

# RQS Board of Education

## Secondary Schools Building Celebrations Report



**Raytown High School**  
**December 2023**

### **Building Celebrations:**

*(Include any activities/sports/co-curricular to celebrate students and staff)*

#### Debate

- Please congratulate the following students for their outstanding performances last weekend at the Lee's Summit West and Lee's Summit North speech and debate tournaments: Zion Porter, 3rd place in Prose
  - Brandon Hatcher and Ana Torres, 3rd place in Policy Debate
  - Zion Porter and Lyric Buford, 5th place in Duo Interpretation
  - Asher Hensel, 6th place in Humorous Interpretation
  - Jeremiah Washington, semifinalist in Informative Speaking
  - Ilisabeth Garcia, semifinalist in Program Oral Interpretation
  - Blue Kerr, semifinalist in Program Oral Interpretation
- LSN/LSW Results:
  - Zion Porter, 3rd place in Prose
  - Brandon Hatcher and Ana Torres, 3rd place in Policy Debate
  - Zion Porter and Lyric Buford, 5th place in Duo Interpretation
  - Asher Hensel, 6th place in Humorous Interpretation
  - Jeremiah Washington, semifinalist in Informative Speaking
  - Ilisabeth Garcia, semifinalist in Program Oral Interpretation
  - Blue Kerr, semifinalist in Program Oral Interpretation
- Rockhurst Results:
  - Zion Porter & Lyric Buford, 4th in DUO
- We are hosting our invitational on December 8-9. Please contact [taylor.ambrosi@raytownschools.org](mailto:taylor.ambrosi@raytownschools.org) to sign up to judge and support our community's young voices!

#### Choir

- On Wednesday, November 29th, the RHS Camerata and Concert Choir traveled to Liberty High School to record a performance for the annual KSHB Sounds of the Holiday program
- On Friday, December 1st, the RHS Camerata and Concert Choir performed at the Raytown Mayor's Tree Lighting Ceremony

#### Boys Swimming

- Raytown South finished 3rd at the Blue Conference Championships. Rome Richardson and Brody Helt won All Conference Honors. South had only 2 seniors this season. Their dual meet record this season was 6 and 2.
- Raytown High School boys team are the White Conference Champions. Winston Pieters, Nathan Searls, Carson Arnold, Charlie Farrand, Dominic Brandin, Alex Gippner, and Asher Hensel won All Conference honors. Raytown had no seniors this season. Their dual meet record was 11 and 1, cumulative record for the past 50 years is 576 wins, 91 losses, and 2 ties (.864%).
- The Bluejays qualified in seven events at the State Championship in St. Peters,

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Missouri: 200 Medley Relay, 50 Freestyle and 100 Freestyle (Winston Pieters), 100

Butterfly and 100 Backstroke (Nathan Searls), the 200 Free Relay and 400 Free Relays. Only 14 swims out of the final 156 swims were from Kansas City, and only five schools from Kansas City scored. Winston Pieters placed in the 50 Free.

- Nathan Searls set two freshman school records this season in the 50 free and 100 free and qualified for state in 4 individual events and swam 2.
- This was Raytown High Schools 50 th consecutive year to compete at the state championships.

### Raytown South High School

#### December 2023

#### **Building Celebrations:**

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- Girls Basketball: 3 peat Van Horn Tournament Champs
- Boys Basketball: won season opener in OT vs Central
- Football: Marcus Neal, Suburban Conference Blue Division Offensive Player of the Year
- Band: Sophia Luce earned 4th chair horn in the All-District band and Philip Wolfe earned 1st chair Euphonium in the All-District Band and the only piano spot in the All-District Jazz band
- Orchestra: Vincent Osciak, Elizabeth Krueger, and Christian Jackson- Kansas City All District Orchestra
- Football: best season in years, 8-3, made it to district semi finals
- Football KMBC HyVee Team of the Week
- Coach Harris: KC Chiefs Coach of the Week
- Theater: Fall Musical, You're a Good Man Charlie Brown. Cast & Crew traveled to elementary & middle schools giving students a sneak peak of the production

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### Raytown Middle School

#### December 2023

#### **Building Celebrations:**

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- The library held a Lunch and Learn discussing ELL instructional strategies with staff.
- Science Department
  - 6th - Added an E - for evidence to their KWL chart - students were able to tell where the information could be found. High level and Middle of the road students were able to connect all the dots for the process of photosynthesis. Lower students - had a hard time with the chart and how to complete the chart. They taught each part of the chart each day.
  - 7th - Students are responding to routines which optimize academic time.
  - 8th - As the deadline for the end of unit assessment approaches rapidly, we have covered several topics in preparation. The students are keeping up at a more impressive pace than we had anticipated.
- English Language Arts
  - 7th Grade noticed increased engagement in Amplify- particularly with A Raisin in the Sun.
  - 8th Grade students are engaged in academic discussions surrounding the themes in Night by Ellie Wiesel.
  - 6th grade says that students are actively engaged in vocabulary activities with the use of engaging vocabulary activities.
- Math - Raytown Middle's Math department is making great improvements! This semester we've been working hard getting students to "think" math. Students are starting to discuss their math in small groups, which deepens their understanding and helps those that are struggling.
  - 6th graders have also been working really hard with Math Practice "Model with Mathematics". They have traditionally struggled with dividing fractions by fractions, but our teachers have been teaching them how to model situations and students are making all the necessary connections and moving faster with the concept.
  - 7th graders are solving area and perimeter with complex shapes, using their formulas and making real-world connections about perimeter and area.
  - 8th graders are stepping up as well. They are currently learning an algebra topic of graphing linear relationships and making connections between several representations of those relationships. They are able to make intelligent, real life decisions when using linear relationships to compare situations like, which cell phone plan to use, which car is faster, and which plant grew faster in a science experiment.

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### Raytown South Middle School

#### December 2023

#### **Building Celebrations:**

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- Academics - We celebrated academics during the 1st quarter with a Kona Ice truck visit. During 2nd quarter, students with all passing grades will receive a Certificate of Recognition for 2nd quarter, along with an Activity Afternoon on Dec. 13th and 14th.
- Students enrolled in the first semester Connections classes, along with 8th graders in other courses, attended a field trip to Herndon Career Center on Friday, December 1st. There were 91 students participating in the tour of Herndon, as they explored programs and pathways that relate to various industries. Our 8th grade students were intrigued and excited about all Herndon has to offer. Thank you, Herndon!
- Attendance
  - Weekly Attendance Incentive 11/27-12/8 were acknowledged with a grade-level break at an Open Gym time:
    - 6th Grade: 56 students
    - 7th Grade: 48 students
    - 8th Grade: 41 students
  - This week, students with Perfect Attendance will be celebrated with a letter to families and a certificate with a treat bag. We currently have 20 students with Perfect Attendance for the entire semester!
- Athletics & Activities
  - The Wrestling Team received a special Announcement shout out for several outstanding wrestlers placing well at the North Kansas City Wrestling Tournament on the previous Saturday! These student athletes were recognized in their weight class:
    - 1st Place: Zion Vann
    - 2nd Place: Mahky Copes, Dylan Johnson, Tyson Vester
    - 3rd Place: Peyton Antwine, Xavier Bryant, Semaj Copes
  - Girls A Team Basketball celebrated a win over Grandview Middle School with a two-point differential of 41-39, as well as all student-athletes on both teams being acknowledged for excellent sportsmanship throughout the competition and an injury-related timeout.
  - Boys A Team Basketball celebrated a recent win over Summit Lakes Middle School, with a win of 61-23, allowing just 7 points in the second half total.
- Staff Connections & Celebrations
  - Staff came together for a Thanksgiving Potluck dinner with a wonderful spread of hearty and homemade dishes on November 17th.
  - Staff members with Perfect Attendance will be recognized at the December Faculty Meeting on 12/11.
  - On December 15th, our staff will join together for a Bowling Party and an Ugly Sweater Contest this month.

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### Raytown Central Middle School

#### December 2023

#### **Building Celebrations:**

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- More than 250 students earned the November monthly reward for the following criteria: No more than 3 tardies in the month, plus no ISS or OSS in the month, plus passing all 7 classes with a “C” or higher by the end of the month.
- Three bus-loads of 8th-graders took a tour of the Herndon Center.
- Several teachers received positive feedback from area principals at an MLDS coaching lab at CMS earlier this week.
- We had 25 students come out for Wrestling - largest team in 7+ years.
- Our Boys A-Team (Basketball) is undefeated so far this season.
- The following teachers have taken personal initiative to start valuable programs for our students: 1) Mr. Zach Dean is facilitating a coffee/tea business in the building through which his functional SPED class can practice business and social skills, 2) Ms. Jennifer Ernst and Ms. Elise Brummett are facilitating monthly heritage celebrations through challenge activities that all students can participate in.
- Ms. Kayla Lee (nurse and climate committee lead) facilitated our yearly “Gratitude Grams” activity during November, in which hundreds of thanksgiving notes were exchanged among teachers, administrators and support staff
- We had 3 students selected for all-district band, plus 4 honorable mention/alternate selections. We had 2 students selected for all district orchestra.
  - All-district band performs on Saturday, December 9th.

### Raytown Success Academy

#### December 2023

#### **Building Celebrations:**

*(Include any activities/sports/co-curricular to celebrate students and staff)*

- Attendance Celebrations
  - Pizza Party for students who have had 90% attendance or more
  - Gift card drawing for students improving attendance by 15% and 90% + attendance
  - Announcement and congratulations over the intercom
- Passing all classes celebration
  - Gift card drawing for a student in each grade level
  - Announcement and congratulations over the intercom

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- Celebrating 10 students from MOOPS that completed graduation requirements; These students were at risk of never graduating.
  - We celebrate every time a student completes requirements by:
    - Inviting RSA students to participate in a hallway celebration
    - Signing their graduation board
    - Ringing the bell
- Level celebrations where students have reached silver or above.
  - Students sterling and above get an add bonus for going above and beyond
- Celebrating Staff
  - Staff Holiday Party Outside of School
  - New Staff Jacket
  - Multi-ethnic holiday pot-luck to celebrate upcoming holidays and compilation of first semester.

### Northwood December 2023

#### **Building Celebrations:**

*(Include any activities/sports/co-curricular to celebrate students and staff)*

- Northwood Music Therapy and Adapted PE received a \$3,000 donation from the Mount Washington Lodge #614 and Raytown Lodge #391 of the Shriner's. A formal presentation is being planned at the school.

### Herndon Career Center & Southland CAPS December 2023

#### **Building Celebrations:**

*(Include any activities/sports/co-curricular to celebrate students and staff)*

- Angeleic Huth, Law Enforcement Instructor, was selected as the ACTE Trade & Industrial New Teacher of the Year as announced at the ACTE Vision Conference.
- Cosmetology students had a very successful first month of being open to clients. Students are learning how to build their clientele while also learning how to work with walk-in customers.
- Due to past success, we have 10 students who will be starting a paid internship at TempCon at the beginning of the 2nd semester from HVAC and Construction.
- We have 5 diesel students who have or will be working on paid internships with MHC Kenworth.