Special Education at RCHS

From Services to Success: Understanding Your Child's Program

Rappahannock County High School
SEAC Information Guide

WHO WE ARE — STAFF DIRECTORY

Administration & Leadership

- **Special Ed Admin:**
  Mary Jane Boynton (Principal)
- **Department Chair:**
  Laura Szupinka

Case Managers

- **8-12 Transition:**
  ReShawn Feldmeyer
- **8th & 11th Grade:**
  Ashleigh Burnell
- **9th & 10th Grade:**
  Amber Mongomery
- **12th Grade, Homebound, Outplaced & Special Circumstances:**
  Laura Szupinka

Service Providers & Support

- **Instructional Support:**
  Samantha Jenkins
- **Speech Therapy:**
  Nancy Jinkins
- **VI / O&M:**
  Meghan Dejarnett
- **SST Team:**
  Erica Jennejahn, Krista Riggleson, Evelyn Wever

GRADE-LEVEL BAND OVERVIEW

Elementary / Early Years

Focuses on foundational skill-building, co-teaching models, and dedicated instructional assistants providing direct push-in support within general education classrooms.

Middle & High School

Shifts toward building student self-advocacy, block scheduling support, post-secondary transition planning, and specialized elective academic assistance.

INCLUSION & SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION IN PRACTICE

Inclusion (Co-Teaching)

Dynamic classrooms where general content specialists and special education teachers co-plan and co-teach to ensure full access to grade-level curriculum.

Specialized Instruction

Targeted small-group instruction, modified pacing, graphic organizers, and direct skill remediation specifically tailored to individual IEP goals.

High School Service Delivery: Flexible & Need-Based

At Rappahannock County High School, special education services are tailored specifically to individual student needs as determined through the IEP process and integrated directly into the student's academic course schedule:

Full-Year Courses (e.g., Year-Long English)
If a student requires continuous support in areas like reading, writing, and executive functioning, services are embedded directly into their year-long class structure.

Semester Courses (e.g., Semester English / Science)
Academic skill support (reading/writing) is provided during the specific semester of the course. Executive functioning and case management carry over continuously across both semesters.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY & RELATED SERVICES

Assistive Technology (AT)

Practical digital and physical tools used daily in classrooms, including read-aloud software, speech-to-text, adaptive seating, and structured graphic organizers.

Related Services Integration

Direct integration of Speech, Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), Vision/O&M, and behavioral supports into the school environment.

DATA COLLECTION & PROGRESS TRACKING TOOLS

PowerSchool
Primary hub for recording academic grades, assignment completion, attendance records, and overall academic performance data points.

Securly Pass & Securly Classroom
Tracks student time management, digital engagement, classroom participation, and transition behaviors during the school day.

Journify
Used by staff to record reflection entries and track executive functioning progress. Assists teachers in generating specialized instruction tailored specifically to individual student needs and interests.

CritterCoin
Used for community building as part of our House System, tracking positive behavioral reinforcements, encouraging house spirit, and celebrating student milestone contributions.

HOW WE COMMUNICATE PROGRESS WITH FAMILIES

Official IEP Progress Notes
Formal IEP goal progress reports are generated and sent home to parents **within one week after official report cards** are distributed.

PowerSchool Gradebook
Offers real-time visibility into current course grades, missing assignments, and day-to-day academic progress.

Google Classroom
Allows families and students to view daily assignments, project instructions, upcoming deadlines, and direct teacher feedback.

Weekly Newsletter & Outreach
School-wide updates via the newsletter, supplemented by direct teacher and case manager outreach via email and phone calls.

Important Parent Reminder: Please ensure your contact details (phone numbers, email addresses, and mailing address) are kept strictly up-to-date in PowerSchool so we can reach out with timely information about your student's progress and achievements!

SPECIAL EDUCATION JARGON BUSTER

TERM / ACRONYM	PLAIN-LANGUAGE MEANING FOR FAMILIES
IEP Individualized Education Program	A legally binding document outlining your child's personalized learning goals, accommodations, and special education services.
504 Plan Section 504 Plan	Provides accessibility accommodations (e.g., extra time, testing adjustments) to give students equal access to learning environments.
FAPE Free Appropriate Public Education	The legal requirement guaranteeing a personalized education program provided at public expense without cost to parents.
LRE Least Restrictive Environment	Ensures students with special needs learn alongside general education peers as much as appropriate with necessary supports.
Accommodations How They Learn	Adjustments giving equal access to learning without altering grade-level academic standards (e.g., quiet room, extended time).
Modifications What They Learn	Adaptations that change or reduce the actual academic content or grade-level standards expected of the student.
Executive Functioning Organization & Focus	Brain-based skills needed for focus, time management, memory, and organization—supported continuously across subjects.
BIP / FBA Behavior Plan & Assessment	Structured process identifying causes of challenging behaviors and outlining supportive positive behavior strategies.
PLOP / PLAAFP Present Level of Performance	The IEP baseline snapshot describing your child's current strengths, learning needs, and academic skill levels.