

RICHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

ABOUT RICHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL

- Located in Onslow County, NC
- Traditional 9-12 High School
- Pre COVID-19 ADM: 908
- Current ADM: 833
- Setting: Rural (Jacksonville/Camp Lejeune)
- 52 Teachers, 3 Administrators
- Economically Disadvantaged: 42.9% (18-19)
- Advanced Placement Courses Taken: 487 (19-20)

RHS MISSION

Richlands High School will motivate and prepare our students for a rapidly changing world by instilling critical thinking skills, a global perspective, and a respect for the core values of honesty, loyalty, perseverance, and compassion.



ABOUT THE AP PROGRAM

- Ten Courses Offered:
  - AP Capstone Seminar
  - AP Capstone Research
  - AP Computer Science Principles
  - AP Environmental Science
  - AP United States History
  - AP Government and Politics
  - AP Calculus AB and BC
  - AP Language and Composition
  - AP Literature and Composition
  - AP Psychology

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR AP

- A highly qualified, well-trained, and motivated educator in every classroom.
- A focus on rigor, feedback, and high-yield instructional strategies.
- Continuous improvement through professional development.
- Robust support structures for students and teachers.
- Recruiting and retention of students.
- A master schedule that supports year-long Advanced Placement courses.
- A shared belief that all students can be AP students.
- A belief that the skills learned in AP courses will transfer for college-bound, military-bound, and workforce-bound students.

WHERE DID WE START?

STATE OF AP PROGRAM IN 2015-16

- 5 AP Courses offered
- 97 AP Students
- 170 Exams taken

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

STATE OF AP PROGRAM IN 2019-20

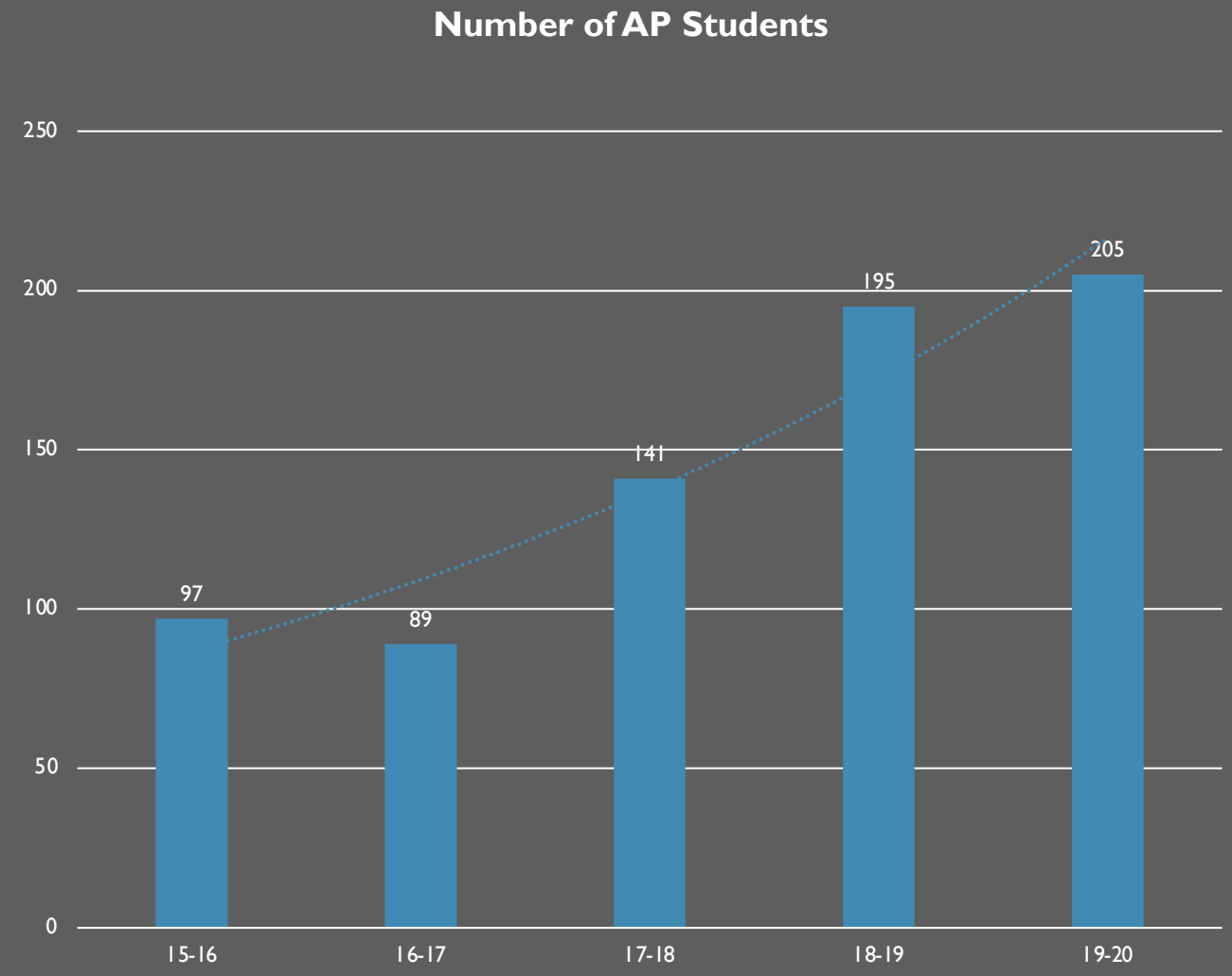
- Since 2015-16:
  - The number of face-to-face courses has increased from 5 to 10.
  - The number of students taking AP courses has increased from 97 to 205.
  - The number of students taking AP tests has increased from 170 to 378.

ADDITION OF AP CAPSTONE

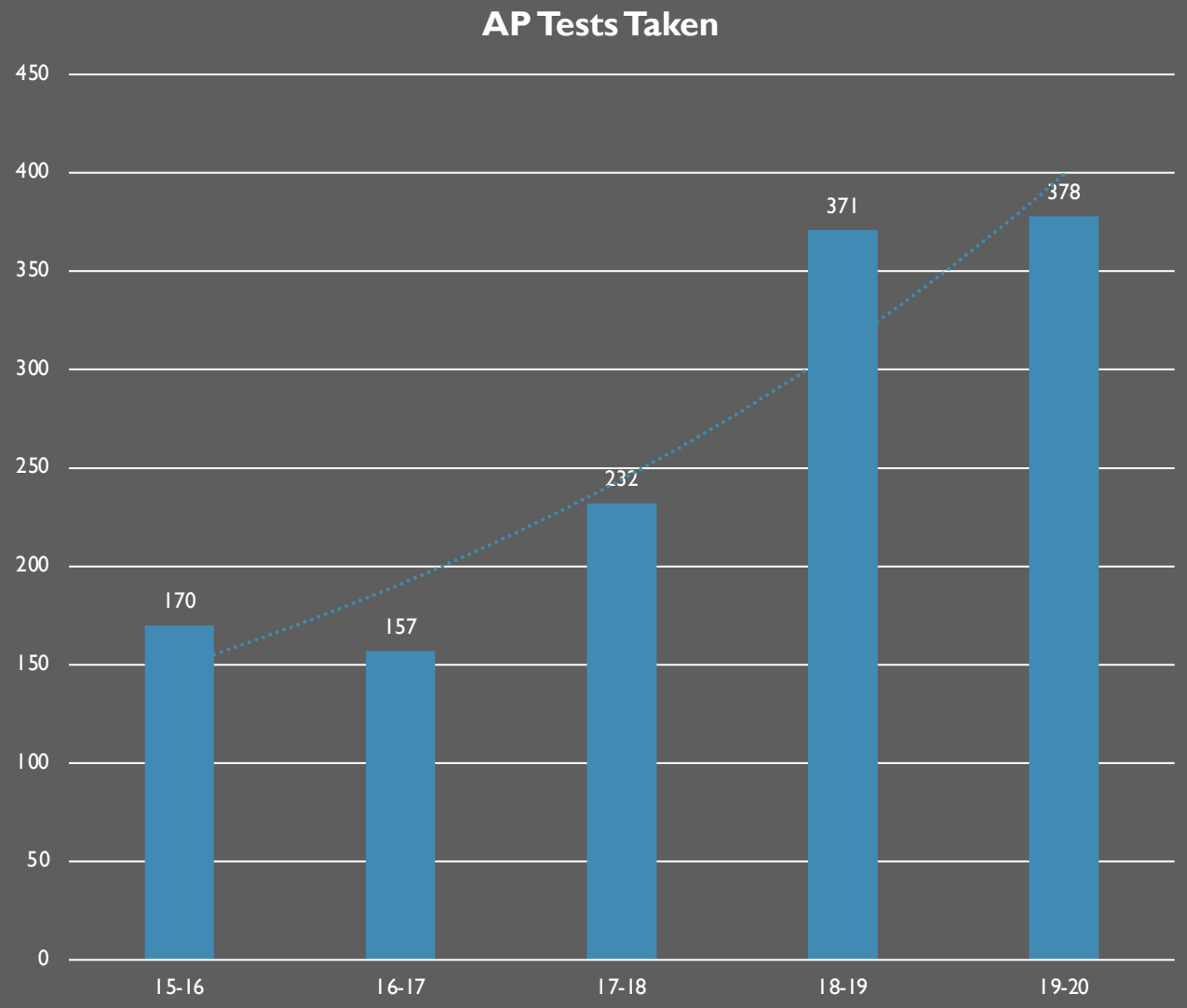
- AP Capstone is a diploma program from the College Board. It's based on two yearlong AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research.
- Students can earn the AP Capstone Diploma or the AP Seminar and Research Certificate.
- Rather than teaching subject-specific content, these courses develop students' skills in research, analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, writing, and presenting. Students who complete the two-year program can earn one of two different AP Capstone awards, which are valued by colleges across the United States and around the world.



AP STUDENTS


Number of AP Students
250
200
150
100
50
0
97
89
141
195
205
15-16
16-17
17-18
18-19
19-20

TESTS TAKEN


AP Tests Taken
450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
170
157
232
371
378
15-16
16-17
17-18
18-19
19-20

AWARDS

- **10th Annual AP District Honor Roll**
  - Awarded to 250 school districts in USA and Canada that simultaneously achieved increases in access to Advanced Placement courses for a broader number of students and also maintained or improved the rate at which their AP students earned scores of 3 or higher on an AP Exam.
  - Onslow County Schools is one of two NC school districts to earn the award.
- **AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award**
  - Recognizes schools that are closing the gender gap and engaging more female students in computer science coursework in AP Computer Science Principles (AP CSP) and AP Computer Science A (AP CSA).
  - Out of more than 18,000 secondary schools worldwide that offer AP courses, only 685 have achieved this important result.
  - Richlands High School was awarded the APCSP Female Diversity Award in 2019 and 2020.

TEACHER LEADERSHIP

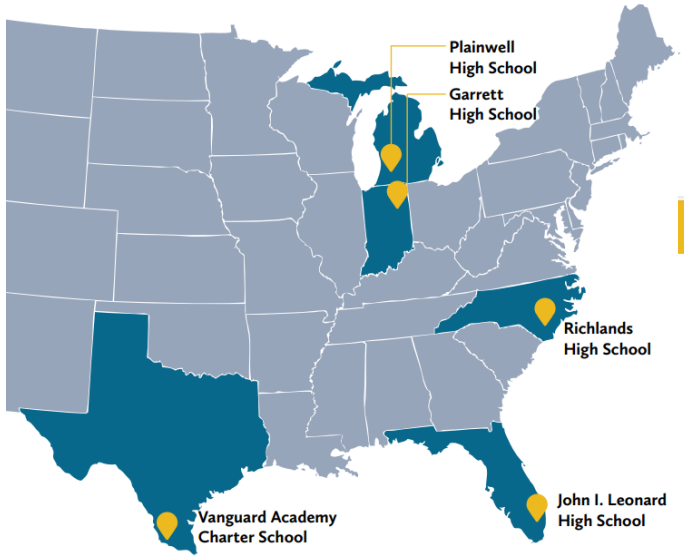
- **AP Readers**
  - Two RHS teachers now serve as AP readers:
    - Evaluate and score AP students' free responses, ensuring that high school students receive AP grades that accurately reflect college-level achievement in a specified discipline.
    - Exchange ideas and experiences, as well as build friendships with a network of high school teachers and college faculty.
    - Teachers are compensated for this activity.

EXCELINED

Part 2

School Leader Interviews

Five School Perspectives from Across the Nation



Advanced Placement

Richlands High School

"Gentle pressure relentlessly."





Asst. Principal
Frances Turner

Principal
Brad Staley

Despite its rural surroundings, Richlands is quickly becoming a more suburban community as the nearby city of Jacksonville grows. Additionally, U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp LeJeune is in Jacksonville; therefore, the school serves a large military community. Coupled with the rapid growth and the transient nature of military service, Richlands High School (RHS) faces another challenge—4 in 10 students are economically disadvantaged.



SCHOOL DISTRICT
Onslow County

SCHOOL LOCALE
Rural

STUDENT POPULATION
900

PROGRAM OFFERINGS
AP and Dual Credit

HOW HAVE WE GOTTEN HERE?

NON-NEGOTIABLES FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

- Taking the AP test is an expectation for all students enrolled in an AP course.
- The master schedule supports year-long AP courses, while allowing students to still participate in dual enrollment, fine and performing arts, CTE, and other elective courses. Our goal is to limit the number of conflicts within the school day.
- There are no pre-conceived notions of who an "AP Student" is. (Equity of access)
- Professional development for educators and student supports are high-priority budget items.
- Articulation with our feeder middle school is critical to recruiting and retention.
- Counselors work one-on-one with families to complete 4-year plans that are future-focused.
- AP teachers are expected to engage in professional development opportunities.

THE AVID CONNECTION

- The AVID program helps to open student access to advanced coursework.
- AVID teaches students collaboration skills, inquiry, and organization.
- AVID students at Richlands High School move from honors-level coursework into AP coursework by the 11th and 12th grade year.
- High-yield AVID instructional strategies are used throughout classes at RHS.

NATIONAL MATH AND SCIENCE INITIATIVE GRANT

- In 2018, Richlands High School was one of two schools in Onslow County Schools to be awarded a grant partnership with the National Math and Science Initiative
- This grant provided training and resources for teachers and students to improve education in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) courses.
- NMSI partners with the Department of Defense to reach military-connected children.

NATIONAL MATH + SCIENCE INITIATIVE

NMSI GRANT RESOURCES

- All courses in Math, Science, English, and Computer Science were moved from semester-long to year-long.
- Teachers provided with all expenses-paid professional development experiences that allowed them to learn and network with teachers from across the country.
- Students provided with Saturday tutorial sessions with national experts which included transportation for students.
- RHS was provided resources and equipment annually to support STEM and English AP students.
- Teachers gained access to NMSI-led online communities with peers across the country teaching the same subjects.
- Compensation for teachers and site administrators for tutorial sessions.
- $100 awards to students and teachers for a qualifying score on the AP tests in STEM or English subjects.

NATIONAL MATH + SCIENCE INITIATIVE

DISTRICT SUPPORT

- Onslow County Schools provides:
  - Support for the Saturday NMSI tutoring/study sessions by providing transportation and school hub sites.
  - Funding opportunities for teachers to attend AP Summer Institutes.
  - Support for the AVID program.

CAREER AND COLLEGE
Gifted Services
Excellence in Education

COLLEGE BOARD SUPPORT

- The College Board provides:
  - Instructional resources for teachers and students
    - AP Classroom
    - Pacing Guides
    - Student Learning Videos
  - Professional Development opportunities.
  - AP Mentoring
  - Data sources for schools
  - Logistical information for AP coordinators

STATE SUPPORT

- The North Carolina Advanced Placement Partnership, NCDPI, and the General Assembly provide:
  - Professional development opportunities for teachers.
  - Scholarships for APSI teacher professional development.
  - Teacher bonus structures.
  - Awarding of credit in the UNC system for scores 3 or higher on AP tests.
  - Funding of exam fees for students.
  - NCVPS Advanced Placement courses.

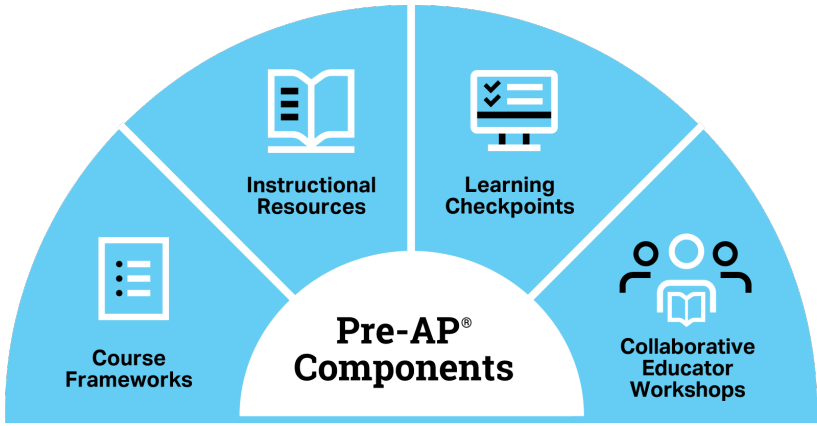
WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

UPCOMING

- Students eligible for AP Capstone Diploma.
- New courses planned:
  - AP Spanish Language and Culture (2021-22)
  - AP Biology (2021-22)
  - AP Human Geography (2022-23)

FOCUS ON PRE-AP

- Offering Pre-AP courses signals a school's commitment to preparing all students for success in high school and beyond. Pre-AP courses deliver grade-level appropriate instruction through focused course frameworks, engaging instructional resources, and learning checkpoints.
- The Pre-AP Program is designed to give all students the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed in the classroom and beyond.

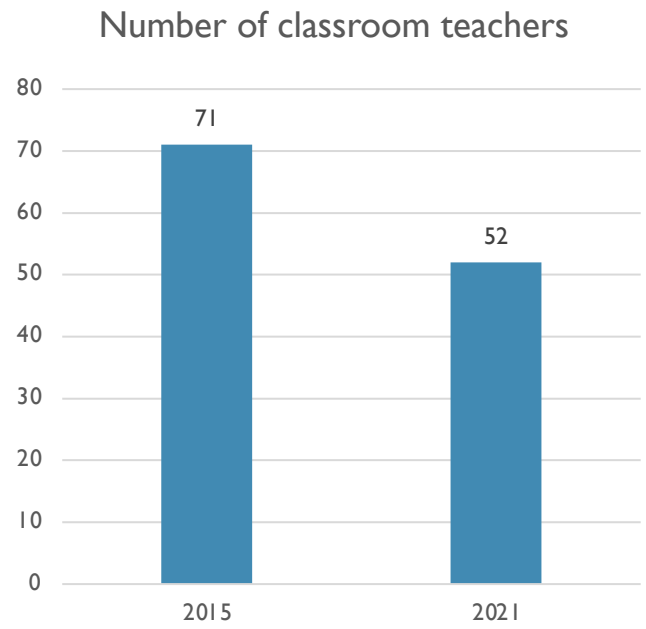


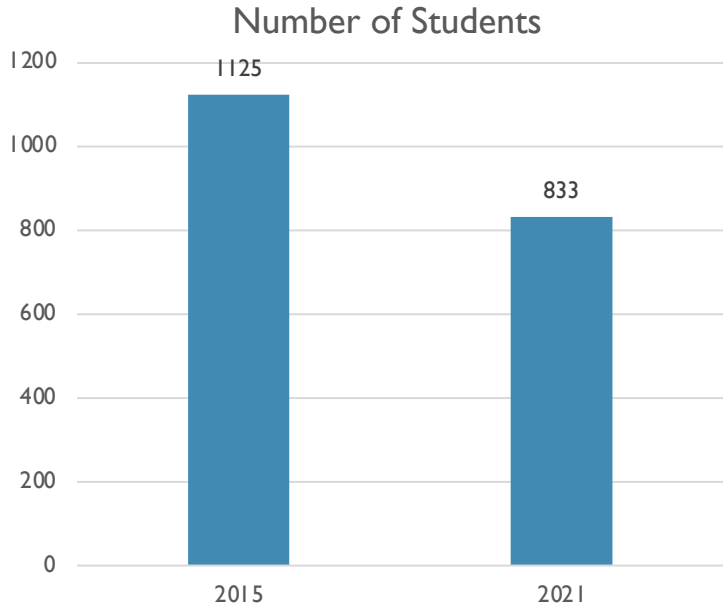
LIFE AFTER NMSI

- This is the final year of the NSMI grant for Richlands High School.
- We must continue to:
  - Hold extracurricular support and tutoring sessions.
  - Incentivize participation and achievement.
  - Provide robust professional development for teachers and administrators.
  - Fund classroom supplies and materials to support AP courses.

OUR CHALLENGES

- Teaching positions at RHS have decreased due to redistricting (Decreased ADM) and the opening of an all-virtual school.
  - Reduced positions means scheduling elective and AP courses becomes more challenging.
  - The availability of future AP and Pre-AP course offerings will be directly dependent on teaching positions.
- Higher number of identified at-risk students requires allocation of additional resources and manpower.



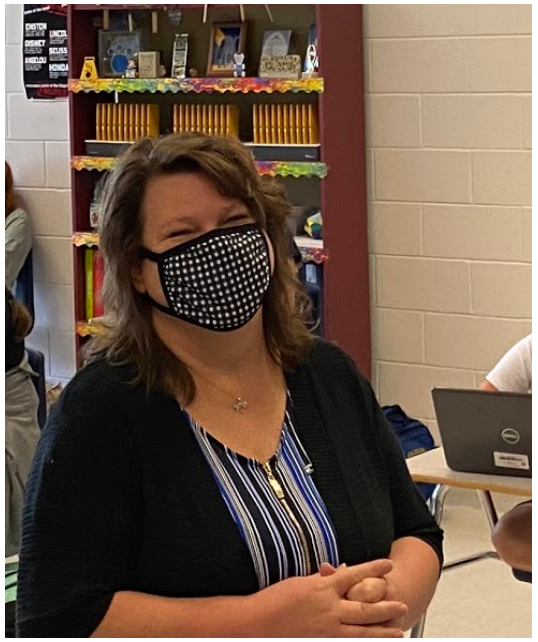


WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO?

OUR TEACHERS



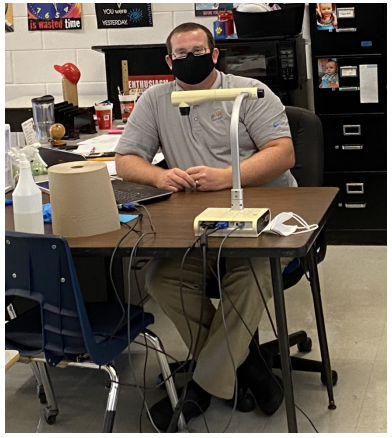




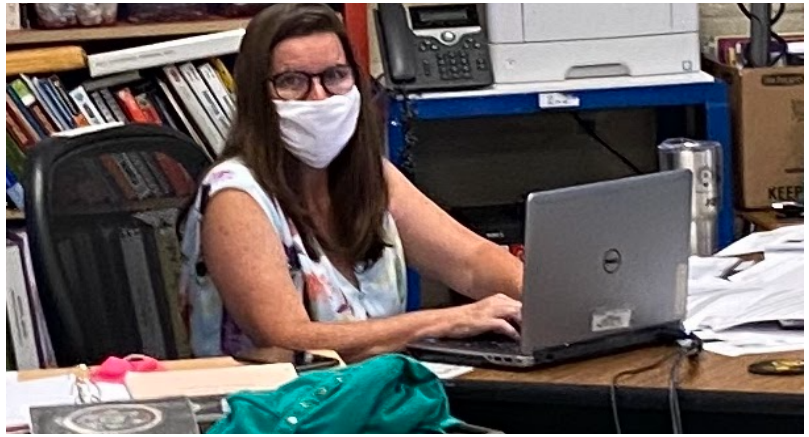














OUR STUDENTS











