

Wonderful Wednesday Day Camp Returns

The first day of the spring Wonderful Wednesday Day Camp (WWDC) took place Wednesday, March 3rd with 145 RCPS students participating. Jenny Kapsa, WWDC Director, was thrilled with the first session. *"As the campers arrived at the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational and Conference Center on school buses, the sun was shining through the cold air and the smell of wood burning in the campfire circle filled the area. It FELT like camp,"* she said enthusiastically.

Eighty-nine RCPS students registered to participate in this free program. These campers have been divided into 6 camp groups according to their grade. While following the RCPS COVID safety protocols, the campers participate in two morning workshops, a Commit to Be Fit activity, homework time, and a Thankful activity. The program lasts from 9am - 3pm each of the 10 days that this camp is offered.

The camp provides a unique mentorship opportunity for older students as well. Fifty-six RCPS 7th - 12th graders applied, interviewed, and were trained and hired to be camp counselors at the WWDC. According to Kapsa, the counselors act as mentors to the campers and provide the oversight and energy that makes the camp successful. *"The campers look up to these older students with respect and a longing to be just like them. The mentor/mentee relationships that are formed at this camp are strong and powerful for both the campers and the counselors: the campers listen to and follow the guidance of the counselors, and the counselors realize that their words and actions matter."* As seen in the fall sessions, it has been a mutually beneficial program for students in all grade levels.



Pictured Above: A camper and student counselor work together to create a yarn craft in one of the morning workshops.

Mental Health & Wellness Resource

The RCPS Mental Health Innovators Team has created a thorough, multi-page Mental Health and Wellness Resource document that includes contact information for many helpful services. To view this document, visit our district website homepage at www.rappahannockschools.us

Emotional Support Hotline

If you or your student is feeling anxious or depressed, we are here to help!

Call or text our
**EMOTIONAL SUPPORT
HOTLINE:**
540-683-0437

Technical Support

For TECHNICAL support videos or for the technology help desk contact info, visit the homepage on our district website at www.rappahannockschools.us.

Need additional assistance? Call the
TECHNICAL SUPPORT HOTLINE at
540-227-0023 x 3003.

Plus, be sure to check out the Technology tab, on the district website, to view helpful tips for Chromebooks, iPads, and Canvas.



VDOE State Superintendent Visits RCES

Rappahannock County Public Schools welcomed Dr. James Lane, Virginia Department of Education State Superintendent, for a special visit to the elementary school on Friday, February 26th. Dr. Lane was greeted by RCPS Superintendent, Dr. Grimsley and school board members, Larry Grove and Chris Ubben, along with Ms. Gates, Ms. Wissinger, Dr. Bolt, and 7th grade SCA President, Emily Matthews. Each was excited to showcase the many special features of the school as well as the safety mitigations that have been in place to ensure a safe reopening of schools. Along the tour, Dr. Lane had the opportunity to visit the STEAM lab, sensory hallway, Action Based Learning (ABL) lab, and courtyard. When visiting the ABL, Dr. Lane said *"This is amazing. I wish my children had this lab in their schools."* The tour also included visits to Ms. Montague's PreK classroom, the new Primary Promises classroom, Ms. Shankle's 3rd-grade classroom, Ms. McCabe's 7th-grade classrooms, and the cafeteria to see the desk shields and seating arrangements. Additionally, he was shown the new AERUS Pure and Clean air purifiers in each of the classrooms and the Induct Air Scrubbers ventilation units. Following the tour, Dr. Bolt presented him with a goody bag of donated items representing the schools and community, such as a wooden pen created by one of the RCHS students and a Rappahannock County hat.

Dr. Lane was very pleased with the school's reopening process and safety mitigation procedures. Before departing, he commended RCPS for doing a "phenomenal job" in successfully reopening during the pandemic.

Dr. Grimsley, who spoke very proudly of both the elementary and high school throughout the tour, credited the collaboration of staff, students, families, and community for the schools' success.

This was the first time that the district had been visited by the state superintendent. RCES was selected as one of three schools to be toured by the state superintendent in Northern Virginia today. According to Dr. Grimsley, *"It was a great pleasure to have Dr. Lane visit our elementary school and see the wonderful work of our faculty and staff in action."*



Pictured: Dr. Lane toured the Sensory Hallway (left) and the STEAM Lab (right) during his visit.

Phase-in to 4-Day

We will be beginning our phase-in to 4-day in-person instructional schedule on March 15th. Please see the dates per grade level listed below.

March 15- Grades K-3

March 29th- Grades 4-5

April 12th- Grades 6-12

Those who have opted for fully remote instruction are assumed to continue on this modality unless a change is requested to the child's principal. As we phase-in to 4-day in-person instruction, we will be dissolving the 2-day, hybrid model. Once a grade level switches to 4-day, students in that grade will be either 4-day or fully remote.

We Need Your Help

Please help us reduce the chances of a short-term school closure or classroom quarantines by keeping your child at home if you think they may have been exposed to the virus or if they have any symptoms.

- *Temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher
- *Sore throat
- *Cough (for students with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from baseline)
- *Difficulty breathing (for students with asthma, a change from baseline breathing)
- *Diarrhea or vomiting
- *New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

If you have any questions or need more guidance regarding a possible exposure, please call your child's school nurse. They are here to assist you while keeping our students and staff safe.

RCES- Robyn Murray 540-227-0200 ext. 3012

RCHS- Courtney Atkins 540-227-0745 ext. 3471

Thank you for your continued support in keeping all of our students and staff safe.

FREE Meal Reminder

FREE five day meal distribution is available every Wednesday at 10:30am at both RCES and RCHS. Please sign up by calling/texting our Meal Access Hotline at 540-671-0153 or by filling out this google form:

<https://forms.gle/dXRUrzyYjZfgF1KXL8>.

As a reminder, families are strongly encouraged to continue filling out the free and reduced application to receive additional benefits and support school funding. Visit:

[\(https://www.lunchapplication.com/\)](https://www.lunchapplication.com/)

Please contact Ms. Banks with any questions.

jbanks@rappahannockschools.us