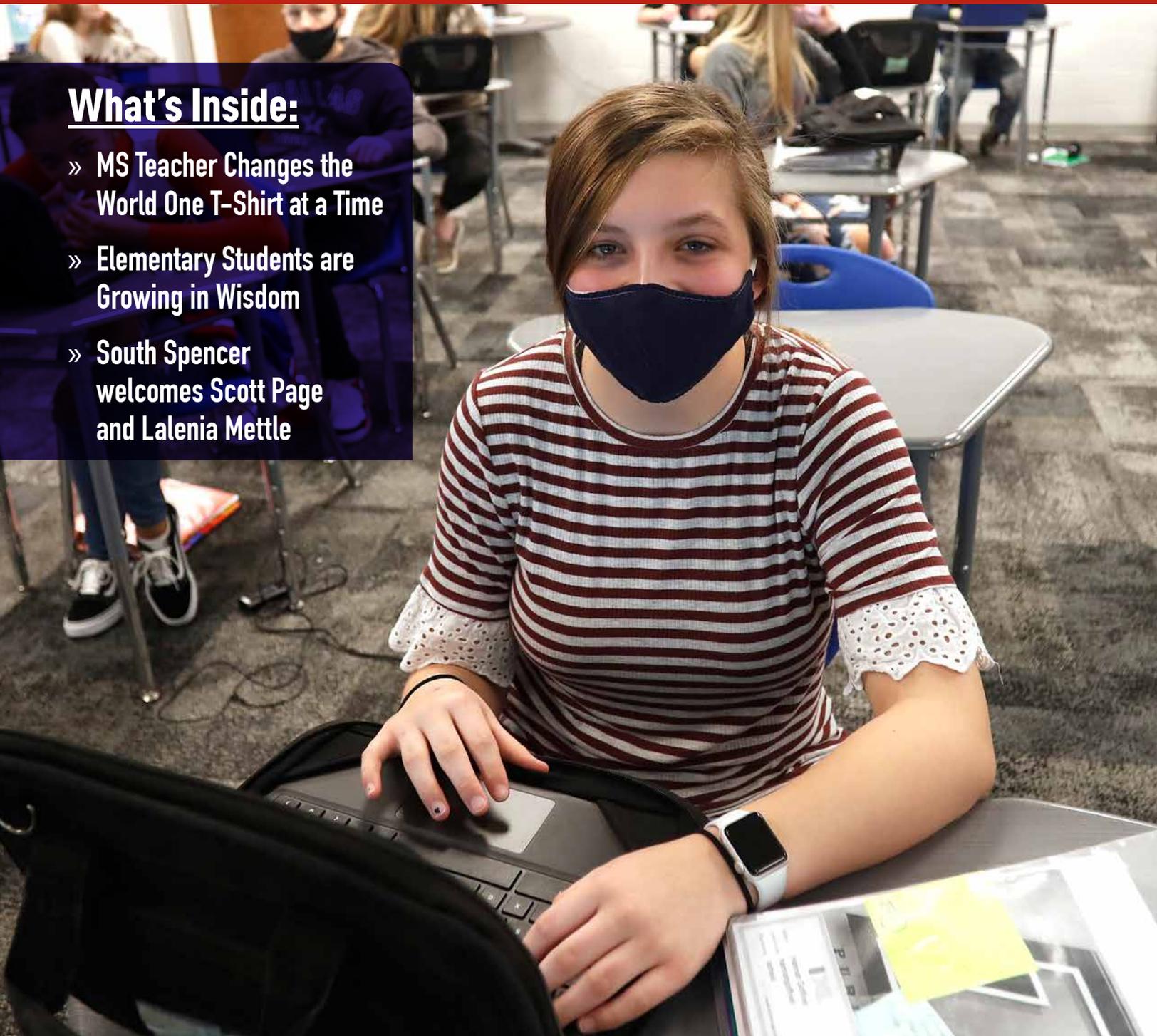


TRUE BLUE

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH SPENCER REBELS

What's Inside:

- » MS Teacher Changes the World One T-Shirt at a Time
- » Elementary Students are Growing in Wisdom
- » South Spencer welcomes Scott Page and Lalenia Mettle



South Spencer students have risen to the challenge of 2020 and are in school, learning, growing, getting prepared for their bright futures!

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

I am beyond excited to have students filling our hallways once again. As much as I'd like to tell you what will happen next with regard to COVID-19 and its impact on our school, I can't. What I can tell you is that our mission has not changed due to these unexpected events. During the 2020-21 school year, we plan to teach, grow, improve, and continue to provide the tools our students need to succeed in the pursuit of their goals.

Even though this year may look different than in the past, we are confident that it will be our best year yet. The South Spencer staff has gone above and beyond to prepare and to create the safest way possible and meet the needs of all our students.

It is truly a blessing to serve as Superintendent of the South Spencer School Corporation, and I consider myself very fortunate to be able to live and work in this fantastic community! I look forward to seeing everyone working together for our students and wish everyone an outstanding school year.

GO REBELS!

All Students All the Time

-Dr. Richard Rutherford,

Superintendent of South Spencer School Corporation



SOUTH SPENCER HIGH SCHOOL WELCOMES SCOTT PAGE

This fall South Spencer High School welcomed Scott Page as the new AP Chemistry teacher. Page brings a wide range of skills and experiences to his classroom each day.



Having grown up in Indiana in a small town of 300 and graduating seventh in his class from Floyd Central High School, he ventured off to the big campus of Purdue University in 1987 to become an engineer. It was a struggle but after five long years, he received a BS degree in Chemical Engineering and was the first in his family to receive a college degree. For the next chapter of his life, he decided to attend graduate school at the University of Massachusetts. There, he worked for a great professor of chemical engineering. He also wrote a 200-page thesis and earned his MS degree in Chemical Engineering.

Teaching was not on his radar at that point, but through a lot of fortunate twists and turns in his life, though he didn't think so at the time, he ended up in school again, earning his BS degree in Secondary Science Education from Indiana University Southeast.

He has been blessed in his career as a teacher, growing and learning at every stop and working with some great people. He has worked in Montana, South Carolina and Indiana and has had the fortune to travel to China, Peru, Germany, Prague, Budapest and Poland with students. He has taught Math, Physics and Chemistry.

He has taught in middle school, high school and at an alternative school for adults. Page has had his work published, presented to fellow science teachers at HASTI and NSTA national conference, been to Salt Lake City, Utah, as an AP Reader, and earned his MEd in Educational Administration. He has been a varsity assistant, filming Friday night football games, coached freshman football and 8th grade flag football.

Page shared, "It's an awesome feeling when you are an inspiration to others and watching students earn 4s and 5s on the AP exam, enjoying the fruits of their labor. It has been a lot of work, but a lot of fun too! I would like to think I've seen it all, but that is the great thing about teaching. It is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get. I have a passion for teaching chemistry and that is why I came here. I love seeing the progress the students make throughout the year and watching them mature along the way. The standards are high, but the rewards are great. I am happy to be at South Spencer High School and I look forward to making it my home for many years to come. It is a pleasant drive from Newburgh where I live with my kids, our cocker spaniel Patsy, and my mother whom I care for."



ONE T-SHIRT AT A TIME

Middle School Home Economics teacher Dudley Mitchell is inspiring everyone to be their best. Mitchell came to South Spencer six years ago following a career switch. After working in the hospitality industry for many years, he felt that he needed to find his purpose in life. Little did he know that this would be found inside a home economics classroom in an Indiana middle school.

Mitchell is not your ordinary teacher. He wakes up grateful every day for the opportunity to help make his students better citizens. He does this by sharing his Life Rules with everyone. These rules include:

- Be on time
- Be honest
- Be respectful
- Be responsible

Dudley Mitchell has lived by these rules for years. They have allowed him to break some bad habits, find his purpose in life and become a better person each day. This fall, Mitchell took his Life Rules and decided to spread them beyond his classroom. He printed over 300 "Life Rules" t-shirts to give to all students and staff. Now, on any given day, someone at South Spencer is wearing Dudley Mitchell's Life Rules for everyone to see.

These t-shirts are meant to remind everyone that whether you are a student attending classes, someone entering the workforce or just simply at home making pumpkin rolls, you should always remember to be on time, be honest, be respectful and be responsible.

STUDENTS ARE GROWING IN WIT AND WISDOM AT OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The South Spencer Elementary teams at Luce and Rockport have adopted new curriculum over the past two years in Reading and Math. Both curriculums are intended to help elevate our programs in meeting the more rigorous ILearn Assessment requirements and supporting all of our students in college and career readiness.

The elementary teams intend to deliver a cohesive prekindergarten through fifth grade program that supports every student's academic and social/emotional growth. Our new reading program, Wit and Wisdom, helps support this in many ways. The curriculum is designed to support students interacting with text and learning to discuss and debate central topics and themes at a high level.

Students participate in discussions, activities and Socratic seminars as they read and research these big themes. This happens at all levels, and the skills our students are learning in our kindergarten classrooms are similar to those in our upper grades, allowing us to build on skills year by year while growing our students' breadth of knowledge.

These are some of the themes students are engaging in right now.

- Kindergarten is working on The Five Senses: How do our senses help us learn?
- 1st grade is exploring Creature Features: What can we discover about animals' unique features?
- 2nd grade is looking into The American West: What was life like in the West for early Americans?

- 3rd grade is getting their astronaut on in a unit about Outer Space: How do people learn about space?
- 4th grade is looking into Extreme Settings: How does a challenging setting or physical environment change a person?
- 5th grade is finishing a deep dive unit on Cultures in Conflict: How do cultural beliefs and values guide people?

The units also provide opportunities for integrating activities across all subjects. We are able to use the themes to build deep dive units. We are designing key activities and experiences we intend for each student to experience as they grow from prekindergarten to the fifth grade. Some of these experiences are targeted to support academic growth, some support student growth in their social and emotional learning, and some are intended to provide a connection to activities that we believe all students should experience during their elementary years.

For example, fourth grade students at Rockport Elementary recently dissected pig hearts while wrapping up a unit of study that helped answer the question, "What does it mean to have a great heart, literally and figuratively?" Students read books and texts about the physical heart and how it functions, and also read stories where the characters had to show heart in a figurative sense in dealing with difficult situations or overcoming obstacles in life.



SOUTH SPENCER WELCOMES LALENIA METTLE

South Spencer High School welcomed Lalenia Mettle as the AP Biology teacher this fall.

This is her 15th year teaching high school biology. She is excited to be here at South Spencer High School! She has lived here for three years and only lives three minutes away from the school!



Mettle taught at Daviess County High School for all fourteen years except one year at their alternative high school. She has a BS in Life Science Teaching from USI in Evansville and a masters in Education in Leadership Teaching from WKU in Bowling Green, Kentucky. She is a second generation

biology teacher and hopes that she is half the teacher her dad was.

She married her high school sweetheart, Robert. They graduated from Central High School in Evansville and have two amazing children: a daughter, Tristen and a son, Lane Michael. Tristen is a fifth grade teacher in Indianapolis and Lane is a junior at USI.

This year Mettle will teach Honors Biology, AP Biology and Environmental Science. She shared, "I am blessed to be teaching in my community. This is a lifelong goal of mine. Making positive relationships and exciting students to learn are top goals! I hope to meet all of your students at one point while teaching here! Proud to be a Rebel! God Bless!"

8 TIPS TO KEEP KIDS GERM-FREE AT SCHOOL

Kids love to be close and share everything, even germs. Here are some quick tips to help students reduce the spread of germs at school.

1. **Wash your Hands.** Wash hands in warm soapy water for at least 20 seconds. Sing the alphabet song once to help with timing.
2. **Don't Share.** Send extra supplies so students can use their own items rather than community items.
3. **Cover Sneezes and Coughs.** Sneeze into the crook of the elbow or into a tissue, not into hands. If a student accidentally sneezes into their hands, remind them to wash their hands right away.
4. **Hands off Your Face.** Teach students to keep hands away from their face, out of their nose and out of their mouths. If they accidentally touch these things, remind them to wash their hands right away.
5. **Skip the Water Fountain.** Send a water bottle with students each day so they can avoid the water fountain. If they need to use the water fountain, teach students how to drink without touching their mouth to the spigot.
6. **Eat Fruits and Veggies.** A healthy diet can help boost the immune system.
7. **Get Enough Sleep.** Sleep helps build the immune system. Follow these guidelines:
 - a. Ages 10-17: 8.5 to 9.5 hours per night
 - b. Ages 5-10: 10 to 11 hours per night
 - c. Ages 3-5: 11 to 13 hours per night
8. **Stay Home from School when Sick.** If a student is sick, they need to stay home until they are well again to avoid spreading illness to others.

South Spencer School Corporation is complying with CDC and state COVID guidelines for health and safety.

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2020-21 ALL SCHOOL CALENDAR

Jan 15	Early Dismissal / PD
Jan 18	Martin Luther King Day (snow makeup day)
Feb 12	Early Dismissal / PD
Feb 15	Presidents Day (snow makeup day)
March 10	End of 3rd nine weeks
March 12	Early Dismissal / PD
March 22-26	Spring Break
April 16	Snow Makeup Day
May 21	End of 4th nine weeks
May 21	Early Dismissal (last day of school)
May 22	Graduation Day
May 31	Memorial Day