

# MONDAY MESSENGER

Volume 20, January 27, 2014



## American Renaissance School

### Pretty Work To:

-Lynne Stone for jumping in with both feet and being our "Counsellor Extraordinaire"!!

-2/3 grade team for being flexible and understanding while 2 of our little guys work thru some new separation issues

-Pretty work this week goes out to Tina Farewell and Steve Holt for taking of the investigation and cleaning of the most foul smelling, and I mean Hazmat suit stuff here, locker I have smelled in the last 15 years.

-PW to Amy Fuhrman, her husband , and Jeremy Quick for moving those cabinets upstairs in the middle school and turning a tiny area into a usable classroom.

-Amy Moreley for her enthusiasm for a recent workshop she attended and her eagerness to share with colleagues.

-Kathy Shipman, Cheryl Pierce, and Jessica Duncan for helping with the PBiS Store

-Jessica Duncan for sharing so many awesome resources with all of the staff

-Jenni Conine for organizing the celebrations for AR winners

-Kathleen Gay for plugging the holes wherever they appear, including manning the front desk on Friday.

-Jim Duffey for all his hard work with ICU, 21 Time, and other programs at the middle school. He's the true definition of a hands-on leader and is open to

reflecting and revising programs until they're perfect!

-Amy Henderson and Robyn Robbins for collaborating as classroom neighbors!

-AR teachers for their positive approach to reviewing Math during that time.

"Ours is Hard Work, but it's Good Work."



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Amy Henderson



Amy's laugh and personality are contagious. She is SO much fun! Amy is diligent and determined. She never gives up! I played sports with Amy in school - she's a tough cookie!

Amy is a bundle of energy! She is always here with a smile on her face. She has one of the best southern accents I have ever heard! We are blessed and lucky to have found her this year to bring so many wonderful ideas to her team!

Amy is one of the funniest people I know! She is super creative! Most people probably don't know that she can sew! She LOVES being a mom. Amy has brought a lot of great ideas to the k/1 team!

Amy is a hoot!!!! And speaking of hoot, she loves anything with owls on it!

She is as pretty on the inside as she is on the outside! Those dimples with her pearly whites light up at room!

She has fantastic hair and is always up on the latest fashions!!!!!!

She gets her slim figure stretching back to high school where she excelled and demonstrated athletic ability and was voted Most Athletic!!!!

Hard to believe being no bigger than a minute, you can see her heading home to Love Valley in a Suburban!!!! Don't get on her bad side... She knows how to aim, shoot, and take 'em down! Her recent accomplishment has been she got her a 6 pointer one morning all by herself, and yes, complete with camo!!!!

She has terrific ideas in the classroom and it is soooooo fun to see what she does each day! Like the Fishy Friends, I have learned so much for her already!

She comes from a line of teachers so it is no surprise she really is that amazing! It comes natural!

Besides the deer, her other best accomplishment is Ridge, her newly turned three year old son! He is a carbon copy of his "mama!" Cute as a button and sweet as can be!

If you want to know her 3 favorite things, it can be summed up with the 3 P's... Poppy perfume, pistachios (recently acquired by the best neighbor ever), and pickles!!!! Since she has come to ARS, everyone that knows her loves her!!!! She fits in perfect!!!! It is like I have known her forever!!!!

So thankful and happy to know her!!!!

Ashley Bell



Ashley is such an incredible art teacher to start with, but she is also a great representative of American Renaissance outside of school. She does an incredible job of getting student work into the community, runs our annual art auction, and is constantly teaching children the value of service through her work with the Jr Beta club (which she brought to American Renaissance) and modeling it in her own life. She has served as a teacher, coach, a mentor and a friend to students and staff alike. Ashley Bell truly personifies American Renaissance.

Ashley is one of the most naturally beautiful people I know! She has her own style and I love it!

Ashley always has a smile on her face at work. She's a strong woman that knows how to balance work, family, hobbies, and make it look easy!

Ashley is so talented at her craft. She does a great job teaching Art and sharing her passion with her students. Her students LOVE going to Art class.

Always willing to help out and is a great support to all staff. Ashley is willing to try new things in her classroom and share the results.

She does a great job helping to coordinate so many out of school activities for students such as the Jr. Beta Club, Art Club, Art Auction, March Madness field trips and Outer Banks field trip. The students benefit immensely from these enrichment activities

Ashley is one of the most intelligent, creative, hardworking and compassionate people I know. She is the Einstein of the Middle school. She can solve a difficult problem like scheduling, but easily lose her keys and glasses in a matter of seconds. With her creative and innovative ways of teaching art, she is able to help all students from the least artistic to the most advanced increase their ability. It is amazing to look at an eighth grader's work and compare it to a piece saved from the sixth grade. Ashley works long hours for ARS with all the prep for her classes, from driving all over the place to find specific materials to coming in on weekends to set up materials for her Monday classes. She also puts in long hours to prepare the school's annual Art Auction. She is also very loving and kind. She has shared this with her students over the years, baking treats for them, taking groups of students to walk dogs at the animal shelter, and having students create cards and other art work to share with the community. She also heads up the BETA club and has helped the students organize community projects to help those less fortunate. I feel very blessed to have her as a co-worker and someone I can call a true friend.

## 100 Days at ARS

### Musings and Meanderings

#### “Sorry to Unload on You”

I walked into a classroom last week for a friendly visit following school. The teacher obviously had something on her mind and so proceeded to share with me. The crux of her monologue consisted of frustration over the fact that many of her students continue to struggle with certain concepts and her attempts to teach at a deeper level have not necessarily been supported by parents.

When I got home that evening, I had an email from the teacher apologizing for having unloaded on me unawares when I simply stopped in to say hello. However, as I replied to her, she only shared her frustrations with me because she cares so much about her students and their academic success. That’s what makes her a great teacher and what makes ours a great staff. Our teachers take ownership of student achievement and it bothers them when students struggle. We are fortunate to have such dedicated staff and we should all be there for each other any time there is a need to unload!



Students in Ms. Frye’s class submit poetry via DropBox



Ms. Pierce directs students to the PBIS Store. The sale raised over \$370!

“Education is the point at which we decide whether we love the world enough to assume responsibility for it, and by the same token save it from that ruin which except for renewal, except for the coming of the new and the young, would be inevitable. And education, too, is where we decide whether we love our children enough not to expel them from our world and leave them to their own devices, nor to strike from their hands their chance of undertaking something new, something unforeseen by us, but to prepare them in advance for the task of renewing a common world.”

-Hannah Arendt

# Resources, Articles, Blog Posts, etc.



## [3 Ways To Use Data In The Classroom - Edudemic](#)

Shared by  
[Edudemic](#)

edudemic.com - The phrase “using data to drive instruction” is showing up everywhere in education circles lately. Particularly with the incorporation of the Common Core State Standards, and new standardized tests...

## [Coming up: Chat with Mike Petrilli about school choice accountability](#)

Shared by  
[Fordham Institute](#)

redefinedonline.org - When it comes to finding the right balance between parental school choice and regulatory accountability, the choice movement is having quite a debate. Last week, the Fordham Institute again made it...

## [What if in America we had the FREEDOM to choose?](#)

Shared by  
[edreform](#)

## [Zero-Tolerance Policies May Make Schools More Unsafe, Report Finds](#)

Shared by  
[Teaching Tolerance](#)

## [A Simple Way Teachers Can Learn To Make Apps - Edudemic](#)

Shared by  
[Edudemic](#)

## [Schooling Rebooted : Education Next](#)

Shared by  
[Education Next](#)

educationnext.org - Today’s education technology holds immense promise, but what matters more than the tools themselves are how they are used in schools and in classrooms. In Breakthrough Leadership in the Digital Age...

## [National School Choice Week in DC!](#)

Shared by  
[edreform](#)

# Resources, Articles, Blog Posts, etc.

[Senators Lamar Alexander and Tim Scott unveil ambitious proposals to expand school choice - Education - AEI](#)

Shared by  
[AEI Education](#)

[Educational Technology Guy: Two great teacher blogs showing uses of Evernote as teachers](#)

Shared by  
[Tom Whitby](#)

[Policymakers: Stop being agnostic about curriculum](#)

Shared by  
[Fordham Institute](#)

edexcellence.net - Pop quiz! Which of the following statements is in the Common Core State Standards? (a) Through extensive reading of stories, dramas, poems, and myths from diverse cultures and different time period...

[For Immediate Release: Jan. 23 2014 | Washington State Charter Schools Association](#)

Shared by  
[Getting Smart](#)

[How to Meet the Technology Requirements of Common Core Testing | eSchool News](#)

Shared by  
[eSchool News](#)

[Progress: Teachers, Leaders and Students Transforming Education](#)

Shared by  
[ED Press Office](#)

ed.gov - When North Dover Elementary School in Dover, Delaware was awarded \$50,000 as one of the State's 17 "recognition" schools for its gains in student achievement in 2013, Principal Suzette Marine gave ...

[The case for holding Ohio's voucher schools accountable for results](#)

Shared by  
[Fordham Institute](#)

edexcellence.net - Last week, the Fordham Institute released a report with recommendations on accountability in publicly funded private-school-choice programs. The furor it has incited among school-choice advocates a...

[The lynchpin for charter-school reform](#)

Shared by  
[Fordham Institute](#)

edexcellence.net - With great fanfare, the Dispatch's recent bombshell article outed seventeen charter schools in the Columbus

# Resources, Articles, Blog Posts, etc.

## McCrory vows to hold charter schools to high standards

As North Carolina rapidly expands its charter school roster, Gov. Pat McCrory pledged Thursday to crack down on any that don't meet quality standards.

"I'm telling you right now a lot of people are going to be looking at the charter school movement, and what I want to do is show the best," McCrory said at a school choice rally in Charlotte. "If any are falling behind and not meeting the standards we will take action, because I don't want that to be a reflection of the choice movement."

McCrory said such action could include revoking the charters that authorize independent boards to receive tax money for alternative public schools. Tougher state exams that debuted in 2013 could put many charter schools at risk after this year's scores come in.

The importance of high standards was a theme sounded by several speakers at a time when choice is flourishing in Charlotte and the state.

"We want to make sure we have quality options, not just options," said Darrell Allison, president of [Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina](#), which hosted the local rally.

The event, part of a [national tour](#) sponsored by an array of [advocacy and education groups](#), comes as North Carolina is expanding charters and launching publicly funded scholarships to send low-income and disabled students to private schools. Representatives of area charters, private schools, Charlotte-Mecklenburg magnets and home-schooling families gathered at the [Carolinas Aviation Museum](#).

"It's clear that this is an important time for North Carolina in the realm of school choice. We must be clear-eyed in setting goals and expectations," McCrory said in an 11-minute speech.

After lawmakers lifted a long-standing cap on charters in 2010, the state authorized 23 new charters that opened this year and an additional 26 to open in August. The largest share of them is in the Charlotte area.

McCrory lauded Charlotte's [Sugar Creek Charter School](#), whose students spoke and sang at the rally, as an example of the quality he wants to see. He said eighth-graders at the eastside school are taking high school civics, economics and English classes.

"Is that not amazing?" he said to applause. "These are the standards we want."

Cheryl Turner, who has led Sugar Creek for 14 years, said charters offer good options not only for families but for educators. Leading a charter has provided "the autonomy and empowerment" to meet the needs of low-income students who often struggle in traditional schools, she said. Sugar Creek is expanding to add ninth-graders next year.

Forced to close?

Despite the celebratory tone, McCrory repeatedly looped back to the theme of ensuring that toleration of weak charters doesn't tarnish the expansion. He noted that he appoints some members of the N.C. Charter School Advisory Board and the state Board of Education, which oversee charters. He said he has told them to "take action, up to and including taking away their license" if schools fall short.

McCrory cited no examples. The state has occasionally revoked or declined to renew charters for schools with low pass rates on state exams. State law [mandates closure](#) for charters that have composite

pass rates below 60 percent and fail to meet growth targets for two of three consecutive years.

That could be a problem, if last year's performance on the new state exam is any indicator of 2014 results. Seventy-five of 108 charters that reported results for 2013 fell below 60 percent. But the state gave a one-year reprieve because the exams were new and results plunged across the state.

Traditional public schools across the state fared even worse, with 86 percent logging proficiency rates below 60 percent.

Eighteen charters that fell below 60 percent also failed to meet the state growth targets. Those included four in the Charlotte area: [American Renaissance School](#) in Statesville (38.7 percent overall proficiency), [Carolina International School](#) in Harrisburg (50.2 percent), [Community Charter](#) in Charlotte (17.8 percent) and [Crossroads Charter High](#) in Charlotte (less than 5 percent).

Beyond charters

McCrory and state Rep. Rob Bryan, R-Mecklenburg, celebrated the chance for disabled and impoverished students to get scholarships of up to \$4,800 a year to attend private schools, starting in 2014-15.

"Today I'm excited to see a Charlotte with more school choices than ever before," said Bryan, a sponsor of the Opportunity Scholarship bill.

Linda Nelson, executive director of the [N.C. Association of Independent Schools](#), said the 86 private schools in that group save taxpayers \$340 million a year in public school funding. The opportunity scholarships will let those schools expand access, she said.

Kevin McClain, president of [North Carolinians for Home Education](#), compared the traditional public school system to train travel – "a 200-year-old technology (that) did great things for America."

"Most of us don't take trains today," McClain said, comparing the wider menu of options to air travel. "The freedom is like the sky."

Allison, president of PEFNC, said he contacted Superintendent Heath Morrison to make sure CMS was included in the celebration of choice. Allison said he wanted to emphasize common ground, "even if we may not agree on everything."

Morrison has criticized opportunity scholarships, which Allison's group supports, as a poor use of public education money in tight times, especially because the state does not require private schools that receive public money to meet any standards. But he has voiced support for high-quality options, including charter schools, and is expanding the roster of options within CMS.

Two CMS magnet principals, Curtis Carroll from Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology and Ynez Olshausen of Waddell Language Academy, spoke at the rally. Olshausen talked about the advantage students get by selecting a school where they learn in two languages, with options that include Japanese, Chinese, German and French.

"Global is not the future," she said. "Global is now."

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Read more here: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2014/01/23/4634501/mccrory-vows-to-hold-charter-schools.html#.UuJgThb0DEY#storylink=cpy>