



*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

Racquets for Reading!!! Year Two

Charlottesville, Virginia (9/14/2021) – QuickStart Tennis of Central Virginia, Inc. (QCV) is pleased to report that [Racquets for Reading!!!](#) will continue during the new school year and expand its reach. As the data below shows, the effects of the COVID disruption have been very significant. While the school systems focus on remediation for older kids, we will continue to emphasize early intervention for preschoolers and kindergartners with the goal of getting them to read at grade level at the end of kindergarten. Kids who read at grade level at the end of kindergarten will likely make the critical third grade benchmark.

Third Grade Reading Scores (Pass Rate) in QCV's Service Area

	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2020/21 Range</u>
Albemarle	70%	70%	39% to 98% (15 schools)
Amelia	67%	57%	n/a
Appomattox	71%	63%	n/a
Brunswick	44%	40%	34% to 53% (3 schools)
Buckingham	55%	42%	n/a
Charlotte	84%	63%	40% to 70% (3 schools)
Charlottesville	71%	55%	29% to 63% (6 schools)
Culpeper	64%	48%	34% to 62% (6 schools)
Cumberland	64%	47%	n/a
Danville	44%	39%	28% to 61% (6 schools)
Dinwiddie	71%	56%	42% to 72% (5 schools)
Fluvanna	65%	57%	n/a
Franklin	74%	68%	46% to 96% (12 schools)
Greene	62%	53%	45% to 62% (2 schools)
Greensville	57%	45%	n/a
Halifax	71%	49%	38% to 70% (7 schools)
Henry	72%	48%	24% to 59% (9 schools)
Louisa	72%	70%	66% to 72% (4 schools)
Lunenburg	72%	48%	46% to 52% (2 schools)
Madison	63%	51%	n/a
Martinsville	56%	30%	28% to 31% (2 schools)
Mecklenburg	70%	70%	62% to 77% (4 schools)
Nelson	59%	45%	44% to 46% (2 schools)
Nottoway	71%	53%	49% to 56% (2 schools)
Orange	66%	54%	41% to 58% (4 schools)
Patrick	87%	76%	64% to 86% (5 schools)
Pittsylvania	81%	76%	62% to 88% (10 schools)
Powhatan	73%	69%	67% to 70% (3 schools)
Prince Edward	52%	33%	n/a
Rappahannock	61%	78%	n/a
Average	66%	55%	
State Average	70%	58%	

Note: The highest 2020/21 reading score in the state was 93% for Poquoson City Public Schools (one school), up from 88% for 2018/19. The lowest reading score in the state was 29% for Petersburg City Public Schools, four schools that ranged from 22% to 32%.

For the 2021/2022 school year QCV will target 4,445 preschoolers and kindergartners in 24 school systems, up from 2,000+ kids in 13 school systems last school year. Disadvantaged and at-risk preschoolers who participate in free public preschool classes are our top priority. Next, we focus on kindergartners in school systems and schools with low reading scores and higher poverty rates.

Lynda Harrill, says, “The pre-COVID third grade reading scores in Virginia were too low to begin with. There were 59 of 132 school systems with pass rates below 70%. The latest reading scores show the impact of COVID on an already bad situation. Now 107 school systems are below 70%. Given the abundance of positive feedback we received for Racquets for Reading!!! last school year, plus the decline in reading scores and continuing COVID disruptions, we’re looking to reach even more kids in additional schools. Hopefully a few years down the road when the current preschoolers and kindergartners reach first, second and third grades, we’ll have lots of kids playing tennis, reading scores of at least 85% and COVID will be long gone.”

Please visit our [website](#) to learn more about what QCV is doing to promote physical activity, healthy eating and early childhood literacy for preschoolers and kindergartners through our [Racquets for Reading!!!](#) initiative.

*Want to be a great adult?
Play tennis! Read books! Eat healthy! Have FUN!!!
Be a QuickStart kid!*

QuickStart Tennis of Central Virginia is an all-volunteer, grassroots Community Tennis Association established in 2009 as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to promote, develop and grow QuickStart Tennis in the heart of Virginia for all beginners, especially underserved youth, using the kid-sized QuickStart Tennis format. QCV’s service area includes, Amelia, Appomattox, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fluvanna, Franklin, Greene, Greensville, Halifax, Henry, Louisa, Lunenburg, Madison, Mecklenburg, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Patrick Pittsylvania, Prince Edward, Powhatan and Rappahannock counties and the cities of Charlottesville, Danville and Martinsville, plus under a special arrangement, King George County. We currently serve 212 schools with 99,000 kids, 15 parks & recreation departments, three Boys & Girls Clubs and two YMCAs in 27 counties and three independent cities. We have also gotten tennis into PE classes in 37 additional schools with 16,000 students in communities outside our service area.

Visit QCV at www.quickstartcentral.org and on [Facebook](#).

For additional information, contact quickstartcentral@comcast.net.



A racquet in every hand! A smile on every face!



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