

**ANNUAL SCHOOL EVALUATION**  
Rhea Valley Elementary School  
2011-2012

Rhea Valley Elementary presented a Comprehensive Plan for school improvement as it relates to Washington County Schools Comprehensive Plan. The objectives for the 2011-2012 School year included the following: (1) Increase student achievement in language arts and mathematics; (2) Increase the use of technology to engage students in meaningful learning experiences; (3) A professional development goal focusing on children in poverty; and (4) Meet all local, state, regional, and federal accreditation standards. The focus on language arts and mathematics produced a steady increase in language arts achievement. The extensive use of data has resulted in effective identification of students not making progress and an improved rate of identifying students with learning disabilities. Benchmark test results were analyzed and the data used to review items missed. While achievement in mathematics showed little progress, data analysis identified areas of weakness and strategies are in place to better prepare students for the rigor of mathematics assessments. Professional development opportunities for teachers included a book discussion of "Teaching with Poverty in Mind". Accomplishments for the year include a shift to school-wide data from individual data, increased vertical planning and peer observation.

The administration and staff of Rhea Valley Elementary School are to be commended for their work in meeting the 2011-2012 goals. Rhea Valley Elementary has achieved an 87% pass rate in Language Arts and a 61% pass rate in Mathematics SOL assessments. Rhea Valley Elementary School is fully accredited by the state and met all federal annual measurable objectives (AMO's).

The goals for the 2012-2013 school year are the following: (1) Increase student achievement in language arts and mathematics; (2) Incorporate the use of learning strategies to engage students in meaningful curricular opportunities; (3) A professional development goal focusing on goal setting and the use of strategies in the classroom; and (4) Meet all local, state, regional and federal accreditation standards. This year, Rhea Valley Elementary is utilizing many progress monitoring instruments, including AIMSWeb, Study Island, and Journeys Language Arts series. Professional development in mathematics focuses on increased rigor and instruction in the classroom. Increased time for mathematics has been included in the master schedule. The use of looping in the primary grades is being used to provide consistency in vocabulary and instruction.

## **CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION**

### **Rhea Valley Elementary School**

**2011-2012**

- Student achievement continues to be a priority, with data being used to guide instructional decisions. Data results for all tests are analyzed, and changes are made to meet the needs of ALL students by the Reach team and RtI tracking.
- The following assessment tools are being used: PALS and STAR tests which are given three times a year; county benchmark tests; Reading Recovery text level testing in kindergarten and first grade; Easy CBM (a progress-monitoring tool).
- Core teachers in each grade level have a common planning/collaboration period each day. Grade level meetings are an integral part of our instructional program.
- Highlands Community Services have been implemented in all grades. These counsellors are a strong part of the instructional program. They each work with a maximum of six students to address behavioral problems.
- All students are given the opportunity to participate in a fine arts program.
- Weekly grade group and Literacy Team meetings are held with the principal, to strategically plan instruction.
- The Accelerated Reader program is closely monitored by teachers to ensure that students are reading within their Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD). This is accomplished through the use of library cards and a team teaching approach between the librarian and teacher.
- Smartboards are available within each grade level to enable teachers to integrate technology into the curriculum. Smartboards have been mounted in most classrooms. CPS units are available for classroom use. Elmo document cameras are being used in classrooms.
- Inclusion is utilized by Special Education, Reading Specialists, Reading Recovery, and Speech/Language Therapy.
- Disaggregation of assessment data is still a strong priority at Rhea Valley Elementary. Data is sent electronically to Damascus Middle School.
- Grade level orientations are held at the beginning of the year for the purpose of explaining expectations and responsibilities for the year.
- RVES is using the Enterprise version of Accelerated Reader, which gives parents access to their children's data.
- Book fairs are held twice during the year, with every child given the opportunity to purchase a book\*.
- An intensive plan using Project Graduation monies is being used during the day for hiring retired teachers to tutor at-risk students.

- Rhea Valley will participate in the county summer reading project by providing books for ALL students.
- Title I Family Nights are held twice during the year to encourage family literacy.
- A guided reading book room is being maintained and resources are added periodically.
- In addition to book fairs, teachers send home Scholastic book orders, leveled readers, basal readers, and a variety of text to increase the print available in students' homes
- Professional development was conducted on Response to Intervention (RtI). Grade levels have developed an RtI tracking form to use as needed.
- Students are held to higher expectations. The use of Higher Order Thinking Questions is expected in all classes.
- Classroom and special teachers utilize word and focus walls.
- Tutors from Emory and Henry College, Virginia Highlands Community College and Holston High School are available to teachers and students each day.
- School Wide Title I has been implemented.
- A Summer Reading Program is conducted by the reading specialists.
- A Classroom set of iPads has been purchased.
- Technology- based instructional websites supplement each subject.
- The Journeys Reading program was piloted in grades 2 and 3. Training was given to all those involved in this pilot.
- The PTA provided reading night. Students enjoyed stories read by Holston Cavaliers football players and cheerleaders.

**DATA ASSESSMENT**  
Rhea Valley Elementary School  
2011-2012

- Individual data sheets were implemented and data is being maintained to allow for an all-inclusive data analysis on each student.
- Analysis of all tests given throughout the year is a priority.
- All faculty and staff are involved in the School Improvement Plan.
- Individual student cards with STAR and AR reading data are being used.
- Teachers continue to review the pacing guides and monitor benchmark testing data.
- In-school and before and after-school tutoring is provided to students who demonstrate a need for remedial instruction.
- Training and practice in using data for instructional decision-making remains a top priority at Rhea Valley Elementary.
- Grade level meetings focus on discussion of students and instructional strategies. Grade level meetings often review and discuss the students and their progress.
- Professional development is provided during faculty meetings and grade group meetings.
- Updates of data notebooks are made during the year and are located on the “S” drive.
- Grade levels have designed RtI forms for use in tracking students’ progress.
- Small group/inclusion is used for differentiation in math and reading.
- Remediation times have been established for each grade level.
- Each grade provides weekly updates.
- Data is analyzed in order to determine school-wide strengths and weaknesses.
- The Journeys reading program was piloted with online testing. The online testing enabled teachers to prescribe various activities for additional assistance.

**OPERATIONS & FACILITIES**  
Rhea Valley Elementary School  
2011-2012

- The yearly safety audit was conducted and recommendations for improvements were addressed.
- The Crisis Management Plan was reviewed at the beginning of the school year with all faculty and staff.
- Continued updating and review of bus safety and car rider procedures is a priority for the purpose of ensuring the safety of Rhea Valley students. Bus safety was taught to all students in music class and a safety demonstration was done by the bus drivers.
- Two-way radios are in place so that every teacher can be in contact with the office. This has been helpful, especially considering the number of times we did not have electricity.
- Ensuring that every adult in our building is wearing an ID badge is a high priority.
- A strong priority is making sure that students are signed out of school only by adults listed on the students' registration cards.
- The school website is kept current.
- All state practice drills are followed.
- Shutting off lights and computers and limiting the number of refrigerators in each grade level has helped in energy conservation.
- Faster loading of buses in the afternoon has helped to conserve fuel.
- Safety drills are conducted regularly.
- Fifth grade students shut down computers in the computer labs each afternoon.
- Recycling boxes have been set up to collect various items.
- Educational programs included Holston Valley Soil and Water Conservation programs, Recycled Paper, FFA Pals, the 4-H recycling program, Second Step, and Life Skills.
- Door checks are performed during the school day. A buzz-in system has been installed at the front door.
- Rhea Valley participated in the E&H College service plunge.
- The PTA provided funding and community members built a GaGa pit for students in order to increase physical activity during recess time. Sand was used as the surfacing for this pit for safety.
- Additional playground equipment was purchased by the PTA.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

### **Rhea Valley Elementary School**

**2011-2012**

- Communication, interaction and collaboration between the school and the home exist through a variety of means and media.
- PTA meetings are held monthly and most have involved student presentations.
- Faculty and staff participate in giving to the United Way.
- Senior Citizens of Damascus are honored with annual Christmas and Valentine's Day parties with buses providing transportation to Rhea Valley. For many of the senior citizens this is their first ride on a school bus. The senior citizens truly enjoy these events.
- A Spring Fling was enjoyed by the community, and raised needed funds for our school.
- Holston High School, Virginia Highlands Community College and Emory & Henry students are used as mentors and tutors.
- 4-H and Cloverbuds meet monthly. This program is strong at Rhea Valley.
- Volunteers are used throughout the school.
- Daily agendas are utilized by all grade levels as a way of daily communication for all events. Announcements are often written in this agenda, allowing us to cut down on the use of copy paper.
- Students from Damascus Middle and Holston High provide programs for various grade levels.
- The school, along with area churches and community members, provided Christmas gifts for over 150 children. Needed school supplies were also distributed at the beginning of the year. The Adopt-an-Angel program is used throughout the year.
- Several food drives were conducted in conjunction with the Boy Scouts and PTA. Our school participates in the area-wide Backpack food program.
- The Justin Foundation Annual Auction is held during the spring.
- The school website is kept updated.
- A Rhea Valley Elementary list serve is used.
- A little league board continues to oversee the midget league football program. This board meets at Rhea Valley regularly to support the students, not only in sports, but also in academics.
- Class orientation nights are held for all grade levels.
- Title I Family Fun Nights are held twice during the year.

- A school-wide art show/open house is held in the spring.
- A monthly school newsletter is distributed.
- Fourth and fifth grade participate in the County DAR essay contest.
- Fourth grade students make oral presentations as part of their 4-H requirements.
- Parents/Community involvement in the Title 1 program is strong.
- The school had a Relay for Life team this year.
- Tabs from drinks cans were donated for the work at St. Jude's Children's Hospital.
- Box Top, Campbell's labels, Sunny D labels, Coca-Cola codes are collected and used for a variety of instructional supplies.
- Recycling program for glue sticks and juice pouches
- Students and staff participate in the Washington County Fair
- Serves as home base for Appalachian Service Project during summer break.
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade was involved with the American Red Cross sending "Christmas Cards" to soldiers overseas.
- Coat Vouchers were offered to all students.
- Weekly Newsletters are sent out in Grades Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Kindergarten students in cooperation with Holston High Cheerleaders, participated in a Thanksgiving project at a local food bank.
- Back Pack program involved 90+ students every other Friday.

**SECURITY & SAFETY**  
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2011-2012

- An update and review of the crisis management plan was conducted.
- Visitor sign-in and traffic within the building is monitored.
- Guidelines are provided for dealing with disruptive and/or irate parents or visitors.
- Safety drills are held throughout the school year to educate students and faculty on procedures to be followed during an emergency situation.
- A safety audit of the school playground is conducted throughout the school year by our school maintenance staff.
- The principal provides weekly updates through the use of emails, newsletters, and a memo board. The weekly updates are an integral part of our school program.
- An “open door policy” is used for listening to parents’ concerns. This is announced at every PTA Meeting.
- All faculty and staff are required to wear ID badges. Stronger security practices help ensure that all parents and visitors wear badges when visiting Rhea Valley Elementary.
- Bus duty procedures were implemented to encourage reading and a time of study for students.
- Students help in making sure that all adults in the building have a visitor’s pass.
- Police officers are invited to visit the classrooms.
- Two way radios are in use to provide communications during emergency situations. Additional radios were purchased to help when the electricity is out.
- Bus safety activities are done with all grade levels.
- ID Concepts was offered to all children.
- A buzz in intercom system is installed at the front door.
- Pre-K and Kindergarten Halloween and safety program was provided by Sheriff Fred Newman.
- During Fire Safety Week, Damascus Fire Fighters presented a program on fire safety.
- The Happy Bear personal safety program was presented to grades Pre-K through 2nd.
- Resource Officer worked with each grade level on proper procedures to use during lock-downs.

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**  
Rhea Valley Elementary School  
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The following list is a sample of the ways our school works to address the intellectual, physical and social needs of ALL children:

- Quoting of daily motto: “A Rhea Valley Jr. Cavalier is a responsible citizen who is respectful, cooperative, kind to others and ready for learning every day”
- School and county Spelling Bees
- Two musical programs were presented at PTA meetings
- Fifth grade DARE program and Drug Awareness Week
- Read Across America
- Kindergarten Literacy Days
- Literacy activities, such as The Reading Pep Rally and Summer Reading Program
- Spring Fling sponsored by the PTA
- Student performances at PTA programs
- Various contests throughout the year
- Awards Day
- A coordinated Adopt-an-Angel Christmas program served over 100 families
- Grade-level field trips throughout the year
- School facilities are used for Little League, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts
- Celebration of the various weeks/days established by the School Board and Department of Education
- 4-H competitions including a talent show, oral presentations and speeches
- Tutoring program
- The principal’s announcements included an educational thought or problem of the day
- Jump Rope For Hearts
- Virginia History Bowl for fourth graders
- Math-A-Thon
- Estimation contest conducted by the art teacher
- Student art show

- School spirit activities were used throughout the year to show school spirit among staff and students
- Participation in World Math Day
- Reflection Program
- Art student of the week
- Third grade science fair
- Fourth grade presentations
- All lost and found items not claimed at the end of the year are donated to our local mission
- Gate students are offered monthly activities