



Pupil Services Communiqué

CONTINUAL COMMITMENT TO “EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD” TO ENSURE SAFE, HEALTHY, AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS

May 2018

ESPECIALLY FOR STUDENTS

- ◆ The Department of Pupil Services, Office of Special Education, Career and Transition Services, will be holding an end-of-the year Community and Schools Together (CAST) SY 2017/2018 program completion ceremony for the thirty students who participated in CAST this year. CAST is a post high school community-based independence and workplace skills program for students ages 18-22. You are invited to attend the event on Wednesday, June 13, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. in the LCPS Administration Building Board Room. Come and hear about the paid employment opportunities and skills these students have obtained this year!
- ◆ Through a competitive application and interview process, The National Project SEARCH selected a cohort of ten new interns for the 2018-2019 school year. The National Project SEARCH, currently finishing in the programs' second year, has provided twenty young adults with three internship rotations within the host business, The National Conference Center. The goal of the program is to provide an hour of classroom instruction each day and four hours interning in three different departments to prepare young adults with disabilities for competitive, integrated employment. The SEARCH graduation ceremony is on June 11 at NCC.
- ◆ The Office of Student Services supported the cause to eliminate childhood poverty with the “Red Nose Day Campaign” from April 16 to April 20. Topic areas included self-care, health coping skills, and how to seek help.



ESPECIALLY FOR FAMILIES

- ◆ The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) held its annual awards ceremony on May 15, 2018. Approximately 50 students, parents, educators, school teams, and administrators were recognized for their contributions to the well-being and success of students with disabilities. Over 300 individuals were in attendance.
- ◆ A **Transition Night** was held at John Champe High School on May 10th. Parents had the opportunity to learn about different community resources such as Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services, Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Developmental Services, and Northern Virginia Community College. Parent Resource Services were also present to share resources with families.
- ◆ Student Assistance Services offered a **Substance Use Awareness** workshop for parents at Heritage High School on May 8, 2018. 32 parents attended this session which was the third offering of this workshop this year.

- ◆ The Autism team and Parent Resources Services provided a **Project First Responder** workshop with Loudoun County Sheriff's Office on April 17th. This workshop afforded parents the opportunity to hear what resources Loudoun County Sheriff's Office offers to students with disabilities.
- ◆ Parent Resource Services offered workshops on **Restorative Language** on April 19th, **Suicide Prevention** on May 3rd, and **Mindfulness for Parents** on May 17th through the Mental Health and Wellness, Parent Series. Loudoun County Public School Parent Resource Services looks forward to the many series workshop offerings in the upcoming school year.

ESPECIALLY FOR STAFF

- ◆ In the month of May, the Specialized Reading online inventory through LCPSTGO and Follette has become active! SIF-Rs are in the process of scheduling time with all schools to barcode and scan materials into this system. This end-of-year preparation will allow for the digital library of Specialized Reading materials to be accessible to staff in the fall.
- ◆ The Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) program of Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) was awarded a grant from 100 Women Strong for a partnership with the non-profit organization, **All Ages Read Together** (AART). The shared program led by an ECSE teacher and an AART assistant will support typically developing children and ECSE students who are age-eligible for kindergarten in the 2019-2020 school year who are not currently participating in any other preschool program in the county. This program/class will provide an additional inclusive opportunity for a group of preschoolers in our district.
- ◆ In the 2017-2018 school year, the CSA Services coordinators have given presentations to parents, school social workers, special education staff, and school administrators regarding the Children's Services Act (CSA) process as well as the wealth of community resources that can be accessed to support families and prevent more restrictive school placements for students. CSA Services coordinators presented this information for LCPS Special Education deans at their meeting on May 23, 2018.
- ◆ Using the LCPS Response To Intervention (RTI) Implementation Rubric (derived from the Colorado State RTI Implementation Rubric), all Cohort I schools rated their implementation practices in October 2017 and March 2018. Each school team responded to 26 questions related to the four areas of leadership, targeted instruction, data-driven decision-making and data to support student success. For each question, the team self-identified their practices as established in one of four growth areas: planning, developing, implementing, or sustaining.
- ◆ Our Cohort I schools have a lot to celebrate! 97% of Cohort I schools demonstrated growth from Fall 2017 to Spring 2018 in two of the four assessed areas (e.g., leadership, targeted instruction, data-driven decision-making and/or data to support student success).
- ◆ The McKinney-Vento Specialist, Becky Hicks, and Research Supervisor, Dr. Ryan Tyler, presented McKinney-Vento program data to Dr. Kealy and Dr. Ellis. In regards to graduation rates, Loudoun County Public Schools can report that 73% of twelfth grade McKinney-Vento students are graduating on time and 64% of students who were McKinney-Vento at any time during grades 9-12 are graduating on time. These percentages are significantly higher than those of our neighboring jurisdictions. The McKinney-Vento specialist will be working with principals in August to include goals and objectives in their SIP when their school has a significant number of McKinney-Vento students enrolled.
- ◆ Wednesday, May 9, the autism team led paraprofessionals through a learning opportunity focused on reinforcement schedules and end-of-year strategies. As a result of positive feedback by participants, a series of monthly trainings is planned for the 2018-2019 school year.
- ◆ The core autism team continues to work with VCU on goal work and planning for the 2018-2019 school year. The areas of goal work are Professional Development, Systems Change, Curriculum Content Area of Focus, and Evidence-Based Practices.
- ◆ Autism Awareness month (April) was a huge success with many schools holding autism awareness events and fundraisers throughout the month. Many of the projects and events were shared via twitter @LCPS_Autism.
- ◆ On May 2 and May 3, professor and author Dr. Alice Hammel joined LCPS special education consulting teacher, Kelsi Yingling, for regional consultations with the goal of providing support to both general and special education teachers in the areas of music education and specialized music instruction for our special education students. Four schools hosted with enthusiastic participants! LCPS staff utilized the time to ask specific questions and connect with colleagues.
- ◆ LCPS Occupational Therapist, Debbie Schwind, successfully defended her dissertation on May 3 at Drexel University and will be hooded in June in the Doctor of Health Science in Rehabilitation Sciences program. Her dissertation is titled - *Evaluating a Novel Approach to Community-Based Instruction in Elementary School for Students with Autism*. Drexel has considered this ground-breaking research and research that serves to fill a gap in the literature.
- ◆ LCPS received notification that we were awarded a third year extension on the Juvenile Justice Department (JJDP) Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services Title 2 Restorative Practices Expansion Grant. The grant provides funding for Restorative Practices (RP) Language and Circle training for the entire school district (both teachers and school staff).