

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS PANTHER PRIDE NEWSLETTER

DR. DONNA MATTHEWS, SUPERINTENDENT

STATE RECOGNITION FROM THE HOUSE Delegate Webert Honors RCHS Wrestlers

Rappahannock County's delegate to the Virginia General Assembly, Delegate Webert, spoke before an attentive audience of team members, coaches, parents, and staff members, on Wednesday, October 26, 2016. State Delegate Michael Webert visited Rappahannock County High School to present a House Resolution in recognition of the RCHS 2015-16 state runner-up varsity wrestling team reading the Resolution exactly as it was written. Mentioning team members and the head coach, Alex Coffroth, by name, House Resolution No. 252 praised the RCHS wrestling team for their depth, talent, dedication and focus, also recognizing the great support the team enjoyed from families, friends, and the entire school community. Noting the team's exceptional performance and stellar achievements, Delegate Webert also expressed his best wishes for the coming 2016-17 season. Wrestling head coach Alex Coffroth, RCHS Principal Mike Tupper and RCPS Superintendent Dr. Donna Matthews, along with support from School Board Vice Chair, Aline Johnson, received the formal Resolution from Delegate Webert with the promise that it would soon be proudly displayed in the halls of RCHS.



ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITY

NASA is offering several summer academies comprised of online course modules students must complete, along with other students throughout the Commonwealth, to qualify for the week-long summer experiences. **Only the top candidates are invited to attend** the free summer academies after completion of the course modules and required assessments. Please visit the links provided for each category to learn more about each of the NASA programs.

Sophomores: Virginia Space Coast Scholars (VSCS) Deadline: (Sun. 10/30)

VSCS - a free, NASA-funded one-week Summer Academy at NASA Goddard Wallops Flight Facility Center in Chincoteague, VA. Visit <http://www.vscs.spacegrant.org/>

Juniors: Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars (VASTS) Deadline: (Sun. 10/30)

VASTS - a free, NASA-funded one-week Summer Academy at NASA Langley Research Reid Center in Hampton, VA. Visit www.vasts.spacegrant.org

Seniors & Juniors: Virginia Earth System Science Scholars (VESSS) Deadline: (Sun. 10/30)

VESSS - a free, NASA-funded one-week Summer Academy at NASA Langley Research Reid Center in Hampton, VA. Visit <http://www.vsgc.odu.edu/VESSS>.

The resolution as presented follows:

Commonwealth of Virginia
General Assembly
House Resolution no. 252

Commending the Rappahannock County High School wrestling team

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 11, 2016

WHEREAS, the Rappahannock County High School wrestling team finished an outstanding 2015-2016 season as state runner-up at the Virginia High School League Group 1A state championship; and

WHEREAS, the talented wrestlers from Washington demonstrated their depth and talent at the 2015-16 championship meet, with nine members of the team earning all-state honors: and

WHEREAS, the Rappahannock County High School Panthers had a strong start on the first day of the title meet, which was held on February 19 and 20, 2016, at the Salem Civic Center, scoring 87 points in the preliminary rounds; despite valiant efforts on the final day of competition, the hardworking wrestlers placed second; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Rappahannock County High School wrestling team who garnered all-state honors for 2015-2016 were Christian McCracken, Ethan Foley, David Smoot, Hunter Nicodemus, Johnny Beard, Olin Woodward, Chris Corbin, Sam Barnes and Christian Poffenbarger; and

WHEREAS, Rappahannock County High School promises to have a strong wrestling team for the 2016-2017 season; David Smoot is a senior, but the rest of the all-state designees are underclassmen; and

WHEREAS, throughout the season, the members of the Rappahannock County High School wrestling team were guided by a dedicated and focused coaching staff, led by head coach Alex Coffroth; the wrestlers also drew great support from the families, friends, and the entire school community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Rappahannock county High School wrestling team hereby be commended for its outstanding 2016-2016 season; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Alex Coffroth, head coach of the Rappahannock County High School wrestling team, as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration and congratulations for the team's exceptional performance and stellar achievements.

House Patron: Webert

A video of the presentation of the Commending Resolution by Delegate Webert can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/QfFRk0Mm1JU>



FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

Responders Share Program with Students

On Monday, October 24, several deputies from the Rappahannock County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) visited RCES Pre-School and Headstart classes. Focusing on situations familiar to younger children, the officers discussed basic safety issues with their interested audience. Students were excited to participate in an exchange with a real police officer, discussing the importance of having rules and how police officers keep everyone safe by making sure everyone follows the rules.

Students learned about important duties police officers have in the community. Helping people in trouble, providing assistance if someone is hurt, finding people who are lost, and making sure everyone obeys the laws were just some of the day to day situations that the RCSO deputies discussed with students. There was also a hands-on activity featuring the types of equipment police officers use every day, generating even more excitement as our young students were able to actually touch some of the tools used to protect people and keep everyone safe.



As part of the presentation, Rappahannock County deputies stressed the importance of students calling 911 only when there is an emergency, discussing the difference between an emergency that requires the police and an emergency that might only require mom, dad, or an older sibling. Deputies also advised students to learn their home address by heart, noting that students should always be able to tell a policeman where they live. RCES appreciates the deputies from the Rappahannock County Sheriff's Office taking the time to add to the educational experience of our young students while keeping our community safe on a daily basis.

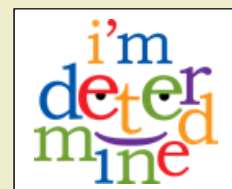


SPECIAL PROGRAM: COMMUNITY
INVITED!

The Special Education Advisory Committee of RCPS will hold its second meeting of the year on November 3, 2016 in the RCES auditorium at 6:00 with a presentation from Nancy Anderson, the Region 4 Coordinator for the *I'm Determined* project. A state program funded by the Virginia Department of Education, the *I'm Determined* project focuses on providing direct instruction, models, and opportunities for students to practice skills associated with self-determined behavior. This project facilitates youth, especially those with disabilities, in assuming a measure of control in their lives, helping them to set and steer their life course rather than remaining a silent passenger.

The *I'm Determined* project is in Virginia schools across all grade levels. Students who acquire self-determination skills in school and at home develop skills in self-advocacy that positively impact every aspect of their lives, now and in the future. This session will provide information, resources, activities, and strategies that parents can utilize to help their child strengthen his/her own self-determination skills. Families are encouraged to come and learn about this project, as well as receive some giveaways! Child care will be provided.

For additional information on this event or membership in the Special Education Advisory Committee for RCPS, please contact Carol Johnson at cjohnson@rappahannockschoools.us





ABOVE THE STANDARDS

RCCHS Students Begin Semester I Round of SOLS

Fall has definitely arrived and with it comes the beginning of Standards of Learning testing at the high school. RCHS operates on a block schedule which allows classes to be taught within one semester or on a year-long basis. On Wednesday, October 26, and again on Thursday, October 27, the English Writing SOL tests were administered at the high school. This first test was administered to just two classes of students, both semester long English classes. These classes have been honing their writing skills since August under the tutelage of English teachers, Sheila Lamb and Russell Paulette, and hopes are high for continued strong scores for RCHS.

In December, the semester long SOL classes will take End of Course SOL tests in the following areas: English, math, science and social studies. In mid spring of 2017 there will be another round of English Writing SOL tests for the spring semester and year-long English classes. The largest testing schedule will occur at the end of the spring semester when RCHS will be SOL testing core content for all spring semester-long and yearlong courses.

In addition to core class instruction for SOL courses, students are also given the opportunity for intensive small group instruction during the school day and After-School tutoring throughout the year when needed. Benchmark tests are taken periodically during the semester to gauge students' progress and understanding. This allows teachers an opportunity to pace the instruction, include enrichment or tutorial assignments to ensure full understanding of concepts, and gear specialized instruction to students with additional needs. Working together with parents and support staff, RCHS teachers are confident that our students will excel and achieve another year of full accreditation.

24 FEVER!

RCES Students on Fire for Math

Building their math skills while having fun, RCES students in grades 3-7 have begun playing the 24 math game. A friendly competition which teaches students to improve their math skills in order to solve problems quickly, RCES students compete with one another to earn a spot on the competitive teams that will face students from other schools. When practicing 24, students become faster at all the basic math operations – adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing - and begin to recognize math patterns. All of these enhanced skills are learned on their own as they strive to become the newest 24 champion!

Students from Rappahannock, Culpeper, Orange, Greene, Fluvanna, and Madison counties compete against one another in Math 24 tournaments. Four students from each competing grade level at RCES will be selected to compete in the tournament in the spring, and competition is fierce for one of the coveted 24 team spots. For additional resources and to practice at home, students can go to the 24 game website at www.24game.com and practice their math skills using the 24 math app on a tablet or IPAD. Having fun and learning are the key components behind the success and popularity of the 24 game, qualities that RCES constantly seeks to embed in its educational programs.





Upcoming Events and Announcements

- ❖ October 28: Harlem Superstar Basketball at RCHS
- ❖ October 19: C2BF hike at White Oak Canyon, 8:00 AM
- ❖ October 31: One School, One Book unveiling
- ❖ November 1: 8th Grade Field Trip to Holocaust Museum
- ❖ November 1: Varsity Cross Country Regional Championship at Panorama Farms
- ❖ November 1: Volleyball playoff game at home
- ❖ November 3: Volleyball playoff game at home
- ❖ November 5: Volleyball playoff game at home
- ❖ November 7: PTO meeting at RCES, 6:30 PM
- ❖ November 8: ASVAB Testing at RCHS, 8:30 AM
- ❖ November 8: JV & Varsity winter sports tryouts begin
- ❖ November 11: Veteran's Day Program in gym at 10 AM
- ❖ November 12: State Cross Country Championship at Great Meadows
- ❖ November 21: Career Day at RCHS Gym
- ❖ November 23-25: No School—Thanksgiving break

RCPS Vision

Statement:

To empower every student to reach his or her full potential.

Comprehensive Plan Update: The division is seeking input from parents concerning the next six year Comprehensive Plan. The draft plan has been loaded on the Community page of the website as well as on Board Docs. Please feel free to send comments to your principal, superintendent, or contact your school board representative with comments. School board representatives are as follows: Chairman John Wesley Mills, Jackson District; Vice Chair Aline Johnson, Piedmont District; Chris Ubben, Wakefield District; Larry Grove, Stonewall-Hawthorne District; Lucy (Pud) Maeyer, Hampton District.



Commit to Be Fit check-ins will begin the week of November 7th. Watch your C2BF emails or the Facebook page for the check-in schedule and details about making your appointment and turning in points. There will be a drawing for a mountain bike and a Fitbit for all those that check-in. Remember, part of the C2BF challenge is to document your own personal health journey. These check-ins and incentives are designed to empower you to see the results of all your hard work in multiple ways.

For upcoming athletic events visit the RCPS Sports Page:

<http://rappahannockcountyhs.rsc.hoolteams.com/>

