



High Rocks


educate. empower. inspire.

Memo of Partnership

High Rocks and Pocahontas County Schools have worked in partnership for 20 years, since 1996 when High Rocks was founded by Pocahontas County public educators to provide enrichment education in partnership with the school system. The mission of High Rocks is to educate, empower, and inspire young people in West Virginia.

Pocahontas County Schools and High Rocks Educational Corporation have a public-private partnership. Pocahontas County Schools is the county school system, and High Rocks is an educational non-profit also serving students in the area.

While students spend the majority of their time in a public school setting, High Rocks is a non-profit partner that provides additional learning outside of the school day to these students. In addition to their opportunities at school, Pocahontas County students receive education and nutrition services in the summer and afterschool at the High Rocks facilities.

Pocahontas teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators recommend Pocahontas students for entry to our intensive academic summer school, High Rocks Academy for Girls and High Rocks presents to each student body about summer opportunities. In the summer, High Rocks provides access for Pocahontas students to high-quality free courses for female students in grades 7-12. These rigorous courses are taught in a residential camp setting and based on a gifted program model. Students are provided with three free meals a day. Courses include:

- Mathematics
- Creative and academic writing
- Creative expressions
- Visual Art
- Outdoor Environmental Science
- Entrepreneurship
- Civics
- Local History and Culture
- Music Education
- STEM exploratories, including computer programming
- College Preparation
- Nutrition Education
- Health and Wellness
- Physical Education and Outdoor Leadership Skills
- Social Studies and History
- Online learning and summer retention



Not only does High Rocks offer a valuable educational resource in the community for students when school is not in session, High Rocks comes into public schools to help meet needs that schools identify. These services are offered to both male and female students. In the past these needs have included health education workshops, watershed and environmental service workshops, high-risk student mentoring, tutoring, leadership groups, college readiness, and general teacher support.

High Rocks works with Pocahontas School students and community volunteers outside of the school day to provide free educational programs for males and females grades 3-12, in addition to all the school is able to offer including:

- Community-based tutoring and mentoring for middle and high school students
- Tutoring and enrichment programs for grades 3-5
- Four annual college trips to select colleges
- Hands-on civics field trips to the WV Legislature and Capitol Complex, including Lobby Days
- Bringing students annually to present at conferences including the Appalachian Studies Association
- Annual service-learning trips to another state
- Local Foods, Creative Writing, Geology, and Environmental Science field trips to students in our 200 acre campground classroom
- Annual Martin Luther King weekend learning workshop and presentation

Pocahontas County Schools provides bus transportation to High Rocks afterschool activities as needed and available, and has done so since 1996. High Rocks afterschool programs would not be possible without the school system's support.

High Rocks provides key wrap-around academic services to children in need. 80% of participants qualify for free and reduced lunch. Nearly half will be first-generation college students. 100% of program participants graduate from high school, and 100% go on to college or another career development training opportunity. 100% of program alumnae college freshmen returned for their sophomore year in good standing.

All High Rocks activities are covered under the High Rocks Board of Risk Management Liability Insurance.

All High Rocks staff and AmeriCorps members complete a background check. They are trained by school staff as are other school volunteers.

High Rocks raises all funds independently to provide these services and opportunities to students.

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| High Rocks Representative Name, Title | Signed | Date |
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| Pocahontas County Schools Representative Name, Title | Signed | Date |
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