

# PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

## Department of Curriculum and Instruction

### A Message from Dr. Terri Mozingo Chief Academic Officer

Dear ACPS Family,

Welcome back to all of you who have been with us previously--and a very warm greeting to each of our new teachers and administrators, many of whom we met at New Teacher Orientation. This year we are expecting great things from our students as we work to collectively prepare them for success. Thanks to each of you for your commitment, your dedication, and your willingness to change the lives of our students in positive and impactful ways.

This year you will become aware of several important initiatives that the Department of Curriculum and Instruction will initiate and continue to support throughout the school year. As always, we will work closely with you to continue implementing the ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan. Our department plan will involve you in 12 priorities to ensure that Every Student Succeeds:

## TOP 12 PRIORITIES OF 2016-2017

### CONTINUING PRIORITIES

Implement the MTSS Framework Division-Wide

Implement a Specialized Instruction Plan

Enhance the Implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

Expand the Concept of Content Academies Throughout the Academic Year

Analyze Data and Develop Actions Based Upon Identified Needs

### NEW PRIORITIES

Collaborate with Teachers to Develop Exemplary Lesson Plans

Develop and Implement a Comprehensive K-12 Science Plan

Implement a Teaching and Learning Framework to Reinforce Planning, Teaching, Assessing, and Adjusting

Conduct a Professional Development Leadership Needs Assessment

Conduct "Look-Fors" and "Walk-Throughs" with School Leaders

Develop Division Plan for Reading, Writing, and Secondary Mathematics

Design and Implement a Systemic Coaching Model

I hope that you enjoy this issue and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at (703) 619-8020.

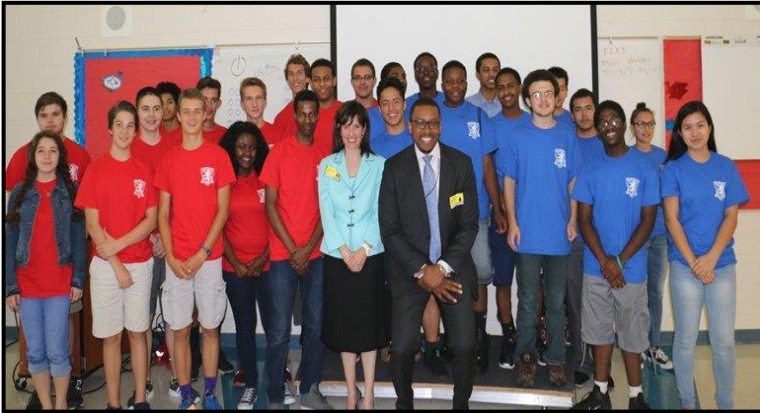
### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2. A Message from Dr. Mozingo
3. Career and Technical Education
4. Curriculum Design and Instructional Services
5. Early Childhood

1. English Learner Services
6. Specialized Instruction
7. Talented and Gifted
8. Curriculum and Instruction New Staff Members

*"Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel."-Socrates*

## Career and Technical Education



Alexandria City Public Schools was selected as the recipient of a grant from the Virginia Department of Education to host a Summer Cyber Security Camp. The grant was part of Governor Terry McAuliffe's initiative to make Virginia the leader in cyber security. From July 11<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> T.C. Williams' students were given the opportunity to meet with industry leaders, visit local corporations, learn foundations to programming code, and learn college and work readiness skills. Students also had the opportunity to earn the Internet Core Competency Certification before the end of the camp.

Much of the camp was centered on learning to build and code small multicore robots. The students worked to become proficient in a PBASIC coding language. The camp was capped off by a visit from Department of Homeland Security Undersecretary Dr. Schneck, who spoke to the students about the growing importance of the field of cybersecurity. Dr. Schneck is the Chief Cybersecurity official for the Department of Homeland Security and supports its mission of strengthening the security and resilience of our nation's critical infrastructure.

## Curriculum Design & Instructional Services

The Office of Curriculum Design and Instructional Services had a very busy summer. The team offered a range of professional development opportunities including focuses in literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, fine arts, world languages, and physical education.

Additionally, multiple Summer Enrichment Programs took place at James K. Polk and George Mason Elementary Schools. The institutes included programs integrating science, math, and literacy as well as "Where in the World Are We?" (an interdisciplinary exploration of the seven continents via world languages, physical movement, and artistic expression). At the middle school level, students explored local biomes and eco-systems along the Potomac River as well as critical social and legal issues in American history. The institutes included a focus on hands-on learning combined with rich field experiences and trips to museums, historic sites, and recreation venues.

This school year, the office will invite teachers to assist with updating curriculum guides to include the latest in Virginia Standards of Learning and instructional practices. The staff will also seek teachers to support the development of "exemplary lessons" aligned to the Virginia Standards of Learning.



## Early Childhood



Last school year was filled with a great deal of change and new opportunities focused on increasing student achievement. Through the initiatives of the Early Care and Education Work Group, our teachers have had an opportunity to focus on the development of their teacher-child interactions as they learned more about the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) tool. This effort marked year one of the QuALLity Collaborative professional development partnership with the University of Virginia. We are excited about the continuation of the initiative this school year.

## English Learner Services

The Office of English Learner Services and our wonderful ACPS EL Summer Enrichment teachers were excited to welcome approximately 700 students to the English Learner Summer Enrichment Program this July. The program focused on English language development and mathematics study, with an emphasis on front-loading the academic language of the ACPS general education curriculum that students will study in the following school year.



The Dual Language Program (DLP) continued to develop a Spanish Language Arts curriculum this summer, using a research-based approach to support program goals of biliteracy, bilingualism, high academic achievement, and cultural competence. Last year the DLP developed and field tested Kindergarten - Grade 2 curriculum guides using the ACPS state-of-the-art backwards design process on the development of language and literacy in two languages. The K-2 guides are being refined based on the results of the field test, and will be expanded to Grades 3-5. In the upper grades dual language students receive literacy integrated with science. Two ACPS teacher leaders presented our curriculum process at the Dual Language Content Teaching Academy at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA in June, and have been accepted to present in the fall at La Cosecha, the largest dual language conference in the U.S!

Your constant support and dedication will be critical as we work to ensure a high quality and enriching educational experience for our youngest learners. Have a great year!



## Specialized Instruction

The Office of Specialized instruction is thrilled to share the many positive outcomes of the summer Extended School Year (ESY) Program. Students participated in ESY from July 11<sup>th</sup> to August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

- This year's program provided students an opportunity to participate in fun and engaging activities while focusing on the IEP goals outlined in their ESY IEPs.
- Students began and ended their days in their ESY classroom led by their assigned ESY classroom teacher. This teacher served as case manager/primary contact for parents and provided instruction in IEP goals through activities in reading, writing and math.
- The ESY teacher accompanied their students to specialty classes for staff continuity and to allow the teacher opportunities for essential data collection. Focus teachers and therapists led specialty classes, like communication and technology.
- Students visited two specialty classes daily. The specialty classes rotated so that students were able to experience all specialty areas: communication, technology, social studies, physical education and art for elementary students. Secondary students participated in communication, technology, and community based learning.



## Talented & Gifted (TAG)



Summer programming for Young Scholars was a great success. The program has grown to over 160 students across grades 1-5, several who are now in middle school, and many in AVID. Our outreach to the parent community increased dramatically as we helped our parents set up Twitter accounts so they could follow their Young Scholars all summer. Parents tweeted in Spanish as well as English.

Getting ready for the new school year? Check out the professional learning opportunities offered for elementary and secondary teachers in differentiation at the [professional learning site](#). A new [gifted endorsement cohort](#) is also forming! TAG teacher meetings began August 31st and will kick off a year-long focus on blended learning. Be sure to schedule your TAG information overview session for parents sometime in the fall. This can be a part of a PTA meeting or a stand-alone meeting. Thanks for all of your support as we continue to grow and nurture all learners.

## Curriculum and Instruction New Staff Members

**Amanda Cassidy**Board Certified Behavior Analyst for Specialized Instruction  
amanda.cassidy@acps.k12.va.us**Amy Creed**Instructional Specialist for Specialized Instruction  
amy.creed@acps.k12.va.us**Suzanne Futrell**Secondary Mathematics Instructional Specialist  
amy.futrell@scps.k12.va.us**Danielle Hammond**Board Certified Behavior Analyst for Specialized Instruction  
danielle.hammond@acps.k12.va.us**Dr. Debra Lane**Director Of Talent Development  
debra.lane@acps.k12.va.us**Wendy Lasek**Board Certified Behavior Analyst for Specialized Instruction  
wendy.lasek@acps.k12.va.us**Billie Mullins**Instructional Specialist for Specialized Instruction  
billie.mullins@acps.k12.va.us**Seamus O'Conner**Instructional Specialist for Specialized Instruction  
seamus.oconner@acps.k12.va.us**Kimberly Schell**Secondary Literacy Instructional Specialist  
kimberly.schell@scps.k12.va.us