

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
Rhea Valley Elementary
2013-2014

- 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.
- The following assessment tools are being used: PALS and STAR tests which are given three/four times a year; county benchmark tests; Reading Recovery text level testing in kindergarten and first grade.
- 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. Two Musical programs are presented yearly.
- Weekly grade group meetings are held with the principal, to strategically plan instruction.
- School committees, such as Curriculum, Instruction and Literacy meet 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.
- Three classroom sets of Ipads are available for teacher checkout. (K-1) (2-3) (4-5)
- Resource 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. Power Point of each grade level expectations are sent home for parent signature.
- 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
- 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.
- All grade levels participated in Looping during the 2013-14 school year.
- Kindergarten formed intensive reading level groups using classroom teachers and literacy teams for 30 minutes daily.

DATA ASSESSMENT
Rhea Valley Elementary
2013-2014

- 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.
- 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 students and their progress.
- Professional development is provided during faculty meetings and grade group meetings.
- 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.
- PALS and Reading Recovery Text Levels are used to form small groups
- Pre-Kindergarten teachers meet at the county level to discuss and share

OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES
Rhea Valley Elementary
2013-2014

- 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.
- 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.
- 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, 4-H, Second Step, Jamestown, and Life Skills.
- Door checks are performed during the school day. A buzz-in camera system is used at the front door.
- Parent Pick/Drop area doors are closed at a specific time and parents/guardians must come inside to sign in or out students.
- Developed system to develop a faster student pick-up in the afternoon.
- School Resource Officer and other police are seen daily in our building.

PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
Rhea Valley Elementary
2013-2014

- Communication, interaction and collaboration between the school and the home exist through a variety of means and media.
- PTA meetings are held monthly, with student performances which encourages more community participation.
- 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 their 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.
- The Justin Foundation Annual Auction is held during the spring. This foundation has helped in the purchasing of iPads.
- 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 at the beginning of the year.
- Title I Family Fun Nights are held twice during the year with parental involvement.

- Backpack are sent home weekly. Local churches and community members are in charge of this program. This program offers food for over 100+ children.
- 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.
- 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.
- Coat Vouchers were offered to all students.
- Weekly Newsletters are sent out in Grades Pre-K – 3rd
- Supplies for local Animal Shelter are collected.
- Jump Rope for Heart is held annually
- Field/Fun day is held at the end of the school year.
- Meet the Jr. Cavs is held in September
- Fifth grade students participate in DARE Program.

SECURITY AND SAFETY
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2013-2014

- 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 during 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.
- Bus safety activities are done with all grade levels.
- A buzz in intercom system is installed at the front door.
- 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.
- Finger Prints of children are offered to community at our Spring Fling.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES
Rhea Valley Elementary
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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
- Monthly grade level performances are held at monthly PTA meetings.
- Various contests throughout the year
- Awards Day
- PTA Reflections Program
- A coordinated Adopt-an-Angel Christmas program served over 150 families
- Grade-level field trips throughout the year
- School facilities are used for Little League 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
- Jump Rope for Hearts held yearly in gym classes.
- Virginia History Bowl for fourth graders
- Estimation contest conducted by the art teacher
- Grade level celebrations are held throughout year.
- Fifth grade participates in raising Trout in the science classroom.

- 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, guest speakers, programs, workshops and contest.
- Fourth grade students participated in “Life Of George Washington” essay contest
- Students participate in: Teacher Appreciation, School Bus Drivers, School Lunch Week as well as other days and weeks established by state and county school board.