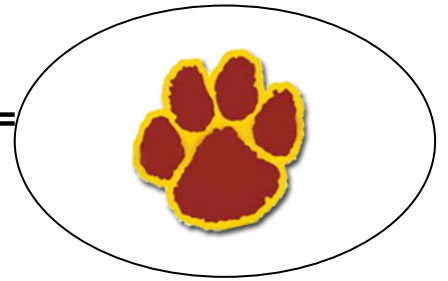


COUGAR COURIER

From the Desk of Dr. Rodney L. Berry, Superintendent



Volume II, No. 5 September 11, 2017



Charting the Course

Character Trait for September is...

Honesty

Honesty involves the ability to be truthful, candid or sincere. It is moral uprightness and a characteristic of being fair. Honesty is the best policy, because it has the value of speaking the truth and creating trust in the minds of others around us. Honesty is a characteristic that creates respect from others.

Reflections

We've all heard the saying before, "All is well that begins well." I was reminded of this statement this past week when our team from NMS participated in a voluntary school level Academic Review with members from the Virginia Department of Education. The purpose of the review was to analyze current tools, processes, and procedures that is being used for instruction. During the review, it became increasingly apparent that many of the suggestions that were given could be used for all of our schools. For example, many of the suggestions revolved around planning and charting the course for academic success. We know that all things that end well begin with good planning. Author John Maxwell once said that there are a few things to keep in mind when you're planning:

- Give time for planning and organizing. Determine your primary purpose.
- Understand where you are before trying to develop a strategy.
- Prioritize the needs and goals of the team by asking the right questions.
- Write goals that are realistic, measurable, and convicting.
- Clarify goals and communicate with your team.
- Identify possible obstacles. Have an open system approach to your planning.
- Budget your cost and time by scheduling everything you can and setting deadlines.
- Study the results. Evaluation prevents stagnation and exaggeration.
- Remember, anyone can steer the ship, but it takes a leader to chart the course.

Therefore, as we continue to plan throughout the year, I would like to remind you that in order for us to get to a destination, we need to chart the course, and move forward. But it all begins with a good plan! **Go Cougars!**

Developing a Good Plan



Instructional Focus
for the Month of
September
“Increasing Student
Engagement”

Teaching Tip of the
Week:

Sticky-Note Discussions

Sticky-note discussions work effectively when students are working in cooperative groups. As students read, or after they have read a selection, ask them to use sticky-notes to mark the places they want to ask questions about or discuss. These might be parts they are concerned about before taking a test, sections they found interesting, or parts where the vocabulary or expectations are unclear. This strategy helps to make the reader accountable for engaging more deeply with the text, and it provides time for students to talk and discuss the contents of their stickies. This ultimately helps you the teacher uncover any misconceptions or oversimplifications regarding your lesson and allows all students to construct meaning, not just the classroom “star” who always volunteers the answers.

Commendations!

Thanks to the entire NMS Team for accommodating the team from the Virginia Department of Education last Tuesday. Your efforts are appreciated!

Athletic Schedule

MONDAY, 9/11:

Cougar Sports Pictures - Starting at 1:30 - Teams will be called from class.

TUESDAY, 9/12:

Volleyball - Bluestone - HOME - 5:30 (Page)

Golf - JRD Seeded Matches - @ Bluestone - 3:30 (depart 1:15)

WEDNESDAY, 9/13:

Cross Country - Bluestone, R-H, Cumberland - HOME - 4:30

Region 2A Meeting - Bruton HS - 10:00AM

THURSDAY, 9/14:

Volleyball - @ Randolph-Henry - 5:30 (depart 3:30)

JV Football - Goochland - HOME - 6:30 (Patterson, Kuzmiak)

FRIDAY, 9/15:

Varsity Football - @ Goochland - 7:00 (depart 4:30)

SATURDAY, 9/16:

Cross Country - William & Mary Invitational - 10:00 (depart 6:45AM)

What’s Happening in Our Classrooms?

NMS

Submitted by Mrs. Geyer: Celebrating Homecoming Week September 14 - 20.

- Thursday the 14th is Movie Character Day,
- Friday the 15th is Flash Back Friday or Twin Day
- Monday the 18th is P.J. Day or Sports Team Day
- Tuesday the 19th is Wacky Tacky or Camo Day
- Wednesday the 20th is Maroon and Gold Spirit Day
- Football game is Wednesday the 20th - Home vs. Prince Edward



Volleyball VS. Cumberland Action Shot. I love the expression on the girls faces watching. Unfortunately, we lost. I guess that accounts for their expressions!

High School students from Ms. Dove's class collecting recyclables at NMS. they start out by coming to the office, displaying their badges proudly and

report that they are "certified"! Always friendly, mannerly and cheerfully gathering recyclables.

BPS

Submitted by Ms. Quinn: I am pleased and excited to announce that five of our BPS students will have artwork on display in this weekend's Blackstone Arts and Crafts Festival! DBI and the Blackstone Chamber of Commerce are holding a Youth Art Exhibition for elementary aged children (6 - 10) in the Armory. According to Mrs. Jane Barnes of the Chamber, ribbons will be awarded on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Our participating students include second grader, Amari Campbell, as well as third graders, Lizeth Leon-Leon, Avery Skye Reed, Shawn Moseley, and Kaylie Carpenter. Kaylie, one of our 3rd graders, placed 1st in the Youth Art Exhibition. Attached is a photo of 2 BPS artists whose artwork was displayed this weekend at the Blackstone Arts & Crafts Festival Youth Art Exhibition. From left, 2nd place artist Shawn Moseley, his little brother Gabriel, and 3rd place artist Lizeth Leon-Leon.



CPS

Submitted by Dr. Saunders: Crewe Primary School's Teacher, Student, and Staff member of the month. Teacher: Michelle Crane; Student: Adrian Johnson ;Staff: Linwood Dagner.



Instructional Focus for the Month of September

Writing Objectives

Objectives should include what the student will accomplish during the given lesson, including the:

- **Conditions** under which the students will exhibit those behaviors
- **Behaviors** students will exhibit to show learning
- **Criteria** the teacher will use to determine whether students meet the objective.

For example:

“Given dry cells, wires, switches, bulbs, and bulb holders and general theory about electrical circuit and pathways, students will work in cooperative groups to create a functioning series circuit in which the bulb lights up, and will independently diagram the circuit by correctly drawing and labeling all parts.”

NHS

Submitted by Ms. Barner: "I've graduated! Now what?" - NHS seniors meeting with NHS School Counselors for post graduation planning.



All Subjects

- For **Non-English classes** try adding a writing component to your formative assessment to assist English teachers with cross curricular writing.
- Please make sure your **Objectives** are posted on the board! This will assist you in following the Scope and Sequence and the Curriculum Framework.
- Use the **Table of Specifications** to assist you when creating assessments. This ensures reliability and validity.
- Use your respective **Curriculum Framework** to assist you with planning your lessons. They can be found on the Standards of Learning webpage which is located at:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/common_core/index.shtml
- You can use these websites as tools to assist you during instruction:
<http://www.readtheory.org/> : (assists with reading and writing)
<http://www.khanacademy.org/>;
<http://edutech4teachers.edublogs.org/>;
<http://www.edudemic.com/>
- SOL Practice items can be found at the following link:
<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/index.shtml>
- Teacher Direct resources:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/teacher_direct/index.shtml
- The Standards & SOL-Based Instructional Resources
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/
- Questioning Strategies links:
<http://beyondpenguins.ehe.osu.edu/issue/energy-and-the-polar-environment/questioning-techniques-research-based-strategies-for-teachers>.
http://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newTMC_88.htm

Math

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/mathematics/index.shtml>

How to Write Good Lesson Plans

In order to meet **Functional Implementation**, your lesson plans must:

1. Align with the Standards of Learning and Curriculum Framework Essential Knowledge and Skills in both content and cognitive level (evidence of standard unpacked)
2. Link to the unit or curriculum Big Ideas (Questions, Enduring Understandings, Themes, etc.)
3. Outline objective (includes the behaviors students will exhibit to show learning and the conditions under which the students will exhibit those behaviors.)
4. Outline the criteria used to determine whether learners have met the objective.
5. In order to reach **Full Implementation**: Include multiple cognitive levels up to or greater than the standard itself.

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/mathematics/professional_development/index.shtml?utm_source=TD+January+21%2C+2015&utm_campaign=TD+January+21%2C+2015&utm_medium=email

English

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/english/index.shtml>

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/english/professional_development/institutes/2014/index.shtml?utm_source=TD+January+28%2C+2015&utm_campaign=TD+January+28%2C+2015&utm_medium=email

Science

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/science/index.shtml>

History

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/history/index.shtml>

Special Education

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/index.shtml

Classroom Management Strategies

<http://www.schoolimprovement.com/resources/strategy-of-the-week/?hp=strategy-of-the-week>

Jan Richardson's Research-based Vocabulary Protocol:

Step 1: Provide students with a kid-friendly definition. Do not ask them if they know the word. This wastes time and students remember the first thing they hear. So... if someone says the wrong definition, you've set the students up for misunderstanding. Ex: If the new word is maneuver, say, "Maneuver means to move around."

Step 2: Connect the new word to students' background knowledge and experiences. For example, "A soccer player maneuvers or moves the ball around the opponents to get to the goal." Be sure to use the new word with a kid-friendly definition during your example.

Step 3: Show the students how the word is used in text and direct them to an illustration, if one is provided. Ex: "In this text, you will read how ancient workers maneuvered, or moved large stones without machinery."

Step 4: Turn and Talk. Ask students to explain the new word to a student sitting next to them. Ex: Talk to your partner about something you can maneuver."

➤ Take time to use student friendly definitions. Stay away from formal dictionary .com or Google definitions. They are not helpful.

➤ Don't just read the context of the word out loud to students, take students into the book/passage and show them the word in context.

➤ Pictures and real items (i.e. lid) would be helpful, especially for our ESL students.

Upcoming Meetings

Blackstone Primary School

1. **Leadership Meeting** – 4th Friday of the month
2. **Faculty Meetings** – 2nd Mondays of the month
3. **Team meetings**- weekly during planning
4. **Data meetings** - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

Crewe Primary School

1. **Leadership Meetings**-1st Monday of the month
2. **Faculty Meetings**-2nd Monday of the month (Sometimes 3rd)
3. **Team Meetings**- Every Wednesday during grade level planning
4. **Data Meetings**- Quarterly or as needed

A LOOK AHEAD:

Sep 11-15	School Level Classroom Observations and Walkthroughs by administrators
Sep 11	NHS 9-11 ceremony @ 8 am
Sep 11	National Day of Service and Remembrance
Sep 12	Principal's Meeting in Mini Aud. @ 9 am
Sep 13-14	VDOE Visit to NMS
Sep 14	New Teacher Orientation
Sep 14	School Board Meeting
Sep 15	Senior Convocation @ 9:30 am
Sep 19	Region 8 Supt's Meeting
Sep 21	Staff Meeting @ 9 am in Mini Auditorium
Sep 25	ANTC Strategic Planning Meeting @ 7pm
Sep 26	NMS VDOE meeting in Richmond
Sep 28	ANTC Joint Board Meeting @ 7pm
Sep 30	SMART Goals Due
Oct 6	Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony @ 5pm
Oct 10	Principal's Meeting @ CPS
Oct 11	End of 1 st 9 weeks
Oct 17	Region 8 Supts. Meeting
Oct 17	Flu Shots given in Mini Auditorium from 2-6 pm

Nottoway Intermediate School

1. **Leadership Meeting**- 4th Monday of the month
2. **Faculty Meetings**- 2nd Monday of the month
3. **Data meetings**- after benchmark assessments (within 2-3 days of completion)
4. **Grade Level-Weekly**: Wednesdays- Math 5, Math 6 and Reading 6 @ 3:15 and Thursdays- Reading 5 at 3:15

Nottoway Middle School

1. **Faculty Meetings** – 3rd Monday of each month (except for 4th Monday in January and February)
2. **DREAM Department Meetings**- 3rd Monday of each month

Nottoway High School

1. **Faculty Meetings** –2nd Monday of the month
2. **Department Meetings**- 1st Wednesday of the month w/ principal

Amelia/Nottoway Technical Center

1. **Faculty Meetings** - 1st Thursday of the month at 2:30 pm
2. **Team/PLC Meetings** - 2nd Thursday of the month at 2:30 pm
3. **Leadership Meetings** - 3rd Thursday of the month at 2:30 pm
4. **Joint Board Meetings** - 4th Thursday of the month at 7 pm

School Board Office

1. **SBO Senior Level Team Meeting**- Every Monday
2. **Tech Team**- First and third Wednesday each month.

Announcements and Reminders

- Try **sharing your lesson plans and curriculum documents** with your students. This gives them a roadmap of where you are headed.
- Try a **“No Worksheet Day”** once a week. This will give you an opportunity to give authentic and creative assignments.
- Please **remind your students to study each night**. Research shows that elementary students should study- 30 mins., middle school students- 1 hour, and high school students should study-1 ½ hours per night.
- Please make sure that you are **teaching from bell to bell**. We cannot afford to waste instructional time.
- This is a reminder to post your **3 Essential Questions of the Day** daily using the appropriate level of Bloom's. We will be checking on this during our observations this week.
- Submit your **lesson plans weekly** to your school administrator
- Use **instructional strategies** daily (see CRISS ex. to the left of newsletter)
- Core teachers please submit your **lesson plans** to your inclusion teachers in enough time that they can complete their plans on time. They will need samples of the worksheets and tests/quizzes to make accommodations. Thank you for working together!!
- If you have an opportunity, **video record yourself teaching**. It is a great way to improve your instructional pedagogy.
- Let your administrator know if you have a **special lesson** that you would like for the instructional department to observe and highlight in the *Cougar Courier*.
- Remember to use your **Bloom's verbs** to guide what is written in your lesson plans, taught in class, and assessed on tests.

Oct 19

Report Cards to
Parents/ Schools
Close @ 12:30 pm
(Parent/ Teacher
Conference 1:30-
7:00 pm)

Oct 19

Earthquake Drill

Oct 20

Early Release
(12:30 pm) Staff
Dev.

Oct 21

Homecoming
Dance

Oct 31

Halloween!

- Focus on both the **Cognitive Level** and **Content** to create your objectives & assessments. Use the Table of Specifications to help.
- **Grades are expected to be updated weekly.** You should record at least 2 grades weekly (18 per 9 weeks). This will assist our parents and students with knowing their academic performance thus far.
- **Please limit field trips during the SOL Testing.** This time should be focused on upcoming assessments.
- **Annual Field trips requests** need to be turned in to the SBO by December 5, 2017 so there is time to get the bus approval from central office.
- All planned **field trips** for the school year should be submitted to the School Board office by December 5, 2017. These field trips represent those trips that you take annually; such as Jamestown and Washington, D.C. Field trips other than those that are planned for the year need applications submitted at least thirty days prior to the date of the trip.
- For Safety and Security, **please wear your ID badges** at work.
- To save energy, please **turn off all lights, shut down all monitors, and computers** especially when you leave in the afternoons
- To enhance school spirit, Friday's will be considered **Maroon** and **Gold** day throughout the division. At the discretion of your school administrator, please feel free to wear jeans along with our school colors on Fridays!

Remembering 9-11



Recipe of the Week

Back To School Blueberry Cake

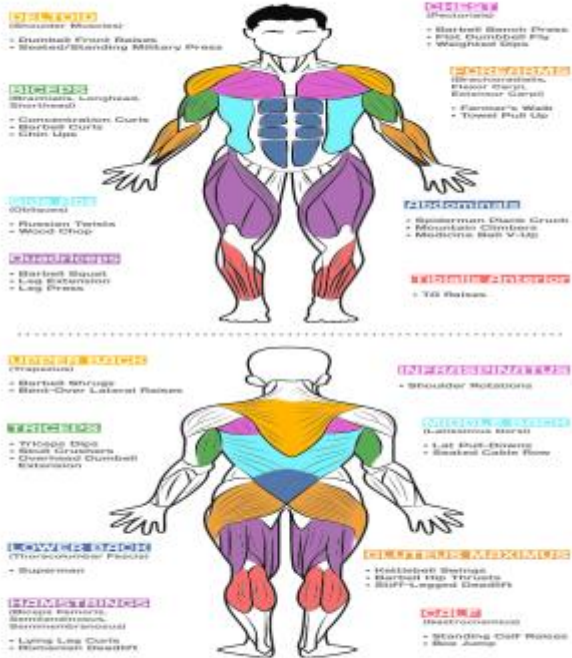
1 cup butter, softened
2 cups sugar
4 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 cups flour

½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 pint fresh blueberries or
2 cups canned blueberries
drained and rinsed

Preheat oven to 325. Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs, one at a time and beat until fluffy. Add vanilla. Sift dry ingredients together. Reserve 1 cup flour mixture. Add remaining flour to batter; beat well. Dredge berries in reserved flour. Fold gently into batter. (Batter will be thick) Spoon into greased and floured tube pan. Bake for 1 ¼ hours. Note: Grease pan with butter and “flour” with sugar.

Healthy Lifestyles Tip of the Week

BEST EXERCISES TO TARGET EACH MUSCLE GROUP



Brought to you by **SKINNY2FIT**

<https://www.facebook.com/skinny2fit/>
<https://www.instagram.com/skinny2fit/>
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...>

Sometimes We Just Need To Laugh

JUST KIDDING



JUST KIDDING



**Congratulations
To All Faculty &
Staff Members
with September
Birthdays and
Anniversaries!**



Poem of the Week

September

The golden-rod is yellow;
The corn is turning brown;
The trees in apple orchards
With fruit are bending down.
The gentian's bluest fringes
Are curling in the sun;
In dusty pods the milkweed
Its hidden silk has spun.
The sedges flaunt their harvest,
In every meadow nook;
And asters by the brook-side
Make asters in the brook,
From dewy lanes at morning
The grapes' sweet odors rise;
At noon the roads all flutter
With yellow butterflies.
By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer's best of weather,
And autumn's best of cheer.
But none of all this beauty
Which floods the earth and air
Is unto me the secret
Which makes September fair.
'T is a thing which I remember;
To name it thrills me yet:
One day of one September
I never can forget.

Quotes of the Week

“Dreams are free, but the journey isn’t.” –Anonymous

Failure is one of the best teachers –Anonymous

Don’t settle for average. Go the second mile. Give a person more value than what the paid for. Do more than what is expected. Be all that you can be –John Maxwell

There are two kinds of people in this world, one who accepts their life, and one who leads their life.-John Cutter

“Be strong and of good courage . . .” Deuteronomy 31:7