



# Putting the Pieces Together

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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# Superintendent's Welcome

## Welcome to our 2015 - 2016 Annual Report!

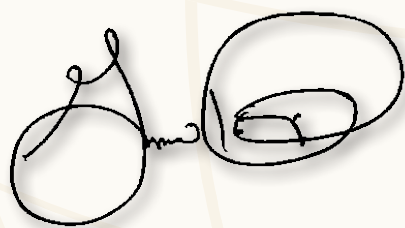
It is my honor and privilege to serve you as the superintendent of Roanoke County Public Schools. The 2015-2016 school year saw many great accomplishments and some difficulties. I'm very proud that, once again, every school in Roanoke County is fully accredited by the Virginia Department of Education. We take educating children very seriously. We want to help prepare every student to be ready for many different opportunities after he or she graduates from high school.

We also take the safety of our students and staff very seriously. I want to assure you that we will continue to put safety first and will take every appropriate action to protect our students. Over the past several years, we have implemented many new safety and security measures and I'd like to thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Moving forward, we are working hard to find more ways to partner with our community to provide more options for our students. This year, we have added two new classes at the Burton Center for Arts & Technology - cybersecurity and emergency medical technician (EMT). The technology and medical fields are growing rapidly and we're working to help students begin future careers. The future holds so many different career opportunities for our students and we are here to help students consider the different pathways to those careers. That pathway might include traditional college. It also might include advanced career and technical education.

As you read this annual report, I hope you will see how our entire staff works continuously to help our students learn, achieve and succeed. Learning is a journey and we're proud to serve as a guide along the way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Killough', with a large, stylized circular flourish at the end.

Gregory Killough, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

# The Roanoke County School Board



**Michael A. Wray (Chairman)**

*Cave Spring District*

Mr. Michael A. Wray earned his baccalaureate of science in business administration from Bluefield College. He retired as the Accounting Operation Manager with Norfolk Southern Corporation. He was elected to the Roanoke County School Board in November 2015. He also has served on several community boards including the Roanoke Higher Education Board, the YMCA and as a rector for Radford University.

**E-mail: [mawray@rcs.k12.va.us](mailto:mawray@rcs.k12.va.us)**



**Timothy L. Greenway**

*Vinton District*

A native of Vinton, Virginia, Tim Greenway is a 1982 graduate of William Byrd High School. He began Greenway Construction Company in 1995, specializing in single family residential housing, as well as developing a portfolio of investment real estate. He was elected to the school board in 2015 to complete the remaining unexpired portion of the Vinton District seat.

**E-mail: [tgreenway@rcs.k12.va.us](mailto:tgreenway@rcs.k12.va.us)**



**Donald T. Butzer**

*Catawba District*

Donald Butzer was appointed to the Roanoke County School Board in July, 2016 to serve a portion of the unexpired term for the Catawba District seat. He will serve until the November 2016 election is certified. Mr. Butzer is a retired executive with Verizon's Building Engineering and Facilities Management. He also serves on the Roanoke Planning Commission.

**E-mail: [dbutzer@rcs.k12.va.us](mailto:dbutzer@rcs.k12.va.us)**



**Jerry L. Canada**

*Hollins District*

Jerry Canada has served on the Roanoke County School Board since 1992 when he was first appointed to the board and is the longest serving school board member in the history of Roanoke County Public Schools. He was elected to the board in 1994 and has served as chairman of the board five times. A native of West Virginia, Canada is a retired district manager for the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

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**Jason B. Moretz**

*Windsor Hills District*

Jason Moretz was appointed to the Roanoke County School Board in Sept. 2015 to fill a portion of an unexpired term. A 1992 graduate of Northside High School, he holds a Bachelor's Degree from National Business College. Mr. Moretz has served on the Roanoke County Capital Improvement Committee and currently serves on the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission.

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# School Administration



**Gregory Killough, Ed.D**

*Superintendent*

Dr. Greg Killough was named the superintendent of Roanoke County Public Schools in 2015. Previously, Dr. Killough was the superintendent of Caroline County Public Schools and Wise County Public Schools. Dr. Killough is a native of Blacksburg and has served as a teacher, coach and high school principal in various school systems across the state. He is proud to return home to the Roanoke Valley.

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## Central Office Staff

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# Strategic Framework

A long-time leader in instructional technology, RCPS is again leading the way among K-12 school districts by undergoing a sea change in the way instructional planning, digital resources, and technology are leveraged to transform the learning experience of students in all RCPS classrooms toward deeper learning. By shifting the learning focus toward a balance between content knowledge and the equally important process of developing 21st century skills, RCPS affirms its mission to ensure students are equipped with collaborative problem-solving skills and are able to think and communicate creatively about their experiences. In this paradigm, providing access to digital resources and technology is neither the end game nor is it limited to passive tasks such as taking online tests or accessing information. Students use a variety of technology tools as consumers as well as producers of information.

None of this happens within a vacuum; rather, students will successfully achieve within a carefully cultivated climate and culture conducive to learning and with educators and support staff fully prepared to collaboratively meet the needs of each student.

For RCPS, the sea change toward deeper learning means leveraging technology in meaningful ways to focus on the C's of 21st century learning –Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, and Critical thinking—while continuing to ensure that every student has appropriate resources to achieve along the path to graduation and beyond.

DEEPER LEARNING is at the heart of the Strategic Framework. What does deeper learning look like?

- Deeper learning is learning that is engaging and purposeful.
- Deeper learning includes content knowledge as well as the development of 21st century skills: Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, and Critical thinking.
- Deeper learning is student-centered, personalized, and differentiated to meet the individual needs of students.
- Deeper learning is produced through the purposeful use of a variety of instructional strategies. Strategies that engage students in authentic problem solving (e.g. inquiry-based learning, project-based learning, and design challenges) should be a regular part of the instructional mix.
- Deeper learning produces innovative students who are college and career ready.
- Deeper learning is catalyzed when technology is used to activate the 21st Century skills C's.

## Key Components and Conditions to sustain Deeper Learning:

- **Balance** between preparing students for testing and developing 21st Century Skills that are critical to a student's future success using a curriculum for a whole-child approach across different disciplines.
- **School and Classroom Climate** that cultivates a physically, emotionally, and intellectually safe environment in which students experience a sense of belonging and mutual respect that also is welcoming in a positive way.
- **Professional Growth** to build capacity and knowledge to meet current and future challenges as well as learn best practices and curriculum.
- **Support Tools and Services** to create environments where students thrive while also being ethical and transparent stewards of public funds and resources.
- **Learning Culture** that is team-oriented and visionary, where student and school success is celebrated and problem solving is fostered by viewing failure as a learning opportunity, and where adults and students practice evidence-based decision making and are accountable to themselves and the learning community.



# Glenvar High School Renovation

## Glenvar High School welcomes students to a new school

The 2015-2016 school year saw the completion of the extensive renovation of the nearly 50-year-old Glenvar High School.

The project was completed in Spring 2016 featured some key additions and changes:

- An entirely new science wing (located adjacent to the original front entrance) with combination classroom and laboratory spaces
- Expanded classrooms to allow more space and flexibility for group work and collaborative projects
- A new cafeteria space utilizing natural lighting and a new kitchen that is shared with Glenvar Middle School
- New media center with wireless networking and multiple computer stations
- New outdoor classroom spaces
- New entrance and administration area to enhance safety and security
- Revised parking arrangement to separate school bus and car-rider areas for increased safety
- Use of geothermal wells for energy-efficient heating and cooling

While many new spaces were created, the design also kept many of the signature architectural elements that were unique to Glenvar High School including incorporating the original entrance and staircases into the design for the new science wing. Further, the design added several artistic elements including colored glass windows that added a visual element, especially at night.



# 2015 - 2016 Student Enrollment

School	Principal	Students
Cave Spring High School	Steve Spangler	1013
Glenvar High School	Joe Hafey	555
Hidden Valley High School	Lori Wimbush	949
Northside High School	Dominick McKee	1023
William Byrd High School	Tammy Newcomb	1134
Burton Center for Arts and Technology	Jason Suhr	(824*)
Cave Spring Middle School	Fiona Hill	776
Glenvar Middle School	Jamie Soltis	442
Hidden Valley Middle School	Mike Riley	601
Northside Middle School	Dr. Paul Lineburg	681
William Byrd Middle School	Todd Kageals	797
Back Creek Elementary School	Virginia Sharp	307
Bonsack Elementary School	Melissa Jones	365
Burlington Elementary School	Susan Brown	427
Cave Spring Elementary School	Jodi Poff	468
Clearbrook Elementary School	Beth Grim	334
Fort Lewis Elementary School	Cindy Klimaitis	221
Glen Cove Elementary School	Dr. Jan Nichols	426
Glenvar Elementary School	Lisa Coleman	382
Green Valley Elementary School	Ashley McCallum	493
Herman L. Horn Elementary School	Peggy Stovall	397
Masons Cove Elementary School	Matt Johnson	222
Mount Pleasant Elementary School	Ellen Walton	326
Mountain View Elementary School	Leigh Smith	358
Oak Grove Elementary School	Kimberly Bradshaw	434
Penn Forest Elementary School	Karen Pendleton	440
W.E. Cundiff Elementary School	Sherry Bryant	498

**TOTAL ENROLLMENT** (as of the end of 2015-16 school year) **14,075**

\* Students attending BCAT are included in their home school's enrollment count      Enrollment figures do not include preschool classes



# Student Academic Performance

## 2015 - 2016 Standards of Learning (SOL) Performance:

Figures represent the percentage of Roanoke County Public School students successfully passing the SOL test in each subject area.

Elementary Results	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
Reading	81	85	85
Math	81	88	86
Science	--	--	89
Social Studies/VA Studies	--	92	--

Middle School Results			
English 6	83	Math 6	92
English 7	90	Math 7	93
English 8	87	Math 8	81
Writing 8	78	Science 8	86
Civics	92		

High School credit-bearing courses	
Reading	92
Writing	88
Algebra I*	91
Algebra II	94
Geometry*	89
Earth Science	89
Biology	90
Chemistry	87
VA/U.S. History	89
World History I	96
World History II	89
World Geography	85

-- means there is no SOL test for that subject in that grade

\* includes middle school scores for the same class

## 2015-2016 Academic Performance:

2015 Average Scores	SAT - Reading	SAT - Math	SAT - Writing	ACT	AP (mean)
Roanoke County	524.5	525.6	472.1	22.8	2.97
Virginia	516	513	493	23.3	3.01
United States	487	494	472	20.8	2.85

- **2016 On-Time Graduation Rate: 94.1%** (Virginia average on-time graduation rate: 91.3%)
- **2016 Graduates: 1,161** - (695 Advanced Studies diplomas, 425 standard diplomas, 46 alternate diplomas)
- **More than 88% of graduates pursued some form of post-secondary education.**
- **781 students took Advanced Placement (AP) exams, 64.4% scored a 3 or better.**
- **1014 students took dual-enrollment courses, earning college credit while attending a high school class.**
- **Roanoke County students earned \$13.9 million in scholarships in 2016.** (an average of \$12,049 per graduate)
- **1031 graduates successfully earned and passed an industry certification**

# Student Achievements

## Team Accomplishments

- BCAT Hot Rodders of Tomorrow Engine Challenge – 3rd in nation
- BCAT LAMP Engineering team – 2nd in Va. Governor's cup of the Real World Design Challenge
- BCAT Occupational Display SkillsUSA team – state champions
- BCAT TeamWorks SkillsUSA team – state champions
- CSHS Competition Cheerleading – 3A state champions
- CSHS Swim Team – 3A state champions
- CSHS Scholastic Bowl team – 3A state champions
- CSHS Debate team – 3A state champions
- GHS Yearbook team: VHSL Trophy Class yearbook award
- HVHS Yearbook team – National Scholastic Press Assn. Pacemaker Award
- HVHS Boys Tennis – 3A state champions

## Individual Accomplishments

- William Meredith (BCAT) – 1st place FBLA state winner (cybersecurity)
- Andrew Rhode (BCAT) – 1st place SkillsUSA state winner (bricklayer)
- Cody Amos (CSHS) - 3A Wrestling state champ (220 lbs)
- Noah Bushman (CSHS) - 3A Wrestling state champ (195 lb)
- Piper Roe (CSHS) – 3A volleyball player of the year
- Chris Snodgrass (CSHS/RVGS) – 4th place in plant sciences at state science fair
- Caroline Spruell (CSHS) – VHSL state Lincoln-Douglas debate champion
- Zachary Deck (GHS) – 2A football defense player of the year
- Samuel Burton & James Baron (HVHS) – 3A Doubles tennis state champions
- James Baron (HVHS) – 3A individual tennis state champion
- Vishnu Karri (HVHS/RVGS) – 1st place in chemistry at state science fair (Attended international science fair)
- Yunyun Wang (HVHS) - VA Jr. Science and humanities symposia state 1st place award
- Carlos Boogie Basham (NHS) – 3A football player of the year
- Calleen Buchanan (WBHS) – state champion in original oratory
- Khalil Fonder (WBHS) – State swim champion for 100m backstroke and 100m butterfly
- Richard Qui (WBHS/RVGS) – 2nd place in environmental mgmt. at state science fair  
VA Jr. Science and humanities symposia state grand award alternate

# 2015 - 2016 Budget

## GENERAL FUND

2015 - 2016 Income	Amount	% of Total Operating Fund	Cost per Pupil
Local Appropriations (County)	\$66,804,707	48.9	\$4,872
State Funds	\$53,746,341	39.3	\$3,920
State Sales Tax	\$14,636,793	10.7	\$1,067
Federal Funds	\$260,448	0.2	\$19
Other Funds	\$1,054,708	0.8	\$77
Transfers In	\$193,800	0.1	\$14
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$136,696,797</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$9,969</b>

2015 - 2016 Expenditures	Amount	% of Total Operating Fund
Instruction	\$101,767,876	74.4
Administration	\$2,973,182	2.2
Attendance and Health	\$2,087,306	1.5
Pupil Transportation	\$4,770,080	3.5
Operation and Maintenance	\$12,285,701	9.0
Technology	\$4,480,640	3.3
Facilities	\$235,948	0.2%
Other uses of funds	\$8,096,064	5.9
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$136,696,797</b>	<b>100%</b>

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) has again awarded the Meritorious Budget Award to the Budget and Finance Department of Roanoke County Public Schools for excellence in the preparation and issuance of the 2015-16 annual budget.

The Meritorious Budget Award is only conferred to school systems that have met or exceeded the Meritorious Budget Award Program criteria. ASBO is a professional association of about 5,500 members that provides programs and services to promote the highest standards of school business management practices, professional growth and the effective use of educational resources.



# Education Awards

## William Byrd High School teacher wins 2016 Golden Apple Award

The Roanoke County Public Schools Education Foundation has awarded the 2016 Golden Apple Award to Barbara McGrath – a biology/ecology teacher from William Byrd High School. The Golden Apple Award is the single highest honor presented to a teacher by the Education Foundation. Each year, teachers from across Roanoke County Public Schools are nominated by students, parents, co-workers and administrators to receive Golden Apple Award. This year, 64 teachers were nominated and 21 teachers were selected as semi-finalists.



*2016 Golden Apple Award winners: (L-R) Blaine Mills (green), Karen Perry-Carroll (red), Barbara McGrath (golden), Jasmine Herritt (red), Ann Franco (red).*

In addition to receiving a check for \$3,000, McGrath received an additional award – the use of a brand-new 2016 Nissan Altima for one year, courtesy of First Team Auto Mall, with custom license plates that read GR8-TCR (Great Teacher). The Education Foundation also named three Red Apple winners, one for the elementary school level, one for the middle school level and one for the high school level. Each Red Apple winner receives a check for \$1,500 each.

The Red Apple winners are:

- Jasmine Herritt – First-grade teacher at Burlington Elementary School
- Karen Perry-Carroll – 7th grade Science teacher at Northside Middle School
- Ann Franco – English, history and geography teacher at Glenvar High School.

The Education Foundation also recognizes a new teacher who has taught in Roanoke County for three years or less. This is called the Green Apple Award. The winner of the 2016 Green Apple Award is Blaine Mills, a fourth-grade teacher at Glenvar Elementary.

“There are some outstanding teachers in Roanoke County,” said Education Foundation Board President Rob Hendren. “The Golden Apple Award honors the very best educator in the school system. We were very impressed with all our finalists, which made it very difficult for us to select a single winner,” Hendren said.

“Educating young people is so vital for the future success of our communities, and great teachers make that happen,” said David Dillon, president and general manager of First Team Auto Mall. “As a family owned company that believes in supporting the communities we serve, First Team is honored to support outstanding teachers and celebrate their efforts.”

# Award-Winning Staff

Roanoke County Public Schools staff members earn many different awards each year.

Here is just a sampling of the awards and recognition our staff have earned during the 2015-2016 school year.

- **2016 Board of Education Excellence Award:**

- Cave Spring Elementary School
- Cave Spring High School
- Green Valley Elementary School

- **2016 Distinguished Title I School:**

- Mount Pleasant Elementary

- **NAMM Foundation Top Communities for Music education** (13th year)

- **Schools to Watch honorees:**

- Glenvar Middle School
- Northside Middle School
- Hidden Valley Middle School
- William Byrd Middle School

- **U.S. News top high schools rankings:**

- Cave Spring High School (U.S. News rank: 936 nationally, 29 in Va.)
- Glenvar High School (U.S. News rank: 2,256 nationally, 48 in Va.)

- **Virginia Naturally School Award:** Glenvar High School & Glenvar Middle School

- **Certificate of Achievement and Excellence in Financial Reporting** (15th year)

- **ASBO International Meritorious Budget Award** (10th year)

- **VSBA Green Schools Challenge: Platinum Certification**

- **Salem-Roanoke County Educator of the Year:** Sherry Meredith (Fort Lewis)

- **VHSL Claudia Dodson Sportsmanship, Ethics & Integrity Award:** Glenvar High School

- **United Way Top 50 Most Generous Organizations Award**

- **Gold Summit Awards from PRSA Blue Ridge Chapter:**

- 2015 Graduation Live
- 2015 Load the Bus for Kids campaign - BEST IN SHOW (modest budget)

- **Silver Summit Awards from PRSA Blue Ridge Chapter:**

- 2015 Graduation Live (A/V Long Form and Social Media)
- 2014-15 Annual Report

- **VA Public Relations Awards from PRSA Richmond Chapter:**

- 2016 Capital Award of Merit - 2015 Graduation Live
- 2015 Commonwealth Award of Merit - 2015 Load the Bus for Kids campaign

- **2016 Board of Education Distinguished Achievement Awards:**

- Back Creek Elementary School
- Bonsack Elementary School
- Cave Spring Middle School
- Clearbrook Elementary School
- Fort Lewis Elementary School
- Hidden Valley Middle School
- Penn Forest Elementary School





# Supporting our Community

## Load the Bus campaign provides supplies for thousands of students in need

Every year, thousands of students across the Roanoke Valley can't afford basic school supplies to be successful in the classroom. Roanoke County Public Schools has teamed up with Walmart and other area school systems to Load the Bus for Kids to collect school supplies for students in need. In 2016, the Load the Bus campaign was the most successful ever in Roanoke County collecting an estimated \$17,500 worth of school supplies. We would like to thank Walmart for their continued generous support of our school system and we also would like to thank the countless number of people to donated school supplies. Thanks to your support, many students in the Roanoke Valley began the school year with the tools they need to be successful learners.



*Students help load school supplies onto a bus at the Valley View Walmart during the kickoff of the 2016 Load the Bus for Kids campaign.*

## Education Foundation provides more than \$96,000 in support for students and teachers



Each year, the Roanoke County Public Schools Education Foundation awards scholarships to graduating Roanoke County seniors and to Roanoke County teachers to fund classroom projects. In 2016, the Foundation awarded \$76,600 in student scholarships and about \$20,000 in classroom scholarships. In addition, the Foundation annually recognizes the top teachers in Roanoke County Public Schools with the Golden Apple Award (see story on page 11).

Beyond the two scholarship programs, the Foundation also provided more than \$15,000 in funding assistance for student travel to competitions, international education, remedial education and substance abuse education programs.

Since its inception in 1991, the Roanoke County Public Schools Education Foundation has awarded more than \$1.5 million in support of education in Roanoke County. Much of the funding for these programs comes from individual and corporate donations. To learn more about the Education Foundation and how you can help support education in Roanoke County, please see the Education Foundation Web site at: <http://www.supportroanokecountyed.org>.

### ROANOKE COUNTY EDUCATION FOUNDATION 2016-16 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Balzer & Associates

**Troy Henderson, Vice-President**  
G&H Contracting

**Jason Sandimierz, Treasurer**  
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Medeco

**Lori Wimbush**  
Roanoke County Schools/HVHS



# OUR VISION

To empower all students through technology and 21st Century Skills: critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication.

# OUR MISSION

To ensure quality learning experiences designed to equip all students with skills to adapt and thrive in a changing global environment.