

# Horizon 2020 Update

A BRIEF UPDATE OF THE ACPS STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACTION

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**Improve Opportunity and Achievement**—The annual Making Connections professional development day took place on Monday, November 7. This year's Making Connections allowed teachers to dive deeply into our work in implementing the seven pathways to lifelong-learner competencies. All teachers had the opportunity to attend two half-day workshops, choosing from fourteen different local and national presenters. Topics for the day included Universal Design for Learning, working with trauma impacted students, culturally responsive teaching, and implementing a maker curriculum, among others. In total, Making Connections included over 2,100 individual registrations that will all serve to improve opportunities and achievements for our students.

## 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

The elementary world language program expansion is well underway. The program now includes Kindergarten and first grade students at Meriwether Lewis and Woodbrook. Students in both schools are learning second languages (French at MLES, Spanish at WES) using the Foreign Language in Elementary Schools model (FLES) which provides up to 120 minutes of instruction in a second language each week. At Meriwether, students are beginning to make audio recordings of themselves as they speak French to put into an electronic language portfolio that they can use to hear their personal progress over the course of multiple school years. They are also partnering with AP French students from WAHS to develop collaborative lessons. As part of the FLES program at Woodbrook, students spend 30 minutes each week in a science or social studies lesson that is co-taught in Spanish by their regular classroom teacher and their language teacher. Both schools are reporting a rapid acquisition of new language skills for all of these students and look forward to the continued growth of the program.

## Implement Balanced Assessments

Burley Middle School is continuing to expand its work in developing student electronic portfolios. At this time, all students in seventh and eighth grade have built electronic portfolios, and students in sixth grade will soon be launching theirs. The portfolios are designed to store student work over time and can be used as a showcase of the work of which they are most proud, or as a place to document their learning progress and reflect on their learning on a particular unit of study. Some of the work that goes into the portfolio is assigned by individual teachers, but students also have the option to upload anything they would like to save to their portfolios. In addition to being a resource for students, the portfolios are also accessible to parents. This allows parents to see authentic examples of the types of learning experience their children are engaged in during the day and can serve as a valuable resource for student-led parent conferences. The portfolios students are creating at Burley will be accessible to them as they move on to high school and beyond.