

Communities In Schools of Hampton Roads

Monthly Newsletter 2025

Issue No. 1 | February 11th

Even though the calendar turned to a new year, Communities In Schools of Hampton Roads continues in its work empowering students, ensuring that every child has the support they need to succeed. CISofHR could not ensure that students succeed in school without the treasured relationships between Site Coordinators and students and the support of community partners. Read how these efforts make a difference below.



Community Partnership

CISofHR would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Sentara for its continued partnership. Thanks to a grant from ServeVirginia, Sentara volunteers and CISofHR students at Williams Elementary engaged in a community project celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Students and volunteers painted murals featuring Dr. King and prepared gardening boxes for the school garden.



Students were able to participate in improving their school community all while witnessing adults volunteering their time doing the same. Together, we were able to celebrate Dr. King's vision of unity, service, and empowerment in a way that will leave a lasting impression on our community.



Featured Articles

Mental Health First Aid



Thanks to the Community Leadership Partners of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, CISofHR staff members have received training and been certified as Mental Health First Aid Instructors. Being trained in Mental Health First Aid assists in identifying signs of mental health problems and substance abuse disorders as well as how to facilitate care and treatment. This generous support has equipped our staff with the knowledge and tools necessary to better serve the mental health needs of our students. Now that our site coordinators are Mental Health First Aid Instructors, they are certified to teach school administrators and teachers on the material. CISofHR is excited to be able to bring this resource to the schools we serve and eventually the larger community.

Success Story!

Last year, Maya was on track to not graduate from Bayside High School. Situations at home were keeping her from attending school regularly, so she was missing instruction time and earning failing grades. Mr. Clanton, the CISofHR Site Coordinator collaborated with school counselors to ensure the student's attendance day in an day out--home visits, wake up calls, encouragement, and a known safe space at school. With this continuous outreach, Maya graduated! Maya had expressed a desire to join the military. After moving to Atlanta after graduation, Maya recently returned to Bayside High School to visit Mr. Clanton to say thank you and to share that she was about to begin Basic Training. Special shoutout to Mr. Clanton for his continued contribution to his students, and best wishes to Maya as she begins her military career!



Graduation 2024

Her today, 2025

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