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2017-2018 Annual Report



RIVER BEND
MIDDLE SCHOOL

46240 Algonkian Parkway
Sterling, VA 20165
(571) 434-3220
www.lcps.org/rbms
@RBMS_Official

MISSION:

Empowering all students to make meaningful contributions to the world

STRATEGIC GOALS:

1. Develop knowledgeable **C**ritical thinkers, **C**ommunicators, **C**ollaborators, **C**reators, and **C**ontributors
2. Cultivate a high-performing team of professionals focused on our mission and goals
3. Deliver effective and efficient support for student success



Excelling in Education



This year's Expo was held in April. The main attraction was an exhibition of student work from science, tech ed, art, music, math, coding, and Spectrum classes. These included wind turbines and solar ovens built through 6th grade science classes, an observation of chicks and brook trout being raised by 7th grade science, public service announcements via PowToons from Spectrum, geometry amusement park designs, tech ed mechanics projects, 8th grade album music art, a robot built by the coding classes, and more.

A highlight of the Expo was a full size, fully moveable R2D2 droid that a RBM parent and member of the Mid-Atlantic Droid and Prop Builders Club brought for a photo opportunity.

A very special thank you to the local STEAM companies that offered their time and services. Representatives from Orbital ATK and C3 Cyber Club were on hand with interactive exhibits for the students.



Poetry Slam

Each spring, 6th grade students spend several weeks writing original poetry and turning their writing into either printed or digital scrapbooks. Their hard work is celebrated at the end of the unit with our Poetry Slam event. At our annual Poetry Slam, students choose at least one of their poems to present, and families are invited to enjoy student poetry and refreshments.



This year's winner was
Delara
Bahrambeigui



This year's winner was
Dhruv Anurag

Excelling in the Arts



CHORUS

- The following students represented
- *RBMS All-County Chorus:
6th grade – Lauren Ignazzitto, Tyara Ceballos, Samiha Hamzayeva, Annika Godston, Madison Embuscado, Shannon Arias-Pedroso, Alexis Antonellis, Hannah Hagos, Dominique Tacaraya, Madison Speilman
- *All-District Chorus:
7th grade – Christian Orellana, Trey Irizarry, Riley Freck, Indira Langhum, Kyla Harper, Ani Dykes, and Miriam Aslam
8th grade – Lexi Guy, Nadra Shabbeer, Avery Finnegan, Mary MacGoy, Sarah Moldover, Dylan Lampe, John Aslanes, and Pranay Goswami
- *Trisha Thatai (8th) represented RBMS at the ACDA National Honors Choir in Louisville, KY in February.
- *Miriam Aslam (7th), Riley Freck (7th), and John Aslanes (8th) represented RBMS at the VCDA MS All-Virginia Honors Choir in Richmond, VA in April.
- *Director Chaired All-District Chorus 2018
- *The Raven Choir performed the National Anthem at the Washington Wizards game in March.



ORCHESTRA

- *Erin Chan (8th grade) represented RBMS at the Junior Regional Orchestra and All-County Orchestra.
- *The Orchestra performed a Halloween Concert with the PFHS Orchestra.
- *The Orchestra also performed at the Hershey Park Music in the Parks Festival in June.
- *The 8th grade orchestra received an Excellent rating at their assessment.



GUITAR

- The RBMS Guitar program has had an exciting spring. For the fifth year in a row, RBMS hosted the 2018 LCPS All-County Guitar Festival. This year's theme was "Women in Guitar" and clinicians included Dr. Martha Masters (President of the Guitar Foundation of America), Andrea Cannon (Suzuki Guitar Teacher Trainer), Kim Perlak (Chair of guitar department at Berkley School of Music) and the first ever International clinician, Helen Sanderson from the UK. Eleven students from RBMS auditioned for and made the ACG ensemble. These students participated in a variety of workshops, clinics and performance, and earned a SUPERIOR rating in their assessment. In April, the internationally recognized guitar duo, Rucco-James Duo, visited RBMS to work with students and give performances of 19th century guitar music.

BAND

- *The 8th grade band received an Excellent rating at their assessment.
- *The following students represented RBMS at the All District Band: Ryan Kidwell (7th, alto saxophone), Maggie Lum (8th, flute-first chair), Jamie Lee (8th, clarinet), Jessica Hartung (8th, bassoon), Liam Reaser (8th, trumpet), Justine Cross (8th, trumpet), and Uma Pillai (8th, trumpet).
- *The following students represented RBMS at All District Jazz: Ryan Kidwell (7th, alto saxophone – first chair), and Uma Pillai (8th, trumpet-first chair).
- *At the Young Composers Festival, the following students represented RBMS: Maggie Lum (8th), Ryan Kidwell (7th), Brandon Amdahl (7th), Grant Gonzales (7th), Emmanuel Ampeh (7th) and Raheel Syed (7th).
- *Henry Gregory (7th voice) was named Outstanding Soloist at the Jazz Assessment.
- *Dave Stringham, Music Education Professor from James Madison University, visited RBMS and conducted the 7th and 8th grade band students in November.



This Year Around the Bend...



- Welcome Back Teacher Breakfast
- Spirit Nights
- Staff Luncheons
- Donuts with Dads
- The Lion King, Jr.
- Teacher Grants
- Student Staff Basketball
- AOL 5k Walk/Run
- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- Muffins with Mom
- Ravens of the Week Breakfast
- PBIS Raven Rally



This year's play was "The Lion King, Jr." Students had to brave the audition process, many for their first time ever, practice singing, dancing, and even fighting (choreographed of course) for 13 weeks. They learned to laugh like hyenas, stampede like wildebeests, and take their place in the Circle of Life. Adding to the challenge was the fact that many of the songs they performed include lyrics in a variety of African languages. They took it all in stride and said "Hakuna Matata" (no worries) as they were thrilled to perform in front of great audiences for all three of the shows.



This Year Around the Bend

Redskins Charitable Foundation gives back



This year a group of students were invited to spend the day at Redskin Park as a part of Mr. Shaffer's involvement with the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation. The boys participated in the Gatorade Junior Training Camp. The girls participated in the Redskins' ASPIRE initiative. ASPIRE focuses on inspiring, educating & building confidence in young women.



Meagan Fitzgerald Visits the Bend



Meagan Fitzgerald from NBC News 4 was invited to RBM to share her success story with our student government, morning news team, and Redskins' ASPIRE students. Ms. Fitzgerald shared her background and gave some advice and inspiration about pursuing dreams, overcoming obstacles (including her own learning disability) and challenges. Students asked thoughtful questions about how to stay focused and stay on track in life. It was truly an inspirational visit that sparked great conversation.

Business Partnerships

Ashburn Ice House
Autobahn Indoor Speedway
Barakat Orthodontics
Bluemont Vineyard Tasting
Bowl America
Burton's Grill
Chick-Fil-A, Dulles Crossing
Chuy's Tex Mex Restaurant
Deli Italiano
Dick's Sporting Goods
Dr. Azita Abbasi, Top NoVa Ortho.
Dr. Rick Jackomis, DDS
Dulles Golf Center & Sports Park
Food Lion

Gourmet Gift Baskets
Great Country Farms
International Spy Museum
Jersey Mike's
K & H Landscaping
Los Toltecos Restaurant
Mathnasium
Michelina Queri & Assoc.
NBC4 Studio
Newseum

Olive Garden
Orangetheory Fitness
Orbital ATK
Papa John's
Parcel Plus
Pev's Paintball
Sportrock Climbing Ctr.
Studio Bleu Dance.
Subway
Top Golf
Washington Capitals
Washington Redskins
Washington Wizards

Academic Excellence at the Bend

Google Online Safety Show

In September, Google representative Sgt. Matt Bressler of the LCSO and Congresswoman Barbara Comstock, who arranged the visit, presented to our students some practical advice on how to keep their online identities safe and positive. Comstock said programs like the one presented by Google are a key in preventing online predators from taking advantage of children.



Extra-Curricular Clubs

Battle of the Books	Puzzling Club
Chamber Music	River Jazz
Chess Club	River Bend Jazz
Cross Country Club	Running Club
Debate Club	Science Olympiad
Divide & Conquer	Sewing/Knitting/Quilting Club
Environmental Club	Theater/Drama Club
FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America)	
FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)	
Habitat Club	
Indoor Soccer	
Leo Club	
Library Club	
Makerspace Club	
Mario Club	
Math Club	
Morning Announcement Team	
Pokemon Club	
Pop Strings Club	
Potomac Pans Steel Band	

Academic Decathlon



River Bend Middle School hosted the 2018 Academic Decathlon on April 21. Teams of ten 8th grade students from all 16 LCPS middle schools competed in ten events ranging from poetry writing about historical figures to robotics to a coded scavenger hunt. All the events required team collaboration and strategizing. This year, Eagle Ridge Middle School edged out Seneca Ridge, and River Bend rounded out the top three!

Student & Staff Accomplishments

Student Accomplishments

Liam Reaser (8th), Ellie Campbell (7th), and Samiha Hamzayeva (6th) – Lacy Leadership Award
Sadie Geary – 2018 Sterling Ruritan Outstanding Student of the Year
Daniel Pappalardo & Sadie Geary – \$50 Sterling Lion's Club Scholastic Achievement Award & Certificate
Alana Andrews – 2018 NJHS Outstanding Achievement Award and Sterling Ruritan Award
Dhruv Anurag, Bhavya Guduru, Alex Chung, Hasita Ravula, & Isra Satiar – The RBMS Advanced Math Team placed 1st in Virginia and 34th in the country on the Math League Algebra competition.
Madeline Piedra – Awarded the Malone Award for Art
Bhavya Guduru – Awarded the Malone Award for Math
Maggie Lum – Awarded the Malone Award for Music
Liam Reaser – Awarded the Malone Award for Science
Aryan Agarwal, Nicholas Chervenka, Bhavya Guduru, Daniel Leipzig, Declan McQuinn, Carlos Morales, Erica Olsen, Hasita Ravula, Liam Reaser, Sam Shumaker, Zaina Tarafder, & Chinmay Vadrev – The RBMS Academic Decathlon team was awarded the 3rd place trophy.
Saurav Sukumaran & Mikaela Gantz – Awarded the Prudential Spirit of America Award
Isabelle Sullivan, Karhik Bose, & Pierce Eastman – Awarded a medal for their ELKs Americanism Essay
Sanjula Chitty – Awarded a medal for her Black History Month Essay "I Have a Dream"

RAVENS of the Year

6th grade – **Ben Shumaker, Clare Romano, Lucy Collins, Carter Hendershot, Delara Bahrambeigui, & Joshua Prince**
 7th grade – **Carlota Echeverri Maestre, Adrian Novillo Mosquera, Mirai Bernard, Gavin Ballard, Homira Koraganie, & Christopher Sandoval Sandoval**
 8th grade – **Anna Nack, Christian Blood, Trixie Regan, Kareem Natour, Ryann Anfinson, & Carlos Morales**



NJHS serves to honor students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.



Staff Awards and Nominations

Christina Pezzimenti – Shenandoah University Teacher of the Year nominee
Tabitha Ales – Washington Post Teacher of the Year nominee
Amy Raye – LCPS Substitute of the Year
Jacqueline Pirrung – TLC First Teacher of the Year Award nominee
Karen Duvel – VMSA Teacher of the Year nominee
Dave Shaffer – VMSA Educator of the Year
Steve Douglas – VHSL HS Basketball Coach of the Year

Student Government

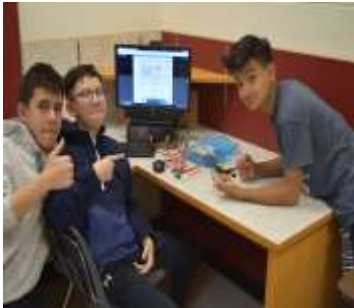
President – Alana Andrews
Vice President – Daniel Pappalardo
Secretary – Abby Peterson
Treasurer – Sam Shumaker



Project Based Learning (PBL)

Technology Education

This school year, 8th grade Technology and Engineering Students participated in many One to the World projects and activities. Some highlights from this year are the sensory chairs built for Ms. Whitaker's classroom, a book return cart constructed for the school library, instructional videos developed for the Loudoun Creates initiative, and physical computing and creative robotics projects that were built using Arduino Microcontrollers. The microcontrollers were purchased with grants provided by the Loudoun Education Foundation.



Science

To celebrate Earth Day, Mr. Nawrot's 7th grade science class supported a Virginia trout stream. The science class raised brook trout from fertilized eggs supplied by VDGI hatcheries. In spring, students and staff released the trout fry into Wildcat Hollow Run where they began a new chapter of life.

In addition to the trout release, students had a chance to net and study macroinvertebrates with help from Trout Unlimited volunteers.

All are welcome to come and participate in next year's trout release in the spring of 2019.



Project Based Learning ...

English



6th grade – Students were asked to identify a problem in our community and research ways to solve them. Using research skills, organizational patterns, and text features, students created a magazine to promote their ideas. They were then shared with other classes and the top magazines were made available in the library for all to read.



7th grade – Students explored the narrative nonfiction writing genre to craft truly beautiful pieces of self-reflection. The students researched essays and practiced revision strategies to create their collaborative ***This I Believe*** book. It was then published and presented at a ceremony for all to attend. They were also given the opportunity to present their book to the school board.



8th grade – Students reviewed the narrative structure by creating scary stories and ultimately publishing their own books.

English Learners

Students who participated in PEP (Parents as Educational Partners) helped parents learn how to use ParentVUE. They also demonstrated how they use specific reading programs and software in school and how they can be used at home. The students taught their parents in their native languages and served as interpreters for their families.



EL newcomer and intermediate students researched about careers they might possibly want to pursue after graduation from high school. Students researched every aspect such as training, salary, schedule, market, demands, skills... Using the English language, they have gained, they wrote paragraphs, as well as, creating and presenting a PowerPoint presentation in Google Classroom to the whole class. The purpose of this project was to teach them to set goals to achieve their dreams and although they must work hard to succeed, but that being limited in English is not a barrier at all.



Project Based Learning...

ART

Power of Words: 8th grade art students looked at two public service announcements to help them see how words, kindness, and art can reach one person and change the perspective of his or her day, life, or a personal situation. Students chose a street artist, researched the artist, and tried to mimic their artistic style to illustrate a positive message to reach one person in our school and community.



SPANISH

The students in Señora Keeton's Spanish 1 class communicated with high school students who are learning English in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Using the platform Flip Grid (www.flipgrid.com), students exchanged short video messages about different topics such as "Introductions," "Our School," and "Favorite Music." Students practiced their Spanish, gained more global awareness, and participated in a project that involves language and culture exchange.



Math

Geometry students worked all year to design an amusement park using different concepts in geometry and elements of STEAM. Students creatively designed and incorporated their theme to different park aspects, such as their front gate, their mascot, and their rides. Finally, they made presentations that reflected on their work for the STEAM Expo in the spring.

Math 6 did a project called RBM Fixer Upper in which they had to design a floor plan. To guide students in the project, their teachers created the following google site.

<https://sites.google.com/locker.lcps.org/math-6-2d3d-project/home>

Accel 6/7 did an SOL review project in which they worked in groups to create lesson plans which they presented to the class. Each group was assigned a topic to present and their 20-minute presentation needed to include slides with notes, an activity, and an exit ticket.



Happenings Around the Bend

5K/1 – Mile Fun Run

This year, the Health & PE department and the SGA sponsored the first River Bend Fun Run Challenge 5K Race in May. This event was to promote fitness and wellness through running and walking for students, parents, our feeder elementary schools, and the Countryside community. There were 96 registered runners ranging in ages from 4 to 60+. It was a great day for all participants and spectators as the temperature hovered in the mid 60s. The race was sponsored by several local businesses and was a huge success.



NASA's Stem in 30 Field Trip

An enthusiastic group of River Bend 6th graders are now a part of NASA's Stem-in-30 show, "How Do We Know What's Out There?". Seated by a full-scale mock-up of the Hubble Telescope's, they joined with the show's hosts and an Air and Space Museum astronomer to demonstrate how photons help us see distant objects and how blackholes work. Groups toured the museum, discovering curriculum connections like Sputnik, the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo capsules, the Voyager and New Horizons probes, the Mars rovers, and more. Look for their shows on Facebook (Stem-in-30 or National Air and Space Museum).



This was our 2nd year participating in Relay for Life. Our team, RBMS Ravens "Soaring for a Cure," had 26 members and raised \$3,000. Relay for Life is the largest walk that the American Cancer Society puts on annually. Participants walk to remember loved ones lost, honor survivors of all cancers, and raise money to help make a global impact.

