

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

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



Welcome to the fortieth edition of the *Pursuit of Excellence Newsletter*. This version will update you on the trends, focus areas, and priorities for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction: Talent Development Updates as well as a section on summer as a time for regeneration and exploration.

Best wishes for you and your families for a very happy and restorative summer vacation. We look forward to seeing you again in August, but please take this time to realize how valuable you and your contributions have been to our students and their families.

Until next time... Terri 😊

Building Equity: Policies and Practices to Empower All Learners
(D. Smith, N. Frey, I. Pumpian, and D. Fisher)

Talent Development Updates

The Office of Talent Development would like to congratulate Jessica DeLeon for her promotion as an Administrative Specialist with the Office of Specialized Instruction. We are sad to lose her as she has had profound impact on ensuring tuition assistance refunds, assisting with travel plans for conferences, and improving the professionalism of our office.

On a positive note, we would like to welcome Sanima Hayat, our new Administrative Assistant. Sanima has worked in multiple offices (medical and banking industries) with a strong level of customer service. She is pursuing her Bachelor of Arts degree and we are excited to have her join our team! Please welcome Sanima!

Summer as a Time for Regeneration and Exploration

As the 2018-2019 academic year concludes for Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), the outlook of the upcoming summer vacation is both exciting and very well-deserved! As Chief Academic Officer, I believe that it is also **a time for a reflection on the wonderful achievements of staff throughout our division**—and the impact they have had upon our diverse student population. This final edition of our newsletter for this year comes with a sincere wish that this summer is a time of **renewal, restoration, and exploration** for you and your families. **Here are a few suggestions as you embark upon your summer journey:**

- 1. REFLECT**
 - In between time with family and friends, take some time for yourself—what is widely known as “Me Time.” This provides each of us a sense of goodness to capture some alone time to consider where we have been—and where we are heading. Think of the students whose lives you have affected this past year. Consider how your positive influence has transformed them as learners and as human beings with great potential. Also, you might reflect on your major accomplishments from this past academic year—and what you might do differently next year to enhance the teaching and learning process.
- 2. RETOOL**
 - When you catch your breath, take time off to enjoy yourself, and feel ready for a challenge. Summer can be a great time for you to “retool.” For example, are there professional learning opportunities you might take advantage of this summer? Do you have a desire to contribute to summer curriculum writing initiatives and projects? Are there volunteer opportunities that this summer you would like to take advantage of? It’s also a great time to catch up on the exercise and health plans we always want to get to during the academic year—but somehow can’t find the time to really put in motion!
- 3. EXPLORE**
 - Use the summer to explore the amazing resources and opportunities provided by the very city and region in which we live. When’s the last time, for example, you visited one of Alexandria’s tourist destinations? Have you seen the largest Oriental carpet in the world at the Masonic Temple? Have you seen the “new” Tyrannosaurus Rex at the Museum of Natural History? OR you can use the summer to explore aspects of your family and yourself. The Alexandria Public Library offers numerous family-oriented reading and informational sessions.
- 4. AFFILIATE**
 - Finally, please use the summer to reconnect with loved ones and friends—especially those you may have been too busy during the academic year to contact regularly. Above all, please remember that you are an important part of the Alexandria City Public Schools family—and we are very grateful that you continue to be part of our great extended support network.

Thank you for your continued support and have a wonderful summer break!

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.

