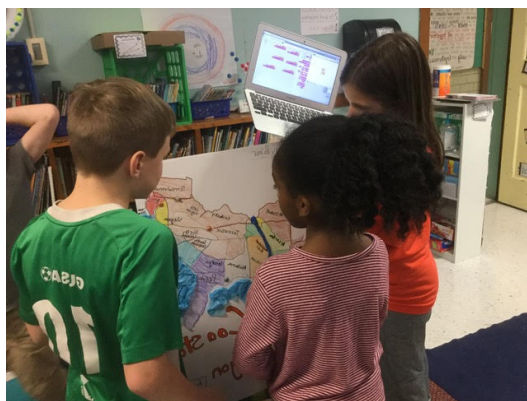
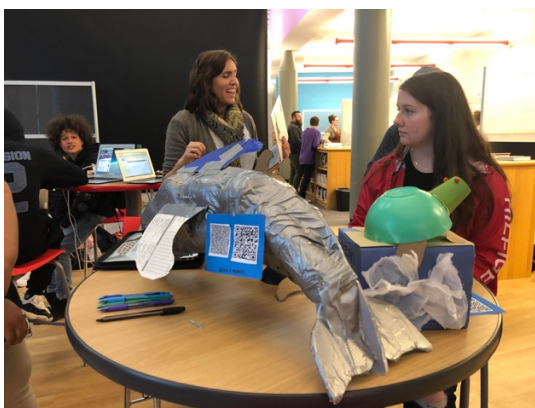


Balanced Assessment in Goochland (continued)

Stephen Geyer, Ed.D.

Today, we have seventeen locally developed performance assessments in use across our division. We've deemed them "Signature Performance Assessments" because they've undergone an exceptionally rigorous vetting process. First – and most importantly – each Signature Performance Assessment was developed by our teachers; from the start, this ensured ownership. Each one was reviewed and re-reviewed using the state's quality criteria. Next, all seventeen assessments were piloted in our classrooms with our students to ensure clarity and to ensure that the work products students produced matched the learning objectives the assessments were designed to measure. Finally, teams reconvened to reflect, adjust, and refine each assessment.



Our vision has been to ensure that every student has the opportunity to demonstrate his learning through a high quality performance assessment at least once each year. As such, our slate of seventeen signature performance assessments stretches from kindergarten through twelfth grade:

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
# of Signature Performance Assessments	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1



Along the way, we've developed a strong partnership with Dr. Chris Gareis, professor of education at William & Mary. Dr. Gareis has supported us throughout our journey by providing expertise in assessment, a connection to state policy, and an ability to relate to educators "on the ground" doing the important work every day in our schools.

Like many of the 132 school divisions in Virginia, we're relatively small (2,600 students) and without a single curriculum coordinator or content specialist. What we do have, however, is no shortage of incredibly talented, dedicated teachers who want what's best for our students. Our teachers have been the driving force behind our efforts to develop our signature performance assessments. Thanks to them, we're closer, in Goochland, to a truly balanced assessment system than we've ever been before.