A NATIONAL CHAMP

Ke’Aja Jefferson and Crystal Taylor, seniors at Richmond Community High School (RCHS), competed at the Technology Student Association (TSA) National Conference at the Texan Gaylord Resort & Convention Center in Dallas, Texas in June. Ke’Aja captured first place in the Transportation Modeling Contest at the national competition. She was last year’s runner-up in the event.

The president of this year’s RCHS senior class, Ke’Aja also spent a week at the 2015 United States Naval Academy’s Summer Seminar. The Naval Academy Summer Seminar is an extremely challenging, fast-paced, six-day experience for students who have completed their junior year in high school and are interested in attending the Naval Academy. The Seminar was held on the campus of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland and introduces students to life at the Academy, where academics, athletics, and professional training play equally important roles in developing leadership skills.

The Naval Academy’s mission is to develop midshipmen morally, mentally, physically and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, honor, and loyalty in order to graduate leaders who are dedicated to a career of naval service and have potential for future development in mind and character to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship, and government.

Widely regarded as one of the finest undergraduate academic institutions in the world and consistently ranked in the top 20 of America's colleges and universities by Forbes and US News and World Report, the Naval Academy offers a core curriculum of academic and professional courses allowing midshipmen to choose majors in 22 subject areas: seven in engineering, eight in science, mathematics and computer science; and seven in the humanities and social sciences.

Midshipmen study subjects such as leadership, seamanship and navigation tactics, naval engineering, naval weapons, and ethics during the four year program at the Naval Academy. Bachelor of Science degrees are awarded to midshipmen upon graduation and they receive commissions as ensigns in the U.S. Navy or second lieutenants in the U.S. Marine Corps. Ke’Aja will pursue a nomination to the Naval Academy from a Virginia congressman or senator. Congratulations Ke’Aja!

In her first national competition, Crystal Taylor placed fifth in the Prepared Presentation competition. Both Crystal and Ke’Aja participated in TSA through their STEM classes at the Richmond Technical Center (RTC). We would like to thank the TSA STEM advisors, RTC administration and others for their support. Special thanks to our community volunteers, Mr. Chris Propst and Mr. James Carson Jr. for their invaluable support and assistance.

Ke’a Jefferson (shown on the right holding the trophy) stands with Crystal Taylor at the TSA National Conference in Dallas, TX.
BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT

RCHS will hold its Annual Back-to-School Night Program on Thursday, September 24, 2015, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm in the school’s auditorium. During the program, the principal will share the Annual State-of-the-School presentation. Teachers will also be available to briefly review subject curriculum and answer parents’ questions related to grading, attendance, homework, class material/supplies and more.

Mark your calendar now so that you will be available for this important event. Call 780-4332 for additional information.

2015-2016 BELL SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>SCHOOL ACTIVITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Staff and Student Arrival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 – 7:45</td>
<td>Student Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:45 – 8:00</td>
<td>Community Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 – 8:03</td>
<td>Locker Break and Class Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:03 – 9:33</td>
<td>Block One (90 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:33 – 9:36</td>
<td>Class Change (3 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:36 – 11:06</td>
<td>Block Two (90 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:06 – 11:36</td>
<td>LUNCH (31 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:36 – 11:39</td>
<td>Lunch Reports to Class (3 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:39 – 11:09</td>
<td>Block Three (90 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:09 – 11:12</td>
<td>Class Change (3 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:12 – 2:45</td>
<td>Block Four (93 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>STUDENT DISMISSAL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following are operational notes for the revised RCHS bell schedule:

- Students are expected to attend all classes and must have a written excuse from the parent, office or teacher to miss a class or when arriving late.
- Students arriving after 8:03 a.m. must sign-in at the office and should report to class with a “Tardy to School” pass.
- The 4 x 8 AB schedule enables students to attend four 90-minute instructional blocks daily.
- Students attend periods 1, 3, 5 and 7 on odd days and periods 2, 4, 6, and 8 on even days.
- A single 30-minute lunch block is provided daily.

If you would like additional information about the RCHS bell schedule, please call us at 780-4332.

THE 2015-2016 RPS GRADING SCALE

The RPS School Board recognizes that the grades a student earns are an ongoing measure of the student’s academic success. The Board seeks to maintain consistency in grading systems and procedures across the district, and directs the superintendent to develop administrative regulations for grading systems and procedures that include the following:

- Issuance of progress reports;
- Determination of grading scales;
- Calculation of quarter, mid-semester and end-of-semester grades;
- Repetition of high school courses that are failed;
- Modification of course numbers and grades when an error occurs; and,
- Acceptance of transfer credits and grades.

Some factors regulating the determination and management of all student grades include the following:

a. The minimum passing score will be 60 for all classes taught in grades 9-12;
b. Student performance at each grade or organization level will be graded as shown in the chart below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Richmond Public Schools Grading Scale</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 - 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 – 89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 – 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 and Below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEW VISITOR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM INSTALLED

Richmond Public Schools is pleased to announce that we will begin using the Raptor Visitor Management System in all our schools to build on the district’s philosophy of “Building a Better District” and providing a safer school campus for students and staff. Part of keeping students and staff safe is knowing who is in our buildings at all times and the Raptor system will allow the school to track visitors, contractors, and volunteers in our schools and provide us with a safer environment for our students and staff.

Continued on Page Three
NEW VISITOR SYSTEM

Continued from Page Two

Effective immediately, visitors entering RCHS will be asked to present a valid state-issued ID, which will be scanned into the Raptor system. The system will check to ensure that registered sex offenders are not entering our building. It is important to note that the Raptor system only scans the visitor’s name, date of birth and photo for comparison with a national database of registered sex offenders. Additional visitor data from the driver’s license is not gathered nor is the system connected to any other system such as the Department of Motor Vehicles or Criminal Records; other than for registered sex offenders. Therefore, any other information on the ID is not scanned by the system and is not accessible to any other users. Once entry is approved, Raptor will issue a badge that identifies the visitor, date, and the purpose of his/her visit.

A visitor’s badge will not be necessary for those who visit our school simply to drop off an item in the office or pickup paperwork. In the event that a person does not have identification, he/she can still be given access to the building, but will be escorted by a school staff member.

If you are interested in learning more about the Raptor Visitor Management System, please visit the Raptor Technologies website (www.raptortech.com). If you have any questions for school personnel, please contact the Office of Safety & Security at (804) 780-4332.

The safety of our students is our highest priority and the Raptor Visitor Management System provides a consistent way to aid in keeping away people who may present a danger to our students. Therefore, all visitors to the school must be scanned into the system and obtain a visitor badge.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support of enhancing school safety at RCHS.

THE PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Dear RCHS Parent,

As we approach the Labor Day Holiday, I want to formally welcome you to what I’m sure will be another productive year at Richmond Community High School (RCHS). Thanks to your continued support and the hard work of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and advisory board, our school was ranked among the top ten in Virginia and the top one percent in the nation by US News & World Report in May 2015. This is RCHS highest ranking ever. It is a reflection of the hard and sacrifice of our faculty/staff. It is an achievement we should celebrate.

I’d also like to inform you of some changes that we’ve planned for the coming school year and solicit your support of these important initiatives. We believe the changes outlined below will enhance our school’s curriculum and expand academic opportunities for all students. The following changes have been prepared for 2015-2016:

- Implement the College Board’s Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Program. For the first time, students in grades ten and eleven will have opportunities to enroll in the College Board approved AP Seminar class (next fall we’ll launch the AP Research class);
- Change school start time to align with the Richmond School Board mandate. RCHS will have a start time of 7:45 am and dismissal at 2:45 pm; and,
- Provide several additional elective courses for our students based on the feedback we received during program planning last spring. The following additional elective classes are being offered to RCHS students: sociology and computer science (at RTC).

Thank you.

Parent,

[Signature]

RCHS

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks will be assigned to students at the beginning of the school year. It is important to remember that textbooks are the property of the Richmond Public Schools System and are on loan to students. They must be returned at the end of the year.
PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Continued from Page Three

Our teachers will continue to need your support as we work to help our students reach their potential as great thinkers, innovators, and leaders. The commitment you make to support RCHS will, in the long term, not just benefit your child but also our city, state and nation as these young people become citizens of a world that is highly competitive, extremely diverse, more technologically advanced and ever-changing.

There are many ways you can become involved at RCHS. This includes joining our Parent Teacher Association (PTA), serving on a PTA committee or the Executive Board, visiting the school during parent-teacher conferences to get to know our teachers and staff, monitoring your child’s academic progress using the ParentLink application we can provide for your smart phone and supporting our efforts to further improve the school.

The RCHS faculty and staff pledge to work tirelessly on behalf of all our students to ensure they are prepared for college and the careers in the 21st century. Join us in this pledge so that every student will be successful in 2015-2016 and beyond.

Sincerely,

J. Austin Brown, Principal

STUDENT AMBASSADORS

The RCHS Student Ambassadors are a select group of current and former students dedicated to the promotion of Richmond Community High School and Richmond Public Schools. The Ambassadors play a pivotal role in explaining both what it is like to be a student at RCHS and the benefit of attending a small public specialty high school. Our Ambassadors have a variety of responsibilities during the school year that include:

- To positively represent the students and staff of RCHS;
- To present information to prospective and newly enrolled students, parents and visitors in a variety of settings;
- To be an active and productive member by attending required student ambassador training, meetings, and events as needed; and,
- To serve as a student representative of RCHS at campus events.

The following students will serve as ambassadors during the 2015-2016 school year:

- Jonae’ Richardson
- Clark Freirson
- Telisi Johnson
- Destiny Pryor
- Stephanie Martin
- Demontre’ Moon
- David Thomas
- Amaris Christmas
- Shanice Harrell
- Makalya Lew
- Darenz Lyons
- Creyona Macklin
- Kaia Jones
- Avera Pearson
- Ariana Shahidi

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Has your family moved recently? If so, have you taken the time to update your contact information at the school? Parents are reminded of the importance of providing up-to-date emergency contact information to the school. Schools are not immune from accidents, disasters and emergencies.

Recent incidents in our state and nation highlight the importance of school officials being able to contact parents quickly.

Also, your address must be correct in order for your child to receive a valid RPS bus stop. In order for the Department of Transportation to serve your child they must have a valid address.

Please call Mrs. Erlyne Hamilton with your updated contact information at 780-4332.

Emergency Contact Information

Emergency Contact Information

Emergency Contact Information

Emergency Contact Information
RICHMOND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

RCHS RANKED AMONG NATION’S BEST

Richmond Community High School (RCHS), one of three specialty high schools in Richmond Public Schools, has once again been ranked among the best high schools in the nation and state by U.S. News and World Report. The Gold Medal ranking for RCHS, released on May 12th, reflects a national standing of #207 and a Virginia standing of #8. These are the highest rankings for RCHS in recent years.

U.S. News & World Report evaluated more than 29,000 high schools in all fifty states and the District of Columbia for the 2015 rankings. Nationally, only 2.5 percent of all high schools were awarded a Gold Medal ranking based on their performance on state exit exams and the level of readiness for college of graduates. Additionally, 10.3 percent of the nation's high schools received a Silver Ranking and 20.2 percent earned the Bronze Ranking.

The primary purpose of the ranking is to help parents identify standout schools in their community and state, as well as those that excel nationally. The rankings are designed to provide a clear, unbiased picture of how well public high schools serve all of their students - from the highest achieving to the lowest achieving - in preparing them to demonstrate proficiency in basic skills as well as readiness for college-level work. The US News & World Report rankings can be viewed at www.usnews.com/education.

NEW FACES AT RCHS

The RCHS family is pleased to welcome several new members to our school. Because our staff is the foundation of our success, we recruit and hire those with the greatest potential to assist our students. Please join us in welcoming the following individuals:

Mrs. Catrice Benavides joins RCHS as the Administrative Office Associate. An experienced RPS employee, Mrs. Benavides most recently served in the same position at Elkhart Middle School. Her responsibilities will include organizing, coordinating, scheduling and performing office functions; serving as secretary to the principal; coordinating communications between school staff, district personnel, parents, students and the general public; and training and providing direction to support personnel and others.

Mr. Boampong Asare, mathematics teacher, has an undergraduate degree from the University of Cape Coast in Cape Coast, Ghana and a Master’s Degree from the University of North Dakota. Mr. Asare will teach AP Calculus, Honors Math Analysis and Honors SAT Math.

Ms. Kathryn Fossaceca, science teacher, joins the RCHS staff after earning a Bachelor’s Degree in Biology from Marymount University and a Masters of Teaching from VCU. Ms. Fossaceca will teach AP Biology, Honors Biology and Honors Oceanography.

Mr. Vincent Simone, English teacher, earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Studies from the University of NC at Chapel Hill and a Bachelor of Arts in English from NC State. He is pursuing a master’s degree at VCU. He will teach AP English Language and 10 Honors English.

Ms. Rachel Stayton, English teacher, joins out team after teaching three years at Armstrong High School. She has earned a Bachelor of Arts from The College of William & Mary and Master of Arts from VCU. She’ll teach 09 Honors English and Senior Thesis.

We welcome these highly qualified and talented educators to the RCHS family.

RCHS MISSION

Richmond Community High School, a nationally recognized leader in urban education, is committed to preparing students to excel in a demanding, technologically sophisticated, global society by providing a college preparatory and experiential learning environment that nurtures individual achievement while embracing diversity.

All students will demonstrate mastery of our rigorous college preparatory curriculum and emerge as a critical thinker and problem-solver.

All students will achieve personal excellence by discovering and developing extraordinary potential based on unique interests and talents.
ADVANCED PLACEMENT CLASS CREDIT

Earlier this year, Virginia’s Governor, Terry McAuliffe, signed House Bill 1336. This legislation requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) to work with Virginia’s public and private colleges and universities to develop uniform credit policies for Advanced Placement Exams.

This new policy will ensure that all Virginia students receive the college credits they are due as a result of their hard work in AP classes. At a time when AP participation and performance across Virginia and at RCHS is increasing, this law provides students with opportunities to earn college course credits and graduate from college on time.

The members of the RCHS Class of 2016 who matriculate to college will be the first students to benefit from the law. ♦

STUDENT LOCKERS

Each RCHS student will be assigned a school locker by the end of the second week of the school year. The locker is a convenience and will be provided as a place for students to store books and personal items. All students will be assigned one locker and should not share the locker with friends.

RCHS is not responsible for stolen articles. It is important that students understand that the use of a locker is a privilege and not a right. Students are expected to keep their assigned locker clean, free from illegal objects or substances and graffiti. For health and safety reason, lockers are subject to searches under School Board policy and Virginia law. ♦

The Community Chronicle is the newsletter of Richmond Community High School. The newsletter is published bi-monthly and is designed to provide students, parents, staff, alumni, advisory board members, and friends of RCHS with information on the activities and programs of the school. Your comments are welcome and should be directed to:

Richmond Community High School
201 East Brookland Park Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23222
http://web.richmond.k12.va.us/rchs

In accordance with federal laws, the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the policies of the School Board of the City of Richmond, Richmond Public Schools does not discriminate on the bases of sex, race, color, age, religion, disabilities or national origin in the provision of employment and services. Richmond Public Schools operates equal opportunity and affirmative action programs for students and staff. Richmond Public Schools is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. The Title IX officer is Ms. Angela C. Lewis, Richmond Public Schools, 301 N. Ninth Street, Richmond, VA 23219-1927, (804)780-7716. The Section 504 coordinator is Ms. Michelle Boyd, Director of Exceptional Education, 301 N. Ninth Street, Richmond, VA 23219-1927, and (804)780-7911. The United States Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights may also be contacted at P.O. Box 14620, Washington, DC 20044-4620, (202) 208-2545.

RICHMOND CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Donald Coleman – Chairman, 7th District
Kristen N. Larson Vice-Chair – 4th District
Glen H. Sturtevant – 1st District
Kimberly B. Gray – 2nd District
Jeffrey M. Bourne – 3rd District
Mamie L. Taylor – 5th District
Shonda Harris-Muhammed – 6th District
Derick E. Jones – 8th District
Tichi Pinkney-Eppes – 9th District
Dr. Dana Bedden – Superintendent