



**River Rock Academy**  
2124 Ambassador Circle  
Lancaster, PA 17603

**River Rock  
Academy**

## Congratulations Class of 2025

To the Class of 2025, all of us from River Rock Academy want to sincerely wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors. While we will surely miss you and the joy you brought us each and every day, you are ready. Time to go out and show the world what you're made of. Remember what you've learned and never let anyone tell you something is impossible. Amazing things await and we could not be prouder of each and every one of you.

As you know, our goal is to change, effect, and improve. We've seen this in all of you. Now its time to put it into action. Our job is done. You can take it from here.

Congratulations to you all!



## Going Out with a Bang!

With the 2024-2025 school year officially behind us, let's look back on how our students and staff rode off into the sunset. From graduation ceremonies to end-of-year activities, making this a fun-filled spring seemed only appropriate to cap off such a wonderful school year. While we said a final goodbye to many of our friends, the memories we made will remain as vivid in our minds as they are in these photos. Cheers to the Class of 2025! We are already excited for the year to come!

## Shenanigans in Spring Grove

We were all lucky to be part of our Spring Grove campus this March! Our Buddy program worked to create crafts and cards for Spirit Trust residents for both St. Patrick's Day and Easter. The students visited Spirit Trust residents to play games and build relationships with the residents. Students also participated in the local YMCA community service project by moving boxes and organizing items. We also had representatives from Member's First visit us to discuss budgeting and living independently. Students created their own budgets and learned about housing options and leases!

For our elementary students, March started with our Program Director, Mr. Brady, reading Cat in the Hat to our Marbles classroom. The students loved the book and were thrilled to have Mr. Brady read to them. For St. Patrick's Day, our elementary school counselor Mrs. Miller dressed up as a leprechaun! We also had a visit from Creatures Great and Small, who brought many animals for students to hold and lots of interesting facts about the animal kingdom!



## Bears & Bowling



Our Clifton Heights campus spent time bonding on the girls' group and young men's group trip. The girls went to Build-a-Bear and the boys went bowling.



## Congratulations, Doctor

The Clifton Heights campus also celebrated our Math teacher, who completed his Doctorate program, officially making him Dr. Lowman. Congratulations!



## Serving the Community

In April, the students at our Bradford campus participated in community service by mulching. They shoveled and worked hard to make the building look nicer.



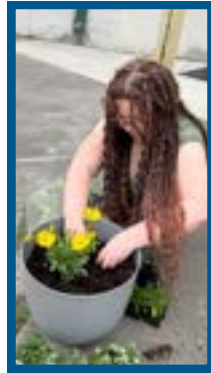
## Career Exploration Trip to ATC in Exton, PA

Our Lancaster students visited the Automotive Training Center (ATC) in Exton, PA, for an exciting career exploration experience. They had the opportunity to tour the facility, interact with instructors, and learn about hands-on programs in automotive, collision repair, and marine technology. The trip offered valuable insights into potential career paths and sparked interest in technical education and skilled trades.





## April in Bradford



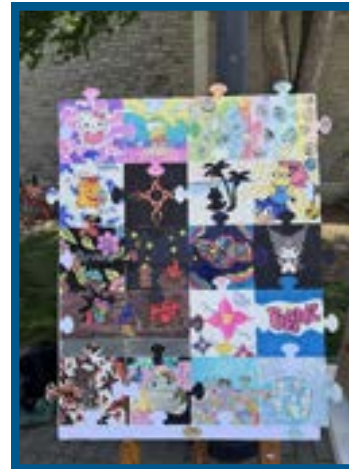
The student council met and planted some flowers to make the entrance much more appealing. It was a beautiful day so it was very enjoyable.



EMTs from the area visited the campus and taught CPR and First Aid to all of the students. Our students had hands-on practice and will be receiving certification for their accomplishments.

## Carlisle Collage

Six of the Carlisle campus students worked with Dickinson College seniors over the spring semester to develop a collage for our campus. The students formed relationships with the college students and got to learn about their lives and future careers. The college students learned about River Rock and how the program is helping students work through decision making and improving the relationships between students and adults in the school setting. The students used art as a positive median to help express their feelings and acknowledge what River Rock means to them.



## Jed Talk



A local community member, Jed, visited the school to provide a "Jed Talk." Like many of our students, Jed struggled with his emotions and how to deal and control them in his younger years. He discussed coping skills and the many different things you could do to learn how to control those emotions and all the bottled-up feelings one may have. He shared that he learned to cope by lifting weights and working out. With the campus having all of the equipment available it would be a great source to use.

## Trip to Trine Park

On April 28, the students of our Newville campus went on a field trip to Trine Park located in the small town of Mt. Holly Springs. The students took part in a rewarding day of community service and recreational games. The morning began with a group effort to clean up litter and debris along the park's walking trails and playground areas, helping to clean them for everyone in the community that visits the park to enjoy. After their work, they were rewarded with pizza for lunch and games that included basketball, pickleball, volleyball, and a playground area. The trip not only taught giving back to the community but also encouraged teamwork, friendship, and physical activity in a vibrant outdoor setting.



## Spring Grove Happenings

On April 23rd, Chyanne, a representative from Empire Beauty School, came to present to our students interested in pursuing a career in cosmetology. Chyanne shared information about programs which include cosmetology, esthetics and aesthetics, educator training, hybrid hairdressing and cosmetology and nail technology. She shared her student kit, which includes all tools, products, and curriculum needed to complete the cosmetology program. In addition, Chyanne provided information about the enrollment process, length of the program and costs. Chyanne shared her experiences working through the program and took questions from the group.

On April 23, Don Lauer, Police Officer, Detective and Parole Officer Supervisor spoke to the students about a career in the criminal justice system. He also spoke to the evolution of forensics and evidence in the criminal justice system. He shared more about the responsibilities of police officers and detectives, and about the social skills and education needed to be successful in law enforcement.

On April 28, Meghan Hennigan York County Treatment Court Coordinator and Drew Wood, from YDAC Spoke to the responsibilities of their jobs and the people they deal with on a daily basis. They spoke about the current view on drugs and alcohol in the criminal justice system. They walked through an exercise that they do with participants in the program called The Five Wants. Students then were able to share their goals, steps to get there and how the courts and community are there to support that. Students were able to ask questions about the job and the criminal justice system.

## Pebbles Ducks



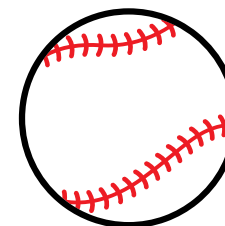
To celebrate Springtime and spread joy and kindness, our Shiremanstown Pebbles classroom hatched a plan to secretly hide tiny ducks throughout the Elementary classrooms, offices, and halls. We also put up small signs (with tiny font) that read, "If you find a Pebbles Duck, all day long you'll have good luck!"

Recipients came into the class to thank our students for the little gift and our students enthusiastically responded, "Happy Spring!" It was a fun, quick and easy activity that connected us to other staff and classrooms in a positive way.

Our students were only able to hide the ducks if they were birds on the top of our behavior tree. They were very motivated to move up to be duck hidiers. Duck finders always came in with smiles on their faces to thank our kiddos. We really enjoyed it and it was great for building social skills in our students.

## Sinking Spring's April

At Sinking Spring, April was busy as the school year begins to come to an end. We got our seniors ready for graduation and celebrated Harper Day, our campus support pup! We also had Horse Farm Fridays and planned a field trip to a Reading Phillies game. As the school year comes to an end, what we are most proud of is the togetherness of our staff and the growth of our students over the course of the year.





## A Busy April at Red Lion



The Cobblestones classroom took a trip to the Susan Byrnes Health Center. The students had an immersive experience as they discussed the importance of physical and mental health. The students had the opportunity to interact with all sorts of props and gadgets as they learned how to make good choices and stay safe.



The students in Ms. B's class raised caterpillars this year. When the butterflies emerged from their cocoons, they were released into the sky as the students watched in awe. This was a wonderful opportunity to learn and celebrate their achievement. Just like these butterflies, our students learned that growth does not happen overnight and when they learn to trust the process, they will be amazed by the results.



Our Learning Buddies program had the opportunity to bless our younger students with a hot breakfast before PSSA testing. The older students prepared and served the younger students, sat with them, gave encouragement, and practiced breathing techniques to prepare them for the long day ahead. The positive relationships that they have built have had a lasting impact on both groups of students as they laugh, learn, and foster a culture of acceptance and understanding.

## May at Amity



In May, the Amity campus hosted its annual end-of-year celebration, bringing students together for a day of food, fun, and reflection. The event featured a campus-wide cookout, where a group of students prepared chicken and stir-fry rice for the entire community.

Students also engaged in a variety of group activities, including a trivia competition focused on staff knowledge and the core River Rock values. Additionally, participants took part in a Kahoot quiz that reviewed key topics covered throughout the academic year.

Another part of the end of year celebration was Mr. Algeo's annual "Algies" award ceremony—a creative take on the Grammys—where students were recognized for their dedication and achievements over the past year.



## At Your Service

At Bradford, some of the students completed work in earning community service hours. Not far from campus is a store named Shores Sisters. They allow our students to go there and help them with the warehouse. This is an amazing opportunity for our students, with lots of good times to be had while there.





## Day at the Gardens



A group of students at our Lancaster campus enjoyed a delightful trip to Longwood Gardens on a beautiful, sunny day. Surrounded by blooming flowers, stunning landscapes, and vibrant greenery, the students spent time exploring the gardens, taking photos, and enjoying nature together.



## Happy Hopping

Our Red Lion campus had an adorable visitor hop on in from Aldinger Farms. This little joey brought smiles to everyone's faces as the students and staff were given an in-depth lesson on the Kangaroo species.

The students were able to ask questions about habitats, diet, and the challenges of raising wild animals. Everyone loved interacting with such a unique animal and they loved the copious cuddles and snuggles it provided.

The students reported that the visit had them jumping for joy and ready to finish out the year strong.



## Spring Grove's Fun-Filled May

On May 7th, staff took four students to the Spring Grove YWCA to assist with cleaning and organizing, fostering a sense of responsibility and community involvement. The following day, Mr. Cook led a field trip to Escape Games Live in York, PA, as a culmination of the Critical Thinking Curriculum. Four students, selected through a class competition based on participation and academic performance, tackled "The Curse of the Jungle" escape room, applying problem-solving and teamwork skills in a fun, immersive environment.

Community service continued at Spirit Trust on May 14th and 28th, where students built meaningful relationships with residents through games and art, and were surprised with a thank-you breakfast. On May 20th, Burkentine Builders representatives visited PAL students to discuss careers in construction, covering job roles, educational pathways, and the phases of development from excavation to structural work.

Meanwhile, the elementary program was equally active. Mrs. Livingston welcomed Tammy Brindle and Sara Grove from Glatfelter Memorial Library to promote summer reading and activities. Ms. Hayes' class created beautiful Mother's Day cards, showcasing their artistic talents. In the Marbles classroom, students brought beach towels and favorite books for a relaxed reading session, while the Boulders classroom focused on hands-on learning by designing and constructing wooden signs.

