

RITE NOW @ ROP



Rite of Passage programs create and observe rituals to honor student achievements. This year, Hillcrest Academy honored the positive behavior and accomplishments of its RAM students by observing longtime Fall traditions in their first annual Harvest Festival. The festival included a trip to a local pumpkin patch and, afterward, a campus-wide pumpkin carving contest between cottages.

Several RAM students, accompanied by HCA staff, went to nearby Iron Farms to pick out pumpkins for the contest. While there, the students spent time wandering through the vast pumpkin patches in search of the “perfect” pumpkin, and interacted with animals on the farm.

Once the pumpkins were selected, the students returned to campus where the RAMS, along with their cottage groups, designed and decorated two pumpkins to be judged by HCA staff. Students were also invited to create their own autumn treat: caramel apples rolled in toppings of their choice.

Everyone enjoyed the festivities that reminded them that no one is “too old” to carve a pumpkin or eat caramel apples in celebration of the arrival of fall!