

With the generous support of community partners, John Marshall, the joy and pride of Richmond's Northside, was able to take dozens of student-athletes on a life-changing trip to Angola, in Africa. Most students had never left the state; all needed to get their first passport. Through this trip in Angola, students explored issues of their own identities, history in both the United States and Africa, and their relationships with each other and their communities. They returned with a broadened perspective, and the Division was brought in to produce a video to raise awareness of the program. The video is being used online and shared with potential supporters of future trips, as well as with the Richmond community generally. One of the key goals was to change perspectives about RPS students within the broader community. We celebrated the students and the documentary with a release event at the Virginia Black History Museum, attended by approximately 60 friends and community leaders. Additionally, the video was showed to all JayEm students, and we are working with a broader distribution within the community (potentially through public television). The film has had a positive impact so far. The school has kicked off fundraising for the next trip, and they are hopeful that they will achieve their goal. During Black History Month, the school used it to further conversations around identity, history, and diversity. Additionally, the school and students report back that they're incredibly proud and inspired, and ready to participate in the next trip.