

Rappahannock County Schools



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: ANNUAL REVIEW NOVEMBER 2012 TO NOVEMBER 2013

Donna Matthews
Superintendent

Areas of the Comprehensive Plan

Comprehensive Plan

Also known as the Strategic Plan, the Comprehensive Plan includes all areas of the school, such as building and grounds, safety, academics, buses, and community involvement.

Comprehensive planning includes goal setting and establishment of the schools vision and mission statements.

The Comprehensive Plan was written and approved in 2009 and updated representing the timeline 2011-2016. The original planning process included the school and the community.

School policy and Virginia Department of Education requirements provide by mandate that the plan is reviewed each odd year.

The Comprehensive Plan may include the following:

- Objectives, vision and mission
- Strategies for school improvement
- Assessment of objectives toward school improvement
- Enrollment
- Consolidation to meet the educational needs of the students, when needed
- Appropriateness of regional services
- Technology integration
- Career and technical programming
- Parent involvement
- Safe learning environment

Goals, Vision and Mission

Goals: Our overarching goal is to prepare every student for graduation ensuring that each student has mastered 21st century skills needed to be responsible, productive workers and citizens.

Our Mission

We are committed to instilling in our students

- academic proficiency,
- the ability to think critically and creatively,
- effective communication,
- global awareness,
- strategic problem solving, and
- responsible citizenship.

Vision

In partnership with the community, the schools are committed to inspiring in every student a passion for lifelong learning and personal well-being and the skill sets of productive, engaged, and globally aware citizens.

School Improvement

School improvement is an ongoing process. Our schools have been working to improve the areas of reading comprehension and mathematics. New standards were adopted during the past two years and schools have worked to incorporate these standards and areas of essential knowledge.

To better understand the accountability process, the Virginia Department of Education updates the school report cards each year and has information related to accountability is on the VDOE web site.

Division and School Report Card

The school and division report cards are available on the Virginia Department of Education website

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/school_report_card/index.shtml

Understanding Accountability- A guide to understanding federal and state accountability

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/school_report_card/accountability_guide.pdf



Join us as we Lead, Inspire, and Grow

Comprehensive Plan Objectives for 2011-2016

Promote academic rigor and career preparation

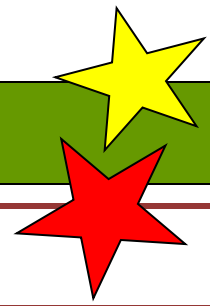
Ensure a safe and healthy learning environment

Broaden community involvement

Provide sustainable facilities

The School Board will present a report to the public by November of each odd-numbered year on activities and progress toward objectives of the division-wide comprehensive plan.

Improving Academic Rigor



Standards and Textbook Adoptions

- New history standards 2010/11- new textbook adoptions 2011
- New math standards 2011/12- new textbook adoptions 2012
- New English and science standards 2012-13- new English textbook adoptions 2013
No new adoptions for Science 2013

Curriculum Training and Professional Development

- Addition of Wilson reading for elementary school 2011
- Addition of Literacy by Design for elementary school 2013
- Professional Development was provided by two nationally known speakers- John Strebe on Cooperative Learning and Instruction in the 90 Minute Block; Ron Nash on Higher Order Thinking Skills
- Rappahannock County was able to enter a consortium for 6 teachers to obtain a Master's Degree from Eastern Mennonite University
- Also enrolled three math teachers in a master's program to obtain dual enrollment endorsements through Radford University
- Professional development for school improvement at the elementary school for mathematics- Big Ideas and Making Connections to Real World
- Summer academic retreat for administration
- Incorporation of division-wide benchmark assessments and correlations

Evaluation System

Goal to measure and evaluate academic success

- Teacher evaluation system implemented 2012
- Principal and superintendent evaluation system implemented fall 2013

Rigor

- 2013 Schedules for AP and Pre-AP classes 2012, 2013
- Technology training classes 2011, 2012, 2013
- Governor's school and differentiation for gifted students
- Mentors and Reading Buddies
- Training of volunteers at the elementary school for READ program
- Incorporation of Dual Enrollment classes- off campus 2012, off and on campus for 2013

Pacing Guides

Guides for core areas with thematic units and Bloom's level criteria added August 2013
Curriculum with Big Ideas and Connections added November 2013

Career Readiness Indicators of Success:

- *Increased credentials from 18 to 44 students
- *73% pass rate on the VA Workplace Readiness exam

Digging Deeper for Clarity....

Highlights for Advanced Students 2011 – 2013

RCHS:

- 6 students attended the regional governor's school (MVGS) 2011-2012
- 4 students attend MVGS currently (2012-2013)
- 2 students attended the Summer Residential Program: School for the Humanities and the School for Math, Sciences and Technology
- Pre-AP and AP classes were encouraged for all students
- Students took advantage of the Virtual AP program with one student receiving AP Scholar Recognition
- Student crafted independent studies learning and earned credit
- Students took advantage of the Apex online courses
- LFCC dual enrollment
- Art students were invited to meet with artists from the community during the school day discussing art and career paths
- Extra-curricular activities: Quiz Bowl, service organizations, leadership clubs and attendance at the spring 24 Tournament

RCES:

- Students were included in small group or collaborative class initiatives in both math and English for at least 30 minutes a week. Primary grades integrate writing in the extension and have screening lessons that include discussions and higher level thinking strategies focused on the "Powerful Words" and/or math problem-solving.
- In language arts, students in grades 3 through 7 participated in cluster grouped classes that offered WordMasters, William and Mary units and Pre-AP lessons.
- In math classes, students were exposed to the Continental Math League quizzes with direct instruction in problem-solving and the use of Mentoring Math Minds series.
- The use of Math "24" as an enrichment is encouraged in the regular classroom and supported in a variety of ways. The program has been shared with our afterschool enrichment program for incorporation into activities.
- Middle school students were also offered instruction using the Pre-AP series.

Career Readiness ACT Scores as Compared to the State

	College English Composition	College Algebra	College Social Science	College Biology	Meeting all 4
District	80%	100%	80%	60%	60%
State	76%	57%	57%	47%	37%

Overall Instruction 2011-2013

- 2 Dual Enrollment English classes offered at the high school (English 111 and 112)
- Trial Academic and Career Plan implemented in grades 6-7 for 2012/13 with full implementation for 2013/14
- Mastery Learning retake policy was updated
- Grade scale revised to 10 point scale
- World Geography was implemented in grade 8
- Service Learning was added as a pilot course at RCHS
- 2 new electives were added to the RCHS English offerings, Media as Text and Speech and Rhetoric
- Math curriculum was written for RCES to align new textbook series with SOL Standards, with professional development on Big Ideas, Bloom's and Marzano strategies 2013/14
- Pre-AP curriculum was written for English and Math grades 6-12
- Reading curriculum was written for RCES grades K-5 to align with new English Standards and new reading series
- Conducted a reading program evaluation
- The IXL computer program was added to the math curriculum at RCES
- Regional programs with Madison County have continued and we have added a ROTC program with Culpepper County

Specifically Reading

- The 2012/13 school year marked year 3 of Wilson Implementation
- Thorough examination of the reading programs, the division adopted Literacy by Design for grades K-5, implementation fall 2013
- Continued use of I-Station to target and remediate struggling readers
- Starfish mentor READ program implemented for grades K and 2
- Degrees of Reading Power Assessment used in grades 3-10 to help pinpoint reading levels and provide feedback instructionally for reading teachers

Specifically Math

- Adoption of VA Math Connects K-5 (hardback textbooks), VA Math Connects and Glencoe Math online (6-12)
- Curriculum connections

Special Education

Purchase of IEP online program to expedite IEP process

The transition program at the high school implemented community-based work partnerships and fundraising activities

CTE Program

**New Program of Study-
Agriculture/Horticulture
Increased credentials for CTE completers
Increased pass rate on the VA Workplace Readiness exam
New class options for students
Personal Finance Class**

Update on School Improvement and Strategies 2013/2014

- With receipt of preliminary score data, the division incorporated strategies such as benchmark assessments, correlations of previous data points with actual SOL data, and provisions for professional development.
- Beginning in October of 2013, the division began working with the Virginia Department of Education on strategic “tools” for determining need areas of the schools.
- The following areas of need for the elementary school were identified using these tools: Curriculum, specifically the incorporation of Big Ideas and Connections, Scheduling and time allotments for core content classes, lesson planning, classroom observations, and evaluations. Protocols adopted for use by the elementary school will be shared and adopted for the high school on an as needed basis. Strategies for denoting change are reflected in each tool and teacher lesson plans.
- November in-service after hours consisted of unpacking of the standards for the SOLs

Additional updates can be found on monthly school board agendas as we focus on continued growth and school improvement through sharing of instructional updates and academic highlights (<http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/rcpsva/Board.nsf/Public>).

Three Year Accreditation Data

Accreditation	Tested Year 10/11 Reported Fall 11/12	Tested year 11/12 Reported Fall 12/13	Tested Year 12/13 Reported Fall 13/14
Rappahannock County Elementary		New Math Standards	New English Standards
English	78	88	66
Math	82	60	68
History	77	77	78
Science	82	84	62
Rappahannock County High			
English	90	92	75
Math	88	61	61
History	84	84	79
Science	94	96	87
Graduation Index	95	85	94

(Reference: School Report Cards, VDOE)

Technology

Computer to Student Ratio

VDOE requires a ratio of 5 students to every 1 computer for testing as stated in the VPSA reimbursement documents.

We currently have 1.6 students to every computer at RCHS and 3.2 students to every computer at RCES.

- There are 192 computers at RCES and 216 computers at RCHS. The Technology staff has refreshed three labs and added one lab at RCES. RCHS has added three labs.
- As part of safety planning, the installation of circuits in the server rooms at RCHS and RCES to power the new “universal power systems” (batteries) to keep critical equipment up and running.
- Replacement of the server at RCES due to hardware failure, upgraded the phone system and added new content management to our web server (Tuesday folder; photo archives; calendaring, and required notifications for parents), and upgraded the weather station services at RCHS
- Created the Office 365 cloud based Outlook services
- Installed projector display at entrance to RCHS and application to program the e-sign at RCHS.
- Installed SPAM filtering for the division email which dramatically reduced SPAM emails
- Mapped the network switches to indicate cabling routes and access points
- Replaced the existing wireless network from the Aruba system to Meraki and installed network services in the SBO wing.



Additional Technology for Instruction

	Year 2012/13	Year 2013/14
Document Camera	41	53
Ipad Cart	2	4
Ipads	135	135
Kindles	38	41

School Facilities: Upgrades and Changes: Summer/Fall 2013

- Demolition/cleanup of modular classroom area behind elementary school and unused utility poles removed
- Cleanup of debris pile by elementary school “lagoon”
- Repair of backup AC unit and air exchanger unit
- Replacement/refurbishment of all classroom door locks to meet higher safety standards
- Re-sand and refinished elementary school stage floor and gyms
- Installation of new thermostats to better regulate temperature and energy usage and higher amp outlets to allow backup generators for both school’s servers
- Installation of new welding class area in high school shop class to improve safety and teacher observation of students
- Addition of school board and elementary school soccer practice fields to playing field maintenance schedule
- Repair and replacement of major components of Panther Stadium irrigation system (new control box and many new sprinkler heads)
- Carpet replacement in three elementary school classrooms, high school band room, and high school office suites
- Asbestos abatement (floor tile) in high school office suite
- Repair of Bunsen burner system in high school lab and old gas stove in elementary school cafeteria
- Replacement of fire alarm control unit/board at both schools
- Repair/refurbishment: radiator covers at both schools, bathroom stall dividers, and athletic lockers in boys locker room
- Sound system upgraded in high school auditorium
- Fences repaired and gates installed at athletic fields
- AED device installed at high school fitness rooms/locker rooms area
- Brush cleaning and tree trimming and debris removal in elementary school courtyard

Safety and Community

School crisis planning is an ongoing process. Following updates to the Crisis Plan last year, the school crisis team met with the Sheriff's department for a walk through of the facilities prior to school starting in August. Plans were made to offer professional development for staff and to revisit the crisis plan. The school crisis team met each week to discuss and familiarize themselves to procedures and practices. The school crisis team is made up of administration, facility personnel, and school personnel.

Professional development was held on October 24, 2013 for all division employees. In collaboration with the county sheriff's department, the training provided employees insight into safe practices for violence in the workplace, active shooter training, and school intruder recognition. Following the training, the division completed the final steps for the installation of buzzers at the school and division sites for better security. Plans are still in effect to enclose the foyers at both schools for better security.



Keeping our schools safe with the support of our local Sheriff's Department ... A special thank you to Sheriff Connie and the terrific Deputies of Rappahannock County.



Community involvement is an essential component of our schools. Community support is vital to meet the vast needs of our students. The Lions Club offers vision and hearing screenings for our kindergarten students and the Virginia Department of Health offers a Dental Screening Program. Guest speakers and local farmers offer assistance for taste testing opportunities for our students through the cafeteria program and our Farm to Table program. Local farmers support our efforts to buy local through the community supported agriculture program. Our local foundation, Headwaters, offers assistance with a program called Starfish mentoring, which mentors local students. Headwaters also offers enrichment programs through after-school activities in the fall of the school year and the Next Step program for students at the high school who are pursuing college options and offerings.



Local grant opportunities, Northern Piedmont Foundation, the Union Bank, and the work of our local PTO organization supported the additional needs of our elementary school through generous donations toward the new playground which was donated in 2012. Our Curriculum Enrichment Program (CEP) provides opportunities for students and teachers for field trips and other enrichment activities.

Additionally, these organizations have supported student learning extensions and upgrading of equipment. Our school sports organization, RCSSA, support the needs of our athletes through competitive activities such as the golf tournament and through fundraising and sponsoring of the concession stand at ballgames.

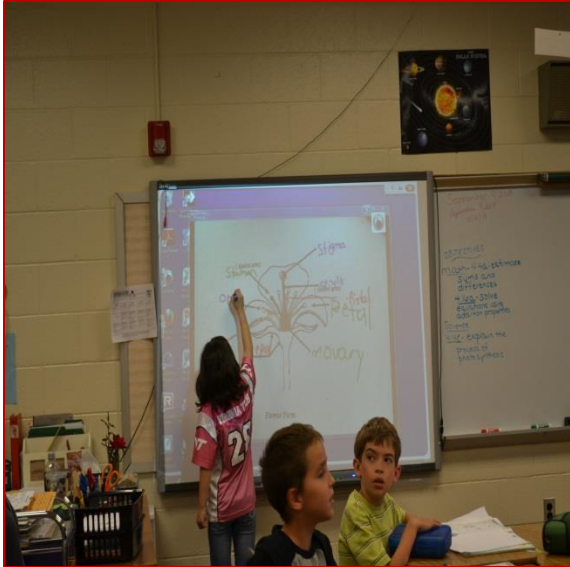
Helping our schools shine and promoting community pride, our RCSSA has donated over \$17,000 towards our sports programs for 2012-2013:

- Two soccer goals
- Weekly sessions with guest Soccer Coach
- Maintenance and upkeep plan for soccer practice fields at RCES
- Refurbishment of RCHS softball practice field and Softball helmets
- Baseball hats and softball visors for teams and coaches
- Baseball/softball sport bags as well as an Indoor batting cage
- Protective indoor turf used with indoor batting cage
- Team travel, Sports awards, coaching stipends
- Championship T-shirts and Senior blankets
- Donkey Basketball donation to the RCHS Class of 2015



Our Rappahannock Band Boosters provide assistance to our band program, support competitions, and sponsor our Veteran's program each year. Fundraising and local donations assist to provide our students with additional opportunities and enriched experiences.

Extended learning opportunities for students support the goals of rigor and career exploration. Real world experiences explored through technology support the learning environment.



Our students feel a sense of ownership as they participate in community by giving back through Farm to Table harvesting, work in the gardens, and volunteerism through Service Learning. Students in Service Learning support the Back Pack program, which provides healthy meals for students.

Parent Teacher Organization

Our local PTO organization supports the high school and the elementary school.

The PTO purchased “Lady Bug” document cameras and supported Accelerated Reader (AR) rewards.

They have contributed to teacher dinners, babysitting services for young students, and “Read Across America Night” activities. They have helped with Kindergarten registration materials and coordinated the Kindergarten flower bed project.

They partnered to provide the “Kid Pan Alley” lunch. In addition, they provided a moon-bounce for DARE Day, playground stencils and paint, as well as funds for the Memorial Garden, and water bottle filling stations.

Each year they support the faculty with teacher dinners and babysitting services. Most recently they donated a lobby bench to the elementary school and sponsored movie night.