

WHY ARE WE CELEBRATING?

Over the past several years, resources have been provided to elementary schools to improve literacy and those investments have paid off as shown by higher scores for fourth graders on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).¹ Similar resources are now being provided at the secondary level and we, students and teachers at Culpeper Middle School and Culpeper County High School, are the proud recipients of the Content Literacy Continuum® (CLC) initiative. Through an application process, CMS and CCHS were selected for this initiative, which is funded by the State Personnel Development Grant through the Virginia Department of Education. CLC was developed by the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning.



WHAT IS CLC?

The primary goal of CLC is to establish a coordinated school-wide approach to improving literacy for all students that will enable students to meet higher standards.

HOW DO WE GET STARTED?

The Exploring Phase is the first of four phases to adopt the CLC. We are here now. We are building a Literacy Leadership Team, analyzing data to develop a school profile, and securing commitment to go forward to develop a professional development plan. This will allow us to move into a Planning Phase, Implementation Phase, and Sustaining Phase over the course of the next five years.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Planning Phase will determine the professional development to be provided for teachers. The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning developed the Strategic Instruction Model (SIM). SIM is a research-validated comprehensive approach to address the literacy needs of all adolescents. SIM is designed to promote effective teaching and learning of critical content. For more information, please visit our CLC link from the CMS homepage or contact Mr. William Zierden, principal at CMS.

¹ Alliance for Excellent Education, *Fact Sheet*, February 2009, Washington, D.C.