

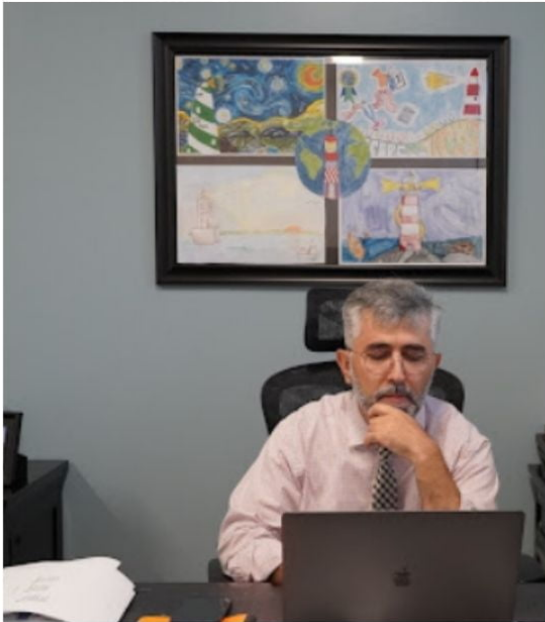


# THE LIGHTHOUSE

*LIGHTING THE WAY FOR EXCELLENCE!*

## MEET MR. YILMAZ ZAYN AK

**CEO, Chesapeake Lighthouse Foundation**



Meet Mr. Ak! He's an experienced educator who travels extensively and enjoys simple hobbies like gardening and walking his dogs. Originally from Turkey, Mr. Ak has lived and worked in Turkey, Yemen, Bangladesh, Germany, and the United States. He has first hand experience with education in every country in which he's lived. He has been a student, a teacher, an assistant principal, and/or a principal, and now he's the CEO of the largest charter school operator in MD, Chesapeake Lighthouse Foundation, affectionately referred to as CLF.

Mr. Ak was appointed to the CEO position by the CLF Board less than a year ago. His passion for students and the CLF schools makes him the right partner for families, principals, school staff, and all other stakeholders.

Mr. Ak plans to take CLF to the next level. He envisions CLF schools as the place where students lead the way in innovative thinking and STEM related breakthroughs, while simultaneously expanding CLF's reach across the state.

When Mr. Ak is not at work, visiting schools, reaching out to stakeholders, or keeping the CLF Board informed, he can be found in his back yard playing with his dogs or tending to his latest plantings. Mr. Ak was featured on Gordon Bernhardt's, "Profiles In Success" Podcast earlier this month. The air-date is yet to be determined. He is CLF's person of the hour. We can expect to hear more about him and the CLF schools as time goes by!

### **CLF CEO Mr. Ak and team, meet with stakeholders for rich conversation and hands-on STEM experiences**



Mr. Lancaster, Mr. Ak, & Ms. Leadbetter



THE CLF TEAM EXPERIENCES STEM

US News published first-ever rankings for public elementary and middle schools and CMIT North ES and CMIT North MS were recently rated among the Best Elementary and Middle Schools in Maryland State! Our school placed among the top 30% of elementary and middle schools in the state of Maryland, making it BOTH a U.S. News Best Elementary School and a Best Middle School. Of the 80,000 U.S. public elementary and middle schools that were evaluated by U.S. News, barely 1,000 earned both awards.

**ALL RANKINGS:**

- #278 in Maryland Elementary Schools
- #93 in Maryland Middle Schools.
- #18 in Prince George'S County Public Schools Elementary Schools
- #9 in Prince George'S County Public Schools Middle Schools
- #3 in Maryland Charter Elementary Schools
- #7 in Maryland Charter Middle Schools

## PRINCIPALS' RETREAT



The CLF principals are among PGCPS and AACPS best! CLF took the time to recognize and honor them for their work with students. Principals enjoyed the quiet in-house retreat in the newly renovated media center at CMIT North HS. Principal Ozturk provided the team with a tour of her beautiful facility at the end of the day!