



explorations
IN LEARNING

The Annual Report of the Goochland County Public Schools
October 2016



Jeremy Raley, Ed.D.,
Superintendent

Kevin Hazzard,
Board Chairperson

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High quality public schools contribute to the quality of our community. Thank you for your involvement and support!

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Explorations in Learning, Volume 4, the Annual Instructional Report of the Goochland County Public Schools.

*Layout & Design by
John G. Hendron, Ed.D.,
Director of Innovation & Strategy*

Focused on Optimism

Dr. Jeremy Raley began working as the Superintendent of Goochland County Public Schools this past summer. Previous to serving as the Superintendent of Goochland, Dr. Raley worked as the Superintendent of Shenandoah County Public Schools. The Maryland-native earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from the University of Virginia and his doctorate in education from Shenandoah University. Dr. Raley believes Goochland is a community that values and supports education. He sees Goochland Public Schools as “a leader in providing students with engaging and authentic academic experiences.”



Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Raley

One of Dr. Raley’s main focuses is meeting the instructional needs for all of the students in Goochland. In order to meet these needs, Dr. Raley states that our school division will “continually evaluate our current level of performance and seek opportunities to grow and improve.” Dr. Raley also states that these opportunities must provide students with “technological tools that they will need in order to be engaged in deep, authentic, and engaging learning experiences.” He cites the need to use authentic academic experiences and he emphasizes the need to incorporate student-centered and project-based approaches to student learning.

When asked about the future direction of Goochland, Dr. Raley states “our school division will continue to shine as a leader in public education” and we will “continue to strive for an innovative atmosphere that maximizes teaching and learning experiences.” Dr. Raley is also a firm believer that “the success of Goochland County Public Schools is directly related to the skills, talents, and expertise of our dedicated and passionate employees.”

Dr. Raley is enthusiastic about his new role with Goochland and excited to be a part of the Goochland community. He is a firm advocate of open communication and transparency. He encourages any members of the community to contact him and encourages any business partners to consider collaborating with our school district. **G**

Goochland High School 3250-A River Road West (804) 556-5322 Christopher Collier, principal 829 students, grades 9-12	Byrd Elementary School 2704 Hadensville-Fife Road (804) 556-5380 James Hopkins, principal 336 students, preK-5	Randolph Elementary School 1552 Sheppard Town Road (804) 556-5385 Daniel Gardner, principal 488 students, preK-5
Goochland Middle School 3250-B River Road West (804) 556-5320 Jennifer Rucker, principal 592 students, grades 6-8	Goochland Elementary School 3150 River Road West (804) 556-5321 Tina McCay, principal 368 students, preK-5	

On the front cover...
Students in the classroom of Joseph Beasley, our division teacher of the year, use Minecraft to support language arts learning.



Dear Community:

During the 2015-16 school year, the Goochland County Public Schools continued to shine as a leader in providing our community’s students with first-class academic experiences focused on preparing them for success in life through meaningful learning experiences. Our school division has been recognized on multiple occasions by a variety of professional organizations for our leadership in maximizing every student’s potential through learning opportunities that are purposely designed to prepare our students for the challenges of learning and working in a modern global economy. Many of these accolades are highlighted in this annual report. We are extremely proud of the exceptional accomplishments of our talented students and employees!

As we begin another school year, we want to honor and celebrate our school division’s past successes, while we also work to make continued and sustained progress so that we can continue to shine as a leader in our region, state, and nation. This progress will result from critically evaluating our current level of performance so that we can make advancements and improvements into the future. It is our ongoing goal to be innovative in our instructional delivery as we strategically design effective instructional opportunities that are geared toward increasing student engagement and academic growth for every learner.

We seek to accomplish innovative instruction by providing students rigorous academic experiences that will allow students to have a deeper understanding of curriculum and content. Deeper learning will result when academic concepts are coupled with authentic experiences that will provide students with the skills they need in order to be future-ready in a global economy.

“Preparing contemporary learning to become globally competent is a right now skill. Becoming world-ready is not an enrichment experience, but a necessity” —Heidi Hayes Jacobs, Ph.D.

I am grateful for the outpouring of support that our community provides our school division. Team Goochland’s past and future success is the result of a community that values and understands the importance of education and the benefits it can provide in the future. As John Dewey writes, “What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child, that must the community want for all its children.” I hope the time you spend reading this report will provide you with a better understanding of the excellence of our school division and the role that we, as a community, play in preparing our students to be successful citizens. Thank you for the contributions you have made to invest in Goochland County’s future: our students!

Dr. Jeremy Raley, Superintendent

One of our core, non-negotiable values as an organization is that we are optimistic, that we have a positive view of others, and a belief that EVERYONE can learn.

Working in Goochland

Contributed by **Stephen A. Geyer, Ed.D.**, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Choosing a place to build or continue a career is a significant decision. Our salaries are competitive. Our benefits package is strong. But it's the way it feels to be part of the Goochland team that brings people to our organization and keeps them here.

Our team members are the difference makers in our school community. Programs, facilities, and material resources matter, without a doubt, but none of them are maximized without the care and expertise of our people. As an organization, we recognize this and we're intentional about it—and it's evident when you talk to any member of our team.

"This is my seventh year of teaching, my first in Goochland. I have neither experienced first-hand nor heard from my peers of a school division as innovative and community-oriented as Goochland's schools. Everything this county does is truly for the betterment of the students, staff, and community members. There is an overwhelming feeling of support the second you become part of the Goochland family and you are always encouraged to try new things inside the classroom!"

—Katie Kibler, Randolph Elementary

"Goochland schools are truly committed to maximizing the potential of every student by providing the best leadership, support and tools to make learning relevant and engaging."

As a former Goochland High School graduate, it is truly an honor to serve as an educator in this great school community where educators encouraged my dreams and inspired me to become a lifelong learner. Goochland is a great place to teach, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this excellent team."

—Karen Harden, Goochland Middle School

"The vision and values of Goochland County Public Schools align perfectly with my own. We work to maximize the potential of each learner with focus on excellence, creativity, courage, honor, and optimism. Teachers are not only given the autonomy to exercise professional judgement and to take risks, but we are encouraged to do so."

—Kelley Taylor, Goochland Elementary School

"As a principal and parent, I find myself really calling Randolph Elementary my home, and thus calling the colleagues I work with family. The entire Goochland team is dedicated to our children. It's evident not just in how they stay current in their craft, but also in how much they deeply care for each child."

—Dan Gardner, Randolph Elementary School

"As a teenager growing up in Goochland, I didn't truly appreciate the beauty and serenity of a rural community. Now as an adult and seasoned teacher, there's no place I'd rather live or work. Though this is only my second year at Byrd Elementary School, it seems much, much longer because of the warmth, love and generosity shown to me by my BES family. They embraced me and immediately made me feel like I belonged. I LOVE teaching at BES, where it is evident that the entire team is focused on and dedicated to providing meaningful, authentic learning opportunities within which all students can thrive."

—Simone Jones, Byrd Elementary School

"Having lived in Goochland most of my life, attended Goochland County Public Schools, and raised a family in this beautiful county, I am excited to be a part of the education of our children. Everything we do in transportation is a team effort and we are dedicated to safely transporting children every day. Our goal is to begin incorporating technology into the transportation department allowing greater access to online information for parents, students and school employees."

—Kathy Sullivan, GCPS Transportation Department

"As a teacher, parent, and community member, I am honored to be a part of Goochland County Public Schools. Our five core values drive our vision and mission and are embedded in our teaching and learning across every grade level and every school. Each day students rise to the challenge of being engaged in deeper learning through innovation, technology, and 21st Century skills."

— Sarah Smith, Goochland Elementary School

"Great leadership, awesome resources, and the best students anywhere make Goochland a truly special place to teach."

— Jim Neufer, Goochland Middle School

"Whenever I have seen a rainbow, I always wondered where the end of the rainbow was. Working in Goochland, I now realize that this is the end of the rainbow and where dreams come true."

—Rachel Wilborn, Goochland High School

There are a lot of reasons to follow us online through social media. We'd like you to continue to hear stories like these through tweets, Facebook posts, and now Instagram photos.

Twitter	@glnschools
Facebook	@GoochlandCountySchools
Instagram	@goochlandschools
YouTube	https://goo.gl/cn7Szh

Capital Improvements

Contributed by **Andrew Armstrong**, Executive Director of Business & Operations

Facilities Improvements

Goochland County Public Schools understands the importance of safe, inviting, and updated facilities in the delivery of an instructional program that supports our mission and vision. With a steadily growing student population (up nearly 100 students from 2,421 in 2013 to 2,518 in 2016) our commitment to staying ahead of a growing population and adapting to the needs of a 21st century school is critical. The third goal of the division strategic plan includes the *Capital Improvement Plan* (CIP), which plans for additions, renovations, and improvements to existing facilities, the construction of new facilities, and the purchase of new equipment during an eight fiscal year period between 2014 and 2021. The CIP is reviewed annually by the Facilities Committee, comprised of citizens representing each of the five districts; the team conducts an analysis of each facility's capacity and utilization to make recommendations on adjustments to the CIP.



Safe Schools

The safety of our students and staff is our number one priority and is a required condition for effective schools. Since the original construction of many of our facilities, including our three elementary schools, which were all opened in their current buildings in 1959, public schools nationwide have had to adapt to shifting challenges to school safety. Goochland has instituted several recent changes and has many more scheduled for the near future to enhance student safety, including:

- Construction of secure entryways and vestibules at Byrd and Randolph Elementary Schools;
- Inclusion of a new main entrance, secure entry, and vestibule in the current Goochland Elementary renovation, scheduled for completion fall of 2016;
- Upgrades in progress to the Goochland High and Middle video surveillance system; and



- Installation in progress of video surveillance and keycard entry at Randolph Elementary to enhance safety in the breezeway between the new mobile classroom addition and the main building.

Recently Completed and Current Projects

Goochland Elementary Renovation

The renovation of Goochland Elementary School is being completed in October of 2016, and includes:

- Construction of an ADA compliant elevator on the two-story portion of the school;
- Relocation of the main entryway away from River Road;
- Construction of a secure entryway to a newly-relocated front office;
- Replacement of existing exterior doors;
- Installation of a new canopy in the student drop-off/pick-up loop;
- HVAC upgrades;
- Resurfacing and painting of the parking area;
- New paint and tile throughout the building; and
- Creation of new STEAM and counseling areas.

Randolph Elementary Mobile Classroom Addition

The addition of four mobile classrooms at Randolph Elementary School was completed in September. The addition includes four fully functional, wired, and plumbed classrooms, including restrooms and internet access. A ramp, handrails, and sidewalks to the nearby main building were also constructed to accompany the mobile classrooms. **G**

An Inspirational Start to the Year

Contributed by **John Hendron, Ed.D.**, Director of Innovation & Strategy

The start of this school year has been an inspiring one! This year's convocation, bringing all employees together for the start of school at the high school auditorium, introduced a new leadership team at GHS, an address from the state superintendent of public instruction, Dr. Steven Staples, an inspiring speech from our 2017 Teacher of the Year, Mr. Joseph Beasley, the teachers from our three G21 award winning projects, and our new superintendent, Dr. Jeremy Raley. This year's theme was "Optimistic About Our Future" and that theme is really one for the entire year, taking one of our five core values front and center.

"Academic optimism has a powerful effect on student achievement," Dr. Raley told our division's staff. "If there are other factors outside our control that negatively impact their achievement, an optimistic outlook about their success can reverse the trend," he said. Sometimes called "academic mindset," he called upon everyone in the division to encourage optimism in everything we do. "When students believe they can succeed, and they have the support to do so, guess what? They do!"

The following Monday, we heard from the National 2013 Teacher of the Year from the state of Washington, Mr. Joe Charbonneau, who has the "day job" as a high school science teacher, robotics team coach, and at least a dozen other titles and responsibilities he holds as the teacher in a small school district. His message was peppered with humor and pragmatism, but his dedication to improving the lives of students was always front and center. Charbonneau underscored the power in developing strong relationships with students that ultimately lead to their engagement with learning.

Supporting our students, staff, and community throughout the year, the Goochland Education Foundation sponsored this year's G21 Awards. Their efforts at fund raising to support our students and teachers makes a difference in the lives of all those affiliated with the schools.

Elementary Award

Jennifer Gates and the Fourth Grade Team at Randolph Elementary School

Secondary Award

James Frago, Goochland Middle

Divisionwide Award

Ariel Perry, Goochland Elementary School, and Jennifer Abbott, Goochland High School

The G21 Awards highlight excellence in education in our division, featuring our teachers who have used innovative projects to promote the development of twenty-first century skills and use technology in the hands of students to support deeper learning. **G**



Jennifer Gates with students



Students in the classroom of James Frago



Jennifer Abbott and Ariel Perry at Convocation



The Goochland Education Foundation supports a number of important initiatives for our public schools. To learn more, visit them online at www.goochlandedu.org

Contributed by M. Sean Campbell,
Technology Specialist and Data Analyst

New Faces

New Division Leadership for Goochland County Public Schools

Goochland County Public Schools is pleased to announce the addition of several new team members who have taken on leadership roles within the organization. We also wanted to introduce several team members who have been promoted to new positions. A profile of our new superintendent, Dr. Jeremy Raley, appears on page 2.

Andrew Armstrong, Executive Director of Business Operations

No leader, no technology, no new facilities can replace effective people in any organization, especially public schools...
—Andrew Armstrong

Andrew Armstrong is a native of Newport News, Virginia, and comes from a family with deep ties to the shipping industry. Mr. Armstrong earned his Bachelor's degree in Spanish from the University of Richmond and earned his Master's degree in Education from Virginia Commonwealth University. Prior to accepting his position with Goochland, Armstrong spent his entire career as a teacher and administrator in Henrico County Public Schools.

Mr. Armstrong believes that Goochland aligns well with his personal beliefs about the landscape of 21st century education. Armstrong says, "It takes a courageous district to put deeper and personalized learning in front of high stakes testing," he notes, "and Goochland has distinguished itself in that effort."

When asked about his greatest accomplishment, Mr. Armstrong said that his success as a father and husband are always first and foremost. Armstrong and his wife, Danielle, have three daughters and live in Richmond. Mr. Armstrong invites any member of the community to contact him if he can be of service and has asked for followers on his Twitter account: @gcps_armstrong

GHS Administrative Team

Goochland High School is fortunate to have three dynamic, high energy administrators who have taken the leadership



Armstrong



Collier



Mason



Wilborn



Martin



Sullivan



Lawrence

reins. **Christopher Collier** is the new principal at GHS and is no stranger to the field of education. As the son of two retired high school principals and the husband of a school counselor, he jokingly says, "Teaching runs in my blood." Collier earned his Bachelor's degree from the University of Richmond and his Master's in Education from the University of Virginia.

When asked about coming to Goochland, Mr. Collier says, "I immediately felt at home at Goochland High School and love that I have the opportunity to make a real impact on the lives of students." Collier views his daily interactions with students as his opportunity to "provide support and guidance to help them navigate the challenges of life and become productive citizens."

Mr. Collier stated, "I want to express my sincerest appreciation to our school board, superintendent, division leadership team, faculty, students, parents and community members for welcoming me and my family to Goochland and for believing in me. I am truly honored to be the principal of one of the premier high schools in the state, and I look forward to serving the Goochland community for many years to come."

Goochland High School also has two new Assistant Principals, **Matthew Mason** and **Rachel Wilborn**. Both Mr. Mason and Ms. Wilborn are natives of Henrico County and have had previous professional experiences in Henrico County Public Schools.

Mr. Mason says he has always wanted to be a part of the Goochland team "because of the amazing support within the school division and the entire community." Ms. Wilborn sees Goochland as a "model school system that enables students to discover their passions and pursue them."

Both Mr. Mason and Ms. Wilborn describe themselves as being "servant leaders," viewing their role at Goochland High School as "always looking first to help others." As Wilborn states, "My goals for GHS do not mean much if they are not first rooted in someone else's need for our school."

Mr. Mason views his family as one of the most important aspects of his success. He and his wife have two young daughters whom Mason refers to as "amazing princesses." Ms. Wilborn also sees her family as a major contributor of her success. She and her husband have a daughter who she describes as "beautiful, funny, and vivacious."

The GHS administrative team hit the ground running full speed this past summer and is looking forward to many years of service to our students, staff, parents, and community.

Kathy Sullivan, Supervisor of Transportation

Having been a part of Goochland most of my life, I love the people, the county, and being a part of a team focused on helping children achieve success. —Kathy Sullivan

Kathy Sullivan is a graduate of Goochland High School and proud of it! Ms. Sullivan is equally proud to say that her son, Clark, is also a GHS alumnus. Sullivan retired as postmaster from the Goochland Post Office knowing that she wanted to continue her service to the community.

Ms. Sullivan believes Goochland County Public Schools is the ideal place to work because she enjoys solving problems and wants to "create a strong working relationship with school personnel and parents." One of the main goals for Sullivan and her team is to integrate more technology into the transportation department and allow parents greater access to information. Ms. Sullivan is committed to leading through collaboration and is excited to continue to serve the Goochland community.

Rob Lawrence, Supervisor of Maintenance

After becoming a member of the school division maintenance team in Goochland, I realized what a tremendous, positive impact the team makes on so many people.
—Rob Lawrence

Rob Lawrence has been employed by Goochland County for nearly 25 years and was named Supervisor of Maintenance last spring. Mr. Lawrence began his career as a team member in a private HVAC firm after he graduated from the Richmond Technical Center and was attracted to Goochland because of its size and his ability to directly impact the lives of students and teachers.

When asked about his leadership, Lawrence simply states, "I lead by example." He is excited about the future of Goochland Schools and is already planning on future building upgrades

by expanding the use of automated systems aimed at eliminating waste and building on the division's strong track record of efficient energy management.

Mr. Lawrence also gives his sincerest thanks and appreciation to his team: David Frith, Chris Richmond, Steve Rochkind, and Bill Lyon. "I work with a great team, and I recognize that every single day."

Peter Martin, Director of Technology

Instruction should drive technology - this is my core belief in implementing technology in K-12 education. Our job is to provide technology that is intuitive, relevant, adaptive and reliable. and to provide the best customer service we can. —Peter Martin

This year marks Peter Martin's 30th year in managing technology in a business/enterprise setting. Peter started working for Goochland in 2004 and has enjoyed growing with the division as it has adapted and embraced new ideas and technologies over the past twelve years. He grew up in Pittsburgh, PA and graduated from Allegheny College in 1985; Martin went on to complete his Master of Arts in French in 1987 from Bowling Green State University.

After spending several years working on Capitol Hill, where he developed an affinity with technology, Peter and his wife Kathleen relocated to the Richmond area and have now been here for nearly a quarter century. They have two children; Ethan—a sophomore at Christopher Newport University and Emily—a senior at Maggie Walker. Peter and his wife are looking forward to/dreading becoming empty nesters.

Mr. Martin loves the GCPS family environment, the close friendships he has made, and the daily challenges of managing several thousand devices. Martin says, "We have a wonderful, unique team in Technology here in Goochland. Our skills don't overlap as much as mesh—and this is a huge part of why Goochland's schools have been recognized as a leader in technology innovation in education. I'm proud of what we have done and I can't wait to see what's next. **G**

WHERE STUDENTS ARE IN CONTROL

Scrum provides a method for efficiency with collaboration—an awesome thing for supporting deeper learning.



James Frago teaches science and social studies at Goochland Middle School

Since 2008, Goochland has been using a label to describe efforts to bring a project-based approach to learning to students across all grade levels. We call it G21. But more recently, we have been watching several teachers innovate in the way they bring these learning experiences to students. What's new and interesting is putting the students in charge of these projects, and teaching them how to work effectively as part of a small team.

Last year, teachers Joe Beasley (GES) and James Frago (GMS) introduced to their students this new methodology for learning. Armed with iPad mobile devices, laptops, poster board, and a lot of sticky notes, the classes embarked on a style of learning called scrumming which is based upon the "iterative and incremental agile software development methodology" (Wikipedia, 2016) called Scrum. Scrum, when used in the classroom, directly supports a style of instruction that by design, engages students.

Inquiry-based learning is when students learn through question-asking and researching the answers. Instead of telling students something, teachers might devise rich questions that don't have single, simple answers. Collaborative learning is when students work cooperatively in teams and where each student has a specific role by which they contribute to the team's success. Scrum, then, is a way to organize teams of students around producing a product. Scrum is empirical and collaborative in nature, asking participants to keep an open mind so that new options emerge as a team works towards solutions. In the workplace, this might be a computer application designed to overcome a problem. In the classroom, this might be an artifact, such as a class presentation, a book that will be published online, a physical model, or a movie. One of the first times it was tried, Mr. Beasley challenged his 5th graders to write computer programs using Scratch software. The synergy of working on software development with a technique used in business, even though it was geared towards helping teach in subjects as diverse as social studies, science, and language arts.

James Frago's project on World War II History Newsreels won him the G21 Award at this year's August Convocation. This project put students in small teams that used Scrum to organize themselves around producing their own version of news reports about events that took place during World War II. The student teams used green screen technology, costumes, and historical footage in the production of their videos. While Scrum isn't detectable in the videos themselves, it is something to behold if you visit the classroom.

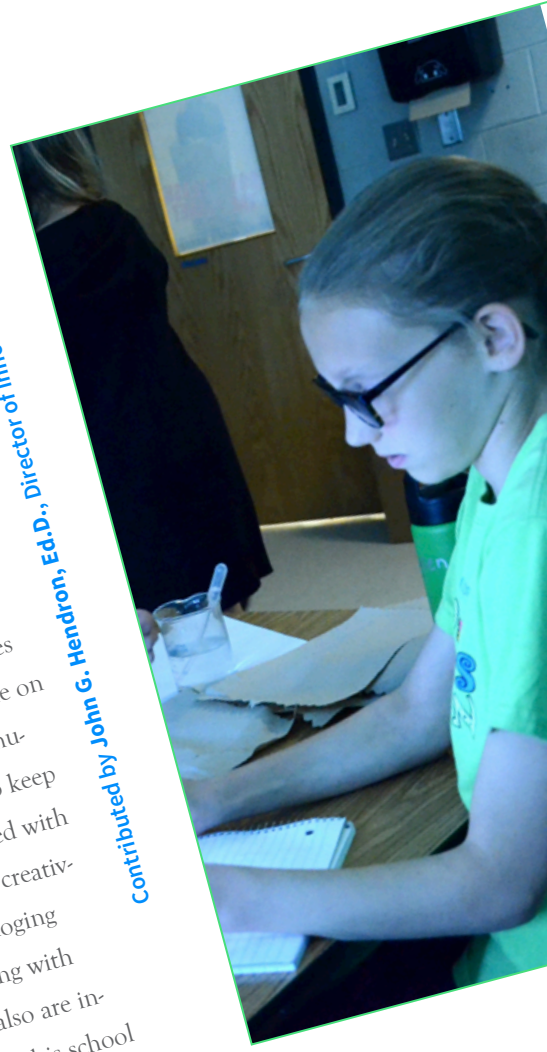
Having spent time in both Beasley's and Frago's classrooms, I was amazed to see students actively engaged with one another. It is more typical to see students engaged

by interactions with a teacher, but in these cases, the teacher as in the background, available for check-ins and consultations with teams. Students seemed to own the experience, and everyone knew what was going on. Despite a lot of conversation taking place at one time, there was a clear focus among students on what they needed to be doing to support their learning. In some scenarios, students were grouped together at tables, each with a laptop. In others, students took to the halls to complete work. And in another, students used a whiteboard to plan out ideas, standing up.

Bea Leiderman, Goochland's secondary instructional technology coach, along with Beasley and Frago, attended the 2016 ISTE Conference in Denver where they presented on the use of Scrum in their classrooms. The trio was also featured in an article published by the International Society for Technology in Education for their magazine, *entreskt*, that spoke to the rise of Scrum technique in other schools. Leiderman was quoted in the article: "What I've seen is that kids have improved their communication skills and are able to keep their team working through problems by discussing what is going on rather than arguing unproductively... Since all tasks and ownership of those tasks are explicitly communicated, it's easier for students to resolve conflict rationally rather than stumbling over emotions or personal conflict."

As we continue our journey in Goochland at providing students ample opportunities to use tools that amplify their abilities with 1:1 iPads this year (see our earlier article on *Bicycles for the Mind*), and next year with laptops at Goochland High, we are continuously focused on how to improve our instructional delivery so that we are able to keep students at the center of their learning, to have students become actively engaged with content, and to prepare students to solve problems that require ingenuity and creativity. This year the team of Beasley, Frago, and Leiderman will embark on cataloging their journey with Scrum through a collaborative blog in addition to engaging with colleagues with training opportunities on using the Scrum technique. We also are interested in sharing the success with this technique with other schools. Later this school year, an article around our efforts will be published by Virginia's ASCD magazine, a journal delivered to educators throughout the Commonwealth. **G**

Joseph Beasley teaches fifth grade at Goochland Elementary with Amanda Steeley



Contributed by John G. Hendron, Ed.D., Director of Innovation & Strategy

Recognizing Something Special

ECCHO Awards

The GCPS ECCHO awards provide the opportunity for colleagues, leaders, parents, or students to nominate an individual within GCPS who embody the division's core values: Excellence, Creativity, Courage, Honor, and Optimism.

This year's ECCHO award winners are:

November 2015

- Suzanne Taylor, Teacher, Randolph Elementary School
- Amy Trowbridge, Secretary/Bookkeeper, Byrd Elementary School
- Stephanie Falconer, Library Media Specialist, Goochland Middle School
- Jacqueline Hamilton, Instructional Assistant, Goochland High School
- Amanda Steeley, Teacher, Goochland Elementary School
- Lisa Hobbs, Accounts Payable Clerk/Receptionist, Central Office

March 2016

- Madison Duke, Student, Byrd Elementary School
- Jane Anderson, Nurse, Goochland Elementary School
- Whitney Neiditch, Teacher, Randolph Elementary School
- Becky Allen, Custodian, Goochland Middle School
- Stephanie Wyche, Accounting Supervisor, Central Office
- Class of 2016, Goochland High School

August 2016

- Carolyn Trongone, Secretary/Bookkeeper, Goochland Elementary School
- Lee Russell, Secretary/Bookkeeper, Randolph Elementary School



Pictured (L-R): Dr. Raley, Lee Russell, Carolyn Trongone, Debbie White, and Kevin Hazzard at the August 2016 board meeting.

Individual Recognitions

Kenny Bouwens - 2016 Virginia High School Technology Education Teacher of the Year

Goochland High School teacher, Mr. Kenny Bouwens, was recently recognized by the Virginia Technology Education and Engineering Association (VTEEA) as the statewide 2016 Virginia High School Technology Education Teacher of the Year. Officials from VTEEA commented, "Mr. Bouwens' nomination stood out because of the great lengths he goes to in ensuring his students leave his classroom with clear strengths in design development, engineering, and the use of technology."

Steve Geyer - 2016 JMU Distinguished Alumni

Dr. Stephen Geyer, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, was recently honored by James Madison University, receiving the university's 2016 *Distinguished Alumni Award*. The award recognizes an alumnus of the university who has made exceptional contributions to his or her particular field or profession. JMU officials described Dr. Geyer as, "an accomplished alumnus who embodies the ideals of James Madison University."

Organizational Recognitions

Byrd Elementary - Distinguished Title I School

In January, forty-six Virginia schools were recognized by the Virginia Department of Education as Title I Distinguished Schools for meeting all state and federal accountability requirements for two consecutive years and for achieving consistently strong SOL pass rates in reading and mathematics. Ms. Raye Rector, Coordinator of Gifted and Federal Programs, was elated to report recently that one of those outstanding schools is our very own Byrd Elementary School. Ms. Rector commented, "The Title I program at Byrd provides supplemental instruction to students in reading and math. Byrd is also home to a strong pre-kindergarten program designed to help four-year-olds develop readiness skills for immediate success in kindergarten." The Title I staff (Ms. Tanya Elliott, Mr. Nathan Potter, Ms. Bethany Gordon and Ms. Romeka Coles) works tirelessly together, as well as collaboratively with the entire faculty at Byrd, to ensure student success. Byrd is also fortunate to have a dedicated, supportive principal, Mr. James Hopkins. Mr. Hopkins had this to say about Byrd's accomplishment: "It is a great honor to have earned this distinguished award! The teachers and support staff do an amazing job of building relationships and establishing high expectations for our students. I am so proud to be the principal of Byrd where we strive to maximize the potential of all learners!"

Goochland Middle - National Schools to Watch

Goochland Middle School was just named a National Middle School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. This recognition is the result of a rigorous application and review process that spanned two school years, a process that includes close inspection of the school's ability to meet the needs of all students. GMS will hold this distinction for three years, at which time the school can reapply for consideration. The school is one of 144 schools in the U.S. to achieve this designation this year.

Finance/Budget Award

The school division's Office of Finance received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the third consecutive year. GFOA's evaluation process is extremely rigorous, and the award recognizes the publication of a comprehensive, effective, and transparent budget document. Congratulations to Mrs. Debbie White, the school division's Director of Finance, and her team.

Athletic Recognitions

Our athletic programs continue to excel. Recognizing every accomplishment of the past year would fill this entire publication, but we wanted to highlight our state champions. The girls volleyball team, led by head coach Jennifer Erixon and assistant coach Andrew Hover, won the 2016 state title, the first state championship for any female sports team in the history of Goochland High School. The boys tennis team, led by head coach Eric Schlaud, also produced state championships: Chase Bernstine brought home the state singles title, while Chase and his brother Ryan Bernstine teamed up to take the state doubles title.

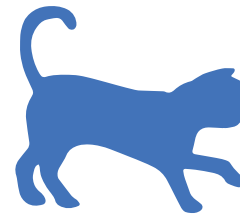
Congratulations to every one of our student-athletes, coaches, and families for an incredibly successful year! Thank you for your sportsmanship, dedication, and teamwork—and for representing the Goochland community with class. **G**



Pictured (L-R): Jennifer Rucker, principal, and Amie Potter, assistant principal of Goochland Middle School.

CTE Programming Update

Career & Technical Education



Contributed by **Bruce Watson**, Director of Career & Technical Education

Our Career and Technical Education (CTE) program continues to help students find their individual passion for learning and focus on what they may want to pursue after graduation. The 2016-17 school year brings additional CTE offerings and opportunities, all of which have sparked even more excitement from our students.

The newest addition to the program is a Veterinary Assistant course being taught at Goochland Animal Clinic in collaboration with Dr. Margaret Washburn and her staff at the clinic. This will be a two-year program, and our students will earn specialized certification upon completion of the two-year pathway. This is an example of one of many business partnerships between Goochland Schools and our local businesses.

Additionally, many of the CTE programs have been expanded to include second year courses where students can earn an industrial certification that will make them more marketable when they enter the workforce. These additions include MCJROTC III, Culinary

Arts II, Carpentry II, and Nurse Aide II. We have also increased apprenticeship, internship, and job shadowing opportunities for students who are ready to apply their learning in the field.

Finally, another new effort this school year will include mock interviews with members of our business community designed to help prepare our students for both employment and college admissions interviews.

We are proud of the strong role our CTE opportunities play in our overall high school program. **G**



Certifications on the Rise

One of the cornerstones of our Career and Technical Education (CTE) program is the opportunity for students to earn industrial certifications. These certifications (or credentials) may be earned through the successful completion of a two-year course sequence in any CTE area coupled with the successful completion of the associated credentialing exam. Over the past two school years the number of students to earn an industrial certification has more than doubled, with 248 earned by the end of the 2015-16 school year!

Did you know? Highlights from Across the Division



Food Services “Farm to Table”

Goochland’s School Nutrition has launched the “My Way Cafe” at Goochland High School this year, providing students with nutritious and popular options that include the opportunity to customize their meals. Enhancing this initiative is the integration of the many delicious local resources we have right here in Goochland, including the Brookview Farm’s “farm to table” beef that has been included in the high school cafeteria’s burrito bowl option.

Preschool Expansion

Goochland County Public Schools is pleased to offer preschool classrooms at each of its three elementary schools for the 2016-17 academic year! Our Title I Preschool (Byrd Elementary), Head Start (Goochland Elementary), and Virginia Preschool Initiative (Randolph Elementary) classrooms are full day programs and offer free transportation to and from school. Eligibility criteria vary among programs, but are designed to ensure that students most at-risk for school success qualify for inclusion. These programs, combined with our Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) and associated inclusion programs, now allow 84 students to receive at least one year of valuable, high-quality instruction prior to entering kindergarten!

English Learners - 5-yr Trend

We have observed a steady increase in the number of students who are served through our English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. In fact, within the past five years, there has been a 57% increase

in the number of students enrolled in our program. The vast majority (more than 95%) of our English Learners speak Spanish as their primary or other language. Our ESOL teachers work closely with the school community to ensure our English Learners are supported both academically and emotionally.

2016 Summer STEM Camp

The 5th Annual STEM camp took place with participation from 154 students in grades K-10. New to this year’s camp was a session for our high school students that included the use of 3D printers, laser cutters, CNC (computer numerical control) routers, and vacuum forming equipment to build a mini-hovercraft. Our K-2 students learned about *Big Machines* while having the opportunity to use mechanical simulators loaned to us by our partners at Luck Companies. They could also get their hands dirty in *Ooey Goey* where culinary arts was the name of game. The final choice for our youngest campers was *Star Light, Star Bright*, which included the study of space. Students in grades 3-5 participated as *Emerging Engineers* and students in grades 6-8 were *Apprentice Engineers* where they learned survivor skills, Goochland-style! Hands down, this was our best summer STEM Camp yet!

By The Numbers

Squeaky Clean

409,331 square feet are cleaned and 160.98 acres maintained by the Goochland maintenance and custodial team.

All the School Buses

How many miles do our buses travel each day transporting students to and from their schools? 4,552 per day!

School Nurse Visits

Last year our nurses helped students across 16,803 visits.

Show Me the Money

Did you know that 73% of our funding comes from local sources? 23% comes from the state, and the remaining 4% comes from federal dollars.

Division Leadership Team Gives Back

Several members of the GCPS team spent a morning giving back to the Goochland community just before the start of the new school year. In partnership with the Goochland YMCA, 14 team members volunteered to participate in the regional Bright Beginnings program. This community outreach program provides school supplies and new clothes for students in need. Volunteer teams from across the region came together at the Regency Square Mall at 7:00AM one day in August to have breakfast with area students in need, followed by a morning of shopping together for school supplies and clothes.

The YMCA coordinates with a handful of stores in the mall to open their doors early to support the Bright Beginnings effort. The program is made possible by direct donations from individuals and organizations to the YMCA. This year’s Bright Beginnings program served more than 90 Goochland students. **G**

One to One Goochland continues expansion of computing

Just as the school year was getting started, the technology department geared up for its biggest event yet, the roll-out of 1:1 mobile computing devices for students in grades 3-8 across the division. Our initiative has focused on a modified instructional model embracing deeper learning, with a reliance upon projects, to meet the needs of learners for life beyond school. Alongside many new iPads, there are other enhancements associated with the program this year.

Our technology plan has articulated the use of iPads in grades 3-8. Students are encouraged to take the iPads home and use them for homework, studying, reading, and more. New this year are several new digital resources.

Apple Classroom is a new tool for teachers to manage the iPads in the classroom. Student iPads can be observed by teachers remotely, passcodes can be cleared, and teachers can lock students into specific apps to reduce the potential for distractability. Alongside this tool, the Apple ID has changed



Contributed by **John Hendron, Ed.D.**,
Director of Innovation & Strategy

this year for students; IDs can now be generated by the division and will be provided to students later this year. The Apple ID allows students to backup their data with Apple and use other iCloud services like iBooks. We plan on piloting the use of a digital ebook resource for students at GMS this year for French.

LightSail is an online reading program that works on the iPad. Students will choose books to read from a diverse library of interesting and curricularly-appropriate ebooks from our own customized digital library. Students' reading progress and self-assessment checks are built into each book, which allows our teachers to monitor individual student reading progress.

iCurio is a search tool for teachers and for students that enables powerful searching by state standards for curated, teacher-approved content. Search results can be customized by student reading ability.

ST Math is now being used in grades K-5. Spatial-Temporal

Math is a cutting-edge instructional tool that teaches math concepts without starting with language. Instead, students use inquiry to work through puzzles and make sense of mathematical concepts in both spatial (visual) and temporal (time-based) ways. You may hear students talk about JiJi, that's the star of ST Math (a penguin) who jumps, spins, and slides through each of the program's hundreds of puzzles.

Discovery Education is the maker of our **Discovery TechBooks** for middle school math and elementary and middle school science. These digital textbooks are designed to cover content in a variety of ways and assist teachers in monitoring student progress.

Teacher Innovators is a term that's been given to teachers selected to take on additional responsibilities by way of an extended contract. Four such teacher leaders were identified last spring and worked throughout the summer to develop "off the shelf" **instructional projects** for use in tandem with our 1:1 student computing efforts. These projects are focused on student mastery of core curriculum and designed to increase engagement and provide a framework for deeper learning. We plan to continue the program during the upcoming summer, ahead of our 2017-18 1:1 expansion in grades 9-12. This Fall 2017 rollout will include the deployment of MacBook Air computers to all high school students.

For more information about our award-winning 1:1 program, check out our dedicated webpage:

<http://goochlandschools.org/instruction/technology/innovation/> **G**

Investing in our Schools through Service

Goochland is an awesome place to work, live, and learn—in part because of the talented and dedicated volunteers who give of their time and expertise every single day within our schools and community. If you are interested in volunteering in our schools, please visit our division website under "About" or call our schools directly.

In addition to volunteering, there are also many opportunities for involvement and participation by way of school board and school division committees that help guide division priorities and decision making. These include:

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory

contact: Bruce Watson, bwatson@glnd.k12.va.us

Facilities & Energy Conservation Committee

contact: Andy Armstrong, aarmstrong@glnd.k12.va.us

Gifted Advisory Committee

contact: Raye Rector, rrector@glnd.k12.va.us

Goochland Education Foundation

contact: Debbie White, dwhite@glnd.k12.va.us

Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee

contact: Stephen Geyer, sgeyer@glnd.k12.va.us

School Health Advisory Board

contact: Jennifer Waggener, jwaggener@glnd.k12.va.us

School PTA/PTSA

contact: individual school

Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Advisory

contact: Bruce Watson, bwatson@glnd.k12.va.us

Special Education Advisory Committee

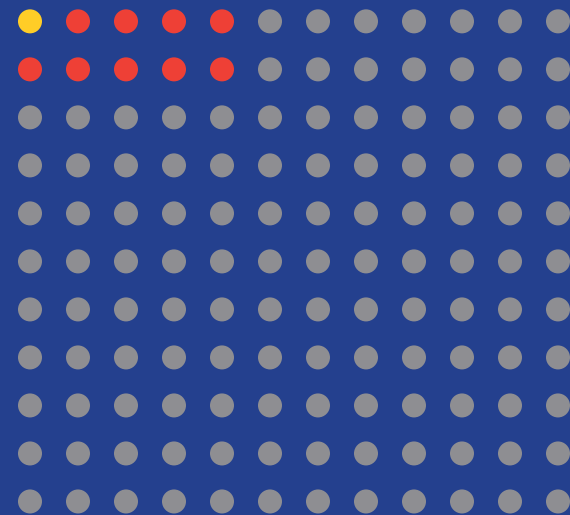
contact: Jennifer Waggener, jwaggener@glnd.k12.va.us

Teen Mental Health Awareness Committee

contact: Jennifer Waggener, jwaggener@glnd.k12.va.us

We hope you'll consider investing in the future by serving our school community!

MEASURING OUR SUCCESS



1 of the 10 school divisions in Virginia (132 total) to have 100% of our schools accredited by the state for the last 10 consecutive years.

While we do not believe that Standards of Learning scores are the best measure for how we measure success, we do think these scores make for apt comparisons for how we're doing. Based upon 2015-16 SOL released scores, Goochland ranks 6th in the state in History SOL and 11th in the state in Reading SOL.

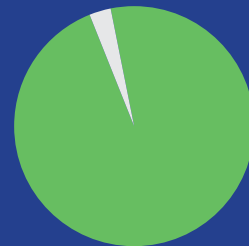
Across the metro-Richmond region, Goochland ranks 1st in pass rates for the Reading SOL, 2nd in Math SOL, and 1st in History SOL.

At the end of last school year, 38% of seniors planned to attend a two-year college while 47% planned to attend a four-year college. 10% planned to enter the workforce, 2% planned to enter the military, and 3% planned to pursue other educational opportunities. **G**

Talking to students and their families about their experience in Goochland is a really telling way to understand how we're living up towards our mission of maximizing the potential of every learner, every day. But we also use objective and quantitative measures to assess how well we're doing, and how we compare with our neighbors. Compiled and presented by Stephen Geyer, Ed.D., and Sean Campbell.

SAT

31 point increase in SAT scores over the last five years from students at Goochland High.



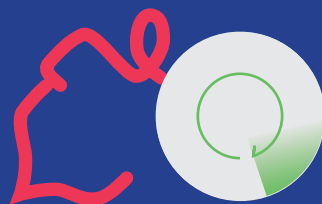
97% graduation rate at Goochland High.



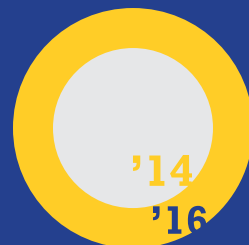
Outpaced MAP growth nationally by 20% in reading and 18% in mathematics.



Early intervention literacy program's success rate is double the state average.



42% increase in Advanced Placement test results over the past 5 years.



Number of CTE completers have increased by +240% since 2014.

Division	Reading	Writing	Math	Science	History
Chesterfield	83.5	76.3	83.1	84.2	86.5
Cumberland	69.3	68.7	72.8	75.7	81.4
Fluvanna	81.0	81.2	83.1	88.0	87.9
Goochland	First: 86.3	Fifth: 79.8	Second: 83.5	Fifth: 86.0	First: 92.2
Hanover	85.6	82.9	87.8	87.3	89.2
Henrico	77.8	74.9	77.3	84.2	86.0
Louisa	79.2	82.1	81.4	87.1	88.4
Powhatan	84.4	80.4	81.0	88.3	89.9
Richmond City	59.7	44.6	58.4	64.2	66.9

Dual Enrollment and University Partnerships

Contributed by **Stephen Geyer, Ed.D.**, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and **Raye Rector**, Coordinator of Gifted and Federal Programs



A rich, broad range of programming for students takes vision, creativity, and resources. Goochland High School provides a breadth and depth of opportunity on scale with a high school twice its size. We believe our students should be engaged in their school experience; we believe they should have choice; and

we believe they should be challenged. Our high school program allows students to be college and career ready—and highly competitive for both.

We are proud of our high school program, and we are grateful to our community for supporting the resources necessary to have strong, comprehensive offerings for our students: an award-winning fine arts program, a robust CTE program, electives like Marine Corps JROTC focused on student leadership, championship-level athletics, unique and varied co-curricular activities, and a rigorous overall academic program—traditionally referred to as “college prep.”

As a part of Goochland High School's college preparatory program, we have established strong partnerships with both 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities. These partnerships provide our students with many opportunities to take actual college courses. Along with participation in these rigorous courses, students also have the opportunity to earn college credit simultaneously, while earning high school credit toward Virginia's requirements for graduation. The term for taking a college course in high school with the goal of earning both college and high school credit is **dual enrollment**.

Goochland High School offers students dozens of

dual enrollment opportunities through several strong, long-standing partnerships with colleges and universities. These include partnerships with the University of Virginia, James Madison University, Shenandoah University, and Reynolds Community College.

Thirty-four Goochland High School juniors actually began their college careers on August 22, 2016 ~ the first day of the 2016-17 school year. Goochland and Reynolds Community College have joined forces to develop a unique program, *Advance College Academy* (ACA), where-in students are able to earn an associate degree during their last two years in high school. Through the partnership between Goochland and Reynolds, the tuition for families is greatly reduced, and all of the classes are taught at GHS during the regular school day by our high school faculty.

GHS Principal, Chris Collier, said, “I am extremely proud to work in a division that offers so many opportunities to our students. Based on what I have seen since I arrived in July, I am incredibly optimistic about the future of the ACA program.”

In addition to the coursework students take in their junior and senior years, there are ninth and tenth grade components of the program, including an orientation to ACA and sessions with Reynolds' college/career coach. As such, the application process for the ACA takes place in students' eighth grade year. To find out more, go to reynolds.edu/get_started/advance_college_academy.

Whether our graduates choose college or career immediately following high school, they will be prepared for a lifetime of success. Our university partnerships are one of the ways we make sure that they are. **G**



Goochland County Public Schools

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Make a Positive Impact

Visit us online at
www.glnl.k12.va.us

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These students at Goochland High School are each taking college courses this year as part of our Advance College Academy. Upon graduation, they will have earned a 2-year degree through Reynolds Community College before they receive their high school diploma.