



Pupil Services Communiqué

January 2019

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AUTISM SERVICES



On January 18, 2019, the Office of Special Education, in collaboration with the Transportation Department, provided training to all bus drivers and bus attendants in the area of autism. The training encompassed the state

mandated training developed by the Virginia Autism Center for Excellence at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), which included video modules and discussion. The training provided a foundational level of understanding for bus drivers who encounter students with autism on their buses and also provided an introduction to basic intervention strategies. Collaboration with the Transportation Department will continue to ensure that all new bus drivers and attendants are trained moving forward.



DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP

Dr. Asia Jones, Assistant Superintendent, Pupil Services
John Lody, Director, Diagnostic and Prevention Services
Dr. Suzanne Jimenez, Director, Special Education
Dr. Clark Bowers, Director, Student Services

CAREER & TRANSITION SERVICES

The Career & Transition team would like to highlight: Business Partnerships and Career and Life Readiness.



Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) Department of Pupil Services, Transition Services,

participates on the School Business Partnership Council and works with

businesses throughout Loudoun County for work-based opportunities and strategic partnerships for our students with disabilities to obtain career and life readiness competencies. To that end, Transition Services is proud to announce that two business partnerships nominated will be awarded recognition at the School Business partnership breakfast on March 8, 2019, for their “inclusive” partnerships. Additionally, one of our Transition Services staff was awarded the Virginia Career & Technical Education (VACTE) “Career Guidance” award at the annual VACTE Professional Development and Leadership Seminar in Richmond, Virginia, on January 14, 2019, for scope and sequence curriculum development in post high school programming for our students with disabilities. Also, this month, Transition Services is launching the Virginia Department of Education/ Department of Aging & Rehabilitative Services (VDOE/DARS) Virtual Job Shadow (VJS) platform to middle school case managers and high school transition teachers. This is a new

program that the VDOE is working with LCPS to pilot this semester to approximately 4,000 secondary school students, primarily middle school.

Transition teachers in the high schools are currently processing applications for interested recent and upcoming graduates with their Applied Studies Diploma to apply for CAST/Community and Schools Together and Project Search. Applications are due March 1, 2019.



INCLUSIVE PRACTICES



Tuscarora High School supports inclusion by supporting Husky Buddies. Husky Buddies' members include typical peers as well as students with disabilities. Husky Buddies seek opportunities to engage together in philanthropic work as well as develop authentic friendships. Husky Buddies usually start the year with a selfie scavenger hunt so that new members can get to know their way around the building. This year, new members ran through the big Husky Helmet after the football team at the high school homecoming football game - the kids loved it! The Husky Buddies meet every week.



The Husky Buddies past activities have included volunteering to chaperone an elementary school dance, hosting the 'I Can' bike camp (partnering with The Arc of Loudoun, a local full-service non-profit organization whose goal is to support individuals with disabilities and their families, located on the Paxton Campus), selling autism awareness T-shirts, having a pledge to end the "r" word drive, and typical high school fun: football games, wrestling meets, and school dances. Speech Language Pathologist, Shawnda Saul, co-sponsors the club with the Director of Guidance, Jennifer Reed.

Sensory Walk at Legacy:

The new construction at Legacy Elementary added classrooms for our students, another outside exit, and a wonderful hallway for children to safely hop, skip, jump, push on the wall, walk on tiptoes, sidestep, follow directions, and breathe deeply. All students and instructional staff were invited to follow the sensory path, which has been used by children aged pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. The path was designed to provide an opportunity for vestibular and proprioceptive activities to help students with self-regulation skills through collaborative efforts with the school's occupational therapist, classroom teachers, administrators, and custodial staff. Please access sensory walk video [here](#).



PARENT RESOURCE SERVICES (PRS)



Please join PRS in January for a variety of workshops. On Monday, January 28, 2019, at Briar Woods High School, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with Loudoun County Public Schools Department of Pupil Services will present a program on Internet Safety and Vaping/JUULing.

There will be two different workshops to address transitions between levels for parents of special education students. On Thursday, January 24, 2019, *"Transitioning from Elementary School to Middle School with an IEP"* is scheduled at the LCPS Administration Building from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. On Thursday, January 31, 2019, *"Transitioning from Middle School to High School with an IEP"* is scheduled at the LCPS Administration Building from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Please visit the [PRS website](#) for additional information.

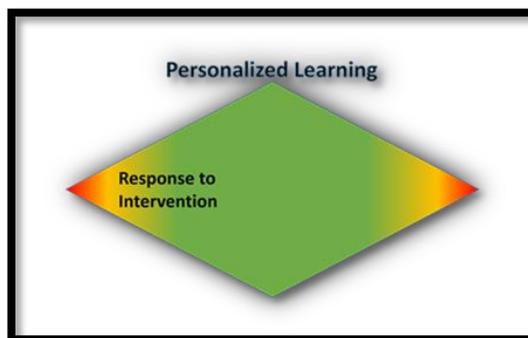
RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RTI)

Winter is a busy season for Response to Intervention! On January 9 and 10, 2019, RTI Cohort II reading schools participated in half-day professional learning on the neurological loop of reading and science of progress monitoring presented by Jennifer Sassano, supervisor of Specialized Instructional Facilitators-Reading (SIF-R). Participants analyzed a Tier 2 and a Tier 3 case study, and SIF-Rs modeled interventions matched to needs identified in the analysis. Ninety-seven percent of participants responded that they would implement a new concept, strategy, or skill presented in this professional learning opportunity.

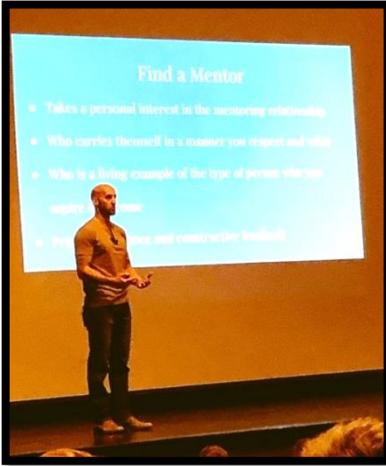
RTI Cohort II math schools will attend half-day professional learning focused on differentiated lesson planning using MAP Growth data (Tier 1) and targeting math intervention to meet students' needs (Tiers 2 and 3). Participants will create choice boards to take back to their schools to use for matching intervention to needs.

In February, Cohort I schools will attend professional learning-focused intervention for students struggling with reading comprehension by layering or intensifying instruction at Tiers 2 and 3.

FastBridge Learning training will be provided to participants in January, February, and March. FAST (Formative Assessment System for Teachers) is being utilized by 82 schools for screening and 73 schools for progress monitoring across all levels: elementary, middle, and high schools.



UNIFIED MENTAL HEALTH



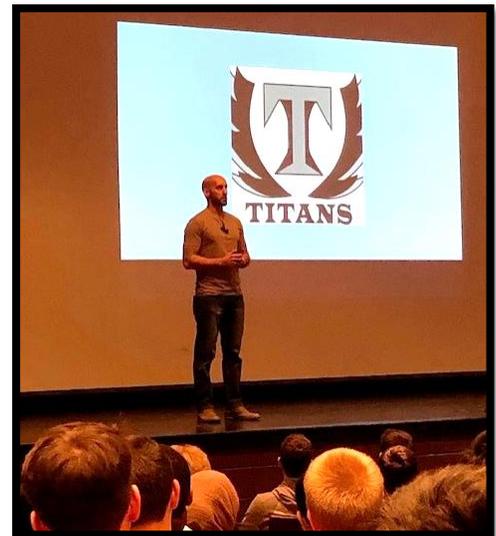
Dominion High School hosted an assembly for ninth-twelfth grade students and faculty on January 9, 2019. Motivational speaker, Sam Lucania, shared his powerful story and message with attendees. Turning his "mess into a message," Sam shared how he turned to substance use and addiction during adolescence to escape and numb the pain of depression, anxiety, and bullying. Never feeling comfortable in his own skin, constantly fearing judgement from his peers, and continually striving for peer acceptance, Sam shared his journey through addiction and recovery and presented a message of hope, help, and strength. Students connected to his authenticity, his brokenness, and his palpable desire to help others learn through his own mistakes. He left students

with poignant lessons that they are still talking about in the hallways of Dominion High School. No one succeeds in life alone. Find a positive mentor. Every decision you make has consequences. Fill your life with healthy activities, positive friends, and mentors rather than drugs and alcohol. Work on being physically fit, mentally fit, and spiritually fit. If you make mistakes, experience failure, or face challenges, there is hope; there is help so you emerge stronger.

On the evening of January 9, 2019, Sam came to share his message with the parents in our parent-teacher organization, the Association of Titan Leaders Assisting Students (ATLAS). In addition to sharing his story, Sam included information about how he believes parents can support their children. He named commonly abused prescription drugs and provided guidance as to how to properly store the drugs to prevent abuse. Parents in attendance were highly complimentary of his presentation, and some parents purchased several copies of his books as a donation for our students.

On January 10, 2019, every student participated in an Advisory lesson facilitated by a faculty member and/or a Sources of Strength peer leader. The lesson involved a circle discussion in which students reflected on the parts of Sam's story that resonated with them, the difficulty some students have in asking for help, the importance of asking for help, and the people and resources within the Dominion High School community that students feel they can turn to when faced with various challenges.

Sam Lucania's assembly and the follow-up parent presentation and Advisory lesson were an overwhelming successful Tier 1 initiative!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **January 29, 2019:** Classroom Management Systems Training: Class-wide Group Contingencies and Opportunities to Respond
- **January 30, 2019:** PRS Workshop, Positive Mealtime Strategies
- **January 31, 2019:** PRS Workshop, Transition from Middle School to High School
- **February 2, 2019:** Tier 2 Interventions and Evaluation
- **February 7, 2019:** Classroom Management Systems Training: Define, Teach, Acknowledge Rules and Routines
- **February 14, 2019:** Equitable Learning and Discipline Practices (Implicit Bias) Training
- **February 19, 2019:** RTI Cohort I optional mid-year professional learning
- **February 21, 2019:** LCPS Equitable Practices Presentation at International Association of Positive Behavior Support Conference
- **February 23, 2019:** PRS Workshop, When the Bus Stops Coming. The workshop will be held on the main floor (100A-B-C & 102 A/B) of the LCPS Administration Building. There will be over 30 service providing vendors as well as presentations from Career and Transition, DARS, and the Community Services Board (CSB), in addition to our tradition of a student panel!
- **February 26, 2019:** Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports: Tier 2 Interventions and Evaluation
- **February 27, 2019:** Positive Behavior Intervention Supports/ Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (PBIS/MTSS) Meeting for School Administrators



Committed to
“EDUCATING THE
WHOLE CHILD” and to
ensuring a safe, healthy,
and supportive learning
environment for all
students.