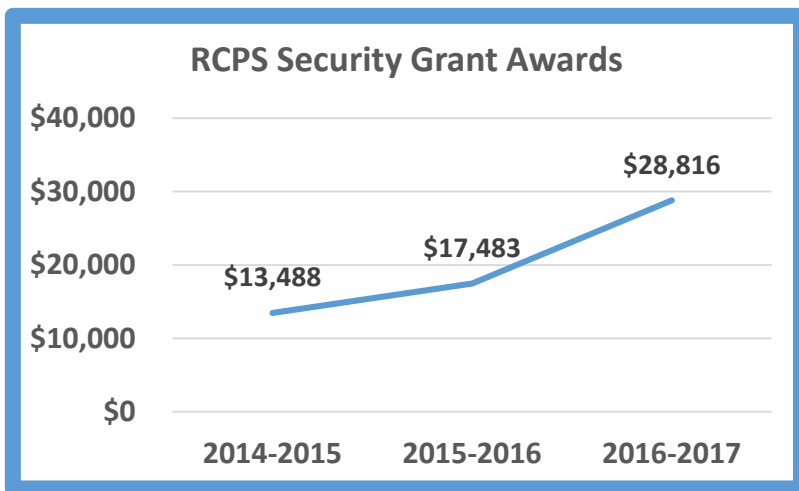


RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS PANTHER PRIDE NEWSLETTER

DR. DONNA MATTHEWS, SUPERINTENDENT

RCPS AWARDED SECURITY GRANT Continuing the Effort of School Safety

Governor McAuliffe awarded 96 school divisions and five regional educational programs security grants in order to help offset local costs for improving school safety. For the third year in a row, Rappahannock County Schools became a recipient of the competitive grant award program for its efforts in making security equipment upgrades to improve the overall safety for students and staff.



The School Security Equipment Grants program was established in 2013 by the General Assembly following the incident at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut, in order to aid school divisions in the priority of improving school security. State Superintendent, Steve Staples, greatly encourages school divisions to apply for these funds stating, “Parents rightfully expect that public schools will provide safe and orderly environments in which all students can focus on learning. The enhancements and systems supported by these grants will help schools meet this basic expectation.” Rappahannock County Schools immediately took action to ensure the correct avenues were researched in preparing its grant applications.

CAREER EXPLORATION OPPORTUNITY

The Port of Virginia is a catalyst for commerce throughout the Commonwealth. Each of the steel boxes moved through the port represents development, jobs, and investment across the state. Lord Fairfax Community College, in partnership with the Virginia Port Authority, is offering a workforce training seminar on October 19th, 2016 in Middletown Virginia from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. The program is designed to help students discover the maritime and logistics supply chain and the career opportunities involved. Industry experts will discuss import/export manufacturing, freight forwarding, trucking, and other aspects of Port of Virginia. For more information, please email POVCustomerService@vit.org. If your high school student may be interested in this career exploration opportunity, please contact Michelle Papa at mpapa@rappahannockschools.us.



In 2013, the Crisis Management Team, a partnership between school security personnel, administration, and the Sheriff's Office, conducted an audit of school safety and provided recommendations. Dr. Matthews immediately directed a school security grant writing team to ensure the upgrades to equipment were sustainable, manageable by local networking technology, and efficient in securing the schools. The school security grant has addressed all of the suggestions made by the Crisis Management Team over the past two years, including additional dome cameras for high vulnerability areas, extension of real-time digital monitoring systems, two-way communication upgrades, exterior safety lighting, computerized remote phone alert systems for emergency and non-emergency communications, extension of portico buzzer systems at both schools, additional key badges for digital key lock systems at exterior doors, and wireless lockdown systems. This year's security grant funds of \$28,816 used to continue the progress made over the past two years through adding more camera monitoring systems, upgrading communications systems, outdoor digital license plate reading cameras, and additional key badge lock systems at other exterior doors.

Rappahannock County Schools remains committed to the safety of all students, faculty, and staff, and will continue to work with the Sheriff's Office to increase our efforts for school safety. RCPS will also continue to apply for these grant funds as long as the Governor makes them available for eligible public schools.

JAMESTOWN COMING TO LIFE

RCES welcomes guests

RCES Fourth grade students were thrilled to welcome the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation into Mrs. Estes' Virginia Studies classroom for a program titled *Life at Jamestown*. The foundation operates two living museums at the Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center and brought resources and artifacts from their museums to the classrooms at RCES. Students participated in a hands-on engaging program which explored the reasons people from England settled in North America and demonstrated the hardships they faced upon their arrival.



COMMUNITY INVITED:

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

In August of 2015, a team composed of staff, school board members, parents, and community partners, delved into the task of updating the school division's Comprehensive Plan. The plan is required by School Board Policy to guide long-range planning with an emphasis on improved classroom instruction and student achievement.

The 18 member team worked under the guidance of Dr. Larry Brooks, a former superintendent and professor, to identify perceived areas of strengths and challenges within the school division, which resulted in the distribution of a Needs Assessment Survey in October of 2015. The team prioritized results to inform the development of goals with related strategies, measures, and outcomes.

A Public Hearing to solicit public comment on the plan is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11th at the school board regular meeting beginning at 6:00 PM and public hearing opening at 6:30 PM in the RCHS auditorium. A draft of the Comprehensive Plan for 2017-2022 is posted on the division website under the Community tab and on the School Board's agenda of Board Docs.

**NOTICE
OF
PUBLIC
HEARING**

Among other activities, students modeled the clothing worn by indentured servants and soldiers, clothing that was in the same style as that issued by the Virginia Company of London around 1600. Students also examined artifacts, including raw materials, tools, and weapons, used by the settlers in North America. The students enjoyed the opportunity to experience the past through a hands-on learning experience that brought their history books to life.



RCHS LAUNCHES MENTORSHIPS

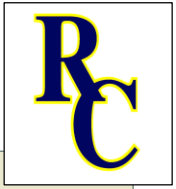
RCHS upper-class mentors revealed

On Wednesday, September 28th, the 8th Grade Academy peer mentoring program was officially launched, with 8th grade students meeting their upperclassmen peer mentors for the first time at an ice cream social. The student mentors, juniors and seniors from RCHS, were selected through a rigorous application process. Thanks to funding from Headwaters, they were initially trained on September 6th with a full day of Peer Mentor Bootcamp with community support from Northern Virginia 4-H Center. Additional training on September 19th and 26th was also conducted by RCHS Guidance Counselors, Dani Pond and Michelle Papa, to prepare mentors for their tasks of providing guidance, friendship, and mentoring support to their eighth grade mentees.



The ice cream social on Wednesday, September 28th, marked the beginning of this newest support program for RCHS students, another element in the division's continuing effort to promote positive relationships in the schools. Mentors will meet periodically throughout the year with their mentees and be available for questions and assistance, helping to transition our eighth grade students in the high school community. If the excitement and exuberance shown by mentors and mentees alike is any indication, this program will be an integral part of the RCHS experience. And given the benefits gained by both mentors and mentees, the peer mentoring program shows great promise in helping students achieve the RCPS vision of empowering every student to reach his or her full individual potential.





Upcoming Events and Announcements

- ❖ October 13: 7th grade field trip to Worlds of Work career expo
- ❖ October 13 & 14: 5th grade field trip to Shenandoah National Park
- ❖ October 14: HS Underclass school picture make-up day
- ❖ October 14: End of 1st 9 weeks grading period
- ❖ October 17-21st: Homecoming Week
- ❖ October 21: Homecoming Game 7 PM
- ❖ October 22: Homecoming Dance 8-11 PM
- ❖ October 25: Report cards go home
- ❖ October 25-27: SOL Writing Tests at RCHS
- ❖ October 28: Harlem Superstar Basketball
- ❖ November 7: PTO meeting, RCES at 6:30 PM
- ❖ November 8: ASVAB Testing at RCHS 8:30 AM
- ❖ November 23-25: No School—Thanksgiving break

For upcoming athletic events
visit the RCPS Sports Page:
[http://rappahannockcountyhs.
schoolteams.com/](http://rappahannockcountyhs.schoolteams.com/)

RCPS Vision

Statement:

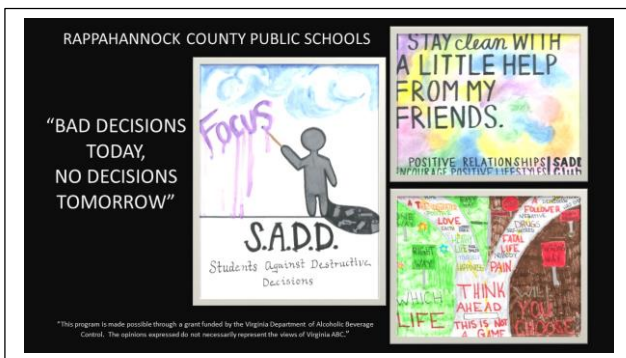
*To empower every
student to reach his
or her full potential.*

Oct. 11th: School board meeting at 6:00 PM with public comment on the new RCPS Comprehensive Plan beginning at 6:30 PM. The Comprehensive Plan helps define the division and student focus for the next six years. Thank you to all who participated in the writing of this document!

RED RIBBON WEEK OCT. 23-31

SADD & MADD Encourage Drug and Alcohol Prevention

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), in collaboration with our community MADD partners, encourage citizens to participate in drug and alcohol prevention awareness. Students will be participating in education activities during the month of October. Please support our students during Red Ribbon Week.



National Red Ribbon Week