

**JUNE 2026
VOLUME 3**

RVGS Newsletter



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 2026 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 out of the office through June 13th and return on July 24th. 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

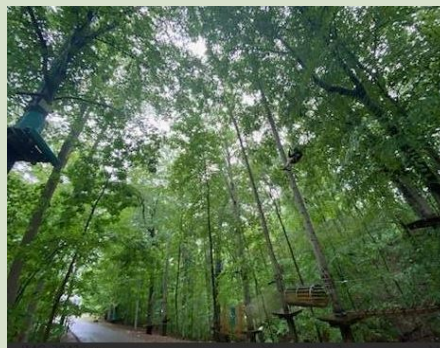
RVGS juniors from both the AM and PM sessions came together for the annual "Junior Jump" at Explore Park. Because students in grades 9–11 attend RVGS on different schedules, they often don't meet their counterparts until senior year, when everyone joins the AM session. The "Junior Jump" gives rising seniors a chance to connect early and start building the relationships that will carry them into their final year together. Though the weather was a bit rainy, Explore Park provided the perfect backdrop for the day. Surrounded by open green spaces, and sweeping mountain views, students had room to relax, mingle, and enjoy the outdoors. The highlight of the event was "Treetop Quest," the park's aerial



adventure course. Students climbed, balanced, and zipped through the trees, tackling Tarzan swings, cargo nets, tightropes, and zip-lines that stretched high

above the forest floor. Laughter, encouragement, and a healthy dose of adrenaline filled the air as students challenged themselves and cheered each other on.

By the end of the event, the group had not only conquered the course but also taken the first steps toward forming new friendships. The Class of 2026 left Explore Park energized, connected, and ready to begin their senior year together.



Message from the Director

I hope that your summer is off a great start so far! We had a great end of the school year and our students finished strong in a number of ways. Our students worked hard to prepare for their end of year exams and assessments and finish out the school year with excellence. I never fail to be amazed by the passion and energy our students bring to their studies and as productive and supportive members of our community.

Of course, at the end of the year, my mind most goes toward our graduating seniors. I don't exaggerate when I say we will deeply miss this group of seniors. They have had a unique combination of joy, passion, ability, and comradery that I found endearing throughout their time at RVGS. This group of seniors was collectively offered over \$6.2 million in scholarship money, which is just one measure of how impressive they are. Please don't forget to come back and visit us seniors - we will miss you!

I hope that everyone has a safe and restful summer. I will be in the office throughout the summer, so feel free to call or email if you have any questions.



Regeneron ISEF 2026, the world's largest pre-college STEM competition, took place May 9–15, 2026, in Phoenix, Arizona, at the Phoenix Convention Center. This year, RVGS proudly celebrated six students and five exceptional projects qualifying to compete on the global stage.

Five projects earned their place at ISEF through outstanding performances at regional and state fairs. Aryan Madan and Prisha Tiwari advanced as Grand Award winners from the Western Virginia Regional Science Fair. The team of Benjamin Meyer and Max Mizuba qualified through their 1st-place Grand Award at the Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair. In addition, Archit Arora's project earned an ISEF bid through Grand Award at the Central Virginia regional fair, rounding out the RVGS delegation. Students began the week by setting up their research displays and participating in the much-anticipated ISEF Pin Exchange, connecting with peers from around the world. They also explored opportunities at the STEM College and Career Expo, meeting representatives from leading universities, research institutions, and technology companies.

To balance the excitement and intensity of competition, RVGS students enjoyed several Phoenix-area highlights, including a visit to the Arizona Diamondbacks Chase Field and Papago Park to hike the Hole-in-the Rock trail.

It was a memorable week of scientific exploration, global connection, and RVGS pride. Great job, Lab Rats.

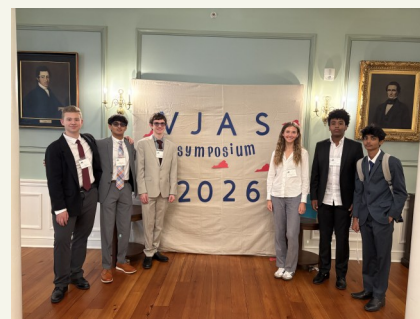


Virginia Junior Academy of Science

Two student teams and two individual students represented RVGS at the Virginia Junior Academy of Sciences Symposium held at Hampden-Sydney College on May 2. All six students delivered strong research presentations and every one of them earned an award.

Yehor Belko and Samuel Long earned 3rd place in Botany A for their work, demonstrating both depth of research and clarity in communication. In Chemistry B, Brynne Wiegard also earned 3rd place, showcasing impressive scientific understanding in a highly competitive category.

In Microbiology and Cell Biology B, the team of Abel Mengistu and Chaitanya Gohil received an Honorable Mention for their project, recognized for its thoughtful design and scientific merit. Rounding out the group, Samyak Srivastava earned an Honorable Mention in Computational Biology B, highlighting his strong analytical and computational skills. It was an outstanding day for RVGS, with all six students returning home as award winners — a testament to their hard work, curiosity, and commitment to scientific excellence.





Senior Dinner and Awards



On May 4th, 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. Students received their senior pins while their self-submitted proudest accomplishments were read by Mr. Levy. Special Senior awards were announced and presented. Students were also recognized for Distinguished Scholars and straight A's.

Faculty Awards were given to:

Anissa Morfa and Tammy Phung (Best School Spirit)

Stella Gillenwater, Gracie Greer, and Claire McCahill (Leading the Health Sciences Club)

Emma Baldwin, Parneet Gill, Dorothy Myers, and Gabby Romeo (Designing the outdoor classroom)

Carrie Collins and Chloe Herold (Student Advisory Co-Presidents)

Parneet Gill, Morgan Fitzgerald, Anissa Morfa and Tammy Phung (Excellent organization and leadership with morning announcements)

The Alfred D. Blease Memorial Awards for Student Leadership and Service were awarded to *Anissa Morfa and Tammy Phung*.

The Stephen D. Smith Award for Scientific Research was awarded to: *Archit Arora and Jack Janiga*.



2026 SENIOR CLASS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The 61 graduating Seniors of the RVGS class of 2024 certainly had much to celebrate. The RVGS class of 2026 will be attending 19 different colleges. The most popular destinations this year are Virginia Tech (19 students) and the University of Virginia (9 students).

Students were offered over \$6.2 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 2026!



Charlotte Anstey- William and Mary
Archit Arora- Virginia Tech
Emma Baldwin- Virginia Tech
Devin Blankenship- Virginia Tech
Holden Bryant- Virginia Tech
Nathan Bulla-Virginia Tech
Isaiah Butler- Virginia Tech
Christian Chicas-Nolasco- Virginia Western
Caralyn Collins- Virginia Tech
Ian Costen- John Hopkins University
Samuel Dandridge-William and Mary
Jaiden Dann-Eastern University
Graham Dietrich- Virginia Western
Walker Farrar-Development Academy (soccer)
Anna Favor-North Carolina State
Molly Caroline Fitzgerald-North Carolina State
Evelyn Foster-Virginia Commonwealth University
Parneet Gill-Roanoke College
Stella Gillenwater-University of Virginia
Lydia Goad-Virginia Commonwealth University
Caroline Greer- University of Virginia
Claire Grindo- William and Mary
Gabrielle Harig-Virginia Western
Ian Harrison-Virginia Commonwealth University
Chloe Herold-Smith College
Hannah Hertz-Virginia Tech
Kaleb Humerickhouse-Virginia Tech
Kaitlyn Jackson-Arcadia University
John Janiga-University of Notre Dame
Joshua Manning-University of Virginia
Ariana Markham-Hollins University
Virginia Matthews-Purdue University
Claire McCahill-University of Virginia
Elodie McClintic-Virginia Tech
Aman Mengistu-University of Virginia
Jamal Millner-Virginia Tech
Anissa-Rosa Morfa- Elon University
Claire Morris-University of Virginia
Miya Morton-Liberty University
Dorothy Myers-Virginia Tech
Benjamin Ogle-Virginia Tech
Daniel Owen-O'Quill-William and Mary
Mann Patel-Virginia Tech
Caiden Perry-University of Virginia
Tammy Phung-William and Mary
Jeanne-Eugenie Picard-Georgia Tech
Ayush Pinnamaraju-University of Virginia
Nathan Preston-Virginia Western
Gabrielle Romeo-University of Virginia
Brinna Seidel-William and Mary
Rishika Sethumadhaven-Indiana University (Bloomington)
Alpinveer Singh-Virginia Tech
Nolan Stokes-Virginia Tech
Rhiannon Stowe-Virginia Tech
Anish Suryapeta-Virginia Tech
Sophie Tisdale-Virginia Tech
Claire Togo-Elon University
Caleb Wang-Georgia Tech
Elliot Wiegard-William and Mary
Zachary Young-Georgia Tech
Yufei Zeng-Duke University