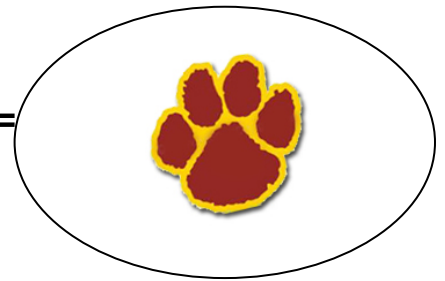


# COUGAR COURIER

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



Volume II, No. 7 September 25, 2017



**Autumn Time!**

## Character Trait for September is...

### Honesty

Honesty involves the ability to be truthful, candor 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

This week our annual SMART Goals are due for the year. I hope that you approached this task with the mindset that setting goals, especially SMART goals, are meant to help us grow as educators. This year I have been impressed with the level of commitment that you have all shown towards setting goals, and I love the dedication that you have shown towards our students. That being said, I have been particularly impressed thus far with goals set by our administrators at each school, because they are causing us to grow as a team. I heard a speaker once say that when setting goals, "You want to be growth oriented instead of goal oriented, because it will be more fulfilling since you will never reach your maximum growth and you will keep going". Setting goals are just steps along the way that indicates the growth that you are experiencing along your journey. As in all of our schools, we now have a stronger vision to build on last year's success. This will be done by:

1. **Setting goals for ourselves and our departments**
2. **Developing a plan that incorporates "buy in" by staff, and**
3. **Growing as a team.**

Each member of our administrative team encompasses a variety roles and gifts, but we are all pursuing the same goal which is to reach Full Accreditation in each one of our schools. We reached many goals last year but now we are fine tuning new goals by developing new plans that is helping us grow as a team. Second, planning is also an important part of the process because a goal without a plan is just a wish that will never happen. And finally, the ultimate goal of what we do each day is to make education an exciting and engaging experience for all of our students by incorporating relevant experiences into classroom lessons that will help students grow as human beings and become productive citizens in our society. Therefore, make growth your goal! Go Cougars!

### Growing as a Team



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

**Teaching Tip of the**  
**Week:**

**Using Exit Tickets**

- At the end of a class period ask students to take out a piece of scrap paper, or hand out blank index cards (keep a stack readily available) and ask students a question related to that day’s lesson. Students write their responses on the paper or index card which they then hand to the teacher at the door as they leave the classroom.
- Use the student responses to determine if they need additional practice on the skill/concept
- Student responses may be used to create small groups for the next day’s lesson – grouping students with similar levels of understanding of the skill/concept or with similar (or differing) opinions or views on the topic

**Commendations!**

Submitted by Ms. Winn: Nottoway High School would like to send a big shout out to **Mrs. Susan Hickman** for coordinating this year's Senior Convocation. Also, a big thank you to the **NHS faculty, staff, and students** who helped in making this a memorable day for our students and their families! Congratulations to the Class of 2018!



**Athletic Schedule**

**TUESDAY, 9/26:**

Golf - Region Finals - @ Kinderton CC - 8:30 (depart 6:00 AM)

Volleyball - Central - HOME - 5:30 (Coleburn)

**WEDNESDAY, 9/27:**

Cross Country - @ Bluestone - 4:30 (depart 2:15)

**THURSDAY, 9/28:**

JV Football - Cumberland - HOME - 6:30 (Ford, Wimble)

**FRIDAY, 9/29:**

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

**What’s Happening in Our Classrooms?**

**BPS**

**Submitted by Dr. Gravely:** Blackstone Primary School kicked off the Reading with the Lancers incentive program last week. Longwood University Athletics and Elwood visited Blackstone Primary School and presented a skit and encouraged students to read!!!



**Submitted by Ms. Ott:** Ms. Ott's class had a party to celebrate the completion of their first read aloud chapter book entitled, "Because of Winn-Dixie" by Kate Di Camillo. The students prepared a meal similar to the one they read about.



### 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](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](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/](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/)
- Questioning Strategies links:



## 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.**”

<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](http://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newTMC_88.htm)

### Math

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

[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](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](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](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

## 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.

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

### 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.

## A LOOK AHEAD:

Sep 25-29	School Level Classroom Observations and Walkthroughs by administrators
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 <sup>st</sup> 9 weeks
Oct 17	Region 8 Supts. Meeting
Oct 17	Flu Shots given in Mini Auditorium from 2-6 pm
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!

### Recipe of the Week

#### Peanut Butter and Jelly Popcorn



#### Ingredients

- 8 cups popped popcorn (I popped about 1/4 cup kernels for this small batch)
- 1 cup white chocolate, divided
- 1 1/2 tbsp. Welch's Natural Grape Jelly Spread
- 1 tbsp. peanut butter

#### Instructions:

Divide Popcorn into two separate bowls. Over medium low heat on the stove top, melt 1/2 cup white chocolate with 1 tbsp. peanut butter. Stir until smooth. Pour over 1 bowl of the popcorn. Use a rubber spatula to mix well and coat thoroughly. Spread out on a silicon mat or parchment paper to let cool.

Meanwhile, melt the remaining 1/2 cup white chocolate with 1 1/2 tbsp grape jelly over medium low heat on the stove top. Stir until smooth. Pour over the other bowl of popcorn, and stir with rubber spatula to coat well. Spread out on silicon mat or parchment paper to let cool.

Once both batches of popcorn are cooled enough that the coatings are set, mix them both together in a bowl and serve!

### Healthy Lifestyles Tip of the Week

Exercise is very important. Exercise strengthens bone and muscle development, lowers the risk of becoming overweight, lowers blood pressure and bad cholesterol, decreases the risk of, and helps increase confidence and self-esteem.

### Sometimes We Just Need to Laugh

#### JUST KIDDING



#### JUST KIDDING



### Poem of the Week

## Drinking From The Saucer

by John Paul Moore

I've never made a fortune,  
And I'll never make one now  
But it really doesn't matter



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



'Cause I'm happy anyhow

As I go along my journey  
I'm reaping better than I've sowed  
I'm drinking from the saucer  
'Cause my cup has overflowed

I don't have a lot of riches,  
And sometimes the going's tough  
But with kin and friends to love me  
I think I'm rich enough

I thank God for the blessings  
That His mercy has bestowed  
I'm drinking from the saucer  
'Cause my cup has overflowed

He gives me strength and courage  
When the way grows steep and rough  
I'll not ask for other blessings for  
I'm already blessed enough

May we never be too busy  
To help bear another's load  
Then we'll all be drinking from the saucer  
When our cups have overflowed

**Quotes of the Week**

**"It is easy to dodge our responsibilities, but we cannot dodge the consequences of dodging our responsibilities." —Robert Louis Stevenson**

**"Find a need and fill it." ~Ruth Stafford Peale**

**"I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back." ~Maya Angelou**

**"We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future." ~George Bernard Shaw**

**"As thy days are, so shall thy strength be;" —Deuteronomy 33:25**

**Nottoway County Public Schools...Home of the Cougars!**