

Horizon 2020 Update

A BRIEF UPDATE OF THE ACPS STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACTION

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

MARCH, 2016



Create and Expand Partnerships—The Albemarle County career specialists, Laura Massey (AHS), Nikki Eubanks (MHS) and Caroline Bertrand (WAHS), are working to expand opportunities for students to participate in work-based learning experiences. Work-based learning consists of a range of activities from job shadowing, to mentoring, to formal internships. This year they have formalized and expanded partnerships with community businesses such as Scitent, the iLab, and the UVA Cancer Center. They are also innovating in this area by creating the first ACPS virtual internship with RocketTheme, an IT company based in Denver. Student interest in work-based learning is on the rise thanks to their dedication.

OUR GOAL

ALL ALBEMARLE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STUDENTS WILL
GRADUATE HAVING
ACTIVELY MASTERED
THE LIFELONG-
LEARNING SKILLS THEY
NEED TO SUCCEED AS
21ST CENTURY
LEARNERS, WORKERS
AND CITIZENS.

OUR OBJECTIVES

ENGAGE EVERY STUDENT
IMPLEMENT BALANCED
ASSESSMENTS
IMPROVE OPPORTUNITY
AND ACHIEVEMENT
CREATE AND EXPAND
PARTNERSHIPS
OPTIMIZE RESOURCES



Engage Every Student

Construction on the new learning space for the Western Albemarle Environmental Studies Academy has been completed and students will be making use of the space in the very near future. The space consists of a modern learning lab/instructional space, a state of the art greenhouse, and an outdoor garden that is currently under construction by students and staff. The space is designed to integrate students with the surrounding natural environment where they will develop their understanding of subjects such as Biology, Ecology, Environmental Science and Horticulture. It includes lab spaces for both hydroponics and aquaponics, furthering students' access to authentic, problem-based learning experiences. This new space will go a long way toward helping the ESA achieve one of its goals of developing students' passions around a high-caliber, hands-on, rigorous, applied curriculum. It is hoped that the academy and the new learning space will be an impetus for growth of this type of instructional experience for all WAHS students.

Optimize Resources

In the spring of 2014 the department of Human Resources conducted a study of the office assistant positions in the offices of Instruction and Strategic Planning. As a result of this study, a new, open-concept

workspace has been implemented.

The benefits that have resulted from this work include enhanced customer service to COB visitors and callers, increased opportunities for cross-training among the Office Assistants, and enhanced communication among the OA's. These improvements to efficiency and effectiveness are having a positive impact on all of the stakeholders who interact with these departments.

Improve Opportunity and Achievement

The "Mind the Gap" program at Cale E.S. is an intensive reading program that brings families together for evenings of playful literacy development. Each month, Cale teachers travel to Southwood for the event which includes a meal, modeled reading strategies and fun literacy games with parents and their children. Parents leave each meeting with strategies to build literacy skills through parent/child book conversations. In addition, these events have served to shrink the opportunity gap often seen in students from lower socio-economic backgrounds. Fifteen to twenty families usually participate, and because of this outreach, Cale has seen many of these families become more active in all aspects of their children's schooling. This project is funded through a \$10,000 grant written by ACPS lead coach Angela Stokes. A video of the "Mind the Gap" experience can be found [here](#).

If you have events taking place in your school that show how our strategic plan is being implemented, please submit them [here](#).