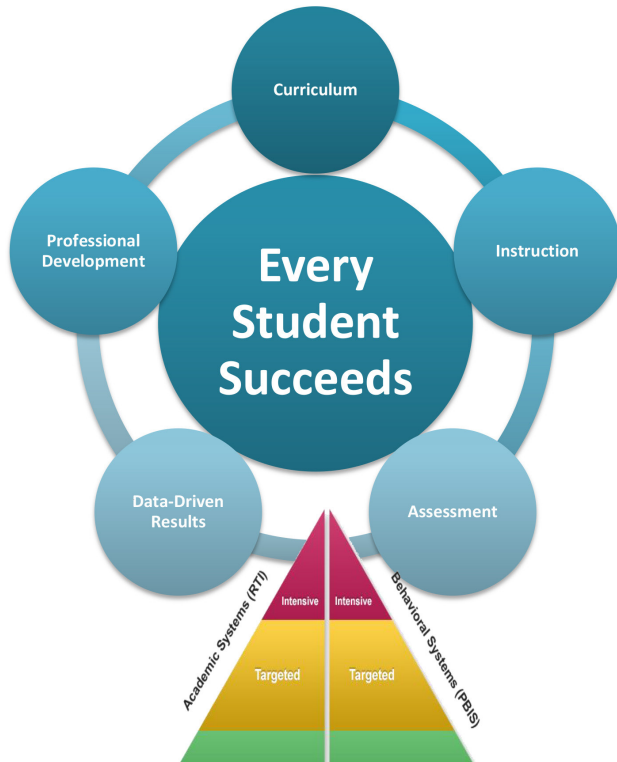


# ACPS Teaching and Learning Model

The goal of ACPS is to ensure that *every student succeeds!* Teaching and learning in ACPS involves a rigorous curriculum, effective planning, balanced assessment, proven instructional strategies, and relationships with students that communicate high expectations and a commitment to student success.



ACPS uses a staff-developed 21st-century curriculum focused on helping students become critical thinkers and problem solvers. All classrooms should be interactive, engaging, and structured to promote student communication and collaboration. More information on the ACPS curriculum can be found at [www.acps.k12.va.us](http://www.acps.k12.va.us).

## Effective Assessment and Progress Monitoring

Student data provides feedback about what students are learning and what they still need to learn. Data collected informally on a daily basis and formally at the end of units and specific milestones throughout the year help to guide learning and teaching. This data includes:

- Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessments
- Daily teacher observation and formative assessment
- Daily student work products
- End-of-unit assessments
- Nationally normed screening instruments, including Think Through Math (TTM)
- Reading assessments such as running records, Reading Inventories (RI), and Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS)
- Common assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies
- Transfer tasks and other forms of performance assessment and projects that emphasize student transfer of learning to real-life settings and problems



## What Can I Expect for My Child in the 3rd Grade?

The mission of Alexandria City Public Schools is: *“Every student succeeds: Educating lifelong learners and inspiring civic responsibility.”* Our vision is: *“Our students achieve at high levels, are well-rounded, critical thinkers, and have a passion to learn.”*

### Principles

- ☀ We Believe in Educational Excellence
- ☀ We Believe in High Achievement for All
- ☀ We Believe in a Culture of Collaboration
- ☀ We Believe in Continuous Improvement and Accountability
- ☀ We Believe in Environmental Stewardship





# For More Information:

ACPS Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
1340 Braddock Place, 4th Floor  
Alexandria, Va. 22314  
Tel: 703-619-8020



## Some of the Learning in Which Your Child Will Be Engaged Includes:

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS\*

- Characters and Plot in Narratives
- Reading and Writing Expository Texts
- Learning from Reading and Writing Science Texts
- Exploring Realistic Fiction
- Reading and Writing Fairy Tales, Myths, and Folklore
- Using Evidence to Support Assertions
- Finding Inspiration in Poetry

### MATHEMATICS

- Developing Fluency with Multiplication Facts
- Multiplication and Division within 100
- Understanding of Addition and Subtraction of Fractions with Like Denominators
- Describing and Analyzing Two-Dimensional Shapes

### SCIENCE

- Physical Properties
- Simple Machines
- Exploring Environments
- Investigating Adaptations
- Analyzing Food Chains
- Investigating Patterns and Cycles in Nature
- Investigating Water
- Analyzing Sources of Energy
- Investigating Soil

### SOCIAL STUDIES

- Practicing Citizenship
- Exploring World Geography
- Investigating Economics
- Understanding the Past: Ancient China, Egypt, Greece, Rome, and Mali

### THE ARTS

- Performance and Production
- Cultural Context and Music Theory
- Judgment and Criticism

- Aesthetics

### HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Moving to a Rhythm
- Gymnastic Sequences
- Vigorous Physical Activity
- Responsible Behaviors and Working with Peers

## Helpful Resources

### Alexandria City Public Schools

#### Web Resources:

[www.acps.k12.va.us](http://www.acps.k12.va.us)

Through this website, you can access information about the following:

- ACPS Strategic Plan
- Registration Forms
- School Academic Calendars
- School Addresses, Hours and Websites
- Student Guidelines

- English Learner Office (703) 619-8022
- Family and Community Engagement (703) 619-8055
- Specialized Instruction Services (703) 619-1717
- Talented and Gifted Program (703) 619-8020
- Title I (703) 619-1729

\* ACPS K-5 Literacy Guidelines call for all students to receive 60 minutes daily of explicit reading instruction on their instructional levels. If your child is reading above grade level, he or she will receive instruction above grade level. If your child is reading below grade level, ACPS will provide accelerated instruction at his or her level to rapidly close the gap. Students may be regrouped during the reading block.