



Friday Feature...



Looking Forward to a Year of Educational Magic

Welcome back! School has been open for our students for over a week and it's so nice to hear the buzz of student conversation in classrooms, the sound of childhood on the playground, and the whistles indicating fall athletics have begun. It's a truly special time of year. Our district staff have used the summer to plan and prepare lessons and activities for your children. Now our staff are starting to make those important first impressions as they get to know each of the children in their care. As I mentioned in my letter to staff and families, schools are places where magic happens. This year is no exception. The district is excited to embrace our upcoming work that will keep the magic alive here in Readington Schools.

Strategic Plan

The District remains committed to its strategic work! We are in our fifth and final year of our strategic plan which includes a district mission along with three strategic goals. Our mission states: *We empower members of our community to lead purposeful lives with integrity, to cultivate a spirit of discovery, and to embrace connections in our diverse, global society.* Each day we strive for our students, staff, and community to embrace this shared mission. We do this through our school activities, projects, after school programs and athletics.

The mission is accompanied by three (3) strategic goals.

Inquisitive Learning: Create and establish an inquiry-based framework that values an interest-driven learning environment. Learners will, individually and collaboratively, focus on identifying, analyzing, and solving problems as inquisitive members of their community.

Partnerships: Establish partnerships that foster meaningful educational opportunities on local, regional, and global scales. Prepare all learners to become engaged and productive citizens through service to others, collaboration, and real-world connections.

Social Awareness: Our learners will feel connected, valued, and secure in digital and non-digital learning environments cultivated by a shared sense of community. Every individual will develop skills that promote an awareness of self and others as well as the environment, including the ability to understand the impact of their decisions.

We invite our parents and community members to partner with us. Students throughout the district engage in passion projects where they research and report on a topic of their own interest and passion. Parents are invited to be experts talking and sharing their careers with students. Please contact your child's teacher or principal if you have something you'd like to share.

Academic Achievement and Sheltered English Instruction

Beyond the strategic plan our district remains focused on academic achievement. District teachers and administrators are very busy analyzing student achievement data from last year's New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) in math and language arts. They are doing this while also administering the first iReady diagnostic assessment. All of this data analysis will become areas of focus as we embark

on this academic year. A formal presentation regarding student assessment will be provided at the upcoming October 17 Board of Education meeting.

A new addition this year is enhanced training for teachers to assist students whose primary language is not English. A core group of staff are engaged in learning about the Sheltered English Instruction (SEI) model. This approach bridges language instruction with content instruction. This helps students learn English while simultaneously achieving in subjects like math, science and social studies.

For more on this year's goals, please review the [District Goals Presentation](#).

Screenagers

Save the date: October 3 at 6:30 P.M. @ RMS

Our district will host a viewing of the film Screenagers: Growing up on the Digital Age on October 3. The film is geared toward parents whose children are beginning to engage with more digital media such as cell phones, but all are welcome! More details on this next week...

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