

The Superintendent Sentinel | PARENT NEWSLETTER

October 2023



Message from the Superintendent



Dear Readington Community,

My favorite time of year is when we welcome staff and students back to school in September. That seems like a long time ago but the memory of our Staff Welcome Back Celebration along with the first day students walked through our school doors tend to stick with me throughout the year. This, after all, is the magic of working in a school. The opportunity for a new beginning every September.

The concept of schools as 'magical' places took center stage as we welcomed staff and students back to school. I drew connections as to how teaching and learning is analogous to the magic of Disney World for kids. This occurred to me after a Disney trip with my family. Teachers and parents are the magic-makers in the lives of young people. This year, use that power to set the stage for a positive, engaging, and inquisitive experience. Staff and administration set goals each school year and I encourage parents to do the same with children. Setting goals gives each one of us something to reflect upon in June.

The school district and the Board of Education have set goals as well! We do this to ensure we provide the best possible education for the young people of Readington. This year, our district goals include:
Strategic Plan - continuing work toward our strategic goals of inquiry, partnerships, and social awareness.
Academic Achievement - using data to enhance the academic needs of our students.
Preschool - Preschool funding has been awarded. This will be a focus area for the district this year.

These goals are how we will live our mission of empowering 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. Welcome back!



Dr. Jonathan Hart / 908-534-2897
Follow me on twitter @hartjonathanr

In Photo Above: Dr. Hart and the HBS Bobcat

Governor's Educator of the Year Nominations Due By November 1, 2023



Readington Township School District participates in the New Jersey Department of Education Governor's Educator of the Year Program each year. This program recognizes excellence in education, a direct result of the hard work of our outstanding classroom teachers and educational services professionals. One of the most meaningful gestures to show appreciation to our educators would be to nominate them for this year's award. To make a nomination, please complete the nomination form and return it to your building principal **by November 1, 2023**. Please [click here](#) to access the nomination form and eligibility criteria



Curriculum Corner

Student Achievement Results

Dr. Stacey Brown, Supervisor of Humanities
Ms. Sarah Pauch, Supervisor of Math, Science & Technology,



The Readington Board of Education reviewed 2022-23 student assessment results during their October 17th public meeting. District supervisors provided data from the spring administration of the NJSLA (New Jersey Student Learning Assessment) assessments, writing benchmarks, iReady results, and special education learning results. While each assessment measures different components of our students' academic growth, the overall news is that Readington students are surpassing state norms and have improved compared to the 2021-2022 school year.

The New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) test is an online test that matches the rigorous content and skills outlined in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. These tests measure more complex, real-world skills such as critical thinking, writing, modeling, and reasoning.

The NJSLA assessment uses five performance levels that delineate the knowledge, skills, and practices students are able to demonstrate, with Levels 4 and 5 considered to be passing:

- Level 1 – Did not meet expectations
- Level 2 – Partially met expectations
- Level 3 – Approached expectations
- Level 4 – Met expectations
- Level 5 – Exceeded expectations

Our other assessment results show equally strong performance among Readington students. iReady reading and math indicate that students showed tremendous growth over the school year. Intervention programs are in place for those needing support. Sessions during the school day and after school are available for those students who qualify.

Finally, Dynamic Learning Maps® (DLM®) assessments are administered to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities for whom general state assessments are not appropriate. DLM assessments offer these students a way to show what they know and can do in mathematics, English language arts, and science. Results from DLM assessments support interpretations about what students know and can do.

If a student did not meet expectations on any of these assessments, this does not mean your child did not learn or lost skills. Scores can be affected by things like stress and distraction. No one assessment can provide the full picture of your child's learning. Teachers take this into account and use multiple data points as one of many tools to understand your child's unique needs and progress. It is essential that instruction meets students where they are in order to help them grow academically.

The Readington community can be assured that the interventions the district has put in place continue to be successful and will be offered to qualifying students in the upcoming school year. A full presentation of the district's assessment results for the 2022-23 school year is available on the district website under the Curriculum tab. <https://www.readington.k12.nj.us>



Unity Day

Mr. Anthony Tumolo, SEL Supervisor



On Wednesday October 18, 2023, Readington Schools celebrated Unity Day. Unity Day was started by PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center as the signature event of National Bullying Prevention Month whose sole purpose is to promote kindness, acceptance, and inclusion to prevent all forms of bullying.

For many many years, bullying behavior was justified with expressions such as, "Bullying is a natural part of childhood," "Bullying makes kids tougher," or "Bullying is a rite of passage." The goal of Unity Day is to bring together youth, families, educators, businesses, and community members across the nation to emphasize the message that bullying is not acceptable, and that all students deserve to be safe and feel like they belong in school, online, and in their communities.

This year, we are asked every student and staff member to wear orange as we unite together to stand up against bullying. Orange is a color that is commonly identified with the month of October and the autumn season, but furthermore it is also a color that is associated with safety and visibility. It is a color described as warm and inviting, and its vibrancy makes an impactful statement.

The celebration at Readington Township Public Schools on October 18th, was for the message of kindness, acceptance, and inclusion to be seen and heard loud and clear.

See the photos below and more on the last page:

RMS Staff and Dr. Hart



Ms. Cirianni, Ms. Krial, Ms. Pauch, and Ms. Sposato



Mr. Belske and Mr. Race



RMS Counseling Office Staff





Summer Enrichment

Mrs. Sherry Krial, Supervisor of Staff Development and Instructional Technology
Mrs. Colleen Ogden, Summer Enrichment Coordinator



This summer, the district was pleased to offer a nearly sold out enrichment program for its students. We offered a “Welcome to Kindergarten” class at each elementary school for incoming Kindergarten students and renewed support for “Welcome to HBS” for the incoming 4th graders. Workshops offered for our incoming 1st through 6th graders included Arts & Crafts, STEM, and Kitchen Creations! For incoming 6th graders and new to the district seventh graders only, the “Welcome to RMS” orientation course offered at the middle school was met with enthusiasm.

Students engaged in a variety of activities based on their chosen topic. Kitchen Creations includes cooking and baking favorite recipes as well as dessert decorating and fun no-cook treats and snacks. STEM courses included Legos, Group problem solving challenges, hands-on science experiments, and food science. Arts & Crafts spanned well beyond popsicle sticks and

yarn! Our younger students had “Insect Theme Week”, studying a different insect daily and making theme-based crafts and snacks. Older students worked on various projects, including various mediums from paper to 3D items. The Orientation classes were grade-specific and addressed the topics most relevant to the specific age group, to make their transition more relaxing and comfortable.

The Summer Enrichment program is expected to run again in the summer 2024, with updated curriculum and activities. Additional details and registration information will be published on the Readington School District Summer Enrichment Website.

Our district prides itself on the valuable services it provides its community. We look forward to having your children join the Enrichment staff next summer to explore, play and learn.



Tech Department: New School Year Message

Mr. James Belske, District Technology Coordinator
jbelske@readington.k12.nj.us or 908-386-2502



The start of a new school year has begun with technology ready to go to support our students and staff. This is a great time of the year to share some frequently used websites and technology tech tips to help navigate through our extensive digital learning platform.

Clever

Our district utilizes Clever to provide easy access to many of the curriculum websites used by students. Clever is pre configured on student Chromebooks, students can simply click the Clever icon from www.readington.k12.nj.us/it to launch the site. To access Clever on other devices or at home you can follow this Clever Tech Tip: <https://sites.google.com/readington.k12.nj.us/i-ready-via-clever/home>

Genesis Mobile App

Genesis will soon offer an option to install the Genesis app on your mobile device directly from the parent portal, no need to search for the app in the Apple or Google Apps store. Please follow the steps below that will be used to install the app once it becomes available.

Tech Tip: Installing Genesis web app on a mobile device
<https://sites.google.com/readington.k12.nj.us/techathome/genesis-web-app>

I hope all of our students have a wonderful and successful school year. Please reach out to me directly at any time with any technology feedback, questions or concerns: jbelske@readington.k12.nj.us or 908-386-2502 (call or text).

- For general technology tips and support resources, please visit our [Tech@Home](#) portal.
- For technical support please email techsupport@readington.k12.nj.us

Screenagers Blogcast and Podcast When Screen Time Rules Are Broken



Dr. Delaney Ruston, MD., is discussing skillful ways to respond when our children break the tech rules established in the home. Dr. Ruston touches on the topics of Take Inventory of The Emotions That Arise, Allow Time to Respond,

Consult the Wise, Short Consequences, Let Kids think of Consequences, It's OK If They Are Mad, and Discard "Trust Above All Else". Please [click here](#) to read the entire "blogcast" article. Please [click here](#) to listen to the podcast.

**"If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow." –
John Dewey**



Building Spotlight: Readington Middle School

Mr. Timothy Charleston, Principal

The start of the 2023-2024 school year at Readington Middle School has been an exciting time, filled with many highlights and activities that have set the tone for the academic year. Here are some highlights and events that have taken place since the beginning of the school year at RMS:

6th Grade Open House: Our 6th Grade students joined RMS on September 6, 2023 for an open house. The open house starts before the official start of classes. This event allowed students to familiarize themselves with the school layout, find their classes, and meet some of their teachers and staff.

First Day of Classes: The first day of school was filled with anticipation and excitement. RMS welcomed nearly 500 students into the halls and classrooms of Readington Middle School. Things went smoothly and that is in due part because each student stepped up and was ready for the first few days of the school year. In classes, students learned about classroom rules, expectations, and goals with students. This helps establish a positive learning environment and fosters a sense of responsibility. Teachers and staff also incorporated icebreaker activities into the first few days of school to help students get to know each other and build a sense of community within the classroom.

Back-to-School Night: Readington Middle School held their annual Back to School Night on September 19, 2023. It was a fantastic event and turn out. Parents and guardians were provided an opportunity to meet their child's teachers, learn about curriculum expectations, and ask questions about the upcoming year. RMS was also excited to have special community guests available for RMS families to learn more about and to get involved in, including:

- ***Readington HSA***
- ***RMS Student Council***
- ***Readington Girl Scouts***
- ***Readington Athletic Booster Club***
- ***Prevention Resources***
- ***Hunterdon County Library System***
- ***Hunterdon County Polytech***

Assembles: We kicked off the school year with an opening Pep Rally celebration on September 22, 2023. Our students and staff, by grade, wore specific RMS colors to show off their school spirit. We were able to come together as a family to introduce all of the staff to the students. We played some minute to win it games with the students to have some fun. We were so excited to be all together for this event and the RMS Mission Statement was woven throughout the event. RMS also held an assembly to kick off the Week of Respect, entitled BOX OUT BULLYING. A special thanks to the HSA for bringing this assembly to RMS.

Screenagers Viewing: On October 3, 2023, RMS screened the movie SCREENAGERS: Growing Up in the Digital Age. The film was geared towards parents of students in grades 4-8 but was open to all parents. The evening was made possible by the HSA and Dr. Hart. After the screening, a question and answer roundtable and resources were shared. For additional resources, please [click here](#).

These are just a small sample of the wonderful things that go on here each and every day at Readington Middle School. We look forward to an amazing school year! Go Vikings!



Mark Your Calendars

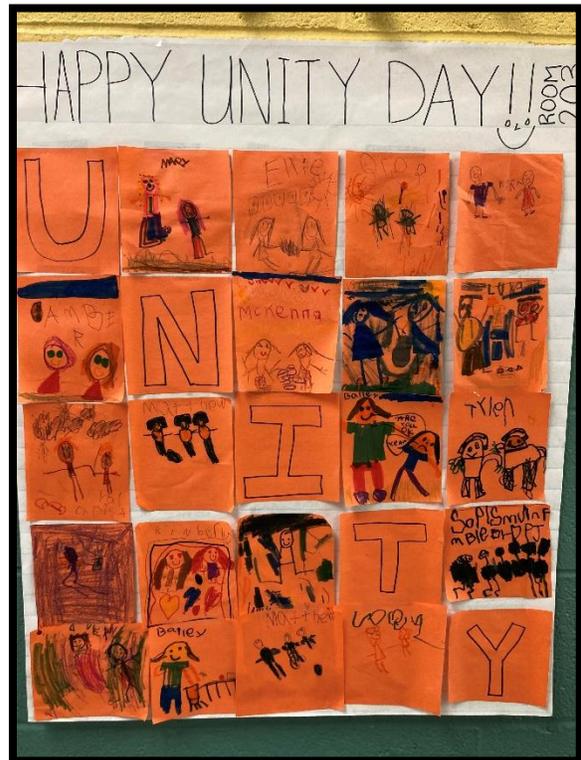
Upcoming Events:

- October 31 / Halloween Parades
- November 6-8 / Early Dismissal Days – Parent Teacher Conferences
- November 9-10 / Schools Closed – NJEA Convention
- November 22 / Early Dismissal Day – Thanksgiving Recess
- November 23-24 / Schools Closed – Thanksgiving Recess
- December 22 / Early Dismissal Day – Winter Recess
- December 25-January 1 / Schools Closed – Winter Recess



Upcoming BOE Meetings:

- November 14, December 12, 2023 and January 2, 2024



“This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change.” – Taylor Swift
