



Get Caught Reading

May is [National Get Caught Reading month](#). It is sponsored by the Association of American Publishers and supported by many well-known people. Check out the [celebrity posters](#) and maybe this will inspire you to create posters and pictures of your students during *Get Caught Reading* month. Send them to us with a parent consent and we would love to share them in our June newsletter!

News You Can Use



Prepare for Summer Reading

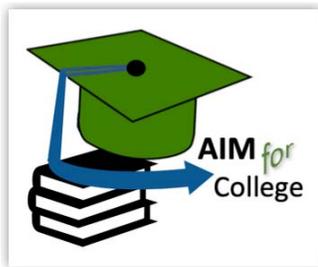
Now is the perfect time to start thinking about Summer Reading for your students; to nurture reading for enjoyment, battle the summer slide, and establish lifelong good habits. Creating a



reading environment, for summer reading, is most important and planning ahead helps to prepare our students for achievement gains. AIM-VA can help provide many accessible high-interest books. Together, let's get our students [ready](#), [set](#) and [reading](#) now!

[Read More](#)

Knowledge at Noon



AIM for College Webinar Series

This webinar series, designed for teachers and students alike, is for those who are planning to transition to college. George Mason University (GMU) students talk about how they prepared for college, what they use now to be successful and how they use accessible instructional materials (AIM) to support their college work. Three *AIM for College* webinars have already been presented; for students with Visual Impairments, Blindness, and Dyslexia. These are archived on the AIM-VA website at [Knowledge at Noon](#).

This month, we will provide two more *AIM for College* webinars related to Autism and Learning Disabilities. Dates will be posted soon.

[Sign Up to Participate Here](#)

Did You Know?



AIM-VA' Google Chrome Training Series

Many Virginia school divisions have moved towards the Google Chrome environment using Chromebooks for students in the classrooms. But how will this shift effect our students with print disabilities? AIM-VA knows that our students require educational materials in a format that works best to meet individual learner needs. So, this training series is designed to help educators learn how to navigate the Google Chrome browser laptops and desktops as well as on Chromebooks. The first training video is up and more to follow. Enjoy, hope you find these helpful!

[Chrome Training Videos](#)

Spotlight



Hanover Public Schools AIM-VA Initiative

The Assistive Technology Squad of Hanover County Public Schools serves as a resource to IEP teams in the AT consideration, assessment and delivery processes. The squad members (part-time OTs and SLP) manage the AT lending library and offer regular trainings to teachers, administrators, parents and para-professionals. A few years ago, we became aware that we were under-utilizing the services of AIM-VA. We knew we needed do better to get the word out to our teachers to increase their comfort level with the available technology for our students that struggle with standard printed materials.

- We invited Cindy George to come talk to our division level SpEd leaders to help us learn the AIM-VA changes and see our user patterns.
- We surveyed our SpEd teachers regarding frequently used accommodations and included this data in professional development planning.
- We worked with SpEd leadership to determine how we would assign the new AIM-VA roles of competent authority, C-DRM, and DRM.
- We revised our forms for the AT process and built a webinar for our teachers focusing on accessible materials, AIM-VA, and other oft-used read aloud tools (we relied heavily upon great videos/slides available through aimva.org).
- We invited Cindy George to come back and share the new changes and our user patterns with our school level administrators of special education (ASEs).
- The AT squad has followed up by meeting with school-based special education teams to walk them through the AIM-VA (and other read-aloud tools) process.

In one year's time, we have more than tripled student access to AIM-VA materials. We have increased student independence in reading and decreased their dependence on adult readers for read-aloud accommodations. We are currently revising the webinar and plan to offer it again this summer as a part of our division level professional development. This has been an exciting change to witness!

Mary Creagan Leffler M.S., OTR/L
Lead Therapist, Hanover County Public Schools



AIM VA Help Desk

George Mason University
4400 University Drive, MS 1F2
Fairfax, VA 22030

Phone: 888-496-0252
Fax: 703-993-5149
Email: aimva@gmu.edu

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