

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

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

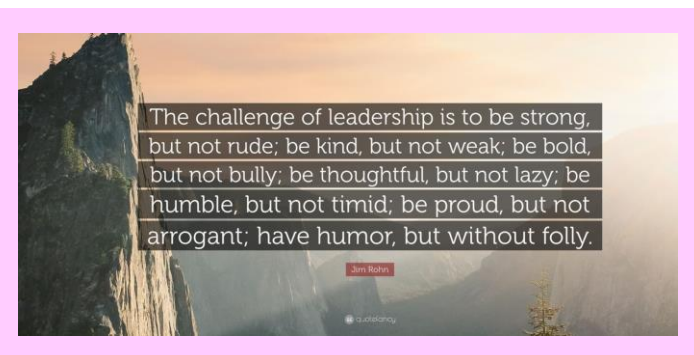
Welcome to the twelfth edition of the *Pursuit of Excellence Newsletter* for 2018. This version will update you on the latest developments in a variety of key areas including: (1) trends, focus areas, and high-priority projects involving the Department of Curriculum and Instruction; (2) new updates within Canvas; (3) math information within Schoolnet; (4) upcoming Fine Arts events; (5) information on Odyssey of the Mind parent sessions; and (6) more information regarding the new team design. **Thank you for your continued support! Have a wonderful week!**

Ten Leadership Lessons for Educators

For the past 50 years, the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) has equipped leaders to work together across boundaries to build effective systems that prepare children and youth for college, careers, and their future. The IEL's broad network of leaders, which includes superintendents, principals, policy leaders, academics, public officials, private funders, and community-based practitioners, shared their lessons as a part of IEL's 50th anniversary celebration. Ten powerful lessons emerged from their advice. We are grateful for their contribution.

Read the full article at:

https://c.ymcdn.com/sites/epfp.iel.org/resource/resmgr/2018_WPS/Final-IEL-WPS-2018-Program-B.pdf



ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan Goals

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

Ten Leadership Lessons for the 21st Century

- 1 Leaders are anchored in a commitment to equity and the pursuit of social justice. They mobilize partners and build collective will to ensure opportunities for all children and youth.
- 2 Leaders dream of a better world. They ground a shared vision in audacious possibility and practicality.
- 3 Leaders recognize that knowing how to lead change is as important as knowing the change one wants to achieve. They respect history, understand how people adapt, and focus on results. Leaders enable their teams and their community to see and pursue a clear path forward.
- 4 Leaders are committed to democracy and participatory approaches to change. By reaching across boundaries and fostering collaboration, they bring together resources from diverse people and organizations to help attain shared goals.
- 5 Leaders embrace and manage the tensions that are pervasive in their work and help others do the same. They balance the importance of building strong trusting relationships with demands for accountability and quick action, never overlooking one for the other.
- 6 Leaders are humble, yet relentless; tolerant, yet demanding; focused and analytical, yet creative systems-thinkers. They are unfailingly truthful, respectful, and ethical.
- 7 Leaders create a supportive and responsive culture—a culture of inclusion at all levels, a culture that helps individuals grow and learn, and a culture that embraces risk and learns from mistakes along the pathway to success. And, they know that “culture eats strategy for lunch.”
- 8 Leaders are present. They are reflective. They take care of themselves physically, mentally, and spiritually, so they can be fully focused in the moment.
- 9 Leaders listen actively and learn from everyone. They learn from their peers, from people in their own field and others, and from people all across their community.
- 10 Leadership can emerge from anywhere and anyone. Leaders mentor and empower, knowing that many more strong leaders are needed to enable all children and youth to succeed.

CANVAS Updates

The Instructional Specialists have been continuing the curriculum writing work from this summer to provide more resources in Canvas. Unit Outcomes and Assessment Ideas are available for the first quarter. There are also a variety of resources to support planning in the Instructional Planning and Resources section. We plan to have Unit Outcomes and Assessment Ideas and Resources for Instructional Planning available for the second quarter by October 26th (K-5) and November 2nd (6-12). If there are resources to be considered for the curriculum on Canvas, please send them to the instructional specialist for that subject area.

Fine Arts	Andrew Watson (K-12) 703-619-8047
Health/P.E.	Mike Humphreys (K-12) 703-619-8020
Literacy	Suzanne Lank (K-5) 703-619-8330
	Kimberly Schell (6-12) 703-619-8020
Math	Julia Neuffer (K-5) 703-619-8020
	Suzanne Futrell (6-12) 703-619-8187
Science	Erica Meili (K-5) 703-619-8020
	Jennifer Lay (6-12) 703-619-8020
Social Studies	Sarah Whelan (K-12) 703-619-8328
World Languages	Tanja Mayer-Harding (K-12) 703-619-8020

Schoolnet 2016 Mathematics SOL Item Bank

This week, Certica, the vendor that supplies the Schoolnet Item Bank, completed the work to update the math questions in their item bank to the 2016 SOL Standards. Certica is a third-party vendor that partners with SchoolNet. ACPS, Virginia Beach, and other Virginia school divisions have been impacted by this delay. The updated math item bank will be added to SchoolNet by next Friday, October 5.

If you have any questions, please contact Julia Neuffer via email (julia.neuffer@acps.k12.va.us) or at 703-619-8020.

Fine Arts News

Author, actor, musician, activist, and former child-soldier Emmanuel Jal is visiting the area in February and March. Emmanuel is a dynamic performer who shares his life story through a mixture of hip-hop, poetry, and inspirational speaking. If you are interested in having him perform at your school, please contact Tania Cambell-Golding via email at tania@emmanueljal.com.



Video of performance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuueDIzXL-0>

Wikipedia Page:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmanuel_Jal

For more information, please contact Andrew Watson via email (andrew.watson@acps.k12.va.us) or at 703-619-8047.

Odyssey of the Mind - Parent Information Sessions

Calling all creative minds and problem solvers! If you enjoy drama, music, dance, art, or engineering, Odyssey of the Mind is for you! Odyssey of the Mind is an International Creativity Competition that is open to all students!

For your convenience, there will be two Parent Information Meetings - Monday, October 1, 2018, at James K. Polk Elementary School and Tuesday, October 9, 2018, at George Washington Middle School. Both meetings start at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. (Flyer attached.)

For more information, please contact Tiana Dominick via email (tiana.dominick@acps.k12.va.us) or at 703-619-8020.



Goals for New Curriculum and Instruction Teams:

1. Implement an integrated, small cross-functional team that delivers targeted and specific services directly to schools
2. Serve the unique needs of schools and articulate priorities in specific schools
3. Align resources to schools so principals can focus on instruction and accelerate student achievement

