



# *River Bend Middle School*

*2019 - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT*

**46240 Algonkian Parkway  
Sterling, VA 20165  
(571) 434-3220**

[www.lcps.org/rbms](http://www.lcps.org/rbms)

@RBMS\_Official (Twitter)

@RBMS.LCPS (Facebook & Instagram)

# Table of Contents

Mathematics and Science .....Page 2

English/Language Arts and Spelling.....Page 3

.  
World Languages, 6th and 7th Grade History,  
Civics, and NJHS.....Page 4

Music and Musical.....Page 5

Family and Consumer Sciences, Tech Ed, and  
Computer Applications .....Page 6

English Learners, Art, and Physical Education.....Page 7

Special Guests and Opportunities.....Page 8

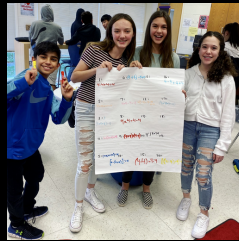
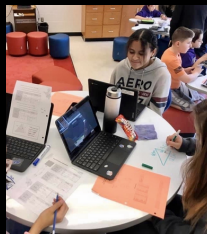
Student and Staff Awards..... Page 9

Business Partnerships, Student Government,  
and PTA.....Page 10

# Ravens Excelling

## Mathematics

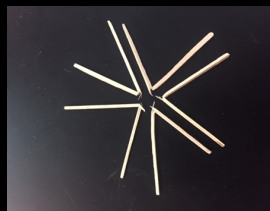
The math department developed creative learning opportunities for students in the school's new Catalyst room! The 6th grade teachers loved to combine classes in the Catalyst so students could work with new teammates. The 7th and 8th grade teachers used the Catalyst to facilitate collaborative groups using the whiteboard tables, giving students room to spread out and work. Our middle school teachers have also met in the Catalyst with math teachers from the local elementary schools and Potomac Falls High School to participate in Math Workshops.



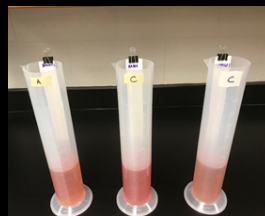
## Science

### 6th Grade Lab Work

Toothpick Stars: Students were able to use 1 drop of water to turn a group of broken toothpicks into a star without touching them!



Paper Towel Project: Students had a lot of fun testing which brands of paper towels were the most absorbent.



## Science, cont.

### 7th Grade Discoveries

In March, Life Science students researched some of Virginia's invasive species that negatively impact Sterling's ecosystems. Students discovered that even some of the most commonly seen organisms were introduced by humans and are surprisingly destructive.



*European starlings (Sturnus vulgaris) introduced in New York in 1890 are now all over Sterling. They out compete native birds for nesting space and have caused hundreds of millions of dollars a year in crop damage nationwide.*

### 7th Grade Lab Work

DNA Extraction: Using alcohol, water, and dish soap to extract and examine DNA from wheat germ, students were able to see the DNA condensing during the extraction process and were even able to touch it.

Skittles Diffusion Lab: Students examined diffusion by placing Skittles of different colors in a Petri dish divided into four quadrants, then filled the dish with water. The dyes and sugar coating of the Skittles dissolved and spread through the water via diffusion. The end result was a very cool "grid" of different colors.

8th Grade Lab Work - Physical Science students performed a variety of labs. Listed are some of the highlights: Identifying unknown elements (carbon, zinc, magnesium, silicon) using physical and chemical properties, designing their own procedure using physical properties and lab equipment to separate a mixture of copper shot, iron filings, sand and salt, as a team creating a safety system for a flying car that would protect the passengers in a low altitude fall using an egg, building virtual circuits at home to learn the difference between series and parallel circuits, using their knowledge of gravity and air resistance students designed, built, and tested a parachute choosing from a variety of materials.

## English/Language Arts

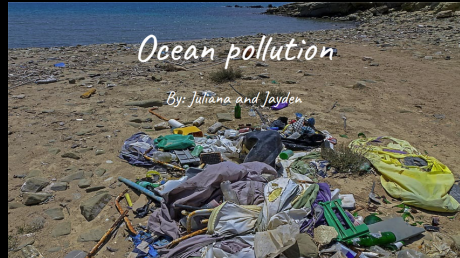
**6th grade** had another great year of being social activists. Students identified a social issue in our community or world and determined ways that we, as RBMS community members, could work to promote change. Our students then selected the top magazines. See images of our top three finalists, which were displayed in the library, below.

### Drunk Driving: A Growing Hazard



Prajeet Chitty

- What is "drunk driving?"
- How does it affect our world?
- How can we, at RiverBend, fix the problem?



### Cosmetic work in the lab

Cosmetic testing. What can we do to help?

- What is cosmetic testing on animals? Read more to find out!
- Why is it a good or bad thing? What should we care?
- How can we make a difference in our everyday world?



Julia Sagen

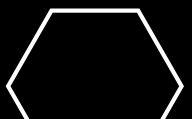
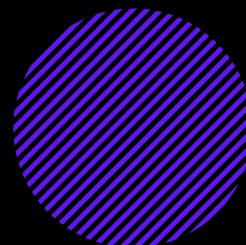
**7th grade** English classes read a short story titled "Ponies" by Kij Johnson. The story ended abruptly and students had to determine who was the pony napper. Students had to decide if the main character from their individual books would be capable of kidnapping Starblossom. For the project finale, the English 7 teachers revealed the kidnapper in a dramatic reading.



**8th grade** celebrated reading with The Outsiders Day again engaging students in their reading. Reflecting on how they would fit into the book, students answered the question, "Who would you be: a Soc or Greaser? ".



Congratulations to our Spelling Bee champion, Stephen Romano - 6th grade!





# Ravens Expanded Learning

## World Languages & Cultures

**Custodian Appreciation Luncheon February 2020:** Students researched recipes from Spanish-speaking countries, completed an in-class assignment about the recipe, and made the recipes at home. Then, they brought them in to school to share with our custodians to show their appreciation.

**Collaboration with Ms. Reisman:** Students in Ms. Pascual's Spanish for Fluent Speakers class collaborated with Ms. Reisman's class this year. The students worked with newcomer students during Resource.

**Spanish 2:** During one of their projects, one Spanish 2 class had the chance to ask questions in Spanish about Uruguay during a videoconference with one of the student's grandmother who resides there.



## 6th & 7th Grade History

This year in 6th grade history students celebrated Colonial America by holding an authentic Colonial Fair.



Students in 7th grade history made real world connections to Progressive Era inventions (1880 – 1920) by recreating the modern TV show, Shark Tank. Not only did students gain an appreciation and understanding of historical technological changes, they also developed skills needed to be successful entrepreneurs.



## Civics

An authentic, real-world civics lesson was presented by Senator Jennifer Boysko & Senator Barbara Favola.



"The National Junior Honor Society is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle level students. NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship." This year RBMS inducted 18 students into the NJHS.





# Music & Musical



## Chorus

~ Ten 6th grade students participated in LCPS All-County Chorus 2019: Ayoola Alabi, Imogen Burgess, Valery Gonzales, Thomas Kalka, Michelle Levesque, Sofia Lupas, Colleen MacGoy, London Meyer, Ryan Payton, Isabelle Ventura.

~ Five 7th and 8th grade students participated in LCPS All-District Chorus 2020:

7th grade: Allison Steinhardt, Jackson Lenz\*, Valeria Green

8th grade: Dominique Tacaraya, Annika Godston \*

(\* All-VA MS Honors Choir)

~ Select Ensemble RAVEN CHOIR sang the National Anthem at the Capital One Center for the Washington Wizards game.

~ 8th grade Chorus and PFHS Choirs share joint performances on the PFHS stage October 10, 2019.

## Beauty and the Beast



## Guitar

~ Meilani Hsu and Daniel Cherkasskiy were selected to represent RBMS at the All-County Guitar Festival.

~ The 8th grade guitar class participated in Skype sessions with master luthier, Jason Pickard, to discuss elements of design in building an electric guitar. Mr. Pickard took student ideas, using them in a custom electric guitar he is building for RBMS. Virtual lessons will continue in the spring as the guitar build progresses.

## Orchestra

~ October 2019: 8th grade Orchestra students and PFHS Orchestras shared a joint performance on the PFHS stage.

7th grade Orchestra attended a National Symphony Orchestra Concert at the Kennedy Center.

~ 8th grade Orchestra earned a superior rating at the Pre-Assessment Concert in February 2020.

~ Three students were selected to represent RBMS at All-County Orchestra: Micaela Perezous, Justin Lee, and Sydney Kish.

River Bend's largest production to date! With 88 cast members and over 30 tech crew, it was an exciting and adventurous undertaking. Every performance was sold out! Soaring to new heights, River Bend also offered a first ever in-school performance. The show received rave reviews.

## Band

~ Emmanuel Ampeh, Geethan Sundram, and Mrs. Reisman's class represented RBMS at the 2019 Young Composer's Festival at the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association Annual Conference.

~ Solomon Afewok, Charlie Lum, and Ryan Merritt represented RBMS at the 2020 VBODA District 16 All-District Band.

~ 8th grade Band received excellent feedback at the 2020 Pre-Assessment Concert at Potomac Falls High School.

## Family and Consumer Sciences

This year in FACS our 7th graders learned and practiced real life skills such as: public speaking, hand sewing, and money management. Students learned the basics of cooking while developing skills in measuring, reading recipes, and properly using kitchen tools and appliances. They also learned about laundry and nutrition.

8th grade Teen Living students enhanced their skills learned in FACS. Students cooked from scratch, made ingredient substitutions, and learned about nutrition and wellness. One of the highlights of our year was a community service project where students made lap quilts for residents of a local assisted living community.



## Tech Ed

8th grade Tech Ed students employed the central Project Based Learning (PBL) concept of voice and choice to complete projects that were meaningful to the immediate community. As an example, students repaired an exercise bicycle used in one of our 8th grade classrooms. This required implementation of troubleshooting, design, and engineering skills to rectify and rebuild a poorly designed original product.

Robotics students learned RobotC programming and principles of applied engineering to design, build, and program robots to solve a variety of challenges. Coding students explored block-based programming and ultimately transitioned to building programs with Python.

Other students were hard at work designing an outdoor "leave a book, take a book" mini library, reverse engineering and repairing a lawn tractor, building a programmable electric go-kart, designing and Computer Numerical Control machining electric guitars, 3D printing, prototyping with Arduino boards, navigating escape games, and building Radio Controlled aircraft. Tech Ed students were truly immersed in project-based learning experiences this year and learned many technical and workplace-readiness skills that will last a lifetime!

## Intro to Computer Applications

This year our 6th graders worked with CodeHS during the Hour of Code Week. Students were walked through a real-life educational opportunity showing them how to build a website. Students were also introduced to entrepreneurship. Working in groups, they designed their own business model for the Food Truck Project and created advertisements for their food truck business. They then composed and sent professional business correspondence to local food truck businesses inviting them to RBMS's annual STEAM Expo.

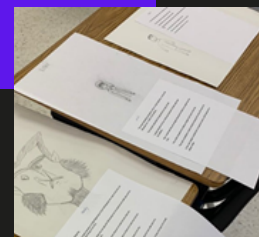
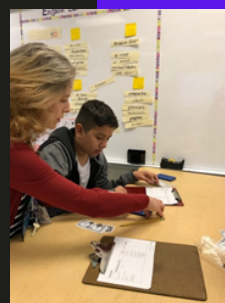


# Ravens Strengthening

## English Learners

During our PEP (Parents as Educational Partners) events, parents of our English Learners (EL) community learned how to be more involved at RBMS, allowing them to participate much more in their children's school life. Administrators, teachers, and parents united to work on behalf of our diverse learning community.

Newcomer and Intermediate English learners engaged in building language knowledge through several projects. Newcomers created a budget for buying school supplies and simulated a shopping experience to purchase those items. They also narrated their lives by the numbers in a video, and then presented it to other EL classes.



## Art

A variety of projects were completed including:

- ~ 8th grade reinterpreted parody master art with Beauty and the Beast characters, displayed in the hallways during the production in December 2019
- ~ Various clubs' creations of ceramic Raven magnets, glazing bowls, and four community pots that symbolized our 4 Sources of Strength
- ~ A decorated 8th grade display case honoring staff and their content area via student artwork and statements explaining the artwork's connection to the content area



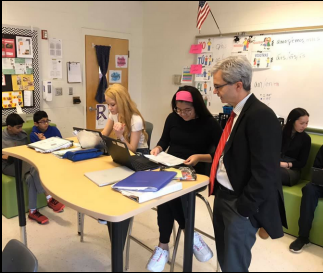
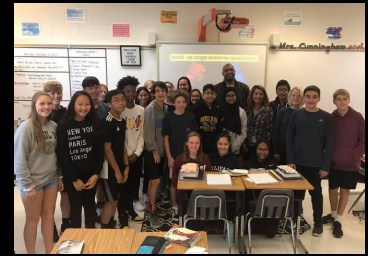
## Physical Education

RBMS hosted a Virtual Field Day during the week of May 4 - 8. All of the details were provided to students via Google Classroom and posted to social media using #LCPSFieldDay. A score sheet was also provided to go along with the activities. Ravens had fun and got their whole family involved.

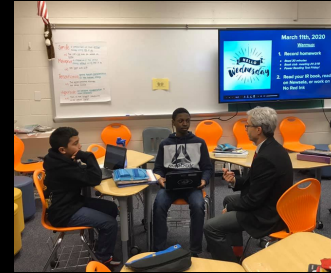


# Special Guests & Opportunities

**Kwame Alexander**, New York Times best-selling and Newbury Award winner, visited RBMS. As an author of poetry and children's fiction, he inspired our young writers. Thanks Kwame!



LCPS Superintendent, **Dr. Eric Williams**, stopped by to discuss project based learning with RBMS students and view our new modular classrooms.



A special "Thank You" to **The Same Sky Project** for their performance advocating for and promoting messages of empathy, inclusion, and acceptance in our community.



The Washington Redskins recognized LCPS.



## Washington Redskins ASPIRE

Thank you for inspiring some of our 7th grade girls at ASPIRE. "The ASPIRE initiative, created for 7th grade girls, focuses on inspiring, educating and building confidence in young women from Loudoun County and Fairfax County Public Schools. The initiative helps provide young women with information and inspiration to chart a course for success in their lives. "



# River Bend Earns RAMP Designation

River Bend Middle School will receive the Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) designation from the American School Counseling Association (ASCA) during the organization's annual conference scheduled for June in Seattle. The designation means that River Bend has made an exemplary commitment to comprehensive school counseling programs that support the academic, career, social and emotional needs of students. An extensive application-and-review process is conducted before awarding the designation.

## Student Honors and Awards

~ Thomas Kalka, a 6th grader, was a semi-finalist in the WTOP Junior Reporter Contest!

~ Congratulations to our students who participated in the National AMC 8 Math Competition with over 94,000 students competing nationwide!

1st place - Madhav Krishnaswamy

2nd place (tie) - Dhruv Anurag & Eason Ma

3rd place (tie) - Arjun Setty & Ryan Chung

Honor Roll Certificate for scoring in the top 5% Nationally - Madhav Krishnaswamy, Dhruv Anurag, & Eason Ma

Certificate of Achievement (6th grade and under who scored above 15) - Ryan Chung

~ Congratulations to RBMS students who ranked in the state and region in the Virginia Math League competition!

- 7th grade competition: 2nd place team in the state and region!

- 8th grade competition: 3rd place team in the state and region!

Dhruv Anurag and Eason Ma - 2nd place state (tie) and 2nd place region (tie)

~ ***Congratulations to all of our amazing Virginia Math League students!***

~ RBMS won 1st place in the regional Math Counts competition for the second year in a row!

~ Congratulations to our students who won awards at the National Noetic Math Competition! Our students competed against 5,000+ students from all over the country. National Honor Roll winners placed in the top 10% and National Honorable Mention placed in the top 50%.

~ VDOE News: State Superintendent Announces Computer Science in Your Neighborhood Competition Winners. Congratulations to Alora Powell for winning in Region 4!

~ Congratulations to our two River Bend Science Olympiad Teams who earned several medals in the Regional Science Olympiad Tournament.

~ Our RBMS team won 4th place in the Virginia Regional Science Bowl sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy!

## Staff Honors and Awards

~ David Shaffer nominated for the Washington Post Principal of the Year Award

~ Steven Weitlich nominated for the Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award

~ Elsa Duenas nominated for the Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award

~ Cristina Keeton nominated for the VMSA Teacher of the Year Award

~ Congratulations to Stephen Caviness on his National Board Certification.

~ Congratulations to Andrea Weiskopf who was selected to speak at the Virginia Foreign Language Association's Annual Conference.

~ Congratulations to Jessie Supervielle who became a published author. Jessie wrote and published a children's book, "The Gas Monster", with her husband.

## Business Partnerships

Bach to Rock  
Barakat Orthodontics  
Breathe with Jennie  
Burtons  
Cheesecake Factory  
Chick Fil-A  
Chick Fil-A Food Truck  
Choolah  
Deli Italiano  
Food Lion  
Fuel & Tire Saver

K&H Landscaping  
Kravitz Orthodontics  
Lake Center Dentistry  
LCPS Library  
Loudoun Ice Centre  
Lowe's Home Improvement  
Maid Brigade  
Mannix HVAC  
Mathnasium  
Micheline Queri & Associates  
Northrop Grumman

Nova SySTEMic  
Novastar Prep  
Oracle  
Papa Johns  
Potomac River Running  
Reston Shirt & Graphics  
Rick Jackomis, DDS  
Sarge Fitness  
Sportrock  
Top Nova Orthodontics  
Troxell  
TTM Technologies

## Student Government

President - John King  
Vice President - Carter Hendershot  
Treasurer - Mariam Tafwed  
Secretary - Emmett Tenhaeff  
Team Reps: Melinda Dean, Kysha Castillo, and  
Eliana Briceno

## Thank you to our PTA!

A special Thank You to our 2019-2020 River Bend  
PTA board members and volunteers. We appreciate  
your commitment to our students and staff.

