At Overlook Elementary, we believe in developing the whole child to support emotional, social, and academic growth. We believe that in order to teach the whole child, we first must develop relationships with our students. That is why we chose Indicator 2, to “increase the percentage of students who feel AACPS staff care for and support them.” In addition, because of our rich history at Overlook Elementary in the North Linthicum community, we chose to focus on Indicator 1, to “increase the percentage of students, families, staff, and partners who report feeling like a valuable member of the school.” We know that in conjunction with our community partnerships, we can help to develop the whole child. Once relationships have been established, nurtured and students feel safe, we can focus on academics. As a result, we are also focusing on Indicator 5, to “increase the percentage of students who read on or above grade level by the end of second grade” and Indicator 6, “to increase the percentage of students in grades 3-5 who meet or exceed expectations on standardized reading, language arts, and mathematics assessments.”

During the 2018-2019 school year, Overlook Elementary implemented Morning Meetings to build trust, to help regulate students’ emotions, and to develop teamwork among our classes. We also utilized small group instruction in reading and math to teach students at their individual levels. Our students have shown the following academic progress during the 2018-2019 school year:

- F & P Reading Benchmark Assessment showed growth from January 2019 to May 2019 from 51% meeting or exceeding grade level students to 53% meeting or exceeding grade level expectations
- In grades 2-5, students demonstrated an 8% growth from the 2nd to 3rd marking period on the AACPS reading and math skills assessments.
- While our PARCC reading and math data did not show significant growth with a 0% increase in ELA and a 4% decrease in math, Anne Arundel County assessments showed some growth in foundational skills.

During the 2019-2020 school year, we have decided to narrow our focus in order to make a bigger impact on student growth by reducing the total number of indicators. Moving forward, we will be focusing on Indicators 1, 5, and 6. If we continue to build relationships with staff, students, and our community, we can build a strong emotional and social foundation for our students. Stronger community relationships and partnerships can result in a larger number of school volunteers and the continuation of programs such as our backpack weekend food program and Kickball with Cops (Indicator 1). Regarding academics, we chose to narrow our focus to use data-informed decisions to provide differentiated instruction to students. In the 2019-2020 school year, we will begin to implement data chats with administration and resource teachers with each classroom teacher to monitor students not yet meeting grade level expectations (Indicators 5 and 6).
We look forward to developing the whole child and supporting our students' emotional, social, and academic growth to prepare them for a diverse, global world where they take action to make a difference.

Angela Riccuiti

Principal, Overlook Elementary