ANNUAL SCHOOL EVALUATION Rhea Valley Elementary 2012-2013

Rhea Valley Elementary presented a Comprehensive Plan for school improvement as it relates to Washington County Schools Comprehensive Plan. The objectives for the 2012-2013 School year included the following: (1) Increase student achievement in language arts and mathematics; (2) Provide learning strategies for students to be successful across the curriculum; (3) A professional development goal focusing on goal setting and strategies; and (4) Meet all local, state, regional, and federal accreditation standards. While students were successful on classroom assessments, the same success was not seen on Standards of Learning assessments due to a lack of alignment to the new standards. Third grade math scores increased from 41% to 62% while a decrease was seen in 4th and 5th grade. Language arts scores decreased in grades 3-5. The staff and administration of Rhea Valley Elementary worked to align a consistent instructional structure in general education and special education classrooms. The faculty shared learning strategies during vertical planning opportunities and utilized VDOE documents (Curriculum Framework and Scope and Sequence Planning Guides while developing lesson plans. 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 book discussions including "Teach Like a Champion" and "Poverty is NOT a Learning Disability". Accomplishments for the year include a narrowing of the achievement gap for disadvantaged students and a focus on vocabulary development.

The administration and staff of Rhea Valley Elementary are to be commended for their work in meeting the 2012-2013 goals. Rhea Valley Elementary has achieved a 71% pass rate in Language Arts and a 64% pass rate in Mathematics SOL assessments. Rhea Valley Elementary is fully accredited by the state and met all federal Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO).

The goals for the 2013-2014 school year are the following: (1) Increase student achievement in language arts and mathematics; (2) Provide a safe and nurturing environment; (3) A professional development goal to enhance/improve classroom instruction; and (4) Meet all local, state, regional and federal accreditation standards. This year, Rhea Valley Elementary is continuing to focus on vocabulary development and the effective use of remediation blocks in all grades. Teachers are using VDOE materials, Study Island and Number Talks to provide an aligned, rigorous curriculum. Cross-grade level and vertical planning meetings are being held. Professional development focuses on increased rigor and instruction in the classroom. The concept of looping is being used to provide consistency in vocabulary and instruction at all grade levels

CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION

Rhea Valley Elementary 2012-2013

- 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).
- Fourth and fifth grade participated in a pilot program for PALS testing in the upper grades.
- 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 counselors are a strong part of the instructional program. They each work with a maximum of six students to address behavioral problems and integrate weekly plans of action.
- All students are given the opportunity to participate in a fine arts program.
- Weekly grade group meetings are held with the principal, to strategically plan instruction.
- The Literacy Team meets as needed with the principal and classroom teachers to 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.
- Two classroom sets of Ipads are available for teacher checkout.
- Inclusion is utilized by Special Education, Reading Specialists, Reading Recovery, and Speech/Language Therapy.
- AIMS Web was used with students in Tier I and Tier II of RTI.
- 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.
- First Grade teachers observed at various schools in the county to gain essential knowledge of various teacher strategies.

- 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 Elementary 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 and parental involvement.
- A guided reading book room is being maintained to which new 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.
- A Summer Reading Program is conducted by the reading specialists. Books are sent home at the end of the year for students to read at home. The school library will be open one day a week this summer for students to check out books.
- RVES continues to be a school wide Title I School.
- Technology- based instructional websites supplement each subject.
- Second and third Grade piloted the looping program at RVES. K-5 will participate in looping during the 2013-2014 school year.

DATA ASSESSMENT Rhea Valley Elementary 2012-2013

- 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.
- All teachers completed a pre-test and post-test in their subject area(s).
- 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 is used with online testing. The online testing enables teachers to prescribe various activities for additional assistance.

OPERATIONS & FACILITIES Rhea Valley Elementary 2012-2013

- 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.
- Making sure that students are signed out of school only by adults listed on the students' registration cards is a strong priority.
- 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.
- Students shut down computers in the computer labs each afternoon.
- Recycling boxes have been set up to collect various items.
- Educational programs that are used include Holston Valley Soil and Water Conservation programs, FFA Pals, the 4-H recycling program, Second Step, Jamestown, and Life Skills.
- Door checks are performed during the school day. A buzz-in camera system has been installed at the front door.
- The PTA provided funding for new playground equipment. This was installed by maintenance staff to ensure safety.
- Parent Pick/Drop area doors are closed at a specific time and parents/guardians must come inside to sign in or out students.

PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT Rhea Valley Elementary 2012-2013

- Communication, interaction and collaboration between the school and the home exist through a variety of means and media.
- PTA meetings are held monthly.
- Faculty and staff participate in giving to the United Way.
- Senior Citizens of Damascus are honored with annual Christmas party 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 Elementary 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.
- Class night program is held for fifth graders.
- Fourth and fifth grades 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 drink 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 is used at RVES for glue sticks, juice pouches, and various other items.
- Students and staff participate in the Washington County Fair.
- Rhea Valley serves as home base for Appalachian Service Project during summer break.
- Fourth 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 $Pre-K 3^{rd}$
- Back Pack program which offers food for the children involved 100+ students every Friday.

SECURITY & SAFETY Rhea Valley Elementary 2012-2013

- 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.
- Police officers make unannounced visits to the school daily.
- 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 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 lockdowns.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES Rhea Valley Elementary 2012-2013

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
- PTA Reflections Program
- 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

- Snails in the classroom from the VA Department and Inland Fisheries
- Student art show
- School spirit activities were used throughout the year to show school spirit among staff and students
- Participation in World Math Day
- Art student of the week
- Fourth grade presentations
- All lost and found items not claimed at the end of the year are donated to our local mission
- Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) students are offered monthly activities and various field trips
- Fourth grade students participated in "Life Of George Washington" essay contest