



**"Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty.
It should be offered to them as a precious gift."
- Kate DiCamillo**

News You Can Use



A Book for Giving - Granite: Iditarod Champion

International Book Giving Day is February 14th and there is no better way to celebrate than giving Granite to your early elementary readers. Granite is an inspiring book by Susan Butcher

and David Monson, about the journey of a real sled dog, who never gave up and competed in the Iditarod. With winter and snow days upon us, Granite is a perfect choice.

[Read More](#)

Did You Know?



Superintendent's Memo #026-19

"This is to advise you that for the spring 2019 test administration, the Virginia Department of Education will make available mathematics tests based on the 2016 Mathematics Standards of Learning (SOL) produced in braille using English Braille American Edition (EBAE) and Nemeth Code, in addition to tests produced using the Unified English Braille (UEB) technical code."

[Use of Braille Standards of Learning Tests](#)

Spotlight



Meet Shannon Williams

Shannon Williams is the Division Administrator for AIM-VA and the assistive technology instructional specialist for Williamsburg-James City Schools. Shannon says that although there is a learning curve in implementing AIM-VA materials in Williamsburg-James, the more she uses AIM-VA services the easier and more successful she finds it to be.

Shannon uses AIM-VA files to a benefit all of her students. She says, "I have students with Dyslexia that use it for access to text; I have students with processing disorders that use it to assist with being able to read, listen and process the information in a multi-modal way; and I have students that have access due to visual impairments." The way in which students access AIM-VA files differ for her students. "I do find that older students (middle-high school) show more of a preference to using the accessible instructional materials." She says that although students throughout her district like using ePub book formats from AIM-VA, a lot of her students like accessing them using AIM-VA's online StreamIt bookshelf. Yet, there are other students who she says prefer to have the ePubs downloaded

directly to their devices so that they can access them at any point throughout the year without needing Internet access. Students in Williamsburg-James also use DAISY, PDF:Accessible and NIMAS files. Shannon has been supporting her students using AIM-VA since the 2016-2017 school year and plans on continuing to offer these services to more students.

You Would Look Great in the Spotlight!

Has your school division designed a positive Division Readiness procedure? Are you or your team creating a unique way to implement AIM-VA? Or perhaps you have a student or students that are working well using accessible instructional materials. Sharing ideas is important so that all students across the state have equal access to reading the materials they need to be successful at school. We know you are working hard to be proactive and we want to provide you with an avenue to share with others. And honestly, anything goes! Here is a short list that might spark your interest in submitting:

- Teacher training
- IEP documentation
- Competent authority plans
- AIM-VA kick off ideas
- Summer reading activities
- Parent involvement



So, take the time to share with us the wonderful things you are doing with AIM-VA. It takes 1-2 paragraphs and a pic or two. Send to aimva@gmu.edu. We look forward to your submissions!



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AIM-VA is a service of the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) through a grant to The Kellar Institute for Human disabilities at George Mason University.