



RIVER BEND MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Sterling, VA 20165

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www.lcps.org/rbms

@RBMS_Official



2018-19

ANNUAL REPORT



Learning

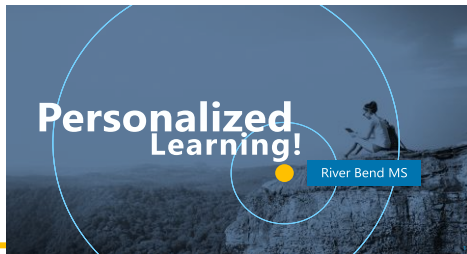
Diversity

Teamwork

High
Expectations

Community

Striving for Excellence



This year, teachers at River Bend Middle School had an opportunity to personalize their professional development and growth through our Passport to Professional Development (PD). The Passport to PD aligned with the 11 building blocks toward Deeper Learning that support the LCPS mission of empowering all students to make meaningful contributions to the world, as well as the goal of cultivating a high-performing team of professionals. Teachers were given voice and choice when it came to choosing the PD opportunities they wanted to pursue. As part of the Passport to PD, we held RBM 605 and RBM 606 book studies on innovative educational practices, and we created staff committees that directly supported the school community.



RBMS received its first designation as a Schools to Watch in 2010. Re-Designation I in

2013, Re-Designation II in 2016, and Re-Designation III in 2018.

RBMS was also recognized at the LCPS School Board Meeting, as well as the National Schools to Watch Conference and The Virginia Middle School Association Conference.



Restorative Practices Introduced at River Bend

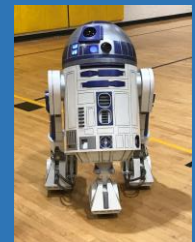
In early November, several River Bend staff members participated in a two-day Restorative Practices Workshop. Restorative Practices is an emerging social science that studies how to strengthen relationships between individuals as well as social connections within communities. Staff were trained on conducting restorative practice circles, as well as asking restorative questions to respond to challenging behaviors. The River Bend Counseling Department has been using Restorative Practice circles in their advisory lessons throughout the year addressing a variety of topics such as bullying prevention, compassion, and inclusion.



Striving for Excellence

Special Guests Visit the Bend

This was an exceptional year for the River Bend MS library. Along with our expected wonderful events to support literacy and learning, we hosted some extraordinary visitors. We were very proud to have the author of an extremely popular, award winning book, *Refugee* come to RBMS in October to do a presentation for our 6th & 8th grade students. Alan Gratz was very well received, and his books are now in great demand. We also were honored to host the authors of the "1 Book 1 Community" selection for LCPL, *All American Boys*, Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. These two authors gave a very powerful presentation to our 8th grade students. Additionally, we were able to provide several "Skype" visits with other authors throughout the year. Another special guest in our library this year was the Sterling Representative on the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Koran Saines. He came to speak to students about his career path in honor of African American History month. We are always happy to have inspiring individuals visit, but this year was special.



The River Bend Annual STEAM Expo was another successful community event this year! The highlight was a display of student work from Science, Technology Education, Robotics, Art, Mathematics, Coding, English, Health and PE, History, and Spanish classes. Students from River Bend Jazz Band, Steel Band, Raven Choir, and Midnight Quartet also performed musical numbers. There were several local business partnerships in attendance including the Loudoun County Public Library, Northrop Grumman, Nova SySTEMic, Troxell, Fuel and Tire Saver Systems Company, and Mathnasium, all promoting and supporting STEAM Education. Additionally, several businesses, such as Mathnasium, Bach to Rock Herndon, Novastar, and The Secret Garden Children's Theatre, donated raffles for free summer camps! We even had special visits from R2D2, a life-size, movable prop built by a River Bend family; and Bryce Hilliard, an 8th grade student at Farmwell Station Middle School and founder of Space Dreamers. The new River Bend mascot, Poe the Raven, also made an appearance to announce his new name! We look forward to continuing to host this event every year as a celebration of student work and to support STEAM education at River Bend Middle School!

Ravens Excelling



Things are looking up at River Bend, where students had to brave the fiery audition process, practice singing, dancing, and sometimes farting, in order, to produce Shrek The Musical JR. Actors learned to wave their freak flag, make a move, become morning people, and tell the story of their life. Together with the tech crew, they introduced the audience to this big bright beautiful world they created through 5 fantastic shows.



"The **National Junior Honor Society** is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle level students. More than just an **honor** roll, **NJHS** serves to **honor** those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship." This year RBM inducted 45 students into the NJHS.

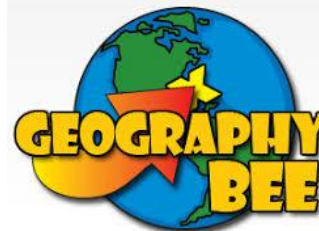


WINNER:

Grant Rippey



Congratulations to 7th grader, **Kulsum Dewji** on receiving a perfect score on the 2019 National Latin Exam! Over 22,000 students from the United States and 23 countries participated. Only 0.2% of students received a perfect score! **WOW!!!**



WINNER:

Dhruv Anurag



Classroom Highlights

Science

This year our students in 7th grade completed an Embryology Project. The Virginia Cooperative Extension provided each science classroom with seven fertilized chicken eggs. Our students learned about embryology and cared for the eggs for 3 weeks until they hatched.



Language Arts

During National Poetry Month in April, the 8th Graders studied, read, and wrote poetry in a unit entitled "Poetry with a Conscience". After exposure to a wide variety of poetry, the students focused on a specific poem as their "borrowed inspiration", and the results were truly impressive. The finished products were beautiful, powerful, and inspiring! The poems were displayed during the STEAM Expo at RBMS allowing parents, students, and staff members to share in this.



Spanish

Ms. Keeton's Spanish 1 classes have enjoyed a cross-cultural partnership with a school in Pereira, Colombia. They exchanged hand-written letters via FedEx, posted Flip grid video exchanges, and participated in a Skype conference call. The students have done an amazing job-sharing information about themselves, their school, and their community. The students in Colombia have loved learning about the United States and have shown us what their school looks like and what their favorite restaurants are in their town.



Spectrum Celebrates

Diversification is key to wise investing! Congratulations to Alfredo Casta, Peyton Moyer and Cole Brooks for earning 2nd place in the Regional Stock Market Game! Thank you to Kate Scott from the Center for Economic Education at George Mason University for visiting the 8th grade during 3rd block and celebrating success with our Spectrum class!



History

U.S. Representative Jennifer Wexton of Virginia's 10th congressional district stopped by the Bend in response to our 6th grade students Mock Congress project on writing bills.



Student & Staff Accomplishments

Student Accomplishments

Raadiya Emran (6th), Johnny Opiola (7th), Jalen Bagues (8th)
– Ben Lacy Leadership Award

Saurav Sukumaran- 2019 Sterling Ruritan Outstanding Student of the Year

Caroline Blake & Gavin Griffith - \$50 Sterling Lion's Club Scholastic Achievement Award and Certificate

Landon Linn- Malone Award for Art

Riti Liu –Malone Award for Math

Riley Freck –Malone Award for Music

Paul Holden –Malone Award for Science

Saurav Sukumaran –The Prudential Spirit of America Award

Izzie Salzmänn – Young Writer's Competition (Southeast Region) Honorable Mention for Poetry

Angelica Franco Brito – Young Writer's Competition (Southeast Region) Gold Key for Poetry

Lily Rossi – Young Writer's Competition (Southeast Region) Gold Key for Dramatic Script & the Gold Medal for Scholastic Young Writers

Ethan McCarney – First place in the District Elks Essay Competition

RAVENS of the Year

6th grade – **Bella Reuss, Matthew Salazar, Micaela Perezous, Edgar (Camilo) Ramirez, Sarah Chung, & Grayson Brennan**

7th grade – **Jayne Malling, Edgar Chavez, Nadia Herritt, Risad Ilham, Melody Guo, & Adam Hurlich**

8th grade – **Emmaline Angerer, Ryan Kidwell, Cailin Flatla, Alfredo Casta, Saba Banaii, & Gavin Ballard**

Student Government

President: Nathan Hargreaves

Vice President: Quentin Picconi

Secretary: Anna Vayo

Treasurer: Tiffany Manu

Staff Accomplishments

Madeline Davis – President of the Loudoun Association of School Librarians, Recognition for Constitution Week from the Daughters of the American Revolution

Mark Edwards – Recipient – National Endowment for the Arts Grant to perform 6 concerts at middle schools in Montgomery County in partnership with the National Philharmonic. Headline performer – Baltimore Composers Forum Concert, premiering 4 new pieces. Album release – *Fairytale*, original compositions by Mark Lackey, with DJ.

Rachel Binger – Chair of LCPS ALL-District Chorus and assistant conductor of The City Choir of Washington for the 2018-2019 season

Scott Plucker - Washington Post Teacher of the Year Nominee

Dave Shaffer – 2018 Loudoun County's 40 under 40, 2018 K12-JMU Partnership Award, 2018-2019 Virginia Middle School Association's Educator of the Year



Congratulations to our Advanced Math Team for winning the VAML "Highest Team Achievement" Award!



Happenings at the Bend

2nd Annual RBMS 5K/Fun Run

The River Bend Middle School physical education department, along with the SGA, hosted the 2nd annual 5k fun run. There were roughly 60 participants from ages 10 to 62 who ran and walked the course that took place on both RBMS and PFHS property.



A special thank you to these business partnerships for their help in sponsoring the race!



Redskins Charitable Foundation ASPIRE Summit

"The ASPIRE event provided girls with the opportunity to learn about the importance of their physical health, emotional health, and offer ideas for building self-confidence, gaining a positive body image, and more."



Battle of the Books	Nature Club	World Language Club
Cross Country Club	Pop Strings	Yoga Club
Divide & Conquer Club	Potomac Pans	
Drama Club	Raven Choir	
Dungeons & Dragons Club	Raven Jazz	
FCA	River Bend Jazz	
Flag Football	Running Club	
Leo Club	Sewing & Quilting Club	
Library Club	Volleyball Club	

Congratulations to the RBMS Music Department!!

They have earned **BLUE RIBBON** status!



Congratulations to **Deanna Hornsby & Kelly Koroma** for their "I Care" project as part of the Step Up Loudoun Youth Competition!



Music Department

CHORUS

LCPS All-County Chorus 2018

6th grade – Isabella Reuss, Trent Chemezov, Natalia Morales, Lily Kuebler, Rachel Kidwell, Jackson Lenz, Natalie Brown, Angelina McMahan, Arisha Zulfikar, Allison Steinhardt

LCPS All-District Chorus 2019

7th grade - Dominique Tacaraya, Annika Godston
8th grade - Miriam Aslam, Riley Freck, Indira Langhum, Ani Dykes, Kyla Harper, Myriam Elmi

*Riley Freck (8th) represented RBM at the **ACDA National Jr. High Honors Choir** in Kansas City, MO in February.

All-VA MS Honors Choir – Annika Godston (7th), Miriam Aslam (8th), Ani Dykes (8th). These young ladies represented RBM in Richmond, VA in April 2019.

*Select Ensemble RAVEN CHOIR received a SUPERIOR rating at the **LCPS District XVI Choral Assessment**.

* RAVEN CHOIR sings the “National Anthem” at the Capital One Center for the Washington Wizards game in March 2019.

*8th grade Chorus members and PFHS Choirs share joint performance on the PFHS stage in October 2018.

*Special Concert Performances include: Holiday Celebration, Reston Town Center, & Busch Gardens.



ORCHESTRA

*8th grade orchestra earned a superior rating at their assessment this year.

*Kate Sheppard (8th, viola) represented RBMS in the **All County Orchestra** and the **Junior Regional Orchestra**.



GUITAR

*The 8th grade guitar ensemble earned a superior rating at their assessment this year.

*The following students represented RBMS at the **All County Guitar Festival**: Chase Tollefson (7th grade), Matthew Levi (8th grade), Katherine Nolasco (8th grade), Angelica Franco Brito (8th grade), Donovan McLean (8th grade), Evelyn Johnston (8th grade)

*Angelica Franco Brito (8th grade) won 3rd place at the **Aguado Guitar Festival**

*The 8th grade guitar class continued to maintain the RBMS Guitar program **YouTube channel** with 4 new videos of performance and instructional videos.

*Only two 8th grade guitarists were accepted to **PAVANE** this summer and both came from River Bend.

BAND

*8th grade band earned a superior rating at their assessment this year.

*The following students represented RBMS at the **All District Band** event:

Ryan Kidwell (8th, alto saxophone), Grace LaFrancois (8th, euphonium), Leanne Rogers (8th, trumpet), Isabella Salzmänn (8th, clarinet), Jia Kan Choo (8th, clarinet).

*The following students represented **RBMS at All District Jazz**: Ryan Kidwell (8th, alto saxophone – first chair), and Brandon Amdahl (8th, trombone – second chair).

*The following students represented RBMS at the **Young Composers Festival**: Emmanuel Ampeh (8th) and Ryan Kidwell (8th).



This Year at the Bend...



A special Thank You to our awesome 2018-2019 River Bend PTA board members and volunteers. We could not have done it without you. Thank you for your commitment to our students and for making this a wonderful school year.

Business Partnerships

Bach 2 Rock, Herndon
Barakat Orthodontics
Burtons
Cheesecake Factory
Chick-Fil-A
Chuys
Food Lion
Fuel & Tire Saver Systems Co.
George Mason University
Giant, Sterling
K & H Landscaping
Kravitz Orthodontics

Lake Center Dentistry
Loudoun County Public Library
Maid Brigade
Mannix HVAC
Mathnasium
Michelinea Queri & Assoc.
Northrup Grumman
Nova SySTEMic
Novastar Prep
NVCC
Orangetheory Fitness
Papa Johns

Potomac River Running
Rick Jackonis, DDS
Space Dreamers
Space Telescope
Science Institute
Tart Lumber
The Secret Garden
Children's Theatre
TopNova Orthodontics

ART



This year RBM students participated in the Virginia Association of Pupil Transportation. This year's theme was "Red Lights Mean Stop." Emily Poma Quiroga won first place and Daliah Minkara won second place. Both young ladies won monetary awards for their creative efforts and their posters are heading to Richmond to represent the state in the National School Bus Safety Week Poster Contest.



Congratulations to K&H Landscaping for receiving a Loudoun School Business Partnership Award for their partnership with River Bend Middle School!



Congratulations to the students and coaches who finished 1st in the region and 3rd in the county.

Congratulations Ethan McCarney!



First place in the District Elks Essay Competition



Congratulations Class of 2023!!

First 8th grade picnic picture!

