

A MESSAGE FROM DR. TERRI MOZINGO, CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

Welcome to the start of another great year! As I move into my second year in ACPS, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support and dedication to promoting achievement for all of our students. It has been a pleasure getting to know you and the wonderful educators in our buildings. I'd especially like to acknowledge individuals joining us in the division—as well as those assuming new leadership roles.

This special Fall edition of our *Pursuit of Excellence* newsletter focuses on the greatest accomplishments of each office of C&I during the course of this past year, achievements and lessons learned, and some of the highlights of their work this year to support schools, as well as the many learning opportunities that occurred this summer.

As we pursue excellence together, please reach out to us if there is anything we can do to promote rigor, relevance, and engagement among all your students.



EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS!

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- T.C. Williams students who did not graduate this year had the opportunity to enroll in the 1st **Adult High School Summer Program** at the Braddock Place campus. Upon completion of this 5-week session, students were awarded a Standard Adult High School diploma and became eligible to march during the July 31 T.C. Williams graduation ceremony.
- We are extremely proud of our new **Summer Enrichment Programs** for elementary and middle school students. Students had the opportunity to participate in a rich range of field-based experiences throughout Alexandria and the D.C. area. These included reading, writing, and math skills incorporated into hands-on civics, science, and social studies tasks and projects. We also implemented a series of **Content Academies** in these subject areas this summer.
- **The Office of Curriculum Design and Instructional Services** developed a comprehensive Summer Enrichment Program based upon an integrated, holistic, and experience-based design. We facilitated focus groups and worked with Hanover Research to generate modifications in the **Elementary Progress Report**.
- **At the middle school level** the Office of Curriculum Design and Instructional Services engaged in ongoing cross-functional teamwork (including parent and community groups) focusing upon ensuring rigor, engagement, and authenticity in the middle school Honors program. We also developed a comprehensive Summer Enrichment Program focusing upon aquatic biomes (with reading, writing, speaking, and math experiences integrated into field study).

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2014-15 (CONTINUED)

- The **Office of Adult Education** successfully launched the **Newcomers English Language Learners Program (NELL)**, which serves newly arrived LEP students age 18-21. The program provides full-day instruction including ELL, civics, math, Spanish, reading and computer technology classes.
- The **Office of Professional Learning** is proud to announce the development of the professional learning website (<http://www.acpsk12.org/pl/>) and the ACPS Classrooms in Focus video series.
- **ACPS autism staff** successfully implemented a program which embedded social skills in a mixed reality classroom (TeachLiVe) for students with ASD. Dr. Erin Stone, Autism Coordinator, presented at the TeachLiVe Conference and discussed the planning and training required to implement this innovative program, as well as, described the positive student outcomes.
- **Co-teaching Cadres** were created in which general education, special education and ELL teachers developed an effective framework for co-teaching and maximizing instructional practices to ensure academic success for all students.
- **A New Teacher Institute** was developed and conducted, which supported new special education teachers in learning the procedural requirements for special education.
- **The Office of Curriculum Design and Instructional Services** published an updated and streamlined set of curriculum guides aligned with the most recent Virginia SOLs and hyperlinked resources to support Tier 1 curriculum implementation. They provided customized service delivery to schools, including data analysis, lesson design, professional learning, and demonstration lessons.
- This department also identified new courses to be added to the **Honors curriculum in English and social studies** as well as developed lesson plan exemplars for inclusion in the written curriculum.





ENGAGED LEARNING FOR ALL

SY 14-15 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)

- **The Office of English Language Learner services** increased evidence of the use of differentiation, explicit instruction of language, and cooperative learning strategies in classrooms with ELL students.
- **The office of ELL services** incorporated internships into the community for our juniors as part of year three implementation of the International Academy service delivery model.
- **The Office of TAG services** expanded the Young Scholars model to include Mt. Vernon Community School and Cora Kelly Elementary (in addition to Polk and Patrick Henry, both of which are going into their second year of implementation).
- **The Honors Task Force Committee** completed its work as well as the year-long work of TAGAC (TAG Advisory Committee) to **enhance secondary Honors and TAG experiences**.
- **There was an increase** in the number of Governor's School acceptances (the largest increase in the past few years) as well as an overall Increase in the number of teachers completing TAG Certification.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015-16

- The **Adult Learning Center** is expanding its Workforce Development programs and partnerships. Next year an Energy/Power Advisory Board will be created to include: Dominion Virginia Power, Washington Gas, Pepco and Pike Electric. This collaborative will develop an industry recognized contextual energy based curriculum for entry level position and hiring pool for potential candidates.
- The **Adult Learning Center** is partnering with CVS pharmacy to develop "externships" for students in our Certified Pharmacy Technician program.
- There will be **increased collaboration** among Curriculum and Instruction teams (including Special Education, TAG, and content specialists) and school-based teams in teaching and learning for ELLs, students with disabilities, and other groups demonstrating need for support.
- We are integrating **additional support materials and resources** into all curriculum guides, ensuring alignment with the most recently approved Virginia SOLs.
- The **International Academy** service model at Francis C. Hammond Middle School will be operational next year.
- The **Dual Language programs** at Mt. Vernon and John Adams Elementary will continue to expand and be enhanced.
- We will focus upon **Honors professional learning** and the emerging role of the middle school TAG resource teacher.
- **Cross-functional team** support will enhance the experiences of TAG and Honors students as well as elementary-level experiences for students.
- The reorganization and restructuring of our **Office of Specialized Instruction** will reflect a **clearer focus** on specialized instruction and compliance.
- The Office of Professional Learning will continue to provide **on-demand professional learning** in a 24-7 environment.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION NEWSLETTER

FALL EDITION

Promoting high levels of achievement for all students through the process of personalized learning and leading



We hope you are enjoying summer!

Reflections from SY 2014-15:

- We have made wonderful progress this year!
- Collaboration has been a key commitment for all of us.
- ACPS children and families have benefitted from our shared commitment.
- Summer is the gateway to a successful new academic year! *ENJOY!*

FALL EDITION

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Let's give a warm welcome to our newest C&I staff members!

Executive Director of Specialized Instruction: We are excited to announce the addition of **Dr. Theresa Werner** as the Executive Director of Specialized Instruction.

Director of Compliance and Special Programs: **Dr. Michele Hopkins** will be joining the special education team as the Director of Compliance and Special Programs.

Fine Arts: We are pleased to welcome **Andrew Watson**, joining us from Fairfax County Public Schools.

Health, Physical Education, and Family Life Education (FLE): **Michael Humphreys** joins us from Arlington County Public Schools.

World Language: **Tanja Mayer-Harding** comes to us from T.C. Williams High school, where she served as the department chair for World Language.

The business of education belongs to all of us. Through a personalized and standards-driven approach to learning and leading, we can accelerate student achievement—and students' lives in the process.

Terri Mozingo, CAO