



Board-to-Board, October 2025

A monthly report from the Albemarle County School Board to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors

Albemarle County Public Schools Appoints New Chief Communications Officer—Albemarle County Public Schools has appointed Dr. Jason Grant as the division’s next Chief Communications Officer. Dr. Grant is recognized for his commitment to strengthening communication that reflects community needs and fosters meaningful engagement.

Dr. Grant brings more than 20 years of experience in public sector communications, most recently serving as Director of Advocacy and External Affairs for the International City/County Management Association. In that role, he led national efforts to support effective local government communication and build public trust through strategies focused on clarity, credibility, and accessibility. His background also includes nearly 17 years with Prince William County Government, where he guided comprehensive communication strategies that emphasized transparency and two-way dialogue with residents.

Superintendent Dr. Matthew Haas highlights Dr. Grant’s proven leadership in helping government organizations connect authentically with the public, noting his strengths in building trust, celebrating community achievements, and elevating voices across diverse audiences, as traits that will help strengthen ACPS. Dr. Grant’s expertise will support ACPS in continuing to advance communication practices that reflect the division’s mission and values.

Dr. Grant holds a Ph.D. in Writing and Rhetoric from George Mason University, where his academic work focused on how public discourse can shape collaborative solutions. He also teaches communication at the university level and holds advanced degrees from the University of Washington and the University of Maryland. He shared that he is honored to join ACPS and looks forward to helping deepen connections among students, families, staff, and the broader Albemarle community.

Albemarle County Public Schools Celebrates Principals During National Principals Month—Each week across Albemarle County Public Schools, we see the powerful impact that strong school leadership has on the lives of students and staff. Principals and site administrators play a vital role in creating safe, inclusive, and engaging environments where every student knows they are valued and capable of success. Their presence in classrooms, hallways, and community spaces helps ensure our schools remain vibrant places of learning and connection.

October is National Principals Month, an opportunity to recognize the remarkable educators who lead our schools with dedication, compassion, and professionalism. Their responsibilities extend far beyond daily operations. They empower teachers, support families, cultivate partnerships, and bring ACPS’ Learning for All strategic plan to life—helping students grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

School leadership is both complex and deeply rewarding. Every day, our principals navigate challenges, celebrate achievements, and guide their school communities toward continuous improvement, always keeping students at the center of their decisions. ACPS is deeply grateful for their leadership and service.

We encourage families, staff, and community members to join us in thanking and celebrating their school leaders throughout the month. Their commitment transforms our schools into communities where all students can thrive and reach their full potential.

ACPS Principals and Site Administrators

Michael Irani, Agnor Elementary
Nancy McCullen, Baker-Butler Elementary
Amy Morris, Broadus Wood Elementary
James Kyner, Brownsville Elementary
Staci England, Crozet Elementary
Steve Saunders, Greer Elementary
Joe McCauley, Hollymead Elementary
Jennifer Underwood, Ivy Elementary
Seth Kennard, Mountain View Elementary
Wendy Eckerle, Murray Elementary
Paula Gately, Red Hill Elementary
Cyndi Wells, Scottsville Elementary
Leslie Wills, Stone-Robinson Elementary
Maureen Jensen, Stony Point Elementary
Christie Isaiah, Woodbrook Elementary

William Schaffer, Burley Middle
Ricky Vrhovac, Henley Middle
Ashby Johnson, Journey Middle
Michael Craddock, Lakeside Middle
Joshua Walton, Walton Middle
Damean Barfield, Albemarle High
Beth Costa, Monticello High
Jennifer Sublette, Western Albemarle High
Chad Ratliff, Community Lab
Jay Thomas, ACE Academy @ Seminole Place
Emily Uosseph, Center for Learning and Growth
Megan Marshall, Specialized Academic Center
Keary Ritchie, Newcomer Learning Community
Tanner Boyle, Blue Ridge Detention Center

National School Bus Safety Week: Celebrating Transportation and Safety—Albemarle County Public Schools recently recognized National School Bus Safety Week, held October 20–24, which highlighted the essential role our transportation staff play in student success. Every day, bus drivers, transportation assistants, and support teams ensure that thousands of students travel to and from school safely—helping them begin and end their school day connected to learning, peers, and their school communities.

Throughout the week, ACPS reinforced the shared responsibility of keeping students safe on the bus. Families were encouraged to review safety expectations at home, including the importance of staying seated, listening to drivers, and demonstrating respect for others while riding. These efforts helped strengthen our collective commitment to ensuring every student experiences a positive and secure bus ride.

In addition to promoting safety, the week offered an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of our transportation professionals. School communities demonstrated appreciation—including wearing yellow on Tuesday, October 21—to honor the dedication of staff who support students during some of the first and last moments of each school day. Their service is vital to student wellbeing, family engagement, and daily school operations.

ACPS also continues to actively recruit bus drivers, van drivers, and transportation assistants to support division needs moving forward. These critical roles provide meaningful work, competitive pay, and comprehensive benefits. We are grateful for the strong support from families and the community as we work together to maintain safe, efficient, and student-centered transportation for all.

ACPS In the News—ACPS continues to be a frequent focus of local and regional news coverage, highlighting the accomplishments of our students and staff as well as important initiatives across the division. To make this media coverage easily accessible to families, employees, and community members, we provide a monthly roundup of stories featuring ACPS that can be found anytime on our website at k12albemarle.org/in-the-news.