

explorations'

FALL 2019

IN LEARNING

THE ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOOCHLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The *Sunshine Food Bus* made its debut routes this summer as part of a food and literature outreach initiative, funded by a federal program and a grant. The bus project was the brainchild of Lisa Landrum and has been supported by our CTE program and generous local donations. [Story on page 9](#)



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#1 School Division in Metro-Richmond

SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME

Dear Community:

It is an honor and privilege to serve you, our students, and our families as Superintendent! The support that you provide through your investment of time, talent, and resources has resulted in our division being recognized as one of the premier school divisions in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is this partnership on our collective journey to maximize the potential of all of our learners that will allow us to continue to be recognized as a model for providing students with a deeply engaging and exceptional experience.

The support that you provide our students and our staff allows us to maintain our position as one of the premier school divisions in the Commonwealth. We are a division that is rated by *Niche.com* as the 11th highest rated school division in the Commonwealth, the 8th safest division, and THE school division of choice in the Richmond region as we were rated #1 among all local divisions in our area for two years in a row! We have exceeded national performance standards in growth in both reading and math and are one of only a handful of school divisions in the Commonwealth that has had ALL of its schools

fully accredited for the past thirteen years.

This year, we will be seeking your assistance in creating our school division's next strategic plan, a plan that will provide the roadmap for us to follow over the course of the next six years. The goals and objectives that we, as a collective community, identify in the coming months will be essential to our continued commitment to excellence. My goal is to engage every aspect of our community in this important work. I welcome your perspective, expertise, and input every step of the way.

I hope the time that you spend reading this report will provide you with a better understanding of the excellence of our school division. Once you finish, I hope you feel proud of the work that we are doing to inspire our future generations to make a positive impact in our world. Thank you for the contributions you have made to invest in Goochland County's future: our students! 

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



On July 30, 2019, several Goochland County Public Schools team members partnered with the YMCA to participate in the Bright Beginnings program to support students and families in our community.

TEAM



Stephen A. Geyer, Ed.D.
EDITOR & CONTRIBUTOR



John G. Hendron, Ed.D.
DESIGN & CONTRIBUTOR



Andrew R. Armstrong, Ph.D.
CONTRIBUTOR



Christin East
CONTRIBUTOR



Lisa Landrum
CONTRIBUTOR



Raye Rector
CONTRIBUTOR



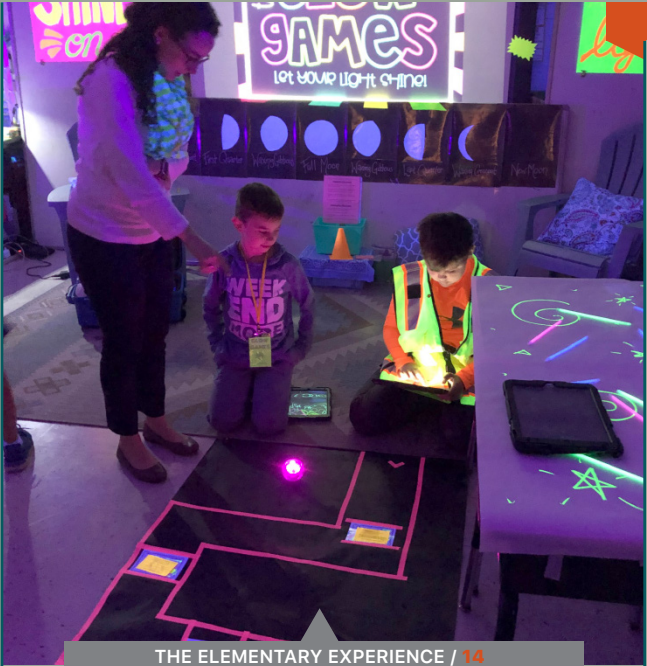
Jennifer Waggener
CONTRIBUTOR



Bruce Watson
CONTRIBUTOR



Debbie H. White, CPA
CONTRIBUTOR



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GOOCHLANDSCHOOLS.ORG

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Diane Bennett
EDITOR



You likely won't meet a parent or professional educator who thinks academic knowledge will be the exclusive contributing factor to student success after high school. Academic achievement is important, and the significance of strong literacy and math skills is inarguable. Many adults, however, point to what are often referred to as "soft skills" as primary contributors to success: hard work, resiliency, responsibility, critical thinking, for example.

Those in private industry have deemed these attributes "21st Century Skills." We're well into the 21st Century now, and public education (in its broadest sense) seems to have embraced the importance of these skills. In Virginia, in fact, the Department of Education has developed the Profile of a Virginia Graduate—a framework that puts as much emphasis on workplace skills, career readiness, and community and civic responsibility as it does traditional "content knowledge."

And, for better or worse, one way to identify what a state values in its public education system is to examine its school accountability system. Virginia's methodology for examining school effectiveness now includes a quality indicator called the "College, Career, and Civic Readiness Index." Simply, how prepared are a school division's graduates for a successful, purposeful life after high school?

You can bet that academic achievement is still a large part of our state's accountability system, as it should be. While we're focused on the whole child in Goochland, education is a profession built around teaching and learning. Producing strong readers, writers, communicators, mathematicians, scientists, and artists is important. So is producing young adults who know how to set and reach personal goals, think critically, work hard, solve problems, and demonstrate consistent personal responsibility.

We spent twelve months engaging our school-community in the development of our own *Profile of a Goochland Graduate*. It's this work that's provided the local framework for several of our programs designed to ensure our students are developing their soft skills alongside their academic skills.

These opportunities for our students begin early and continue throughout their school careers. Our students begin presenting in front of their peers in kindergarten. Every one of our first grade students has the opportunity to visit Goochland Tech and see firsthand careers come to life in our heavy equipment operator program, our nursing clinic, and our culinary lab. Upper elementary students participate in a division-wide "Invention Convention," a program aimed at developing creativity and entrepreneurship. Our middle school students begin to explore athletics, clubs, drama, and all of the leadership development opportunities that go along with participation in co-curricular activities. Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders also select from among courses like S.T.E.M. Exploratory (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) that are focused on the development of analytic thinking, problem solving, and creativity. In high school, co-curricular programming opportunities expand greatly, including thirty-seven junior varsity and varsity athletic teams, thirty-nine clubs, twenty-seven fine arts courses, and the most thriving Marine Corps JROTC program in the Commonwealth. High school students also have opportunities to participate in field placement internships, where they can apply their learning in authentic workplace environments. Finally, upperclassmen can participate in résumé workshops and formal mock interviews hosted by business and industry leaders from our

own Goochland-Richmond Metro community.

Of course, we're also proud of our traditional academic programming and our traditional academic achievement. And our results are strong. In fact, we're one of just ten school divisions in Virginia (of 132) to achieve full state accreditation for more than ten consecutive years.

Despite our successes related to academic achievement, it might be our work in the area of soft skill development that truly sets our school division apart moving forward. More importantly, it's these opportunities that are helping prepare our students for a lifetime of success. 



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

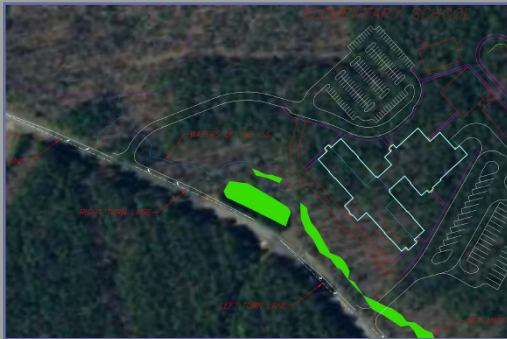
ANDREW R. ARMSTRONG, PH.D.

GOOCHLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS CONSTANTLY WORKING TO CREATE LEARNING SPACES that support the innovative, engaging experiences that our staff and students share every day in our division. This year we will begin the planning process in earnest as we gather feedback from our community to plan for the 2022 groundbreaking of the new Goochland Elementary School that is anticipated to open its doors to students in August of 2024. The new GES promises to be a place that will rise to the standards our division has set for performance on behalf of students and staff—a school that will feature flexible and adaptive spaces geared toward 21st century teaching and learning, modern technology and safety features, comfort, and efficiency, all with room to adapt to a changing world and a growing community.

Some of our capital improvements are highly visible to our citizens; others are just as essential though less conspicuous. Among the visible improvements that will take place over the next year are a new park-

ing lot upgrade at Randolph Elementary School in the summer of 2020. This project will include an updated surface and improved traffic flow and lighting.

This fall we completed installation of a whole-facility generator at Byrd Elementary School. This generator will ensure that instruction continues uninterrupted in our most rural facility, one in which power outages have disrupted events with too much frequency over the years. Our community will also notice major improvements in and around Goochland High School’s outdoor stadium, including a major upgrade to the irrigation system, a newly resurfaced track with fresh surrounding asphalt near the stands, and improved turf at both the Goochland High School softball and football fields. 



A TEAM THAT LOVES THEIR WORK

CHRISTIN EAST

EXCELLENCE, CREATIVITY, COURAGE, HONOR, AND OPTIMISM. Our Goochland County Public Schools employees live by these core values and impart them to students through their actions, compassion, and hard work. While many factors contribute, it’s our employees who make our school division successful.

But what makes Goochland County Public Schools a great place to work? How do we retain the *crème de la crème*? Is it our vision or mission? Or our strategic plan or core values? Is it our instructional practices or assessment scores? Not according to our teachers! All of those things are great, no question, but when our talented 2019 Teachers of the Year were asked what makes Goochland a great place to work, two themes became evident: *relationships* and *community*.

GOOCHLAND IS AN AMAZING PLACE to work because each employee, staff member, student, and parent is respected, valued, and appreciated. As a teacher, and as a parent of two children in the school system, I have witnessed firsthand the daily commitment that all of our team members have to excellence and the role dedication plays in maximizing the potential of each learner. Goochland is growing our future leaders, world changers, and community helpers. I couldn’t imagine spending my days anywhere else!

CHERYL JOHNSTON, FOURTH GRADE
TEACHER AT BYRD ELEMENTARY

GOOCHLAND IS A GREAT PLACE to work because the relationships and community we build with our colleagues, administration, parents, and students connects a family of individuals who feel seen, heard, and understood—and fosters an equitable and nurturing environment for all of us.

GLENN HECKER, HISTORY TEACHER AT
GOOCHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

OUR SCHOOL-COMMUNITY is a wonderful place to work. As a graduate of Goochland County Public Schools, I had excellent teachers who provided a positive and supportive learning environment for all students. Our close-knit community, family-oriented schools and supportive staff make Goochland a great place to work.

SARA DELONG, KINDERGARTEN
TEACHER AT GOOCHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TO ME, GOOCHLAND IS A GREAT PLACE TO WORK because of the sense of community. Students, teachers, and administrators are full of pride about where they live, learn, and work. This sense of community provides the backbone to everything because we are all trying to help one another succeed in all that we do. Goochland wants all of our students to feel that sense of belonging, and so the arts are supported and nurtured just as much as everything else. I honestly cannot imagine teaching anywhere else!

CINDY SHELTON-EIDE, ART TEACHER
AT GOOCHLAND HIGH SCHOOL

EIGHT YEARS AGO, I BEGAN MY TEACHING CAREER with Goochland County Public Schools. As both a teacher and parent of children in the school system, I appreciate the small class sizes, the project based learning opportunities, the advanced technology resources, and the support of school administrators, central office leaders, and the school board. I love living and working in the county and being able to see my students in and out of school. Collaborating across the county and the relationships within our small community make it feel like a family.

STACEY WILSON, SECOND GRADE
TEACHER AT RANDOLPH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 



What makes Goochland a great place to work? *You*. Goochland retains the best of the best because they value relationships with YOU: students, parents, colleagues, and stakeholders. Together, our community has created the #1 school division in the Richmond Metro Area for the second year in a row. Together, we are **Team Goochland!**

Scan this code to see our ebooks



IN DISTINGUISHED COMPANY

JOHN G. HENDRON, ED.D.

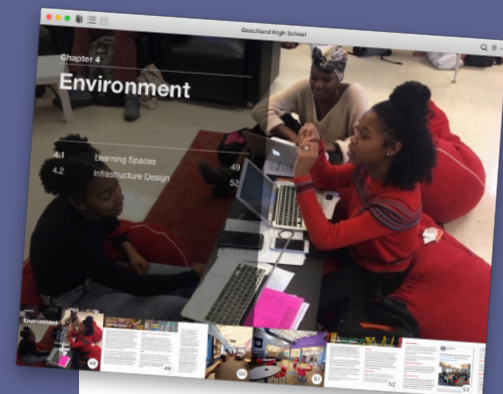
EACH YEAR, MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ARE SPENT BY SCHOOLS and districts across the country in an effort to outfit schools with technology. Whereas twenty-five years ago having technology in a school was viewed by some as a luxury (Goochland's first technology director started in 1997), today it is commonplace to see laptops, mobile devices, digital white boards, sound systems, traditional printers and 3D printing equipment in schools—from elementary through high school. Having access to technology, on one hand, can make a teacher's work more efficient (grading, reporting results to parents), and on another, can amplify the learning students experience.

Our school leaders have just recently completed a rather audacious goal of publishing a book that highlights the ways technology is used by students and teachers to support learning and teaching. Apple has provided a platform over the past several years for creating and publishing books. In our case, the books are free, and can be viewed on both iOS and MacOS devices. The software also allows for export into PDF, minus the media extras like videos or interactive widgets.

The impetus for writing these books (articles, in most cases, were written by our teachers) is to apply to become an Apple Distinguished School. Every three years, Apple recognizes schools that, yes, have technology (and an investment in Apple technology), but are actually doing something significant with that technology. We think that is pretty special, getting the “wetware” or human component of our investment in technology hardware and software right.

While the thinking used to be that kids needed training on computers for future work, the thinking today has changed. We're using mobile devices to learn faster and more deeply than ever before. Every student has access to a camera and a recording studio. With our iPads in elementary schools, students are learning to code—how to write computer programs. At Goochland Middle School, students are authoring their own movie productions. And at Goochland High School, some students are using their laptops to learn professional software applications used in industry.

We invite you to spend some time perusing our new books. We hope our schools will be named Apple Distinguished Schools for the third time. No matter, we think our books capture something special about Goochland's teachers and about the experiences our students have. The opportunity to share that story with other schools on the international stage is exciting too. Our books are available in two formats on our instructional technology blog: <https://bit.ly/2kgQY64>



Each book captures examples that showcase the instructional excellence afforded to our students through technology.



We are showcasing our books through this poster at the Virginia School Board Association's conference in Richmond.

Sunshine Food Bus

BRUCE WATSON & LISA LANDRUM

CREATIVITY AND COLLABORATION IMMEDIATELY COME TO MIND when you hear the story behind Goochland County Public Schools' latest achievement: the Sunshine Food Bus. For years, Ms. Lisa Landrum, our Supervisor of Nutrition Services, has been trying to find a way to bring summer meals to students and families in need. Goochland County is considered too wealthy by most federal standards to qualify for traditional programs, but Ms. Landrum refused to give up.

After much research, perseverance, and problem solving, Ms. Landrum discovered an option that would require some outside-the-box thinking and teamwork. She found that certain portions of Goochland could, in fact, qualify for financial assistance by leveraging census data, but the areas that met the requirements were disconnected geographically and scattered throughout the county. Rather than establishing a single location, she would need to develop a meal program that was mobile. The Sunshine Food Bus was born.

The project was a nine month collaboration between Ms. Landrum's team in Nutritional Services, our transportation department

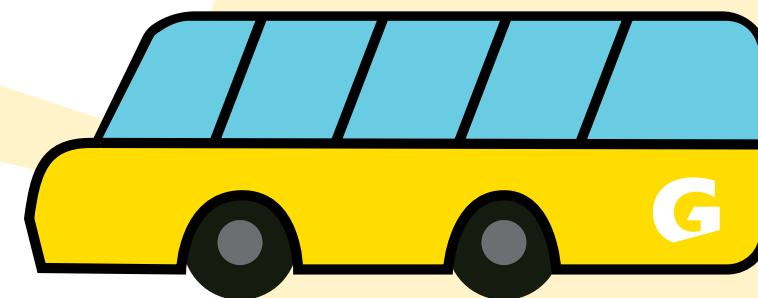
(we rehabilitated and re-purposed an aging school bus), our maintenance department (plumbing, electrical, etc.), and our Career and Technical Education program at Goochland High School (students completed interior demolition and woodworking, as well as exterior body work and painting). The project was also made possible because of our generous and supportive community partners. The project was partially funded through monetary and equipment donations from the Goochland Community Action Program, the Goochland Education Foundation, the Goochland Rotary Club, Piedmont Smokehouse, Calico Industries, and Old Dominion Metal. “I've never been so proud to be a part of Team Goochland as I was the day we cut the ribbon and started serving our families,” said Landrum.

Finally, the Sunshine Food Bus was outfitted with books for children, available at no cost to any families that stopped by for a nutritious meal. We served hundreds of meals and gave away hundreds of books this summer—and we suspect we brought our amazing community a little closer together along the way.



June 11, 2019 – Ribbon Cutting

Before the regularly-scheduled school board meeting, Lisa Landrum addressed the public, sharing the story of the genesis of the food bus project.



SAFETY IS ON OUR MINDS

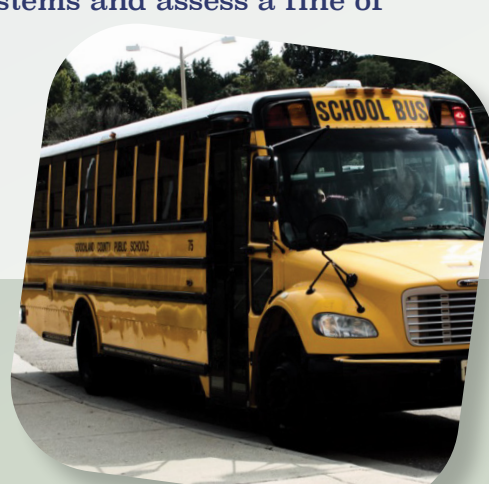
ANDREW R. ARMSTRONG, PH.D.

GOOCHLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED for our work to improve the safety of our facilities over the past eighteen months. We have focused on personnel, facility improvements, and process implementation to create an even safer environment for students and staff. All of these efforts are being driven in a division that values student relationships and understands that the relationships we nurture help to diminish and often prevent threats of violence and the distraction of any unsafe practices in our schools.

The list of tangible improvements includes door access control on all buildings, motion sensors on exterior doors, a uniform alert system capability in all five schools, an anonymous reporting instrument called *SafeSchools*, landscaping and lighting improvements, transaction window installation in the main offices at the secondary complex, the establishment of both a mental health counselor and school security officer, bleed management training, and recent homeland security training.

As we move into the next phase of safety enhancements, we will focus on our continued partnerships with the Goochland Sheriff's Office and Goochland Fire-Rescue and Emergency Services and look to leverage our technology, our training, and our personnel to strengthen a culture of safety. Our actions, our habits, and our daily practice must continue to adapt to a world that includes complex challenges and threats to safety on several levels.

Finally, we have made similar progress in our department of transportation. Our families can now track their child's bus in real time using the *Ubicabus* app. Live GPS and camera systems are now present on every school bus. This past June, the Goochland County Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance that allows the school division to utilize the recently installed bus stop arm camera systems and assess a fine of \$250 to anyone who unlawfully passes the extended stop arm on one of our buses. This measure is meant to ensure the safety of our students, and we appreciate the support of our community in accomplishing this mission! 



ECCHO AWARDS

THE ECCHO AWARDS ARE PRESENTED QUARTERLY to recognize the contributions of staff, students, or parents toward embodying our core values: Excellence, Courage, Creativity, Honor, and Optimism. This year's ECCHO award winners were:

October 2018

Megan Kelley, Teacher, GES
Kaileigh Donough, Exceptional Education Teacher, GES
Erin Brooks, English Teacher, GMS
Andrea Burton, ITC, GMS
Stephanie Falconer, Librarian, GMS
Karon Stokes, Math Teacher, GMS
Cole Pollard, Student, GHS
Ryan Jones, Operational Technology

February 2019

Rosie Williams, Student, RES
Anne Keo, Instructional Coach
Christina Whitfield, Instructional Coach
David Booth, CTE Teacher, GHS
Ginni Nichols, Operational Technology
Austen Hecker, Teacher, RES

May 2019

Kim Watts, Music, BES & GES
Neil Burch, Theatre, GMS & GHS
Kent Duffey, School Nurse, GHS
Suzannah Anderson, Student, GMS
Amy Heilmann, Art teacher, RES
Susan Vaughan, Library Media Specialist, RES
Raul Sanchez-Flores, Owner, Kahlo's Restaurant

Staff Recognitions

ANDREW R. ARMSTRONG, PH.D.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

MRS. CINDY SHELTON-EIDE, ART AND CERAMICS TEACHER AT GOOCHLAND HIGH SCHOOL, is the 2019 Goochland County Public Schools Teacher of the Year and will represent our division in the state competition for the *Mary Bicouvaris Teacher of the Year* for 2020. Mrs. Shelton-Eide has taught at Goochland High School since 2013, shortly after graduating from Virginia Commonwealth University with both her Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting and printmaking and Master's degree in art education.

Dr. Christopher Collier, principal of Goochland High School, sees her passion for maximizing the potential of every learner in her work each day. "Mrs. Shelton-Eide is a master of her content, and the work her students produce under her direction is breathtaking—but equally impressive is her ability to connect with all of her students. Her calm, understanding demeanor draws our students to her and to a love of visual art and ceramics," says Dr. Collier.

Mrs. Shelton-Eide, in her application for Teacher of the Year, wrote, "Year after year, my students share with me how my class provides a kind of therapeutic experience for them. They say that art experiences allow them space to explore their emotions and de-stress, without the pressure to score highly on a test or conform to a norm." Mrs. Cindy Shelton-Eide is noted by her students, her colleagues, and the division for her dedication to maximizing the potential of all of her students, in the arts and beyond. 



pictured (L-R):
William Quarles, GEF, Dr. Jeremy Raley, &
Cindy Shelton-Eide



On August 19, 2019, students at Goochland Middle School were warmly welcomed to a new school year with some familiar faces in new leadership roles. During the 2018-19 school year, Mrs. Amie Potter humbly accepted the position of principal after serving as assistant principal at GMS for five years. Prior to her time as assistant principal, Mrs. Potter served as an instructional support facilitator for two years and a classroom teacher for ten. Mr. Patrick Gordon, another familiar face at GMS, accepted the assistant principalship, after serving the school for thirteen years as a math teacher and coaching football, baseball, and softball.

Despite these changes, students have noted a smooth transition in leadership at Goochland Middle School. Earlier this spring, I chatted with a group of middle school students to hear more about their perspectives. Some of these students had Mr. Gordon as their middle school math teacher and/or football coach. Other students had Mrs. Potter as their kindergarten and/or first grade teacher while they attended Randolph Elementary School.

Students used words like “kind,” “caring,” and “genuine” to describe Mrs. Potter, both as a teacher and as an administrator. They remember Mrs. Potter’s small acts of kindness: little pieces of candy on holidays, pizza parties for meeting class goals, and sweet, subtle messages of encouragement to help them through more challenging days. Kamryn Harris and Kate Davis, eighth graders at Goochland Middle School (at the time of the interview), vividly remember experiencing the earthquake centered in Louisa County during their time with Mrs. Potter in first grade. While they described their memories of the earthquake as “scary,” they both distinctly remember Mrs. Potter calming them down and shielding them from a falling bookcase.

Other students I spoke with had the unique experience of having Mr. Gordon both as a math teacher, and as a football coach and assistant principal. Hayden Raley (eighth grader at the time of the interview) and Aliyah Clark (seventh grader at the time of the interview) appreciated Mr. Gordon’s ef-

forts at making learning fun and hands on. Students recalled meaningful math experiences including activities involving baseball statistics, math problems involving basketball free throw percentages, and water bottle flipping contests. Students talked about Mr. Gordon’s strength related to building relationships with students. They also complimented him on his ability to use coaching strategies with students both on and off the field.

When I asked the group to reflect on changes that they have noticed at the middle school since Mrs. Potter and Mr. Gordon transitioned to principal and assistant principal, the students noted a smooth transition. Some of the students noted more frequent communication with leadership as a result of the change, while others indicated a perceived decrease in bullying and discipline referrals.

When asked about her goals for Goochland Middle School, Mrs. Potter indicated a desire to create, teach, and foster

a community of active learners through her #mind-setmatters initiative. This initiative emphasizes character development and self-understanding for GMS students. Mr. Gordon noted a desire to get middle school students more involved in their community. As a lifelong resident, Mr. Gordon understands the impact that these students can have and hopes to encourage them to give back to their community. When asked about what she hopes her long-term impact will be on Goochland Middle School, Mrs. Potter commented, “It is our hope that all GMS students step outside of their comfort zone to try out for a new sport, make a new friend, ask for clarification to that tough word problem, and actively learn from one another. The incredible faculty and staff stand ready to work alongside families and support them as they navigate their middle school years.”



Ah, to be a student! The Elementary Experience in Goochland

WHAT'S IT LIKE to be a Goochland County Public Schools elementary student? We went straight to the experts at Byrd Elementary, Goochland Elementary, and Randolph Elementary: twenty-two fourth and fifth graders in all. They were eager to share their views on a variety of topics. We loved hearing about their perspectives!

Students' specific responses varied from school to school, but common themes arose. **Our elementary students are learning** and they're **having fun** doing it. They **trust the adults** around them to listen, treat them with respect, and to intervene with **whatever assistance is needed**. Is school perfect for them? We heard concerns about **not enough time for recess** and lunch, so no, maybe not quite the utopia they would design for themselves, but close. During our discussions at each school, students' eyes lit up and they often interrupted each other, **they were so eager to tell me about engaging lessons**, how they can count on their teachers, counselors, administrators, and their peers. What's it like to be a student at Byrd, Goochland or Randolph Elementary? Apparently, it rocks! 📱



What happens at school that makes you love coming back?

Our teachers always encourage learning!

Flexible seating makes you more comfortable and helps you learn more.

I love the STEM projects we did, like the bubblegum experiment, dissecting owl pellets, building bridges, and conducting science experiments.

I really like the cafeteria.

Sometimes our teachers give us prizes and rewards for good work.

All the teachers at my school are nice, even the ones I haven't had yet are nice to me.

What happens when you're having trouble or you don't understand what you're working on?

Our teachers tell us never to hesitate to ask questions!

Our teachers show us different ways to get to the right answer, different strategies.

When I'm going through something tough, my teacher always seems to know and asks me if I am ok.

On the subject of kindness:

Our teachers are always good role models for kindness, and they encourage us to set a good example for the younger students.

My teacher always encourages us to find things we have in common and build friendships from there.

What's expected at my school is right because it's a great reminder of how to treat each other.

On the subject of working together in groups:

Working in groups is great because you get to hear everyone's opinions, collaborate with others, and create something together.

I like to pick my partners and be grouped with friends, but I can also make new friends if I'm put with people I don't know as well.

Group work is not my favorite because sometimes people disagree or one person on the team tries to take over.

Tell me about iPads:

I love having an iPad! If we didn't have them we'd have to search through books for everything, but we can just type something into Google and find answers quickly.

I cannot wait to get to high school because high school kids have laptops!

iPads can be a good thing or a bad thing, depending on how you use them.

Some children don't have the opportunity to have technology at home, so iPads are nice to have at school.

Athletics Corner

Contributed by Andy Armstrong, Ph.D.

2018-19 was another year of championships and highlights for the Goochland High School athletic program. With the support of community and middle school programs that develop our student athletes, Goochland High School continues to excel on the field in all seasons.

Highlights of the 2018-19 competition year included district titles in:

- Girls cross country
- Football
- Boys basketball
- Baseball
- Girls track
- Boys soccer
- Girls soccer
- Boys tennis



Ryan Bernstine dominated the competition in boys tennis, winning another state singles title for Goochland High School.

Boys basketball advanced to the state tournament for the first time in school history. Senior Deion Harwood was named to the all-state team.

Goochland High School's swim team and girls volleyball team also included student athletes who received all-district, all-region, and all-state honors.



ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING PARTS about my job is to have conversations with students, to understand better what they're learning in the classroom, what they're interested in outside of school, or sometimes, how we can do an even better job at helping them learn with technology. Time and time again, many students articulate favorable things about their school experience, and especially the community culture rooted in and around their school.

As a division, we have made special efforts at understanding the student experience, through our senior leadership team shadowing students each spring, through conversations Dr. Raley has with student groups, through student advisory groups, student surveys, and even something so simple as

asking someone how their day is going. Often times the richest answers come with carefully crafted questions that help us contextualize a student's perspective. Instead of asking questions that have potentially multiple-choice answers, I like queries such as "show me something you've created on your iPad," or "why do you think that was designed that way?" or "what do you think helps you learn best?"

Sometimes we avoid the questions that might get us into trouble. There are most certainly times to which all of us can relate, when we didn't want to be at school. Either because we weren't feeling well, or because our friends were mad at us, or because the only class left was the one we really struggled with. One of the most important factors

about students enjoying their school experience is tied to feeling like they belong. Students tend to respect learning when they see the relevance behind it. And the relationships that every adult at school can cultivate with students pays dividends in helping students make the connections that (a) someone cares about them at school, and (b) their efforts toward learning is a positive experience that make a positive impact on their life.

National trends show us—and Goochland is not terribly different—that by the time students reach high school, their engagement with school wanes. This summer I met a group of students who meet throughout the year with Dr. Collier at Goochland High School as his student advisory committee. I was interested in their perspectives on

school. I asked the potentially dangerous question: What do you like about school? But I asked it after a camera was rolling. I admit, I was nervous. What would they say?

What a cool group of teenagers! They've made the time and effort to help make the school experience better for their peers. The video turned out great. Right off the cuff, every student could articulate something specific about their school experience that resonated with them and had made an impact. As good as I felt after we stopped rolling (in part, because I knew I had great footage for our opening convocation a few weeks away), I knew our work wasn't done. We want our parents to know that we intend to keep asking rich questions because we truly want to know how we can improve the experience your children have at school. 



Asking the Right Questions

This past school year, Dr. Raley met with every senior ahead of graduation. Many conversations revolved around two primary questions: what are your plans after high school? and what could we do to make our school division better? Student responses were collected and were shared with the division's senior leadership team.

HEATHER
RALEY



This past school year I participated in the community day called Helping Paws. As I reflect upon my time working with younger students at Goochland Elementary, I remember being so impressed with what they already knew and how advanced they seemed at math. I'm excited to go to school here and have an optimistic outlook for Goochland's future.

GRACE
JURAN



I think some of our academic programs are especially strong. For instance, our math department is good at challenging students and maintaining high expectations. As a student, this helps motivate me and continually challenges me to prove myself!

AUSTIN
PAYNE



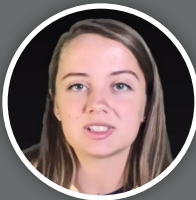
What I love about Goochland County Public Schools is that I know there's a community here to help me, whether it's with homework, or if I have questions. One of the coolest projects I got to work on was through my CTE class on engineering. We designed wheelchairs for pets at the SPCA. That was really cool.

KAMRYN
HARRIS



One of the things that I get really excited about is participating in the drama program. I started in the fifth grade when they needed some young kids in the production and ever since then I've been in all the plays. I think a lot more people should try out drama.

CAROLINE
WEBB



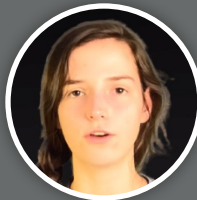
It's easy to get excited about something when your teacher is. I love my teacher's enthusiasm for what we do in drama; we have small group discussions and then bring all those ideas back out to the entire group. It is like everyone is involved and Mr. Burch's enthusiasm really makes a difference.

HATCHER
TEAGUE



When I was a freshman, I took world history with Mr. Doppel, and we got to create a new civilization within Minecraft. Our class was split up into different groups, such as education, government, or economics, and it was pretty cool because our teacher helped us capitalize upon each of our strengths and helped us work together more effectively as a group.

MEGAN
HARLOW



I really liked a project we did in Spanish class because I felt like I was able to make an impact on a real person's life. We used a website where families were asking for small loans to help launch a business. Every person in class got to pick a person, and that's how the project was organized. Then when we were done, we voted, and picked one person. Our Spanish teacher actually made a donation for their loan, and we were able to make a positive impact on someone, while learning Spanish at the same time.

Scan this code to see our video



theFine Arts

STEPHEN A. GEYER, ED.D.

are pretty fine...

FEW WOULD ARGUE THE INTRINSIC BENEFIT of experiences with the arts. In fact, recent national data suggests that 88% of Americans believe “the arts are part of a well-rounded education for K-12 students” (Americans for the Arts, 2017). Yet, while many recognize art’s transformative impacts, its place in many school divisions has become increasingly tenuous.

Not in Goochland. Our programs are thriving, and it starts with our school board’s continued support of a strong, comprehensive program for students. It also begins with our incredibly talented, dedicated team of fine arts educators. Whether it’s our traditional art classes that begin as early as preschool, our upper elementary choral instruction, our middle school band, our secondary multi-disciplinary art program (i.e. ceramics, screen printing), our marching band, jazz band, or our drama program—we have outstanding instructors leading every one!

How do the arts contribute to a student’s ability to lead a productive, successful life after high school?

“While many studies support the fact that the arts build self esteem and motivate students long term, we see firsthand how the arts can affect students on a daily basis. Helping students see

their potential is a gift—but watching them share this gift with others, builds a confidence that can be life changing. There are so many ways for students to find a place in the arts that they may not find in the traditional academic classroom. The success of our programs rests in helping each child find their own way to success. When we step back and allow students to be creative, they almost always exceed our expectations.” – Kim Watts, Division Fine Arts Lead Teacher, Byrd Elementary School & Goochland Elementary School

How would you describe Goochland students?

“I would describe our students as hard-working, ener-

getic, and proud of their accomplishments! Last year was such a fantastic year within the GMS band program, and we are really expanding on that success this school year. Our students are extremely creative and have an enduring drive to be the best. It is so awesome to see them take such pride in what they do each year. I love being a part of this wonderful team and community!” – Jay Sykes, Band, Goochland Middle School

What role do the arts play in bringing our community together?

“The fine arts serve as an avenue of change and connection. The arts bring people of diverse backgrounds together by allowing individuals to pause from their busy schedules and open up with one another to reflect on the human experience. Through art, we are able to observe our similarities, while also connecting through our differences. The Goochland community continues to demonstrate great support of the entire fine arts program.” – Neil Burch, Drama, Goochland High School

What else would you like to share about the arts in Goochland?

“The arts open a door; they show

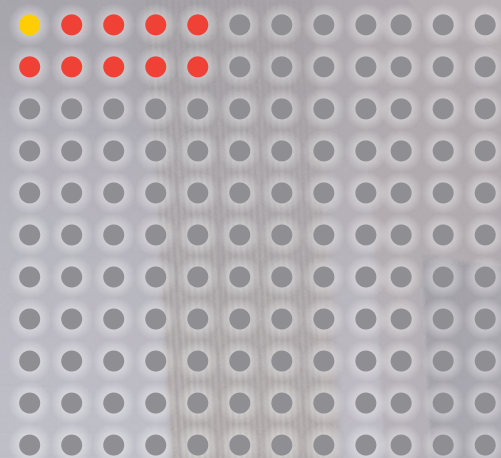
children the diversity of our world, as well as the richness of the human experience. In a world that sometimes seems less connected, less understanding, and less joyful, I witness moments of connection, empathy, and joy every single day that I make music with my students. This is also evident in our performances, at our art shows, in the programs we offer outside of school hours, and within our classrooms every day. Through Goochland’s continued support of the arts, students are able to develop cognitively, socially, and emotionally in a safe and supportive environment where they are able to take risks. I am grateful my students have access to these opportunities, as I believe it not only makes them stronger musicians, but better citizens of our future world.” – Alden Blevins, Music, Randolph Elementary School

“While our school division may be smaller than many of our neighbors, our programs and the opportunities they offer students are second to none. Our department does an amazing job of building communities of students who feel a sense of belonging and pride. Students develop a high level of skill in their area of choice, with many of our students choosing high engagement within a specific program (theatre, band, visual art, dance) throughout their middle and high school years. Our fine arts teachers are fearless and passionate leaders, giving our students an opportunity to express themselves through the arts!” – Cindy Shelton-Eide, Ceramics, Goochland High School **G**

The 2020 Fine Arts Festival is scheduled for Friday, March 20, from 4:30-8:00PM at Goochland High School and is free of charge.



BY THE NUMBERS



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

AP

12%

increase in Advanced Placement scores*
over the past three years
* pass scores of 3s, 4s, and 5s

2,655

students
grades preK-12

100%

1:1 Program
Grades K-12

+15%

math

Our students outpace the
national growth of students.

+10%

reading

2nd
Regionally
in Math

2nd
Regionally
in Reading

97%

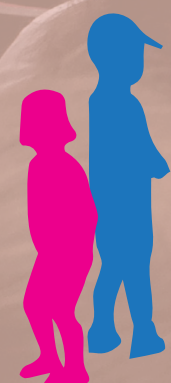
1.3% dropout rate

Approval Ratings

Staff: 97%

Parents: 91%

Students: 89%



91% All time high for early literacy readiness
in grades K-2.

ALL HANDS ON DECK

Pictured: The school year opens for staff at our annual Convocation Exercises. As has become tradition, the ending of this event features the GHS Bulldog Marching Band.

DID YOU KNOW?



We have adult education opportunities right here in Goochland. The *Capital Region Adult Education Program* provides classes to prepare individuals in need of a GED® or basic math, reading, computer and workforce skills. Summer classes are free and offered at two locations:

Reynolds Community College
Goochland Campus
1851 Dickinson Road
Goochland, Virginia
(804) 780-6039

Goochland Cares
2931 River Road West
Goochland, Virginia 23063
(804) 556-6260



We have two Governor's Schools. Virginia has a unique system of Governor's School programs designed to meet the needs of students who desire academic challenge and the opportunity to pursue their passions. There are nineteen distinct Governor's School programs in Virginia that provide qualifying students from across the state with access to this unique opportunity. The vast majority of Virginia school divisions participate in only one such program, but Goochland County Public Schools participates in two outstanding Governor's Schools: Blue Ridge Virtual Governor's School and Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. These programs combine to allow up to 172 Goochland students to attend Governor's School every year (about 43 at each grade level 9-12). The application process begins in the fall of eighth grade for both programs. If you'd like to learn more, please attend our information night on **Monday, October 28, at 6:30PM** at Goochland High School and/or contact Raye Rector, Director of Gifted and Federal Programs: (804) 556-5610 or rrector@glnd.k12.va.us.



We hosted the first-ever SkillsUSA contest for utility and heavy equipment operation right here in Goochland. Goochland Tech hosted the first-ever SkillsUSA contest for utility and heavy equipment operation this past spring. Students from Goochland County and Suffolk County competed in three contests that required both operational speed and precision. Our students swept the competition, taking the top three places in all three events. The showcase was sponsored by the Richmond Area Municipal Contractors Association.



We've toured each of our schools and made videos. Dr. Raley has visited each of our buildings over the past year and will continue this year, making interactive videos with our division webmaster, Dr. John Hendron. The videos are unique in that they provide a 360° viewing experience using YouTube. While we believe 360° video is effective for capturing events from the viewer's virtual perspective, our first year's worth of videos were more about allowing our community members to feel like they were mixing in seamlessly with students, or at the table during a discussion. Follow us online at: <https://goo.gl/cn7Szh>

Your Dollars at Work / DEBBIE WHITE, C.P.A.

ACTUAL EXPENDITURE FIGURES from our last fiscal year are represented in the graph below, showing, in effect, how each dollar is divided to cover the costs in Goochland County of a high quality education for over 2,600 students. The current year budget slices the dollar in a very similar way, with greater funding in the 2019-20 school year for two additional secondary teachers and a licensed mental health counselor, higher dual enrollment and virtual classroom costs, and an overall 3% increase in salary and benefits.

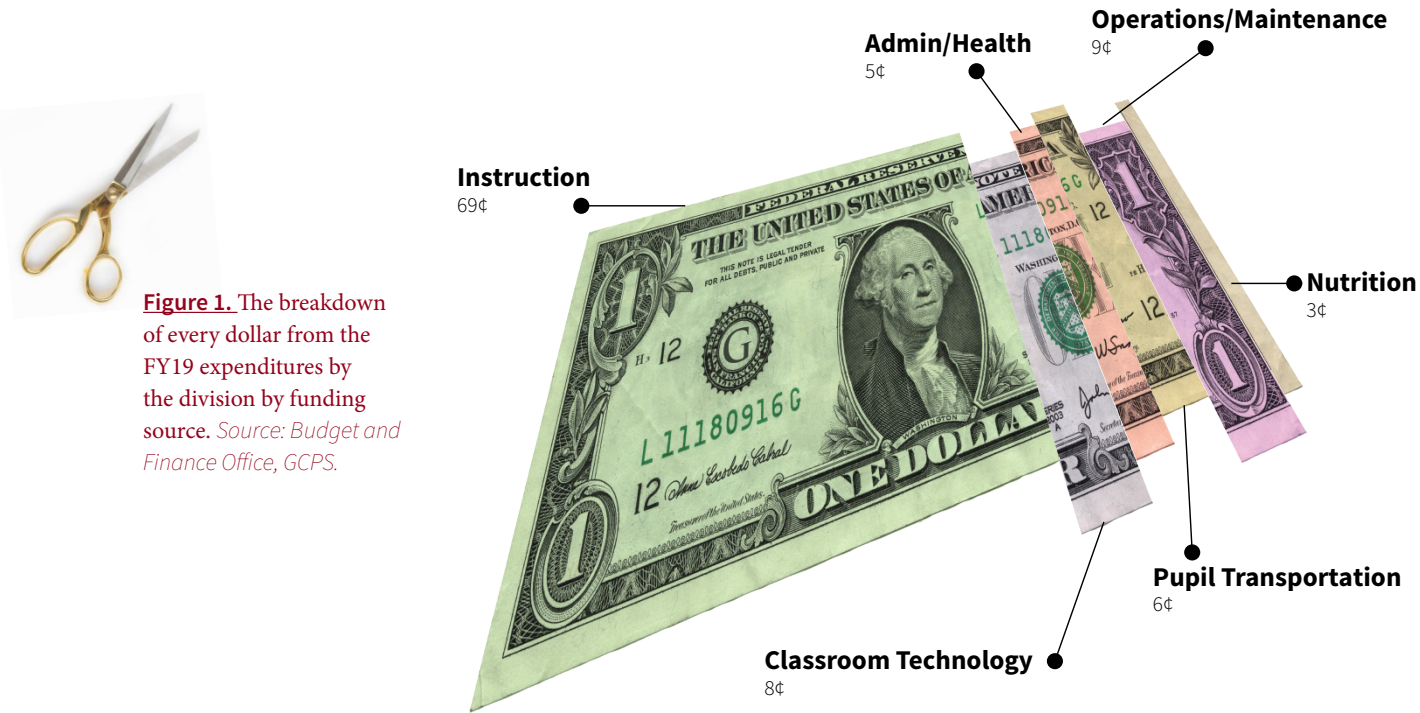
The table below highlights the breakdown of funding sources for this year's school budget.

Source of Funding	FY 20 Budget	Percentage
County Transfer	\$23,330,000	68.67%
State	7,850,980	23.11%
Federal	1,739,322	5.12%
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	1,054,985	3.11%
Total	\$33,975,287	100.00%

Finally, Goochland's budget can be broken down and viewed another way. The second table shows this school year's budget by expenditure group.

Expenditures by Object Group	FY 20 Budget
Salary and Wages	\$20,441,722
Benefits	7,855,580
Purchased Services	1,515,304
Other Charges (lease, travel)	1,598,215
Materials and Supplies	1,859,536
Capital Outlay	604,930
Total	\$33,875,287

The Goochland School Board strives to be excellent stewards of every dollar. The division's budget and finance office has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its excellence in school budgeting for each of the past six years.





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

Goochland County School Board

District 1

Michael E. Payne mpayne@glnd.k12.va.us

District 2

W. Kevin Hazzard khazzard@glnd.k12.va.us

District 3

Karen Horn khorn@glnd.k12.va.us

District 4

Elizabeth A. Hardy bhardy@glnd.k12.va.us

District 5

John D. Wright jwright@glnd.k12.va.us



Pictured (L-R): Payne, Hardy, Hazzard, Wright, and Horn.

A Message from the GEF

GOOCHLAND EDUCATION

FOUNDATION

Building Lives, Leaving Legacies.

The GEF focuses on positively impacting educational practices, ensuring equity in education, and helping our children develop and strengthen the necessary 21st century skills so they are competitive in the workplace and are productive citizens, participating in everything Goochland County offers.

Simply put, we want to be sure every child has a chance to grow up prepared for a fast-changing technological and global marketplace. We do this by providing our teachers and their students with tools and educational experiences beyond the traditional academic curriculum.

We can only do this with community support. Please consider a gift to the Goochland Education Foundation to help us ensure a bright future for all of our children. If you want to know more about what the GEF does or discuss how you can help, please contact Cyndy Brown at cbrown@goochlandedu.org or (804) 556-5627.