



Viking News

Principal's Message

Winter is definitely upon us, and I am already looking forward to the spring! Believe it or not, we have just completed the second marking period which means we are halfway through the school year. Your children have been very busy in school, and it is so rewarding to see their educational growth.

In December, the 6th graders celebrated “Customs and Traditions” day. Thank you to our teachers and the many parent volunteers who shared their wonderful traditions with our students. The teachers participated in an “ugly sweater” contest and serenaded your students before the winter break. Our fall and winter sports teams have had a great deal of success. The coaches are already preparing for the spring sports season! The “Lip Sync” competition is scheduled for March 19 at HCRHS. Please come out to support this wonderful student council event.

The 2nd Annual Student Academy Day is coming to RMS on March 27! The students will be participating in a fun-filled and exciting day dedicated to exploring learning through workshops with topics that stretch beyond typical classroom activities. Please consider sharing your talents with our students. You may reach out to your H.S.A. representatives if you are interested in participating.

Parent Academy is coming in March. This is a great opportunity to learn about some of the amazing things that are happening in the district. I will be facilitating a workshop in conjunction with the Readington Police on Middle Schoolers and technology. I'd love to see you there! Please read Dr. Sargent's newsletter for more information.

Please continue to check the weekly Genesis e-mail for important information about RMS, including our monthly calendar of events.

Thank you for continuing to be a partner in your child's education!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sharon Moffat





The Honors Pre-Algebra class just finished a unit on linear relationships. They made connections among the table, graph, equation, and contextual situation noting where the slope and y-intercept showed up in each. They measured stairs around the school as they explored the concept of slope and its relationship to the graph of a linear function. They also solved both linear equations and inequalities symbolically. The next unit of study is ratio, rate, unit rate, and percent.

6th grade advanced math students have begun our unit in Ratios, Proportions, and Percent. We began the unit by tasting different ratios of lemon concentrate and water. Students have been changing recipes to make different numbers of servings. We have been calculating the unit rate for supermarket items to compare their price per ounce. There are many ways to integrate this important and useful math into everyday life. Allow your child to accompany you to the supermarket to compare unit rates. Let your child decide which item is the better deal. When preparing meals, students could change the recipe to feed a different number. Looking at the nutritional content of food, students could compare ratios of calories to protein. Percent problems could be created out of calculating tips at restaurants or sales tax at the store.

The math 6 classes have been studying ratio, rate, and unit rate. They tasted different mixtures of the drink, Arnold Palmer, to better understand equivalent ratios. They also looked at different mixtures of red and blue food coloring to make purple icing noting which mixture was more red and which was more blue. The students also participated in a restaurant and a store simulation as part of their study of percent. During the restaurant simulation, they ordered lunch from a menu, figured the tax and tip amounts, and split the bill with the diners at their tables. At the store simulation, students chose items to purchase, determined the cost with a discount, and found the final cost including sales tax. They also explored how to find the original amount given the percent and the tax, tip, or discount amount. The next unit of study is algebra.

Mrs. Kalinich's sixth grade classes completed their math integer unit learning about positive and negative integers. They enjoyed making holiday pictures using ordered pairs on the coordinate plane. Now, they have begun examining ratios and ratio tables and are learning how they are used in the real world such as when doubling or tripling a recipe for punch. Next, they will explore using rates and percent as when they are out shopping for video games, for example, and have to understand discounts and tax. Don't forget to continue to ask them what they learned in math each day as it helps them to relate what they have learned to everyday life. Students have continued work on the Reflex Math website on their own and continue to increase their speed with math facts! Remind them to keep it up!



In sixth grade Language Arts, we have started off 2015 by diving straight into our nonfiction reading unit. The students are using the text features of their non-fiction books as they delve into reading texts on a variety of topics ranging from wildfires to The Great Depression. Our writers have devoted their energies to researching a debatable topic using a variety of reputable sources. Students are using their research findings to craft argument essays in support of the strongest side of their chosen argument.



Social Studies

In sixth grade social studies, the students are concluding the unit on the first civilization, Mesopotamia. Students have been learning about how artifacts show evidence of the many parts of culture that the people of Mesopotamia had. The students have been analyzing and critically looking at artifacts from this ancient region and have been learning how one artifact can show many facets of daily life exhibited by the Mesopotamians. Looking ahead, our next unit will be ancient Egypt.

The sixth grade students were also treated to a day of cultural learning on December 23rd during our annual Customs and Traditions event. Many parents and family members of the sixth grade students created short presentations about family traditions and cultural activities. It was a fantastic day for our learning community.

Mandarin

All sixth grade Mandarin students had enjoyed their singing of Chinese Christmas Carol to seven classes before the holiday break. Currently they are building their family model house and writing Chinese speeches to introduce their family members. We are happily expecting more Mandarin speakers in the RMS building.



In Senorita Parks' Spanish class we are learning a lot of prepositions and how to describe a classroom filled with people and objects. We acted out a skit about a hamster who got lost in Social Studies class and described all the places "Paquito" was hiding, completely in Spanish. This week we are finally starting our unit on foods and beverages and how to order in a Spanish restaurant. Students will be making menus, fruit and vegetable "sombreros", acting in Spanish and making a song video or two all about foods. Be ready to hear the song "Pan", and "Que Asco" over and over again as your son and daughter practice. Students also will be working with -er and -ir ending present tense verbs.

In Senora Mitrow's Spanish class students will be wrapping up their current unit of study about their school schedules. They will be verbally presenting about their favorite class.

In Madame Altomare's class, we learned to name all the objects in the classroom, talked about the gender and number of words and talked about "the things we have and the things we don't have". We surveyed each other, made charts and played games with the verb AVOIR. Next we will be talking about the activities we like and don't like to do and tell how well and how often we do them. Learn what our friends like to do and be able to invite them to do an activity with us.



science

Science students enjoyed some unique “hands-on” opportunities in the past few weeks. One was to create a model of the mass of the planets. Using a 3 pound lump of Play-doh to form the eight planets, students were able to have a more concrete idea why the outer planets are call “gas giants.” The classes also got a better understanding why Pluto was “demoted” to a dwarf planet when the last crumb of Play-doh was used to create it. Special thanks go out to Mrs. Rothenburger for bringing us the idea and providing the materials. The students thoroughly enjoyed the activity.



As part of a STEM (Science Technology Education Math) experience, students participated in the Marshmallow Challenge. Students were charged with the task of creating a structure that would support the weight of a regular size marshmallow using only 20 pieces of spaghetti, 1 meter of masking tape, and a meter of string that could not be cut. Students became very creative with their designs.



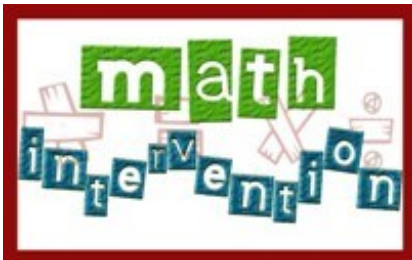
Literacy Intervention

LA Intervention: In Language Arts Intervention we are diving into our new class novels and working on argument writing. We are also busy preparing for the upcoming PARCC test by reviewing tutorials and learning new test taking strategies.



Library: The Library Media Center is now kicking off its 2015 Battle of the Books. Teams of 3-5 students are invited to read and participate in a trivia competition based on the 15-book list provided. The in-school tournament will take place on Tuesday, March 24th and an after-school intermural event will take place on Wednesday, April 15th for qualifying teams. Students can visit the event's Google Classroom or contact Mrs. Singer for more information.

Junior Librarians, the library's student volunteer program, is going strong with students in each grade creating fun monthly book displays in the library media center. They can be viewed on the LMC's Instagram page: [rmslmc](#).



In Math Intervention, in addition to working on their individual skills, students will participate in mini lessons to help prepare them for PARCC. The students will use Lumos Learning to reinforce these skills reviewed. Please ask your child to show them this website and encourage them to use it whenever they want extra math practice on a skill, including those they are learning in their on level math class as well. Word problems continue to challenge students in all

grades. Helping your child with real world problems will also be useful. Doubling a recipe might help with fractions; measuring a room for a new rug provides an opportunity to practice area. Most of all have fun with your children at home while improving their logical reasoning by having a family game night! Students love when they earn game time in class.

Wellness

The physical education classes wrapped up their Volleyball Unit with the annual big Tournament before winter break. All grades showed maximum participation, implemented their volleyball skills and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship throughout the tournament! Currently in physical education all grades have been participating in different challenge activities, which not only is working them physically but developing their cognitive skills by having them work together as a class to come up with solutions to the many different tasks. The focus in our health classes is different for each grade level. The 6th grade focus has been on stress; seventh on nutrition and 8th has a heavy focus on mental and emotional health. Regardless the topic, students are being challenged to push the envelope, work together and develop ideas to create effective class discussions and complete high levels of thinking.



The RMS Music Department welcomes a new teacher to the band program - John Hylkema. Spring music has been started, and students are working very hard. 7th graders will be taking a field trip to the NY Philharmonic in March, and will begin learning about Felix Mendelssohn's A Midsummer Night's Dream in preparation for the performance.



In 6th and 7th grades, students are participating in a classroom economy. Students earn, spend, and budget on a daily basis. Students are currently analyzing situations and scenarios where consumers could find themselves in financial trouble. Once the issue is determined, students are working on making recommendations how the consumer can take action to remedy their particular situation. In 8th grade, students are just completing their entrepreneur study. Students have chosen a successful entrepreneur and prepared a presentation for their classmates. Addressed in the presentation are general background information, products and services, risks and barriers overcome and the future outlook for the business.

Innovation & Design

In Innovation & Design, students in all grades are drafting products using computer aided design programs(Google SketchUp and Tinker-CAD) and then printing them on a 3D Printer. Students are first sketching the item on paper, they then label the real world measurements. Next, they then build it to scale on the computer; inputting the x, y, and z dimensions. Finally, they send it to the 3D printer, where it builds from the ground, up. Some items students have built so far are bracelets, cups, iPhone stands, key tags, book marks, picture frames and a small car chassis with wheels.



In the Visual Arts, students are busy finishing up 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 a three dimensional concepts and materials while learning about Alberto Giacometti, and sculpture. Our 7th grade Communication classes are using Adobe Photoshop to create an Advertising Ad while learning how to manipulate and transform images. The 7th grade Studio classes are learning about Printmaking, and are creating a Pueblo Indian Bird design using linoleum. Finally, the 8th grade Studios classes are painting portraits of themselves using a grid like Chuck Close, and the 8th grade 3-D classes are creating

7th Grade



The seventh grade math classes are continuing to relate mathematical concepts to twenty-first century situations. They have used scientific notation to study the real-life effects of earthquakes in Indonesia, uses of proportions in air travel, and inequalities in the context of height requirements in various amusement parks.

Mrs. Singelyn's Math classes have been simplifying algebraic expressions and are beginning to solve equations. We have also been exploring the PARCC practice test.



In 7th grade language arts we continue to read and write non-fiction. Additionally, the students have the opportunity to read two fiction novels focused on social issues and are using these texts to write about their reading. They are furthering their close reading and analytical writing skills, which they will be able to put to use in their other subject areas as well.



Social studies teachers were given the opportunity to attend Language Arts coach Sarah Buxton's workshops on reading and writing. The reading sessions focused on strategies to help students in their understanding of difficult non-fiction texts while writing sessions concentrated on the development of fully formed persuasive works. Ms. Buxton's suggestions should be very helpful as seventh graders explore the complexities of the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire.



Seventh grade geologists are making a tectonic shift in science class as we transition into studying biology. We begin by learning what it means to be alive. We will then focus on how a cell functions as the smallest unit of life. Students will hone their microscope skills as they observe cell division. Our exploration will continue from there as we explore genetics and answer the question "Why are we similar but not identical to our parents?"

7th Grade Spanish

Students will be wrapping up their current unit of study about the family. They will be verbally presenting about a family member of their choice.

Seventh grade weather unit. Each report on the range. Current-

Mandarin

大家好!
你好!
很好!
我喜欢吃饭!
我们说国语!

Mandarin classes have explored the day the students begin class with a weather and temperature

ly, students are working as meteorologists with team members to report and forecast the real time weather conditions for a Chinese city of their choice. Their forecast will be presented online and in the class.



French: We are in "Ma famille" unit. We identified our family members, shared photos of our family, made family trees and described relationships within our families using possessive adjectives.

Next we will give descriptions of both ourselves and our family members and friends as we give physical and character traits for each. We will write letters to friends describing our family and friends.



8th Grade Math

8th Grade Math Classes are continuing to explore Linear Equations Graphically and Algebraically eventually moving towards solving Systems of Linear Equations. Some classes are working with Linear / Nonlinear functions, identifying functions, and using graphs to tell stories.

8th Grade Algebra 1 Classes are into full swing on Graphing Linear Inequalities, Solving Systems of Linear Equations and Moving Full Steam Ahead towards preparing for the PARCC assessment.

8th Grade Algebra 2 Classes are finishing up power functions, roots and radicals. They have begun their discussion on exponential and logarithmic functions.



Eighth grade social studies students are studying the causes and significant events of the Revolutionary War. Mrs. Bennington and Mr. Daly's students are beginning to work on document-based questions (also known as research-simulated tasks). Students are learning how to analyze primary sources and use them to craft historic arguments.



This month students will begin a unit on argument writing. As part of this research unit, students will tackle real-world issues and study a variety of sources to determine how to convince others to believe as they believe.

Students will learn about logical appeals, claims, evidence, and counterarguments. This unit will also include a review research strategies.



In 8th grade science, we are currently continuing our knowledge by studying the periodic table more in depth. We now know that elements are different by their number of protons, electrons, and neutrons. Further extensions include atomic diagrams and bonding. In the future days to come, we will be studying interactions of elements to form everyday molecules like salt (NaCl) and water (H₂O)!



Mandarin

Eighth grade Mandarin classes have been busy for their Sports and Activities unit. They have been grouped with a sport they are good at. Each sport team has created their team profile, including their team name, members, slogan, the level of capability for each member.

Currently they are working on creating a team dialogue for watching a sport game, including cheering for a team, predicting a winning team, comparing players, and telling scores and a winning team. Students will also learn a traditional Chinese sport, Chinese Yo Yo, from an expert, which they are looking forward to.

Spanish

In the month of January in Senora Lima Spanish class students just finished chapter 6B La Casa. Students were able to finalized this chapter with a wonderful and individual presentation of their favorite room in the house. Each student presented a room speaking only in the target language using verbs SER, ESTAR, and TENER, prepositions, adjectives, and all the vocabulary related to the house, furniture, chores etc. In the month of January students have also learned the conjugations of the verbs AR, ER, and IR in the past tense. In addition to have learned the conjugation of the above mentioned verbs, they were introduce to the reflexive verbs as well as the reflexive pronouns. We used this information in order for students to be able to enhance their ability to speak in different tenses not only in the present, but in the past tense as well. Students have learned these verbs in the past tense throughout many writing, speaking, visual, and listening activities as well as games, songs etc.

French

We have followed our télé-roman series learning phrases that young teens use. We have talked about things we have just done (past) and things we are going to do (near future). We have studies weather phrases and researched the weather reports in cities of France and other French speaking countries. We become familiar with the Metric system when talking about temperature, measure and distances.

Next we will learn to shop for food and clothing and use the phrases that will help us ask for prices, sizes and descriptions of the items we would like to have.



Our Governor's Teacher Recognition Honoree
Ms. Emily Bengels!



Congratulations!