

TRAILSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

20325 Claiborne Parkway
Ashburn, VA 20147
(571) 252-2280 (Tel)

We're Personalizing Learning at Trailside Middle School

Dear Families,

I wanted to let you know about an exciting new initiative at Trailside Middle School and Loudoun County Public Schools. Trailside has been selected as one of the five middle schools to pilot Personalized Learning, supported through Educational Consultants at Education Elements. Beginning this September, we will be introducing “personalized learning” in all of our core classrooms as a way to improve the learning experience and academic results for all of our students. Each English, Science, Social Studies, and Math classroom will receive 16 iPads to use, and we will focus class time on meeting the individual needs of each student through small group time with the teacher and the use of digital content that adapts to each student’s strengths and gaps. Personalized learning will benefit our students in several important ways:

1. Students will learn more and progress faster when the material is at the right level of difficulty and pace for him or her. Personalized learning customizes each student’s education by providing teachers with detailed, computer-generated information about the student’s learning needs and freeing up more time for teachers to teach students individually and in small groups.
2. Personalized learning makes learning more interesting for students. Students will still learn from teachers, but they will spend just as much time learning from engaging digital content and from each other in collaborative group projects.
3. Personalized learning gives students more opportunities to make decisions about how and what they learn, whether through digital content or in a small collaborative group. When students feel “ownership” over their education, they are more engaged and their academic results improve. In addition to the benefits for students, blended learning will also support our teachers. While you may have heard about schools using computers to replace teachers, at Trailside we will use technology to help our teachers be more supportive of each student’s learning needs. Teachers will have better information about their students and more time

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to spend on teaching the more difficult concepts, while digital content provides information.

Moving to a personalized learning program will be a learning process for the whole Trailside community and will require the support and patience of everyone involved. During this process, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. With your involvement and support, we are confident that this will be a huge step forward for our school, and a key to increasing student success in learning.

We will share more about our personalized learning plan during scheduled parent information events this fall. In the meantime, feel free to visit our website under Parents for more information regarding Personalized Learning. We look forward to another successful year at Trailside Middle School.

Sincerely,

Bridget M. Beichler

Bridget M. Beichler
Principal of Trailside Middle School