

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

AUG 5-7— New student orientation  
 Aug 19—1st day of school  
 Jan 31— Project Forum

# RVGS Newsletter

June 2025



## Counselor's Corner

Greetings and Happy Summer! Schools are now officially over for everyone, and summer activities have begun. We said goodbye to the RVGS class of 2025 with our traditional senior events: senior sunset, senior dinner, and senior breakfast. We also held the spring ultimate frisbee tournament with proceeds going to Feeding America. As we say “goodbye” to our seniors and “see you soon” to our underclassmen, we are also preparing for our new group of students who will begin with us during New Student Orientation. We are excited about the new school year and look forward to seeing everyone soon.

During this time of fun, sun, and hopefully relaxation, students can also prepare for the new year to come. Remember that having a healthy and regular sleep schedule is still important, even during the summer. Time management when it comes to summer assignments is also crucial. The school year will start off with the habits that are in place during the summer.... good or bad....so create a schedule and stick to it!

I am in the office through June 13th and return on July 21st. I will check my email periodically during my summer break, but if you need an immediate response, please call the main office and speak with Mr. Levy.

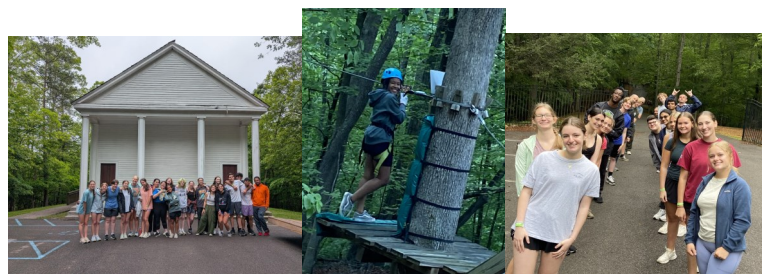
*-Kathy Sebolt*

## JUNIOR JUMP

RVGS juniors from both the AM and PM sessions participated in the “Junior Jump” on Wednesday, May 21st at Explore Park. Students from 9th-11th grade attend RVGS on different schedules (AM or 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 participated in the “Treetop Quest”. Students soared through the forest on Tarzan swings, traversed cargo nets, balanced on tightropes and flew across zip-lines above the trees. 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

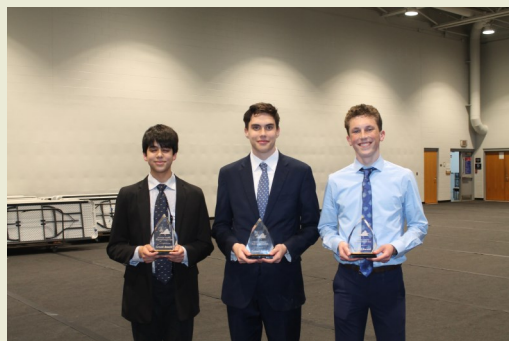
Time certainly flies, and it's hard to believe we have reached the end of another school year! 2024-25 has been a successful school year, despite some deep challenges after the loss of Mr. Smith. I am so proud of our community for how we came together to support each other second semester, and I thank each of you for making RVGS the special place that it is.

We are very proud of the class of 2025 and look forward to hearing about their future adventures and accomplishments. The 71 seniors of this graduating class were cumulatively offered over \$6.7 million in scholarship money, which is a testament to their academic accomplishments and how colleges value the rigor and challenge of RVGS and the impact it has on our students.

As always, I welcome you to reach out with any thoughts, questions, or concerns. I wish each of you a safe and relaxing summer!

# Science Fair Results

## Western Virginia Regional Science Fair Awards



### Grand Award Winners

**Jacob Stewart**, Roanoke Valley Governor's School/ Hidden Valley High School

**Jack Janiga**, Roanoke Valley Governor's School/ Hidden Valley High School

**Aryan Madan**, Roanoke Valley Governor's School/ Hidden Valley High School

### Alternate Grand Award Winners

**Raimee Sykes**, Roanoke Valley Governor's School/ Lord Botetourt High School

**Meera Raichura**, Roanoke Valley Governor's School/ William Byrd High School

**Augie Biviano and Prateek Reddy**, Roanoke Valley Governor's School/ Floyd County High School and Roanoke Valley Governor's School/ Cave Spring High School



## Virginia State Science & Engineering Fair

The Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair took place on April 5<sup>th</sup> at Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville. The VSSEF welcomes high school students from across Virginia to present their scientific research and engineering projects. Participants have previously competed and excelled in regional fairs across Virginia.

RVGS was well represented this year at VSSEF. Winners included:

**Nafisah Izzat and Gabrielle Romeo**-Biomedical Sciences & Translational Medicine **Honorable Mention**

**Aryan Madan**-Biomedical Sciences and Translational Medicine **3<sup>rd</sup> place**

**Kylie Duke**-Chemistry **2<sup>nd</sup> place**

**Brett Smith**-Earth & Environmental Science **1<sup>st</sup> place**

**Jacob Stewart**-Engineering Technology **Honorable Mention**

**Raimee Sykes**-Microbiology **3<sup>rd</sup> place**

**Meera Raichura**-Plant Sciences **2<sup>nd</sup> place**





# Senior Awards



## Faculty Awards



**Keely Garri** for always putting her best effort into every assignment

**Brenden Hartung** for enthusiasm and independent research

**Frances Reddan** the “Marvelous Maker” award

**Brett Smith** for modeling a love of learning



## Alfred D. Blease

**Josephine Eaton**-award is given to a senior who has demonstrated strong academics along with leadership and service throughout their years at RVGS both in the community and here at RVGS.



## Stephen D. Smith Award

Award is given to students with astounding research and science fair success

**Hannah Mizuba**

**Meera Raichura**

**Raimee Sykes**

## 2025 SENIOR CLASS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

**RVGS Students from the Class of 2025 will be attending 22 different colleges.**

The Most Popular Colleges are:

Virginia Tech – 25 students, University of Virginia – 23 students, Elon – 3 students

Closest Geographically - Roanoke College in Salem Virginia

Farthest Geographically - Deep Springs College in Deep Springs, California

Total number of scholarships offered to date is \$6,732,706

**Best of luck to the Class of 2025!**

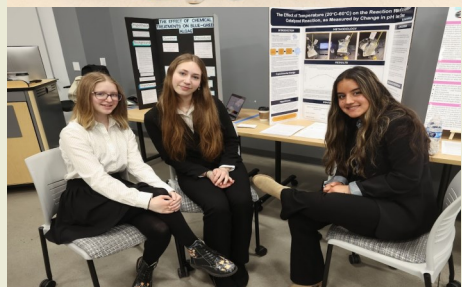
## Departing Staff

The Physics department at RVGS will be losing a beloved staff member at the end of this school year. Mr. Andrew Hurst has decided that the time has come for retirement.



**Dr. Hurst** joined the staff of RVGS in 2020. Though he is best known for his Physics, and AP Physics classes, Mr. Hurst was originally a Biology major. He taught Biology, Physics and Ecology at Roanoke County and Roanoke City schools. Mr. Hurst also founded the Maker's Club. Students could often be found before and after school learning to 3D print or create new wood working masterpieces. Mr. Hurst plans to take some time on home improvement projects and enjoying some down time on the coast with his wife Michelle.

The RVGS staff, students and families will certainly miss this tremendous educator. We wish him the best in this new phase of his lives and hope he will find some time to come back for a quick game of ping pong!





# Congratulations Class of 2025!



Eyad Al-Aromah	University of Virginia	Conlan McNulty	University of Virginia
Sydney Anderson	West Virginia University	Cameron McPhee	University of Virginia
John Aziz	University of Virginia	Hannah Mizuba	University of Virginia
Russell (McLure) Bailey	University of Colorado	Craig (Isaac) Morris	Virginia Tech
Sharmila Balaji	Virginia Tech	Jeremiah (Chase) Noel	University of Virginia
Sachita Baskota	Virginia Tech	Phoenix O'Dell	Virginia Tech
Sanchit Baskota	Elon University	Isaac Olson	University of Virginia
Riley Beasley	Virginia Tech	Meribel Pan	University of Virginia
Kaeli Berry	Virginia Tech	Anvita Panchumarthy	University of Virginia
Divya Bharati	Elon University	Ian Park	Virginia Tech
Aaron Bhowansingh	University of Virginia	Autumn Patterson	Elon University
William (Alex) Burnette	Virginia Tech	Sean Powell	Longwood University
Sean Cady	Virginia Military Institute	Guillaume Preud'homme	College of William & Mary
Jefferson (Aidan) Callis	University of Virginia	Ryan Prusakowski	Virginia Tech
Seijin Campbell	Virginia Tech	Meera Raichura	University of Virginia
John (J.B.) Clements	Texas Christian University	Claire Rawlins	Deep Springs College
Katie Coles	Virginia Tech	Kane Reczek	University of Virginia
Irene (Ren) Combs-Cannaday	Mary Washington	Frances Reddan	Virginia Tech
Esly Cruz-Nolasco	Roanoke College	Caroline Reichardt	Virginia Tech
Kalob Daniels	Georgia Tech	Cora Reid	University of Virginia
Emily Duncan	College of William & Mary	Kensington Reynolds	Virginia Tech
Josephine Eaton	University of Virginia	Hana Sageer	University of Virginia
Alexander (Lex) Farmer	Virginia Tech	Nicole Scarlatescu	University of Virginia
Citlalli Garcia-Quiroz	Virginia Tech	James (Ben) Schweitzer	Virginia Tech
Keely Garri	University of Mississippi	Yasmin Shumway	Virginia Tech
Erica Gergely	U of Tennessee-Knoxville	Amira Shumway	Virginia Tech
Hilary Gutierrez-Cortez	VWCC	Parker Sisk	Virginia Tech
Kathryn Ha	Vanderbilt University	Brett Smith	Washington & Lee
Michael (Brenden) Hartung	Virginia Tech	Jacob Stewart	University of Virginia
William Henderson	University of Virginia	Noah Svirsky	NC State
Nafisah Izzat	University of Virginia	Raimee Sykes	University of South Carolina
Margaret (Maggie) Jarrett	Sewanee: University of the South	Luke Thompson	Virginia Tech
John (Will) Jones	Virginia Tech	Himangi Tiwari	Virginia Tech
Benjamin King	University of Virginia	Cara Wardell	University of Georgia
Mirabel Maked	University of Virginia	Jordan Wattie-Shear	West Virginia University
Tyler McCarren	Virginia Tech	William Xiao	University of Virginia