

Dear CFA Students and Parents,

**Happy August and Happy Summer!**

I hope this finds everyone happy, healthy and safe! It's been such a busy summer and it went by fast – August is already here! And that means the weekly CFA Newsletters are back! ☺

I am teleworking the month of August. If you need to contact me, e-mail is the best way. I am not able to access the CFA telephones on a regular basis, so please send an e-mail rather than calling the CFA Office. If you need to visit the school in-person, you will need to make an appointment in advance.

**SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021 – what it will look like??**

We are getting lots of questions about what the 2020-2021 school year will look like. We know this year will look different with an all-virtual start, but we are looking forward to teaching our CFA students – we miss you! Henrico HS will be following our typical bell schedule (attached), so our CFA classes will meet during their regularly scheduled times:

ALL CFA Level I classes meet during 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> block (12:45-2:15 p.m.)  
ALL CFA Level II classes meet during 1<sup>st</sup> block (9:00-10:00 a.m.)  
All CFA Level III classes meet during 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> block (2:25-3:55 p.m.)  
All CFA Level IV classes meet during 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> block (10:10-11:40 a.m.)

We will offer a combination of online and project-based classes, so students might not have to attend online classes every day - some days there might be lectures or demonstrations that students will need to log-in to participate - but other days might be allocated for project-based individual work or practice at home. We will have more details on how the classes will look as we get closer to the start of school - we are planning to hold a CFA Town Hall meeting later in August or early September.

Please know that we want the best for our CFA students and will do our best to give them the highest quality arts education possible during these unusual times. We will do our best to meet all student, parent and teacher needs and will be flexible if we need to try different approaches to make things work!

Our principal, Ms. Castillo-Rose, has been holding Town Hall meetings and sending weekly messages to parents on Sundays. If you aren't getting her messages, please let me know and I'll find out how to get you on her list. Her messages contain the county's most updated information.

## CFA NEWS

### **#1 -- New CFA/HHS Arts Teachers**

We have some new teachers joining the CFA/HHS Arts Faculty! Please welcome Ms. Shanea Taylor (our new CFA Theatre part-time teacher) and Mr. Eric Cousins (our new HHS Director of Bands and Orchestra)!

#### **Shanea Taylor**

Shanea N. Taylor (she/her) has an MFA in Theatre Pedagogy/Directing from Virginia Commonwealth University. Taylor has a long history of being onstage, but finds her passion for education, storytelling and helping all free their voice, "we must tell our own stories" taking priority. She is currently an adjunct professor of Communication, Public Speaking, and Theatre at John Tyler Community College where she also directed *She Kills Monsters*, and *Dark of the Moon*. Taylor has experience in helping corporations train their associates with phone etiquette, public speaking, and leadership; directed *SPARC: Festival of New Voices*; was a teaching artist/director for *Quill Theatre: Festival Young Company*; and served as director/acting coach for King's Dominion *Carnivale, Haunt, and Winterfest*. She directed the award-winning world premiere of *Neon Man and Me* written by Slash Coleman, *The Amen Corner* at Heritage Ensemble Theatre Company, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow is Enuf* for Heritage and Firehouse Theatre, and *Before It Hits Home* for Sycamore Rouge/Richmond Triangle Players. One of Taylor's proudest moments was when she served as Co-Director/Master of Play and helped launch *Will Power to Youth* (a replication program with Richmond

Shakespeare and LA Shakespeare.) *Will Power to Youth* is a nationally recognized, award-winning job and training program. This initiative is committed to developing, enriching, and employing young people to work their way through a Shakespeare play. She is excited to meet the talented young artists and join the CFA team!



### **Eric Cousins**

Eric Cousins has been in the education field since 2003, and was the Director of Bands at Thomas Jefferson High School since 2011.

Under Mr. Cousins direction, his band program continued to be one of the best bands in the city of Richmond, offering such programs as concert band, wind ensemble, and marching band. Mr. Cousins ensembles consistently received superior ratings and awards at marching competitions, district and area events, under his leadership.

Mr. Cousins is a product of Richmond Public Schools, and alumni of the high school that he taught at. Mr. Cousins graduated with his Bachelor of Music Education in 2002 from Bethune Cookman College, where he attended on a full music scholarship. Mr. Cousins is a proud member of Phi Mu Alpha Music Fraternity, and is also a member of Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society.

As an educator and musician, Mr. Cousins performs as a freelance trumpeter for various groups. Mr. Cousins is currently a proud member of the Festive Brass Quintet, and is the orchestra director for his church orchestra at Fifth Baptist Church in Richmond. Mr. Cousins has also served as the guest conductor for the All City Concert Band in Richmond Public Schools on two different occasions.

Mr. Cousins favorite motto is Whatever you do, big or small, do it well, or don't do it at all. Mr. Cousins is super excited to get started at Henrico high school, and wear the green and gold colors proudly!



We also wanted to let you know that Ms. Slade, our part-time Dance teacher, will not be teaching CFA Dance this year. All levels of CFA Dance will be taught by Ms. Niermeyer for the 2020-2021 school year.

## **#2-- CFA Newsletters & Newsletter Distribution List**

**CURRENT/RETURNING CFA students** – I will be updating and “cleaning up” the Newsletter list this summer, so please let me know of any e-mail changes sooner rather than later – THANK YOU! And thanks to those of you who have already sent your new and/or additional e-mail addresses for the Newsletter list – I have them and will be updating the list over the summer.

Also, please let me know if you are a CFA graduate (or parent of a CFA graduate) who no longer wishes to receive these Newsletters, and I’ll take your name off the distribution list.

Thanks for your patience and your help with the distribution list!

### **#3 -- CFA Course Syllabus, Supply Lists and Summer Assignments**

All CFA Course Syllabus, Supply Lists and Summer Assignments are posted on the CFA website:

<http://blogs.henrico.k12.va.us/cfa/>

### **#4 -- Opportunities for CFA Students**



**ACTIVATE** is a half-day outdoor workshop experience to refresh and ignite the body through somatic and investigative practices. This workshop serves the dance community during a time of limited movement opportunities due to COVID-19. After cancelling KARAR's indoor workshop that was scheduled August 11-13, we knew we needed to create another opportunity to move together when it was safe to do so! **We are excited to present ACTIVATE on August 12 from 9-1 pm at the Maymont Farm. Entrance is located at 1001 Spottswood Road.**

See the workshop scheduled below! Dancers will not be subject to high-intensity movement for the duration of the workshop activities. All movement tasks will consist of discussions to give all bodies rest.

Dancers **age 14 & up** are welcome to join us and registration is **REQUIRED** to participate. **ACTIVATE is a donation-based movement opportunity**; payment is not required but appreciated to support KARAR DANCE COMPANY. Cash and checks will be accepted or visit [karardancecompany.org/support](http://karardancecompany.org/support) and select "**DONATE**" (be sure to include a line regarding ACTIVATE).

Number of participants will be **capped at 25** to abide by 10 foot social distancing. We will also have a wait list

opportunity and should you be entered on the waitlist, you will receive an email communication. Registration details including health and safety guidelines. Registration will also consist of the receipt of a signed waiver. **Your registration is not complete until the signed waiver is received.** The waiver will be emailed to you for completion.

**\*\*Registration and Health and Safety Guidelines are subject to change\*\***

**Schedule:**

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM: Welcome & Introduction

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM: Yoga with Marge Allen (guest)

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM: Break

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Choreographic Investigation led by KARAR DANCE COMPANY

KARAR will develop prompts to activate movement exploration. Four Prompts will be developed based on the topics of architecture and nature. Each prompt will be followed by a discussion/reflection.

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM: Discussion + Q&A with the Company

**GUIDELINES:**

1. All participants must wear face masks upon arrival and departure
2. All participants must wear face masks in between activities. These include but are not limited to: transition in locations, activity/task, and use of restroom facilities.
3. Participants may remove masks when they are involved in physical activity only
4. All participants will keep at least a 10 foot distance from others

**WHAT TO BRING:**

1. WATER! Participants must bring their own water bottle.
2. A yoga mat or long towel for the yoga class
3. Sunscreen! It's going to be toasty.
4. Tennis shoes you can dance in

Please fill out the [REGISTRATION FORM](#) to reserve your spot. After receiving this form and waiver, we will confirm your registration to join us for ACTIVATE 2020!

**\*\*\*\*Failure to submit your WAIVER form 48 hours prior to ACTIVATE will result in the loss of your participation. Someone on the waiting list will be contacted to take your spot.**

**\*\*\*\*Should you need to cancel your participation in ACTIVATE, you must notify KARAR no later than 48 hours prior to ACTIVATE. This will allow us to contact someone on the waiting list in a timely manner.**

**ACTIVATE is partially supported by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.**

Should you have any questions, please email [info@karardancecompany.org](mailto:info@karardancecompany.org).

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**Kara Robertson**

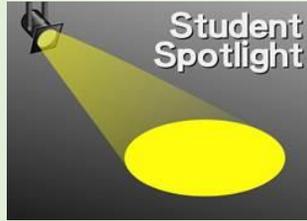
Artistic Director, KARAR DANCE COMPANY

Founder, *Homegrown Choreographers*

[karardancecompany.org](http://karardancecompany.org)

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Vimeo](#)

**#5 – CFA Student Spotlight**



Congratulations to CFA Musical Theatre 2019 graduate Lily Manyara:

Congratulations to recent MT graduate Lily Manyara who advanced this summer through the Virginia Lions Club Bland Music local and regional competitions to the State Final which was held in Salem, VA on August 2. She sang what would have been her senior showcase song "Stop and see me" while wearing what would have been her Senior prom dress!! We're so proud to say she took second place and won a 2k scholarship!! Way to shine Lily – great job ☺



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## FCFA CORNER

Hello Friends of the Center for the Arts families,

My name is Michele Butts and I am super excited to take on this role! There are some big shoes to fill and some new parts to explore. Just to tell you a little bit about myself -- I'm married with two daughters and a dog. I have one daughter that just completed her four years in Musical Theatre this week and my other daughter is a rising junior here in the Dance program. I'm also finishing up college this fall.

I became a Board member about two years ago after I realized that I had two major investments here in the CFA. I wanted to give back because they'd received so much each day, individually and collectively. I helped where and when I could. My schedule even allowed me to get off early and serve our students meals/snacks before showcases. I've donated when I couldn't be present. I've been available to give quite a few hugs and high fives.

We don't know how this upcoming year will look but the Board and myself will work diligently not to lose a beat. We'll maintain a lot of the traditions that you've grown to love and you may see some news things here or there. If you see me, please take a moment to say hello. I may ask if you're interested in joining the Board or if you've already signed up with one of our community partners (check out [www.friendsofcfa.com](http://www.friendsofcfa.com)). We'd love to know if your employer matches volunteer hours to an organization where ALL funds go directly back to benefit our students. Or just tell me "Michele, I'm busy but I'll try" -- I've been there too.

**Stay Tuned...**

\*For more information on how to become an FCFA Board Member, including Hospitality Chairperson position

\*How to donate via our Community Partners to include companies that match

\*Interactive questions on our Social Media Platforms

I hope you have a wonderful, safe summer. Please reach out with questions. We're a phenomenal booster organization with an innovative Board and we need you to make it even better!

High Fives and Hugs,

Michele Butts

President, FCFA

Friends of Center for the Arts (FCFA)

Email: [friendsofcfa@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcfa@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.friendsofcfa.com/>

Facebook/Instagram: @FriendsofCFA

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**HENRICO HS NEWS**

**ROSE REPORT from Ms. Castillo-Rose:**

**Surveys**

Warriors, we are currently planning out what the 1st 9 weeks will look like at Warrior Nation. We would love your feedback on what supports students and parents will need this 1st quarter. Please take a moment to take the respective survey below. This data will be used to assess the logistical and instructional needs of our families. While we will receive guidelines on virtual learning from the county, it is extremely important to the Warrior Leadership Team that we are making decisions and plans that reflect the needs of our unique community. Thank you in advance for your time and input.

[Parent Survey- Needs assessment 1st 9 weeks](#)

[Student Survey- Needs assessment 1st 9 weeks](#)

**Laptop Reimaging**

Reimaging has never been so important! To improve engagement and learning with peers and teachers in the 20/21 school year, Henrico County Public Schools will be activating the cameras on secondary laptops for middle and high school students. To activate the camera, the laptop needs to be serviced at the student's home school. The total time to perform the work is about 5-10 minutes.

When: Monday through Thursday

Time: 8:30 through 12 and 12:30 through 4:30

Each location will practice safety precautions for COVID-19. Technical support staff will be wearing masks and practicing additional safety precautions. Each person that arrives to have their HCPS laptop serviced are requested to

wear a mask and to practice social distancing. Each line will have tape on the floor about 8 feet apart to help with social distancing.

Only one individual (parent, student or guardian) should enter the school to receive service. The only thing that needs to be brought in to complete the work is the laptop to be reconfigured (no charger, no username/password).

The location at the school to go to for the activation of the laptop camera is the ATTENDANCE door entrance. This support at each school to reconfigure secondary student laptop cameras will continue into the month of August up until start of school.

## **Senior Photo**

A message from our Strawbridge Rep:

The complimentary photo will be coming to the school at a later date. The code given is for parents to be able to buy more copies of the photo. I would advise the parent to wait for the portraits to come to school if they are wanting their complimentary copy.

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### **SUMMER READING**

<http://henricohighschoolcounseling.weebly.com/announcementsevents>

There is only required summer work for Advanced Placement courses.  
Voluntary summer reading at...

### **Summer Reading Encouraged....**

To enhance your success in English next year, HHS wants to make sure students are working beyond the **summer reading** this year. As such, we will be providing activities across the literacy spectrum so that students can have an enriching experience this summer. Click on summer reading link in the text to access the opportunities.

### **HHS BAND NEEDS YOU!!**

CFA students that would like to join HHS Mighty Warriors Band or Marching Band should contact Mr. Cousins, HHS Band Director [elcousins@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:elcousins@henrico.k12.va.us)  
ASAP!!

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Thanks for reading all this – it's been fun starting up the Newsletters again!

Best,

Dr. P

**Stephanie Poxon, Ph.D.**

Director

Center for the Arts