

# **Striving Readers**

**Kent County Public Schools** 

#### Remote Learning Continues

Last spring when Covid-19 forced us to make the shift to remote learning, our teachers and students were true champions; everyone was flexible and came together to make it work. Thankfully, that "can do" attitude continued as we entered the new school year. Students began the new school year meeting their **new** teachers on **new** computers through a **new** learning platform for their virtual classrooms called Schoology. Schoology allows students and teachers to meet as well as manage and share assignments all in one place. There seems a pattern of things that will be **new** to all of us this school year. With our positive "can do" attitudes we will make the best of this 2020/21school year!

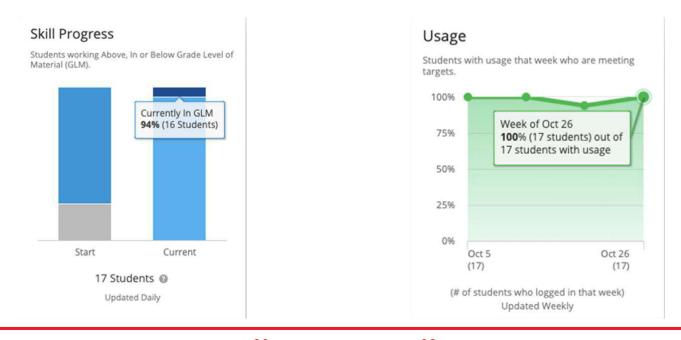
#### Kathy Bumgardner Visits KCPS Remote Classes



Not even a pandemic can slow down Kathy Bumgardner! Time and time again, Mrs. B (as the students lovingly call her) has shown her support and dedication to the teachers and students here at Kent County Public Schools. With a bag full for tricks and a mask on her face, Mrs. B made her way once again to Maryland. This time, she modeled her dynamic reading strategies in remote classrooms in all three elementary schools: Henry Highland Garnet Elementary School, Rock Hall Elementary School, and Galena Elementary School. She also took time to observe some teachers teach as well as meet with small groups of teachers to share materials, strategies, and the recordings of her teaching. In a follow-up email from Mrs. Bumgardner to us she said, "Let me close by saying that I loved what I saw on the sign in front of Galena Elementary (...and witnessed multiple times in all 3 schools) that read: "We can do VIRTUALLY ANYTHING... We got This!" I believe that to be true and am proud of to be able to be a part of your team. Looking forward to our upcoming days working together." We love Kathy's engaging strategies, positivity, and undying support and we look forward to her next visit.

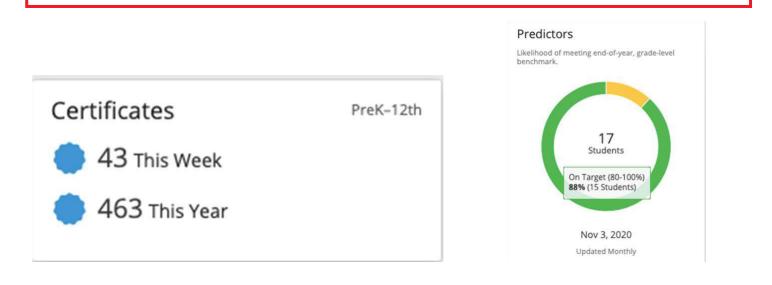






### Loving Lexia

Our students and teachers have always loved Lexia but now that so much of our learning has to be done remotely, Lexia has once again proven to be top notch. With its adaptive lessons, it can meet the needs of any student and guide them towards working on, and in some cases, above their grade level material. In the images shown above, you can see that class has 94% of its students working in grade level material and 6% working above grade level. Lexia sets usage targets for each student. During asynchronous learning time, students will work on completing units of study in Lexia. If a student struggles with a particular focus area in a unit, the teacher is alerted. The teacher can then use small group time to address specific learning needs. With the help of Lexia, our students can get some extra support they need on their current working level.



## Ready for Kindergarten Kits





Last spring when our students began learning from home, all Kent County prekindergarten students received a special kit. This kit, from Learning Resources, called the All Ready for Kindergarten kit was filled with kid-friendly, engaging activities, games, and hands on tools. The activities and games progress in difficulty. The hands-on tools help teach counting, addition, subtraction, word building, handwriting, and the foundations to reading. Some of the items inside include different shape pieces, upper and lower case letters, picture cards, puzzle cards, critter counters, a write and wipe board, a number cube, and more. Teachers could assign activities knowing the students had the manipulatives they needed at home to complete the task. When the 2020 fall school year began, those students had a box full of supplies to help them begin their kindergarten year. Any new kindergarten students who did not attend KCPS prekindergarten last spring, were sent the All Ready for Kindergarten kits so that they could have a strong start to their Kindergarten remote learning. The teachers and students have really enjoyed using the kits during remote learning: KCPS teacher, April Gagalski, said, "Abi and I use the kits during our virtual lessons. We have the students get out a manipulative to use together. They really loved finding each letter in the plastic letters as they put them in alphabetical order. They were holding them up showing each other what color their letters were because they were all different. They also loved rolling the number dice and doing the shape puzzles. They had a lot of fun sorting the critters by color and counting them. You can just tell how excited they are when they look in their kit to get out materials that they all have to learn with. They were a great thing to get for our students both last spring and this year. It made them feel very important and special besides the fact that we put educational materials in every child's hands!"

## The Signposts at KCMS



Last winter KCPS was fortunate enough to have Kylene Beers and Bob Probst visit. They modeled their strategies in middle and high school classes and worked with 3rd--12th grade teachers. At the time, we envisioned and planned for the <u>Notice and Note</u> and <u>Reading</u> <u>Nonfiction</u> strategies being used in classrooms with students sitting in desks in front of teacher. We never expected Covid-19 to push us to remote learning. The strategies make for such rich, deep thinking and discussion that our teachers have found these strategies work quite well in remote and hybrid settings too. Just recently, in the 8th grade ELA remote classroom at Kent County Middle School, the students worked in breakout rooms to identify and discuss the different signposts. The students were fully engaged during these discussions where high-level thinking was evident, and students were excited to interact with what they read.

