
A monthly report from the Albemarle County School Board to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors

Instructional Coaching Update: The School Board gave direction to the School Division on February 3 to continue with the implementation of the Instructional Coaching Model reorganization. Under this model, division- and schools-based instructional support positions would be reorganized into five centrally managed coaching teams that serve several elementary, middle or high schools. Each team will be managed by a Lead Instructional Coach, who will have supervisory and compliance duties, and who will report to either the Director of Elementary or Director of Secondary Education.

On April 1st and 2nd, Principals and Instructional Coaches worked with to create a common vision and purpose. In the coming months prior to school starting, instructional coaches will be working with teachers and principals to gather input and develop protocols for the work that they will be doing next school year.

Administrative Appointments: The School Board approved the following personnel changes during its meetings on March 26th and April 2nd:

- Billy Haun was named Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning. This position is currently held by Dr. Bruce Benson, who will assume the role of Assistant Superintendent for Planning and Operations as of July 1. Mr. Haun is currently the principal of Monticello High School.
- Mr. Dave Francis was appointed as principal of Western Albemarle High School. Mr. Francis was currently serving as interim principal at Western Albemarle.
- Dr. Luvelle Brown was appointed as Chief Information Officer for the School Division. This shift is part of the reorganization of the division leadership, and represents a lateral job redefinition for Dr. Brown.
- Dr. Matt Haas was named Director of Secondary Education. He will be responsible for curriculum and instruction for students in grades 6 – 12. Dr. Haas is currently the principal of Albemarle High School.

The School Division is currently interviewing for the principal positions at Monticello High School, Albemarle High School and Burley Middle School. These positions are open due to promotions listed above and a retirement.

Gang Forums: On April 27th and 28th, Albemarle County Police, Schools and Commonwealth's Attorney's Office presented a free community forum on gangs and gang activity. The presentation was held to raise public awareness regarding gangs, share prevention strategies that schools have in place,

provide a list of community resources, and highlight how parents and citizens can get involved in preventing gang activity in our area.

Albemarle High School Band and Chorus: The Albemarle High School Band and Choir programs won top honors at the Cruise Festivals Music Competition while in Nassau, Bahamas over Spring Break. The Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, Patriot Singers, All That Jazz, Take Note! and Ladies First Show Choir each received Superior ratings, the highest possible rating from the panel of music industry judges. The Symphonic Band and Women's Ensemble received Excellent ratings.

Greer Elementary School Gym Dedication: Greer Elementary School held a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for the newly constructed gymnasium on Friday, April 17th. The new gym was dedicated to former Greer Principal, Fulton Marshall who served the Greer community for over two decades until 2001.

Destination ImagiNation: Students from Albemarle County Public Schools stole the show at the Virginia Destination ImagiNation® (DI) Tournament on April 4th, placing in the top three in each of five competitive categories focusing on theatrical, structural, improvisational, scientific, and technical skills. Of the 70 participating schools, 10 teams were from Albemarle County; seven of these teams advanced to the Global Finals, and all won awards. First- and second-place winning teams at the state tournament will compete with over 900 teams from all 50 states and 40 countries at the DI Global Finals May 20-24 in Knoxville, TN.

Destination ImagiNation® is a process-based program grounded in sound creative problem solving theory that helps young people build lifelong skills. The Jefferson Region has participated for 10 years and Albemarle County Public Schools has sent at least one team to the World Championship level since 1998. Up to seven participants work together as a team for eight to 12 weeks to create their unique solution to a Team Challenge, and participants learn: creativity, problem solving skills, teamwork, presentation skills, confidence, knowledge application, creative and critical thinking skills, time management, and research skills. Albemarle County Schools encourages participation in the program, providing support through Gifted Services and Gifted Resource Teachers at all schools.

School Volunteer Appreciation Week: April 19-25 was National School Volunteer Appreciation Week. More than 35,000 volunteer hours have been clocked in Albemarle County Schools to date. Many schools hosted Volunteer Appreciation breakfasts or gatherings. Each school will nominate a "Volunteer of the Year" who will be invited to the May 14th School Board meeting for special commendation.

On Wednesday, April 22 (Earth Day), volunteers from across the community gathered at Albemarle County Schools to participate in spring service projects.

May Meetings: The School Board will hold its regular meeting on May 14th and its regular work session on May 28th.