

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION 8/9-12**

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 8/24**

**PROJECT FORUM 2021: 2/5**

# RVGS Newsletter



June 2021

## SENIOR CELEBRATION

### Message from the Director

We could not let the year come to an end without one final celebration for the Class of 2021. Mr. Levy bestowed upon the students their certificates of achievement for completing the RVGS curriculum. Students were also given their own alumni pins in honor of their achievement.

Senior Superlative certificates were also picked up. This year's awards included: "Worst Case of Senioritis", "Most Likely to Win Nobel Peace Prize" and "Most Likely to Run Off with the Circus"



Students and staff were able to gather outdoors for final goodbyes and words of wisdom before the Seniors embark on the next phase of their lives. FreedomFirst Credit Union added to the festive atmosphere with free frozen treats for students (and staff!) It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the students and all their achievements during an extra challenging year. We will miss the Class of 2021 and cannot wait to follow along on your journeys!



The 2020-21 school year was about as unusual as any of us are likely to experience. That said, from a certain prospective, I call aspects of what we were able to accomplish at RVGS uniquely successful. We maintained hybrid in-person instruction without interruption throughout the year, facilitated continued laboratory work for the students, and managed to have a reasonably productive Intersession. Back in August, I was quite doubtful that any of those three could have been possible.

In addition, we were able to maintain the challenging and enriching academic experiences that are core to RVGS's mission. That certainly doesn't mean the process was easy for our students or staff, and there were road bumps along the way. Those difficulties make the effort and determination that our students demonstrated over the past 15 months even more admirable. While I wish this year had unfolded differently, I can't express how proud I am of the way the whole RVGS community came together to make the best of a tough situation. I want to specifically give our seniors a shout out, as they had such an unconventional final year, which was certainly disheartening at times. We are proud of how you finished up and we are sorry for how these circumstances impacted you so acutely.

It is our plan to operate five days a week in-person in the fall and follow a normal class schedule. I will provide additional information on our back to school plans later in the summer, but I think we will all be glad to have a return to normalcy!

I hope everyone enjoys a safe and restful summer break.

### Counselor's Corner

Greetings.

This unique year has now come to a close and it is time to rest and recuperate. As I am reflecting back, I'd like to say how proud I am of our faculty, staff and students. This year was a challenge, but our faculty provided a rigorous and supportive classroom each and every day. Our students met the challenges and continued to learn and grow.

You all have much to be proud of. Take time over the next couple of months to relax and find joy with family and friends. Stay safe and healthy. I look forward to seeing you all next fall!

### In this issue:

**Page 2:** VSSEF, VJAS, and VaJSHS results

**Page 3:** ISEF awards and Alumni Spotlight

**Page 4:** Senior awards

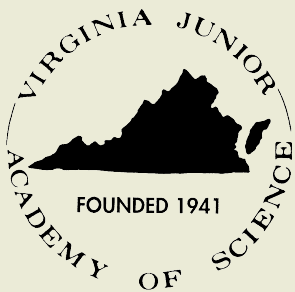
**Page 5:** College destinations

Due to Covid-19, the Western Virginia Regional Science Fair, Virginia State Science Fair, Virginia Junior Academy of Science (VJAS), the Virginia Junior Science Humanities Symposium (VJSHS) and ISEF remained a virtual format this year.



## Virginia State Science & Engineering Fair

**1st place Animal Science:** Alicia Carvalho and Liala Sofi  
**2nd place Cell and Molecular Biology:** Maddi Brown and Dhruvi Patel  
**2nd place Plant Sciences:** Carson Ray and Daniel Han  
**3rd place Chemistry:** Ainsley Robertson and Rebecca Qiu  
**Honorable Mention Animal Sciences:** Uyen Tran



**1st place—** Eleanor Little  
**1st place AND VAS Botany Award—**Carson Ray and Daniel Han  
**3rd place-**Holly Hinchy and Ella Bryan  
**Honorable Mention-** Uyen Nhi Tran  
**Roscoe Hughes Genetics Award-** London Paige  
**Honorable Mention-** Liala Sofi and Alicia Carvalho



## Virginia Junior Science and Humanities Symposium

The following students presented their research to the **VaJSHS** hosted by Longwood University  
Eleneanor Little, Uyen Nhi Tran, Meitra Kazemi, London Paige,  
Shannon Filer and Sarah Spradlin



We are pleased to share that we had two grand awards recipients at ISEF this year!

Sydney Vokus and Kierstyn Stanley received 3<sup>rd</sup> in Mechanical Engineering for their project "*Rotating Weekly Pill Dispenser*"

Eleanor Little received 4<sup>th</sup> in Earth and Environmental Science for her project "*Analysis of Microbial Diversity in PCB-Contaminated Environments*"

### *Alumni Spotlight-Se Jeong*



Se Jeong (RVGS/FC Class of 2010) certainly has a passion for research. That passion was first sparked at RVGS and led his to awarded to trips to ISEF in 2009 and 2010. He was even awarded a Special Award in the category of Medicine and Health in 2010.

After graduating from RVGS and Franklin County, Se chose to attend the University of Virginia. He was quickly able to get back into research by joining the Tumor Immunology Lab. Though able to graduate a year early in 2013, Se chose to continue working in the lab while also pursuing his Master of Public Health, which he received in 2017.

In 2018, Se left UVa to join the Regeneron team and continue research. He is currently employed as a Senior Research and Development Specialist. He describes himself as a "wet lab bench scientist" and works between the pre-clinical and clinical trials. He is focusing on the sequencing of tumors.

While engage in his own research, Se has found time to promote and award high school student research thru the VJAS. He has served as chair for 6 years and will be soon starting his 3<sup>rd</sup> term. His main goal with the VJAS is to increase participation especially in underrepresented communities. Se has also participated with the Regeneron ISEF competition by leading virtual category receptions for the participants. Recently, Se has been honored as a fellow of the Virginia Academy of Science due to his multi-year service to VJAS.

Se believes that RVGS helped to introduce and promote his love for research, and he hopes to continue sharing that with other students.

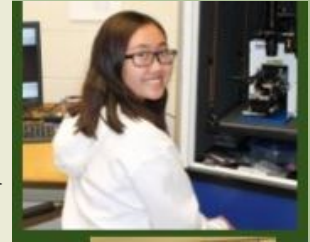
Congratulation to Se for his newest honor. We are so proud of you and your many accomplishments!



# Senior Awards



Congratulations to London Paige, Delaney Smith and Uyen Tran for being awarded the **Alfred D. Blease Memorial Student Leadership and Service Award**



Congratulations to Shannon Filer for being awarded a **Faculty Award** for “consistent support of community outreach”.

Congratulations to Fady Abdelmalak for being awarded a **Faculty Award** for persistence and determination



## RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC CONSISTENCY



## 2020 SENIOR CLASS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The 73 graduating Seniors of the RVGS class of 2021 certainly had much to celebrate. The RVGS class of 2021 will be attending 30 different colleges, from as close as Roanoke College (14 miles) to as far off as University of Utah (1999 miles). The most popular destinations this year are Virginia Tech (10 students) and the University of Virginia (18 students).

Other state schools such as William and Mary and VCU were also highly selected. Students were offered over \$6 million in scholarships.

We will miss these amazing students next year. Remember -we always love when students come back to visit and share all their new adventures!

It's not goodbye, just see you later!



# Congratulations Class of 2021!



<b>Fady Abdelmalak</b>	Virginia Tech	<b>Amelia Kitt</b>	Virginia Tech
<b>Hassan Al-Qattan</b>	GAP Year	<b>Jackson Konstance</b>	Georgetown UNiversity
<b>Benjamin Anderson</b>	University of Minnesota	<b>Nelson Laine</b>	Thomas Nelson CC then VT
<b>Frank Andes</b>	Rochester Institute of Technology	<b>Cathryn Little</b>	College of William and Mary
<b>Katherine Aziz</b>	University of Virginia	<b>Megan McGinnis</b>	Duke
<b>Chloe Beasley</b>	Mary Baldwin	<b>Owen McKenna</b>	West Virginia University
<b>Tate Berenbaum</b>	GAP Year then UVa	<b>Bailey McNeil</b>	Virginia Tech
<b>Alexander Branscom</b>	American University	<b>Ryan Mollin</b>	VCU
<b>Harrison Callis</b>	College of William and Mary	<b>Jonah Mroz-Roakes</b>	University of Rhode Island
<b>Roman Ciulla</b>	Virginia Tech	<b>Parker Neal</b>	Colorado State University
<b>Anias Clark</b>	VCU	<b>Natalie Overstreet</b>	Concord University
<b>Benjamin Collier</b>	University of Utah	<b>London Paige</b>	Washington and Lee University
<b>Taylor Dawson</b>	MIT	<b>Lynn Park</b>	University of Virginia
<b>Blair Jodeci Dawson</b>	University of Virginia	<b>Hannah Peters</b>	Cornell University
<b>Conner Deering</b>	George Mason	<b>Jennie Pham</b>	University of Pennsylvania
<b>Aaliyah Dixon</b>	GAP Year	<b>Alex Porras</b>	Washington University-St. Louis
<b>Elizabeth Fedor</b>	University of Virginia	<b>Eliza Quesenberry</b>	Virginia Western Community College
<b>Shannon Filer</b>	Princeton University	<b>Alexandra Rhodes</b>	College of William and Mary
<b>Isaac Fix</b>	Davidson College	<b>Collin Rice</b>	Old Dominion University
<b>Ethan Fouch</b>	University of Virginia	<b>Sarah Riddle</b>	University of Virginia
<b>Cecilia Fraticelli</b>	University of South Carolina	<b>Chloe Roberts</b>	University of Virginia
<b>Leah Germain</b>	University of Virginia	<b>Rachel Roberts</b>	Virginia Tech
<b>Rosie Giles</b>	University of Colorado	<b>Joseph Sandzimier</b>	Rennslear Polytechnic Institute
<b>Simran Gill</b>	Roanoke College	<b>Delaney Smith</b>	University of Virginia
<b>Andrew Gloudemans</b>	College of William and Mary	<b>Liala Sofi</b>	University of Virginia
<b>Mecayla Gray</b>	College of William and Mary	<b>Sarah Spradin</b>	Virginia Tech
<b>Emma Kate Greer</b>	University of Virginia	<b>Kierstyn Stanley</b>	Virginia Tech
<b>Sarah Hall</b>	University of Virginia	<b>Chase Sweeney</b>	Virginia Tech
<b>Owen Himmel</b>	University of Virginia	<b>Jacob Tozier</b>	Virginia Tech
<b>Lillian Holt</b>	Randolph-Macon College	<b>Camly Tran</b>	College of William and Mary
<b>Allyson Hoosier</b>	University of Virginia	<b>Uyen Tran</b>	University of Virginia
<b>Parker Hudson</b>	University of Virginia	<b>Julie Vong</b>	Virginia Tech
<b>Adi Iyer</b>	Virginia Tech	<b>Jasmine Walker</b>	Howard University
<b>Evan Jennings</b>	Appalachian State	<b>Anna West</b>	VCU
<b>Ethan Johnson</b>	Virginia Tech	<b>David Whitacre</b>	University of Virginia
<b>Meitra Kazemi</b>	UNC-Chapel Hill	<b>Annelise Wolfe</b>	University of Virginia
		<b>Walker Wright</b>	University of Virginia