JULY 13, 2026 ISSUE NO. 3

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL PAGE 01
MEET OUR SUPPORT STAFF PAGE 02
NURSE REMINDERS PAGE 03
BOOKKEEPER NOTES PAGE 04
MEET OUR IT DEPARTMENT PAGE 05
MEET OUR LIBRARIANS PAGE 06

TERRIER TIDBITS

SMALL BITS OF BIG NEWS AT WILLIAM BYRD MIDDLE SCHOOL



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

BY PRINCIPAL KATIE HUTCHISON

It's hard to believe we're almost halfway through July! As we look ahead to the upcoming school year, it's clear that our school wouldn't be complete without the amazing support staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Their dedication and passion play a vital role in making our school a welcoming and thriving community for everyone.

Our support staff are true champions in helping students become strong **communicators**, effective **collaborators**, creative **critical thinkers**, and responsible **citizens**. Whether it's through one-on-one encouragement, teamwork, or creating a positive environment, they empower students to build the skills and confidence needed to be **Opportunity Ready**. Their impact goes far beyond their daily tasks — they inspire and nurture the whole student, preparing them to face challenges and seize new opportunities with enthusiasm.

We are so grateful for the commitment and energy our support staff bring every day. Together, they help make our school a place where students not only learn but grow into the leaders and innovators of tomorrow!

MEET OUR SUPPORT STAFF TEAM

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

It takes a village to support a school of our size, and we're fortunate to have a dedicated team working behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly. Each member of our support team is here to assist students and families with care and enthusiasm—always ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

- **Mrs. Brandy Helton, *Administrative Assistant*** – Mrs. Helton is our dedicated Front Office Administrative Assistant, expertly managing phone communications and supporting the needs of both students and staff with efficiency and care.
- **Mrs. Tracey Hilliard, *Bookkeeper*** – Mrs. Hilliard is our financial expert, skillfully managing payments for field trips, fundraisers, broken laptops, lost books, and more. We use an online payment system, Givebacks, to make payments easier for you. Please take a few minutes to download the Givebacks app, register your child, and sign up for email notifications to alert you to new items available for purchase. Follow this link for more information: https://www.rcps.us/departments/finance/student-fees-and-online-payments
- **Mrs. Molly Rhodes, *School Nurse*** – Mrs. Rhodes provides compassionate support for all of our students' medical needs and is always happy to assist our families.
- **Mrs. Sherry Nicely, *Attendance Clerk*** – We are currently in the process of hiring a new Attendance Clerk to manage our attendance records. This important role often serves as the first friendly face welcoming students and families to our school. For any attendance-related needs, please email wbmattendance@rcps.us.

As we kick off a busy and exciting start to the school year, we truly appreciate your patience and partnership as we work to respond to all of your questions. Our dedicated support staff are here to help students grow as **communicators, collaborators, critical thinkers**, and responsible **citizens**—ensuring every learner is prepared and **Opportunity Ready** for the future.

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

Terrier Strong. Future Ready.



MRS. HELTON



MRS. HILLIARD



MRS. RHODES



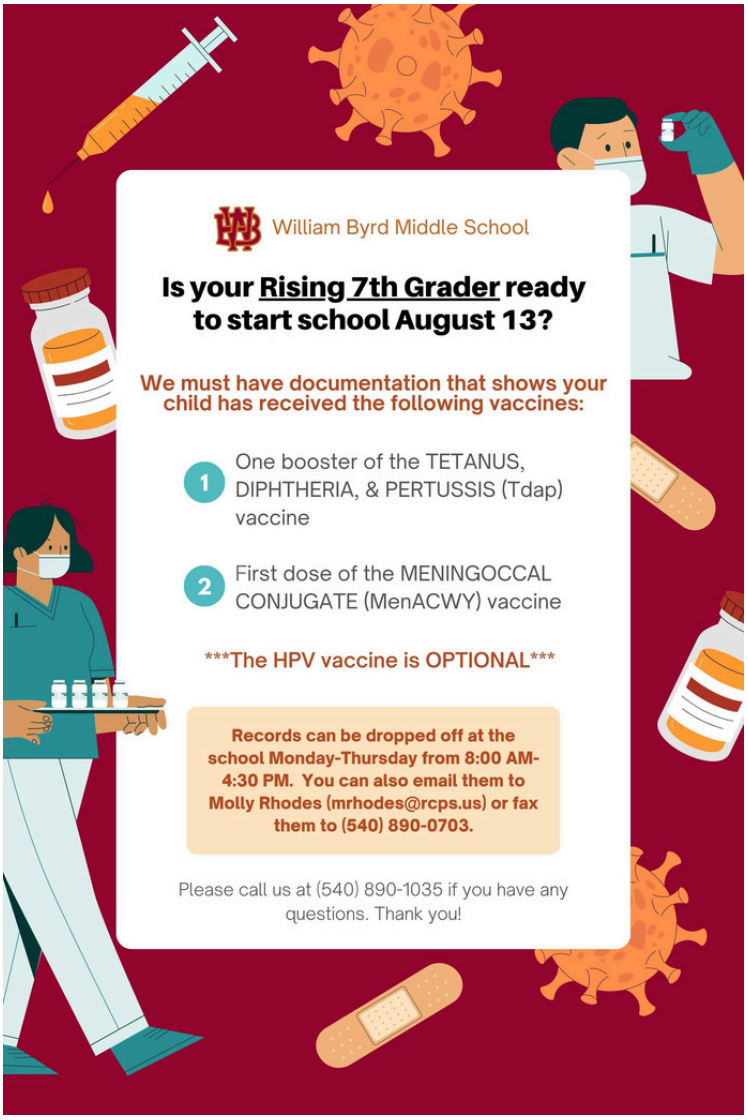
MRS. NICELY

"IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD."

- AFRICAN PROVERB

NURSE REMINDERS

PLEASE EMAIL MS. RHODES (MRHODES@RCPS.US) IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS



ATTENTION 7TH GRADERS!

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.

MEDICATION REMINDERS

Medications Prescribed for Individual Students

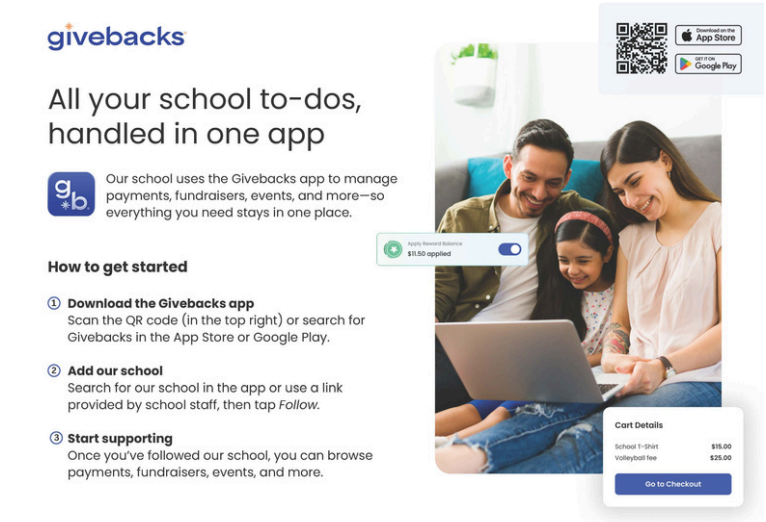
Employees of Roanoke County School Board may give medication prescribed for individual students only pursuant to the written order of a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner and with written permission from the student's parent or guardian. Such medicine must be in the original container and delivered to the principal, school nurse, or school division designee by the parent or guardian of the student. Parents must also deliver the necessary supplies with which to administer medications (ex. syringes, spacers).

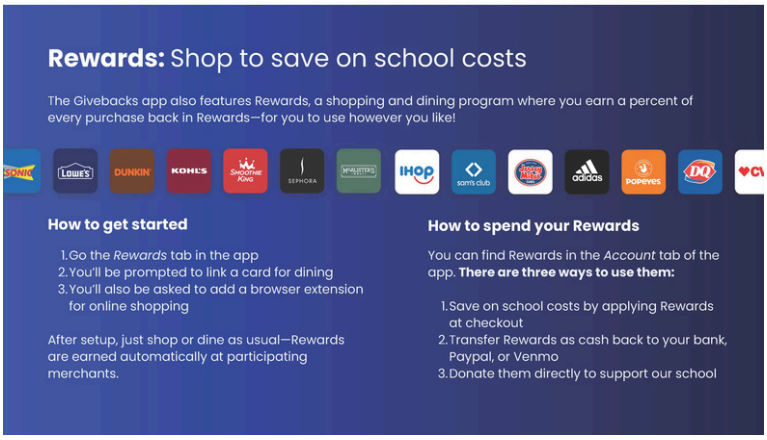
Nonprescription Medications

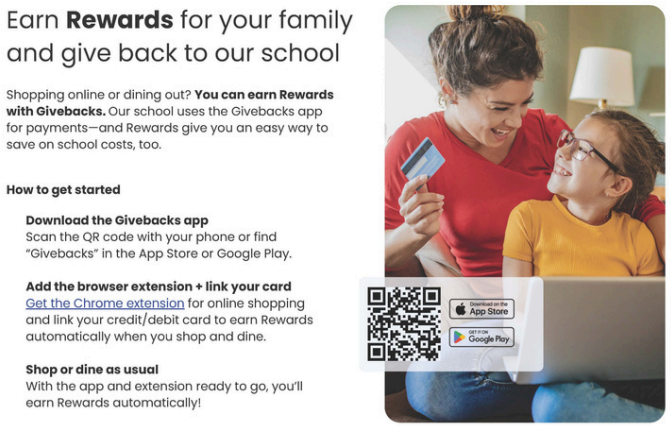
Employees of Roanoke County School Board may give nonprescription medication to students only with the written permission of the parent or guardian. Such permission shall include the name of the medication, the required dosage of the medication, and the time the medicine is to be given. Such medicine must be in an unopened original container and delivered to the principal, school nurse, or school division designee by the parent or guardian of the student

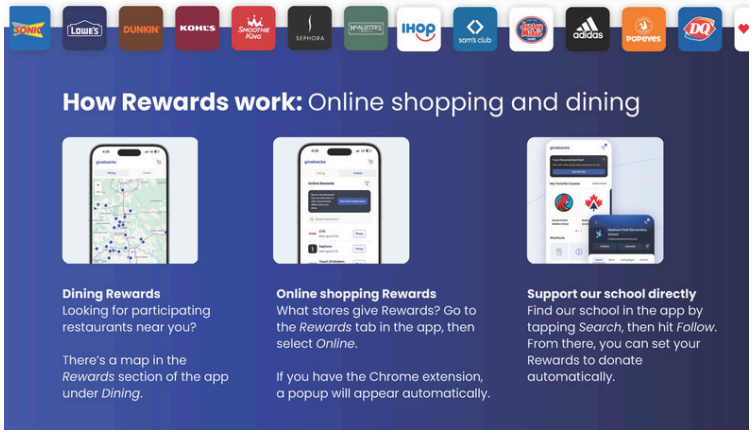
BOOKKEEPER NOTES

INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING WBMS? CHECK OUT THESE OPPORTUNITIES!









KROGER REWARDS

If you have a Kroger Rewards account, please link your account to one of our school accounts. A percentage of Kroger's profit from what you purchase is donated to the account you choose. You can share this info with family and friends. Follow this link to get signed up or check to see if you've already done it. https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards

You have 3 options to choose:
WBMS – GE258
WBMS Choir – QX183
WBMS PTO-TH335

MEET OUR IT DEPARTMENT

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

As students enter middle school, they will be issued a school laptop for the first time—an exciting milestone and a significant responsibility. In today's fast-paced, digital world, this tool will support their learning in and out of the classroom. For our 6th graders, there may be a bit of a learning curve as they adjust to both the responsibility and the technology itself. Fortunately, our dedicated IT Department is here to support them every step of the way!

- **Mr. James Edwards, *Instructional Technology Resource Teacher (ITRT)*** – Mr. Edwards will be starting his 10th year at WBMS and is here to support all of your software and technology program needs. Please contact Mr. Edwards through phone or email (jhedwards@rcps.us) for anything related to student or parent online accounts (Canvas, ParentVUE, ParentLink) or any other online resource or software. Mr. Edwards is here as a technology resource, so if he can't help you with a technology related issue, he will find someone who can.
- **Mr. P. Hunter Thompson, *Technology Technician*** – Formerly one of our very own teachers, Mr. Thompson will be entering his 3rd year as our Technology Technician, supporting all of our hardware and laptop needs. You student is most likely to see Mr. Thompson for issues they are having with their laptop. Students are able to see Mr. Thompson at any time during the school day in the Laptop Depot with an approved pass from their teacher.



MR. EDWARDS



MR. THOMPSON

As you help your student get ready for the new school year, please take a moment to remind them about the importance of caring for their school-issued laptop. Students are expected to use their devices responsibly and may be held financially accountable for any damages.

By using a school laptop, students are also agreeing to follow the Acceptable Computer Use Policy (RCPS Policy 6.42) and commit to being responsible digital citizens. Misuse of the device may result in the loss of computer privileges.

We're confident our students will rise to the occasion, using their laptops as tools to grow as effective **communicators**, **collaborators**, **critical thinkers**, and responsible **citizens**—ready to be **Opportunity Ready**!

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

Terrier Strong. Future Ready.

"TECHNOLOGY, LIKE ART, IS A SOARING EXERCISE OF THE HUMAN IMAGINATION."

- DANIEL BELL

MEET OUR LIBRARIANS

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



MRS. WAKELAND



MRS. BALSLEY



MRS. JONES

What could be more exciting than discovering a love for reading and getting lost in the world of a great book? At WBMS, we're proud to have a passionate and dedicated Library Support Team committed to meeting the needs of both our students and teachers. Their enthusiasm and support help make reading a rewarding experience for everyone in our school community.

- **Ms. Holly Wakeland, *Library Media Specialist*** – Mrs. Wakeland is excited to begin her second year as the Librarian at WBMS. With her background as a former middle school administrator, Mrs. Wakeland brings a strong commitment to supporting students in all aspects of their learning and development. Whether it's finding the right book or helping with a project, Mrs. Wakeland is always here to help!
- **Mrs. Heather Balsley, *Lead RCPS Librarian*** – Mrs. Balsley has previously served as a dedicated Librarian at WBMS and is currently the Lead Librarian for RCPS and still calls WBMS home. We're lucky to have such a knowledgeable and supportive resource in our school.
- **Mrs. Hillary Jones, *Library Instructional Assistant*** – Mrs. Jones has previously served as a substitute in the library over the past several years and will be returning to WBMS this year as our Instructional Assistant in the Library. She has truly enjoyed connecting with students and staff and is always eager to provide support wherever it's needed!

The WBMS library is a dynamic learning hub where students develop strong research skills, foster a love for reading, and receive support aligned with classroom curriculum. It offers access to diverse resources—both print and digital—to help students explore and evaluate information critically. The library also provides technology tools and guidance for completing assignments, encouraging creativity and responsible digital citizenship.

Feel free to browse our resources at https://wbms.rcps.us/librarymedia-center where we provide access for our students to ebooks, audiobooks, an online database, and an encyclopedia.

We're excited for our students to explore everything the library has to offer as they develop into effective **communicators**, **collaborators**, **critical thinkers**, and responsible **citizens**—fully prepared to be **Opportunity Ready**!

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

Terrier Strong. Future Ready.

"THE ONLY THING YOU ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO KNOW, IS THE LOCATION OF THE LIBRARY."

- ALBERT EINSTEIN

UPCOMING DATES

A GLANCE AT THE MONTH AHEAD

July

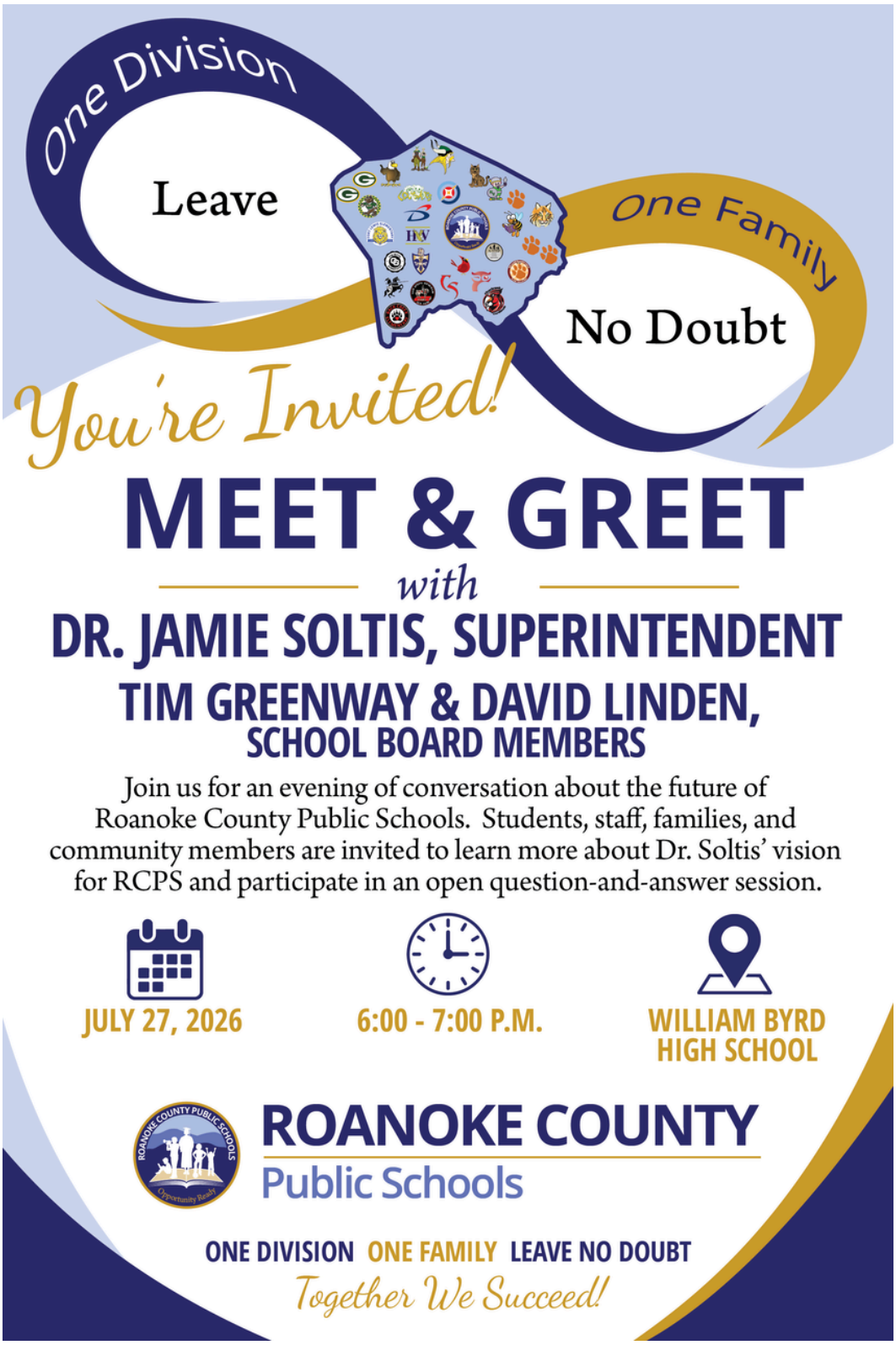
- **July 1-31:** Summer Break
- **July 17:** Annual Verification Forms (ANVER) will be available in ParentVue
- **July 27:** Community Meet & Greet with Dr. Soltis, Mr. Greenway, and Mr. Linden
  - 6:00-7:00 PM
  - WBHS Auditorium
- **July 31:** Schedules will be available in ParentVue/StudentVue
  - **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

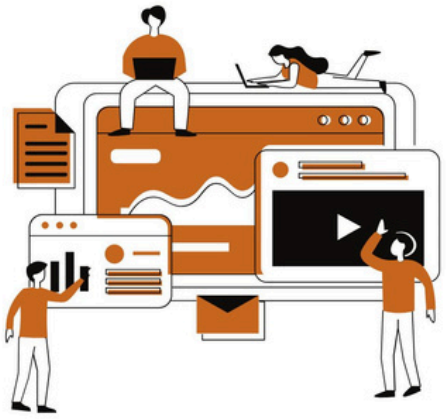
ANVER (Annual Verification) forms will be available in ParentVue. Be sure to update your student's information! You must complete ANVER before you are able to view your child's schedule in ParentVue and StudentVue on July 31.

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 START DATES

Cross Country: July 23 (mgantzhorn@rcps.us)
Football: July 27 (caunderwood@rcps.us)

- **Note:** This is a change from the original schedule.

Volleyball: July 29 (sbrady@rcps.us)
Cheer: July 30 (smcculloch@rcps.us)

Contact the head coach for more details.