

## **Middle School Program Guide 2006-2007**

### **Executive Summary**

The strategic mission of Albemarle County Public Schools is to establish a community of learners and learning, through rigor, relevance, and relationships, one student at a time. Building on this mission, Albemarle County Middle Schools seek to educate students and encourage them to discover and appreciate who they are, what they may become, and how they are able to contribute to our society.

The goal of the Albemarle County Middle Schools is to help early adolescents who move through our schools enter high school with a strong academic background, a high degree of personal self-confidence, and the ability to make well-informed, meaningful choices from among the many options available to them at the high school level and beyond.

The Albemarle County Public Schools Middle School Program Guide provides a general overview of baseline expectations for the county's middle school program. Revisions included in the proposed Middle School Program Guide 2006-2007 include:

- Inclusion of skills and habits of mind that prepare students for a lifetime of learning as outlined in the Framework for Quality Learning;
- Implementation of modified block schedules;
- Updated grade-level descriptions for core areas including language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and health and physical education;
- Reorganization of exploratory offerings into three strands: Career and Technical Education; Visual and Performing Arts; and, World Languages;
- Revised Career and Technical Education offerings that are aligned with career pathways including: Entrepreneurship: Making It Your Business; Designing, Writing, and Publishing Multimedia Content; and, Technology Systems: Problems and Opportunities in a Technological World.
- Updated grade-level course descriptions for the Visual and Performing Arts, including the addition of Drama; and,
- Addition of new sections including: Broadcast and Communication Center, Character Education, Media Center, and Youth Service.

Middle school staff is committed to challenging students capable of higher-level work, providing additional assistance to students as necessary, and meeting the needs of individual school communities whenever possible. As such, individual middle schools may offer courses or programs that go beyond the baseline expectations outlined in the Middle School Program Guide 2006-2007.