

IMPORTANT DATES:**AUG 6-8— New student orientation****Aug 20—First day of school****Feb 1— Project Forum**

RVGS Newsletter

June 2024



Counselor's Corner

Congratulations on completing 2023-2024! Summer is a time for reconnecting with family and friends and for rest, relaxation, and recreation. I urge you all to enjoy this time and allow yourself the opportunity for rejuvenation. That being said, remember that many courses have a summer assignment. I encourage you to not wait until the last minute to begin working on them. This will just cause stress and fatigue as you start your new school year. Instead, manage your time wisely and complete the work after a short break rather than putting it off to the end.

I will continue to be in the office through June 14th and will return on July 22nd. If you need me during that gap of time, I will still periodically check my email, or you can reach out to Mr. Levy. See you in August!

-Kathy Sebolt

JUNIOR JUMP

RVGS juniors from both the AM and PM sessions participated in the “Junior Jump” on Friday, May 24th at Apple Ridge Farms. Students from 9th-11th grade attend RVGS on different schedules (AM vs. PM), and finally come together for AM classes together as Seniors. The “Junior Jump” is a chance for our rising Seniors to have a ‘get-to-know-you” mingle.



The students in attendance completed a low ropes course, featuring 18 stations. The stations include hands-on activities that highlight necessity of teamwork, how to develop those skills, and how to apply them in real life situations. Activities included traversing between 3 platforms using wooden planks and balancing on ropes through an obstacle course of trees. Students were also able to utilize the Climbing tower and observation deck to enjoy the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. By the end of the day, the students were well on their way to building new friendships to start their Senior years.



Message from the Director

It's hard to believe we have reached the end of this school year! It doesn't seem long ago that our new first year students were getting oriented to life at RVGS and our seniors were thinking about college applications instead of graduation. 2023-24 has been a great year and that success comes from the commitment of our amazing students, teachers, and community members. Thanks to each of you for making RVGS the special place that it is.

In particular, I'd like to take a moment to highlight some people who are critical to making RVGS possible—leadership and admin from our 8 participating school divisions. Without their commitment to our shared mission, the students wouldn't have the opportunity to attend. Please take any opportunity you have to thank your district's Board representative, Superintendent, or other district leaders for the opportunities RVGS provides. In particular, I'd like to recognize our out-going RVGS Regional Board Chair, Mark Cathey, for his many years of service and leadership.

I wish each of you a safe and relaxing summer!



Virginia State Science & Engineering Fair

Budding scientists and engineers with a 1st place finish at the Western Virginia or Central Virginia Regional Science Fairs were awarded the opportunity to advance to the 2024 Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair (VSSEF) on April 13th at Old Dominion University's College of Sciences and Batten College of Engineering. More than 220 students from across the Commonwealth of Virginia presented their projects that showcased their aptitude in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Co-sponsors for the event was Leidos and American Electric Power Foundation which helped to provide the grand prize winners with an all-expenses paid trip to attend the international competition, Regeneron ISEF. The RVGS Lab Rats were well represented at the fair and won an exception number of awards. RVGS was a top school for Regional districts and in terms of individual schools for 1st/2nd/3rd place awards. The following Lab Rats and their projects received awards:



Category Place Awards

1st place, Plant Sciences – **Josephine Eaton**

2nd place, Animal Sciences – **Emma Baldwin and Dorothy Myers**

2nd place, Microbiology – **Diya Reddy**

3rd place, Plant Sciences – **Hannah Mizuba and Kane Reczek**

3rd place, Robotics, Software & Embedded Systems – **Will Henderson and Chase Noel**

Special Awards

Association for Women Geoscientists – **Claire McCahill**

American Water Works Association 1st place - **Claire McCahill**

Grand Award/ISEF Trip – Josephine Eaton

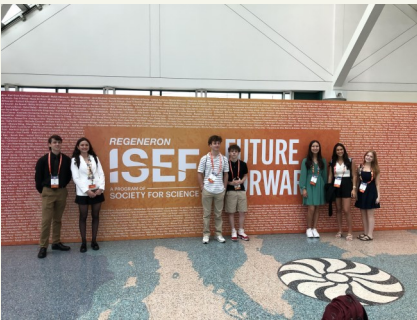




Regeneron ISEF 2024, the world's largest pre-college STEM competition, took place from May 11-17 in Los Angeles, California, at the Los Angeles Convention Center. This year RVGS had an outstanding 7 students and 4 projects qualify to compete. The teams of:

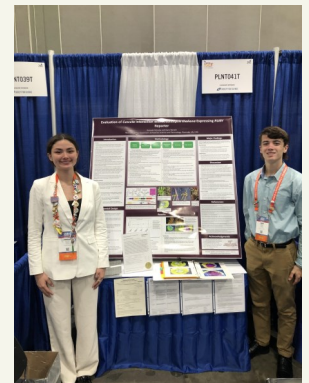
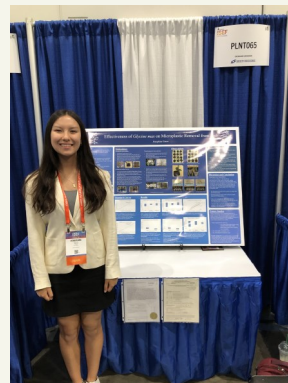
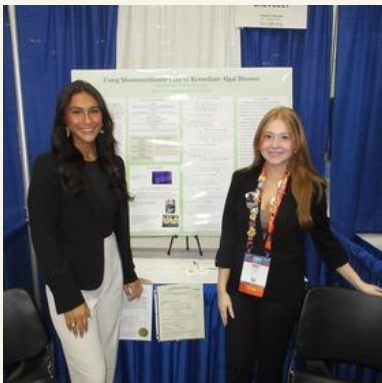


Laila Alam/Emily Duncan, Kane Reczek/Hannah Mizuba and Chase Noel/Will Henderson were the Grand Award-winning projects from the Western Virginia Regional Science Fair. Josephine



Eaton qualified for her Grand Award/1st place at the Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair. The week started with students setting up their projects followed by a much-anticipated student pin exchange. Students could also participate in the STEM College and Career Fair. RVGS took a break from

project judging with trips to the Santa Monica Pier and the Griffith Observatory. A trip highlight was to Universal Studios for an ISEF only evening in at the Park. The busy week came to end with the Special Award and Regeneron ISEF Grand Awards Ceremony. The group was able to celebrate the 4th place award to **Kane Reczek and Hannah Mizuba in Plant Sciences**. Great job Lab Rats!





Senior Awards and Events



It has been a busy few week for our RVGS Seniors. The Senior Sunset was held on April 26th. Students enjoyed cornhole, spike ball, a firepit and of course SMORES! It was a lovely evening of music, food and friendship. Then on May 6th, the senior class, their families, the Governor's School's faculty, and RVGS Board and Foundation members all came together at Hotel Roanoke to celebrate our graduates. Special Senior awards were announced including Distinguished Research Scholars and Faculty Awards. The Alfred D. Blease Memorial Awards for Student Leadership and Service were awarded to Keaton Lucas and Annika Plunkett. Students received their senior pins while their self-submitted proudest accomplishments were read. Finally on May 15th, it was time for the Senior Breakfast. Senior students took the reins and planned a delicious breakfast buffet. The morning would not have been complete without the much-anticipated Senior Faculty Roast where students highlighted each teacher's personality and quirks, real or perceived. It has been a great time to honor our Seniors and wish them a bright future!



2024 SENIOR CLASS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The 51 graduating Seniors of the RVGS class of 2024 certainly had much to celebrate. The RVGS class of 2024 will be attending 24 different colleges. The most popular destinations this year are Virginia Tech (16 students) and the University of Virginia (10 students).

Students were offered over \$3.7 million in scholarships.

We will miss these amazing students next year. Remember -we always love when students come back to visit and share all their new adventures!



Congratulations Class of 2024!



Mariam Abdelmalak- Virginia Tech
Laila Alam-University of Virginia
Evelyn Anderson-University of South Carolina
Michael Aziz-University of Virginia
CarterBaka-Collins-Virginia Tech
EmmaBatty-Washington & Lee University
Sallie Boxley-Texas Christian University
Charlie Comer-Liberty University
Samuel Crawford-Virginia Tech
Mitchell Deese-University of Virginia
Chloe DeKorsey-Virginia Tech
Mieko DeKorsey-William and Mary
Zachary Easter-Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Zane Ellis-University of Virginia
Nate Faulkner-Davidson College
Kathryn (Kate) Feldmann-Virginia Tech
Austin Frantz-Vanderbilt University
Diol Glele-Virginia Tech
Su Gursoy-Hollins University
Daniel Han-Cornell University
Grace Harig-University of Virginia
Jacob Jackson-Wake Forest College
Margaret Kauffman-University of Richmond
Faith Kuehl -University of Virginia
Dominic LaConte-Wesleyan University
Kiersten Lauer-University of Virginia
Matthew Love-University of Virginia
Keaton Lucas-Virginia Tech
Oliver Luci-Virginia Tech
Adison Mayhue-Virginia Tech
Elliott (Ellie) McClung-Virginia Tech
Kira McGinnis-Davidson College
Ayden McNulty-Liberty University
Andrew Michie-Virginia Western
Courtney Monard-King's College
Jeremiah Morgiewicz-Virginia Tech
Nikolai Morgiewicz-Virginia Tech
Caroline O'Keeffe-University of Alabama
Seth Perry-Roanoke College
Annika Plunkett-William and Mary
EmmaPope-Emory & Henry
Carson Ray-Georgia Tech
Diya Reddy-Georgetown University
Penelope Roberts-University of Virginia
Evan Shifflett-Virginia Tech
Zoe Silva-Northeastern University
Alexios (Lex) Stratton-Belmont University
Luke Sumner-Virginia Tech
Elisabeth Tershak-Virginia Tech
Heidi Thompson-Virginia Tech
Griffin Yakob-University of Virginia