an economist. Eventually he could not resist what he says was meant to be, becoming an educator. "It was a calling from God, much like a preacher is called," he said.

Halbrook has been a coach, taught history and elementary education, served as a principal and assistant superintendent - all roles that have given him excellent preparation to lead the South Conway County School District.

Halbrook is passionate about helping students and views that as one of his strengths. He believes that educators must be hope-givers not dream-dashers. He emphasizes that educators can't control what happens outside the classroom but they can affect what happens within the classroom and during the school experience in general.

When asked about the challenges facing the South Conway County School District he mentioned declining enrollment which affects funding. On a positive note the district did increase enrollment during the 2012-13 school year by 19 students. Halbrook hopes to continue that trend by leading the district in continuing excellence. He believes that families will be attracted to Conway County as they realize that their children will receive a great education here and as innovative initiatives such as The Leader in Me begin to permeate the district. He stresses that the district will maximize safety, learning and achievement.

During an afternoon visit in his office it was easy to see his passion for education in general and more specifically for the Morrilton area. Halbrook stressed that he believes

that the best days for the South Conway County School District are ahead. He did stress that it will take partnerships to move forward and asked that all former Devil Dogs commit to being a part of moving the district forward. One way for former Devil Dogs to partner with the district is by contributing to the upcoming Race to the Future event. The funds raised will go directly into the district to purchase tools to enhance educational opportunities within the district.

Halbrook is also interested in linking local businesses with schools. He would like to see businesses adopt campuses. Businesses could provide supplemental instruction, for example a chemistry lesson designed around processes that happen in a plant or real life examples of engineering for students in the new Project Lead the Way program.

Halbrook encourages the community to demand an excellent school system in the Morrilton area because he believes that communities get the schools that they demand.

DEVIL DOG REUNION RECAP

“Hark the Sound of Devil Dog Voices” was still yet again the sound heard earlier this summer when Morrilton High School alumni attended the 13th Annual Devil Dog Reunion Brunch held for the MHS classes that have had their 50th class reunions. Next year’s brunch is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2014.

Welcomed into this “golden” group this year was the MHS Class of 1963.

A great time was had by all with Bea Lasaster Thompson, Dale Reynolds Meyers, and Earl “Bimbo” Bentley of the Class of 1938 being honored as the classmates from the earliest class attending. Other honors were given for longest distance traveled and longest marriage.

A special item on the program was an audio recording from the KVOM series “I Remember When” featuring Mr.

B. Jack Wilson being interviewed by 1963 class member, Stan Willis.

Additionally, a special video of one of the last days of our beloved old MHS building was shown at the brunch.

For information about next year’s brunch please call Jeannene Ring Ellis, Class of 1958, at 354-2149 or Bettye Bridgman Swope, Class of 1956, at 354-2931.



2013 Season’s Home Devil Dog Football Games

- 9/6 Dogs vs Russellville
 - 10/4 Dogs vs Alma
 - 10/18 Dogs vs Vilonia
 - 11/1 Dogs vs Harrison
 - 11/8 Dogs vs Clarksville
- (all games begin at 7:00 pm)

WHY SHOULD YOU BE A FRIEND OF THE FOUNDATION?

Friends of the Foundation are very important. Funds gained through Friends of the Foundation support the ongoing efforts of the South Conway County Public School Foundation.

Your support through the Friends program also

shows your personal commitment to raising the bar for education in the Morrilton area.

We believe that the Foundation’s influence remains instrumental in giving the district confidence to step-out and try new approaches in the

education of its students.

Help us continue to be a positive influence for education in the Morrilton area by becoming a Friend of the Foundation today!

The SCCPSF is a 501(c)(3) organization, making all your donations tax deductible!

Did you know that the South Conway County Public School Foundation has virtually no administrative costs? All money contributed goes toward enhancing student achievement!

FRIEND OF THE FOUNDATION

Remove this portion and return with donation or for more information to:
 South Conway County Public School Foundation
 P.O. Box 318, Morrilton, Arkansas 72110
 Online giving available at www.sccpsf.org

Consider me a Friend of the Foundation. My tax-deductible contribution, payable to the South Conway County Public School Foundation, is enclosed.

_____ Benefactor: \$1,000

_____ Sponsor: \$100

_____ Contributor: \$25

_____ Patron: \$500

_____ Supporter: \$50

_____ Other: _____

Name _____ Address _____

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Name on Card _____ Signature _____

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Internet Web Site
www.sccpsf.org

LEADER IN ME INITIATIVE GROWS

The first year of implementation of the Leader In Me initiative has been completed in the South Conway County School District. The initiative is funded in part from the Nathan and Virginia Gordon Endowment Fund, and the South Conway County Public School Foundation.

The *Leader in Me* is an innovative, school wide model that emphasizes a culture of student empowerment and helps unleash each child's full potential. Applying The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People®, teachers and students internalize timeless leadership principles that nurture the skills stu-

dents need for success in the 21st century.

Students at Morrilton Primary and Morrilton Elementary schools displayed their leadership skills on May 24th to parents and interested community partners. Students were involved in every aspect of the program, many speaking to those gathered and others involved in dramatic performances and music. Many of the Board of Directors of the Foundation were able to attend and were encouraged that the initiative is making a positive impact on the district's students and staff.

The initiative will expand in the 2013-14 school year to Morrilton Intermediate school. This will allow students that started the initiative at Morrilton Elementary to continue as they move to the Intermediate campus. Staff at the Intermediate campus will receive training during the upcoming school year.

The South Conway County School Foundation is pleased to be a part of this important initiative within our district.

The
Leader in Me™
great happens here



Foundation News is a Publication of the South Conway County Public School Foundation which supports improved educational opportunities for the South Conway County School District.

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