



# “Unleashing Each Student’s Potential”

## Virginia L. Murray Elementary School Home of the Mustangs

### A Great Place to Grow!

The mission of Murray Elementary School is to create a positive, safe and nurturing environment in which all children find success, happiness, and a love for learning that remains with them forever.



*Principal Mark Green*

#### School Highlights

All students at Murray Elementary School benefit from the strong focus placed by both the school administration and the instructional staff on incorporating authentic, p-based learning experiences into the heart of the instructional program. The experiences can be problem, project or passion based and allow teachers to

work toward a school-wide goal of incorporating responsive teaching practices that meet the diverse needs of each student as an individual. While PBL is currently incorporated throughout the school, the school hopes to increase the use of this methodology even further by 2018 by ensuring PBL is a core instructional experience for students in all science and social studies units.

Murray is a school that places a high value on the development of a positive school climate through the incorporation of Responsive Classroom practices throughout the school. All teachers at Murray have been trained in these student-centered values, and work is currently being undertaken to ensure that all adults who work in the building understand and practice the RC values of using consistent language with students and practicing interactive modeling of behaviors.

As a member of the Western Feeder Pattern in Albemarle County, Murray is placing a focus on

#### Facility Information

- Built in 1960
- 42,057 sq. ft.
- Last major renovation—1990

integrating environmental studies into the curriculum. This will help to serve as a catalyst for building student interest in similar programs taking place at Henley Middle School and at the Western

Albemarle High School Environmental Studies Academy, the secondary schools which Murray students will attend.

Students have participated in creating and maintaining garden beds and an outdoor classroom in previous years and plans are in the work to expand this focus.



Murray also recently expanded its library media specialist to a full-time position. This allows the specialist more time to help students make use of the library maker space, to integrate library/media services into all classrooms in the school, and to assist students in the school video production lab to create student produced videos such as public service announcements.

#### Virginia L. Murray Attendance Area

