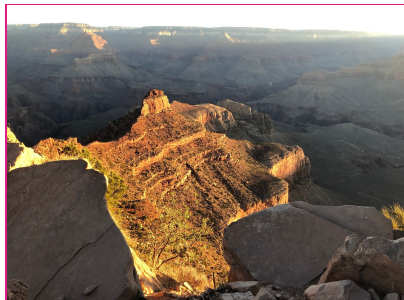


GT Parent Newsletter

Rappahannock County Public Schools

Welcome Back to the "Best School Year Ever!" August 2018



Summer Updates from Ms. Wolfe

After hiking down to Phantom Ranch and back, I was reminded of how surmountable our tasks really are. The speaker in the dining hall told us only 1% of the visitors to the Grand Canyon reach the ranch, and there I was! That happened due to preparation and persistence. Habits of mind that we hope to develop in our young scholars.

It is wonderful to be back with our young scholars and to hear about their adventures. Thanks to Mr. Naser, during the [Quiz Bowl](#) sign-up, Heather Smith shared with students about her experience at the [Summer Residential Governor's School for the Humanities](#)(SRGS.) Her enthusiasm for the courses she took and the people she met was effusive. I was honored to be in the RCHS band room another time and heard the outstanding music and the reports of three different members about their summer experiences. Sophia Hernandez attended SRGS for Voice and like Heather spent a month at Radford University for free. She also beamed as she shared her experiences with the band members. After that, we heard from Niñon Kirchman on [Interlochen](#), an Arts Center located in Michigan. As a passionate instrumentalist, Niñon shared the excellent advice she received about being satisfied with where you are in the moment while still striving to go further. Both speakers gave praise to the programs they participated in and encouraged others to consider them. Finally, Jordyn Beard and Julian Cordero chimed in about the JMU band camp they have attended for multiple years and also were inspiring to the others listening. Thankfully, Ms. Kat Habib was present and spoke up to let students know that NextStep was offering scholarships for summer programs now.

Our Middle School students that attended the [SummerQuest!](#) Program were also pleased with their experiences. Camden Shanks was especially thankful for the artistic opportunity and hopes to apply for an intern position next year, like Eve Vandrey has done for the past 2 years. John McKelvey was enthused about Mr. McKenna's history class and Alexis Gainer said she enjoyed the entire experience, switching classes and meeting new friends. Of course, we all love the performance Mrs. Vickers' drama group provides. SummerQuest! works to help students thrive and grow academically. However, there is a whole child focus in understanding themselves better socially and emotionally during the time they might be attending.

Contest Updates:

Along with enriching the curriculum, teachers at RCPS are continuing to provide outside experiences that allow their students to apply knowledge. Our academic math and language strand continues from the elementary school through high school. The arts have district and state performances that begin in middle school. Many students thrive on the competition that contests and sports provide.

Continental Math League math classes grades 3 through 7.

WordMasters Language Arts classes 3 through 7.

AMC8 for 7th and 8th graders in November by invitation.

Battle of the Books students in Ms. Ruth's and Ms. Seeley's classes have been invited. Power lunches and Google Classroom provide us with our group time.

24 Math is encouraged on an individual and in-class basis. We'll begin to meet in January.

Quiz Bowl is sponsored by Mr. Naser and is open to grades 8 - 12.

Classroom Updates:

This year I have seen, and in most cases talked to each of our identified students already. I have been in math and English classes for all our identified students at RCES. Ms. Ruth's class is taking the lead for producing the news this year. With the help of the other grade levels we are

sure to have a product to be proud of. At RCHS I was fortunate to be in the Neuronasium with Ms. Kelley's English class and also visited Ms. Moore's earth science. Just about all of our young scholars in the upper grades are taking dual enrollment classes in one way or another! It has been a treat to see them focused and working in the library where I now have a desk. I will be at RCHS during one of the 4 blocks and a Leo Flex on a regular basis, which will be posted on the library office window. Finally, it has been a pleasure to be back with our art students again at RCES. I will keep looking for mentors for independent studies or intern opportunities for interested art students at RCHS. [If you do nothing else artsy, go to the Art Tour or one of our local galleries!](#)

More Gifted News.... we would like to have your help!

This year RCPS is revising and updating our plan for providing gifted services. The plan has been reviewed by members of a state panel and we are incorporating the recommendations made. I would appreciate your viewing the plan and responding to any of the sections you feel need revising. This can be done by going to the [Gifted Information](#) section of our website. Then just email, share a doc or print out a hard copy and mark it up for me to read.

Individuals interested in signing up for our Gifted Advisory Committee should do so through this [form](#).

*To achieve what 1% of the world's population has,
you must be willing to do what only 1% dares to do.
Manoj Arora*

Contact: Lilo Wolfe
RCPS Gifted Education Specialist
34 Schoolhouse Rd. 22747
540-227-0200
[Gifted Information Website](#)