Hi everyone!

We are so excited to be putting out our first newsletter and are so happy that you have joined the movement. We want to let you know what we have done so far, what we will be doing in the near future, and let you know ways you can get involved. STAY RVA’s primary goal is to identify the needs of RVA students, staff and schools and to create community connections to meet those needs.

Our Mission

STAY RVA is a movement comprised of parents and neighbors who want to make Richmond’s public schools thrive. We are a positive-minded, solution-oriented, action-based organization. By forming partnerships and engaged communities which support our local schools, we can become a first-class city that provides a first-class education to all students.

What We've Done

STAY RVA had our first launch party on May 11, 2017 in the first district and since then we have been working hard to get our message out to the community. We are connecting with the schools so that we can take on tasks which support our values of supporting students, staff and schools while simultaneously building relationships. We’ve also had launch parties in the Fan and in Westover Hills. We hosted an end of the year luncheon at Thomas Jefferson High School and provided lunch to around 90 staff members.

We also had our first official STAY DAY where community members came together to work on specific projects at local schools. On July 15th we had about 35 volunteers work on projects at two different schools. Bryce Lyle and Ashley Hall worked with neighbors in the Westover Hills area to beautify the entrance and bike racks. While neighbors in the first district came to Albert Hill Middle to paint shelves in the cafeteria and to paint the girls and boy’s bathrooms. As the
members in the process. We are also currently working to build out our website and to date have raised over $2,600 from donations and t-shirt purchases.

What We're Going To Do

We want to keep the momentum going and get the word out about STAY RVA to all districts in Richmond. We will be having a Northside launch party on Thursday, August 31st and a Church Hill and Eighth district launch later this fall. We are hosting a teacher luncheon at Thomas Jefferson High School on Thursday, August 24th at 11:45 am. Albert Hill teachers and staff will be treated to a breakfast on Friday, September 1st at 8 am.

We will also be introducing STAY Supporters at TJ High School, Albert Hill Middle, and Westover Hills Elementary this fall. STAY Supporters are part of an effort to support teachers and staff members at local schools by providing staff with periodic treats throughout the year to highlight the communities’ appreciation for all of their hard work.

Finally, in an effort to build on the amazing strengths that reside within our community and to bring these gifts into the schools STAY RVA will be working with Albert Hill to kick off an after-school club entitled “Be the Change”. This club will be offered to all interested Hill students on the first two Thursdays of the month. The club will be set up so that childcare is provided by students and supervisors for those parents who want to participate and have young children. We will partner will individuals and nonprofits in the area who are modeling the example of doing good for their community.

How YOU Can Get Involved

Share this newsletter with a friend and encourage them to sign up to be a part of the STAY RVA movement. Wear your STAY RVA t-shirt around town and talk to neighbors about how we can collectively work to support our students, staff and schools. If you do not already have a t-shirt,
Volunteer to make or bring lunch items for upcoming teacher luncheons/breakfasts at TJ High School and Albert Hill. If you are interested in volunteering for anything listed below please contact Kim Gomez at kim@stayrva.org.

- TJ Luncheon: Thursday, 8/24
- Hill Breakfast: Friday, 9/1

STAY Supporters: Let us know if you are willing to support a teacher this year through the STAY Supporter Program. Members of the leadership team will have these hard copy postcards to pass out to community members during September please be sure to get yours. One of the best aspects of STAY RVA is that we want the good things we do to spread throughout the city. If you want to start one of the previously mentioned ideas at your local school please let us know so we can work together and get it going.

Be the Change Club Volunteers: You can commit to a minimum of one month participation or you may decide you want to join us for the first two Thursdays of each month at Albert Hill Middle School from 3:30-4:45. We need volunteers to lead the month’s focus and we need volunteers to help facilitate the club by working with students as we engage in different activities.

**Shout Outs!**

These local businesses have been incredibly supportive of STAY RVA! We extend to you our most heart-felt thanks!

- Leslie Quenneville designed the STAY RVA logo
- Fishwink Marketing: Marshall Francis and Jessica Michael are not only building our website but also have attended launch parties and helped with painting projects at local schools.
- Wythe Consulting- Stacy Buchanan helped us create aligned organizational goals, strategies and tactics. She is amazing!
- Randstad Professionals- they are doing a STAY DAY volunteer afternoon on 8/24 as they show their support for Richmond and move into their new location in Scotts Addition.
- Supply Room- making a donation of office supplies for teachers at TJ High School
- TJ Vikings Fund- a non-profit working to support students at TJ High School
- North End Juice Co.
- Café Zata

With Love and Thanks,
STAY RVA

Below are some additional resources that you may find interesting as they relate to education.
Children Benefit From Integrated Schools

4 minute read
npr.org

The Problem We All Live With

55 minute listen
thisamericanlife.org

How The Systemic Segregation Of Schools Is Maintained By 'Individual Choices'

45 minute listen
npr.org

Books to Read