



NEXT MONTH:

- OCT 1-5 ULTIMATE FRISBEE TOURNAMENT
- OCT 8 NON-STUDENT DAY
- OCT 20 SHELLY CHALLENGE
- OCT 31 INTERIM 2

Counselor's Corner

The first interims have gone out, and most students have made the beginning-of-the-year adjustments and are feeling more confident and settled in their classes. However, through my individual discussions with students, I have found that many of them are still battling procrastination and time management issues. One of the first things that these students often push aside as a priority in order to get their work done is adequate sleep. I have talked with students who are consistently getting less than 6 hours of sleep a night, and some significantly less.

As you know, this takes a major toll on students academically, physically and emotionally. We have amazing, hard-working and very intelligent students, but they are still developing adolescents who are often incapable of making the adjustments to their schedules that need to be made without some oversight from parents. Please talk to your student and make sure they are making their health their number one priority.

The first week of October we are holding our annual United Way Ultimate Frisbee tournament. We have seven (7) teams who have signed up, and each team member will pay \$5 to play. The winning team will win bragging rights and a pancake breakfast! All the money goes to support the United Way. We play before school in the field behind the RVGS faculty parking lot. Come watch the fun!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Nobel Prize Winner, NASA Scientist Dr. John Mather Speaks to RVGS Students

Dr. John Mather, 2006 Nobel Laureate and internationally respected astrophysicist, recently took time from his busy schedule to treat our students to a guest lecture via Skype. Dr. Mather currently works at NASA as a senior astrophysicist developing the James Webb Space Telescope.

Covering topics such as his current work, a timeline of important astronomy discoveries, and his personal experiences in physics research, Dr. Mather's talk

was engaging and interesting. The event even included a Q&A session—it's not every day that students get to have questions answered by a scientist famous for helping confirm the Big Bang Theory!



Enriching Instruction at RVGS: Focusing on Applications

In **Mr. Browning** and **Mr. Wages'** classes, students conducted an experiment where they diluted a solution of hydrochloric acid with distilled water—in math class! In this experiment, students used probe-wire to measure the pH after each dilution of the

acid. The objective of this experiment was to measure the change in pH after each dilution and analyze the results using skills from their class, such as linear regression. Only at RVGS do you find students wearing lab coats and goggles during Algebra class!

Message from the Director

I can hardly believe that we are starting October already - the school year is certainly moving along! Students are settled into their classes, and hopefully our first year students have made progress in adjusting to life at RVGS. I encourage students and parents to reach out to teachers for instructional assistance and to Mrs. Sebolt for advice on time management and study skills, as needed.

For the past few weeks, our students have been working on academic goal development through our *RVGS Determined* program. They have received lessons on setting specific and reasonable goals using the SMART framework and recently had one-on-one discussions with teachers about their goals. Moving forward, we will work with students on how to reflect on and track their progress. It is our hope that these opportunities will support our students' success over both the short and long term.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns. Our staff is ready and willing to provide the help our students need to be successful.

Students in Mr. Browning's class measuring pH of serial dilutions



Fast Balls & Mugsy: And the winners are



On Friday, September 7th, students in **Melissa Fisher** and **Brandon Taylor's** classes calculated the speed of their fastballs by using derivatives. Each student threw a ball vertically into the air, recorded the data, and analyzed it using calculus.

Thanks to the **Salem Red Sox** for their support—sending Mugsy to participate and donating a pair of tickets for each winner to attend a game next season.



Congratulations to the Fastballs Winners



The winners from Mrs. Fisher's PM class were **Evan Gross** and **Mary Grace Giles** (left).

Winners from the AM classes were **Alicia Sanchez-Huerta**, **Maddy Nichols**, **Grady Brydges**, and **Kevin Sheng** (shown below).



Alysia and Brady won for Mrs. Fisher's AM2 class and Maddy and Kevin had the top fastballs in Mr. Taylor's class.

Student Spotlight on Tate Berenbaum



A tenth-grade student from Salem, Tate Berenbaum has been following his passion for developing mobile games for years. At the age of 13, Tate developed his first mobile game.

On Father's Day in 2016, Tate and his dad started developing *Games of Taps*. Before completing the mobile game, he had another game idea. While traveling with his dad in their car, Tate watched the lines on the road, and thought "Wouldn't it be cool to develop a mobile game similar to the way you stay on the road when driving." From that point, *Games of Taps* was placed on hold as he started developing a new mobile game called *ALine: Align the Lines*. According to Tate, "It took me only three days to get the core



functionality, and it was an easy app to develop." Although *ALine: Align the Lines* can be

simple, it challenges the user's reflexes. As his mom commented on the site, it can be "challenging yet addictive all at the same time". *ALine: Align the Lines* has been in the App Store since 2016 with a couple of thousand downloads.

After much reflection, Tate indicated that *Aline: Align the Lines* was an excellent first mobile game to learn how to publish and market an app." Tate also discovered how to utilize various forms of phone hardware and that "games without authenticity could be built quicker."

Tate then turned his focused to finishing *Games of Taps*. When you log into the App store and search for *Game of Taps*, it synopsis read, "*Game of Taps* is a simple, but crazy addictive game where you try and tap the screen when the spinning ball hits 180 degrees." It took a year to complete this mobile game. Currently, *Game of Taps* also has over 2000 downloads in the App store.

A couple of weeks ago, Tate got off the bus and entered one of his RVGS classes. As he walked into the room, students were quiet and had their cell phones tilted. He finally realized they were all playing *Aline: Align the Lines*, one of his mobile games. This moment was one of

the funniest moments of his life.

Last summer, Tate developed a crowdfunding platform/website with his dad called *FunFund*. *FunFund* is a platform that connects crowdfunding with games.



The website is <https://www.funfund.co>.

Tate's dad has played a vital role in his life by providing support, guidance, and assistance with his mobile games. Since his dad has experience coding, he has mentored and guided Tate through some of the coding challenges that come with developing mobile games. Tate acknowledged that they have learned from each other. Besides his father and family, Tate draws his inspiration from Elon Musk, Tesla Motors CEO.

While Tate enjoys skiing with his family in Montana and Canada, his free time is spent developing and maintaining his mobile games.

-Sicinda Canty-Elliott

Alumni Spotlight on Clinton Morse



A graduate of PHHS/RVGS class of 2000, Clinton Morse had all intentions of pursuing a career in mathematics. He attended James Madison University where he double majored in mathematics and computer science—all while playing Division 1 Tennis.

After leaving James Madison, Clinton attended graduate school to obtain a Master's in mathematics. He woke up one morning and watched an episode of Law & Order. Clinton changed career paths and enrolled in Wake Forest School of Law.

What are your current role and your job duties?

I like reading RVGS alumni stories from folks who continued to follow their science and tech passions. I did not. Instead, I went to Wake Forest School of Law, graduating magna cum laude. I am now a partner in the law firm of Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, N.C. I am consistently rated as one of the best litigators under the age of 40 in North Carolina representing clients on issues relating to intellectual property, bankruptcy, and general corporate disputes.

Outside of work, what do you enjoy most?

I also rededicated myself to physical fitness to be a good example for my five-year-old and two-year-old sons. I ran four marathon distance or longer races this year, and I plan to run the Greensboro Triple Lakes 40 miler at the end of October.

Tell us about Your Family Life

My wife graduated magna cum laude with her MBA from Wake Forest University. She is now the senior manager of financial planning and analysis at the Fresh Market. We have two rambunctious little boys, Shep (age 5) and Brady (age 2). Shep is already showing early signs of a love of science. He can talk your ear off about most any reptile, amphibian, or the slow loris.

- Siclinda Canty-Elliott



RVGS Students Orienting Students (SOS) Mentors & Mentees Mixer

As students arrived on the morning of September 12th, **Kathy Sebolt** and several student mentors were gathered

making pancakes for first year students - and they were at it again in the afternoon serving ice cream.

The Mentors & Mentees Mixer was an avenue for first year RVGS students and their mentors to meet in a non-formal, relaxed and nonacademic atmosphere. As **Ellen Bryant** entered the room, she spoke about her first few weeks at RSVG. Although she hadn't interacted with her mentor yet, she was expecting to do so at the mixer. She explained that "Everything was a little bit stressful and new."

When **Caleb McMurtry** was a first-year student, the mentoring program didn't exist. As a current mentor, Caleb wished that the program was around when he was a new student. Caleb said, "This was my first leadership role directly helping others, and I am grateful to have a chance to help out." Caleb met all four of his mentees at Orientation.

Students Orienting Students (SOS) is a student-led peer mentoring program that is in its second year. Juniors and Seniors volunteer to be mentors and are paired with several first year students. The mentors first make contact during the summer, and most of them participate in the new student orientation. Mentors have figured out how to manage their academics along with their other activities successfully, and they want to share their knowledge and experience.

"Parents, please encourage your first-year students to reach out to their mentors for support or guidance if needed," said **Mrs. Sebolt**.

Eliza Quesenberry, a first year student from Franklin County, said, "I like the environment at RVGS, but it's a lot more homework than I'm use too. But, the teachers are more understanding." **Ryan Mollin**, also from Franklin County said: "I liked the feeling of mentors: someone is there to tell a lot about their experiences." **Hannah Mollin**, a mentor and sibling to Ryan, enjoys being a mentor helping students succeed. The advice she gave Ryan and her other mentees were: "Do not wait until the last moment to complete your homework, and don't procrastinate!"

These suggestions were a common theme given to mentees. **Haley McAden**, who is a senior at PHHS and has four mentees, told her mentees to "Get plenty of sleep because students don't get enough sleep." Finally at the end of the day during the ice cream mixer, **Libby Jamison** received advice from her mentor, "Don't stress about the little things because the overall picture will help you succeed."

