

Secondary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



March 2022

Raytown High School Academic Focus

- Congratulations to Wendy DiGirolamo, who has been selected as the RHS 2022-2023 Support Staff Employee of the year. Wendy is the principal's secretary at RHS. She goes out of her way to support the students and staff of RHS!
- Black Student Union organized several activities during the month of February. Most notably they organized a Black Excellence Showcase, which highlighted the talents of a number of African American Students. The showcase was a huge success. BSU student leaders are: Dallas Frazier (12), Leahna Seals (12), Aleyja Baskerville (12), Tochi Ihekona (11), and Alyssa Collier (11).
- Boys State: The following students have been accepted to participate in the 2022 American Legion Boys State of Missouri program - June 11-18, 2022 at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, MO: William Bettis (11), Ben Gippner (11), Shawn Hulen (11), Joel Martinez (11), Kelly Sharp (11), and Luke Taylor (11)

Parent/Community Focus

- RHS Boys Varsity Basketball are Conference Champions and finished the regular season with a record of 19-7. The team will be playing in the District Finals on Friday, March 4 against Lee's Summit West H.S. The game is at Belton H.S at 7:00 pm. The team is coached by Cody Buford.
- RHS Girls Varsity Basketball are Conference Champions. This is the first time since 2010. The team finished the regular season with a 20-4 record. The was awarded the KCTV5 Hy-Vee team of the week. The girls finished 3rd in district play. The team is coached by Elisa Dunn.
- RHS Speech and Debate: The following students placed at the Suburban Conference tournament: In debate—1st team All-Conference Tochi Ihekona (11) and Shawn Hulen (11) Conference Champions in Public Forum Debate; 2nd team All-Conference Dallas Frazier (12) and Judy Batts (12) 5th place Policy and Billy Bettis (11) 5th Lincoln-Douglas. In Individual Events—1st team All-Conference Dallas Frazier (12) Conference Champion Informative Speaking; Maggie Givens (12) and Jessica Johnson (12) 2nd place Duo. 2nd team All-Conference Dallas Frazier (12) 5th place Program Oral Interpretation, Nya Vargas (11) - 7th place in Original Oratory, Judy Batts (12) 5th place United States Extemp and 8th place Original Oratory, Shawn Hulen (11) 5th place International Extemp, Tochi Ihekona (11) 7th place International Extemp, Khalil Jackson (12) 8th place Congress, Elijah Russell (9) 7th place Congress, Julian Groves (11) 7th place Informative Speaking. The team is coached by Taylor Ambrosi and Zach McGee.
- RHS Band: Jazz Ensembles played at the UCM Jazz Festival, Jazz Ensemble 1 and Jazz Ensemble 2 received 1 ratings. Soloist awards were given to: Brandon Green (12), Trumpet, Kelly Sharp (11), Trombone, Joel Martinez (11), Alto Sax, Annette Guijarro (12), Alto Sax, Oscar Peraza (11), Clarinet, Kelly Sharp (11), Piano, Joshua Ramon (10), Trumpet. The RHS Band program is under the direction of Joe Hill and assisted by Jenna Bartz and Tyler Rick.
- RHS Jaywalkers competed at the NDA State Competition on Feb. 26. The team took 1st place in Props and 5th Place in Mix. All-State Academic honors: Amelia Divito (10), Lai'Ayla Flowers (11), Niyah McDowell (10), Lillianne Ross (11), Lanyce Flowers (10), Kaia Johnson (12). The Jaywalkers are coached by Felecia Taylor.

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- RHS Girls Swimming and Diving finished 3rd at the conference meet. Hannah Batts (10) won both the 200 free & 500 free to be 1st team All-Conference. Honorable mention All-Conference swimmers were: Anastasia Vaughn (12) 200 IM and 100 backstroke, Carmelita Gonzalez (12) 500 free, Zoe Terryberry (12) 100 breaststroke, and Lillian Dickerson (10) 100 butterfly & 100 backstroke. The girls are coached by Sean Nunn.
- RHS Scholar Bowl will play for the conference Championship next Monday (3/7) at Grain Valley. Alena Harper (12) has answered the most questions this year with 25! The team is coached by Jordan Jamerson.
- RHS Choir will be traveling to New York City March 28-31. They will be seeing the Broadway shows Hamilton & Dear Evan Hansen, performing at St. John the Divine Cathedral, visiting the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, and seeing the sights. The choir is under the direction of Alex Kolster.
- RHS Theatre is hard at work in rehearsals for the spring play, She Kills Monsters. The show runs April 7-9. The theater program is under the direction of Katie Kolster.

Upcoming School Events

- March 4: Varsity Boys Basketball District Championship Game—Belton HS @ 7pm
- March 8: STEM in the Gym—RHS Gymnasium—6pm
- March 10: RQS Academic Evening—Raytown High School—6pm
- March 22: Music Department Solo and Ensemble Recital—RHS Performing Arts Center @ 7pm.
- April 7-9: RHS Spring Play She Kills Monsters—RHS Performing Arts Center @ 7pm.

Raytown South High School

Academic Focus

- Best practices in math classes include making sure students understand rules, routines, and procedures. After that, when designing and implementing any lesson, teachers begin with the end in mind. This also includes a clear objective – what do teachers want the students to know and be able to do when we are done. For math specifically, teachers spend time telling students there is always more than one way to get an answer. Students don't learn problem solving if they are only taught the "steps" to solve – they need to be able to think through a problem and use their individual skills, knowledge, and creativity to get to the end. We have eight specific "math" practices that are referred to at every grade level. They come from NCTM and are as follows: make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others, model with mathematics, use appropriate tools strategically, attend to precision, look for and make use of structure, and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.
- Algebra Readiness (Marisa Elkin): We are finishing up expressions - factoring using GCF, distributive property, adding and subtracting linear expressions and combining like terms. We will test on Thursday. We will be starting to solve equations. First with one step and then working our way up.
- Algebra 1 (Darin Hall): Currently Algebra I is half way through Unit 5-Polynomial Operations. This week students will be taking the practice EOC Test for the district. Later in the semester students will begin studying quadratics.

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- Algebra 1 Off-cycle (Kady Keim): We are currently reviewing and about to test over unit 1, which is over solving equations and inequalities. Once we are finished testing we will be moving on to unit 2, which is over functions and arithmetic sequences. This will start with reading and understanding relationships from a graph and then go on to modeling functions in different forms.
- Geometry and Enriched Geometry (Kevin Zey): I currently just finished up U5 Connecting Algebra with Geometry in the Coordinate plane. We will work on a few real world activities before we move into U6 Volume and 3D Shapes. Although it has been a chaotic school year, we keep moving forward and making progress.
- Geometry Off-cycle (Drea Parker): We are just beginning Unit 2 – Congruence and Proof. This unit begins with a focus on angle relationships with parallel lines and transversals. For the remainder we work through triangle congruence and proof. For students, this is their first time doing two-column proofs. While proofs can be quite challenging, with practice, it becomes an important tool in organizing their thought process.
- Algebra 2 (Brandon Davis): For Algebra 2, we just started Radical Functions (Unit 4 - Part 1). We are currently looking at how exponents and radicals are related. After we finish that, we will be looking at simplifying radicals and then solving radical equations. A feel-good moment is that when I have work days, my kids thank me, and they work hard to truly understand what we are doing in class. They work well with others and they work with others besides their normal friends.
- Advanced Algebra Applications (Arianne Henry): We have just begun Unit 4 which covers real world probability and statistics. To start this unit we first talk about specific vocabs they hear about statistics such as mean, distribution, and correlations. We will then analyze graphs they would see from news sources or social media and determine the logic and correlation of the data given and whether that data makes logical sense. Our last unit we just completed was very fun for them, as it involved budgeting and calculating interest of loans and credit cards. The students had a project we called Life Game where each student was given a job, they had to find and calculate their home and car payment along with other expenses such as gas, utilities, insurance, etc. Each day of class they would calculate their budget along with an incident (good or bad) that happened to them for the month that they would have to calculate into their budget. Students had a lot of fun with this and it gave them a little real world experience of month to month budgeting.
- Enriched Algebra 2 (Marisa Elkin): We are currently in our Radical unit - writing in radical form or rational and simplifying radicals and solving radial equations. Our next unit after this one is logarithmic functions- graphing and solving.
- Dual Credit College Algebra (Samantha Lewis): We are in the middle of Unit 5: Exponential Functions and Logarithmic Functions. We have completed looking at their graphs and will be working on applying properties to solve various types of problems. After completing this unit we will move to Unit 6: Systems of Equations and Matrices where we'll apply multiple strategies (Substitution, elimination, graphing, matrices) to solve problems that require systems of equations and inequalities. I've enjoyed working with upper classmen. I have made good connections with multiple students and I have some kids that work very hard.
- Advanced Math Topics (Drea Parker): Most of semester 2 covers data collection, statistics, and probability. Before spring break, we should be finishing up our unit

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“Graphs, Charts, & Numbers”. In this unit we represent sets of data in graphs and with measures of center and spread. Our next unit will specifically focus on normal distributions.

- AP Statistics (Drea Parker): We have just finished our unit on random variables. We are working on sampling distributions and variability for proportions, means, and standards. This will lead to estimating with confidence intervals and using significance tests. What I hear from my students most is how they appreciate that the curriculum uses real-world applications and data for each unit. They can see the use for everything we are doing in the classroom, which leads to some interesting discussions.
- Dual Credit Precalculus (Vivian Raridon): I am currently on Chapter 7, Section 3 : Solving Trigonometric Functions. After this we will move on to graphing trig functions. Even though we are on a particularly hard unit, my students are working hard on their assignments and asking questions to gain understanding of the material.
- Dual Credit / AP Calculus (Vivian Raridon): We are currently on Chapter 7, Section 2 : Approximating Areas Under Curves using the Disk Method. After this we will move on to finding solids of revolution. Like my above comment, a feel good moment for me is the work ethic of my class. Everyone is working together to gain understanding.

Parent/Community Focus

- Cardinals Have Character (Formerly PBIS/SEL). Our group and building are focusing on character traits that will benefit our students and the school building as a whole. Each month a Character Lesson is presented during advisory class over specific character traits - prepared, empathy, initiative, responsible, respectful, resilience, integrity, and safe. After the lesson, we give each adult 4-5 cards to present to students who they see demonstrating the character trait of the month. At the end of the week, students can redeem those cards for candy/snacks at lunch. Our committee has also identified 5 staff members each month that have exhibited the character trait and rewarded them with coffee, snacks and a certificate. We have noticed that a more acute presentation about a particular character trait and a timely and specific award for that behavior has had a great impact. The entire building has seemed to embrace the lessons and the reward system and we are excited about the progress.
- Tim White, Grant Parsons, Laila Fernandez, and Livia Lewis represented Raytown South at the DECA District Leadership Conference on Wednesday, February 9. Big congrats to Grant Parsons as he qualified for the Missouri State Career Development Conference in his event category of Business Services Marketing.
 - Nathaniel Osciak: (State Qualifier), 2nd Political Science, 3rd Journalism, 3rd Impromptu Speaking
 - Guy Price: (State Qualifier) 2nd Journalism
 - Jackson Jackson: (State Qualifier) 1st Securities and Investments
 - Kayauna Barnes : (State Qualifier) 1st Client Service & 3rd Personal Finance
 - Christian Mederos: (State Qualifier) 5th Organizational Leadership
 - Anita Ihenacho: (State Qualifier) 5th Organizational Leadership & 5th UX Design
 - Charles Wolfe: (State Qualifier) 3rd Organizational Leadership

Upcoming School Events

- For current updates and news follow us on Twitter @RQSSouthHigh.
- Check out Sonic Locker Room for sports, clubs, theatre, and music interviews of students, teachers, and coaches.

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Raytown Middle School

Academic Focus PE/Health

- Students have achieved much success this year, as they were presented with restructured guidelines and activities in physical education. The goal was to reintroduce physical activity to students to get them moving again. Students were offered a variety of opportunities for growth in team sports activities, such as soccer, handball, volleyball, basketball and fleet ball. Additionally, *Workout Wednesdays* was a way to introduce the proper way you warm up and exercise and learn new games on Fridays. Students learned a new game called Pin Blaster that our students really enjoyed and each Wednesday we are continuing to focus on increasing our students' cardiovascular endurance.
- In health, students learned about the four parts of health and how to balance each part to achieve total wellness. This allows students to understand how to balance their social, emotional, mental and physical health so that they can be the best version of themselves. Physical health deals with the body's ability to function. Physical health has many components including exercise, nutrition, sleep, alcohol/drugs, and weight management. Exercise is the act of using your muscles to stay physically fit. In addition, students are learning about nutrition; how to read food labels, how many calories they need individually and how to plan healthy meals.

Parent/Community Focus

- **Virtual Spring Conferences:** Spring parent-teacher conferences were held virtually on February 16-17. Teachers worked diligently to contact 100 percent of our parents and were successful in contacting 90 percent. Conferences were scheduled via zoom and by phone to check students' progress and plan their course of study for next year. RMS continues to foster a positive partnership with our families.
- **Black History Month** - Under the direction of Tyrone Gethers, a Black History Trivia contest and essay contest were sponsored for the month of February. Each day a trivia question was posted in the Commons and students had until the end of the day to submit their response. Student's names and answers were recorded and the student earning the most points during the month, win a prize.
- **Essay contest** Students were given the opportunity to participate in the essay contest titled, *"Is it important to have Black History Month, or should it be considered part of American History?"* The essay was to be 500 to 1000 words, using cited resources. The winning essay will be awarded a prize, and allowed to be read live on KUAW Radio. Prizes will be announced next month.

Upcoming School Events

- Spring Break March 28-April 1.

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Raytown South Middle School

Academic Focus

- Students came back to us this year unpracticed with this thing we call “schooling” and in many cases, unregulated as well. Reestablishing routines and procedures and expectations and acclimating students back to learning continues to be a prolonged endeavor and one we may have underestimated. Despite these difficulties, our teachers are creating calm, leveraging positive relationships, and moving students forward in their learning. Over the past few weeks, I have seen teachers working to implement our instructional framework and have seen many examples of framing the lesson, normalizing social/emotional awareness, lots of OTRs (opportunities to respond) and frequent checks for understanding. I am more than proud of our teachers for their commitment and effort to recover lost academic and social/emotional learning.

Parent/Community Focus

- The 8th grade orchestra ventured to Liberty North High School on Saturday, February 26th for a contest. They performed extremely well despite being down a couple of musicians and came away with great comments and scores reflective of an excellent performance. We are proud of what they have accomplished in such a short amount of time this year. They are working towards performing these pieces for the public at South High on March 15 and our end of year concert at South Middle on May 17.

Upcoming School Events

- Saturday, March 5th- Large Group Contest @ Liberty North High School (1000 NE 104th St, Liberty, MO 64068) 7th and 8th grade bands combined at 9:45am. If band were a tested subject this is our equivalent of the state test. (Completely open to the public and free to attend. However, our time on stage is limited to 15 minutes).
- Thursday, March 17th- Contest Concert @ Raytown South High School (8211 Sterling) 7th and 8th grade bands combined at 6:30pm. This will be a chance to celebrate our contest results and play the same music for our home crowd. Also, at this concert you will have the opportunity to hear the RSHS Concert and Symphonic bands as they prepare for their own contest later in the month. As well as the Raytown Community band under the new leadership of Mrs. Kelsey Smith (CMS) and you may even recognize one of the band's percussionists ;).

Raytown Central Middle School

Academic Focus

- Our Resource English Language Arts teachers in Special Education are working with students on organizing their writing. Teachers and students are using graphic organizers to develop a clear introduction, descriptive details, and a conclusion to their writing. Ms. Irmiter has incorporated fun topics, such as Three Wishes, for added student interest. Students have let their writing take off with some of the suggested topics, and she has seen improvement!
- Our February Student of the Month Winners were nominated and selected by staff members for demonstrating Kindness at CMS. The winners will enjoy a Pizza luncheon for being recognized:
 - 6th Grade-Amerie Chavez
 - 7th Grade-Jazel Velasquez

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- 8th Grade-Mychael Meade
- Despite realistic challenges and experiences related to staying healthy this school, students continue to strive for good attendance. Families work hard to be present at school and recognize the importance of being present for learning whenever possible. We have recognized students with attendance at or above 90% and drawn names for the monthly Attendance gift card incentive. This month's winners are:
 - 6th Grade-Colin Wallace
 - 7th Grade-Jalen Alexander
 - 8th Grade-Trinity Taylor

Parent/Community Focus

- The RCMS Jazz Band traveled to the Missouri Western Festival, and Mariah Collins and George Stuart both received Outstanding Soloist Awards. At the University of Central Missouri Jazz Festival, the Jazz Band received a II (Outstanding) rating under the direction of Kelsey Smith, CMS Band Director and Joseph Hill.
- Friday, March 4th the Jazz Band will perform at a festival at Pittsburg State University.
- Raytown Night of Jazz was a success, with great performances and support for the RCMS Jazz Band and other groups!
- In addition to festivals, the Jazz Band visited 5th Graders at Norfleet, Robinson, and Blue Ridge on February 24th-28th.

Upcoming School Events

- On March 8th, select 8th Grade students at CMS will participate in NAEP Testing to show what they know!

Raytown Success Academy

Academic Focus

- Continued critical thinking practices
- Sound instructional practices

Parent/Community Focus

- Emphasis on communication with parents
- Using community resources to help students and families

Upcoming School Events

- Family Fun Night March 24th

Northwood

Academic Focus

- Individualized Education Goals
- Communication Skills
- Social/Emotional Learning

Parent/Community Focus

- We continue to have IEP meetings with parents/guardians
- Meeting with outside agencies and parents in regards to supports

Upcoming School Events

- NWSA Grounds Crew will start working on landscaping around the building.

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Herndon Career Center & Southland CAPS

Academic Focus

- The culinary and management teams won first place at the Missouri ProStart Championships on February 18. Students earned the opportunity to compete for a national title in Washington DC in May. Management Team: Faustina Jackson, Claire Mace, Brooklyn Doctor, Isabella Jursch Culinary Team: Rachel Hartwig, Alex Fulson, Hannah McHenry, Avery Dunn, AJ Musgrave
- Students competed in Regional SkillsUSA knowledge and skill competitions during February, and we recently found out we have 10 students who placed are eligible to compete in the state competition held at State Tech in early April. Garrett Winborn-Auto Service Tech Info (2nd) and Skills (2nd), Corderro Jimenez-Carpentry (2nd), Pattapol Panpruek-Collision Repair (1st), Paola Garcia-Cosmetology (2nd), Alaisha Lee-Cosmetology (3rd), Chloe Smith-Cosmetology (1st), Sophia Stein-Criminal Justice (2nd), Alex Fulson-Culinary Management (1st), Zack Wilson-Diesel Equipment (1st), Diego Rosado-T Shirt Design (1st)
- Students in Foundations of Nursing, EMT, and Intro to Physical Therapy & Sports Med had an opportunity to participate in the knowledge test to qualify for HOSA state competition. The top 10 entries are the only ones eligible to compete at state. In our first year competing, we had 10 students qualify for state competition in late March. Lindsay Abrams & Felicia Lawrence-EMT, Trinity Hand & Anna Kneuvean-EMT, Lauren Diaz & Brandon Hallmon-EMT, Jessica Lara-Nursing Assisting, Lia Hill-Sports Medicine, Elizabeth Walden-Sports Medicine, Cidney Woods-Sports Medicine

Parent/Community Focus

- All teachers worked with students and parents during conferences to discuss progress as well as future goals and plans.
- HCC and Southland CAPS staff hosted the second Open House on February 15. We had students from middle and high school grades attend with their parents. Feedback from attendees was great.

Upcoming School Events

- March 13: Priority deadline for applications
- April 21: Meet the Teacher Night
- April 28: Awards Night