Optimize Resources—The new fitness center at Henley Middle School is now open for student use. The fitness center has two main components—a large, multi-purpose space with a turf field, and a smaller fitness room that includes multiple stations, allowing for over twenty students to participate in different fitness activities concurrently. Technology enhancements in the new space include a video screen in the larger gym where students can monitor their exercise rates using fitbit-type devices, and a video capture area in the fitness room where students can record themselves involved in a fitness activity and analyze and make adjustments to their throwing motion, posture, etc. The new fitness space is a culmination of a $2.4 million capital improvement project.

Create and Expand Partnerships

The Momentum program is a partnership between Jack Jouett Middle School and SARA that is designed to improve school climate. The program builds on this year’s theme of “Powerful Voices” at Jouett by teaching students how to build positive relationships with all students and also providing students with effective strategies for bystander intervention if they witness other students being bullied or mistreated. The bystander intervention focuses on three options for students—direct, delegate or distract—and kids are learning how to determine which methods will be most helpful in a particular situation. All teachers at Jack Jouett are participating in this program, which is made possible through a two-year grant provided by the Centers for Disease Control and the Virginia Department of Health. Although early in its implementation, teachers report less tolerance for bullying at the school and a high level of student engagement with the program.

Improve Opportunity and Achievement

Teachers at Yancey Elementary Schools are seeing many positive outcomes in the areas of teacher efficacy and student achievement with the implementation of their co-teaching model. This year, Yancey has implemented a model of multi-age instruction in which a group of six teachers provide all instruction and remediation services (ESOL, special education, literacy) for students in K-2 and 3-5 grade bands. All classes are co-taught in a model that allows for flexible scheduling and interdisciplinary instruction. Teachers are working in a more collaborative manner than they have in the past, and improvements have been seen in the areas of higher teacher morale, increased student academic growth and higher staff attendance rates. This model is in its first year at Yancey, and Principal Craig Dommer is currently working with teachers to plan summer professional development to make the program even stronger in the future.

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