

RCPS Happenings & Highlights

Rappahannock County Public Schools

We Are Rappahannock!

Division Newsletter- September 2019

Lots of Smiles from the Start of School Year 2019-2020!!



8th grade students, shown with adventure guide, complete team building exercises during the annual trip to Verdun Adventure Bound. See page 2 for more details.



2nd grade RCES student showing off a sticker he earned after completing a butterfly lesson in the newly renovated outdoor courtyard learning space.



Ms. Fincham's science class prepare for a fun experiment.



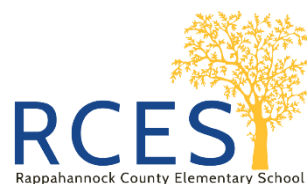
Students happily pose at the RCHS P.R.I.D.E. club selection event.



Students celebrate a successful team building exercise in the STEAM lab. See page 2 for details.



RCHS Teachers for Tomorrow students pose for the camera before starting in the RCES classrooms.



New STEAM Lab

Rappahannock County Elementary School recently unveiled its newest, innovative classroom, the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) lab, at the start of the school year. While many schools have programs that focus on this area, Rapp has dedicated an entire classroom for this subject. Students from every grade level (PreK-7th) visit the lab on a rotating, six day exploratory schedule. From coding mouse robots to designing a floating life preserver for a small plastic baby, the students are able to learn through fun, hands-on experiments. In addition, they learn problem-solving skills and team-building skills such as communication and collaboration through small group challenges. Each of the selected projects are tailored to specific grade levels using science, math, and computer science standards from each level. They are designed to be fun and promote learning through discovery. As one 6th grade student explained, "It's all of my favorite things in one class."

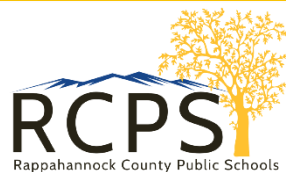


Above- Ms. Bostic, STEAM Lab Coordinator, and students test one of the life preservers designed by the class.



Fun at Verdun

On Tuesday, August 27th, the RCHS 8th grade class enjoyed a trip to Verdun Adventure Bound as an annual part of the 8th Grade Academy Transition Program. While at Verdun, the students experienced a variety of fun team building activities such as high ropes courses, rock climbing, and group challenges. The exercises helped to build trust and relationships while promoting key problem-solving skills such as communication, collaboration, and flexible thinking.



Atkins to Serve as RCPS Athletic Director and High School Nurse

Rappahannock County Public Schools may have a new Athletic Director, but she is definitely not new to the RCPS family. During the School Board Meeting on August 13, the School Board approved the recommendation to appoint Courtney Atkins to the position of Athletic Director/High School Nurse. Atkins began coaching volleyball at Rapp in 2011 and led the varsity team to win the state championship title in 2016. That same year she was named the 2016 Virginia High School League (VHSL) Class 1 Coach of the Year at the conference, regional, and state level.

In addition to serving as a volleyball coach, Atkins has worked as a registered nurse since 2002. In this new, dual role at Rappahannock, she will serve as the high school nurse for a portion of the day in addition to the athletic duties.

Atkins was all smiles when she spoke about her new role. "I am honored to accept the position of Athletic Director/School Nurse for Rappahannock County Public Schools. This unique opportunity offers me the chance to pursue a few of my passions... working with kids, nursing, & athletics. I have a deep rooted love for this county, especially the schools. I am a proud Panther, and I look forward to being a part of the growth and development of all the programs we have to offer to our students."

