



**Arlington
Public
Schools**

Instruction



About Me

I grew up in Austin, TX, and attended the University of Texas at Austin to earn a BA in English with Honors. After graduating in 2017, I moved to Richmond, VA.

In 2021 I moved up to D.C. with my girlfriend Hannah, and started attending American University for a MA in Teaching. I completed my studies last Spring, so this is my first year as a full time teacher.

Reading literature is one of my passions, and I plan to eventually earn my PhD in English Literature.



Mr. Luis Cataldo

Development of the 2024-2030 Strategic Plan



APS Seeks Input to help develop the 2024-30 Strategic Plan Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

QUESTIONNAIRE- Complete by October 6

APS Staff & APS Parents/Guardians

- Received an individual, one-time use link to the questionnaire via email. if you did not receive this email please contact engage@apsva.us.

Community Members : <https://survey.k12insight.com/r/MPp02v>

APS Students : <https://survey.k12insight.com/r/K4MSnt>

- Students can also access the questionnaire link through Canvas.

COMMUNITY FORUMS - Open to all students, staff, families, and community members.

September 26: Washington-Liberty High School | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

September 27: Wakefield High School | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

- **Note:** This session will be held in Spanish with interpretation available in English

October 3: Yorktown High School | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



Questions? Write to:
engage@apsva.us

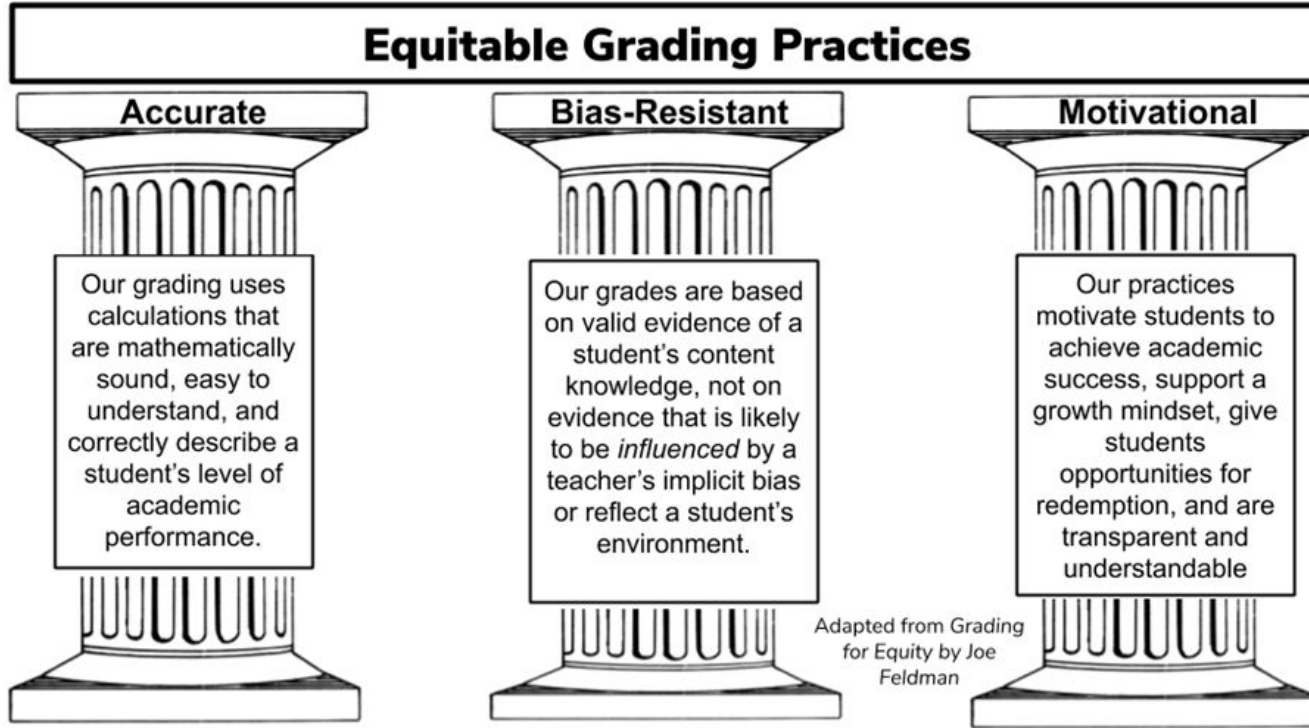
To Stay Up to Date:

- APS Communication Channels (Parent Square, Friday Five, Supt. Message, Facebook, etc.)
- Visit the Development of the 2024-2030 Strategic Plan Engage Page: <https://www.apsva.us/engage/development-of-the-2024-30-strategic-plan/>

APS Secondary Grading Policy & Implementation Updates

- The Arlington Public School Board adopted revisions to School Board Policy I-7.2.3.34 in June 2022
 - Policy I-7.2.3.34 Reporting Student Progress and Grades
- Superintendent Durán adopted Policy Implementation Procedures for Policy I-7.2.3.34 in June 2023
 - Policy Implementation Procedures I-7.2.3.34 PIP-2 Reporting Student Progress and Grades (Secondary)

Equitable Grading Practices



Updates to Grading Practices

Updated policy implementation procedures included the four following main changes to grading practices at the secondary level:

- Revised grade calculation procedures to minimize the impact of formative assessments
- Revised late work penalty procedures
- Addition of a retake/revision opportunity for all students
- Updated grade descriptors for A-E

ACHS Grading Policy

- ACHS uses competency based grading.

- *“The most important characteristic of competency-based education is that it measures learning rather than time. Students progress by demonstrating their competence, which means they prove that they have mastered the knowledge and skills (called competencies) required for a particular course, regardless of how long it takes.”*

Dr. Robert Mendenhall, President, Western Governor’s University

ACHS Grading Policy

- Each course has its own set of competencies linked to Virginia Standards of Learning.
- Progress towards course competencies will be indicated as follows: *insufficient evidence*, *developing*, *proficient*, and *highly proficient*.
- As the term progresses, students' mastery of the competencies progresses.
- By the end of the semester, students with no more than one competency with “insufficient evidence” or “developing” will receive credit for the course and a final letter grade.

English 11 Overview

- The English 11 curriculum moves chronologically through American literature — each unit covers a new movement in American literature from Native and Colonial Perspectives, up to modern American writers.
- Students will prepare for the Writing SOL, which a student must pass to receive a “verified writing credit” that is needed to graduate.
- Course competencies are:
 - (1) Examining Media Messages; (2) Writing Persuasively; (3) Editing; (4) Building Vocabulary and Understanding Figurative Language; (5) Reading—Analyzing American Literature; (6) Reading—Analyzing Nonfiction; (7) Creating a Research Project
- All course materials are available through our class Canvas page, the HMH textbook, and class sets of required unit texts.

English 12 Overview

- The English 12 Curriculum is centered on British Literature and producing different genres of writing. In addition to focusing on specific British literary movements (e.g., Contemporary writers, English Romanticism, Shakespeare and the English Renaissance), students will write at least: a research essay, a personal narrative, an argumentative essay, and an expository essay.
- Course competencies are:
 - (1) Communication (Oral Presentation and Media Literacy); (2) Writing; (3) Writing (Grammar); (4) Vocabulary; (5) Reading Fiction; (6) Reading Nonfiction; (7) Research
- All course materials are available through our class Canvas page, the HMH textbook, and class sets of required texts.

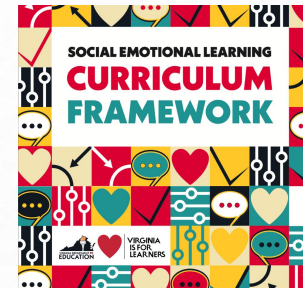
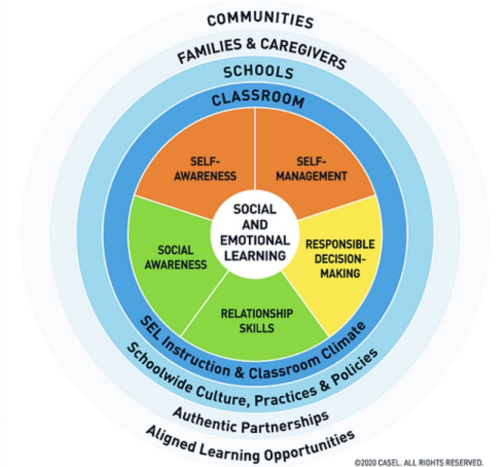
Updates to Interim Progress Reports

The policy implementation procedures indicate that interim progress reports (IPRs) will no longer be generated by teachers at the midpoint of each quarter.

- Weekly automated message with grade summaries will be sent to parents/guardians starting in early September.
- This message will remind parents/guardians that detailed information on student progress can be found in ParentVue .

Social Emotional Learning

- APS has set three **SEL priorities**:
 - Provide ongoing learning for all staff in SEL competencies and curricular resources
 - Provide students ongoing opportunities to learn and practice SEL
 - Prioritize regular, individualized outreach to students, families, and staff to continuously improve our support systems
- Aligned to 5 SEL competencies and curriculum frameworks outlined by VDOE
- ACHS will be utilizing Second Step as the SEL curricular resource
- [SEL 3 Signature Practices](#)
- SEL Survey (grades 3-12) in the fall and spring





**PAPER for
Grades 9-12**

What is Paper?

- Educational Support System provided by school district
- FREE for all students in grades 6-12
- 24/7 unlimited live chat tutoring
- Unlimited review of written work, including college applications & essays
- Available in English, Spanish, French, Mandarin

Paper Tutors



- Real human tutors **support your students**
- Paper tutors guide students through the learning process rather than giving away answers.
- Encourage students to become self-advocates and reach out for help whenever they need it.

How can Paper support your students?

Supporting college and career readiness

- Support after sports practice, work, and other after-school activities
- Encourages persevering through challenging concepts
- College essays, resumes, and post-secondary planning
- Promotes self-directed learning
- AP and IB test practice
- PSAT, SAT, and ACT prep
- Credit recovery



Learn more about the Paper platform & tutors

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Get started by building Paper into your student's homework routine



Contact Information

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