

VDOE Report for VATE June 7, 2008

- Virginia English Language Arts Supervisors (VELAS) met April 25, 2008 at Hanover High School. Chuck Miller provided information on VATE and the school membership application. He did a great job of encouraging teachers to join. Sharon Siler, assessment specialist, from VDOE gave a presentation on alternative assessments. Karen Koory, middle school English specialist, provided the supervisors with middle school updates. Tracy Robertson gave a brief view the Standards revision process; a full presentation on the upcoming Standards revision process will be given at the VATE conference. Spotsylvania technology staff provided an interactive and informative presentation on 21st century skills. The next VELAS meeting will be held at the VATE fall conference.
- Assessment committees have been chosen and participants were notified. There were over 1,000 applications received for all committees.
- All 2007 tests were in March 2008. Currently released in ePAT format are grades 3, 4, and 5 reading tests. SOL Online Testing Resources for Students found here:
<http://www.pearsonaccess.com/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=Virginia/vaPALPLaout&cid=1175826755281&pagename=vaPALPWrapper>
There are not plans to convert other released tests to ePAT format. The ePAT format does contain the answers under the open book icon, which usually holds the VDOE copyright. ePAT tests are not scoreable at this time; they provide practice with the online testing format.
- Middle School Reading and Writing Modules in support of Project Graduation are now posted. The modules, aligned to the 2002 *English Standards of Learning*, support tested reading and writing standards. These Web-based resources will provide teachers with more than 140 lesson plans to enhance the teaching of reading and writing. Writing lessons focus on using the three-domain rubric, setting up and using writing portfolios, and revising and editing lessons to encourage the development of a strong essay. The reading lessons support the teaching of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. These resources are not a complete curriculum and are neither required nor prescriptive, but they can be valuable instructional tools. The modules are available at the following link:
<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Reading/mreading.html#instructional> .
- Writing test schedule for next year is posted and is available at:
<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Assessment/TestingScheduleChart08-09.pdf>

**2008-2009
Standards of Learning Assessments
English: Writing Testing Schedule**

Administration	Grade	Testing Period	Answer Document Ship Date
Fall Semester 2008 English: Writing Test Multiple Choice Direct Writing (main)	8 and End-of-Course	10/20/08 or 10/21/08 10/22/08	11/7/08
Spring Semester 2009 English: Writing Test Multiple Choice Direct Writing (main)	5, 8, and End-of-Course	3/2/09 or 3/3/09 3/4/09	3/20/09
Summer Semester 2009 English: Writing Test Multiple Choice Direct Writing (main)	End-of-Course	7/13/09 or 7/14/09 7/15/09	7/24/09

**Spring 2009
Standards of Learning Assessments
Multiple-Choice Tests for Grades 3 through 8**

Option	Testing Period	Answer Document Ship Date
1	4/13/09 – 5/8/09	5/8/09
2	5/4/09 – 5/29/09	5/29/09
3	5/18/09 – 6/12/09	6/12/09

- The Virginia Center for the Book recently held their celebration for The Big Read of 2008, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The photography contest winner is a student of Carrie Perry. The essay winner is a student at Charlottesville High School. Each winner presented their winning piece and received a check and certificate. First Lady Anne Holton, the guest speaker, emphasized the importance of adolescent literacy. She also explained that *To Kill a Mockingbird* was an important novel in her life. The Big Read for next year will be announced sometime in June. Once again free teaching materials will be available.

- From Vision to Practice July 8-10 *Growing SySTEMic Literacy Across the Content Areas*. Schedule is attached to Supt's Memo available at: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/info_centers/superintendents_memos/2008/03_mar/inf065.html
School divisions may now sign up to send more than 4 people.
- American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, VA has spring and fall seasons. Contact Kristie Dillon at 540-885-5588 ext.19, or at Kristie@americanshakespearecenter.com for more information or to book a group. Study guides are available for *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Merchant of Venice* (spring shows). You may also request study guides from previous shows. They also offer tours of the Blackfriars Playhouse along with lectures and pod casts.
- The Poe Museum has a great new exhibit: *Poe in Comics*; this is a wonderful exhibit for struggling readers. The museum will give away a number of Poe in Comics exhibition catalogues. These catalogues are also free to school libraries. The Library of Virginia is working with the Poe Museum for the 2009 bicentennial. Additional details will be announced at a later date. They are also seeking partners for their History Channel grants to bring Poe programs into schools. The grant will cover all expenses, so there would be no cost to the schools, but they must have a commitment from schools as grant recipients. For additional information please contact Katrina (Kat) Spears at 804-648-5523 or kat@poemuseum.org. The Poe Museum is sponsoring a series of Unhappy Hours in the Enchanted Gardens to be held on June 24, August 28, and September 25. Additional information is available at: <http://www.poemuseum.org/>
- Please be aware of two opportunities for elementary schools held through a partnership with VDOE and VAESP

Drive-In Seminar Featuring Virginia Department of Education Staff

The Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals (VAESP) and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) extend an invitation to all principals, assistant principals, lead teachers, and other professional educators to participate in a one day drive-in seminar featuring staff members from the VDOE. The seminar will be held in Fredericksburg on Monday, June 9, 2008, at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House and Conference Center located in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The Southwest Seminar will be held in Abingdon on Thursday, June 12, 2008, at the Higher Education Conference Center, Executive Auditorium. The seminar will feature staff from the VDOE who will present issues of critical interests to administrators, central office staff, principals, and faculty. The seminar will feature staff from the VDOE who will present issues of critical interests to administrators, central office staff, principals, and faculty. Because of the rising cost of fuel, we have decided to bring this seminar to you. The \$100 registration fee includes all materials, continental breakfast, and lunch.

The first session, *An Overview of Virginia's Response to Intervention (RtI)*, led by Susan Trulove, addresses Virginia's framework for RtI as an education tool designed to provide early, effective intervention to all children who are having difficulty learning. RtI seeks to prevent academic failure through early intervention, frequent progress monitoring, and

increasingly intensive research-based instructional intervention. Learn how Virginia is scaling up for the RtI to meet the needs of all children.

The second session, *A Look at the Cross-Curricular Nature of Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL); Mathematics/Science/English/Reading/History/ and Social Science*, will be examined by Betsy Barton, Ginna Glover, Barbara Young, and Deborah Wickham, specialists from the VDOE. All content area Virginia Standards of Learning manuals contain reference to the cross-curricular nature of the elementary content. The presenters will examine the cross-curricular nature of the elementary SOL and identify resources available through the VDOE Web site for support in lesson planning and instruction.

The third session, *Creating a Community of Readers for Comprehension*, features staff from McIntosh Elementary School, a Blue Ribbon Award-winning school located in Newport News. The presentation is led by Mary Ann Hutchinson, Principal; Jacky Barber, a first-grade teacher; and Carlissa Ward, a third-grade teacher. A distinguishing characteristic of McIntosh is that in consecutive years the numbers of poverty and homeless children have increased, yet the reading scores continue to climb. Many grade levels comprehend reading passages at close to 100 percent accuracy. Come listen to how these staff members have led the way to create a community of readers for student success in reading comprehension.

The final session of the day will feature Jason Ellis, Test Results Utilization Specialist, VDOE. He will offer a demonstration of the *Educational Information Management Systems (EIMS)*. This system has been designed with building level administrators in mind and has many **new** features and functionalities that make it much more user friendly and faster! If you have not attended an EIMS training or seen a demonstration of this system you owe it to your school, students, teachers, and yourself to see this Web-based system up close and personal. All attendees will receive a training manual for EIMS, thus providing another tool for disaggregating critical data.

If you have questions about the conference or need additional information, please call VAESP at (804) 355-6791, fax (804) 355-1196, e-mail info@vaesp.org or visit the VAESP Web site at www.vaesp.org.

- Below is the flyer for the Teacher Reception at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to be held on June 25, 2008.



**Teacher Reception!
All the Old Familiar Faces
And a Few New Ones Too!**

**Wednesday, June 25, 2008
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
200 N. Boulevard
Richmond, Virginia 23238**

Celebrate the end of the school year at this entertaining evening filled with theatrical presentations, interesting and practical information, and tons of fun. Enjoy wine, beer, soft drinks, hors d'oeuvres, mixing with colleagues, gathering classroom resources, performances and special tours.

Meet representatives from Agecroft Hall and Gardens, Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, Carpenter Science Theatre Company, Library of Virginia, Maymont, Poe Museum, Richmond Shakespeare, Richmond Symphony, Science Museum of Virginia, Theatre IV, University of Richmond Museums, Virginia Center for Architecture, Virginia's Department of Historic Resources, and VMFA! You'll leave this event with new ideas for fieldtrips and curriculum enhancement as well as classroom resources that will enliven the coming school year. Attendees are eligible for door prizes from the gift shops of participating museums and educational institutions.

This event is FREE for teachers.
For questions or to register for the event, please contact VMFA Teacher Program Coordinator Twyla Kitts at 804-204-2662 or e-mail twyla.kitts@vmfa.museum.

VMFA's parking deck is open for this event.
Enter the deck at the intersection of Sheppard St. and Stuart Ave. For a map, go to <http://www.vmfa.museum/campus.html> and scroll to the bottom of the page.



Image: *La Cothune* by Agathon Leonard, French 19th century, VMFA Collection