

Students across the division took part in a solar eclipse viewing on the first day of school this year thanks in part to the Goochland Education Foundation who provided viewing glasses.



## *explorations* IN LEARNING

The Annual Report of the Goochland County Public Schools  
2017-2018 | October, 2017



# Superintendent's Welcome

Dear Community:

There is a tremendous amount of excitement in our school division as we embark on another school year. We had a highly successful school year last year as we continued our proud tradition of excellence! Our students and our staff continued to shine in the classroom as well as in co-curricular activities. Our faculty and staff serve as role models for education professionals across the region and state as they are recognized for the engaging academic experiences that they provide to students. The tremendous success of our school division has been recognized by many, including *Niche.com*, as a top rated school division in the Commonwealth.

Every day, our students are provided with rich and engaging learning opportunities that are purposefully designed to prepare them for success in an ever-changing global economy. Our dedicated and talented teachers purposefully plan academic experiences that engage our students in meaningful, personalized, authentic, fun, and exciting experiences on a regular basis. Everyone on our team is committed to continuing our division's proud tradition of excellence and maximizing the potential of EVERY learner.

Our school division's success is truly a team effort! The accomplishments of the Goochland County Public Schools do not happen without the support of our families, volunteers, citizens, and dedicated staff who contribute countless hours to ensure that our students are provided an exceptional academic experience. Our community understands and values the importance of education and the benefits that it provides in the future. I am grateful for the support that you provide to our school division and am thankful for the opportunity to serve with you as we strive to make a positive difference in the lives of our students.

It is my hope that this report provides you with a deeper understanding of the excellence that is present in our innovative school division. Thank you for the contributions that you have made to invest in our community's future!

—Jeremy J. Raley, Ed.D.,  
Superintendent



**Jeremy Raley, Ed.D.,**  
*Superintendent*

**Beth Hardy,**  
*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 5, the Annual Instructional Report of the Goochland County Public Schools.*

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

# #excellence

This year Goochland County Public Schools, with the support of the Goochland Education Foundation, recognized the 2017 Teacher of the Year from each school as well as the 2017-2018 GCPS Teacher of the Year. For the first time, *Employee of the Year* and *Team of the Year* awards were added to recognize the essential contributions of our staff and the value of collaboration. This year's winners are:

## Teachers of the Year:

Mr. Neil Burch, Goochland High School  
  
Mrs. Jennifer Gates, Randolph Elementary School  
  
Ms. Katie Gill, Goochland Middle School  
  
Mrs. Sarah Smith, Goochland Elementary School  
  
Mrs. Rachel Wiggins, Byrd Elementary School

## Employee of the Year:

Ms. Nikki Harris, Custodian, Randolph Elementary

## Team of the Year:

Goochland Preschool Team

The 2017-18 Goochland County Public Schools Teacher of the Year is **Mrs. Jennifer Gates**, fourth grade teacher at Randolph Elementary School. Mrs. Gates has been a part of the Randolph Elementary family for seven years, teaching in fifth, third, and now fourth grade. Before joining Goochland she taught in Newport News Public Schools for several years after graduating from Longwood University.

In Goochland, she has been a visible teacher leader, serving on several district level teams that work on Integrated Performance Assessments, Language Arts Balanced Assessments, Curriculum and Innovation, and Balanced Literacy. Mrs. Gates has presented at county-wide and state-level events, showcasing her expertise and dedication to progressive and innovative instruction. At Randolph her roles include grade level lead, outdoor learning lead (which includes after school work with the Garden Club), and a member of the school leadership team.

From room transformations and wild costumes, to climbing on the roof of the gym to launch parachute-wearing eggs, Mrs. Gates always welcomes anyone in to participate and contribute to memorable learning experiences. Mrs. Gates describes her passion and the critically important work that we do as educators: "We work with fresh and fearless minds. Our students come to us with active imaginations and an ability to absorb everything like sponges. Knowledge gives children the opportunity to create something meaningful, to find their voices, and to literally become anything they hope to be." Mrs. Jennifer Gates was chosen as Randolph's Teacher of the Year because she gives students a safe and exciting space to find their voices. She helps them explore, discover, and gain the tools and confidence they need to contribute to our future.

<b>Goochland High School</b>	<b>Byrd Elementary School</b>	<b>Randolph Elementary School</b>
<b>3250-A River Road West</b>	<b>2704 Hadensville-Fife Road</b>	<b>1552 Sheppard Town Road</b>
<b>(804) 556-5322</b>	<b>(804) 556-5380</b>	<b>(804) 556-5385</b>
<b>Christopher Collier, principal</b>	<b>James Hopkins, principal</b>	<b>Daniel Gardner, principal</b>
<b>848 students, grades 9-12</b>	<b>366 students, preK-5</b>	<b>492 students, preK-5</b>

<b>Goochland Middle School</b>	<b>Goochland Elementary School</b>
<b>3250-B River Road West</b>	<b>3150 River Road West</b>
<b>(804) 556-5320</b>	<b>(804) 556-5321</b>
<b>Jennifer Rucker, principal</b>	<b>Tina McCay, principal</b>
<b>611 students, grades 6-8</b>	<b>354 students, preK-5</b>

## PICTURED ABOVE:

Students in Ms. Jennifer Gates's classroom sometimes turn to games to enhance learning at Randolph Elementary. Gates was chosen as this year's teacher of the year.







# Preparing the Next Generation for Success

## Considering the Profile of a Goochland Graduate

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

Our school division’s vision is to inspire and prepare the next generation to make a positive impact. It’s a vision we established four years ago and has proven time and again to be a perfect aspiration for our day-to-day work. The statement is concise by design, though one that fully captures what our school community has decided is our most important charge.

A primary indicator of our strength in preparing the next generation is the ability for our graduates to achieve success in life beyond high school. This includes producing graduates who have the skills and abilities employers are seeking. Four years later, our division’s vision dovetails perfectly with current state level priorities associated with what has been deemed “The Profile of a Virginia Graduate.”

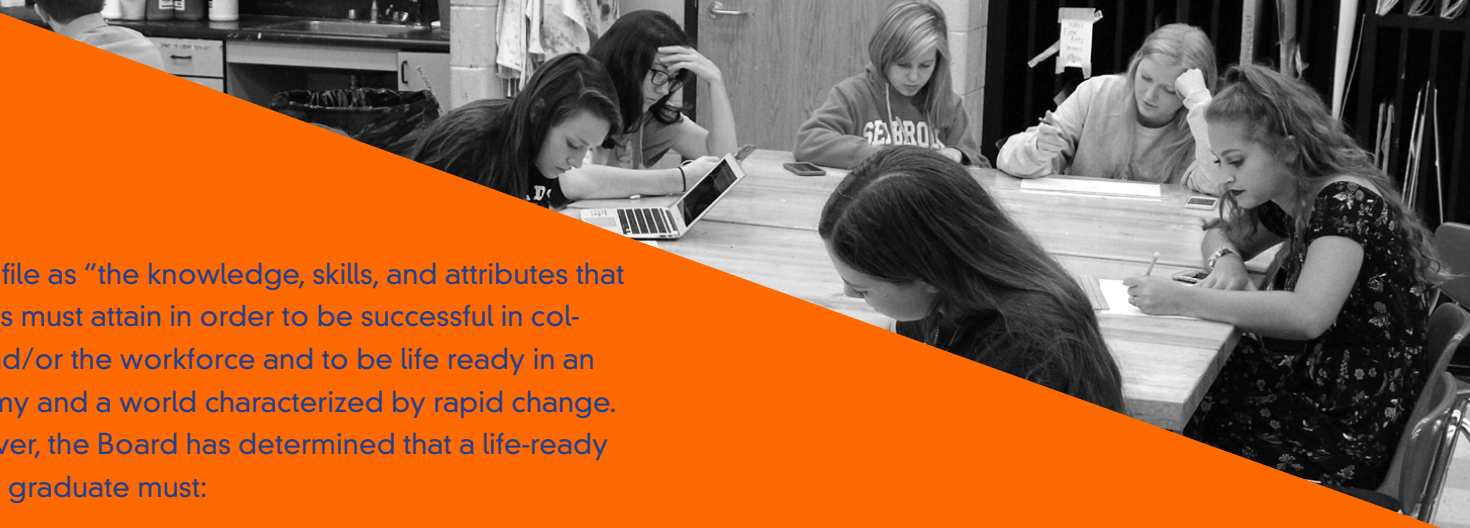
The Virginia Board of Education has recently described

The Profile as “the knowledge, skills, and attributes that students must attain in order to be successful in college and/or the workforce and to be life ready in an economy and a world characterized by rapid change. Moreover, the Board has determined that a life-ready Virginia graduate must:

- Achieve and apply appropriate academic and technical knowledge (content knowledge);
- Demonstrate productive professional readiness skills, qualities, and behaviors (workplace skills);
- Build connections and value interactions with others as a responsible and responsive citizen (community engagement and civic responsibility); and
- Align knowledge, skills and personal interests with career opportunities (career exploration).”  
— [www.doe.virginia.gov](http://www.doe.virginia.gov)

The Goochland vision, underpinned by our entire strategic plan, has helped chart a course for our division to be well out ahead of the state’s call to action and for our students to excel in life after high school. This success is reinforced by what we hear from our community partners:

“I love how Goochland [County Public Schools] is focused on the whole student. Not only does Goochland emphasize foundational academic skills, but they make it a point to focus on important aspects of being successful in life: things like integrating core values and leadership skills starting in kindergarten, focusing on collaboration, integrating subjects from across the curriculum into classes and putting an emphasis on solving real world problems. Additionally, it is exciting to be a part of Goochland’s investment in career and technical education to better prepare students looking to build a profession in the trades. Activities like teaching students how to not only run heavy machinery, but to integrate all of their learning experiences to become successful employees, entrepreneurs, and leaders. I



think the very best learning happens when it’s tangible and hands on – and Goochland understands this!”  
— Travis Chewning, Luck Stone, Senior Director of Engineering and Ops Support

“It’s clear that Goochland County Public Schools seek to give their students the all-around skills that are so critical for future success. I’ve had firsthand experience with the division’s mock interview program that utilizes volunteers from the business community to prepare students for success after high school. GCPS also makes great use of student internships, apprenticeships, and bringing guest speakers into the classroom to share their real world perspective with students. The school division is as committed to integrating the development of students’ soft skills into their day-to-day instruction as they are traditional academic knowledge.”  
— Vanessa Patterson, Richmond Area Municipal Contractors Association, Executive Director

“I have partnered with GCPS for several years as a member on their S.T.E.M. Advisory Council; through my work with this committee, I have seen educators and community members committed to finding creative ways to engage youth through a wide variety of applications — endeavors that apply to students’ everyday lives. So much of what the school division works hard to do is provide students with opportunities to think critically — and explore and solve real world problems.”  
— Chuck English, Science Museum of Virginia, Director of Playful Learning and Inquiry



# CTE Program to the Workforce—Learning that Works

Contributed by Bruce Watson, Director of Career & Technical Education

As the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program in Goochland has grown, we are again adding another option for our students who may choose to enter the workforce directly after graduation. Students in the second and third years of CTE classes offered at Goochland Tech now have the opportunity to participate in an apprenticeship program sponsored by a local business. Local employers are having an increasingly difficult time finding and holding on to quality, skilled workers and there is a prediction of a widening skills gap.

Many local and national employers worry about their rapidly aging workforces and struggle to find skilled workers to fill positions in their industry. Apprenticeships have been in place for decades and are a time-tested approach to training and developing skilled labor. Research has shown that apprenticeships offer numerous benefits to employees and employers. By investing in talent development through apprenticeship, employers gain a pipeline of skilled workers, increased productivity, improvement in the bottom line, and employees who are committed to the companies that invest in them.

Goochland High School students who choose to participate in an apprenticeship program their senior year will have their core classes on one day and will report to their employer the next day to spend a full day on the job. This system works well for both the student and employer by having the student report to work first thing in the morning and spending an entire day on the job with their mentor. In addition to the experience, students are receiving pay while they are on the job!

This year students in carpentry and heavy equipment operation are participating in apprenticeships and the plan is to expand this opportunity to include students in the culinary arts, nursing, and computer science programs. CTE prepares students to be college and career ready. By participating in apprenticeships, students receive training that can lead to recruitment for respectable, well-paying jobs. It's a great counterpoint to accruing college debt! CTE is learning that works for Goochland!

# Meeting Mr. Snow

I always knew deep down that I would be in education. Even my summer jobs growing up were spent working in the schools and helping teachers and principals.

Goochland County Public Schools is pleased to introduce **Mr. Taylor Snow** as the newest member of the high school administrative team. Mr. Snow will be serving as the Assistant Principal for Goochland High School this year. The Pulaski County native attended William & Mary for his undergraduate and graduate degrees. When asked about his desire to work in Goochland, Mr. Snow simply stated “I love the feeling of a tight community and I like how this school system embraces innovation.” Rather than “just settling for accreditation,” Mr. Snow sees Goochland as a statewide leader in education. For example, Mr. Snow is extremely impressed by Goochland’s new apprenticeship programs within the CTE department. He believes Goochland County Public Schools embraces the concept of innovation and deeper learning as an entire district and he is impressed in how Goochland cultivates and implements these new ideas very quickly.

Mr. Snow loves the strong sense of community within the county. Being from a small, rural county himself, he appreciates the feeling of belongingness and knows the importance of establishing relationships. Mr. Snow plans to prioritize relationship building this upcoming year. He intends to focus on students, parents, and teachers and wants to learn more about the families in our school system. Another priority of Mr. Snow’s is enhancing collaboration. Mr. Snow would like to encourage teachers to collaborate with one another more frequently and also encourage teachers to collaborate with more families to ensure student success.

On those rare occasions when Mr. Snow is not thinking about work, he enjoys distance running and playing disc golf. Mr. Snow is very excited to be in Goochland. He encourages all parents to reach out to him and/or follow him on Twitter: [@GHSSnow](#)

Contributed by M. Sean Campbell, Coordinator of Analytics and Technology  
Photo by Bea Leiderman, High School Technology Coach



# Gifted Programming

*Contributed by Raye Rector, Coordinator of Gifted Education & Federal Programs*

We offer robust programming designed to challenge our students who qualify for gifted services as well as those who show strong potential.

Goochland strives to ensure maximum academic growth for ALL students. We offer robust programming designed to challenge our students who qualify for gifted services as well as those who show strong potential. Programming varies from elementary through high school based on the developing (and individual) needs of students.

In the elementary schools, gifted students may receive differentiated instruction from their classroom teachers, their school's gifted resource teacher (GRT) or from both. The GRT monitors the progress of all gifted students and consults with their teachers to ensure proper attention to academic and social/emotional needs. Each gifted student in grades 3-5 completes an independent interest-based research project.

Gifted students at GMS may enroll in rigorous Honors classes in all content areas, including Honors Art (for those who qualify). The secondary GRT is on hand at both GMS and GHS to consult with teachers and students. At GMS, she provides instruction

to gifted students in executive functioning (organization, study skills, etc.) and social/emotional topics. Gifted students at GMS may apply to the Summer Regional Governor's School program.

Gifted, high ability and highly motivated students at GHS may pursue challenge through several pathways. There are advanced and elective classes, dual enrollment (college coursework), two Academic-Year Governor's Schools (Maggie L. Walker and Blue Ridge) and Advance College Academy. (The application processes for governor's schools and ACA begin in the fall of Grade 8.)

For more information about our gifted programming, please contact Ms. Raye Rector, Coordinator of Gifted and Federal Programs (rrector@glnd.k12.va.us or 556-5610).



Goochland County Public Schools continues to innovate not only within our instructional programs, but also in our facilities and capital improvements. We understand the importance of safe, inviting, and updated facilities that are designed to accommodate 21st century teaching and learning. Our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes plans for additions, renovations, and improvements to existing facilities, the construction of new facilities and spaces, and the purchase of new equipment through fiscal year 2022. The CIP is reviewed annually by the GCPS Facilities Committee, comprised of citizens representing each of the five magisterial districts.

Since the winter of 2017, GCPS, in cooperation with Goochland County and Cooperative Strategies Planning, has been conducting a full scale review of current facilities conditions, enrollment projections, and building capacity as we prepare to enter the next exciting phase of growth in our division. This long term facilities planning study has included a dedicated website, numerous community input meetings, site visits involving school construction architectural experts and GCPS staff, as well as comprehensive analysis of current and anticipated growth in our county using GIS technology. We are excited to use this data to guide



potential construction, renovation, and replacement plans as we grow in the years ahead.

## Recently Completed and Current Projects in Goochland:

- New water heater at the secondary complex
- Completion of the GES renovation, including a new elevator, secure vestibule, and updated plumbing
- Installation of card access to the RES entrance from modular classrooms
- Extensive painting at all school facilities
- Patio improvements at GHS
- New tennis courts at GHS
- Replacement of carpet with tile at GMS, RES and BES
- HVAC rooftop unit replacements at BES
- Auditorium stage and gym floor refinishing at GHS
- New auditorium curtains at GHS
- Lighting improvements in the GHS auditorium and gym
- Installation of fiber to BES for broadband internet access
- Roof repairs at all school buildings
- Installation of wood carpet surface at all elementary playgrounds

## Upcoming projects included in the Capital Improvement Plan:

- Parking lot resurfacing at BES and RES
- Key card access system installation at all facilities
- Phone system upgrade at GHS/GMS
- Room C143 renovation at GHS



## Capital Improvements

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



# DIGITAL *Equity & Access*

In 1980 education pioneer Seymour Papert, a native South African who then was a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, wrote to the president that he envisioned a new era for education, where in just a few years, he saw that every student would be learning by having access to their own personal computer across America's schools. There had been others who had envisioned inexpensive computing devices that were more portable than what was available at the time. The vision for this future always centered on student creation. Remember, at this time there was no Google, no Wikipedia, and no Facebook!

**We're careful to strike a balance in our schools—the vision of our one-to-one program isn't to deliver instruction through screens.**

As profound as Papert was in envisioning how the educational system could benefit from students learning to code, write music, tell stories, and create art, he may have been a few years off into figuring out when this all might take place. In 2001, the state of Maine issued laptops to all middle school students. Just a month ahead of Maine, Henrico County began their one-to-one initiative with high school students. Middle schoolers received laptops in the second year of their program.

This August, Goochland completed a five-year mission of going one-to-one. Students at Goochland High School will receive MacBook Air laptops to finalize a long-range plan of providing each student in Goochland their own computing device. In addition, we'll be rolling out this year one-to-one iPads for kindergarten, first, and second grade students. The difference will be that the early elementary grades will keep their devices at school. Students in grades 3-12 will take their devices home.

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

*Hendron supervises the 1:1 program, instructional technology coaches, and school librarians. This is the fifth year of the 1:1 program, which concludes the original long-term vision of providing 1:1 devices to students in grades 3-12. In addition this year, we'll be providing a 1:1 experience for students in grades 1 & 2.*

## Tech is Now Mainstream

We know that so many jobs today, and certainly jobs of the future, will require technical acuity. Students today should not only be able to use digital technology to learn, but also should know how to use these tools to communicate effectively, create solutions to problems, and to enhance their abilities to access and apply information to decision making. Equally important, technology today provides new and efficient ways to collaborate as part of a team. Students who have deep experience with these soft skills will be in a better position when it comes time to find employment or advance through a career.

Our world has changed in profound ways since 1980. You can order groceries now from your cell phone. "Cyber security" is a new job frontier. Robots are used in surgeries. And if you don't know how many cups are in a quart, you can ask Siri.

We're careful to strike a balance in our schools. Yes, we want students to have access to high quality digital tools. We want to enable students to create things that they couldn't imagine doing maybe just a few years ago. But the vision of our one-to-one program isn't to deliver instruction through screens. We believe in recess, in learning that is social in a face-to-face kind of way, and instruction that addresses the individual needs of every student.

But students in Goochland will also learn how to code programs; how to create compelling movies or how to tell stories, write books, capture the voices of the community, or practice their math skills by helping a penguin named Jiji get across the screen.



## Approaching the Deep End

We talk a lot about swimming pools when we discuss what deeper learning is like. We don't just hand out iPads and Macbooks so that students can look up a fact online or send e-mails. The goal is allowing students to more deeply experience and appreciate what they're learning.

The analogy of a pool, or swimming, is a reasonable one. In order to go deeper into the water and stay there, we might need a tool such as a scuba tank. In an earlier edition of *Explorations in Learning*, we equated the computer as a "bicycle for the mind," an association made famous by Steve Jobs. What might we expect?

**Kindergarten teachers at Randolph Elementary** this past year worked with coach Krystle Demas to explore coding using iPads and Ozobots. Papert described learning to code as "learning how to think." The project-based learning that included coding engaged students with their science standards and culminated in the creation of a Life Cycle museum. Exposure to coding did more than help students problem solve. When students are given the opportunity to have voice and choice in their activities it leads to higher learning outcomes and more in-depth student understanding.

**Second and fourth grade students at Byrd Elementary** this past year worked with partners across grade levels and used iPads to research a variety of watershed habitats, organisms in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed/James River Watershed, the history of the Chesapeake Bay, and positive/negative human impact on the environment. Culminating projects resulted in movie trailers that synthesized student learning. Students ultimately learned how to become better environmental citizens.

Many students likewise are becoming authors with tools to create and publish digital books. Students at **Goochland Middle School** created digital book study guides for **Henry Jones**, who teaches mathematics. Meanwhile, downstairs, students in **CTE classes** learned the logic of coding using by Keynote presentation software to create animations with **Anne Moore and Bea Leiderman**.

"Deployment" of 1:1 devices took place the first two weeks of school, starting at GMS and ending at Byrd Elementary. Mr. Arrighi, pictured here with a student at Randolph, is a member of our technical staff and is a certified Apple technician.

## New Staff

This year we welcome three new members to our technology team that supports our deeper learning initiative. **Andrea Burton** is our new instructional technology coach at Goochland Middle School. **Morgan McMullin** is our new instructional technology coach at Byrd Elementary. **Henry Pace** is our new technical associate who will be centered at the secondary complex to diagnose and handle repairs of iOS and Mac devices.

## Narrowing a Divide

As commonplace as technology is in some of our lives, it is easy to forget that not everyone has access to digital technology. In 2017, there still exists a "digital divide" that our program is working toward narrowing. In Goochland, this is illustrated through the availability of broadband Internet.

The school division is committed to providing equity through access to digital tools to support student learning. **We also are celebrating our third year of the Kajeet program thanks to the generosity of the CarMax Foundation and Goochland Education Foundation.** No doubt, there still remain many obstacles to overcome. Even so, we are excited about the opportunities for deeper learning and ensuring every student has the opportunity for academic growth using digital tools in appropriate and ethical ways.





# Digital Footprints

## Internet Safety Information for Parents

Contributed by John Hendron, Ed.D.

We live in interesting times! The Internet today provides incalculable convenience with our digital devices, but that efficiency requires us to be savvy when it comes to protecting our privacy or falling victim to a growing number of online threats. Being proactive not only will help protect your own online identity, but also keep your children safe too.

### Social Networking for Students

It shouldn't be a surprise that our kids navigate toward online social spaces and apps, after all, being social is part of being human. Yesterday's telephone is replaced today with instant messaging, Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. And while so many of these apps and services are easy to use, it doesn't mean your child has great examples to reference when using these tools.

As a parent, just as you likely want to know where your kids are in a physical space at any given time, take stock of what virtual spaces your child uses and with whom they are interacting. Have discussions about your expectations for their behavior with others—they likely are similar to their "in person" relationships as they should be with their virtual relationships. You may want to join the same virtual services as your child and even follow them. Have regular discussions with them about how they use these services and how to protect themselves with security settings and by protecting their passwords. And there may come a time when it's best to take a break from these social services, too.

Most important for students to remember is that we leave digital footprints online—traces of our actions. Saying unkind things, or posting inappropriate photos or videos online may come back to haunt us. When in doubt, it's best to refrain from sharing these things online.

### There Are Real Criminals Online

As convenient as e-mail is, it can also be a trap for getting you to click within a fraudulent message and surrender sensitive information. E-mails or instant messages that look legitimate may not be. *Phishing* schemes aim to trick us into giving up valuable credentials. These attempts can lead to financial ruin or identify theft.

Change your passwords often, and do not use the same passwords with all of your online identities. If one company gets hacked, and you use the same e-mail address and password elsewhere, guess what? You've been hacked too. You might use the secure capabilities in Safari, Chrome, or a password manager to keep track of passwords.

Use two-step authentication. Many sites today can be set up to ask you to authenticate using your cell phone. This is an extra layer of security.

Be careful when sharing a device with someone else. It may look convenient, but accessing your accounts on a shared computer may open up the possibility for someone else accessing your accounts. Be sure you completely log out of services when borrowing someone's device.

### Learn About Filtering

Digital content filters are not perfect, but they are somewhat nice to have for limiting our children's access to adult-age content online. While we filter our iPads and MacBooks, check with your cellular provider to see if you can turn on filtering for your child's cell phone. And filtered or not, have conversations with your child about what they're surfing for online. They need to know you care about what their diet is like—not just food—but with online content too.

## Sixth Year for STEM Camp

Solar race cars, drones, 3D printers, underwater submersible vehicles, and coding... just another week in June for our school-community. 2017 marked the sixth year of our S.T.E.M. Camp, an annual event that has become an expectation of awesomeness for hundreds of students and families each summer.

S.T.E.M. is the acronym commonly used to describe endeavors aimed at science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. We have embraced S.T.E.M. education as foundational in nature: these disciplines serve to guide both content and instructional strategies in all teaching and learning experiences throughout the school division. Our annual summer camp allows us to shine a bright spotlight on S.T.E.M. and the excitement and engagement it generates for students.

"S.T.E.M. Camp is one of my favorite weeks of the whole summer," said Simon Smith, a rising fifth grader. "I get to learn by doing - and hang out with my fiends at the same time. I've been going every year since kindergarten, and it gets better every year!"



## Data Drives our Decisions

Did you participate in this past year's Goochland Schools survey? Why is my voice important? We understand how hectic life is for families today and how the solicitation for your opinion isn't necessarily a high priority compared to spending time with your family, fulfilling work responsibilities, and everything else that we encounter as parents. We also understand that you would like your children to attend great schools. We wanted to tell you that yes, this year we will be publishing another survey announcement, and yes, we really do want your input. But why?

Goochland uses survey data from parents and students to set strategic priorities and to help measure our success. Your input into a survey helps us make budget priorities, staffing decisions, and changes we might consider to better serve our Goochland families.

We appreciate your help in informing us about how we are doing and where we can improve. Thank you for in advance for participating in this year's annual survey for families.



## Advance College Academy

The Goochland Advance College Academy program is thriving! There are 57 GHS students dually enrolled as Reynolds Community College students and working toward completion of an associate degree.

We are very proud of our inaugural cohort, the Class of 2018, who will walk across the stage in May, earning a college degree before they even graduate from GHS. The Class of 2019 is doubling down on their first semester of college classes, and the Classes of 2020 and 2021 (about 75 students) are preparing themselves by choosing to enroll in advanced GHS classes.

What is the ACA program and is it a good choice for your child? Find out more at the ACA Information Night at GHS on **November 9 at 6:30 p.m.** Applications will be available this fall for students in eighth grade, but we encourage families of students in Grades 4-7 to also attend Information Night and learn about the program.







# New Grant Program Fuels Innovative Learning Opportunities

Contributed by John Hendron, Ed.D.

We all likely have positive associations with the “last day of school” and the “first day of summer.” This time of the year is often one for celebration. Families can reflect on the past year and look forward to a change in pace and a new year ahead. On the last day of school for staff this year, a number of Goochland educators elected to participate in a new event called the Strategic Innovation Symposium that was sponsored by the Goochland Education Foundation. More amazing, a number of teachers spent their first day of vacation with us, too.

The Symposium, a two-day event that invited grant award winners, guest speakers, and culminated with a morning spent in the city of Richmond, was designed

to celebrate the role innovation has in educational practice. Dr. Jeremy Raley proposed the idea in August of last year as a way to give permission to teachers to “try something new, something different, that helps them get closer to providing a truly deeper learning experience for children.” And it started with a number of strategic grants.

The Goochland Education Foundation provided \$10,000 in competitive grant funds that would be awarded to teachers who submitted project proposals that focused on deeper learning. Deeper learning is a term that describes a more personal approach to learning, targeting student interest and student choice, where students have the opportunity to

apply knowledge, often in more authentic learning contexts. Through these grants, teachers could ask for us to fund something they otherwise would not be able to do. We asked them to push the boundaries and to dream big. It was a special announcement made at our August convocation that got a number of Goochland teachers excited, with surge of creative energy.

A review committee for grant proposals was assembled with a diverse group of individuals from around our community. They reviewed the grant proposals for replicability (can the project be done by someone else, if it’s successful?) and its approach towards deeper learning. Seven projects were funded.

The projects all achieved varying levels of success thanks to the commitment these teachers had in realizing their creative ideas. Teachers presented the results of their projects at the June symposium in Ignite style presentations. These 5-minute snapshots enabled us to see and hear about the ingenuity and innovative ideas. Many teachers commented that they had no idea what their colleagues had been up to, and many were inspired by the results of the learning achieved by students. You can learn more about our past year’s winners and their projects here: <https://goo.gl/K8YYVF>

Other highlights of the symposium included a screening of the film Design Disruptors, a panel discussion with guests

from local businesses, keynote presenter Dr. Bill Rankin, and a photo walk tour on day two in Richmond.

“Riding the Segways was awesome!” reported one teacher. And yes, there was that. On the second day, symposium participants got to ride around downtown Richmond aboard Segways before convening for conversation at Bottoms Up Pizza.

This experience helped end our school year on a very high note. Teachers left inspired by what we might accomplish together for the upcoming year, they were able to reflect on their own professional successes, and many said they couldn’t wait until the next round of grant opportunities opened up again. We were

inspired to know they want to bring their colleagues to our next symposium, too.

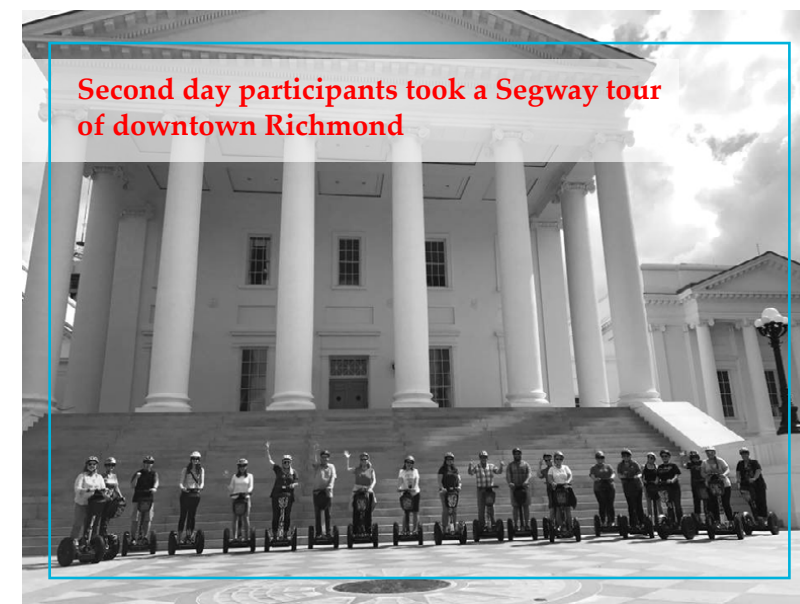
None of this would have been possible without the support of the Goochland Education Foundation ([goochlandedu.org](http://goochlandedu.org)). This organization provides the support that takes Goochland’s schools from good to great. The GEF supports teacher excellence, scholarship opportunities for students, mini-grants for classrooms, and events such as the Symposium that helps us partner to inspire the next generation to make a positive impact.



See some of our summer presentations made by grant awardees (left) and a video highlight (right).



Symposium guest keynote was William Rankin, Ph.D. who addressed attendees



Second day participants took a Segway tour of downtown Richmond

## GEF Hires Executive Director

Cyndy Brown is the first executive director for the Goochland Education Foundation beginning May 1, 2017. Cyndy has been enjoying working with a dynamic and passionate group of people, including volunteers and community partners, to provide innovative, visionary educational experiences designed to enrich and maximize the learning potential of Goochland County Public School students.



The Goochland Education Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that connects people, ideas, and resources to enhance the excellent educational experience of Goochland County Public Schools. The GEF creates opportunities for incubator and innovative programming by providing results-driven grants, facilitating donor-funded initiatives, awarding academic scholarships, and offering programs that are tailored specifically to Goochland County. In order to prepare the children of Goochland County for the future, the GEF is working to engage every citizen and business in the learning community. The GEF is looking forward to leading and convening the conversation in the county to ensure the children have the tools necessary for a world that is technologically growing at an increasingly fast pace.

Cyndy brings over 14 years of nonprofit experience in executive planning, fundraising, administration, communications and marketing. Whether it has been working locally and globally in the arts, education, museums, or sports, Cyndy has always kept the focus of the conversation on the essential 21st century skills in order to prepare our children for an unknown workforce. Cyndy believes that ensuring equity in education is critical to the continuing health and vibrancy of a community—that every child should have the same dreams and aspirations.

During her off hours, Cyndy competitively sails, loves to entertain and cook French food for friends and family, and sit at her easel with her oil paints.



# WHAT LEARNING LOOKS LIKE



## Little Feet Meet

Goochland Elementary hosted its first Little Feet Meet on March 17th! This event was the culmination of the implementation of the Young Athletes curriculum for our Goochland Elementary preschoolers. By using this curriculum, our preschoolers participated in activities designed to improve gross motor skills and improve “sports readiness.”

Fifth graders from Goochland Elementary served as mentors for our preschoolers as well. Little Feet Meet “events” included weight lifting, obstacle courses, relay races, and soccer.

Many thanks to our preschool staff, GES fifth graders, and parent volunteers who helped make this event possible!



## Kindergarten Journey

Randolph Elementary kicked off its first year as a “Journey School” during the 2016-17 school year. This designation includes a set of universal school values, including a commitment to year-long thematic projects for each grade level. These cross-curricular, multi-week projects give students a chance to delve deeper into exciting content. The kindergarten team embarked on a quest entitled “Mighty Metamorphosis”, learning more about the lifecycles of butterflies, frogs, ladybugs and chickens.

Students learned how to demonstrate a lifecycle through coding with Ozobots, using Book Creator to illustrate and voice record movies of each lifecycle, and by working with various hands-on materials to construct models.

Each of these smaller kindergarten projects came together to create a schoolwide life cycle museum. Every class at RES visited the museum and the kindergarten students served as station experts, guiding their guests from exhibit to exhibit.

Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Whitney Neiditch commented, “One of the days students got to see larva emerge from the chrysalis. For 30 minutes we all watched in awe as a portion of the life cycle process happened right in front of us. Later, we were able to actually release the butterflies into nature!”

## BES Fall Festival

Lions and tigers and bears.....and ghosts and pirates and zombies, OH, MY! Goochland County is a community connected. At no time is that more evident than during Fall Festival at Byrd Elementary School. For the past several years, the PTA has teamed up with the faculty and staff of BES on this fun-filled Halloween-themed event for families, drawing hundreds. It’s a collaborative event to foster learning and raise funds for the PTA while giving families an opportunity to enjoy a fun evening together.

Children and their parents choose stations at which they play math and reading games, or learn strategies for practicing their skills at home. Title I teachers put together this literacy component with support from other BES faculty members. Families also visit the Book Fair and, finally, what everyone is waiting for....trick-or-treating through the hallways with BES staff and volunteers!

## GES Ozobots

Goochland Elementary School was the recipient of a 2016-17 Strategic Innovation Grant entitled Ozobots Leading the Way: Coding for the Inquisitive Minds of GES Students. The purpose of this project was to engage students in Coding, a programming language that students will need to prepare them for the future.

Ozobots are tiny programmable robots that engage learners and provide them with a deeper learning experience through computer science. Goochland Elementary’s instructional emphasis is on student growth and mastery of the Virginia Standards of Learning. In addition to rigorous academic instruction, team members strive to give students frequent opportunities to express creativity, problem solving, and critical thinking skills. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade participated in engaging lessons throughout the school year that made great use of the Ozobots. Younger students experienced the features of line-following robots, while older students used block programming to code the Ozobot. Activities and lessons such as Deciphering the Code of Multiplication, Ozobot Predator Showdown, and Virginia History Timeline, fostered creativity and problem solving skills while continuing to meet the academic needs of students.

## Partners in the Arts Grant

Goochland Middle School recently received a \$5,000 Engaging Creative Thinkers grant from the University of Richmond’s Partners in The Arts. The grant award supported a year-long interdisciplinary project that connected the English and history curriculum through the arts. More than 400 students participated in and contributed to the inquiry-based project centered around Thomas Jefferson and his contributions locally, regionally, and nationally. The grant also provided three GMS teachers the opportunity to attend the Joan Oates Institute, a highly acclaimed week-long workshop focused on arts integration.

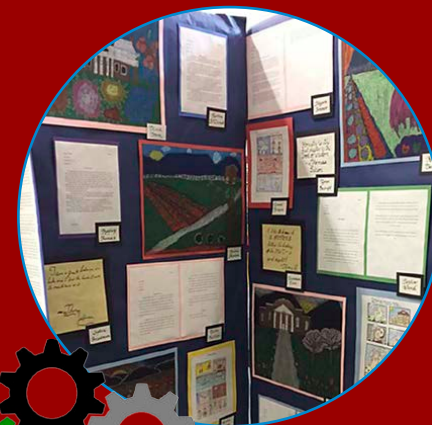
Throughout the study, students challenged themselves to consider the question, “How can we take an inquisitive and innovative approach to problem solving?” Using a field trip to Tuckahoe Plantation - Jefferson’s boyhood home - as a springboard, the project’s capstone was a permanent art installation that conveys the themes of Thomas Jefferson as an innovator. Local artist, Matt Lively, served as artist-in-residence for the student project. Mr. Lively was an amazing mentor, helping students work together to carry out their vision for the project.

## Archery Range

What would it take to bring Archery to Goochland High School? The team at GHS saw the Goochland Education Foundation’s Strategic Innovation Grant Program as the perfect opportunity. The team’s project led to an amazing partnership between the school’s Career and Technical Education department and their Health & Physical Education department. The ultimate goal of the project was to have students design and construct an archery range that would become an integral part of school and community programming.

When the project construction began this past spring, our students’ initiative, ownership, and leadership shined through. Our heavy equipment classes, led by Mr. Michael Verrastro, broke ground and provided the essential foundations for the range in preparation for the construction. Our carpentry classes followed with the building of the range structure, which they also designed. All the while, our physical education department was developing student-led curriculum for use on the range.

The incredible collaboration between faculty and students made this project a true success, and its legacy will positively impact students for years to come.







# GOOCHLAND FLEX

## A Flexible Approach to Alternative Education

Contributed by Christin East, Division Coordinator of Student Programming

Embracing a new era of pedagogy means taking risks to better serve our students. In Goochland, we recognize that students are different. Occasionally, the traditional comprehensive high school does not fit a student's needs. Having the flexibility to develop a specific educational path is essential for some students. Work began last year to build a program geared to the student who thrives in a non-traditional class setting. We call this program Goochland Flex.

There are three programs within the umbrella of Goochland Flex: Virtual School, Virtual Learning, and G Flex.

Virtual School is online learning primarily slated for the high school student seeking an independent, home-based approach to course study. Students must meet specific criteria to be eligible for Virtual School. Placement may be requested by the student, but will be determined by a committee.

Virtual Learning is online learning geared to the student who is seeking course recovery or accrual within the confines of the school building and the school day. A student's schedule may reflect courses offered solely online or may work in conjunction with other courses offered at Goochland High School or Goochland Middle School. Virtual learning may be requested and determined by the student or a parent and the school counselor.

Ms. Liz Kuhns-Boyle facilitates both the Virtual School and Virtual Learning programs and is available to assist students with their work.

G Flex is a personalized program with the whole student in mind. A low student to teacher ratio allows for a sharp focus on student-specific goals and a tailored academic pathway leading to graduation. These pathways may include but are not limited to hybrid scheduling, blended learning opportunities, or GED study. Workplace readiness skills, career planning, and post-secondary transition plans are integrated into the academic program as well as community service projects and field trips. Placement may be requested by the student, but will be determined by a committee.

Mr. Justin Fitzgerald facilitates G Flex and works closely with each student to ensure success.



"Every kid, every day, no matter what it takes."

—Ms. Kuhns-Boyle



"The opportunity to impact a kid's life today is the opportunity to change the world forever."

—Mr. Fitzgerald

The Capital Region Adult Education Program provides classes to prepare individuals in need of a GED® or basic math, reading, and workforce skills. Fall classes are FREE and will be held at two locations in Goochland.

#### Location 1:

Reynolds College [804-780-6039]  
Goochland Campus  
1851 Dickinson Road  
Goochland, VA 23063

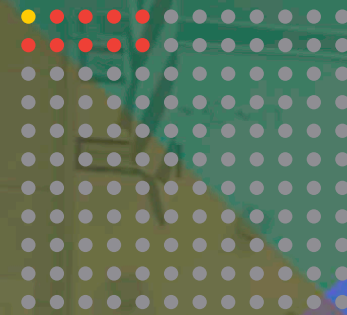
Tuesday-Thursday 5:30pm - 8:30pm

#### Location 2:

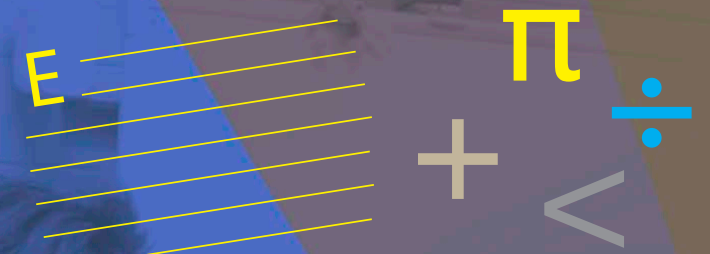
Goochland Free Clinic [804-780-6039]  
2931 River Road West  
Goochland, VA 23063

Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00am - 12:00pm

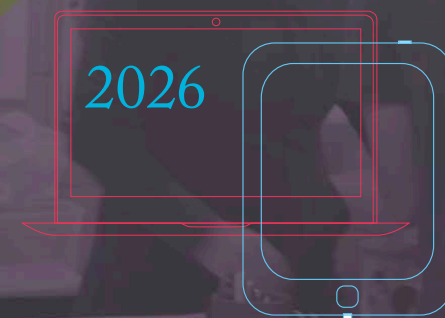
## BY THE NUMBERS



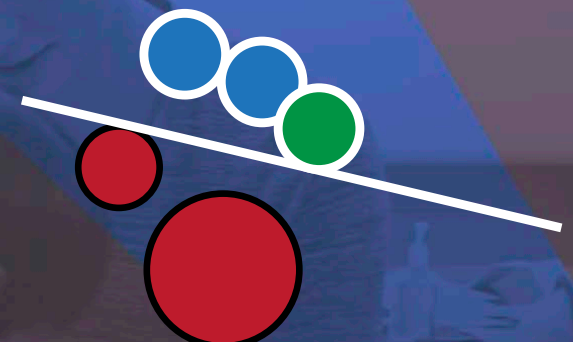
Goochland is one of ten school divisions to have 100% of schools become fully accredited by the state.



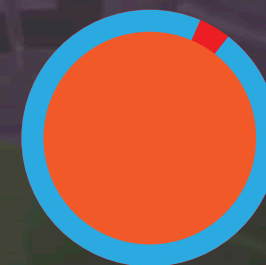
Goochland students surpassed national reading growth by 14%, and outpaced the national average in mathematics by 24%, measured with the MAP assessment.



This year we have deployed over two thousand devices to students to take home. Four hundred additional iPads will bring 1:1 to grades 1 and 2.



Three of Goochland's five schools rank higher than the national average for student engagement, as rated by Gallup.



GHS graduation rate remains high, at 96% for the 2016-17 school year.



Last year we celebrated having 268 credentials earned by students in our CTE program, up by 20 from the previous year.



Goochland ranks among the top 25 when comparing Standards of Learning scores across the Commonwealth in all five testing areas. Goochland ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in history and 14<sup>th</sup> in reading, statewide.





## Goochland County Public Schools

P. O. Box 169  
Goochland, VA 23063  
(804) 556-5630

## Make a Positive Impact

Visit us online at  
[www.goochlandschools.org](http://www.goochlandschools.org)

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## Giving 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, 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.



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