

# Exploring and Mapping Academics and Careers (EMAC)

June 2007

# Committee Membership

- Two Citizen Co-Chairs
- Director, Pupil Services
- Mathematics Supervisor
- Science Supervisor
- Arts Education Supervisor
- English Language Arts Specialist
- Director, Career Center
- Assistant Director for Evaluation
- Counselor, High School
- Counselor, Middle School
- Teacher, Career Center
- Principal, Science Focus Elementary School
- Principal, Swanson Middle School
- Principal, Washington-Lee High School

# Committee Membership

## Representatives from:

- County Council of PTAs, Elementary
- County Council of PTAs, Middle
- County Council of PTAs, High
- Advisory Council on Instruction
- Northern Virginia Community College
- George Mason University
- DeVry University
- George Washington University

## Staff Liaisons:

- Director, Career, Technical, and Adult Education
- Special Projects Coordinator
- Administrative Assistant to Career, Technical, and Adult Education

# Guiding Principles

Develop a comprehensive academic and career planning process accessible to all Arlington Public School (APS) students beginning in Grade 6 that will:

- Enable all students of all interests and backgrounds to be fully informed of all scheduling, course, and school options and requirements in the Arlington Public Schools.
- Provide students, and their parents, with a clear process for planning and making informed decisions concerning their post-secondary endeavors.
- Be accessible on-line through the new APS Student Information System, eSchoolPlus and through other non-web-based alternatives.

# Overall Purpose

To provide APS students and their families with an integrated approach to education and interest exploration for academic/career development and personal enrichment through:

- Facilitating planning and informing teachers, staff, and families on how early choices can impact later opportunities
- Enabling informed decisions at important junctures during a student's time within APS by establishing clear connections between a student's core areas of study and individual interests through continuous academic/career exploration and development
- Empowering post-secondary connections

# Recommendations

1. Define, organize, and implement in APS the “career pathways” concepts to expand student knowledge about and access to options and choices.
2. Require professional development for teaching and administrative staff on career education and connections beginning with a professional development module through ongoing professional development.
3. Provide education and engagement opportunities for students’ families with a clearly defined communication plan as well as an option for feedback from stakeholders.
4. Change the name of the Career Center to more accurately highlight skill development opportunities in the context of the Building Level Planning Committee’s work.

# Recommendations

5. Create an online four and six year individual student planner with links to eight and ten year post-secondary planning processes.
6. Create an online Program of Studies with user-friendly links targeted to middle school and high school students and their families.
7. Consult and solicit feedback and reaction from local business leaders on the relevance of APS offerings to employment opportunities and trends currently and in the future.
8. Consult and solicit feedback and reaction from higher education representatives on the relevance of APS offerings to academic opportunities and trends currently and in the future.
9. Report annually to the School Board and the Arlington Community on the status of these recommendations.

# Questions and Comments