

Official Voice of the RA Alumni & Friends Association

Alumni & Friends Newsletter

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Author Introduction

Sydney Bischoff (Art Teacher)

I would like to introduce myself as the new writer and editor for the Alumni & Friends Newsletter. Although I am not an alumnus of Richmond Academy, I value the Adventist education I received in North Carolina (Alumni of Tri-City Christian Academy) and see all the good that Richmond Academy does for the students, community, and all who are connected with the school. I hope I can bring a unique perspective and provide alumni and friends with an informative picture of life at Richmond Academy.

I graduated from Southern Adventist University in 2024 with a BFA in Fine Arts and began teaching art at Richmond Academy last year. This year, I am teaching art for Pre-K through eighth grade and as an elective class to high school. I also create the Friday Newsletter and manage Richmond Academy's social media. It has been a pleasure to work at this school and see the positive impact the teachers and staff have on students' lives. I appreciate that alumni and community members are invested in and care about RA. Thank you for being a member of this beautiful community and for allowing me to be part of it.





Welcome Back!

On August 17, students entered the Richmond Academy halls once again for the 2026-2027 school year. The day was filled with greeting new and old friends while adjusting to classes and getting to know teachers. This can be a difficult time, leaving home and getting used to new routines. But the warmth and kindness of their peers, the teachers and staff help them adjust and thrive. Near the end of the first day, everyone at school gathered in the hallway for the first SA event of the year, SA Handshake.





For this event, each student greeted all of the students and staff with a handshake, fist bump or sometimes a hug. Everyone was then given popsicles outside and had time to play together and talk. It was a blessing and a joy to see students happily greeting each other even if they are years apart. Events like these are excellent reminders of how we should treat each other, being welcoming and full of love can make a big difference even if our actions are small. The school year already feels like it is flying by and we continue to pray that God will bless this year and the entire RA Community.





ETERNAL LIVING

John 17:3





Our spiritual theme for this year is Eternal Living. It was selected by our school chaplain and teacher Desmond Suarez. The meaning of this theme is living as if we are already in heaven and with eternity always in mind. We can rejoice that Jesus has saved us if we choose to accept His sacrifice. Knowing this, we can also live as an example to others of the hope and light we have even in difficult circumstances. Students wear T-shirts on Fridays that display the Eternal Living logo on them.







Work Hard, Play Hard





Students are enjoying the new playground equipment and play opportunities for recess. Installed this summer, we now have a playset with a slide, an airplane-shaped seesaw, and new climbing bars. Our outdoor volleyball court was also revamped with sand and new equipment. Our younger students are making good use of the new playset and the new volleyball court serves as an excellent area for developing teamwork. At RA, we believe in educating the whole person. Physical activity and playtime are an important part of that philosophy.





New Horizons for 9th and 10th Grades

Written in Collaboration with the Ninth and Tenth Grade Classes



In late September, the ninth and tenth grade classes went on their annual Horizons Trip, traveling to Washington D.C. Horizons trips allow students to learn more about our Adventist universities while exploring the surrounding areas. In D.C., they visited and stayed in the dorms at Washington Adventist University, part of the Columbia Union. They were able to learn more about the college and the programs that are offered, with an added bonus of getting to experience the city of D.C. Students went to a baseball game, visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and visited monuments and museums. Through this experience, they grew closer to their





classmates and learned more about their options for the future, while forming memories that will remain with them forever. A couple of students who attended the trip provided their perspective.



What was your favorite part of the trip?

My favorite part of the Horizons Trip was when we toured around D.C. with an open top bus at night, because everything looked so much different at night, and it was so much fun being able to see everything from the top where we were.

-Laura Ximenes, Sophomore

The baseball game. It was really fun, and I enjoyed it. And the team won.

-Nathan Vasconcellos, Sophomore



Do you have a special memory from this trip that you think will stick with you forever? If so, what is that memory?

I think a special memory I will always remember from the trip is every time we went to the metro, because everyone thought it was a lot of fun, and we made a lot of good and funny memories there.

-Laura Ximenes, Sophomore



Did this experience bring you closer to your classmates?

Yes, this experience did bring me closer to my classmates because, for five days, we had to do everything together, and we had opportunities to talk more and to get to know each other more.

-**Laura Ximenes, Sophomore**

Yes, it made all the guys closer and have fun.

-**Nathan Vasconcellos, Sophomore**

How did this trip impact your plans for the future?

This trip made me pay more attention to what I want to look for in the community and activities in colleges that I want to go to. I discovered new classes that I think would be interesting to attend in college.

-**Laura Ximenes, Sophomore**





Events this Quarter

August 2026 - October 2026



Handshake

August 17



Family Fun Day

August 23



Pastors Breakfast

October 6



River Day 6-8

August 20



SALT Trip

September 17-20



Fall Banquet

October 11



HS Lake Day

August 21



9/10 Horizons Trip

Sep 27 - Oct 1



Outdoor Ed 6-8

October 13-15



Pastors Breakfast







On Tuesday, October 6, we had our annual Pastors' Breakfast. This breakfast is a great opportunity for the local pastors to connect with the school and students through worship and food. They provided a devotional thought and prayer before serving a delicious breakfast to students. All of the students were nourished for a day full of learning! Thank you to all of the pastors and volunteers who put this together and made it possible. It is so meaningful to retain a close connection with our churches through collaborative events.

Upcoming Events

Field Day
October 22

Concert Choir @ Patterson
November 7

11/12 Horizons Trip
November 10 - 15

Fall Week of Prayer
November 16 - 20

Christmas Concert
December 12

Dates are subject to change. Check out our live calendar at https://www.rasda.org/calendar/

Is there anyone you know who should be part of the RA Alumni & Friends Association?
Send them this link:
https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/PNo9W0x/alumniandfriends