JULY 6, 2026 ISSUE NO. 2

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TERRIER TIDBITS

SMALL BITS OF BIG NEWS AT WILLIAM BYRD MIDDLE SCHOOL



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

BY PRINCIPAL KATIE HUTCHISON

Another week of summer has flown by, and we hope you had a blast celebrating the 4th of July with your loved ones—fireworks, food, and maybe even a little fun in the sun!

This week, I'm excited to introduce you to a truly remarkable group: your Counseling Support Team. These incredible women dedicate each day to supporting the mental health and well-being of our students, families, and staff. Their work is rooted in care, compassion, and just the right amount of middle school magic.

Now, let's talk about middle school—arguably one of the most fascinating phases of human development. Did you know that a middle schooler's brain is developing at nearly the same pace it did when they were toddlers? That might explain why your child can go from laughing to crying to asking for snacks—all in under five minutes. Luckily, our counselors are experts in navigating this rollercoaster and are here to help every student thrive.

Their mission? To guide students in building the social and emotional skills needed to be strong **collaborators**, effective **communicators**, **critical thinkers**, and well-rounded **citizens**—all to ensure they're **Opportunity Ready** for the road ahead.

MEET OUR COUNSELING SUPPORT TEAM

AS WE BEGIN THIS EXCITING NEW SCHOOL YEAR, WE WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO INTRODUCE OUR COUNSELING SUPPORT TEAM AND SHARE HOW WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS.

To better serve our students and families this year, our counseling office is switching from grade levels to alphabet by last name similar to WBHS:

- **Mrs. Samantha Wallace, *Counseling Coordinator*** – Mrs. Wallace oversees our Counseling Department and will work with all students with last names A-F and their families.
- **Mrs. Julia Ormandy, *School Counselor*** – Mrs. Ormandy will work with all students with last names G-O and their families
- **Mrs. Leslie Jordan, *School Counselor*** – Mrs. Jordan will be providing support to our students with last names P-Z and their families.
- **Ms. Jessica Rhodes, *Counseling Office Administrative Assistant*** – Ms. Rhodes is the gatekeeper of our Counseling Office and is often the first staff member to greet students or field questions from our families.

Our dedicated school counselors are trained to provide both individual and group counseling, offering guidance and support throughout the middle school journey. They work closely with students to help them grow as **communicators, collaborators, critical thinkers**, and responsible **citizens**—ensuring every student is prepared and **Opportunity Ready** for the future.

We understand that middle school can come with its challenges, but our counselors are here to remind every student that they are capable, valued, and fully supported in becoming the best version of themselves.

Please don't hesitate to reach out—we're looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Terrier Strong. Future Ready.



MRS. WALLACE
(LAST NAMES A-F)



MRS. ORMANDY
(LAST NAMES G-O)



MRS. JORDAN
(LAST NAMES P-Z)



MS. RHODES

"ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE WHEN YOU HAVE THE RIGHT PEOPLE THERE TO SUPPORT YOU."

- MISTY COPELAND

LIFE COUNSEING PROGRAM

LEADING INDIVIDUALS, FOSTERING EMPOWERMENT

Hello, I'm Allyse Dunlop, the LIFE counselor at William Byrd Middle!

As a licensed professional counselor, I am able to provide individual and group therapy to address student needs. Students who experience concerns related to depression, anxiety, stress, anger, behavior, substance use, and others may benefit from support from a LIFE counselor.



In addition to counseling, LIFE counselors provide education on mental health, trauma, and substance topics; engage in substance abuse prevention and intervention; and provide life skills training and case management services.

Students can be referred to work with the LIFE counselor through a variety of avenues. Teachers, school counselors, and school administrators are able to provide referrals based on observed needs. Students can self-refer, and parents or guardians can reach out directly to refer their student.

Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

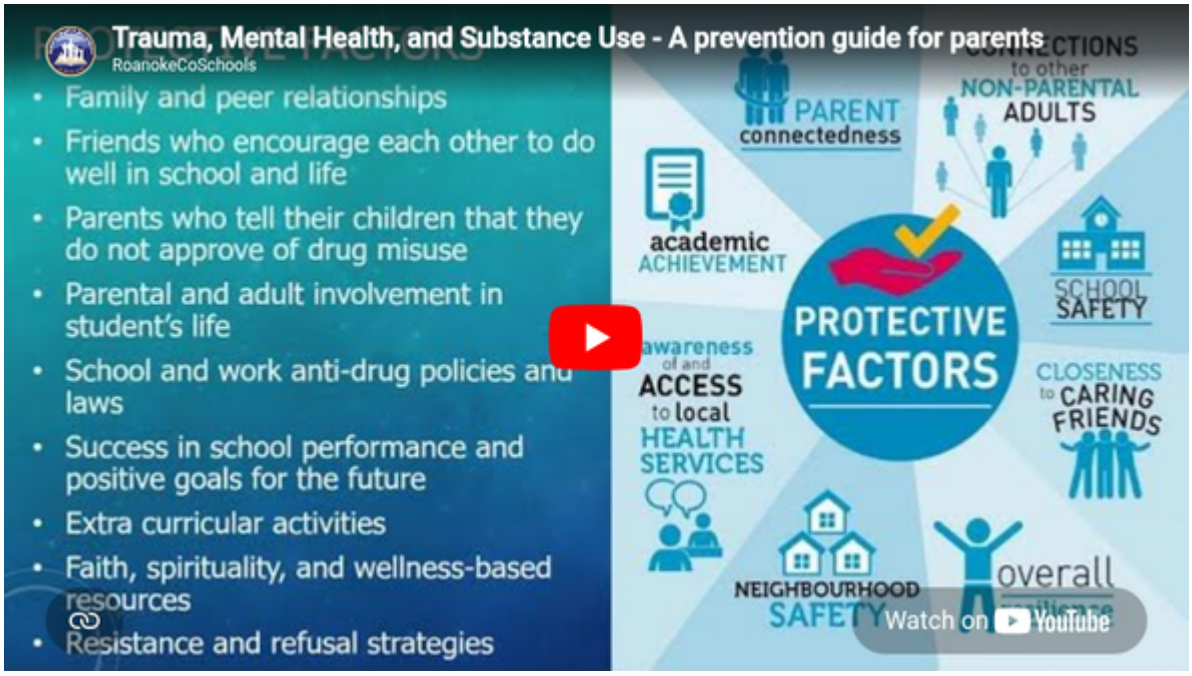
Thank you!
Allyse Dunlop, LPC
(540) 562-3900 ext. 34019

"I REALLY THINK A CHAMPION IS DEFINED NOT BY THEIR WINS BUT BY HOW THEY CAN RECOVER WHEN THEY FALL."

- SERENA WILLIAMS

RCPS COUNSELING RESOURCES

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ALL OF OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES







Please visit https://www.rcps.us/departments/counseling-student-records/mentalhealth for a full list of resources available to you and your child.

SUPPLY LISTS

WILLIAM BYRD MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Home of the Terriers -

6th Grade Supply List

(OPTIONAL)

All students need:

- Loose leaf paper
- Index cards
- Pens + Pencils
- Colored pencils
- Pen/pencil pouch
- Skinny dry erase markers
- Tissues
- Earbuds (not headphones that completely cover the ears)

In addition, specific subjects request the following:

English

- A durable (5) subject spiral notebook + 1 pocket folder
- Highlighters, scissors, and glue sticks

Math/Pre-Algebra 6

- 1 subject notebook, two pocket folders and black expo markers

Accelerated Math Only (AMP 6)

- A binder or spiral notebook (student choice)
- Student google account (must be set up by parent)

History

- 1 pocket folder

Science

- 1 (one inch) binder (to keep in classroom)
- 1 plastic pocket folder

SUPPLY LISTS

WILLIAM BYRD MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Home of the Terriers –

7th Grade Supply List

(OPTIONAL)

All students need:

- Loose leaf paper
- Index cards
- 2 packs of pencils + 1 pack of colored pencils
- Pens (black and red)
- Pen/pencil pouch
- Highlighters
- Glue sticks
- Tissues
- Earbuds (not headphones that completely cover the ears)

In addition, specific subjects request the following:

English

- 3-subject notebook + a 2-pocket folder

Math/Pre-Algebra 7

- 1 subject notebook
- Folder with prongs

History

- 2 spiral notebooks + a 3-ring binder

Science

- Single subject notebook + a two-pocket folder

Algebra

- Dry erase markers
- 3 or 5 subject notebook
- A handheld scientific calculator
- 1 folder

SUPPLY LISTS

WILLIAM BYRD MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Home of the Terriers -

8th Grade Supply List

(OPTIONAL)

All students need:

- Loose leaf paper
- Index cards
- Pens + Pencils + Colored pencils
- Pen/pencil pouch
- Highlighters
- Tissues
- Earbuds (not headphones that completely cover the ears)

In addition, specific subjects request the following:

English

- A three subject composition notebook and 1-pronged pocket folder

Math 8/Pre-Algebra 8

- Expo markers, 2 pocket folders and a handheld scientific calculator

Algebra

- Dry erase markers
- 3 or 5 subject notebook
- A handheld scientific calculator
- 1 folder

Geometry

- Handheld scientific calculator
- Dry erase markers (fine tip)
- 3 or 5 subject notebook

Civics

- One 3 ring binder or folder

Science

- 1 subject notebook (100 pages) and glue sticks

Spanish I

- A (1 and 1/2 inch) binder with (5) tabbed dividers + a spiral band notebook
- Extra index cards and 2 pocket folders
- Glue sticks and a pair of scissors

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

AS WE PREPARE TO START A NEW YEAR, HERE ARE SOME KEYS TO SUCCESS TO ENSURE YOUR STUDENT ATTENDS SCHOOL REGULARLY.

Dear William Byrd Middle School Families,



As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I want to take a moment to highlight the importance of regular school attendance and share a few key reminders from Roanoke County's attendance policy.

Consistent attendance plays a vital role in your student's academic success, social development, and overall well-being. We know that when students are present and on time, they are more likely to stay engaged and achieve their full potential.

Please keep the following important points in mind:

- Every fifth (5th) early check-out or tardy will count as one unexcused absence.
- When your student returns to school after an absence, please make sure to submit a written excuse note within three (3) days.
- Our attendance policy is outlined in full in Policy 7.07, which can be reviewed on the school division's website.
- Please email wbmattendance@rcps.us to ensure your student's absences are properly documented.

If your student has any ongoing medical concerns that may impact their attendance or time at school, please reach out to our school nurse to ensure all necessary documentation is on file. This helps us better support your student and ensure their needs are met.

As always, we are here to partner with you. If there is anything we can do to support your family or student, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, the school social worker, or your child's school counselor. Together, we can work to ensure a successful and positive school year for every student.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kayla Stevers, MSW
School Social Worker
540-562-3900 ext. 24094



UPCOMING DATES

A GLANCE AT THE MONTH AHEAD

July

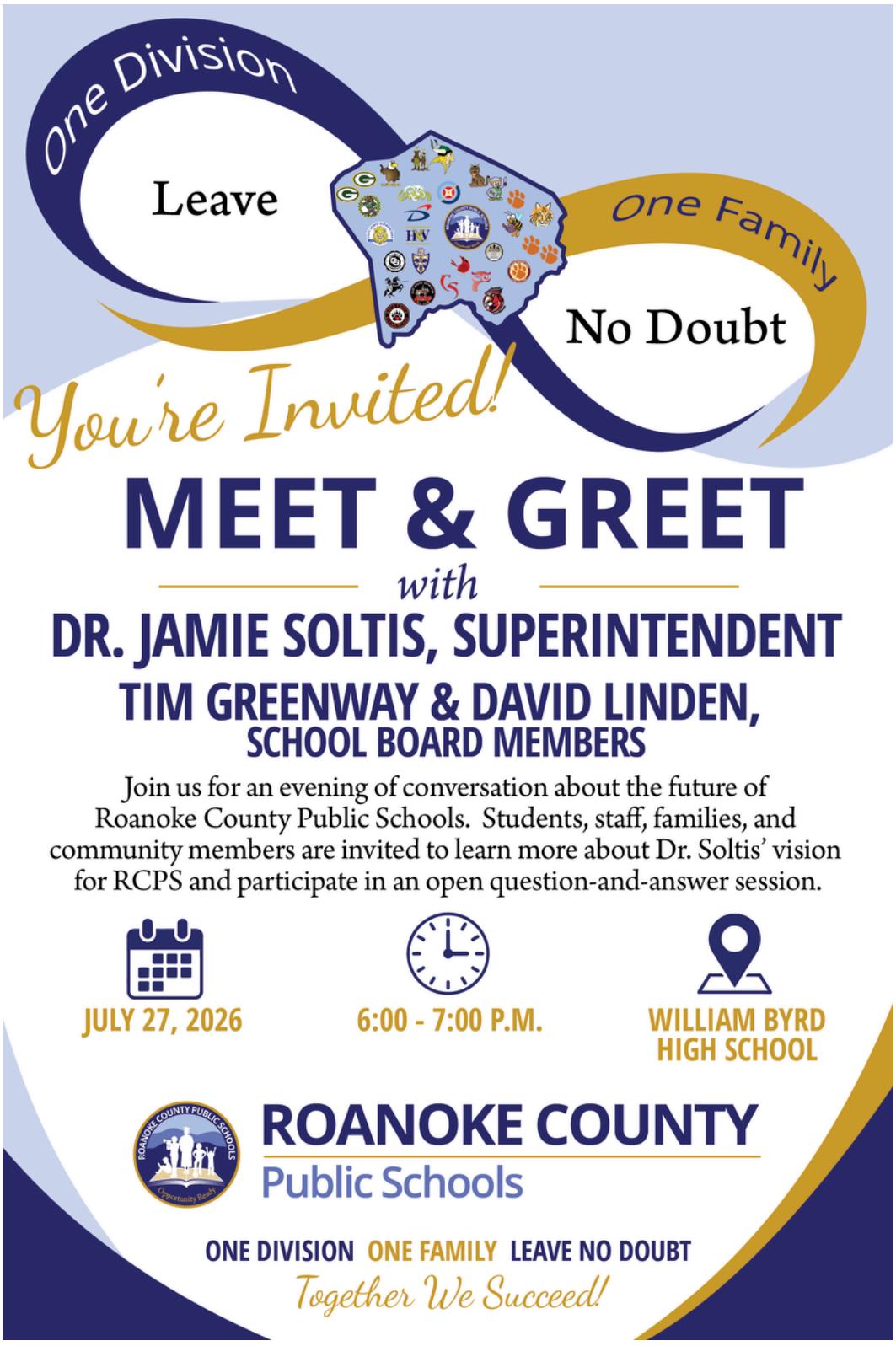
- **July 1-31:** Summer Break
- **July 17:** Annual Verification Forms (ANVER) will be available in ParentVue
- **July 27:** Community Meet & Greet with Dr. Soltis, Mr. Greenway, and Mr. Linden
  - 6:00-7:00 PM
  - WBHS Auditorium
- **July 31:** Schedules will be available in ParentVue/StudentVue
  - **Note:** There is not a specific time, but they will be posted by the evening. ANVER forms must be submitted before you or your child can view their schedule.
  - **The deadline for changes to course requests will be July 31.**
    - Please note that schedule change requests will be placed on hold from August 1 through August 28, except for level changes (e.g., Advanced to General Education) and changes required to implement a student's IEP or 504 Plan. This temporary pause allows us time to balance class sizes, finalize schedules, and ensure adequate space is available for newly enrolled students.
    - Beginning August 31, changes from one course to another will be made under the following circumstances only:
      - Failure of a course that is a prerequisite for a scheduled course or a graduation requirement (high school only);
      - Human or computer error;
      - Grouping adjustments and/or balancing of class sizes;
      - Recommendation of Child Study,504 or IEP Committee;
      - Acceptance or removal from an Apprenticeship (high school only)
    - 8th Grade Students: Elective choices are not guaranteed unless it is a high school credit course (Spanish, French, Latin, World History, or Earth Science). Every effort is made to give students their top elective choices, but schedule constraints do not always make it possible. The deadline to drop a high school credit class will be September 14.

August

- **August 3-12:** Teacher Work Days
- **August 10:**
  - New 7th & 8Th Grade Orientation -- 1:30-2:30 PM
  - 6th Grade Orientation -- 3:00-4:30 PM
  - Open House for All Students -- 4:30-6:00 PM
- **August 13:** First Day of School

UPCOMING DATES

A GLANCE AT THE MONTH AHEAD



UPCOMING DATES

A GLANCE AT THE MONTH AHEAD

JULY 17

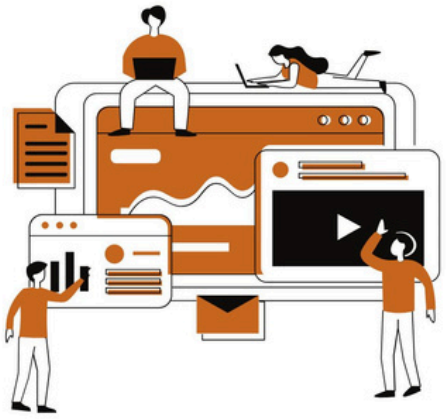
ANVER (Annual Verification) forms will be available in ParentVue. Be sure to update your student's information! You must complete ANVER before you are able to view your child's schedule in ParentVue and StudentVue on July 31.

DEADLINE IS AUGUST 7

Questions? Contact jrhodes@rcps.us

Schedules will be available in ParentVue and StudentVue

JULY 31



REMINDERS

The deadline for changes to course requests will be July 31.

- Except for level changes (e.g., Advanced to General Education) and changes required to implement a student's IEP or 504 Plan, schedule change requests will be placed on hold from August 1 through August 28 to allow us time to balance class sizes, finalize schedules, and ensure adequate space is available for newly enrolled students.

All schedules received prior to the start of school are subject to change due to the balancing of classes following student enrollments or withdrawals.

8TH GRADERS

Elective choices are not guaranteed unless it is a high school credit course (Spanish, French, Latin, World History, or Earth Science). Every effort is made to give students their top elective choices, but schedule constraints do not always make it possible. The deadline to drop a high school credit class will be September 14.

VDH Vaccination Clinics



July 28 4:00-6:00 PM @ Cave Spring MS
July 29 4:00-6:00 PM @ William Byrd MS
July 30 4:00-6:00 PM @ Northside MS

Students under 18 must be accompanied by their parent/guardian. Please bring your insurance card.

FALL SPORTS

FOOTBALL

For any questions about football, please contact Coach Cody Underwood at cunderwood@rcps.us

Start Date: July 23rd-24th 4:00-6:45pm Meet in Locker Room

VOLLEYBALL

For any questions about volleyball, please contact Coach Stephanie Brady at sbrady@rcps.us

Start Date: July 29th-31st 6:00-8:00pm at WBHS

COMPETITION CHEER

For any questions about cheerleading, please contact Coach Shannon McCulloch at smcculloch@rcps.us

Start Date: July 30th

CROSS COUNTRY

For any questions about cross country, please contact Coach Michelle Gantzhorn at mgantzhorn@rcps.us

Start Date: July 23rd