

# Horizon 2020 Update

A BRIEF UPDATE OF THE ACPS STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACTION

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**Create and Expand Partnerships**—Led by medical careers teacher Frank Lawson and career specialist Caroline Bertrand, Western Albemarle High School launched a mini-med school in September inspired by a program at the University of Virginia. Forty students are participating in the program which consists of three evenings of activities at Western and a field trip to UVA. During the evening sessions, local medical practitioners are providing students with hands-on, authentic learning experiences such as learning about neuropathology using sheep brains, diagnosing a patient by performing mock physical exams, and using pig's feet to learn the process of suturing. The school hopes to expand the program in the future.

## 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



## **Improve Opportunity and Achievement**

—This fall Albemarle County Public Schools will expand college and career planning resources for students through the launch of Naviance. Naviance is a comprehensive, on-line college and career readiness solution that will help us to align students' strengths and interests with their post-secondary goals. Beginning this year, students in grades 6-12 will use Naviance for a wide range of activities including strength finder assessments, career interest surveys, creation and maintenance of long-term course plans, and the development of SMART goals for career and academic interests. Naviance also provides students with many features that will help them with the college selection and application process. Using Naviance they can complete a college match search based on their interests and academic profile, can build their academic resumes, search for and apply for scholarships, and complete their college application process including requesting transcripts and letters of recommendation. Naviance will also allow us to begin monitoring our graduates as the move on to college.

## **Engage Every Student**

—As a part of our ongoing quest for continuous improvement, some modifications have been made to the ACPS Teacher Performance Appraisal process for the 2016-2017 school year. Over the course of the 2015-2016 school year, the TPA process was studied centrally, and based on feedback received from staff, a focus was placed on providing more robust feedback to teachers while also simplifying the paperwork process of the TPA. Particular emphasis has been placed on ensuring that our novice teachers—those in their first, second or third year of their teaching career. The TPA for novices has been redesigned to reflect the unique needs of those new to the profession including a reintroduction of the TPA power standards which break the seven domains of the TPA down into a three year progression with the novices responsible for all elements of the TPA in their third year. The appraisal process is now fully integrated with the online performance management system, TalentEd, which will allow for a more streamlined evaluation process and assist in long-term record keeping for our staff.