

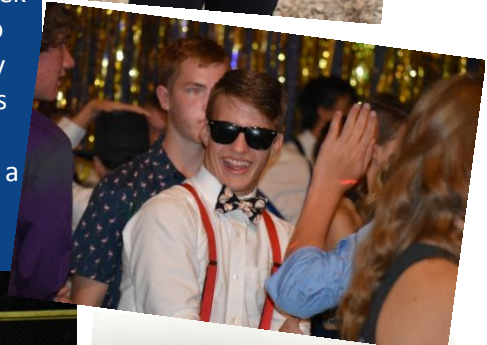


## Start with Hello

Rappahannock County Public Schools participated in Start with Hello Week on September 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. This nation-wide initiative, created by Sandy Hook Promise, was designed to promote a culture of connectedness to prevent gun violence. Both schools engaged in a variety of activities geared towards creating a stronger sense of social community while preventing social isolation.

At the elementary school, students started off the week wearing name tags. They were asked to say hello to other students they didn't know to promote friendly gestures in the school building. In addition, students wrote positive notes to the student body that were posted on classroom doors. These messages created a positive atmosphere throughout the hallways.

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# We Are Rappahannock!

## Start with Hello (continued)

At the high school, the classroom doors were also covered with numerous, handwritten messages from students. The anonymous notes included positive sentiments such as "Hope you have a day as AMAZING as you!", "Hey Beautiful, Keep Smiling," and "You are loved!"

On Tuesday and Thursday, the Peer Mentors visited RCES to mingle with the younger students over lunch. Both school principals, Ben Temple and Jimmy Swindler, agreed that this was a mutually beneficial experience for all students.

In addition, this week was also spirit week at both schools. A large number of both students and staff showed their school spirit by participating in school-wide daily themes. The elementary school held a variety of themes such as pajama day, color day, sports jersey day, hat day, and blue/gold day. At the end of the week, the PreK/K team scored the most participation points and was awarded the spirit stick. At the high school, the daily themes included Meme Monday, Twinning Tuesday, Country vs. Country Club Wednesday, Throwback Thursday, and Class Colors Friday. The week ended with a fun Pep Rally to kick off the Homecoming weekend festivities.

## STEAM Museum

RCES Elementary students were treated to the STEAM Museum presented by Mobile ED productions on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. The RCES Auxiliary Gym was transformed to include a variety of interactive stations that incorporated elements of science, technology, engineering, art, and math education. During the hands-on activities, students learned about energy, simple machines, gear ratios, computer programming, robotics, structures, friction, gravity, problem solving, and more. The STEAM Museum visit was made possible by a Headwaters Foundation Educational Enrichment Grant. Snacks and volunteer support were provided in part by the RCPS PTO.



Photos courtesy of Dani Pond

## Fun at Verdun

RCHS 8<sup>th</sup> grade students enjoyed a trip to Verdun Adventure Bound on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. This trip is an annual part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy Transition Program. Students completed a series of fun team building challenges that promoted collaboration, problem solving, conflict resolution, and communication.



## Perfect 600 Awards

During the School Board meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, Principals Jimmy Swindler and Ben Temple presented the Perfect 600 Awards to students who earned a perfect score on their spring 2018 Standards of Learning (SOL) tests. Congratulations to the following students on this great achievement: Elias Genho (*Grade 4 Mathematics*), Noah Heyward (*Grade 3 Mathematics*), David Look (*Grade 5 Science*), Alec Petty (*Algebra II*), Lauren Petty (*Chemistry*), Isaac Plaksin (*Virginia Studies and Grade 4 Mathematics*), Carmen Pond (*Grade 4 Mathematics*), Madelyn Sneed (*Grade 3 Reading*), Mikayla Steinbach (*Virginia Studies*), Rachel Weghorst (*Algebra II*), and Everett Zook (*Grade 4 Mathematics*). In addition, teachers who earned a 100% pass rate on last year's SOLs were recognized: Mr. Stephens (*Algebra 1*), Ms. Shackelford (*Geometry & Grade 8 Math*), Ms. Roseberry (*Geometry*), Mr. Paulette (*Reading & Writing*), Ms. Lamb (*Reading*), Ms. Wolfe (*Grade 7 Reading*), Mr. Stephens (*Algebra 1*), Mr. Naser (*Chemistry*).

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