At Belvedere Elementary, our priority is providing an inclusive school environment where each student is appropriately challenged. We believe that establishing positive and authentic relationships is the key to learning. Therefore, we are targeting Indicator 2 to make sure that we “increase the percentage of students who report that AACPS staff care for and support them.” In order to support our students’ academic needs, we are also targeting Indicator 6 and endeavor to “increase the percentage of students in grades 3-8 who meet or exceed expectations on standardized reading, language arts, and mathematics assessments.”

During the 2018-2019 school year, the faculty and staff of Belvedere Elementary continued to support the social-emotional needs of our students by continuing our weekly #FindYourAwesome positive incentive program. We also made positive phone calls and emails home on a weekly basis through our Terrific Tuesdays program.

We continued to measure progress on our academic goals through standardized testing during the 2018-2019 school year, as follows:

- On the PARCC ELA Assessment, our students’ performance scores improved by 1.7% from 2018-2019,
- Our students performance on AACPS Quarterly Reading Assessments grew by 4.3% in 2019.
- On the 2019 PARCC Mathematics Assessment, our student performance grew by 4.5% from 2018.
- On our AACPS Quarterly Mathematics Assessments, students in grades 2-5 had a 7.7% decline in scores.

During the 2019-2020 school year, we will address the decline in Quarterly Math Assessment scores by using available technology to better familiarize students with standardized assessments, providing our teachers with additional coaching and instructional feedback from our mathematics resource teachers, and by adopting a schoolwide mathematics emphasis in staff professional development and activities for our entire school community.

Also during the 2019-2020 school year, Belvedere Elementary will increase our focus on meeting the social-emotional needs of our students (Indicator 2). We are establishing a Morning Meeting at the beginning of each school day, during which we are embedding the Second Step Curriculum in order to provide explicit teaching of social-emotional skills, such as learning behaviors, emotional regulation, and conflict resolution. We also will continue our positive outreach programs, Terrific Tuesdays and #FindYourAwesome, to highlight and recognize our students. Our literacy teachers will engage in regular coaching sessions with teachers to help them refine their teaching practices. In addition, teachers will meet for weekly collaborative planning sessions to monitor student progress and plan for instruction as a team.
Finally, our teachers and related service providers (special educators, English Language Acquisition teachers, speech-language pathologists, literacy teachers, etc.) will collaborate to ensure we are meeting the unique needs of all learners (Indicator 6). We are excited to embark on the work that is required to make this vision a reality.

~Tara Lambden

Principal, Belvedere Elementary