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THE RAHWAY VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY LAUNCHES EDUCATIONAL STUDENT TOUR INITIATIVE

Rahway, NJ, April 9, 2013 . . . The Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) will host local school group tours of their facility to build awareness on wastewater treatment and the importance of water conservation. The season's first facility tour was given on March 22nd to 7th, 8th and 9th grade students from David Brearley High School, Kenilworth Scholars Academy.

Approximately 30 students attended the field trip which began with an RVSA presentation highlighting the importance of water conservation and reviewing what students can do daily to help the environment. The students were provided with tour maps and led through the facility mirroring the wastewater's journey - stopping at each stage to learn about its role in the process. The students witnessed the incoming wastewater and saw how debris and grit are removed. They learned how microorganisms help ride the water of waste, and how UV radiation is used to safely disinfect by killing any viruses and remaining bacteria. The students were also educated on the tertiary treatment stage, which is an extra step the RVSA added to its treatment process to ensure the water is as clean as possible before released to Arthur Kill River.

"We loved having the students at our facility and educating them on all that we do here at the RVSA," said Dan Ward, RVSA Maintenance Manager. "A highlight of the trip for me was showing the students the Caterpillar engines in the Co-Generation facility and seeing the intrigue in a few aspiring engineers as they examined them to figure out how they

worked. These kids were really interested in the wastewater treatment process, and I believe they took away a lot from the trip – which made it very worthwhile.”

“We thoroughly enjoyed our time at the RVSA facility and I thank them for the opportunity to visit,” said Jennifer Osemwegie, Assistant Principal, Kenilworth Scholars Academy. “As we took the facility tour, we learned about the intricate wastewater treatment process and the important role each of us can play in helping to conserve. The students and faculty all came away with a new perspective on conservation and conscientious consumption. It was a trip to remember and we look forward to our next visit and possible job shadowing.”

After the tour, the students were given RVSA goodie bags, which included an informational handout with critical thinking questions and a shower timer to help with water conservation. The RVSA has extended invitations to local schools and community groups to participate in the educational facility tour and received considerable interest so far. Interested groups should contact the RVSA at info@rahwayvalleysa.com.



Students overlooking the Aeration Tanks, with Bob Valent, RVSA Superintendent explaining the process



Students in the Laboratory looking at beakers of incoming and final effluent



*Students looking at sludge – before and after the dewatering process
(consistencies of Chocolate Milk to Potting Soil)*



Students and Faculty from Kenilworth Scholar Academy around RVSA Company sign

David Brearley High School, under the Kenilworth School District, offers an innovative curricular and co-curricular program focused upon high standards to further the academic, social and emotional growth of all students. The Kenilworth Scholars Academy is a program of advanced academic studies offered to a small community of students in Grades 7-9 and dedicated to providing them with a range of academic experiences that will concentrate on the areas of math and science and includes courses that comprise Honors, Advanced Placement and specialized classes.

The RVSA is an autonomous agency that owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility located in Rahway, NJ and a trunk sewer system that serves Member Municipalities of Clark, Cranford, Garwood, Kenilworth, Mountainside, Rahway, Roselle Park, Scotch Plains, Springfield, Westfield, and Woodbridge and User Municipalities of Winfield Park, portions of Fanwood and Linden. For more information, visit www.rahwayvalleysa.com.

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