

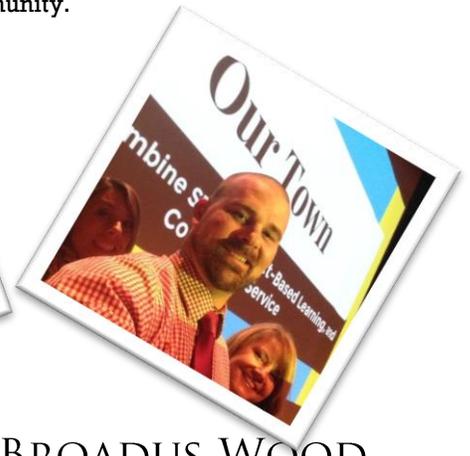


ANITA MAYS BAKER-BUTLER

Anita Mays, Media Specialist at Baker-Butler Elementary School, is bringing multiple innovations to the library at Baker-Butler. The first is her introduction of “maker tubs.” Anita has put together dozens of hands-on, maker activities for students to engage in while in the library. These tubs support content areas and include such items as [snap circuits](#), [magformer magnets](#), [gravity mazes](#), [spheros](#), [Lego challenge kits](#), and [ozobots](#). Students self-select a tub to use when they visit the library and open it to find a problem-based challenge to complete individually or in small groups. Students using the maker tubs tap into their skills in creative design, collaboration and problem-solving. In addition to this, Anita has implemented a flexible schedule library concept for students in grades 3-5. Instead of coming to the library for a set, limited amount time each week, students and their teachers are free to use the library as needed. This has allowed Anita to develop strong co-teaching relationships while making the library an extension of students’ classroom work, as opposed to a time they see as disconnected from their classes. Added benefits to the flex schedule include increased kid-time in the library and a 60% jump in book circulation.

FIFTH GRADE TEAM—CROZET

The fifth grade team at Crozet Elementary School—Betsy Agee, Justin Stauffer and Brandy Garbaccio—are turning their students into authentic community problem solvers. Beginning last year and continuing this year, the fifth grade students are developing ways to study the quality of the water in local streams. The team was awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Virginia DEQ and students are currently designing and building a [RIFFLE](#) that will be used to collect data on local streams. They have partnered with [Stream Watch](#), the Crozet Community Association, the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority and the Crozet Gazette, and will be sharing their findings with all of these groups. This year they have purchased the materials they need to build their RIFFLEs, and hope to use what they have learned to begin 3D printing the materials they need for this project in future years. The teachers were recognized for their work earlier this year by the [Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots](#) organization. This interdisciplinary, project-based learning is allowing students to see how they can make a difference for their school and community.



DEB ZEHNTER—BROADUS WOOD

Kindergarten teacher Deb Zehnter from Broadus Wood Elementary School is engaging her students by integrating [genius hour](#) while also bringing choice and comfort to her learning space. As a result of the work Deb and a team of teachers from Broadus Wood conducted at last summer’s CAI institute, Deb integrates her version of Genius Hour, “Wonder Time,” with her kids multiple times a week. During this time, students participate in interest-based activities based on personal questions they have about their different units of study. Wonder Time activities this year have included the beginning of a class garden and the integration of a “creation station” where students complete hands-on projects. Wonder Time is tapping into students’ curiosity and giving them a voice in their learning. In addition to this, Deb and her students have created a class igloo that they made out of used plastic milk gallons. The igloo helped them in their study of the varied types of structures in which people live, and has now become a popular work space for students when they are involved in independent reading, writing or other activities.