

The WFHOA Schools Committee meets at 1pm on the first Sunday of every month and we welcome new members to join us. For more information, please reach out to our Chair, Miraj Murali at [mirajmurali@gmail.com](mailto:mirajmurali@gmail.com) or see our committee charter at {insert link on HOA website here once it is uploaded}.

So far in 2022, the Schools Committee has been working with Community Operations for Henrico County along with Rivers Edge Elementary School's (REES) Henrico Police School Resource Officer (SRO) to evaluate potential ways that we might address unsafe driving in the neighborhood during school drop off and pick up time. We have also been in contact with Henrico County Public School (HCPS) Operations and Planning teams to understand the current capacity numbers at each of our neighborhood schools – Rivers Edge Elementary School, Holman Middle School, and Deep Run High School – along with the expected school enrollment increases as the result of new development in our area.

### **What is the current capacity of the schools for which Wyndham Forest's students are zoned to attend?**

Per HCPS, schools are designed to operate and function at 100% and can accommodate additional capacity. HCPS has experienced a drop in enrollment since the start of the pandemic, our neighborhood schools have likewise experienced a drop in enrollment since 2020.

Currently REES is at 101% capacity which is +9 additional students above the 724 student Functional Capacity. REES is using mobile classrooms despite being only slightly above their full functional capacity because Rivers Edge has a number of programs that require additional space, such as SIS (Social Integrated Services), which also requires a sensory room. The 7 closest elementary schools to REES are all currently under capacity and have space to absorb growth in those schools, though these schools will not be absorbing any additional growth within the REES footprint at this time.

Holman Middle School is currently -223 students its Functional Capacity of 1,058 students for an enrollment capacity of 78.9%. Deep Run High School, like REES, is over its Functional Capacity of 1,850 with an additional +45 students for an enrollment capacity of 102.4%

<b>School</b>	<b>Total Students</b>	<b>Functional Capacity</b>	<b>Enrollment/Capacity</b>
<b>HOLMAN</b>	835	1,058	78.9%
<b>DEEP RUN</b>	1,895	1,850	102.4%

<b>ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>Functional Capacity</b>	<b>Enrollment/Capacity</b>
<b>COLONIAL TRAIL</b>	642	690	93.0%

<b>ECHO LAKE</b>	506	668	75.7%
<b>KAECHELE</b>	468	658	71.1%
<b>LONGAN</b>	394	504	78.2%
<b>RIVERS EDGE</b>	733	724	101.2%
<b>SHADY GROVE</b>	576	746	77.2%
<b>SPRINGFIELD PARK</b>	559	670	83.4%
<b>TWIN HICKORY</b>	522	682	76.5%

When asked for more information about capacity and enrollment at Deep Run HS and Glen Allen HS, we were given the figures in the chart below. We asked specifically about rumors of a new high school planned for our area of the county and were told that increased capacity at the high schools should/will be minimized by the growth in seating opportunity in HCPS ACE Centers and Specialty Centers. HCPS is expecting more students from Deep Run and Glen Allen to apply and participate in these programs, thus reducing their enrollment numbers.

<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>Functional Capacity</b>	<b>Enrollment/Capacity</b>
<b>DEEP RUN</b>	1,895	1,850	102.4%
<b>GLEN ALLEN</b>	1,978	1,850	106.9%

### **What are the plans to address overcrowding at REES?**

In order to alleviate overcrowding at REES, Longan ES (located to the east of our neighborhood behind Tuckernuck Plaza on Broad Street) will be rebuilt and additional capacity added to that school. This is one of two projects included on the proposed bond referendum that will be voted upon in November 2022 to help with growth in the western part of the county. The second project is a new West End Elementary School, the details of which have not yet been determined/made publicly available.

### **How will current and planned housing developments in our area impact our schools?**

There are two major areas of development in western Henrico that could have the biggest impact on our schools - one on Bacova Road off North Gayton Road and the second in the Innsbrook area. As noted previously, HCPS is currently working to identify the best location to place a new West End Elementary school that will help alleviate any potential capacity concerns.

We have been advised that approximately 30 students are projected to be enrolled at REES from the Stanley Hill development at the end of Opaca. We asked for clarification about the timing of this project and were advised that the thirty students are at

buildout. Construction plans are still under review and buildout could take 4-5 years. HCPS is projecting that 19-20 middle school students for Holman and 23-24 students for Deep Run will be added as a result of this development.

Regarding any students who move into the apartments currently being constructed at the intersection of Nuckols and Sadler roads - they are zoned for Rivers Edge ES, Holman MS, and Glen Allen HS. This will be a mixed-use development, which has generated substantially fewer students than other types of development. If this pattern continues, HCPS projects this development will yield far fewer students than other multi-family developments. They provided the following examples - The Flats at West Broad Village currently have 6 elementary students, 3 middle school students, and 8 high school students residing there, and Penstock Quarter, in Libbie Mill, has 0 elementary, middle, and high school students living there. HCPS' planning office expects similar student generation rates for this development.

### **When will comprehensive school redistricting take place?**

Per our School Board representative, at this time there is no specific timeline for revisiting redistricting (HCPS was in the midst of redistricting when the pandemic hit and they wisely decided to delay the process). In our magisterial district, Three Chopt, there are many changes coming due to the new schools, etc. She would not support doing any shifts in boundaries until the plans are solid for the new ES school location and the plans for Longan.