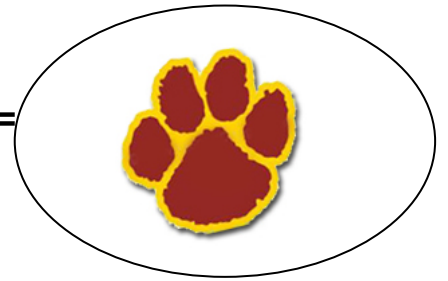


COUGAR COURIER

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



Volume II, No. 5 September 4, 2017



Sowing Seeds of Hope

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

It is hard to believe, but while a few school divisions in the area are just beginning school, we are entering our fifth week and the first week of September! As the Fall season approaches, I was reminded this week by our FFA Chapter at NHS (Future Farmers of America), that this is farming season. You are aware that farmers do not normally plant seeds that grow overnight, farming takes time. In fact, farmers often plant seeds that they hope will sprout later during the season or even next year. With planting, farmers often spread seeds liberally in the soil to ensure a good harvest. They must ensure that the soil is wet and rich in nutrients for seeds to grow. They must also properly fertilize the seeds to give them an opportunity to grow. Additionally, farmers must rely on gardening tools such as a shovel, garden rake, and broadcaster to properly plant their seeds. This process reminded me of the seeds that we are planting and the tools we are using to teach our students each day. As educators, we are planting seeds of hope in our students that we are expecting to harvest in the near future. We are also using tools such as textbooks, paper, and pencils to assist us with this teaching process. These seeds include teaching our students how to think, be model citizens, and we are also preparing them to be successful on their tests. As educators, what you are doing this Fall to teach our students will pay dividends this Spring. John Maxwell once said, "You can't harvest what you have not planted". The more you sow in the classroom today, the more you will reap tomorrow. **Go Cougars!**

Planting Seeds of Knowledge



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

Teaching Tip of the
Week:
Educators “Doing the Right
Things”

1. Reinforce Positive Behaviors (i.e. praise).
2. Be Supportive
3. Model by Example
4. Nurture the Organization

Thinking of You

Our condolences go out to **Mrs. A. Brown** and her family on the loss of her nephew. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Please keep the **residents of Houston Texas** in your thoughts and prayers who were effected by Hurricane Harvey. If you would like to help, please contact <http://www.redcross.org/local/texas/gulf-coast/disaster-response>

Commendations!

- I would like to personally thank **Mr. David Johnson** for assisting with the computer set up at the ANTC last week even though he was not assigned to those computers. Those computers will be used to assist our students, and Amelia’s in the Bryant and Stratton class.
- From Mrs. Geyer: Heartfelt thanks to **The Nottoway School Family, NMS faculty, staff, students and community members** for my warm welcome to Nottoway! Special thanks to Dr. Coleman for overseeing this transition and bringing me up to speed! It s going to be a great year!

What’s Happening in Our Classrooms?

NIS

Submitted by Mrs. Martin: I would like to congratulate the following individuals for being selected as people of the month at NIS: Mrs. Payne: Teacher of the Month, Ms. Stephens: Support Staff of the Month, and Zoe Gray: Student of the Month. We appreciate all they do to make NIS great!



BPS

Submitted by Mrs. Shell: I would like to congratulate Ephraim Stokes and Karyssa Oakes for "Caught Being Good", as well as Faith Smith and Aarlyn Hudgins, for earning Positive Behavior Referrals from my first grade classroom. I am impressed with their great character and leading by example modeling good citizenship and hard work.

All Subjects

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.”

- 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>
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:

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.

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

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

A LOOK AHEAD:

Sep 5-8	School Level Classroom Observations and Walkthroughs by administrators
Sep 6	VDOE Academic Review @ NMS
Sep 8	International Literacy Day
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 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 11	End of 1 st 9 weeks
Oct 19	Report Cards to Parents/ Schools Close @ 12:30 pm (Parent/ Teacher Conference 1:30-7:00 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.
- 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!

Healthy Lifestyles Tip

Vary your vegetables. Eat more orange and dark green vegetables such as carrots, sweet potatoes, broccoli and dark leafy greens. Also, include a variety of beans such as peas and pinto beans more often. Remember, a variety of healthy food will keep you healthy longer!

Sometime We Just Need To Laugh



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



Don't Quit

Anonymous

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and its turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about
When they might have won, had they stuck it out.
Don't give up though the pace seems slow,
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than,
It seems to a faint and faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup;
And he learned too late when the night came down,
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit!

Quotes of the Week

"To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity." —Donald A. Adams

**"It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice."
~Author Unknown**

"You cannot teach anybody anything. You can only help them discover it within themselves." ~ Galileo ~

"A merry heart does good like a medicine; but a broken spirit dries the bones." Proverbs 17:22

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