



# HRLS

## *Director's Report and Highlights*

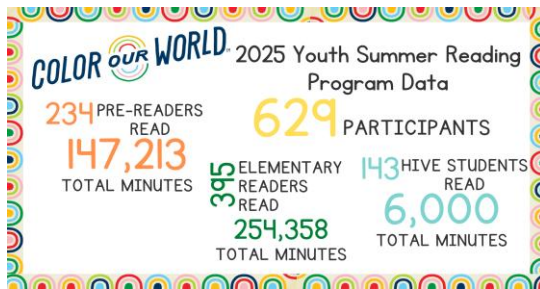
*July 2025*

### *Celebrating Personal Achievement*

On July 25<sup>th</sup>, the Bowman Library celebrated its third graduation from the **Career Online High School (COHS)**. With proud parents and friends watching, **Robbie Gordon** received his diploma from Cheryl McKelvey, program coordinator. COHS provides adults with the opportunity to earn their high school diploma online, free of charge from select libraries. Currently, there are five additional students that are actively participating in the Bowman program that is sponsored by the Library of Virginia. The next closest graduate has completed more than 80% of the coursework.



### *Wrapping Up Summer Reading*



The numbers are in and show that it was a great year for the Summer Reading Program. At the Handley branch there was a 14% increase among the 0-11-year-old participants. Of the 395 elementary age readers in the program there were 143 students also taking part in the **Winchester Parks and Recreation Summer Day Camp** program who met their final reading goal of 6,000 collective minutes!

But it wasn't just about reading. It was also about learning and doing new things, whether at the Bowman branch, the Clarke County branch, or the Handley branch. It was a summer of color and fun.



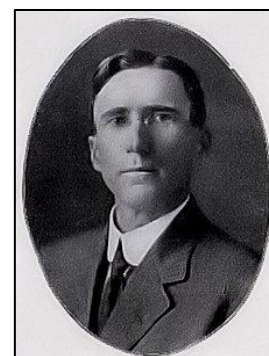
## ***Dressing the Part at Natsu Con\****



The Bowman branch celebrated its Fifth Natsu Con Anniversary with 997 teens attending the program that showcased cosplay outfits, anime characters, Japanese culture and teen artisans. *\*Natsu comes from the Japanese word for Summer, and Con is short for Convention. It's an event that highlights Japanese animation, video games, manga comics and Japanese traditions and culture with participants encouraged to dress up as their favorite anime characters.*

## ***Making History Accessible***

July found the Archives' second intern, Dana Elrick, reviewing and reprocessing approximately 0.84 linear feet of correspondence from the estate of John Walter Wayland (1872-1962). John Walter Wayland was a native of the Shenandoah Valley, an educator and an accomplished writer of history and religious books, historical and cultural essays and articles, textbooks, poetry and songs. His papers make up an important Archives collection containing many decades of Professor Wayland's research. His photographs document many historically significant sites and homes, and his correspondence and other works are valuable resources for people interested in the history of the Valley and the individuals and families who settled here.



### **Contributors:**

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***The Handley Regional Library ... [handleyregional.org](http://handleyregional.org)***