November 2020

**GRATITUDE**

As we enter into the 2020 holiday season and the closing of this year, it may be hard for some to look back and find a reason to celebrate. In my lifetime, it has been one of the most challenging of years. However, as I thought about this post, I can honestly say I am grateful for so many things this Thanksgiving. I am grateful for my family, first and foremost, though we have lost a loved one this year. I am grateful for my job, and being surrounded by caring, supportive colleagues. I am grateful for my home, as it has been a source of comfort and safety during the pandemic. I am so grateful for our rescue pup, who makes me smile as she greets me each day as I return from work, always with her favorite toy dangling from her mouth. This year has reminded me to cherish the little things in life: a nature walk, a cup of coffee on a Saturday morning, chocolate, close friends, and laughter. What are you thankful for?

**NOVEMBER CONTEST**

**WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR THIS THANKSGIVING?**

FIRST 2 TO RESPOND, WIN A GIFT CARD. EMAIL YOUR ANSWER TO CJJOHNSON@LEXCS.ORG

“Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy. They are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.”

— Marcel Proust

**KEY DATES**

- **NOVEMBER 3 - ELECTION DAY**
- **NOVEMBER 11 - VETERAN’S DAY**
- **NOVEMBER 25 - ANNUAL LEAVE DAY**
- **NOVEMBER 26 - THANKSGIVING**
- **NOVEMBER 27 - HOLIDAY**
- **NOVEMBER 6 - IPAD TIPS & TRICKS**
- **NOVEMBER 20 - ORGANIZATION IN THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM**
Our Beginning Teacher Spotlight this month goes to Nathaniel Grant. Mr. Grant is a 4th grade teacher at Charles England Elementary and in his 3rd year of the BTSP. Here are his answers to our Spotlight questions:

1. How has remote teaching made you a better teacher?

   This has been a particularly frustrating year so far and I don’t always feel like remote learners are getting the best of me. That being said, I have certainly learned to adjust and I have so many new resources to pull from than I ever imagined possible. I have also gained more insight into the personal lives my students are living which has improved my relationship with many of them.

2. What is your number one wish for your students?

   Simply put, I am very demanding and pushy at times. My biggest wish is that students will understand that I am the way I am because I sincerely care. School is not about just academics but learning life skills. Life is not always easy, so I feel like making everything easy for students is not truly preparing them for reality.

3. How will you spend Thanksgiving this year?

   Exact details are still in the works but we typically try to have a traditional dinner with both my family and my wife’s family. We usually host one and visit for the other. We’ve been in constant contact with our families so Covid will not cause us to cancel anything, unless someone gets sick.

4. What is your favorite Thanksgiving dish?

   Pecan Pie!

5. What song best describes your personality?

   "Banana Pancakes" by Jack Johnson

6. What is your favorite holiday movie? (can be any holiday?)

   Home Alone

7. What advice do you have for a first year teacher?

   Don't try to figure everything out at one time. There are simply too many things and it will all change anyway. Set a goal to master one thing at a time. Dwell on the positives.

8. Complete the following sentences:

   My mentor is the best because...

   I've had two and both have been awesome. I lean on them regularly and they are both happy to help. They have been patient with me and that makes a big difference.

   I teach because... at the end of the day it's a good feeling knowing you are doing something worthwhile.
Meet Dr. Weikart...

Our new Executive Director of Human Resources

Dr. Weikart comes to us from Halifax County Schools where he served as the Executive Director of HR and Operations. Prior to that position he has served as a principal at all grade levels: elementary, middle, and high schools. He has served as an athletic director, varsity football coach and has taught middle and high school science. He received his Masters in School Administration and Educational Doctorate at East Carolina University and his undergraduate degree at Glenville State College in West Virginia.

In his spare time he is a furniture maker. He often begins his day in the wee hours of the morning sanding his latest project. Many a family will enjoy their Thanksgiving dinners seated around one of his beautiful tables.

We are so excited to have him join our LCS team and especially thrilled to have him lend his experience as a teacher and administrator to the HR team...of two. Welcome aboard!

Something Funny happened while teaching remotely...

Last month's contest winner is Coach Williams, from the PE Department at Lexington Middle School who shared his funny story with us.

"A funny thing happened when I was teaching remotely. I was leading my 6th grade PE class through a workout circuit. Near the end of the circuit one of the kids accidentally turned his camera on and he was sitting in bed eating a bag of something (I think it was potato chips). I called the student's name and asked what he was doing and he denied it and turned his camera back off."

BUSTED!

Thanks for sharing Coach Williams. A gift card is on its way.

Welcome to the BTSP Program

Erica Stubbs!

Erica was recently promoted from Pre-K Assistant to Pre-K Teacher at South Lexington School.

Happy November Birthdays to...

Olin Williams from LMS on November 8th and Evelyn Eller from LMS on November 11th. Hope you both had a great birthday celebration.