



Viking News



Principal's Message

Happy Fall! This is a great time of the year. The school year is in full swing, and your children are hard at work at RMS. We have had an awesome beginning of the school year, and we are expecting more great things to come!

During the month of October, we commemorated Red Ribbon Week, Week of Respect and School Violence Awareness weeks. Two major themes, cyber safety and anti-bullying, were explored through various lessons in the classrooms. The 8th graders signed a pledge to become "Upstanders" instead of bystanders. Many students showed their school spirit by participating in "Spirit days". On October 23, a school wide assembly, sponsored by the H.S.A., focused on the power of being positive.

Parent conferences are being held October 31, November 3 and 4 at RMS. We are encouraging you to bring your child to your scheduled parent conference. This is a great opportunity to have your child share his/her strengths and weaknesses and to have a voice in their academic progress.

Our BYOD program is well underway. I met with students at each grade level to discuss the program and the importance of using technology appropriately. Thank you for attending the Back to School Night presentation by our Readington police officers on cyber safety. This is such an important topic and is very relevant to our students. As parents, we have to try to stay one step ahead of our technologically savvy children!

We have so many amazing students doing great things every single day. In addition to recognizing students as Valuable Vikings, we've added the "Student of the Month" this year. The students are recognized by their teachers for exhibiting positive character traits. The students' pictures are displayed in the hallway by the front office, so be sure you take a peek the next time you are in the school.

Thank you to our H.S.A. for providing a fabulous book fair. It is always nice to see students excited about picking out books to read!

I am looking forward to a great school year. Thank you for continuing to be a partner in your child's education!

Mrs. Sharon Moffat





Intervention & Referral Services (I&RS)

The I&RS Team works collaboratively to serve general education students experiencing difficulties, and assist staff members who have difficulties addressing students' learning, behavior, social/emotional, and/or health needs. It's comprised of the vice principal, the grade level counselor, a member of the Child Study Team (CST), the referring staff member, and other school staff members who develop and implement an assistance plan for students.

A student who experiences difficulty in school may be referred to the I&RS Team by a teacher, staff member, or the parents or legal guardians. The parents or legal guardians are informed of any referrals. Once there's a referral, the I&RS Team consults with the student's classroom teachers, parents or legal guardians, and other appropriate school employees to gather relevant information regarding the student's educational status, attendance, classroom behavior, and school conduct. The school nurse reviews the student's health records and informs the committee of any condition relevant to the student's difficulties. The I&RS Team may consult with community-based agencies that provide services to the student or the student's family.

Based on the gathered information, the I&RS Team develops and implements an action plan that includes modifications to the student's regular educational program, referral for school interventions, recommendations for strategies for home, and/or referral to community agencies for interventions and/or assessments. The plan lists the people who will implement the strategies, and a team member to monitor and review the student's progress.

Within eight weeks, the case monitor consults with staff members for a review and assessment of the effectiveness of the plan. If the action plan is determined to be ineffective, the plan is reviewed and amended as necessary. If the review indicates a disability, the student can be referred to the Child Study Team (CST) for an evaluation to determine eligibility for special education and/or related services.

Parents or legal guardians remain actively involved in the development and implementation of plans.

Common recommendations from the I&RS committee:

Homework Room, Notebook Club, time-management strategies for home, suggest student join a club or activity at RMS, peer buddy, etc.

For further information, please contact your child's teacher or counselor.





The Readington School District literacy program provides a balanced instructional approach which includes four main categories: (1) reading, (2) writing, (3) vocabulary, and (4) speaking and listening. Below are some frequent questions about writer's workshop.

Writer's Workshop Q & A

Q: *What is Writer's Workshop?*

A: Writer's Workshop, like Reader's Workshop is a structure for instruction in literacy. The writing workshop is comprised of 4 parts; (1) the mini-lesson, (2) independent writing time & conferring, (3) mid-workshop teaching point, and (4) share and partnerships. Writing is taught like any other basic skill, with explicit instruction and ample opportunity for practice. Writer's workshop begins with a mini-lesson and is followed by independent writing within a specific genre of writing. Students write for real; they write all kinds of texts just like the ones they see in the world. Writing workshop gives students an opportunity to express themselves as narrative writers, share their opinions on real-world issues, and convince an audience to accept their side of an issue. Students write daily in writers workshop. Teachers set the stage for writers workshop by using mentor texts to focus on writers craft, along with everyday reasons for writing.

Q: *My child shares that he/she is writing independently during writer's workshop... does that mean the teacher isn't helping him/her?*

A: No, quite the contrary. During independent writing time students are working independently, most often practicing the skill or strategy that has been taught in that day's mini-lesson. During this time the teacher is conferencing with students about the work they are doing as writers. Independent writing time is a very important time in writers workshop. Students are most often dismissed to write in clusters after being gathered together for the mini-lesson. Of course, children are encouraged to work companionable alongside one another, talking quietly as the work. Most sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students benefit from some silent writing time, punctuated with deliberately chosen intervals for talk. The independent writing time is also time for small group strategy lessons.

Q: *How do I find out more about Writer's Workshop?*

A: Contact the language arts supervisor, Kari McGann at kmcgann@readington.k12.nj.us or at (908)534-2195 or visit the curriculum tab on our district website.





6th grade **Science** begins the year with a unit on Astronomy. Students have been working hands on to study shadows, seasons, rotation, and revolution. Students have gone on a “field trip” to the basketball court to observe how shadows move throughout the day. Using globes and flashlight students modeled day and night and investigated why we have seasons on earth.

In sixth grade **Social Studies**, the students started out the school year learning about the events of September 11th, 2001. The students worked together during their classes to create a flag commemoration using plastic cups. The students were excited to be able to participate in a project that the whole community could appreciate. We just completed our unit on the 5 themes of Geography. We commonly call the 5 themes MR. HeLP. The students applied the 5 themes of geography when they created a postcard of their favorite place. Each of the five themes had to be represented in their postcard. In October we are studying the seven elements of culture that all civilizations have in common. We use the acronym CARLEGS to remember the 7 elements of culture. Be sure to check with your student and see if they can explain CARLEGS to you!

Advanced 6th grade **Math** students have been computing with rational numbers. Please encourage your child to use rational number computations at home in activities such as doubling or dividing a recipe, calculating the cost of groceries, or calculating a batting average. Point out examples of negative numbers with perhaps the stock market or moves during a football game. Our next unit will be a study of expressions and equations.

Honors **Pre-algebra** students have finished a unit on integers and rational numbers including mathematical properties. They have reviewed previously learned concepts and extended them to new number concepts. Please encourage your child to use the skills review in the on-line Big Ideas textbook to reinforce previously learned skills. Students just determined their own walking rates as we start our next unit on linear relationships.

Math 6 students have completed a unit expanding their understanding of factors and multiples, and using common factors and common multiples to solve real world problems including sharing equally and determining when future events with different schedules will happen simultaneously. In our second unit, we will study fractions and decimals.

For all math classes, an online book can be found at www.BigIdeasMath.com. This online resource has additional practice and review activities including video tutorials, self-checking quizzes, and skills reviews. Students are encouraged to review and reinforce their skills at home and may use www.ixl.com and www.LearnZillion.com as two of many available resources.

Mrs. Kalinich's sixth grade classes completed their first **Math** unit of numerical expressions and factors with their Special Number Pumpkin Project. Each student described their favorite number using concepts learned and reviewed since the beginning of school. This included prime numbers, composite numbers, factors, multiples, prime factorization, exponents, greatest common factor, and least common multiple. Students enjoyed decorating their holiday cut-out pumpkins with these ideas! They have also begun to practice math facts on the Reflex Math website to increase their math fact fluency. We have already seen great results with increase in speed when recalling facts! Our next unit will involve fraction operations and will include assignments on the [ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com) website.

6th Grade continued...

6th grade **Language Arts** just finished up personal narratives and we are excited to move into realistic fiction. Students are studying conflicts in stories and are working to add sensory details into their writing. In reading, many students are well into reading books in a series, or by favorite authors, as we continue to study how characters grow and change over time.



French

We have worked on greeting each other and asking for information such as age and health. We've learned songs that we sing to each other each day and will move on to learning days, months and giving dates. We will talk about our favorite holidays and make calendars with French labels.

Mandarin

Sixth Graders from Mandarin classes have been busy speaking Mandarin in the classes. They are experts at greeting and asking for friends' names. They enjoyed singing the Chinese alphabets and greeting songs. A Panda project has been done and RMS students enjoyed viewing the panda project displayed in the hallway. Currently they are working on making monthly birthday calendars for all grades of Mandarin classes. We are glad that RMS has more Mandarin speakers now.

Spanish

Senora Mitrow's Sixth Grade Spanish students are working on using new adjectives to describe themselves and others. They will be comparing and contrasting themselves to Spanish speaking students.

In Senorita's Parks' Spanish class we are learning 30 different body parts in addition to learning about masculine and feminine nouns and definite and indefinite articles. We are using this information to create an interesting "Monstruo" and creating a story about him or her using body parts, adjectives, and activities, completely in Spanish. The stories will be orally presented in class and used as class speaking activities. So far this year we have filmed 10 song videos (2 per class) featuring our favorite song writer and teacher, Senor Wooly. More videos and singing to come. The kids not only enjoy them, but learn a lot of extra verb tenses and difficult to remember every day phrases to expand their conversational and speaking skills. On an ending note....the participants in the Octubre calendar contest did a fantastic job! What super creative students we have! We learned a lot about the important historical events that take place in the Spanish speaking world every October. I can't wait to see what happens in November!



Language Arts

In Language Arts we are working on Kylene Beers' stop and note and notice strategies to increase our comprehension while also reading a variety of realistic fiction books. The students are finishing the realistic fiction writing unit, and we can't wait to see their published pieces!

Social Studies

In preparation for the upcoming visit of storyteller Seth Reichgott of Young Audiences on November 4, social studies classes have been reading and studying Greek myths. Students enjoy the heroics of the main characters, the fantastic creatures/monsters, and the compelling stories.



The 7th grade Math classes have all been working on real life applications of various concepts. These real world problems include banking, break-even points, and slope as a rate of change. Students will continue to be challenged with real world problems as they explore new Math concepts.

Science

In 7th grade science, students are examining and classifying igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks and learning about how they change in the rock cycle. For example, granite is the parent rock for gneiss - so our young scientists now know not to take gneiss for granite.



We have completed a review and are now learning body vocabulary to express health and well being. We want to know how our friends are doing and if they don't feel well we are able to express what is hurting. We are making our very own creative monster posters labeling the parts of the body we are studying.



7th grade students will be working on inviting friends to do parties, dances, sporting events, etc. They will be working on accepting invitations and politely declining invitations. They will also be sharing their emotions about being able to and not being able to attend.



Language Arts

8th Grade Language Arts students are practicing authentic writing in their investigative journalist unit. They are reading professional journalists work and are engaged in writing news stories all around them.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Eighth grade social studies will focus on the study of US History, beginning with colonization and finishing with Civil War Reconstruction. Mrs. Bennington and Mr. Daly kicked off the year with a focus on citizenship. How well do you know the US? Test your knowledge with these questions taken directly from the US Naturalization practice test!

1. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?
2. We elect a President for how many years?
3. What are the two parts of Congress?
4. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?
- 5) Which nation did we fight for our independence?



Science

We are wrapping up our scientific processes unit in 8th grade science with a student created inquiry lab. Our scientists are testing out questions of their choice with experiments they designed themselves. Students will share their findings with their classmates in a mini version of the RMS Science Expo. Following our scientific processes unit, we will be moving into chemistry where students will learn about the very small things that make up the very big universe.



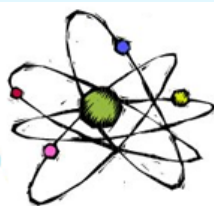
Algebra 1: Volpe's and Ayer's Algebra 1 kids are diving into the wonderful world of solving Linear Equations. They're having fun applying their knowledge of balance scales, to solving linear equations.

Math 8: Volpe's /Doslik's/Singelyn's Math 8 classes will soon begin graphing Linear Equations.



We have been working on talking about our families and friends giving specific details of their likes and dislikes as well as physical and character descriptions. We are following our télé-roman series by reading, watching and discussing what is taking place and have become fond of our characters. We created a "How would you" journal where we are able to formulate questions and give accurate responses

Enrichment



This school year has started out with many exciting events for lunchtime and academic support enrichment. In September, sixth graders built all sorts of structures for Creative Problem Solving and began learning basic debating skills. They love crossfire arguments! Seventh and eighth graders created Future Cities to solve agricultural engineering problems. The seventh grade also began to participate in a national "Math Madness" competition. All grade levels began creating weekly School Buzz videos. October brought the addition of Young Playwrights and Stock Market Game to all grades.

Enrichment activities are available to all students at Readington Middle School. Feel free to sign up for upcoming activities on the Department website. November will add Radiant Wonder (the literary magazine), Linguistics and Codebreaking, and Gamestar Mechanic to the mix of student opportunities.



Congratulations to our Multimedia Book Review Contest winners! In 6th grade, Andrea Larsen and Emily Schneider; in 7th grade, Emi Moore and Emily Jerzewski; and in 8th grade, Pearl Schraeder. These students reviewed a wide variety of books and earned a back to school prize pack, including a Barnes & Noble gift card.

Lunchtime Book Club is going strong and is always happy to welcome new participants. Dates are available on the [LMC webpage](#). Junior Librarians will be running every Friday starting October 10th during the academic support periods. See [Mrs. Singer](#) for more information.

Mark your calendars! This year's Barnes & Noble Book Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3rd.



In the Visual Arts, students are busy creating their masterpieces. We are very proud of all the hard work our students have demonstrated. Our sixth grade is involved in a project where they get to experiment with many different mediums while learning about the Elements of Art. Our 7th grade Communication classes are using a piece of linoleum to print their faces and create a three dimensional box while the 7th grade Studio classes are learning about one point perspective, and are creating their name in Graffiti letters. Finally, the 8th graders who can't wait for the Food Sculpture project are busy working in clay making their chosen food. The work is truly amazing, and we cannot wait to display them.



The sound of music is filling the RMS hallways once again as our ensembles are preparing for the upcoming winter concerts. The choirs, directed by Miss Darby, have been learning their music by using Solfege, a technique to help them recognize intervals and ease the difficulty of sight reading. Mr. Lynch has been hard at work conducting the bands, teaching them classics like *The National Anthem* and *Sleigh Ride*. We have said goodbye to Mr. Lalumia, and welcome Mr. Ramsay to lead the orchestras. He is very excited to have joined the RMS music department, and looks forward to his first concert.

Math Intervention

In Math Intervention, the students will be goal setting for themselves based on the NWEA test they just took. They will learn how to set specific, measurable, and attainable goals and will monitor their progress throughout the year.

Literacy Intervention

In Language Arts Intervention the students are exploring new leveled books based on their tested reading level. They are also busy working on their personal narrative and realistic fiction writing pieces for their language arts class. In the next week, students will be NWEA testing in our class and those results will provide additional data to support the students.

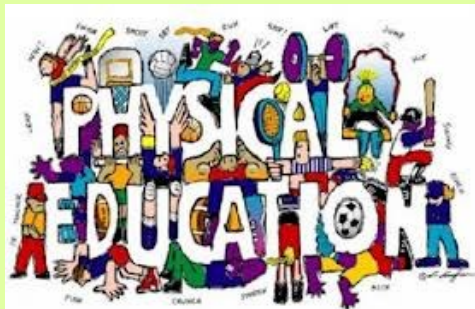
Innovation & Design

In Innovation & Design, students in all grades are learning and then applying steps of the Engineering and Design Process to current projects they are working on in class. For example, in 6th grade, students are in the process of building a solar car that is able to travel down a track as fast as possible. They are studying gear ratios and trying to find one that will provide maximum speed, as well optimal power. Students are industriously working on re-designing and modifying their original idea to increase the speed and/ or power of their car.



In 6th and 7th grades, students are participating in a classroom economy. Students earn, spend, and budget on a daily basis. We are in the process of beginning a budget project, where students will be allotted a monetary amount that they must use to purchase all the items they would need to send themselves back to school. The tech piece of this project is an introduction to Google sheets.

In 8th grade, students are working on a business startup project. Students are providing a good or service through their businesses. We are currently in the process of pricing our products and services utilizing different pricing strategies and a basic cost analysis. Over the next few weeks we will be working on a marketing plan for our startups.



In physical education, students are in full swing of both soccer and football units. Many students have had the opportunity to test their skills at collaborative learning while completing the project adventure units. The focus in health class has been on understanding what it means to be healthy and living a healthy lifestyle.

IMPORTANT DATES



Conferences: October 31, November 3 & 4

First Marking Period ends November 11

Early Dismissal Days: October 31, November 3, 4, 5, & 26 and December 23th

School Closed: November 6, 7, 27 & 28 and December 26 through January 2
(Classes resume on January 5)

Makeup Picture Day: October 30

The RMS Calendar can be viewed on the school website...www.readington.k12.nj.us

