

# PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

## A Message from Dr. Terri H. Mazingo, Chief Academic Officer

Welcome to the tenth edition of the *Pursuit of Excellence Newsletter* for 2018. This version will update you on the latest developments in a variety of key areas including: (1) trends, focus areas, and high-priority projects involving the Department of Curriculum and Instruction; (2) updates from Specialized Instruction; (3) CivicTREK news; (4) Health and Wellness information; (5) Canvas; and (6) cross-functional team contact information.



### Crisis Prevention and Intervention (CPI) Training

CPI training prepares participants to identify specific challenging behaviors and de-escalate students through verbal strategies. Each school is recommended to have an identified team of staff (4-7 individuals) who are CPI trained. All staff assigned to citywide special education programs (AUT, ED or ID) should be trained.

*STAFF MUST BE PHYSICALLY ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN HOLDS AND ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO BECOME CPI CERTIFIED.*

Staff with physical limitations or restrictions should postpone attending this training until they are fully cleared for physical activities.

#### INITIAL TRAININGS

Held from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Central Office - 3rd floor training rooms (310-3A/3B)

\*This training is for new staff, staff who have never been trained in CPI or staff who have not been to a CPI training in over a year.

PLMS sign up required. Keyword: crisis

September 28	December 13
October 15	January 29
November 5	February 25
November 27	March 28

#### REFRESHER TRAININGS

Held from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Central Office - 3rd floor training rooms (310-3A/3B)

\*This training is for staff who hold a current blue CPI card that was obtained in the past calendar year.

PLMS sign up required. Keyword: refresher

October 1	December 17
October 25	February 21
November 16	March 13

### ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan Goals

- Academic Excellence and Educational Equity:** Every child will be academically successful and prepared for college, work and life.
- Family and Community Engagement:** ACPS will partner with families and the community in the education of Alexandria's youth.
- An Exemplary Staff:** ACPS will recruit, develop, support, and retain a staff that is best for Alexandria's students.
- Facilities and the Learning Environment:** ACPS will provide optimal and equitable learning environments.
- Health and Wellness:** ACPS will provide access and support that enables students to be healthy and ready to learn.
- Effective and Efficient Operations:** ACPS will be efficient, effective, and transparent in its business operations.

## CivicTREK Service Learning 2018

We are excited to announce that several teachers (from T.C. Williams, Francis C. Hammond, George Washington, Chance for Change, Samuel Tucker, Mt. Vernon, Ferdinand T. Day, and James K. Polk) completed our first CivicTREK professional development session on August 20, 2018, and are ready to introduce project-based learning strategies to students beginning this fall. In the CivicTREK orientation, these teachers:

- Explored their most successful teaching strategies, and how they related to their work with CivicTREK;
- Learned how they will apply CivicTREK's project-based learning pedagogy to engage students and help them meet specific content-required SOL-based academic knowledge and skills;
- Were introduced to the role within CivicTREK of the "Five C's skills" of Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking, Collaboration, Communication, and Citizenship - skills required for graduation by the Profile of a Virginia Graduate; and
- Began to form a supportive professional learning network of ACPS CivicTREK teachers across the District.

Throughout the coming academic school year, we look forward to sharing the progress of the CivicTREK teachers and the ACPS cohort as a whole. The next session will be on October 10, 2018 and all are welcome to attend.

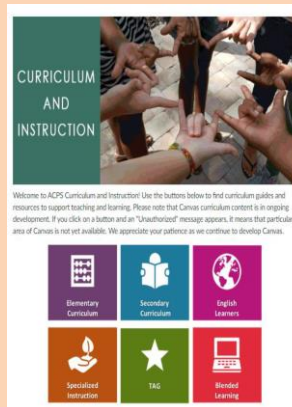
**For more information, please contact Sarah Whelan via email ([sarah.whelan@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:sarah.whelan@acps.k12.va.us)) or at 703.619.8328.**

## Health and Wellness News

On October 8, 2018, Health/Physical Education (HPE) teachers will participate in a professional development session that will help evaluate the effectiveness of and employee interest in the *Pure Edge* model of self-care and wellness. For this pilot, Pure Edge will present an interactive session where participants will learn about stress and how it affects their bodies and nervous system. Participants will explore various breathing techniques, mindful movements, and guided relaxation as tools for promoting their own well-being. If desired, there may be an opportunity to spread this training with more options to other content areas and/or other teachers.

**For more information, please contact Mike Humphreys via email ([michael.humphreys@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:michael.humphreys@acps.k12.va.us)) or at 703.619.8020.**

## Curriculum Updates in Canvas



During the summer, our Curriculum Instructional Specialists were working tirelessly with teachers to populate Canvas with necessary teacher materials and resources prior to the opening of schools. We are excited to announce that Canvas includes multiple engaging activities, videos, resources, and materials. Many thanks to all the teachers who contributed their time to the development of this invaluable educational resource.

<https://www.acpsk12.org/canvas/>

## Curriculum and Instruction Teaming Design

On April 26, 2018, the School Board approved the proposed organizational redesign for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. On July 1, 2018, the newly formed cross-functional teams were in effect. Please see below for team coordinator/leader contact information.

<b>College and Career Readiness Team</b>	<b>Dr. Gerald Mann</b> <i>gerald.mann@acps.k12.va.us</i>
<b>Data Analysis, Interpretation, and Resources Team</b>	<b>Dr. Terri H. Mozingo</b> <i>terri.mozingo@acps.k12.va.us</i>
<b>Humanities Team</b>	<b>Tanja Mayer-Harding</b> <i>tanja.mayer-harding@acps.k12.va.us</i>
<b>Literacy Team</b>	<b>Cynthia McDougal</b> <i>cynthia.mcdougal@acps.k12.va.us</i>
<b>Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Team</b>	<b>TBD</b>

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**'The ability to learn is the most important quality a leader can have.'**

Sheryl Sandberg