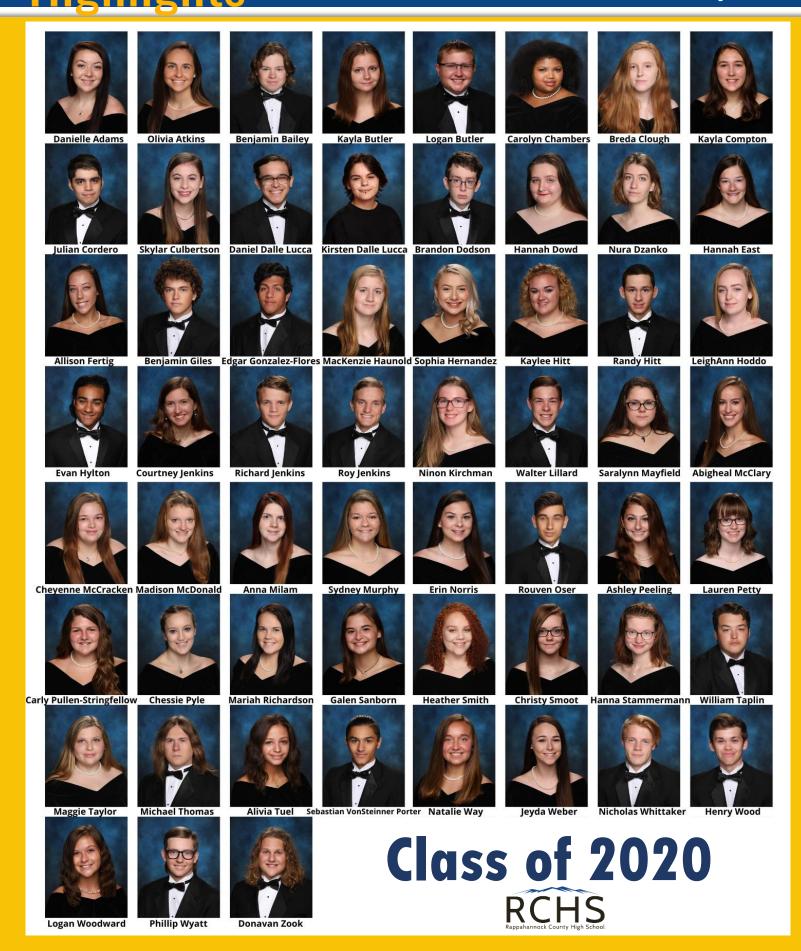


### Division Newsletter-Special Edition: Class of 2020



## **Recent Happenings**



### Cap & Gown Pick-up

The Class of 2020 participated in a drive-thru event to pick up their pre-ordered caps and gowns from Jostens on May 4th. Despite the social distancing precautions, it was quite a jovial event to honor our graduating seniors. The administration decorated the bus lane honoring the students and passed out ice cream courtesy of Brusters Ice Cream & Nathan's Famous Hotdogs in Culpeper as well as a code to donate \$50 to Give Local Piedmont courtesy of the PATH Foundation. Each student was also given a decorative yard sign to post at their homes as a symbol of their great achievement. There were lots of smiles and waves exchanged between the seniors and administration.













### **Lights for Our Seniors**

RCPS recently participated in a week-long event, along with other schools in the Bull Run District, designed to show our support for the Class of 2020 by turning on the stadium and field lights at 8:20 pm (20:20 military time) for exactly twenty minutes each evening during the week of April 27th. RCPS Athletic Director, Courtney Atkins, spearheaded the countywide recognition and encouraged community members to participate by turning on their own porch lights for the seniors. On April 27<sup>th</sup>, a video message was filmed explaining the significance of the lights.

"Seniors, we stand here tonight in honor of you," said Principal, Jimmy Swindler, during the video announcement. "The lights are shining bright for you. And as you move into that next chapter of your life, we look forward to seeing the bright lights that you will shine as you find success and adventure."



Pictured (left to right)- Ms. Sanborn, Ms. Atkins, Ms. Swindler, and Mr. Swindler filmed a special video message under the stadium lights. Thank you to Ms. Swindler for providing sign language interpretation.

## **Ongoing & Upcoming**



#### Class of 2020 Card Drive

Throughout the month of May, we are asking the Rappahannock community to send cards to the CLASS of 2020 to let them know that you are thinking of them. If you would like to participate, please write out a handwritten message and place the card in an envelope. If the card is to be sent to a specific student, please write the student's name on the envelope. If it is a card that could be mailed to any of our seniors, please leave the envelope blank. Simply drop off the card (in its envelope) at RCHS during office hours (Monday thru Friday 10am-3pm). We will address the cards and mail them directly to the senior's home

Thank you for helping us show love and support to our graduating class during this time.

### **Step for Seniors**

Starting **Monday, May 11**th, Commit to Be Fit, along with RCHS, have invited the entire Rappahannock community to walk each day in honor of our RCHS Class of 2020. Whether it's a ¼ mile or 3 miles, every step counts! Feel free to create teams or participate on your own if you like. At the end of the week, log onto <a href="www.rappc2bf.com/steps">www.rappc2bf.com/steps</a> to record your miles/steps from the week. Participants will have the opportunity to specify the names of the seniors they were walking for that week. For everyone student named, C2BF will send them a personalized card on behalf of the challenge participants.

On **Friday, May 29**<sup>th</sup>, the originally scheduled date of graduation, we will hold a community-wide walking event to show our support. Everyone will be walking on their own (social distancing), but we will be collecting photos of our participants to create a collage honoring our seniors. More details will be released shortly.





### **Scholarship and Athletic Award Ceremony**

We will be holding a non-traditional, drive-thru Scholarship and Athletic Award Ceremony on **Thursday, May 21**st at 2 pm.

To maintain social distancing, students will drive around the RCHS bus loop to receive their awards, which will be presented to them at the curbside. Just like the cap and gown pick-up, this will be a festive event.

# **Spotlight on Senior Athletes**

During the month of April, the athletic department ran a series of spotlights on our seniors who were unable to play their final season in spring sports. Special thanks to Athletic Director, Courtney Atkins, and RCHS student, Camron Wayland, for creating the spotlights.



















# **Spotlight on Senior Athletes (continued)**



SPORT: BASEBALL/SOCCER
YEAR(S): Baseball: 1, Soccer: 3

**MEMORABLE MOMENT(S):** 

PLANS AFTER HS:
Attend Virginia Tech, then Vet school.

**INFLUENTIAL PERSON:** 

Coach Atkins, Coach Hummill, Alan Jackson, and my parents.

SPOTLIGHT











## **More Senior Spotlights Coming Soon!**

We will be starting a new social media campaign featuring the Class of 2020 shortly. Check out our Facebook and Instagram accounts to see each of the RCHS seniors.

### 2020 RCHS GRADUATION PLANS

After surveying the Class of 2020 and families, the majority have opted for a more traditional ceremony (rather than virtual or drive-thru options) to be held on **Friday, July 10**<sup>th</sup> or **Saturday, July 11**<sup>th</sup>. While we anticipate social distancing guidelines to be a factor, we don't quite know to what extent this will be in July. Therefore, RCPS has devised three possible scenarios. As we get closer to July, we will have a better understanding of how to safely hold graduation in a manner that is as close to the traditional ceremony as possible, as requested by our graduates and families.

#### Scenario 1

Format: Traditional Graduation Ceremony with unlimited attendance and no social distancing requirements

Date/Time: Friday evening, July 10 @ 7PM.

Location: RCHS Gym

Please note- This scenario is only possible if all social distancing guidelines have been removed.

### Scenario 2

**Format:** Traditional Graduation Ceremony with *limited* attendance (number of guests per senior TBD) This includes predesignated seating in gym for graduates AND their guests to allow for social distancing.

Date/Time: Friday evening, July 10 @ 7PM

Location: RCHS Gym OR Panther Stadium

**Possible details-** To adhere to social distancing guidelines, graduates and guests will be escorted from their cars to the ceremony in order to ensure everyone is at a safe distance. At the end of the ceremony, graduates and guests will be escorted back to their vehicles. Also, masks may be required at all times unless speaking into a microphone.

### Scenario 3

**Format:** Traditional Graduation ceremony with one graduate and family at a time Graduate and family will be escorted to the gym for diploma presentation and picture and then escorted to vehicle before the next graduate and family is escorted in.

**Date/Time:** Saturday July 11, beginning at 8 AM and running throughout the day. Graduates and families will be given a specific appointment time. If needed, this option may be split between Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Location: RCHS Gym or Panther Stadium

Possible details- Masks may be required at all times unless speaking into a microphone.

While we don't have all of the specifics at this time, what we can promise is that we will do everything in our power to honor and recognize these outstanding students during this monumental occasion, while still adhering to social distancing guidelines to ensure everyone's safety and wellbeing. The Class of 2020 may not have the same traditional graduation that has been held throughout the years, but their graduation is just as special and deserving as all those that have come before. We promise to have a ceremony that will honor their achievements and showcase the enormous pride the entire community has for our RCHS Seniors.