

## **Recognition of Guided Reading Cohort members**

In order to create model language arts classrooms and guided reading leaders in the school system, the Guided Reading cohort began during the 2016-17 school year. Classroom teachers were selected through an application process. The participants made a commitment to develop an expertise in guided reading instruction and literacy leadership.

The first year consisted of a *year of* professional development experience, where teachers deepened their understanding of how to embed guided reading within a meaningful instructional classroom structure, how to teach and assess the most important qualities for reading achievement, and how to evaluate student reading progress in order to plan the next steps for each learner. These teacher leaders attended professional learning sessions, received coaching support, and began developing leadership skills in the area of literacy.

The focus for the 2017-18 school year, members focused on leadership skills by attending bi-monthly professional learning sessions. The cohort teacher leaders served as model classrooms for HCPSS elementary literacy teachers. Participants also presented professional learning experiences for teachers, that included after-school sessions, the county-wide professional learning day, and the State of Maryland Reading Conference.

At the final session of the school year, the teachers shared how they have grown as literacy leaders and the impact of this two year experience. They shared how the guided reading cohort has provided a vehicle to develop experience in guided reading instruction and has pushed them to go outside of their comfort zone to be a literacy leader.

Reading Support Teachers, Sara Wolfson, Sara Cox and Joanna Kasda facilitated this leadership cohort during the 2 year journey.