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RICHMOND CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RTC Welding Students Create Four Doors for the Charlie Thomas Bike Repair Shop Project

Bob Argabright, one of the owners of the Charlie Thomas Bike Repair Shop Project in Richmond, asked the RTC Welding students to create four doors for his bike repair shop. The Charlie Thomas Bike Repair Shop Project was started by Charlie Thomas and Bob Argabright with the purpose of engaging children in the Oak Grove-Bellemeade community in repairing their bikes, promoting community service, and promoting bicycling in the community.

Argabright and Thomas have been collecting and repairing bikes to be given to the children in the Oak Grove – Bellemeade community. There have been over 450 bikes distributed to date. This bike repair shop will be stocked with parts, tools, bike stands and other supplies and is open on the weekends. The young bike riders and adults are taught to repair their bikes and can pay for their parts by doing community service in the park adjacent to the shop.

Danny Ekstrom's welding students designed and fabricated two doors with a bike theme for the front of the shop and two plain doors for the back. The students worked on the whole job from beginning to end, starting with the design, approval, quotes for the steel, and the build.



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Stakeholders of Richmond Technical Center,

I want to thank you for your continued support of our school. I have enjoyed meeting many of you at our Open House held at the beginning of the school year and at our parent/teacher conferences held in November of 2017 and in March of 2018. Many of you have stopped by at other times for surprise visits and we appreciate and welcome that.

Over the summer vacation, I will be working with colleagues to put into place a smooth opening to the new academic year and setting the priorities to build upon the successes of the school so that we can improve still further. We should always seek to do better and to challenge ourselves and our students to set the highest standards in achieving our ambitious goals.

For those who are graduating and moving to the next phase in life, I am proud of your successes this 2017-2018 school year, and have no doubt that you will continue to excel in your academic and career pursuits.

Best regards,

Jonathan Mitchum
Assistant Principal
Richmond Technical Center



PLC Students Take “The Write Stuff” Tour at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

On February 22, 2018, the English classes in the Performance Learning Center (PLC) at RTC took a field trip to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA). The students practiced their skills in literary techniques, such as similes, imagery, and metaphors, to describe the works of art in the 21st century and modern galleries. After the docent-led tour, the students enjoyed lunch in the museum cafeteria.



School to Work Program: J'kwan Pryor

Graduating senior J'kwan Pryor already has a job. Through RTC's partnership with Goodwill Industries, J'kwan has been punching the timeclock since February 2018. He's one of the many behind-the-scenes workers who help get the donated goods from the backdoor into the retail area where customers eagerly sort through the ever-changing merchandise looking for everyday necessities and the occasional treasure. From the start, supervisors have commended J'kwan for the steady pace he maintains while working in the apparel and shoe departments. They are proud of his hard steady work, and they note that he continues to get even faster and more efficient as he gains experience. He competes with himself to beat his own personal best; right now he can sort, label, and hang 100 items of clothing in 1.5 hours. He finds that the work is building the muscles in his arms and makes him appreciate his break times. Now that he is earning his own money, he can pay for his own vending machine snacks, which adds to his growing sense of independence.



J'kwan enjoys the camaraderie of his supervisors and co-workers, especially that of Angel and Ricky, two friends from his soon to be alma mater, Huguenot High School. He finds that having a job gives his life structure and direction, particularly now that he is leaving the daily schedule and routines of school behind. He has immensely enjoyed his Graphic Arts class at RTC, which calls for a blend of technology skills and creativity. Creativity and the arts have played a big part in J'kwan's life. He is a five year veteran of SPARC, taking afterschool classes in dance and theater performance. Most Saturdays find him rehearsing for SPARC's annual mega-performance, The Live Art concert, with its cast of 200 students of all abilities and nationally known recording artists. It is one of Richmond's favorite and most anticipated performances, usually selling out weeks beforehand. J'kwan also draws in his spare time and looks forward to doing more of that in place of homework.



The School to Work Grant, currently serving Huguenot and George Wythe High School students, helps students transition from school to the world of work by finding placements for them in a variety of businesses. For example, The Clothes Rack trains students to prepare clothes for resale; VCU Dining Services trains students to clean tables and chairs, and to refill condiments; Imperial Plaza trains students in their dining room to set tables for residents' meals, fill butter dishes and creamers, and place flowers and condiments on each table. Like Goodwill, these businesses support the effort to help students transition from school to adulthood and independence. As we can see from J'kwan's success, the relationship between employer and employee is reciprocal: both students and businesses end up as winners.

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GRASP Awards RTC Students \$19,500 in Scholarships for 2017-2018 School Year



During the 2017-2018 school year at the Richmond Technical Center, the GRASP Advisor, Mr. Howard Price, while assisting students and parents with Financial Aid Forms, searching for scholarships and exploring colleges, was able to see 152 individual students and 807 students during classroom visitations.

Congratulations to the deserving students for their accomplishments. The student recipients of the scholarships and awards will be recognized during special award ceremonies on May 24th and May 25th.

The scholarship recipients are:

- Clin-Ton Spell-Baker** - \$1,000 Last Dollar Scholarship
- Fredrick Towler** - \$1,000 Last Dollar Scholarship
- Dequan Randolph** - \$500 Last Dollar Scholarship
- Zippora Cardwell** - GRASP 2+2 Scholarship - Valued at \$8,000
- Kelis Smith** - GRASP 2+2 Scholarship - Valued at \$8,000
- Destiny Pleasant** - \$1,000 Grasp Virginia Tech Scholarship



Clin-Ton Spell-Baker, PLC student from John Marshall HS, a recipient of the \$1,000 Last Dollar Scholarship

PLC Students at RTC Travel to Virginia State Capitol and Virginia Supreme Court for Rule of Law Field Trip

During the Rule of Law field trip on March 29th, 2018, students from middle and high schools in Richmond went to the State Capitol to hear speeches from city and state leaders as well as judges from various judicial levels. PLC students from RTC sat down for a round table discussion with lawyers and law enforcement officers on the case of a student kneeling during a football game. Then, the students went to the State Supreme Court, where some students were selected to be student justices to hear the case argued by real prosecutors. Then the student justices decided the case.



PLC student, Starr Jackson, center, (John Marshall HS) at the Virginia Supreme Court

PLC Student, Nadine Pope, Inducted into National Technical Honor Society

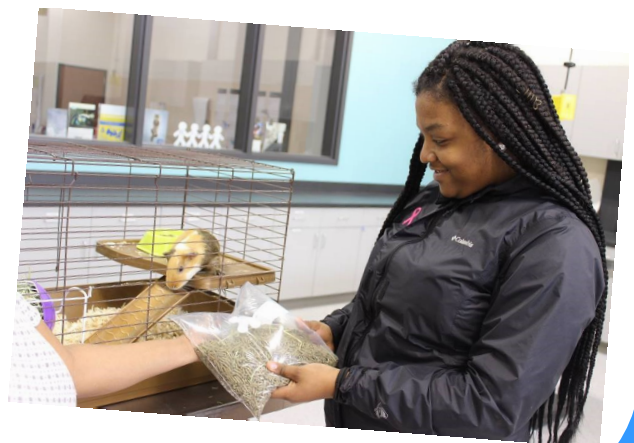
PLC student, Nadine Pope, from John Marshall High School, was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society on January 12, 2018. Nadine is receiving an advanced diploma from JMHS in June of 2018. Nadine is interested in becoming a youth mentor and will be majoring in Business Management at Bryant & Stratton College, fall of 2018. Nadine's interests include playing basketball, writing, drawing, and listening to music. Nadine says, "My main interest is learning. Education is something that no one can take from you, so I cherish that, and I also cherish the opportunity to attend the Performance Learning Center this year."



Animal Care During Spring Break



Students in RTC's Small Animal Care and Veterinary Science classes (with parental permission) assumed the responsibility of caring for the program's animals at their own homes during Spring Break. Love Smith, a sophomore at Huguenot HS and a member of FFA, is tending to guinea pig Niko. Takira Ulmer, a senior at John Marshall HS, took care of Gus and Wazowski, both gerbils.



FFA Students Donate 80 Pounds of Produce to the Peter Paul

On April 16th and 17th, Carter Humphries and her students spent two days harvesting, weighing, and packaging over 80 pounds of produce that the students planted earlier this year. They traveled to Peter Paul Development Center (PPDC) on April 18th where RTC students handed out information to recipients along with RTC freshly grown and harvested produce. The few plants left over were donated to two different community gardens in the area. Additional plants were also donated to the third grade student garden at PPDC where students are responsible for nurturing the plants.



FFA Students Travel to Virginia Tech on May 2nd

On May 2, 2018, Richmond Technical Center's Construction and Agriculture Cluster, comprised of 38 students and 5 adults, traveled to Virginia Tech for a cluster field trip. There were three different groups within the cluster: Construction, Animal Science, and Horticulture.

After enjoying the all-you-can-eat buffet in D2 Dining Hall, the students split up to learn more about their prospective fields of interest. The animal science students gathered at the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena to hear from animal science student ambassadors. Afterwards, they toured the various barn areas where students saw cattle, horses, and sheep. Currently, one of the presidential turkeys pardoned by former President Obama and one of the presidential turkeys pardoned by President Trump are housed at Virginia Tech.

Students enjoyed taking their pictures with the turkeys and petting them. Students were also able to visit Virginia-Maryland Regional Veterinary School and see various parts of the campus, including classrooms, dorms, and student-life buildings.

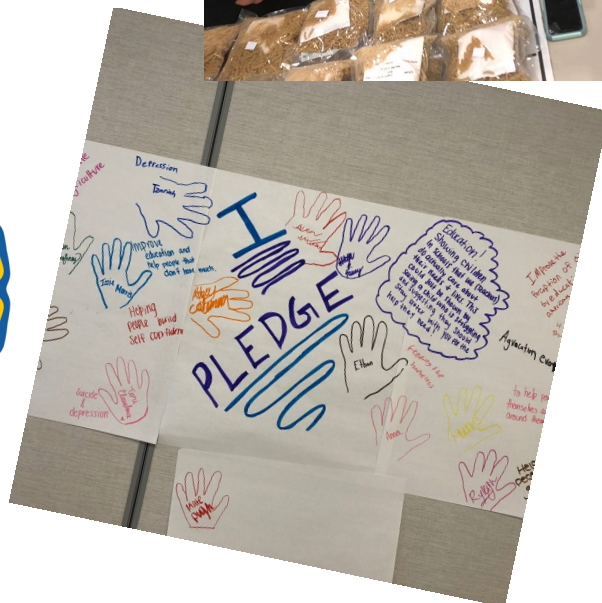
The construction students teamed up with the horticulture students to visit Lane Stadium (the football stadium) where they learned about turf-grass management, explored the locker rooms, and discussed the daily care of the stadium. Before heading to the greenhouses located beside the Hahn gardens, they met up with Sam Doak from the Agriculture Technology 2-year program, Jen Stewart from Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences, and Alex Niemiera from Horticulture. They talked to the students about the endless career possibilities in each field of study.

Afterwards, students toured the greenhouses which are filled with an amazing diversity of tropical plants. The animal science students finished their activities just in time to join the horticulture and construction group for a walking tour of the Hahn gardens. The garden director led the group on a guided walk and spoke about the plants, fish ponds, and related Virginia Tech programs. All students thoroughly enjoyed the adventure to Virginia Tech and walked away with experiences they will not soon forget.



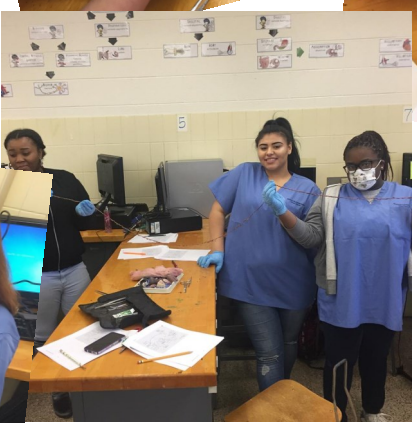
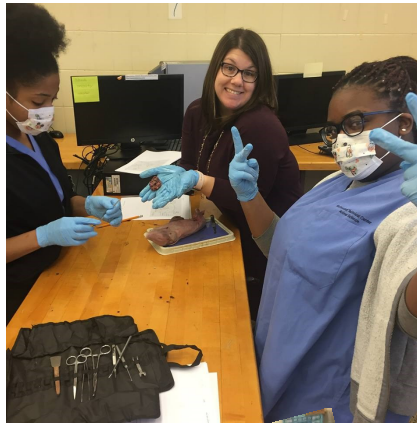
Two FFA Students from Ms. Humphries' Class Travel to Virginia

On February 4th, 2018, Israel (Izzie) Morris and Karolin Valdez hopped in the car with Mrs. Humphries to head to Staunton, Virginia for a weekend filled with professional development. While Mrs. Humphries attended the Virginia Association of Agricultural Educators (VAAE) conference on her own, Izzie and Karolin spent their weekend with current and past Virginia Future Farmers of America (FFA) State Officers and lead FFA adviser, Brandon Monk. Students shared a room with FFA members from all over the state of Virginia. Students did not spend much time in their hotel rooms, but instead made connections with others and worked on personal development techniques through various leadership workshops held at Blue Ridge Community College. While Izzie and Karolin were a little apprehensive at first, both later remarked that everyone was so open-minded and kind-hearted, that digging deep into their personal lives to develop their leadership skills was comforting. Students were able to embody FFA's motto "Living to Serve" by working with Meals of Hope to provide almost 25,000 meals to those in need in the local community. Over the course of the weekend, students not only developed their leadership skills, but pledged to be better versions of themselves and live out the mission, motto, and creed of the FFA. FFA's Motto is: Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.



Animal Care and Veterinary Science Students Pair Up to Learn About Pig Dissections in February

Carter Humphries and Rachel Edwards teamed up in a cross-curriculum effort to compare and contrast the human body to that of a fetal pig. While students were not thrilled at the idea of dissecting fetal pigs, they quickly overcame their nerves and fears once they started cutting. Students were amazed at the similarities between humans and pigs. The information they had been learning in class had been brought to life. Students explored everything the pig had to offer; this included the cardiovascular, respiratory, endocrine, reproductive, nervous, integumentary, digestive, excretory, immune, muscular, and skeletal systems. Afterwards, students shared their excitement with their family, friends, and teachers. In fact, students enjoyed the activity so much, they are asking, "What we will be dissecting next?"



RTC's FFA Chapter Received \$3,000 Living to Serve Grant



Richmond Technical Center's FFA Chapter received a \$3,000 "Living to Serve" grant for the 2017-2018 school year. The grant project focuses on health, hunger, nutrition, and urban food deserts. Partners for this grant include FeedMore, Peter Paul Development Center, and Virginia Cooperative Extension. The animal science students and instructors have worked with the Horticulture instructor, Scott Burrell, and his students to increase RTC's gardening area of production. Throughout the year, FFA students worked diligently in the garden by tilling the soil, planting the seeds, watering the plants, fertilizing as needed, and harvesting the final product. Two events were held at the Peter Paul Development Center, one in December and one in April, where freshly harvested produce was distributed to participants. Potted produce in-

cluding lettuce, mustard greens, parsley, spinach, and kale were also distributed amongst the participants. In addition to the distribution of produce, students also conducted educational activities that teach healthy living. As a result, the students have come to appreciate how a healthy lifestyle supports their individual success. Students have also gained a better understanding of what "Living to Serve" means to them.

Animal Care Students Make Homemade Dog Treats to Donate to Local Animal Shelters



The RTC Animal Care students made 130 bags of homemade dog treats to donate to animal shelters in the City of Richmond, Henrico County, and Amelia County during the Christmas holiday.



Veterinary Science Students Learn About Embryology

Batreda Raditsas's Veterinary Science and Introduction to Animal Systems classes did a lesson on embryology, avian anatomy, and reproduction. For this lesson, they incubated Silkie chicken eggs and watched them develop through candling. The RTC Veterinary Science students were able to hatch two healthy baby chicks named Peep and Mumble. They are excited to have them as a part of the RTC family. They will be available in a few weeks to go to a loving home.



Small Animal Care Welcomes a Bearded Dragon and Ferrets to the Classroom



Horticulture Students Beautify RTC Campus, Grow Fresh Produce, Donate to City of Richmond Community

By the time students arrive in high school, what are teachers thinking about? Teachers like Scott Burrell, RTC's horticulture, landscaping, and greenhouse management instructor, and Charles Watson, RTC's Career Specialist, think about skills and jobs. To that end, they negotiated with The Enrichmond Foundation to secure two paid internship opportunities for seniors Destiny Pleasant, who has been accepted to Virginia Tech and was awarded a \$20,000 scholarship, and Robyn Sledge, who has already been working in the field of landscaping. Destiny and Robyn were placed with The Tree Lab, the plant production facilities of Enrichmond, a non-profit that has been serving the people, parks, and public spaces of Richmond for over 25 years. Growing plants is a great career path, as well as an opportunity to engage in community service.

A game changer for the horticulture and landscaping program this school year has been a \$3,000 Living to Serve grant awarded by the National Future Farmers of America Organization. The grant money underwrote student efforts to raise a variety of spring vegetables for Richmond's FeedMore, to expand the size of RTC's vegetable garden, and to acquire raised planter boxes. Not only were students able to donate 80 pounds of fresh greens to those living in Richmond's food deserts, but they also disseminated vegetable plants with instructions on how to raise them in a home garden or container.

Lastly, please visit the area adjacent to the greenhouse where you'll find the atmosphere calm and restful. The newly installed waterfall and goldfish pond complex is the result of a collaborative learning project between the landscaping students and Carl Coles' carpentry classes. The carpentry students also built and contributed a new cold frame in which to overwinter plants. Many thanks to Mr. Coles and class!



Horticulture Students Benefit from the Largesse of VSU and Lucky Roots

Schoolyear 2017--2018 saw the re-construction of an aquaculture unit (thanks to one of our many generous volunteers, Arthur Kay, owner of Createspace) to raise both fish and plants. Virginia State University donated 30 bluegill fish, a native "table food" fish often found in ponds, but also a breed of fish that can thrive in a 300 gallon tank. In addition, the good folks at Lucky Roots, a local hydroponics shop (hydroponics means growing plants in water without any soil) donated boxes of nutrients for the hydroponic strawberries and vegetables raised by RTC students.



RTC Career Learning Experiences



Each of our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs provides some type of workbased learning opportunity that enhances the theories and practices of the classroom by exposing the students to real world experiences. Students find these career experiences not only exciting but helps to validate their career pathways.

Clinical Experience is a form of cooperative educa-

tion for health and medical sciences students where students shadow employers while they are performing their work. Some twenty plus Emergency Medical Technician students and Nursing Assistant students involve themselves in extensive clinical experiences with our wonderful partners, Richmond Ambulance Authority and Beth Sholom Lifecare Community.



BETH SHOLOM
A LIFECARE COMMUNITY



Internships gain hands-on experience in a particular industry or occupation related to their career interests, abilities, and goals by working along with the employees. We are excited that two of our Precision Machine Technology students, Jalal Hamdard and Elias Pindea are participating in a paid CNC Machining Internship at the Rolls Royce-Crosspointe. The Rolls-Royce Crosspointe facility in Virginia is a center of excellence for the manufacture of precision-engineered engine components for some of the most advanced aircraft in the world. Upon successful completion of the internship, they may be offered a Rolls-Royce position as a Registered Apprentice in the summer 2018. With a Rolls-Royce internship in CNC Machining, they will be able to develop skills and gain practical experience within a world-class organization - giving them an excellent platform for a successful future.

Job Shadowing is a short-term, career-exploration form of worksite experience in which the student "shadows" a competent worker and asks questions about the industry. Bon Secours allowed our Sports Medicine students to shadow their Athletic trainers at the games held in the Richmond Public High Schools- Armstrong, George Wythe, Thomas Jefferson and Huguenot.



BON SECOURS
VIRGINIA HEALTH SYSTEM
Bon Secours Health System, Inc.

Youth (Student) Apprenticeships are designed to lead and train students directly into an entry-level job for highly skilled technicians, a registered apprenticeship, or a postsecondary program. This past year we had four of our Automotive Body and Technology students work in our Richmond Public Schools' Department of Transportation Garage to ensure our school buses were safe and operational. These students are Lamar Blackwell, Keivonte Thomas, Isaiah Fairley and Ryan Sanders.



National FFA Week February 19-23

National FFA Week is typically held the third week of February; this year it was held from February 19th-23rd. FFA students from the animal science and horticulture programs joined together in a week of celebration for their student organization. Kicking FFA Week on with a bang and in celebration of the Olympics, students participated in RTC's very own version of the "Ag Olympics" which tested their physical and mental skills. Virginia FFA State Officers and advisers visited in conjunction with Virginia's National Local Program Success Specialist, Karen Hutchison, for an hour of activities that exemplified this year's motto: "I can, we will." Later in the week, students cleaned up trash on the campus grounds and made cards for local veterans, including a card for our very own animal science instructor, Batreda Raditsas. Throughout the week students also participated in various teambuilding activities to live out FFA's motto: Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.



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