Our goal and top priority at Old Mill Middle North remains the achievement and well-being of all students. We believe that by intentionally focusing on our selected indicators (2, 6, 11, & 16) all students will benefit from support for social and emotional needs, as well as supports to realize their highest potential and demonstrate growth in their academics. All of our students will learn in an environment where they feel acknowledged, cared for, and supported emotionally and academically regardless of need or student group.

To accomplish our goal, we chose to work on building relationships as the foundation for student learning and growth, and we selected Indicator 2 to “increase the percentage of students who report that AACPS staff care for and support them.” To help our students achieve and to bridge the gaps in achievement on local and standardized assessments, we are focusing on Indicator 6 to “increase the percentage of students in grades 3-8 who meet or exceed expectations on standardized reading, language arts, and mathematics assessments.” In our efforts to nurture our multicultural and diverse student population, we are focusing on Indicator 11 to “increase instructional opportunities to explore multiple cultural and ethnic perspectives.” Lastly, to cultivate community relationships and to extend student learning outside of the classroom, we’re focusing on Indicator 16 to “increase the number of community-based opportunities for service learning for all students and families.”

Work on our strategic indicators during the 2018-2019 school year can be summarized as follows:

- We committed to building a positive culture and environment at Old Mill Middle for all students to feel a sense of community to help support their success. Roughly 82% of our student population feel that we care for and support them while here at school, a testament to our commitment to create positive relationships with our students.

- While our Math PARCC scores decreased by 2%, we will be striving for growth by making math a critical focus; and ensuring the inclusion of all students during our collaborative planning sessions. In addition, we will focus on the implementation of mathematical strategies to help all students meet the standards on their assessment.

- We held a Literacy Night to examine and explore the different cultures around the world, and participated in a school-wide Unity Day celebration. In addition, teachers purposefully incorporated multicultural connections into everyday instructional experiences.
We developed advisories lessons that bring awareness of social issues in our community and give students an opportunity to complete a service project that addresses a social issue and helps the community.

During 2019-2020, we will continue to ensure that all students are able to experience growth in our classrooms by focusing on our Strategic Indicators. We will be working towards building student discourse in all math classes and working on writing skills across all curriculums in order to see gains on the 2019-2020 state standardized test (Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program). Some students will benefit from more specific targeted support to help bridge the gaps reflected in our state test scores. We will also continue working with our staff to help foster positive relations with our students and families so everyone feels cared for, supported and welcomed. We will promote a sense of authentic care and appreciation by celebrating diversity and inclusion. Lastly, our ultimate goal is making sure each student receives the instruction and services needed to be successful; and strengthening the connection between school and home so that all stakeholders feel like a valued member of our school community. Our commitment to our students and their education is our most important goal. Every child, every day!

Stacy L. Smith
Principal, Old Mill Middle North