

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



innovations through the Digital School Districts Survey Award. In addition, our iSTEM programs were featured in EdTech Magazine.

- Our growing student enrollment presents an opportunity to expand and modernize our facilities. To learn more, visit charlottesvilleschools.org/facilities.

Every Learner. Every Day. Everyone.

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

Laying a Foundation for Excellence

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 awards and fellowships, and this year, in light of a growing national teacher shortage, we recognized them with a 4% salary increase for 2018-19.
- We're grateful for our community partners and volunteers. Our acclaimed engineering program at Buford Middle School is supported by a partnership with U.Va. and the Smithsonian Institution.
- We want smart and efficient systems. Families, this August, 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. For a second straight year, Charlottesville City Schools earned national recognition for tech



Chloe Wilson

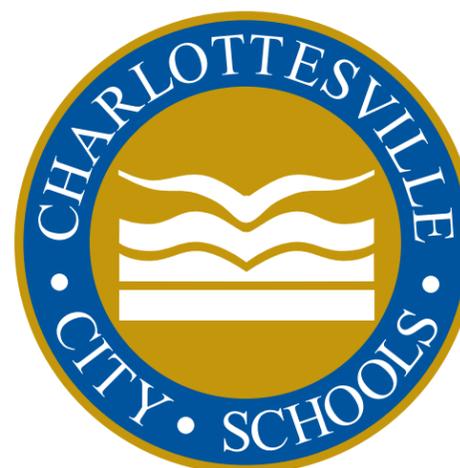


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Charlottesville City Schools

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. This year, we launched our 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.



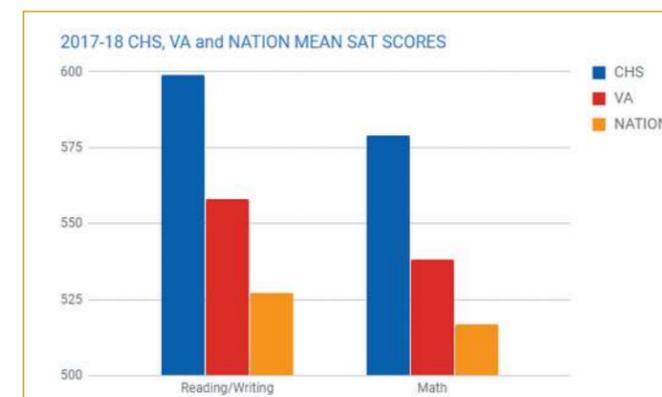
Life-Ready Graduates

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

- At CHS, art students responded to the devastation in Puerto Rico by creating keepsakes for families there. Based on snapshots taken of young Puerto Ricans, our students painted portraits that were sent to grateful parents and grandparents on the islands.
- Clark students conducted a school-wide "Wishing for Wells" project by engaging in math and literacy activities relating to world water issues. They even surprised NFL star Chris Long with a donation of more than \$1000 to support Waterboys, his clean water foundation!
- Our engineers at Buford and CHS continued to apply their expertise to our community — working on an attendance-tracker and a student ID-scanner, for instance. They shared their experiences with

STEM leaders at conferences across the country. After qualifying (again) for the global Zero Robotics programming finals, team members earned individual awards and speaking invitations.

- CHS students pitched proposals for community projects — and earned cash support — at the Tom Tom Founders Festival and CFA Institute's Project SERVE.
- Our locally developed iSTEM program offers hands-on projects that cross boundaries to bring engineering design skills to art, history, and reading. From wind turbines to solar ovens, our students are applying their skills to the world around them.
- CATEC students model future-readiness in a wide variety of areas, such as the program's partnership with tech leader CISCO or their newly launched "food bus"! At CATEC and in career and technical education classes at CHS, students can earn college credits and industry certifications.





Aaron Eichhorst

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

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 choosing how to start the day with reading, drawing, or journaling. In engineering classes at Buford and CHS, students advance through the curriculum at their own pace.
- CHS hosted a ribbon-cutting to celebrate a new partnership, the CHS/CFA Institute Finance Academy. The partnership will impact three programs: the Student Investment Group (see next item), the AVID program (including a business-style renovation of the AVID seniors’ classroom), and the economics and personal finance classes required of all CHS students.
- For the second time in three years, the CHS Student Investment Group was one of six U.S. finalists in the Wharton School’s global investment competition!
- We connect learners with resources to advance their own passions, leading to state and national recognition in art, athletics, community leadership, creative writing, debate, engineering, geography, investing, math, music, programming, robotics, and theatre.
- Special, competitive opportunities like the Virginia Governor’s School help our students (eight this year) explore their interests.
- At Clark and Venable, student-led conferences offered an opportunity for students to reflect on their learning and share their progress with parents and grandparents.

Equitable Opportunities

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

- The white nationalist rallies in Charlottesville last summer presented both challenges and opportunities. In age-appropriate ways, our teachers embraced ways to explore the events and the deeper issues they raised. To learn more about these efforts, visit charlottesvilleschools.org/August12.
- Our advanced classes are increasingly diverse — African-American enrollment in honors classes is up 29 percent in the last three years. This is in part due to “honors-option” classes that allow students within a single class to elect assignments that qualify for honors credit.
- Our students have elected a wide variety of their peers as class presidents, homecoming queens, School Board reps, and more. Recent leaders and honorees include students from many racial and ethnic groups, special needs students, and immigrants.
- Our AVID program sends first-generation college students to U.Va., Howard, and more!
- Our iSTEM pathway and the engineering programs at Buford and CHS are attracting females and other students who are underrepresented in STEM fields.
- Special events provide ways to celebrate differences and commonalities. To their African-American history celebration, Burnley-Moran added a career day, inviting many of the area’s black leaders (including a lot of CHS alumni!) to speak about their community contributions.
- We offer high-quality preschool for qualifying three- and four-year-olds who face economic challenges, need to learn English, or require special services.

Social and Emotional Well-Being

We want to focus on the *four R’s* — reading, writing, rithmetic, and *relationships*.

- A strong sense of community is at the heart of our new division-wide framework for supporting students’ academic and behavioral needs. These efforts have earned state and national attention from groups such as the Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- From school-wide meetings at Venable to Fun Fridays at Clark to our division’s new family engagement coordinator, 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 and even a division-wide Kindness Week in celebration of community, care, and compliments. Counselors 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!)
- Peer mentors at Walker not only welcomed the City’s fourth-graders for a visit, but they even wrote

personalized letters to each student (delivered at the elementary schools) to express greetings!

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!
- Our nutrition program has won awards for its commitment to healthy foods, but there’s always room for improvement. Our “Local on the Line” program offers local foods (such as strawberries or salad greens) in monthly menu items.
- Clubs and special events also support physical health, such as the family color run that the Burnley-Moran PTO sponsors, or our Girls on the Run programs.
- Athletic teams are a big part of the movement and physical wellness picture. This year’s state qualifiers include boys’ soccer and a number of golf, swimming, 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, And through community partnerships, our gym students learn life-long skills like swimming, biking, and golfing. Thanks to our PE teachers and their partners such as the Ben Hair — Just Swim for Life Foundation, the City’s Parks and Rec and Safe Routes to School programs, and First Tee!



Updating Facilities for Safety and Learning

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

- Updates to our interior door locks complement our recent 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 best practices. This year’s facilities improvements include the Curtis Elder Track at CHS and classroom modernizations at Clark.