

Spotlight on

Academics

Division of Academics Quarterly Review

A Message from Dr. Marquis Dwarte, Chief Academic Officer



In their book *Meeting Wise*, authors Kathryn Boudett and Elizabeth City noted, "the core work of the education enterprise is teaching and learning". That is, educational institutions exist for the sole and express purpose of providing students with impactful learning experiences that best position them to fulfill their aspirations. We must never lose sight of this well understood fact. Simply put, maximizing "learning for all students" is our charge and our moral imperative.

As a school system committed to achieving "Greatness", the AACPS Division of Academics takes that charge to provide students with the best education possible very seriously. There is no better preparation for life's challenges and opportunities than a great education, and we only have one chance "to get it right." To ensure that student learning is the key driver of all our efforts, the Division of Academics will highlight the on-going work teachers, principals, and central office leaders undertake each day in direct service of our students and our communities as a whole.

We hope that this "Spotlight on Academics" serves as a friendly and important reminder of "why" we exist and "who" we exist for.

BELONG. GROW. SUCCEED.



Photo: Solar Car Challenge participants at the Texas Motor Speedway in Ft. Worth, TX; July 2023

Innovation in Action: The South River Solar Hawks

The South River Solar Hawks from *South River High School* in Edgewater, MD, is the only team in the mid-Atlantic region to have built a full-size solar-powered car made to enter the U.S. Solar Car Challenge, an annual competition held in Ft. Worth, Texas. Schools and solar car teams from across the country met at the Texas Motor Speedway for 10 days to share their innovative designs and demonstrate the effectiveness of their cars.

With the incredible young minds of our members, we were able to showcase and create new technology, as well as learn about green energy and engineering. We exemplify

this aim for change by empowering young people and giving them tools they need to build the future technology they envision.

Our Team's Mission

We believe that green energy, and solar power in particular, is the energy of the future. We hope to be able to spread this message as well as empower the next generation to pave the way for this bright future. Each of our members is integral to the operation, and we hope to provide them with skills in engineering that they will carry with them throughout their life.

<https://solarhawks.or> . www.instagram.com/solarhawkssrhrs



Staff Highlights

Ginger Henley, Director

Office of School Performance



Ginger Henley is an experienced district level leader currently working as Director of School Performance in Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Maryland, the 46th largest district in the nation. She has two decades of experience in public education in the State of Maryland and has successful experiences as a Teacher, Right Start Advisor, Assistant Principal, Principal and Director of School Performance. As a district level leader, she has coached principals on leadership development and school improvement as well as organized and led systemic conferences and professional development. She is a member of systemic committees to include the District Wide Attendance Committee, Dual Language Leadership Team and English Learners Task Force. As a Principal she helped lead Crofton Elementary School to earn the Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education Award (EGATE) and won two Exemplary Program Awards for "W.A.T.C.H. Dogs" at Crofton Elementary as well as "Panther Leaders" at Walter S. Mills-Parole Elementary.

She has earned a B.S. in Elementary Education from Salisbury University and a M.S. in Curriculum, Instruction and Administration from McDaniel College as well as earning her nutrition coach certification through the National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM). She has experience as a Nationally Board-Certified Teacher and has completed the Women in Leadership Program: Leading Teams from YALE School of Management. During the 2023-2024 school year she will be participating in the Aspiring Superintendent's Academy through AASA (The School Superintendents Association).

She is passionate about wellness and advocating for school and district level leaders to prioritize their wellness to ignite their leadership. She will be presenting at the National Alternative Education Annual Conference and the Joint Annual School Leaders Conference through Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP) and Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) on wellness and leadership Fall of 2023.

She loves to weightlift, ski, run and spend time with her two sons and husband!

**"If it's important to you you'll find a way.
If not, you'll find an excuse."
~ Ryan Blair**



Celebrating 50 Years

Wanda Offer

Pre-K Teacher Assistant

Germantown Elementary School



Dance Educator of the Year

Tony Jackson, **Brooklyn Park Middle School** APEX and Liberal Arts Dance Teacher was recognized as Dance Educator of the Year by the Maryland Dance Association. The award is given annually to a dance educator who serves as a positive role model epitomizing fine arts dance education for all students, utilizes various teaching methodologies and plans innovative learning experiences, and conducts a balanced and sequential curriculum.

Triple E teacher is a published author!



Nancy James, Arts and Humanities Teacher at **Waugh Chapel Elementary** is a published author of the following picture books:

Black: The Many Wonders of My World

(The Colors of My Life)

Brown: The Many Shades of Love

(The Colors of My Life)

Blue: The Many Ways I Feel

(The Colors of My Life)

Health, PE and Dance Teachers Recognized

Six Health, PE and Dance Teachers were recognized on Friday, October 20th at the SHAPE Maryland Awards banquet for their significant contributions in Health and Physical Education.

Adam Bellarin Old Mill Middle North

Sarah Degler Arundel High

Casey Farrell Brock Bridge Elementary

Shannon Kelly Northeast High

Pete Ludlam Old Mill Middle South

Sheronne Vails Old Mill Middle South



SHAPE
MARYLAND
The Society of Health & Physical Educators

Student Shout Outs

125 Graduating Seniors Earn the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy

The Office of World Languages would like to congratulate 125 graduating seniors, who have earned the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy.



The Maryland Seal of Biliteracy (SoBL) celebrates students who have demonstrated a high level of proficiency in two or more languages, English and a world language. The SoBL also verifies a student's literacy and communication skills in two languages in community and academic settings. Students earn the SoBL through AP and IB exams, as well as, Maryland state approved proficiency assessments. The SoBL validates and celebrates students' home languages and helps to validate their multilingual identities. For second language learners, the SoBL demonstrates perseverance and commitment to learning a world language.

Students earn a seal on their official high school transcript to show prospective employers, colleges and universities which increases student marketability. We hope all students and families recognize and celebrate this accomplishment as global citizens. The World Language Office attributes students' success to the dedicated AACPS world language teachers, as well as, the families who have shared their home language with their students.



Jayce McCall

2nd grade student, Solley Elementary School

Jayce published a book with his mother, Heather McCall, titled "The Adventures of Jayce the Great Climbing the Walls."

Jayce, his mother, and his classmates were featured on Channel 11 news on Monday, September 11th. [Click on the QR code to watch the story.](#)



Charity Crawford (principal), Jayce McCall
Heather & Derrick McCall (parents)

Old Mill High School is Nationally Recognized for GPA/PSAT Score and/or AP Exams!

In August 2023, College Board awarded thousands of students from across the country with academic honors through their annual National Recognition Programs. The programs celebrate underrepresented students who excel academically on College Board assessments, including GPA/PSAT Scores and/or AP exams. Students can include this academic honor on their college applications, and many colleges intentionally recruit awardees through College Board's Student Search Service.

High-achieving students from all 50 states and U.S. territories were eligible to apply to four programs: National African American Recognition Program, National Hispanic Recognition Program, National Indigenous Recognition Program, and/or National Rural/Small Town Recognition Program. We would like to celebrate the following Old Mill High School students in the IB Diploma Program:



Julian Daily
NIA



India Douglas
NAARA



Erica Martin
NAARA



Hillary Ojeikere
NAARA



Ryan Williams
NAARA

National African American Recognition Award (NAARA) | National Indigenous Award (NIA)

Congratulations Old Mill Middle South



For becoming a Nationally
Certified Magnet School!

Students with Advanced Placement Perfect Scores in 2023!



Crofton HS
Vivian Jiang
Drawing



North County HS
Hemi Diaz-Martinez
Spanish Language & Culture



Severna Park HS
Samantha Chavez
Spanish Language & Culture
Abbie Heath

United States Government & Politics
Mia Slote
United States Government & Politics



Southern HS
Caroline Hopper
Computer Science Principles

Curricular Updates

Co-taught Classroom Pilot Program



As a parent and special educator, I couldn't be more pleased! I am so thankful for this model and opportunity for Jeremiah! It truly is the best of both worlds!

He is able to get his services and needs met within a typical classroom setting, and it is lovely!

Melissa Kurzmiller,
Parent, Crofton ES

As a part of the AACPS's special education department's values of integrity, innovation, and inclusivity, the early childhood special education continuum has expanded this school year. This expansion involves piloting three new full-day co-taught classrooms located at **Central Special, Crofton Elementary** and **Fort Smallwood Elementary Schools**. These classrooms are designed to meet the needs of 3- and 4-year-old prekindergarten students, ensuring they receive a strong foundation for their educational journey.

Visiting these co-taught classrooms, one is immediately struck by the exceptional instruction and the diverse co-teaching models employed. Our dedicated teachers are working collaboratively to create an environment where students with and without disabilities belong together, grow together, and succeed together. This inclusive approach fosters a sense of community, where every student is valued and celebrated. Various Universal Designs for Learning (UDL) strategies are being implemented to ensure that all students are actively engaged, in large and small group rigorous instruction using the general education curriculum. Our dedicated teachers are using several models of co-teaching, co-planning, and co-implementation resulting in an inclusive environment where every student and staff member is engaged and motivated. The co-taught classrooms are a significant step forward in our commitment to providing the best possible education for all our students.

From the Music Department

The Music Department is excited to announce that beginning in the 2024–25 school year, instrumental method books for all students opting to play an instrument in grades 3, 4, and 5 will be purchased and provided by AACPS. In anticipation of this, we will be seating an STA committee this year to do a comprehensive review of method books to consider for adoption. This funding will allow more of our young musicians to experience the thrill of beginning instruction on a wind or string instrument!



Additionally, we're proud of the fact that we've been named a NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Best Communities for Music Education for a third consecutive year. This award is given to schools and school systems that have shown a high degree of commitment to music education through programming, funding, and community support. This recognition serves as further proof of the importance of music education in the lives of our students and the value that our community places upon our music offerings from our youngest to oldest students.

Health Education B Graduation Requirement

The new Health Education B course uses the introductory instruction from Health A to expand on the development of skills, attitudes, and behaviors that will enable them to make decisions that promote healthy behaviors for themselves and the community.

The health skills include advocacy, accessing valid and reliable information, analyzing influences, decision making, goal setting, personal communication, and self-management. Students will engage in inquiry and problem solving approaches utilizing a developmentally appropriate progression of content related to health education concepts.

Concepts include substance abuse prevention and local resources for help, distracted and impaired driving, Naloxone training, stress and anxiety and local resources for assistance, technology safety and local resources for reporting, and environmental health for the community

AACPS SCHOOL LIBRARIES



A place for every AACPS student to
#BelongGrowSucceed

1st Quarter
2023
BY THE NUMBERS

335,325
BOOKS CHECKED OUT

12,307 BOOKS ADDED TO COLLECTIONS



RESEARCH ARTICLES ACCESSED
THROUGH DATABASES **201,548**

35,310
eBooks Read



MOST POPULAR TITLES



HIGH SCHOOL



MIDDLE SCHOOL



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Technical Skills Assessments (TSA)

88% 392 of 443 Students Earned a TSA

87% 40 of 46 Students with Disabilities Received a Passing Rate

Curricular Updates



Support for North County High School's application to become an AVID National Demonstration School

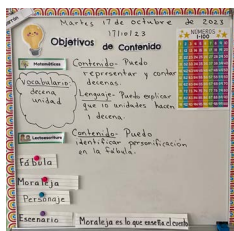
60% 2023 AVID seniors took college level courses at AACPS

51% AVID students participated in AP courses

\$14.1M Scholarship/grant money awarded to the AVID Class of 2023

Dual Language Immersion

AACPS launched its first Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program in August at **Tyler Heights Elementary School** with two home-rooms in kindergarten and two in first grade. As a 50-50 simultaneous DLI model, the 79 students spend half of their day engaged in content instruction facilitated in English, and the other half of their day engaged in content delivered in Spanish. Families opted into the program with a commitment to "stay the course" as DLI expands to fifth grade and beyond in the future.



Kudos to the team at Tyler Heights Elementary for embracing innovative work that promotes multilingualism for all students.

New Math Curriculum

In the spring of 2023, AACPS adopted **Reveal MATH** by McGraw Hill as the new math curriculum. Reveal reflects the rigorous requirements of the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards and represents the diversity existing in our district. Concurrently, it sparks students' curiosities with notice and wonder activities, engages them in number routines, and provides opportunities for them to explore math concepts through collaboration, discourse, and the use of manipulatives.

Since the adoption of Reveal Math, the elementary math office has been working to support all of our educational partners in learning about the new resource. In the spring, we introduced Reveal to our administrators and teachers through professional learning sessions and launch parties. Throughout the summer, teachers had the option to attend a virtual onboarding session provided by McGraw Hill and received further systemic training to prepare for the first few weeks of school.

As our journey into the school year, we've offered opportunities for our families to learn more about the program by hosting community math nights throughout the district. Additionally we continue to partner with other content areas, administrators, and teachers to support the implementation of the program.



Visual Arts Art Cart Centers

Our youngest artists are engaged, exploring, and enjoying their new Art Cart Centers! Each center connects to the Visual Arts Curriculum and offers opportunities for students to dive deeper into their hands-on learning experiences.



APEX Behind the Scenes



Apex Arts' mission is to provide students with rigorous, immersive, and collaborative artistic experiences that are rooted in the creative process, while preparing them for an array of future opportunities.

Check out these videos created by the AACPS Business & Community Development Office about the Apex Arts program's preparation for the 2023-24 School Year!



We kicked off our 9th year of Triple E on August 21st with our new team of over 100 teachers and welcomed our last 25 school sites!

America's Healthiest Schools

Severna Park Elementary School was named one of America's Healthiest Schools by Alliance for a Healthier Generation. They are one of 781 schools across 36 states to be recognized with this honor.

Schools are recognized for implementing best practices in up to nine topic areas, based on criteria in Healthier Generation's Thriving Schools Integrated Assessment. Severna Park Elementary met eight of the nine categories!



Student Experiences

Fall Palette

The National Junior Art Honor Students at **Severn River Middle School** celebrated this Fall season by creating a beautiful mural.

Under the guidance of Art teacher Erika Oldershaw, NJAHS club members designed this large-scale painting for the SRMS Fall Fest. The framed art board is interchangeable and was designed by SRMS principal Scott Manbeck.



Kenya Connect

This summer, Kenya Connect officially opened the Kenya Connect Borehole in Wamunyu, Kenya, with the contributions from three Maryland schools, including **Arundel High School**. Arundel's contributions came directly from last year's extremely successful school-wide soccer tournament (The Kenya Cup).

Kenya Connect partners, Sharon Runge and Patrick Munguti, visited Arundel High School and shared how impactful this borehole has been to their school and community. **Aashi Parikh**, a 2013 graduate of Arundel High School, attended the opening ceremony in Kenya to represent Arundel High School!

If you have a moment, *please watch this thank you video:*



Chesapeake Connections

Partnerships make it happen! For over 15 years, the Environmental Literacy & Outdoor Education Office's 6th Grade Chesapeake Connections team has partnered with Anne Arundel County's Department of Public Works. This partnership allows students across the county to interact in real-life stormwater restoration sites.

The site this fall was right behind **Severn River/ Magothy middle schools**. Students from these schools as well as **Severna Park Middle** studied erosion as part of the Quarter 1 6th Grade Science Curriculum. During their Chesapeake Connections field experience, students connected in-class lessons directly by identifying areas impacted by erosion, engaging with the engineering of stormwater control, learning about water quality and actively planting native trees and shrubs to help slow down the process of erosion.

What a great way to give students real world experiences that impact our environment in a positive way!



State Qualifying Unified Athletes

In our 12th year of Unified Sport participation, Anne Arundel County Public Schools celebrates (5) tennis teams qualify to the state tournament level!

Congratulations to the teams from the following high schools.



Broadneck



Chesapeake



Northeast



Severna Park

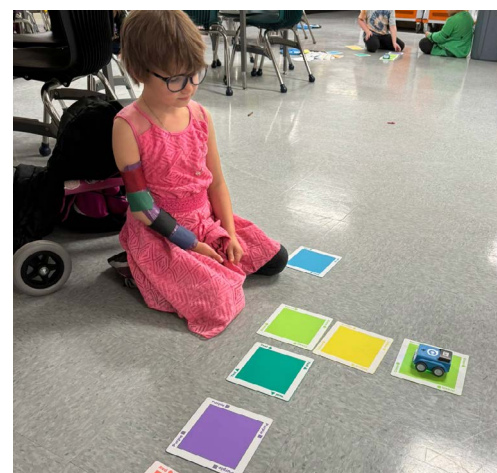
Narcan Training

With partnership with the Anne Arundel County School nurses, the Health Education B teachers have been trained to demonstrate the administration of Narcan. Students will be able to explain the effects of addiction and recognize emergency overdose situations, plus how to respond with Narcan if available.



Caught Being Techie

Fort Smallwood's eCoach and media specialist Stacey Phillips teaches beginning coding and computational thinking skills using Sphero indi robots with her first graders. Students code movements of the robot car using colored tiles.



Student Experiences



Field Trip to the Baltimore Ravens Stadium

The Athletics Department and Student Athlete Advisory Council were provided with a first hand “behind the scenes” view of the world of professional sports and the different management opportunities that are available. The Ravens organization shared very valuable information and advice.

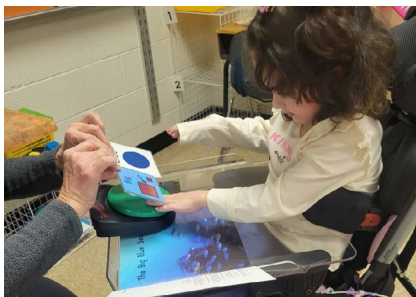
ACE (Architecture, Construction Management and Engineering) students from *Old Mill and Severna Park high schools* are re-designing City Dock’s Market Place for this year’s project!

Pictured here with their teacher sponsors Geoff Bernstein (SPHS) and Matt Marlowe (OMHS)



Adrienne Spencer, Special Educator at *Ruth Parker Eason School*, is using modified leveled readers and augmentative communication devices with her students.

These strategies provide engaging literacy experience for our students with complex communication and learning needs.



Championship Showcase

In an effort to increase exposure to the amazing athletic programs we have in our county, AACPS Office of Athletics sponsored the first-ever County Championship Showcase at Annapolis High School on Saturday, October 21st. Spectators had the opportunity to witness events in seven of our nine fall sports!





ANNE ARUNDEL

COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS