

PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Curriculum and Instructional Support Services Report
April 17, 2015

English (*Ms. Anna Cross*)

English and Science are collaborating with Alternative Writing Assessments. VDOE has requested that Portsmouth Public Schools send a cross-curricular team in the fall to the English SOL Institute in Newport News to share our efforts that would serve as “a model for the state,” according to English State Supervisor, Tracy Robinson.

The Office of English has recommended to all schools that students should be provided many opportunities to work in the TESTNAV program provided by VDOE. It provides exposure and practice with the released tests, passages, and questions

Principals have been provided the Student Performance Analysis Power Points for all grades. These contain practice items for specific SOL strands that are weak across the state.

The Office of English is celebrating April as Poetry Month. Every April, on *Poem in Your Pocket Day*, people throughout the United States celebrate by selecting a poem, carrying it with them, and sharing it with others throughout the day. Our schools K-12 have been invited to participate, and resources have been provided for teachers for great activities aligned to this genre. Please join us!

Gifted and Talented (*Ms. Beverly Jackson*)

Churchland Academy Elementary School participated in the Odyssey of the Mind Region 6 tournament on March 28, 2015. The team was victorious and will now advance to the state tournament in Lorton, VA on April 18, 2015.

Math (*Dr. Fiona Nichols*)

Churchland Primary and Intermediate participated in a pilot of *First in Math* beginning in January. Students completed a variety of activities which allowed them to practice math skills. Cumulatively the students have solved over 1.1 MILLION math problems! As a result, CPI was ranked #21 in the state and the sixth grade was ranked #6 in the state!

Portsmouth Public Schools has received a \$15,000 grant from the VDOE Middle School Teacher Corps program. The grant provides funds for teacher recruitment and retention of experienced, effective mathematics teachers. The VDOE will fund the Middle School Teacher Corps recruitment incentive for each of the three middle schools.

Reminder: The Grade 6 Math Challenge will be held April 24th at Victory Elementary.

Science (*Mrs. Laura Nelson*)

Robotics coaches, Daron Moore and Lawrence Douglass, along with two robotics students, represented Portsmouth Public Schools at the Jefferson Laboratory Workforce Roundtable discussion with the Deputy Secretary of Energy on April 9, 2015.

Dyron James, has been accepted into the West Point STEM Workshop on May 25 – 28, 2015. Dyron is a seventh grade student at Churchland Middle.

Student Services (*Dr. Marie Shepherd*)

Marketing (DECA) students at I. C. Norcom High School won at the State level and will be attending the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida in April. The students are Shane Bullock – Retail Management, Janae' Gatling – Leader Development, Alexia Trotter – Marketing Communication, Angel Thompson – Marketing Communication, Jordan Thornton – Apparel and Accessories Marketing.

Business (FBLA) students at I. C. Norcom High School won at the district level and will be attending the state competition in Reston, VA in April. The students are Niya Watkins – Word Processing, Kristen Moore – Insurance and Risk Management, and Jaylyn Richard – Sales Presentation.

Respectfully submitted,



Helen W. Taylor, Ed.D.
Senior Director

I.C. Norcom High School
Oversight/Governance Team Meeting
March 19, 2015

Committee Members Present: Dr. Helen Taylor, Senior Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Fiona Nichols, Director of Mathematics; Mr. Richard Carter, Director of Social Studies; Mrs. Laura Nelson, Director of Science; Dr. Marie Shepherd, Director of Student Services; Mr. Derrick Nottingham, Director of Research; Mrs. Ellen Giordano, Coordinator of Special Education; Mrs. Anna Cross, Lead Contact for English; Dr. Rosalynn Sanderlin, Principal; Ms. Bernadette Smith, Assistant Principal; Mr. Shawn Millaci, Assistant; Mr. William Taylor, Assistant Principal; Mrs. Tamika Brice, Guidance Chair; Ms. Jaquail Mayes, Graduation Coach; Mrs. Shelly Nason, Science Department Chair; Mrs. Tanesha Pfister, Social Studies Department Chair; Mr. Judah Lamar, English Department Chair; Mrs. Donna Dixon, Special Education Department Chair; Mrs. Pamela Green, Special Education Chair; Dr. MecChelle, Indistar Liaison.

10:38 am

School Leadership Team Report and Action Steps:


Dr. Sanderlin provided updates and highlights: *The Greyhound Singers were selected for District Chorus; *For the first time in nine years, the DECA Club will attend the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida; *The AGAPE Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted eighteen members; *On March 15, 2015 the 3.0 Club participated in a Pi Day Celebration. Approximately 350 were in attendance. *There was a Communities Priorities Workshop on April 2, 2015 from 6:00pm—7:30 pm. *"Chart your Course Night" was held on April 15, 2015. *The girls and boys indoor track team exceeded in all tournaments and made Regional Champions; The boys' track team made 4A State Champions; *The Greyhound Boys Basketball Team and their "Back to Back" win State Championship.

Math: Mr. Millaci presented strategies used by the Math department to assist students and S. Glick, Program Specialist, is working with Geometry students. Algebra Readiness tutors are working with students in small groups; The State Math Coach is working on instructional strategies and providing professional development and provides bi-weekly feedback. K. Rucker, Math Teacher on Special Assignment is working closely with Algebra students.

Science: Mrs. Nason reviewed data and strategies to include pull-outs, after-school instruction and online instruction. There are ten seniors in need of a Science SOL. Also, letters are sent to parents for parent involvement.

Social Studies: Mrs. Pfister presented data on the breakdown of World History I. Strategies were provided and included streamlining instructional activities to ensure content coverage; remediation offered on Wednesdays in Rooms 215, 223, 234, and 334; re-assessment of SOL strands not covered before the 4.5 benchmark. Projection-74.63% **pass rate**. Mr. Cater appreciated the conservative projection which will be in line with the needs of the building. Teachers must stay on pacing. The pacing guide did not change because of inclement weather. Students will be given skills packets to take home and used over Spring Break.


English: Mr. Lamar met with English teachers daily to achieve its objectives. Appreciation was acknowledged for the access of the computer lab for practice before the writing test.



Special Education: Mrs. Dixon shared that special education has grown tremendously. Teachers have created booklets to assist students in specific areas. Resources have been utilized to prepare students for the SOL tests and benchmark tests.

Graduation Index: Ms. Mayes and Mrs. Brice gave a brief explanation of the graduation index retention summary. There are 310 seniors in the 2015 Cohort. Strategies include: senior and junior credit checks; off-track parent meetings; individual student meetings, home visitations; weekly on-time graduation meetings with attendance liaison, graduation coach, school counselor and director of Student Services.

Discipline Strategies: Mr. Taylor presented strategies that are in place in the building to increase equity and accountability. duty stations for all faculty and staff; administrative visibility; random security searches; closing restrooms for the 1st 15 min. and the last 15 min; having an adult stationed at the front door; and moving attendance clerk to High Street along with a security officer during 1st block. Classroom interventions include: 9th grade team discipline meetings; weekly empowerment meetings; empowerment Monday's; day treatment; monthly faculty meetings where discipline data is shared and strategies are discussed; teacher observations focus on discipline; parent notification / behavior contracts; Community and Schools. The goals are: to foster relationships with students, teachers, and parents; to be proactive in order prevent items/issues of concern from escalating; to work in a collaborative manner with available resources to assist students displaying inappropriate behavior; and to be consistent, firm, and fair when dealing with inappropriate student actions.



Actions Steps: Dr. Taylor reviewed the AARPE plan that Norcom has submitted to the state and announced the next meeting in Richmond is Monday, March 23, 2015. She also thanked the administration for adjusting the computer schedule to make sure that the English students had an opportunity to practice before the Writing test.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen W. Taylor, Ed.D.
Senior Director

