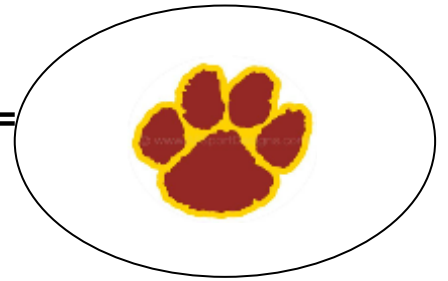


COUGAR COURIER

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



Volume I, No. 36 May 7, 2017



Happy Mother's Day!



Character Trait of the Month "Forgiveness"

Forgiveness is the act of pardoning someone for a mistake or wrongdoing. A forgiving quality is the tendency to forgive offenses readily and easily. The Oxford English Dictionary defines forgiveness as "to grant free pardon and to give up all claim on account of an offense or debt".

Reflections...

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week! Feeling appreciated brings out the best in people. And when that appreciation comes into the school and is coupled with acceptance, love, and encouragement, the bonds between family members grow, and the school becomes a haven for everyone. Psychologist William James said, "In every person from the cradle to the grave, there is a deep craving to be appreciated." Therefore, I believe that every week should be teacher appreciation week because of the work you do. In fact, just as we should appreciate you each week, I want you to know that I truly enjoy working for you each day. I believe, and I know that we speak for all our stakeholders when I say this, that our job is to serve you so that our students' needs and interests are met in a dynamic and safe environment. The recognitions that you have earned, our schools have earned, and our students have earned throughout the school year are a testament to the fact that we are providing a nurturing education. I am proud to be a part of that effort, but I also know that the most important work take place in your classroom each day. I also understand that our collective efforts must be focused on making each day rewarding for you while also being challenging for our students. Our main priority is to serve you and our students. I understand that to build a strong school community, we need to be appreciative of your efforts and provide you with a supportive environment. I am thankful of the work that you do, proud of our students, & proud to be a Cougar! **Go Cougar Nation!**

"Thank You!"



MAY is:

National Family Month

**National Physical Fitness
and Sports Month**

**National Youth Traffic
Safety Month**

**Women's Health Care
Month**

**Better Hearing and Speech
Month**

Civility Awareness Month

**National Mental Health
Month**

**Focus for the Month of
May**

SOL Testing!

SOL Update

SOL testing is off to a solid start throughout the division. Scores are coming in strong so let's keep it up until the end of the school year!

Commendations!

- Submitted by Ms. Lewis: I would like to thank the **NCPS technology department** for all their hard work and dedication to ensure that all school's technology is excellent during SOL testing.
- Submitted by Mrs. S. Hinton: I would like to commend the **teachers and staff at BPS** that went above and beyond to ensure that SOL testing was a positive and relaxed experience for their 3rd and 4th graders. Due to the #rockthetest tee-shirts, the video, the pep rally, the SMART water, and the special messages left on their desks by Dr. "G", the kids surely went into the testing window feeling energized, confident, and prepared. You all are truly a blessing to your students, the parents, and the school community. **THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU** for going the extra mile.

Athletic Schedule

MONDAY, 5/8:

Track - JRD Field Event Finals - @ Buckingham - 4:30 (depart 2:45)

Girls Soccer - @ Goochland - 5:30 (depart 3:15)

Boys Soccer - @ Goochland - 7:00 (depart 4:30)

TUESDAY, 5/9:

JV Baseball/Varsity Softball - Goochland - HOME - 5:30 (Klag, Finnegan)

JV Softball/Varsity Baseball - @ Goochland - 5:00 (depart 2:45)

WEDNESDAY, 5/10:

Track - JRD Running Event Finals - HOME - 4:30

Boys Soccer - @ Amelia - 5:00 (depart 3:30)

THURSDAY, 5/11:

JV Softball/Varsity Baseball - Amelia - HOME - 5:30 (Austin, Lusk)

JV Baseball/Varsity Softball - @ Amelia - 5:00 (depart 3:30)

Girls Soccer - @ Park View - 7:00 (depart 4:30)

FRIDAY, May 12:

Track - @ Fluvanna Invitational - 4:00 (depart 2:30)

What's Happening in the Classroom?

NHS

Submitted by Ms. Hickman: On Wednesday, May 3, with the cooperation of Nottoway High School students and staff, the Nottoway County Sheriff's Department staged a Mock Car Crash in an effort to promote prom safety. The Sheriff's Department was assisted by the local fire department, rescue squad, and the medevac helicopter. The simulated crash scene involved two vehicles, two fatalities, three injured passengers, and the arrest of a drunk driver. Students were encouraged to take the message seriously and to make wise choices as they celebrate their junior-senior prom May 6. NHS salutes the Sheriff's Department and the other

supporting community service workers for their effort and for their concern for our youth.

Teaching Tip of the Week:

CRISS Strategy
Quantitative-Math Test
Taking Tips

- ✓ Repetition is important in math. You learn how to solve problems by doing them so keep on practice problems but don't do it blindly. Make sure you learn how to recognize when/why you should use a specific method to solve a problem.

- ✓ Work on practice problems for each topic ranging in levels of difficulty.

- ✓ When practicing, try to solve the problem on your own first then look at the answer or seek help if you are having trouble.

- ✓ Mix up the order of the questions from various topics when you are reviewing so you'll learn when to use a specific method/formula.

- ✓ Make up a sheet with all the formulas you need to know and memorize all the formulas on the sheet.

- ✓ When you get your exam, write down all the key formulas on the margin of your paper so if you forget them when you're in the middle of the test you can look back at the formula.



Submitted by Dr. Hicks:

Student of the Month - Kiel Good



Teacher of the Month - Mrs. Kathryn Hite



✓ Read the directions carefully and don't forget to answer all parts of the question.

✓ Make estimates for your answers... e.g. if you are asked to answer $48 \times 12 = ?$, you could expect a number around 500 but if you end up with an answer around 5000, you'll know you did something wrong.

✓ Show all your work (especially when partial credit is awarded) and write as legibly as possible.

✓ Even if you know the final answer is wrong, don't erase your entire work because you may get partial credit for using the correct procedure.

✓ Check over your test after you are done with it. If you have time, redo the problems on a separate piece of paper and see if you come up with the same answers the second time around. Look for careless mistakes such as making sure the decimal is in the right place, that you read the directions correctly, that you copied the numbers correctly, that you put a negative sign if it is needed, that your arithmetic is correct and so on.

Staff of the Month - Coach Glenn Pettis



NIS

Submitted by Mrs. Martin: Thanks to these dedicated individuals that make NIS great each day! Teacher of the Month- Mrs. Hunt, Student of the Month- Kendall Wilson, and Support Staff of the Month- Ms. Hobbs



BES

Submitted by Ms. Lewis: Burkeville Elementary School staff would like to thank the staff of Citizen's Bank Burkeville branch for providing the teachers an appreciation gift.



Instructional Focus for the Month of May

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.**”

NMS

Submitted by Ms. Deichman: The Junior Honor Society at NMS went on a field trip to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History on Wednesday. Students got to see first hand many of the concepts/topics they learned about in middle school science. The students were accompanied by three of the sponsors: Allison Jones, Susanne Hayes, and Judy Deichman.



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:

How to Write Good Lesson Plans

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://beyondpenguins.ehe.osu.edu/issue/energy-and-the-polar-environment/questioning-techniques-research-based-strategies-for-teachers.](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:

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.

A LOOK AHEAD:

May 10	TAC Meeting at 2 pm
May 12	BES Kindergarten Graduation @ 6pm
May 14	Mother's Day
May 25-26	Final Exams
May 26	Last Day of School for Students
May 27	NHS Graduation @ 10 am
May 29	Memorial Day Holiday
May 30	Last Day for Teachers

Upcoming Meetings

Burkeville Elementary School

1. **Faculty Meetings** - 2nd Monday of the month
2. **Team Meetings** - weekly during common planning
3. **Data Meetings** - Beginning, Mid-Year and End of year with administrators
4. **Leadership Meeting** - 3rd Thursday of the month

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. **Team meetings**- weekly during assigned time (lunch, planning, after-school)
4. **Data meetings**- after benchmark assessments (within 2-3 days of completion)

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.
- 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, 2016 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, 2016. 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 of the Week

Incorporate different kinds of exercise in your routine. When you work out, don't just stick to one kind of workout. Incorporate strength training, cardio and stretching exercises into your routine to make it well rounded.

Recipe of the Week

7-up Salad

Ingredients

- 1 lg. pkg. Philadelphia cream cheese, softened
- 1 c. boiling water
- 1 sm. pkg. lemon Jello
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 sm. can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1 c. 7-Up, cold
- 1 c. chopped pecans

Directions

Mix all together while water is hot, first cream cheese and Jello with hot water; add remaining ingredients.

Sometimes We Need To Laugh!

JUST KIDDING



JUST KIDDING



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



Poem of the Week

I Want To Be Like You

Thank you, teacher,
for being my life's role model.
When I consider all you've taught me
and reflect on the kind of person you are,
I want to be like you—
smart, interesting and engaging,
positive, confident, yet unpretentious.
I want to be like you—
well-informed and easy to understand,
thinking with your heart as well as your head,
gently nudging us to do our best,
with sensitivity and insight.
I want to be like you—
giving your time, energy and talent
to ensure the brightest possible future
for each of us.
Thank you, teacher
For giving me a goal to shoot for:
I want to be like you!
By Joanna Fuchs

Quote of the Week

“You are a poor specimen if you can’t stand the pressure of adversity.”

-Proverbs 24:10

“Forgiveness is the act of admitting we are like other people”

-Christina Baldwin

“Who understands much, forgives much” –Madame de Stael

“Keeping score of old scores and scars, getting even and one upping, always make you less than you are” -Malcom Forbes

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