RJ Reynolds High School Alumni and Friends

August 1st Newsletter
from RJR Alumni President Karen Morris

Hello, Wonderful RJR Alumni!

Can you believe it is AUGUST? How is that even possible?! Here in Winston-Salem, the weather has been extremely hot and stormy. Athletics and band camps have started and new RJR teachers are preparing to join the BEST faculty ever! Monday is the first teacher workday, then students arrive on August 13th.

In today's newsletter, you will find information about:

1. The 2025-2026 PTSA newsletter--chock full of information about events at the school this year. We encourage alumni to get involved and attend events that are of interest to you. We can even join the PTSA and support the work they do through their Legacy Campaign.
2. Crater Field and Stadium--plans for the Fall and who to reach out to if your class wants to get involved--Beat Em Tags anyone?
3. Update on the RJR Arts Hall of Fame--September 13th at 6 PM in the Auditorium
4. Update on reunions--sharing information and seeking more info
5. ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT--Bonnie Angelo

Do you have a suggestions for future newsletters or questions you want us to try to answer? Please **send your ideas and questions to** **rjralumnipres@gmail.com**. We need and appreciate your feedback!

Happy reading!

Karen Morris
President, RJR Alumni and Friends
RJR Class of 1986
Director, WS/FCS Teacher Residency Program

1. The **RJR PTSA creates a** NEWSLETTER *(click on the link to read the newsletter)* each year that is worthy of putting on the refrigerator to save the dates and to learn about important news for the year.

Each year, there is a **School-wide Theme.** This year's theme is **The Amazing Race: RJR Addition.** The year will focus on teamwork, perseverance, challenges, and celebrating every win along the way. Principal Freeman's message says "in this race, every student counts, and every step forward matters. We're focused on meaningful learning, authentic relationships, and high expectations for all. We're here to help our students grow as leaders, artists, athletes, and citizens"

Let's consider how the Alumni Association can help make this theme impact ALL students as we continue to lean into **our mission** *"to foster among the alumni and in the community a spirit of community service, fellowship, and support of RJR; to promote among the alumni an active interest in the progress and welfare of RJR--its students and faculty; to enable RJR to maintain close ties with its alumni, faculty, and friends; to enhance the standing and reputation of RJR in the community and the state."*

Some Ways to Get Involved

August 2nd 10-12 Campus Beautification Day
Donate to the Demon Pantry (through the Alumni Association or through Dr. Amy Williams in Student Services ajwilliams@wsfcs.k12.nc.us)
Attend Athletic or Arts Events (see the Year at a Glance imange below)
Financially support the current students and faculty (funds donated to the RJR Alumni Association may be earmarked for particular programs or purposes)
Volunteer

Finding Your Way Amid the Pines

2025-2026 - A PTSA Publication

A Message from our Principal, Calvin Freeman

Dear RJR Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year! Whether you're returning or joining RJR for the first time, I'm honored to welcome you to our school community. Reynolds is a special place full of history, tradition, creativity, and most of all, heart. We ARE the Place Where Everyone Wants to Be!







We're running *The Amazing Race: RJR Edition* this year, not just as a theme, but as a mindset. It's about teamwork, perseverance, challenges, and celebrating every win along the way. In this race, every student counts, and every step forward matters. We're focused on meaningful learning, authentic relationships, and high expectations for all. We're here to help our students grow as leaders, artists, athletes, and citizens.

Our students are engaged, committed, loyal, energetic and talented. Our staff exudes dedication and care. And our families offer support, partnership, and trust. This year we will continue to focus our work on meaningful learning, authentic relationships, and high expectations for every student. We are committed to helping all our students grow not just academically, but as leaders, artists, athletes, and citizens.

This year we open the doors to our brand-new on-campus stadium, a long-awaited dream that reflects the pride and perseverance of the Reynolds community. For the first time in our history, we will cheer on our Demons right here on our campus. This isn't just about sports, it's about legacy, belonging, and access.

There is so much to look forward to this year: new opportunities, new memories, and new milestones. Thank you for being part of our race toward building a future together.

Wednesday, August 13
The Race Begins! - The First Day of School

9th grade/New Student Orientation

Thursday , August 7

8:55 am - 3:40 pm

We've planned an exciting day for our incoming freshman and sophomores. Students will receive their schedules, tour the school, and meet their teachers. Students will be provided breakfast and lunch. A reminder that bus transportation is not available for this day. Drop off starts as early as 8am.

Open House for All Students

Thursday, August 7

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Students and parents are encouraged to come view schedules, meet teachers and attend PTSA meeting.

Year at a Glance

aug.

1 Parking Pass Make up Date
2 Campus Clean up
4 First Day for Teachers
7 Sports Parent Meeting
7 PTSA General Meeting
7 9th/New student Orientation
7 Open House
8 Senior Parking space painting
13 First Day of School
13 Senior Group Photo
27 Senior Parent Meeting
29 Club Fair

sept.

1 Labor Day - no school
12 Arts Hall of Fame School Program
13 Arts Hall of Fame Inductions
17 PTSA Board Meeting
17 Principal Chat
TBD School Pictures

oct.

4 Homecoming Dance
10 Last day of 1st Quarter
10 Homecoming Pep Rally & Tailgate
10 Home football game vs. Reagan
13-14 No School
15 PTSA / Booster Club Meeting
22 Principal Chat
25 National Honor Society Inductions
23-25 Fall Theatre performance
29 Fall Chorus Concert
31 Fall Fest

nov.

20 Magnet Showcase/ Reynolds Revue
19 PTSA Board Meeting
10 All County Dance
11 No School. - Veteran's Day
19 Principal Chat
21 All County Band
TBD Reflections Art submissions due
25 Winter Pep Rally
26-28 No School - Thanksgiving

dec.

5. Dance Concert
8 Orchestra Concert
9 PTSA Board Meeting
10 Holiday Choral Showcase
13 Band Concert
19 Last Day of 2nd Quarter
22 Winter Break begins
TBA Frank Spencer Holiday Classic

jan.

5 Classes Resume
8 Principal Chat
21 PTSA Board Meeting
15 RJR opened to students in 1923
19 No School - MLK Holiday
24 A Cappella Jam
TBD Follies Auditions
TBD RJR Sports Hall of Fame Inductions

feb.

16 PTSA Board Meeting
12 All County Chorus
16 Spring Sports Begin
18 Principal Chat
26 Music Showcase

mar.

9-13 Spring Break
18 PTSA Board Meeting
18 Principal Chat
6 Last Day of 3rd Quarter
26-28 Spring Musical

apr.

2 Follies / Spring Fling
3 No school Good Friday
6 No school
14 PTSA Board Meeting
22 Principal Chat
22 Reynolds Art Showcase
25 PROM
28 Straight A Luncheon
TBD **Spring Dance Concert**
30 Elementary School Walk for Grads

may

1 Class day/ Senior Picnic
4-15 AP Exams
4 Orchestra Concert
6 PTSA Meeting
8 Band Concert
6 Chorus Concert
16 Powderpuff
17 Baccalaureate
18 All Sports Celebration/PTSA General Meeting
TBD Graduation Rehearsal
TBD Graduation

Beat 'Em Tags --Frank Johnson ('83) had the idea to sponsor/provide "Beat 'Em" tags (popular at least from the 1960's through the 1990's--were these a part of YOUR Reynolds experience?) for students and staff during this first season at the new stadium. We encourage classes or groups of friends to sponsor one or more games to bring these Beat 'Em tags into the 2025-2026 school year as a way to build community and school spirit. Send in any donations you wish and mark them "Beat 'Em Tags".

2000 tags would cost $800
1500 tags would cost $600
1000 tags would cost $450
750 tags would cost $350

Wouldn't it be WONDERFUL to have these Beat 'Em stickers available to students, faculty, and attendees for each home game this fall? (photo of a sample sponsored by the Class of 1983 during an earlier school year).

If you/your class/your group of friends are willing to sponsor Beat Em tags, the alumni association can handle the ordering and distribution. If you donate for larger number of tags, they can be passed out at school AND during the game. If you donate for the smaller number of tags, they can be passd out during the game.

YOUR class or group will be listed as the "compliments of..." part of the tag (see photo below).

Send in your donations and mark them "beat em tags".



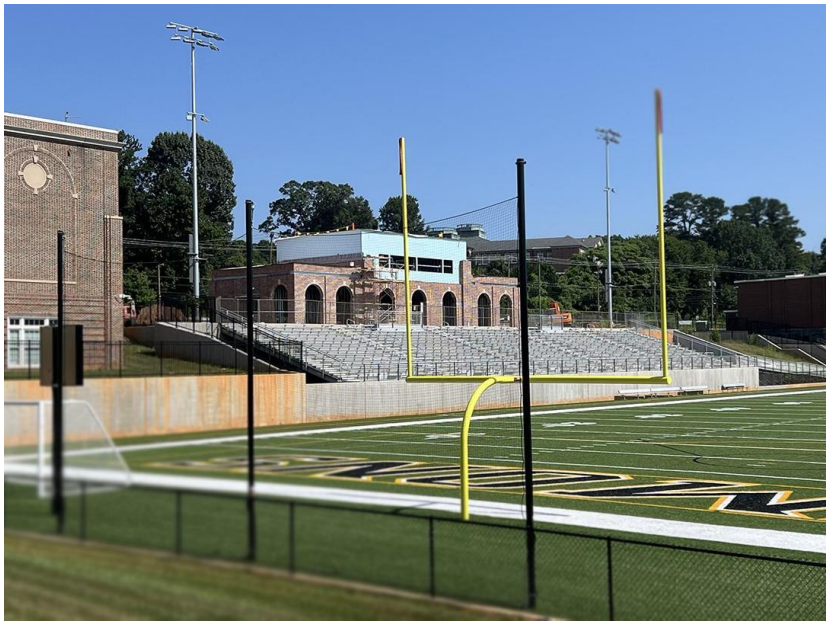
2. **Work continues on the M. Douglas Crater Field and Stadium.** The stadium is expected to be fully functional for the Fall events. If you or your class are interested in arranging for a tailgating event for an upcoming football game, reach out to the **Tailgate Coordinator,** Vickie Schmoyer at veschmoyer@wsfcs.k12.nc.us.

The first football game will be August 22 at 7 PM against North Forsyth. Many other teams and groups will also be using the field.

Tickets for athletic events may be purchased by going to GoFan.co and typing in "R J Reynolds" (or clicking on the link above).

Go to the RJ Reynolds Home Field Advantage facebook page to see updates and photos.





3. **The RJR Arts Hall of Fame** that was originally scheduled for February 22nd was rescheduled to September 13th when a snowstorm delayed the event.

On September 12th, there will be a school-wide assembly, class visits with inductees and former inductees, and a luncheon. On September 13th, there will be an awards ceremony in the Auditorium at 6 PM followed by a VIP reception at Footnotes.

Tickets to the VIP reception are $75 and will include food, drink, and time to visit with the inductees and special guests. Sponsorship levels also include tickets to the reception. There is NO COST to attend the awards celebration in the auditorium, though donations are encouraged. Funds raised support a scholarship each year for an arts intensive senior and the arts programs.

2025 Inductees include:

1. Bonnie Angelo, author and journalist, Class of 1940
2. Robbie Bach, author and creator of the Xbox, Class of 1980
3. Ellen Denham, opera singer and professor, Class of 1986
4. Andrea Freeman, potter, Class of 1987
5. Eric Johnson, film sound engineer, Class of 1982
6. Matt Kendrick, musician and music director, Class of 1975
7. Rioghnach Robinson, author and musician, Class of 2012
8. Roby Walls, former RJR teacher and Key Club Advisor, at RJR 1971-2002

Former inductees include:
Ben Brantley--NY Times Theatre critic
Ben Folds--musician and arts advocate
Bob Mayer--musician
Earline King—visual artist
Joe King—visual artist
Endia Beal—visual artist
George Hamilton, IV--musician
Howell Binkley--theatre
Judy Voss Jones—visual artist
Leonard Foy--musician
Lindsay Jones—theatre sound engineer
Michael Wilson—theatre director
Minnie Lou Raper--musician
Mitch Easter--musician
Phil Morrison--filmmaker
Wilton Barnhardt--author
Tony Jenkins--actor
Karen Wong—visual artist
Tom Ogburn—visual artist
Jon Sawyer--journalist
Chris Stamey--musician
Peter Holsapple--musician
Anne Kessler Shields—visual artist

Dave Doernberg--filmmaker
Joe Troop--musician
Mary Garber--journalist
Phyllis Dunning—retired RJR teacher and arts philanthropist

So far, sponsors include:
Foothills and Footnote, Phillips Ranson Realty Team with Leonard Ryden Burr Real Estate. Roby Walls, the Morris Family, WTOB, Bunny's Catering, Phyllis Dunning, Frank Johnson, Charlie Jones, Emily MacMillan, Kiwanis Club of Winston-Salem, and Sean and Diana Toole

The Arts Hall of Fame Committee is seeking additional sponsorships to help support the arts programs at RJR and the scholarship for an arts intensive senior who will graduate in 2026. Send donations to the Alumni Association and mark them "Arts Hall of Fame" or reach out to Dr. AmyBith Harlee (committee chair and RJR Piano Teacher) at rjrartshalloffame@gmail.com



4. **There have been several reunions recently and more are coming up.**

Here is a reminder to send information about **your class reunions** (and how you share information among class members) so we can update the website.

Class of 1980 will hold a reunion on September 27th from 7-11 PM at Footnotes
Class of 1985 will hold a reunion on August 1st at Littlejohns and August 2nd at Tanglewood DETAILS HERE with an image below.
Class of 2005 will hold a reunion October 24-25 including a football game in the new stadium, a tour of the school, and a Saturday evening party (details below)

Michael Wade from the **Class of 1965** wants to know if there is a plan for a reunion for that class. Does anyone know? Please share if so!

When you have information about your class reunion, please share with us so we can help you publicize your event and connect with classmates. Ed Munt shared photos from the Class of 1970 reunion from June 21st. I have posted them on the website.





6. **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT--Bonnie Angelo Levy**

Bonnie Angelo Levy was involved in cheerleading, student government, Pine Whispers student newspaper, service club, knitting club, theatre, tennis and the personality club while at Reynolds. She graduated in 1940, then went to Womans' College (now known as UNC Greensboro) where she graduated in 1944.

She served as president of the Women's National Press Club, aiming to end discrimination against female journalists. From 1967-1978, she was the Washington Correspondent for Time Magazine and became the first woman to run TIME's London Bureau in 1978.

She died on September 17th, 2017 in Bethesda, Maryland after a long career as an author and journalist.

Bonnie will be inducted to the RJR Arts Hall of Fame in September.





Sad news to report--Last month's alumni spotlight was on Martha Martinat. She sadly passed away on July 26th, 2025. Her obituary is here. We send her family and friends

Consider following the RJR Alumni on social media.

Click on these links to go to the Facebook and Instagram pages and follow!

Please consider donating to support the work we do. Our goals are: to foster among the alumni and in the community a spirit of continuing service, fellowship and support of RJR; to promote among the alumni an active interest in the progress and welfare of RJR– its students and faculty; to enable RJR to maintain continuing close ties with its alumni, faculty and friends; and, to enhance the standing and reputation of RJR in the community and the state. We have not had any financial donations since February, and we could use your help!

Ways to donate:

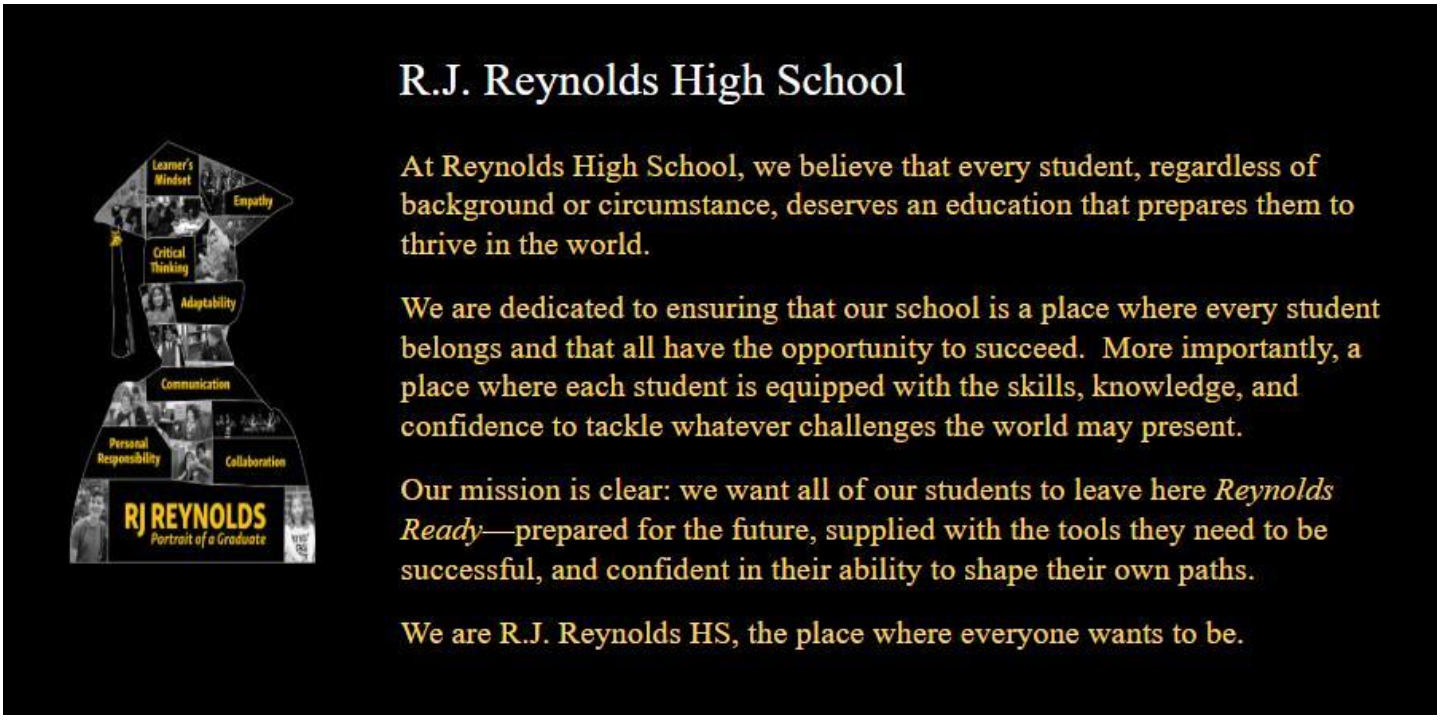
Debit or Credit card -- use this link to the WS Foundation OR this link to donate directly to the RJ Reynolds Alumni and Friends Organization

Personal checks -- you may make them out to the W-S Foundation and include "RJR Alumni endowment" in the memo line. Please mail checks to Winston-Salem Foundation * 751 W. Fourth Street - Suite 200 * Winston-Salem, NC 27101

OR

make the check out to "RJR Alumni" and mail it to RJR Alumni * PO Box 26172 * Winston-Salem, NC 27114

If you are at least 70 1/2 years old and you have an IRA, you might consider a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA.





THE place where EVERYONE wants to be!

Feel free to forward this email to ANYONE you think would be interested in reading it.

If you want to add your email address to our list, or have us change your email address, or have us take your email address off our list: merely reply back with that request.

MANY thanks for your time and consideration.

