

SARAH L. LAYTON

Learning Experience Designer · Curriculum Designer · Learning Program Leader

Fredericksburg, VA | 540-907-6988 | laytonsl@staffordschools.net | Portfolio: [add link]

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Learning experience and curriculum designer with 17 years of experience turning complex content into clear, usable learning experiences for diverse learners. Expertise spans curriculum architecture, assessment design, adult learning and onboarding, program leadership, and accessible learning design. Known for building strong learning sequences, anticipating where learners are likely to get stuck, and using real-time evidence to adjust support without lowering expectations.

CORE EXPERTISE

Learning Experience Design | Curriculum Architecture | Instructional Design | Assessment Design | Adult Learning | Professional Learning | Facilitation & Coaching | Accessibility & Differentiation | Data-Informed Iteration | Program Leadership | Learning Technology | Workflow & Systems Design

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

A. G. Wright Middle School, Stafford County Public Schools — Stafford, VA

Math 8 Teacher | 2022–Present

- Designed and refined a year-long Math 8 learning system over three years; the full Math 8 team now uses the notebook voluntarily across six sections, with approximately 80% shared practice content.
- Resequence curriculum for conceptual continuity, front-loading prerequisite knowledge so each new concept builds from skills learners already understand.
- Use formative evidence to make rapid instructional adjustments—often by the next class period—and carry successful visuals, practice structures, and scaffolds into future versions of the learning system.
- Design visual, multilingual, and scaffolded supports that remove barriers while preserving a common learning target and mathematical rigor.
- Lead development of common Math 8 assessments by creating standards-aligned item banks around state learning standards and recurring learner misconceptions, then facilitating collaborative review and final item selection.

Concurrent Leadership & Adult Learning

Summer School Lead | 4 Years

- Lead day-to-day operations for a summer learning program serving approximately 60 students and 5–8 staff annually, including staffing recommendations, coverage, family and student concerns, incident response, and payroll approval.
- Manage summer-school intake and enrollment from student selection through registration, family outreach, transportation troubleshooting, support-staff coverage, accommodation implementation, and central-office coordination.
- Design the summer program's bell schedule, student-engagement and incentive systems, weekly rewards, and on-site activities; manage a small discretionary program budget. During a rotating host year, coordinated shared building operations for three schools' summer programs.

Mentor 360 Ambassador / Lead Mentor & Professional Learning Facilitator | 4th Year

- Support annual cohorts of 6–18 new teachers; design and lead a full week of building-level onboarding within the county framework, adapt ongoing professional learning to emerging needs, and coordinate targeted peer observations around individual growth goals.

Earlier Teaching & Instructional Leadership Experience | 2010–2022

Carl Sandburg Middle School — Alexandria, VA | 2019–2022

Potomac Middle School — Dumfries, VA | 2015–2019

Luther Jackson Middle School — Falls Church, VA | 2011–2015

Rodney Thompson Middle School — Stafford, VA | 2010–2011

- Taught across mathematics, science, social studies, special education, and ESOL-supported settings, building broad experience adapting instruction to different content areas and learner populations.
- Served in curriculum and grade-level leadership roles, facilitating collaborative planning, data dialogue, assessment development, remediation planning, pacing adjustments, and instructional improvement.
- Designed and facilitated schoolwide technology training for 30–40 educators in a previous building, using a learn-by-doing approach; also provided administrator-directed individual support around targeted instructional challenges.
- Supported technology-based instruction and equitable learning practices through team leadership, coaching, and professional learning.

SELECTED DESIGN WORK

Year-Long Math 8 Learning System — Designed and refined over three years around deliberate prerequisite sequencing, clear visual structure, formative evidence, and increasing learner independence. Voluntarily adopted across all six Math 8 sections in the building.

Accommodation & SDI Documentation System — Designed a teacher-centered workflow that keeps daily documentation simple while organizing the underlying data for teacher, case-manager, and leadership use—one entry supporting multiple needs.

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

Leadership Endorsement, Administration and Supervision PreK–12 — Longwood University, 2019

Master of Education, Curriculum and Instruction in Secondary Social Studies — University of Mary Washington, 2011

Bachelor of Arts, History, Political Science, Philosophy — Virginia Tech, 2007

Virginia Certifications: Middle School Mathematics | Middle School Science | Secondary Social Studies

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ISTE Conference — Philadelphia, PA, 2019

Cultural Proficiency Cohort — 2019

Emerging Teacher Leader Cohort — 2020

TOOLS & METHODS

Google Workspace | Pear Deck | Kami | Curriculum Mapping | Formative Assessment | Rubric & Assessment Development | Visual Scaffolding | Multilingual Learning Supports | Learner-Centered Design | Iterative Content Development | AI-Assisted Content Development