



Monthly Newsletter



### Inside the Issue

#### PARENT NIGHT

Meet with Administration and Teachers during the week of September 21st!

#### COUNSELING CORNER

Updates from our school counseling team

#### LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

Got a question? Here's who to reach out to!

## CULTURE & CLIMATE TASK FORCE

Last fall, the Exploris School Board commissioned a study to look at the strengths and challenges of the culture and climate of our program. In response to the survey, we have commissioned a panel of staff and families to help refocus this year on our core values. Stay tuned for more details on this important work!

## Meet the Culture Club



Jay Korreck



Natasha Moore



Katie Johnson



Mariya Shaikh



Cori Greer-Banks



Daniel Hencher



Paula Mancini



Sharon Cuffe



Michelle Parkerson



Annah Riedel



## ELEMENTARY CAMPUS CLEAN UP DAY

On August 29th, we had a volunteers pounding nails, painting the Exploris sign, weed whacking, laying mulch, hauling things away, and helping out. Many thanks to all who made it!



## SAVE THE DATE!

The Exploris School will host a virtual Open House the week of September 21st. Families will be invited to attend Zoom sessions with administration, support staff, and your teachers. You'll have a chance to learn about specific programs, student opportunities, and ask questions. Administrative sessions will be offered multiple times so families can choose a session that is most convenient for their schedules. Stay tuned for specific dates and links!

## INTERIM LEADERSHIP TEAM

With innovation being one of our core values, it's probably not surprising that in the wake of the departure of our previous Executive Director, rather than fill the position immediately, we are taking this opportunity to evaluate our leadership needs and look at ways to restructure our program for greater transparency, access, and teacher input to key decisions.

For the 2020-2021 school year, Exploris will be working with an Interim Leadership Team consisting of people who were elected by the staff and appointed by the Board. This six person team has been working successfully all summer on joint decision making and on creating sustainable structures for managing the school. The team consists of the two school level directors, Deborah Brown at the Middle School and Amanda Northrup at the Elementary School, Koren Morgan, our Business Manager, Michelle Parkerson, our Instructional Coach, and teacher representatives Leah Perry and Tom Simmons. If you have a question, concern or suggestion, please reach out to our building level leaders.

*Need Help with  
Childcare?  
Check out [these Resources!](#)*



## PLAN B?

Although we know our staff and students are working hard to make remote learning as effective and engaging as possible, we are still looking forward to the day when we can have students back on campus for in-person learning. As a reminder from our summer communications, we are committed to staying in Plan C until at least the end of the first trimester, and we have established a timeline and criteria to be continuously looking at the best options.

When a change is made it will be communicated in advance so everyone is able to plan accordingly. Our reevaluation windows are:

- Fall Break (Oct. 5-9)
- End of Trimester 1 (Nov. 20)
- Winter Break (Dec 21-Jan 1)
- End of Trimester 2 (March 11)
- Spring Break (March 29-April 5)

We are using a number of factors to determine our plan, including guidelines from the North Carolina Health and Human Services, guidelines from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, local metrics of Covid spread, experiences from other schools and organizations who are reopening, and input from our Exploris staff and Exploris families.

## COUNSELOR CORNER



If you have not had a chance to explore [The Exploris School Counselor Corner website](#) please check it out. It has resources families regarding social-emotional well-being as well as links to Past Parent Connection Sessions, 8th-grade transition to high school, food and counseling resources, and other helpful links.

To help families and staff navigate counselor support better we have created a single email address:

**[counselor@exploris.org](mailto:counselor@exploris.org)**

to go to all counseling support staff.

If you have questions about technology and need a device-please email us.

**2020-2021 Counseling Team:**

**Michelle Duncan**, Lead School Counselor, Lunch Programming Coordinator, McKinney Vento Coordinator, 504 Coordinator

**Matt Moreland**, School Counselor, and Technology Coordinator for remote learning

**Lori Mauro**, Clinical Social Worker

# Back-to-School, By the Numbers



- 32 teachers participated in formal professional learning over the summer
- 24 staff members and 3 parents participated in planning the staff back to school workweek
- 89% of our families participated in the Meet-the-teacher Drive By event
- Our PTO provided over 50 vases for flowers for teachers, and Papa Murphy's donated pizzas to the entire staff
- To date, we have shared nearly 100 Chromebooks for students to use in remote learning
- All student seats are filled and we are fully enrolled
- We had 100% attendance on the first day of school!

## Contact Us!

**General Questions:** [Leadership@Exploris.org](mailto:Leadership@Exploris.org)

**Student Needs:** Michelle Duncan, School Counselor [Counselor@Exploris.org](mailto:Counselor@Exploris.org)  
(social/emotional, free/reduced price lunch, food or housing insecurity)

**PTO:** [PTOpres@Exploris.org](mailto:PTOpres@Exploris.org)

**Tech Issues?** please email your crew teacher with as many specifics as possible

**Don't forget to subscribe to your class blog or newsletter and be sure to check your email daily for updates, reminders, and opportunities!**

