



# Striving Readers

Kent County Public Schools

## New Teachers



Kent County Public Schools is blessed with a wonderful group of new teachers this year. In addition to the week-long introduction to KCPS, our community, and our schools, the teachers also get together once a month. Our monthly meetings are filled with fun, sharing, problem solving, and meaningful discussion about important topics such as:

- classroom management strategies
- methods for engaging lessons
- keeping students engaged in reading
- communication and parent conferences
- teacher impact on student achievement
- being a highly effective teacher

This new group of shining stars will definitely help keep us *anchored in excellence!*

## Literacy Coach Workshop

On Monday, September 23 members of the KCPS Literacy Leadership team attended a workshop held by the Maryland Department of Education. Joined by district and school leadership teams and literacy coaches from every local school system in Maryland, coaches and school teams worked to define a common vision for how Maryland educators can increase literacy engagement for all students. This training helped to define the role of literacy coaches across the state so that they can best serve students, families, and communities. A common vision helps ensure that Maryland is devoted to providing the best instructional practices and making data informed choices about how to best increase literacy from children birth through grade 12. The training allowed our team members to collaborate with other literacy teams from various districts to share not only the wonderful work happening in Kent County but also to gather resources and learn from success in other districts.

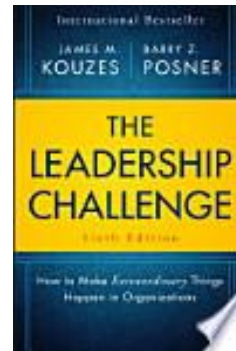


## Back to School with Raising a Reader



Last year the SRCL grant brought the Raising a Reader program to Pre-Kindergarten classrooms across the county as well as the Judy Center. The program received so much positive feedback from the teachers, students, and families. With so much success, we have expanded the program into Kindergarten, Kent Family Center, and Little Creek for this year. The children and families really love being able to have different books come home with them on a rotating basis!

## Leadership Conference Presentation at SU



The KCPS Literacy Leadership Team was invited to present at the Eastern Shore of Maryland Fall Education Leadership Conference held at Salisbury University on Friday, October 4, 2019. The conference began with keynote speakers Dr. Laurie Henry the Dean for the Seidel School of Education at SU and Edward Cosentino the National Distinguished Elementary School Principal. Breakout sessions followed.

The KCPS Literacy Team's afternoon breakout session was entitled "Enable Others to Act." It focused on how leaders foster collaboration and build spirited teams by involving others, sharing a mutual respect, and creating an atmosphere of trust and human dignity; by doing so they strengthen others and make each person feel capable and powerful.

The breakout session was filled with engaging protocols that allowed the participants to move around the room and interact with each other. It also included strategies, examples, meaning discussions, and even door prizes!

### LITERACY ENGAGEMENT COHORT DR. GUTHRIE

The 2019-2020 school year is off to a great start. This year members of a new cohort will participate in a professional development course led by Dr. Guthrie that will work on increasing literacy engagement. Thirteen teachers from every school in the district have begun working collaboratively on four researched, proven, and effective components of literacy engagement. The focus of the work this fall will center around collaboration, choice, self-efficacy and relevance. Teachers have already introduced effective ways to allow engaged and independent reading time in all classes, including high school English courses. Students have visited their school libraries to select a text of their interest for independent reading. Teachers in this cohort meet monthly to continue their work towards building a full unit of instruction with all four components of literacy engagement. They have scheduled visits to each other's classrooms to observe, co-plan, and co-teach, with each other.

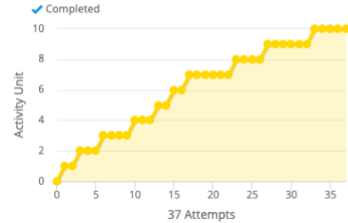


## Student Spotlight: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

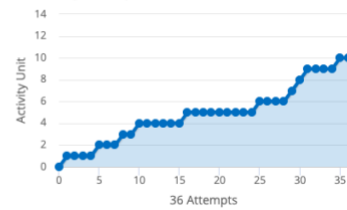
In just under three weeks, one student in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade made a tremendous amount of progress in the Lexia Core 5 program. Check out her progress charts below...

### LEXIA CORE 5

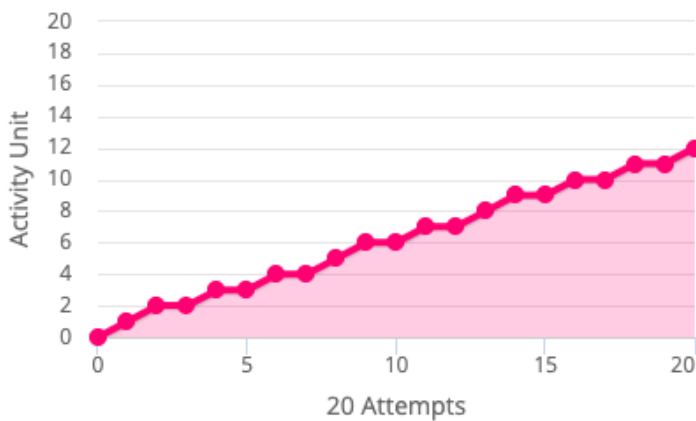
Multiple Meaning Words 2



Passage Comprehension 4

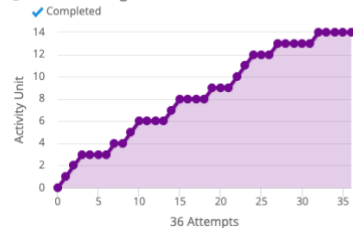


Passage Fluency 4

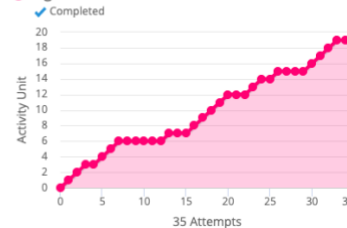


Core5 Level 15 82% Complete (63 out of 77 Units)

Root Meanings



Sight Words 7



## FALL 2019 Early Learning Events

### Early Literacy Conference with Nell Duke

On October 25, 2019, members of the Literacy Leadership Team along with other professionals from KCPS attended the Early Literacy Summit in Columbia, Md. The main speaker was Nell Duke. Nell is a literacy researcher who focuses on early literacy development particularly among children living in poverty. Our team came back energized, inspired, and with many resources that were shared.

### WIDA Early Years Conference

The WIDA Early Years Conference was held on November 7, 2019. Several KCPS members attended and came home with resources and information to share. The WIDA Early Years Conference provided an overview of essential actions to support dual language development in early care and education settings. The Early Years resources complement the WIDA Early English Language Development Standards and provide resources to help plan for the developmentally appropriate academic language success of dual language learners.

### Early Learning Briefing

Members of the Literacy Leadership Team attended the Early Learning Briefing in Columbia, MD on November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The two-day briefing was packed full of information. Just a few of the topics covered on those days included early intervention and special services, a pre-k expansion grant, and resources for families in need of childcare (Money 4 Childcare). The briefing was also a nice opportunity for counties across Maryland to collaborate and share.