

ACPS 2018-2019 Superintendent's Message to the Community

Increasing Engagement, Increasing Achievement

Welcome to the start of an exciting and promising school year!! As Interim Superintendent, I am honored to have this opportunity to serve, and I look forward to the beginning of this new school year as we develop relationships, and strengthen the community bonds that result in enhanced student learning.

Our theme for this year is ***Increasing Engagement, Increasing Achievement***

I am committed to increasing opportunities for meaningful engagement in our schools with community stakeholders. We know that increased engagement by stakeholders has a positive impact on student motivation and increased academic achievement.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Cynthia Reasoner as Director of Instruction and Human Resources. She comes to this key instructional leadership position from her previous successful role as Principal, ACES. We also welcome Mr. Jonathan Cummins as Principal, Amelia County Elementary School. Mr. Cummins previously served as Assistant Principal, Amelia County Middle School.

There are many initiatives and accomplishments to highlight, and among them are the following:

The Chromebook Initiative implementation is expanding to grades 5-12. Chromebooks incorporate digital technology in classroom instruction. This is an important component of increasing student engagement in learning.

We are proud of the full accreditation of all three schools! There is no magic in this accomplishment! It is the result of teamwork, communication, diligence and perseverance by students, staff, families, and community supporters. This is a significant accomplishment, and we have set our sights on earning Blue Ribbon Schools recognition by the Virginia Department of Education.

Special kudos to Dr. Jan Medley, ACMS Principal, for her leadership accomplishments at the end of her first year in that role. The middle school students and their staff made significant growth in nearly every subject area, and are poised for another strong year in 2018-19!!!

Also, we are proud of the continuing leadership accomplishments of Mrs. Parcilla Salley as ACHS Principal, and for the supportive assistance that she provided during

this time of division leadership transition. Student achievement scores continue to improve at the high school.

We are enhancing the professional development activities with the middle and elementary Schools, and also increasing the development of Professional Learning Communities in which teachers network with their colleagues, sharing instructional successes and learning from each other.

An emphasis at the high school is development of a co-teaching model in collaborative classrooms, with both teachers taking ownership of increasing student achievement. Also, our Career and Technical Education programs are enhanced with additional course offerings, creating more opportunities for students to become college and career ready.

At the elementary school, development of the STEAM Resource Lab is moving forward.

We look forward to a strong and positive opening of schools, and providing a welcoming learning environment in which all students can grow! Let's make this an incredible year!

K. David Smith, Ed.D.

Interim Superintendent

Amelia County Public Schools