

Organizational Supports:
Systems and supports will enable staff and students to thrive.



Aaron Eichorst

Organizational Supports

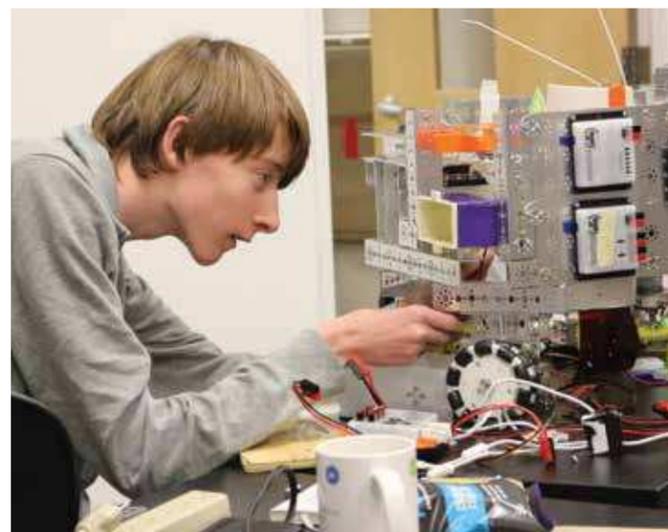
Organizational supports enable our goals for academic excellence and safe and supportive schools.

- At the top of the list is a great staff. Our teachers regularly receive recognition and fellowships from groups such as NASA, the U.S. State Department, National Geographic, and the Virginia Music Educators Association.
- Our growing student enrollment presents a chance to expand and modernize our facilities. We've begun a study to help us explore options for new or extended school buildings. Learn more at charlottesvilleschools.org/facilities.
- We want smart and efficient systems. Families, this August, remember to skip the printed paperwork and go online to review your students' back-to-school forms! Streamlined processes help all of us focus on learning.
- Educational programs increasingly rely on robust technology. This spring, the Center for Digital Education ranked Charlottesville in the top ten for innovative curriculum and learning.



Every Learner. Every Day. Everyone.

At the heart of this plan is the idea that we are all learners — not only our students, but also teachers, staff members such as bus drivers, and families at home. We are growing and working together for the benefit of our community.



Charlottesville City Schools

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Charlottesville City Schools



With small class sizes and great teachers, at Charlottesville City Schools, we guide students on a pathway to a bright future. We offer neighborhood schools with a global perspective. We promote both academic excellence and extracurricular fun. We integrate math and science into reading, writing, and the arts.

We spent this year imagining our future in a new strategic plan, with goals for academic excellence, safe and supportive schools, and organizational supports. Read on for a quick glimpse of our vision and the ways we're bringing it to life. To learn more, check out charlottesvilleschools.org, follow us on Facebook and Twitter at @CvilleSchools, or call 434-245-2400 to set up a visit.

Academic Excellence: Learning will promote life-ready graduates through student-centered and equitable practices.



turbines to solar ovens to working models of the human respiratory system, our students are applying their skills to the world around them.

- CATEC students model future-readiness in areas such as culinary arts or our new partnership with tech leader CISCO. Students can earn college credits and industry certifications.

Centered on Students

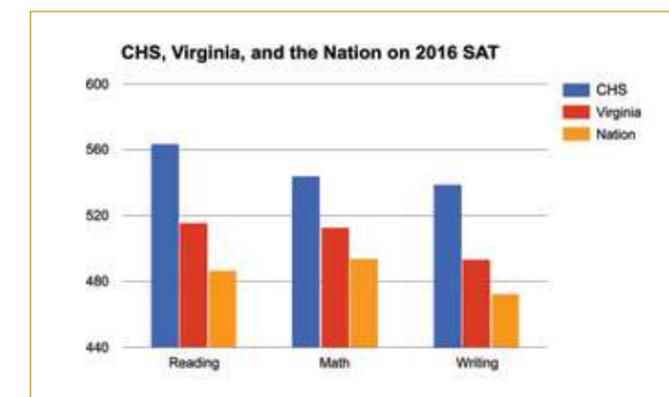
We want to foster the unique talents of our students, and we want students to “own” their learning by setting goals, making choices, and reflecting on their progress.

- Student-centered learning can be as small as students choosing how to start their day with reading, drawing, or journaling. In some of our engineering and other classes at Buford Middle School and CHS, students advance through the curriculum at their own pace.

Life-Ready Graduates

By tapping into real-world resources and exploring actual problems, our students can integrate the skills and competencies that will prepare them for life.

- This year, Burnley-Moran third-graders corresponded with senior pen pals from Jefferson Area Board for the Aging, building both writing skills and relationships.
- Buford engineers designed an attendance tracker for our annual division-wide art show.
- For a Virginia Department of Education challenge, CHS students developed a drone with avoidance capabilities, placing 2nd in the state. A judge from Jet Propulsion Lab described it as the future of the industry!
- Our new, locally developed iSTEM program offers hands-on projects that cross boundaries to bring “sciencey” skills to art, history, and reading. From wind





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Safe and Supportive Schools: Our learning communities will promote social, emotional, and physical wellness in facilities that are safe and conducive to learning.

Social and Emotional Well-Being

The three R's get a lot of attention — reading, writing, arithmetic. We want to focus on a fourth R — *relationships*.

- A strong sense of community is at the heart of our new division-wide framework for supporting students' academic and behavioral needs. Both Johnson Elementary and our alternative learning center, Lugo-McGinness Academy, have led the way as we establish practices that build community, encourage good behavior, and deepen relationships.
- From school-wide meetings at Venable to Fun Fridays at Clark to the Harry Potter-style "house" system at Jackson-Via, our elementary schools promote a positive sense of community.
- We believe in mentoring, whether that means Buford eighth-graders serving as reading buddies at neighboring Johnson Elementary, upperclassmen at CHS welcoming ninth-graders through Link Crew, or teachers and coaches guiding students at every step of the way.
- Our school counselors foster social-emotional health in a variety of ways. They offer classroom lessons, such as Walker students guiding their blindfolded partners to solve jigsaw puzzles. They also sponsor clubs and groups such as the Walker Peace Squad or the Jackson-Via Bully-Nots.
- Relationships (and reading skills) can deepen even during the summer through our teachers' and librarians' Books on Bikes program! The BoB team visits neighborhoods to deliver free books, popsicles, and smiles. (A therapy dog even makes the rounds!)

- Student-centered learning connects learners with resources to advance their own passions, leading to state and national recognition in art, athletics, creative writing, engineering, film-making, geography, math, music, programming, robotics, and world languages.
- Special, competitive opportunities like the Virginia Governor's School help our students explore their own interests, from the arts to environmental engineering to a special NASA program. Two of Virginia's twelve NASA slots were earned by CHS students this year! And for a second straight year, a CHS student earned a competitive travel fellowship to continue studying Mandarin in China with the U.S. State Department.

program. Beyond special events, we want our culture to value both differences and commonalities, every day.

- Charlottesville City Schools is known as a model of excellence in an urban setting. School Board member Leah Puryear was elected to the steering committee for the national Council of Urban Boards of Education.
- We strive to help our students with special needs meet their goals and be a full part of our schools. Naia Fairchild, the CHS cheerleading manager who also has Down syndrome, earned both her standard diploma and her classmates' vote to be homecoming queen.
- We are committed to providing leadership opportunities for all our students. This year, our immigrant and refugee students held many leadership roles, including School Board rep, senior class president, peer mentor, and City Youth Council member.
- Students are building a bridge to a bright future, including our first-generation college students, who represent us locally and across Virginia.
- We offer high-quality preschool for qualifying three- and four-year-olds who face economic challenges, need to learn English, or require special services.

Physical Health

Charlottesville City Schools has made a strong commitment to healthy habits.

- When we speak about the wellness benefits of our partnership with City Schoolyard Garden, do we mean nutrition, exercise, or the mental health benefits of getting students' hands in the dirt? All of the above, and much, much more.
- Our nutrition program has won awards for its commitment to healthy foods, but there's always room for improvement. Our new "Local on the Line" program offers local foods (such as strawberries or salad greens) in monthly menu items.
- While gym and recess are very important, physical wellness is bigger than that. Throughout-the-day movement also comes from simple things like students working eye-to-eye on the floor or standing to take a quick "brain break" or heading outside to create a calculus problem on the slope of a hill outside CHS.
- Clubs and special events also support physical health, such as the family color run that the Burnley-Moran PTO recently sponsored, or the Girls on the Run program at our schools.
- Athletics is a big part of the movement and physical wellness picture. This year's state qualifiers include boys' soccer (#2 in VA) and girls' basketball, plus a number of swimmers and track/field athletes. Beyond wins and losses, sports build fitness, relationships, and leadership.
- Our neighborhood schools encourage students to walk or ride their bikes.



- Using tech resources can make learning personal. Recently, Walker School ESL students "visited" their home country of Nepal with virtual reality goggles.
- At Clark and Venable, student-led conferences allowed students to reflect on their learning and share their progress with parents and grandparents — some of whom joined in via Skype from as far away as Jordan!

Equitable Opportunities

We want *all* of our students to find success and opportunities in our schools and in life after graduation.

- Special events celebrate our diversity, including Greenbrier's International Picnic or Walker's ¡El Espectáculo!, which highlights our elementary Spanish



Scrimmage Play/Ashley Thornton

Updating Facilities for Safety and Learning

Even small, smart changes can help our school spaces support safety and innovation.

- This year, our schools have seen the installation of clear exterior door signage (to aid responders in case of emergency), front door-locking management, a visitor screening system, and more.
- Aside from security, we want our facilities to support creativity, teamwork, and other 21st century skills. The acclaimed renovations of our science and engineering labs have demonstrated how facilities promote learning.