



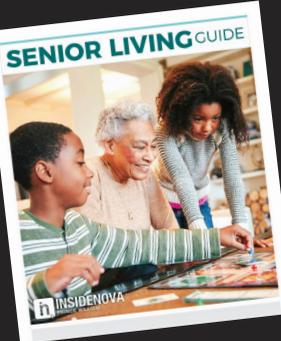
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InTheKnow



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» INSIDE



BUZZ IS BACK

Osborn Park softball is undefeated this season.

» PAGE 18



ONE LOVE

Manassas celebrates the arts.

» PAGE 21

BEYOND GRADUATION



» Catherine Ware and Abigale Wertman, seniors at Potomac High, supervise as third-graders from Loch Lomond Elementary try the cookies they watched Ware and Wertman baked. EMILY SIDES | INSIDENOVA

From cooking to neurosurgery, seniors find their passions

» EMILY SIDES
esides@insidenova.com

On a recent Tuesday, Lei Williams, a senior at Potomac High School, and his culinary classmates demonstrated how to follow a recipe during a class for third-graders from Loch Lomond Elementary. Williams cooked stir fry while classmates baked cookies and made other recipes.

Williams likes to make things that pack a flavorful punch, he said. The most difficult thing he's created was a sliced cucumber vertically standing salad. Williams said the culinary class, which he's taken since the 10th grade, helped him hone his skills.

"This class is nothing but pushing you to be the best you can be," he said. "All you gotta do is apply yourself."

After graduation, Williams is heading to Johnson & Wales University's campus in Charlotte, N.C., on a partial scholarship.

"I'm excited, especially

going to college," Williams said. "It'll help me branch out and find my own path in the culinary world. I want to own my own business one day."

As high school seniors finish their last semester and prepare for graduation ceremonies at the end of May or early June, some shared their thoughts on how they've been planning for life after they walk across the stage.

About 6,000 seniors in Prince William County Public Schools are set to graduate this spring, said Diana Gulotta, the division spokeswoman. Seniors told InsideNoVa they advise younger students to try new things during high school as they think about what they want to do after graduation.

WHAT'S COOKING?

Aaliyah Hunt, a senior at Freedom High School, said she found out at a young age that she wants to cook. Hunt plans to attend the Culinary

GRADUATION » PAGE 3

County to buy Woodbridge site for parking garage

New structure's 1,414 spaces to relieve overcrowded lots

» EMILY SIDES
esides@insidenova.com

The Prince William Board of County Supervisors has approved the purchase of 17.68 acres near Stonebridge at Potomac Town Center to build a commuter parking garage.

The garage will have 1,414 parking spaces and is expected to open in early 2023.

The board agreed April 9 to pay \$5.7 million for the land at 2501 Opitz Blvd. in Woodbridge from the JBG Cos., which owns the Stonebridge shopping center. To cover the expense, supervisors voted to appropriate \$3.42 million from tax revenue and \$2.28 million in funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.

The county had previously considered the

site for a parking garage paired with a new Potomac Nationals stadium. The baseball team's owners eventually abandoned talks with the county in 2018 and will build a new stadium in Fredericksburg.

If the county doesn't build the parking garage within 10 years, JBG has the option to buy the land back from the county, said Ricardo Canizales, the county's

PARKING » PAGE 3

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transportation director.

The county is administering the project, which has \$37.2 million in funding from the state's Smart Scale program.

The parking garage will have seven stories, elevators and a system that shows drivers how many spaces are open on each floor, Canizales said.

"When we open it, it will be state of the art," he told InsideNoVa.

The garage will have good access to Interstate 95 North, Canizales said. Access to I-95 South will improve with a new 95 Express Lanes ramp planned at Opitz Boulevard. Part of a larger regional deal between the Virginia Department of Transportation and private firm Transurban, the ramp will provide more direct access to Potomac Mills and Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center.

The county will also build sidewalks along Opitz Boulevard to connect U.S. 1 to Potomac Center Boulevard at the garage site so pedestrians can access commuting options at the garage.

The parking garage is intended to alleviate capacity problems at the Horner Road commuter lot and the lot at the corner of U.S. 1 and Dumfries Road.

OmniRide, which offers bus service for commuters, notes in its 2018 single-day count of vehicles at the Horner Road lot, there were 2,570 vehicles at the lot, compared to its official capacity of 2,328, said spokeswoman Christine Rodrigo. The Dumfries Road lot had 943 vehicles parked compared to its official capacity of 875.

OmniRide will provide bus service to the garage, said Bob Schneider, OmniRide's executive director, and will calculate demand based on the number of parking spaces.

Van pools and slugging — an informal method of carpooling to ride the Express Lanes for free — will also be options at the garage, Schneider said.

"Slugging and transit go hand-in-hand in this corridor," he said.

In September, supervisors heard the results of a \$271,477 study that compared three possible sites for the proposed garage. The other sites included the At Home department store building on Dale Boulevard and an undeveloped site behind Potomac Festival.

According to U.S. Census Bureau data from 2014, about 150,399 county residents commuted for work outside the county, out of the total labor force of 231,813, said Allisha Abraham, research manager for the county's economic development department. That means 64.8% of workers were commuting out of the county.

Institute of Virginia in Norfolk after graduating from high school.

"You'll probably fall in love with it; it's that much fun," Hunt said about the culinary program. "It pushes the envelope to see if you're really up for it. It's like a restaurant [with] a real kitchen. If you want to go in the field, you know what a real kitchen is like."

Catherine Ware, also a senior at Potomac High, said the senior culinary class has become like a family. Ware is headed to Johnson & Wales University's campus in Providence, R.I., after graduation.

"I want to show the world what I can do," Ware said.

Under the guidance of chef instructor Ronald Evans, Ware said she's learned that she works well under the stress and pressure of a kitchen.

"I would recommend students try [the culinary program] even if it's not your major," Ware said. "You can be independent once you know how to cook."

Across the kitchen, senior La'nija Barbour asked the third-graders: "So how does everything taste so far?"

Barbour, who has taken the culinary class for two years, wants to be a lawyer. After graduation, she's attending Christopher Newport University in Newport News.

Barbour said she's learned how to cook lamb and how to stuff a pork chop. The culinary program also has taught her how to provide for herself and inspired her to open a food truck one day.

"It's not just cooking, in this class," Barbour said. "It's basically how to grow up. I'd highly recommend it, because you need food to survive."

Barbour doesn't just have her eyes on the kitchen. She likes arguing, so she took a criminal justice class and a business law class.

"We toured the courthouse and got to listen to cases," she said.

Barbour said she knows she will miss her family, cheerleading teammates and other friends once she's attending college.

"It's hard, but you gotta keep going," she said.

Evans helps students sell cookies after school and also meals to staff on Fridays as a way to raise funds to attend



Potomac High Senior Catherine Ware, center, smiles as third-graders from Loch Lomond Elementary react to trying cookies that were prepared by the culinary seniors. EMILY SIDES | INSIDENOVA

Cook Around the World, a culinary competition in Florida on April 26-29.

For a third year, Evans is planning to invite local restaurant owners and managers for a free meal prepared by his students at the high school. Students also create a portfolio with photos of dishes they prepared, Evans said.

Evans, a former Marine and a husband and father, said he pushes his students and learns from them, too.

"To me, it feels great, because when they first come they don't know how to wash dishes or even do laundry," he said. "They all rotate jobs — baking, doing storage. We learn everything, from how to tie a tie or how to do an interview. I like to teach life skills. For them to learn how to cook on the way is even better. They wow me every year."

HANDS-ON

Last school year, 33,122 students from grades 6-12 took career and technical education (CTE) classes in Prince William County Public Schools, said Mary Beth Dobbins, the division's career and technical education coordinator.

The division offers 10 middle school CTE classes and more than 100 high school CTE classes, said Doug Wright, the division's CTE supervisor. High school students can choose CTE classes in eight areas, including agricultural education, business and information technology, career connections, fam-

ily and consumer sciences, health and medical sciences, marketing, technology education, and trade and industrial education.

Students can learn about cabinet making, HVAC systems, welding and other subjects, Wright said, adding that CTE is for everyone, whether they plan to go to college or enter the workforce after graduation. "CTE is an avenue for students to find success," Wright said. CTE classes can help enrich students' high school years, he added. "All kids are different. You want to help kids find that match and help them get excited to get up in the morning."

Starting next school year, the Virginia Department of Education will require seventh-graders to take a career investigations class, Dobbins said.

"The more they know about, the better they'll be," Dobbins said. "CTE prepares students for all careers."

Yordan Arce-Diaz, a senior at Potomac High and enrolled in his third-year welding class, said he knew since middle school that he liked working with his hands and not just sitting at a desk.

"Without welding, we wouldn't construct bridges or apartments or skyscrapers," he said.

Arce-Diaz and a classmate bought a welding machine so they can earn ex-

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SUMMER EVENTS GUIDE

Get ready to enjoy your summer with events across the region.

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BACK ON BASE

As Kieara Edwards goes so goes Osbourn Park softball.

» PAGE 22

FINAL ROUND

Golfers seeking a tough course get one last look at General's Ridge.

» PAGE 31



County quizzed on bond wish list

Community residents review plans for an extension of Van Buren Road between Dumfries Road and Cardinal Drive, one of several projects in a proposed \$400 million bond referendum. EMILY SIDES/INSIDENOVA

Residents concerned about projects in referendum pitch

» BY EMILY SIDES
esides@insidenova.com

About 200 people attended a town hall Tuesday to voice their opinions on two potential bond referendums that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors

will consider next month, totaling \$600 million for roads and parks.

Many local parents, coaches and athletes spoke in favor of the proposed projects that would be funded through a parks bond referendum.

Seth Hender-Voss, the county's director of parks, recreation and tourism, presented details on nine parks projects, including an \$84 million indoor sports complex that

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would have a hydraulic, 200-meter track with turns that could be raised and lowered depending on the race.

BONDS » PAGE 3

Students see segregation in proposed boundaries

School Board to vote on lines for 13th high school in June

» BY EMILY SIDES
esides@insidenova.com

Prince William County's 13th high school is expected to address overcrowding at Battlefield, Patriot and Stonewall Jackson high schools when it opens in 2021.

But some students looking at the new boundaries envision the minority population climbing

at Stonewall Jackson while the number of minority students falls at the other campuses.

The school will be at 13150 University Blvd. in Bristow on 83 acres near Gainesville Middle School and Jiffy Lube Live amphitheater.

More than 100 people attended a boundary planning public hearing May 16 to voice their opinion about the plans from school division staff. Many supported the proposed boundaries, but others were upset.

A final staff recommendation will be presented to the school board on June 5, and the

board will hold a public hearing on the proposed boundaries on June 19. Board members can make changes before voting.

School Board member Gil Trenum, Brentsville District, encouraged people to stay engaged in the process.

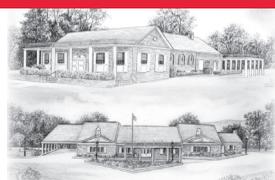
"There is still a lot of the process left to go," he said. "Sometimes people get the feeling that the boundaries are a done deal before they're ever presented [to the school board]. That is not the case."

SCHOOLS » PAGE 3

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BONDS » FROM PAGE 1

The county has 36,000 youth participants in recreation programs.

“We’re just trying to keep up with it,” he said.

Barbara Antwi, a junior at Osbourn Park High, captain of the school’s track and field team and a three-time All-State athlete, said she supports the indoor sports complex, because it would allow athletes to become familiar with a competition-level facility.

“Not only will the indoor complex help track and field, it will help all sports,” Antwi said. “I know it won’t affect me, but I know future kids will have an opportunity to practice and compete.”

Megan Ogawa, a senior at Osbourn Park High and a long jumper, said she only had three chances to practice in an indoor facility before the state track meet. While practicing, she sprained her ankle after jumping into a frozen pit.

“It would provide for an opportunity to give people younger than me something I didn’t have and something I really would

have benefited from,” she said.

Al Wilson, president of Prince William Rowing Club, was among several people who asked the board of county supervisors to build a new boat house in Lake Ridge for rowing participants. The club serves about 95 members, mostly adults and some collegiate athletes, said Wilson, adding Prince William Crew Association oversees the boat house in the Lake Ridge Park.

“The boat house has met its maximum capacity,” said Wilson.

County At-large Chairman Corey Stewart told attendees to be specific in their comments. “It’s going to be basically your choice,” he said.

The board will consider in June if it wants to move forward with the two bond referendums. If approved, they’ll be on the ballot in November.

Anand Desai, Bristow resident, told the board he is concerned about the financial impact the bonds may have on taxpayers like himself. He said he doesn’t think demand for an indoor sports facility will be worth the cost to build the facilities.

“The indoor facilities are a waste when

there are real needs like deteriorating schools in the east side [of the county],” said Desai.

Desai wore a message on his jacket that took aim at the indoor sports complex. It read, “Warm jacket \$18. Fisc responsibility: Priceless. Indoor hydraulic track facility \$84 million.”

“We can run around the gym,” he said.

BUMPS IN THE ROAD

Dozens of residents of the Four Seasons senior-living community attended the town hall to voice their opposition to a project that would extend a four-lane Van Buren Road from Dumfries Road to Cardinal Drive. The \$70 million project would include plans to accommodate pedestrians and bicycles.

According to the county’s presentation, the extension of Van Buren Road would provide a parallel path to I-95 and Route 1 between Dale Boulevard and Dumfries Road.

Chuck Wilde, board director for Four Seasons, said the community includes 801 homes and 1,400 residents. The ex-

tension project would remove trees which act as a buffer between the neighborhood and I-95 and would disrupt the current walking trail.

“It would be a major, major disruption,” said Wilde.

Montclair resident Michelle Leonard-Burgess said she supports the Van Buren Road extension project.

“It would share the burden of the north-south traffic,” she said. “Everyone is trying to work their way onto Interstate 95 and Rt. 1.”

Ricardo Canizales, the county’s transportation director, presented details on the proposed road projects that could be funded through the bond. He said projects would receive more public input during the design phase.

School Board Chair Babur Lateef told attendees that if the voter referendums are approved, it would help by improving roadways where school buses travel.

“We move 63,000 to 67,000 kids by bus,” he said.

Indoor facilities could also host graduation ceremonies, he said.

SCHOOLS » FROM PAGE 1

Drawing new high school boundaries is never pleasant, Trenum said, adding this is his third high school boundary process since 2008, when he first began serving on the school board.

“There are a few factors; we’re trying to optimize as many of those as possible, but there is never a perfect plan that gets everyone what they want,” he said. “Everyone has a right to want what they think is best for their students or their children. I think it’s pretty important that every community or group that is being considered for change has an opportunity to see at least one plan that reflects their desires.”

Trenum said he plans to ask the board to consider adding Brentsville and Osbourn Park High to the boundary planning process for the 13th high school.

“Bottom line, it’ll have to be a plan that at least 5 [school] board members can agree on,” Trenum said.

MAPPING CHANGE

How the school division addresses questions of racial demographics in plotting

out the 13th high school will probably help inform decisions for the 14th high school. The proposed site for that school on Prince William Parkway, just north of the intersection with Hoadly Road, could affect boundaries for Osbourn Park High School as well as other high schools throughout central and eastern Prince William.

For the 13th high school maps, planning staff are using neighborhoods as the basis of assigning students, while considering some demographic factors, but the school division cannot consider only demographic factors when redrawing boundaries, said Matthew Carlidge, the school division’s planning supervisor.

The county has presented two plans: “Plan 1” and “Plan 1a.” The auditorium was divided on May 16. Many students from Stonewall Jackson strongly disagreed with the proposed plans, while many parents supported “Plan 1a,” developed after a first community meeting April 30.

The 13th high school is planned to accommodate 2,557 students and employ 225 people, according to school division staff. With more than 8,000 students among them, Battlefield is over capacity

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by 46.4%, Patriot is over capacity by 30% and Stonewall Jackson is over capacity by 2.7%. By 2021-2022, the school division expects the four high schools to have a total of 9,072 students.

Both proposed plans would leave Stonewall Jackson with an increase in students with a limited English proficiency, from 18.7% to around 24%, students who are economically disadvantaged, from 50.7% to around 61%, and minority students, from 80.8% to 89.2%.

The numbers shift slightly between the two plans for Patriot, but around 2% of its students would have limited English proficiency, around 12.5% of its students considered economically disadvantaged, and between 45% and 47% minority

In both plans, Battlefield would have fewer students with limited English proficiency, fewer students who are economically disadvantaged and fewer minority students.

SUCCESS THROUGH DIVERSITY

Lubna Azmi, senior class president at Stonewall Jackson, said the proposed plans are unacceptable because they contribute to the segregation of the affected high schools. Azmi said Stonewall Jackson is a great school — “and that’s greatly due to its diversity.”

“We’re saying schools need to be diverse,” Azmi told InsideNoVa. “We’re not just fighting for Stonewall, we’re fighting for every high school in western Prince William County.”

Azmi said she feels like the planning staff are not making an effort to create a middle ground. “Diversity should be important at all schools,” she said.

Ja’Chelle Johnson, a senior at Stonewall Jackson, and her sister, Joy Johnson, a sixth-grader at Marsteller Middle School, both spoke against the plans.

“I truly believe this is modern-day segregation,” said Ja’Chelle Johnson.

Anne Powell, who has a fourth-grader who in the future will attend one of the affected high schools, said she supports Plan 1a, because it keeps kids in her neighborhood together.

“To start high school and not know anyone, these kids want to have their peers as their friends,” Powell said.

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InTheKnow



ROLLING ON

Tank Farm Open House returns Sept. 7-8
 >> PAGE 6



LESSONS LEARNED

High school head football coaches recall impact of first coaching job
 >> PAGE 15



ARTS ALIVE!

Community celebrates theatre, music and more
 >> PAGE 19

HONORING JOHN JENKINS



Ernestine Jenkins and Prince William County Public Schools Superintendent Steve Walts celebrated the ribbon-cutting Aug. 28 at John D. Jenkins Elementary School. Named after the Neabsco District county supervisor who died in February, the school includes an area honoring his wife: the Ernestine Jenkins Story Room. See Page 4 for more.

Large church wins permit approval in Rural Crescent

>> EMILY SIDES
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The Prince William Board of County Supervisors voted 7-1 Tuesday to approve a special use permit for Locust Shade LLC to turn a wooded property in the county's Rural Crescent into a 30,000-square-foot church.

At-large Chair Corey Stewart and supervisors Victor Angry, D-Neabsco; Maureen Caddigan, R-Potomac; Pete Candland, R-Gainesville; Jeanine Lawson, R-Brentsville; Marty Nohe, R-Coles; and Frank Principi, D-Woodbridge, voted for the permit. Supervisor Ruth Anderson, R-Occoquan, voted against.

The proposed Monterey Church will be on 16.7 acres and will have up to 180 parking spaces.

The proposed church is set to be located at 9514 Auburn Road in the Brentsville District, near Vint Hill and Auburn roads near Fauquier County.

The church is in the county's Rural Crescent, which is zoned agriculture for limited development to curb residential growth. Currently the church holds its services in a county high school, according to planning staff.

The special use permit does not allow the church to have a private school or a child day care.

The planning commission voted to recommend approval of a special use permit on July 24, according to the county's resolution.

When the county's planning commission held a public hearing on the proposed church in June, 17 of 19 speakers were against the project, according to a

CHURCH >> PAGE 3

Less experienced teachers more prevalent at poorer schools

Analysis finds more seasoned teachers at county's wealthier schools

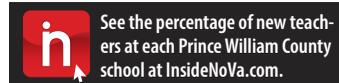
>> EMILY SIDES
 esides@insidenova.com

When she was growing up, Ashley Dunnaway, a first-grade teacher at Minnieville Elementary School, said her teachers inspired her and made learning fun and engaging.

She was recognized for passing on that encouragement as the Prince William County Public Schools' Outstanding New Teacher of the Year in 2017-18, a year after she graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a master's degree in teaching.

"Everyone is a team, like a family," she said. "We are all responsible for a kid who succeeds. At the end of the day, we're trying to make sure all kids succeed, not just my class versus your class."

Minnieville is one of 26 elementary schools in Prince William that receive federal Title 1 funding because it has a high percentage of students from low-income families. Three county middle schools



team, like a family," she said. "We are all responsible for a kid who

TEACHERS >> PAGE 12

| Elementary school teachers | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| School Name | Percent Early Teachers | % Economically Disadvantaged | Title 1 |
| Most new teachers | | | |
| Belmont ES | 59% | 78% | yes |
| Kilby ES | 55% | 79% | yes |
| John Jenkins ES | 52% | N/a | yes |
| Fewest new teachers | | | |
| Mountain View ES | 3% | 10% | no |
| T. Clay Wood ES | 4% | 12% | no |
| Glenkirk ES | 10% | 10% | no |

Prince William County schools with more students in poverty have more new teachers, those with five years or less of experience, than other schools in the division.

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Chamber backs county's \$355 million road bond referendum

» GREG HAMBRICK
ghambrick@insidenova.com

The Prince William Chamber of Commerce is asking its members and other voters to support a \$355 million bond referendum on the ballot in November.

The Chamber's Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the referendum, which includes \$200 million for a Va. Route 28 bypass and/or widening of the existing road, \$70 million to improve the Minnieville Road and Prince William

Parkway interchange, \$50 million to widen Devlin Road, \$20 million to extend Summit School Road and \$15 million to improve the intersection at Old Bridge Road and Gordon Boulevard.

"This is a now or never moment to fix one of the worst bottlenecks in the region," said Ross Snare, Director of Communications and Government Affairs for the Prince William Chamber of Commerce. "All the voters have to do is vote 'yes.' The county has studied Route 28 improve-

ments over the last decade and through those extensive studies they have identified a clear solution that will reduce congestion and travel times on Route 28."

The chamber pointed out state and regional transportation dollars are already being leveraged for the Route 28 project.

"However, without the additional \$200 million that this referendum provides the Route 28 Project would be delayed indefinitely," said Bishop Lyle Dukes, chairman of the Prince William Chamber of Commerce



JAMES EDWARD BEACH II

James Edward Beach II of Manassas, Virginia died Saturday morning in a motorcycle accident.

James was born on April 2, 1978 in Forestburg, VA. At age 12 he moved to Manassas with his parents, Kathleen and James Edward Beach. He attended Osborn High School. As an adult, James was an accomplished carpenter whose exceptional skills included any and all aspects of home repairs up to and including building entire homes. James was a motocross and motorcycle enthusiast who loved the sport of motocross and was a gifted rider. He supported his sons in their love for sports taking them across the country to compete. He was a doting father proudly attending every function of every sport his sons participated in. His family and friends were most important to James.

James leaves four sons, James Edward Beach III, Jacob Michael Beach, Jeremy Alexander Beach, and Aidan McKinnle Beach along with his Mother, Kathleen G. Albert, Stepfather Frank Albert, Father, James E. Beach, Step-Mother Debra Beach, along with his sister Heather Oake and husband Shane, brother Kevin Black and his wife April and both grandmothers.

Family and friends may pay their respects at a service to be offered at the Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street Manassas, VA on Saturday, September 7th at noon, reception to follow at Pierce Funeral Home.

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TEACHERS » FROM PAGE 1

and one high school also receive this funding.

However, on average, the county's Title 1 schools have more teachers with five years or less experience than schools not receiving federal assistance, according to an InsideNoVa analysis.

Research shows that as teachers gain experience, their students perform better academically. This year, Prince William schools employs more than 6,200 teachers who teach more than 90,000 students at 100 schools, making it the second-largest school division in Virginia.

About 39% of teachers at county elementary schools that receive Title 1 funding have five years or less experience, compared to 28% of teachers who have five years or less of experience at other elementary schools.

Elementary schools have 3% to 59% percent of teachers with five years or less experience, but four out of the five elementary schools with the highest percentage of these new teachers receive Title 1 funding.

Those four schools — Belmont, Kilby, Jenkins and Ellis elementary schools — report at least 50% of their teachers have been on the job for five years or less. All of them are Title 1 schools.

Collectively, about 36% of teachers at the two middle schools that receive Title 1 funding have five years or less experience, compared to 32% at other middle schools. Only one middle school reports that more than half of its teachers have five years or less of experience: Lake Ridge Middle School. It is not a Title 1 school.

The county has one high school that receives Title 1 funding: Freedom High School. Unlike the elementary and middle schools, Freedom has fewer teachers with five years or less experience, with only 26% new teachers, compared to 30% at other high schools in the county.

Teacher experience levels vary by school for several reasons. School principals work with the division's human resources department to hire teachers for each school, said Donna Eagle, the division's human resource director. While younger teachers may be new to the profession, more teachers are earning their master's degree before they start their first year of teaching, which makes them better prepared, Eagle said.

Also, principals may be looking for specific skills, such as technology or language skills, for their school, said Michele Salzano, supervisor of Elementary Schools & Special Education Employment.

"Our children have different backgrounds, so you want the staff to reflect

that," she said.

New teachers may want to teach at a Title 1 school to help students. Teachers who work at Title 1 schools are often promoted as instructional coaches or administrators, which creates a vacancy at the school, Eagle said. She added that the Virginia Department of Education offers grants for schools that are difficult to staff that pays a yearly bonus to teachers for one to three years.

New teachers can also receive student loan forgiveness for teaching at a Title 1 school, Salzano said.

Christie Dugan Taylor, the division's director of the office of professional learning, said Title 1 schools also have instructional coaches who support new teachers.

The school division hires teachers from other countries who are often bilingual, but they can only stay for up to five years, Eagle said, adding that can mean more vacancies once those teachers leave. This year, the division has about 90 teachers from another country.

SUPPORTING NEW TEACHERS

The school division tracks the number of new teachers at each school to ensure there is enough support for them, Taylor said. This school year, the division has about 1,000 teachers who are either new to the profession or from another division.

All new teachers receive a mentor who offers training multiple times a year, Taylor said. A mentor can work with teachers individually to help identify areas of strength and areas that need improvement.

As a new teacher, Dunnaway attended professional development the summer before she started. She also attended reading strategy classes to better prepare to teach reading.

Dunnaway's mentor taught at a classroom next to hers, so she could bounce ideas off her mentor or ask her for help. In addition to her mentor observing her classroom, Dunnaway observed her mentor's classroom, and her mentor helped Dunnaway visit classrooms at Montclair Elementary, she said.

"When you collaborate, you're bringing ideas from all over that can really help you grow," Dunnaway said.

The division's goal is to retain teachers, because of the division's investment in them and due to a national shortage of teachers, Taylor said. The division retained 89.4% of its teachers in the 2018-19 school year.

Teachers also have access to an on-

| Middle school teachers | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| School Name | Percent Early Teachers | % Economically Disadvantaged | Title 1 |
| Most new teachers | | | |
| Lake Ridge MS | 51% | 40% | no |
| Nokesville School K-8 | 49% | 19% | no |
| Parkside MS | 41% | 54% | no |
| Fewest new teachers | | | |
| Marsteller MS | 17% | 18% | no |
| Porter Traditional (1-8) | 19% | 28% | no |
| Gainesville MS | 22% | 17% | no |

line tool called Torsh, where they can share lesson plans and give feedback to each other with the assistance of a school division staff member, Taylor said.

Riley O'Casey, the president of the Prince William Education Association, said teachers feel pressure to help students pass Standards of Learning exams.

Parents are doing the best they can to provide for their children, O'Casey said. "But when outside needs are not met, it's going to be difficult to learn. You have a village to ensure that these kids are successful."

O'Casey said the mentor program in the division is helpful, but could be expanded. If a mentor and teacher don't have the same planning period, they may have to meet outside of school hours, she said. Currently, teachers receive a mentor for their first year and the mentors check in with them for their second and third years teaching. O'Casey said she thinks the mentorship program should continue in full for at least three years.

While she considers herself a lifelong learner, she said after about five years teachers understand and meet their educational standards and are comfortable in their roles.

Having a mix of veteran teachers with teachers who have less than five years experience is important, because veteran teachers can share knowledge with the less experienced teachers, O'Casey said.

"The more you do it, the better you get," she said about teaching.

Dunnaway said she became more familiar with planning lessons and managing her classroom in her first year of teaching.

"Don't be afraid to ask questions or to ask for help, because there are resources and professional development," she said. "As long as you have support, you'll be fine."