

Secondary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



February 2022

Raytown High School

Academic Focus

- Congratulations to Amaya Morgan (11) and Tochi Ihekona (11) who were accepted into Missouri Girls State!
- The RHS Black Student Union (BSU) has planned a variety of activities for Black History Month including: daily announcements recognizing contributions and achievements made by prominent African Americans, a Spirit Week, a Black History Month Assembly, and a Local Black Owned Business Fair for the community. The BSU is sponsored by Ms. Allecia Lowery.
- Congratulations to the RHS Teacher of the year: Katie Green. Katie received 5 separate nominations from fellow staff members and was overwhelmingly voted Teacher of the Year by her colleagues. Her nominators noted her hard work to develop both the Girls and Boys Tennis Program, her work to engage students in unique learning experiences such as Raku pottery day, and her positive and outgoing attitude towards students and staff.
- Departmental Spotlight: The RHS Counseling Department has been doing a tremendous job this entire school year. Most recently our four counselors managed the transition from one semester to the next while simultaneously engaging students in learning about course enrollment for next school year. These tasks separately are huge undertakings. Our counselors were successful in getting the job done with ease. This is a testament to their dedication and commitment to the community of Raytown High School. The RHS counselors are: Shana Bobbitt (class of 2022), Jennifer Northcutt (class of 2023), Katie Cross (class of 2024), and T'Neisha Love (class of 2025).

Parent/Community Focus

- RHS Speech & Debate attended the Oak Park/Platte County Tournament (Jan. 28 & 29) the following students were recognized: Dallas Frazier (12) 2nd–Informative, Dallas Frazier and Judy Batts (12) 1st–Policy Debate, Tochi Ihekona (11) and Shawn Hulen (11) 1st–Public Forum Debate, Awah Asangwe (12) 4th–Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Miciah Williams (9) 3rd–Lincoln-Douglas Debate
- RHS Theater is currently auditioning for the spring play, She Kills Monsters. The show will perform April 7-9.
- RHS Jaywalkers Dance Team competed at the Lee's Summit North Invitational Regional Competition. They received 1st place for their prop routine and 3rd place for their mix routine. The team will be competing at State February 25th-26th.
- RHS Varsity Boys Basketball is 11-7 overall and 3-1 in conference play.
- RHS Varsity Girls Basketball is currently 12-4 overall. Metro Sports has the team ranked #9 out of 25. The team is currently sitting in 2nd place in the conference.
- RHS Wrestling: Amaya Johnson (11) took 1st Place at the Liberty George Hoover Girls Invitational for the 125lb weight class.
- RHS Robotics did very well this past weekend. The team held the 2nd and 3rd highest scores of the meet.

Upcoming School Events

- Feb. 12: Courtwarming Dance–RHS Gymnasium–7pm
- Feb. 15: Parent/Teacher Conferences–RHS virtual–2:40 to 6:40pm

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- Feb. 16: RHS vs. RSHS Basketball Showdown—RHS Gymnasium—5:30 & 7pm
- Feb. 17: Parent/Teacher Conferences—RHS Virtual—8 am to 8 pm
- Feb. 24: RHS Band & Orchestra Concert—RHS Performing Arts Center—7pm
- March 1: RHS Night of Jazz Concert—RHS Performing Arts Center—7pm
- March 3: RHS Choir Concert—RHS Performing Arts Center—7pm
- March 8: STEM in the Gym—RHS Gymnasium—6pm
- March 10: Academic Evening—RHS Performing Arts Center—6:30 pm

Raytown South High School

Academic Focus

- Teachers will implement strategies to support mathematical reasoning, non-fiction reading, argumentative writing, effective questioning, vocab instruction, and other important literacy strategies; Students will demonstrate growth in critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication (reading, writing, and speaking) as well as proficiency interacting with media and technology.
- The SPED Department at South High is having a blast. Here is a look inside a few of our classrooms. In math, the CBI students worked on calendar skills and Google Slides skills by creating a 2022 calendar that they printed as Christmas gifts for their parents, complete with special family dates. In science, the students studied cells and made jello cells complete with a nucleus and mitochondria. It was a really cool visual! In English, the CBI students studied different winter traditions and cultural holidays. They learned about the Twelve Grapes, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and studied their own family traditions. In Vocational Skills, students in the CBI program are working on their soft job skills and anticipating opening the coffee shop again during second semester. They are very hopeful and excited! Additionally, the CBI students recently teamed up with StuCo to have a holiday party, too! It was a great opportunity for students to make new friends, practice social skills and have fun. Our Transition classes are learning about interviewing. They discussed the 10 most common interview questions and how to answer them. They are preparing for mock interviews.

Parent/Community Focus

- Theatre - The theatre department had a successful production of Seussical the Musical in November. It was nice to see students return to the stage and the program start to rebuild after being away for a year and a half. The department is currently work on a modern interpretation of Sophocles' Antigone which will premier in late February. Student Billie McCoy has been accepted into the directing program at the Conservatory of Theater at Webster University.
- Choir - We are preparing for the Large Group Contest (March 26) and Solo & Ensemble Contest (March 5)--with our largest number of interested soloists in 8 years! Every MSHSAA eligible choir student will be involved in Large Group Contest on that Saturday at Pleasant Hill HS and those interested who are MSHSAA eligible will be involved on Saturday, the 5th at Grain Valley HS. We enjoyed our opportunity to tour at the district Admin office, sing for the Rotary Club, sing at South Middle and Central Middle schools, and sing at Spring Valley and Westridge Elementary schools. We also enjoyed recording

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for (and watching later) our performance on Sounds of the Holiday on KSHB and appreciate the invitation to participate each year.

- Band - in band, we are transitioning to large group festival music. We are focusing on improving our sight reading skills, and applying our musical knowledge and ensemble skills to prepared pieces for adjudication. Before break, we put on a successful winter concert featuring 1st and 2nd hour bands, jazz band, percussion ensembles, and a small brass ensemble. Our students are continuing to demonstrate strong leadership skills and work ethic to create the best environment and product possible. They also have a student who has qualified for all state band.

Upcoming School Events

- For current updates and news follow us on the Twitter @RQSSouthHigh
- Solo & Ensemble Contest March 5
- Large Group Contest March 26
- South Side Jam Talent Show April 21
- Choir Pop Concert April 28

Raytown Middle School

Academic Focus

- **SPED**
 - Sixth grade ELA resource students have been working on finding their voices in writing. Some of the students realize that they actually like writing. Many students struggled when starting to write a piece, but have now discovered that they can do this and it gives them a voice. Students not only enjoyed submitting work electronically, but also using paper and pencil to express themselves. Students use their resources provided to edit and complete a full paragraph. Response to the activity was positive; students making connections to reading, writing and expression.
 - In the eighth grade co-teaching Pre-Algebra class students are working on solving Systems of Equations. Students worked to practice graphing lines to create a star and then solved the Systems of Equations by finding the different lines of the star intersect. Students knew they were successful when their graphing revealed a star.

Functional Skills

- In Functional Skills class, students have been learning about the life of Cleopatra in reading, working on improving their social skills and learning what it means to be a good friend to one another. Students are also working on what it means to be an exemplary person in society. On days when all students have demonstrated exemplary behavior, they earn an incentive.
- Students also participate in reading rotations; three rotations at 13 minutes each. One rotation is independent work (epic books), another is word practice, and the other is a small group with their teacher. In small groups, students identify key vocabulary words for the text they are about to read, then read and discuss any words they are not familiar with.

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- Additionally, Functional Skills classes have been enjoying their new spirit tree. Students are working on making ornaments for each holiday and celebration, e.g. (go Chiefs and Royals) to hang on the tree. This activity helps students understand the different symbols that are associated with each holiday and celebration. This activity also provides students practice with fine motor skills, planning and sequencing.

Parent/Community Focus

- Girls Basketball: This season started off with three new coaches and 18 girls earning a place on either the A or B team. At the onset, the coaching team knew this would be a season of intense training and unification amongst the team, building relationships of trust and respect between players and coaches. The lady jays fought hard every game, with impressive sportsmanship with each victory and even each loss. The season ended with hosting a tournament at RMS where the Ladyjays placed third. Our coaches, Wakefield and Coldwell could not be more proud of the hard work and dedication each of these girls has put into their team.
- Boys Basketball: RMS introduced many new players/students to the game of basketball this year. Our growth throughout the season was amazing to watch. Our coaches developed a group of young men that will be vital to our success next year and provided our eighth grade class with the experience required to succeed at RHS. The boys were eager to spend two hours a night, five days a week in the gym, working on their skills. The team fought extremely hard; buzzer to buzzer, exemplifying school pride at each and every game. Although we did not win the end of the season tournament, the team certainly won over the crowd, as they took the first game to overtime on a horn beating shot and lost our second game with a thrilling close overtime ending.

Upcoming School Events

- Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences February 16, 17
- Follow us on Twitter Twitter and Instagram @RQSRaytownMidd
For current updates and highlights, follow us on RMS Facebook.
<https://www.facebook.com/Raytown-Middle-School-106165480742984>

Raytown South Middle School

Academic Focus

- In the winter of 2020, South Middle received a \$10,000.00 dollar grant from Walmart to be used to advance technology and innovation in our school community. I am pleased to announce that we are finally able to move forward a Digital Media Club that will allow students an opportunity to explore digital communications, editing and publication software, as well as video production and publication. Students will begin producing PSAs for the building and I look forward to sharing this work with the district in the coming months.

Parent/Community Focus

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- The South Middle theater department presented *A Christmas Carol* on Friday, January 28th. The production was originally scheduled for December 22nd; however, due to a number of positive Covid cases, they were forced to postpone. Despite Winter Break and a limited number of rehearsals, Ms. Gartland made sure they were ready and it was an amazing production. I look forward to seeing many of these students continue with theater at South High as they are wonderfully talented students.
- Congratulations to our Boys A and B basketball teams for their first place finishes in their post-season tournaments. The boys and girls teams have been great ambassadors of South Middle all season and we congratulate the players and coaches on a job well done!

Upcoming School Events

- Teachers are preparing for Spring Conferences on February 16th and 17th.

Raytown Central Middle School

Academic Focus

- Our 6th Grade Math class students have been working on unit rates, and percentages. In class, students have enjoyed working collaboratively to solve problems that are relevant and connected to their everyday lives. This includes calculating unit rates for snacks and groceries and finding percentages for assignment scores.
- Enriched Math students are practicing skills related to equations and expressions. These classes have applied critical thinking and problem solving skills to write mathematical expressions to represent a situation with an unknown. Mr. Rusboldt has engaged students with fun problems using our hometown KC Chiefs players. A visit to his classroom reflects high student participation levels and interests as he presents them with fun challenges!

Parent/Community Focus

- CMS Scholar Bowl Team has started the season strong with 2 winning meets! They continue to work hard as a team and represent well. The next HOME meet will be Thursday, February 10th versus Pioneer Ridge.
- Kudos to our Boys & Girls Basketball Teams for finishing out the season with great effort! While many of our student athletes had not had previous experience with the sport or very little time on the court, they maintained sportsmanlike conduct and full energy during every single game and the tournament. Thank you for a great season.
- Our January Student of the Month Winners were nominated and selected by staff members for demonstrating Responsibility at CMS. The winners will enjoy a Pizza luncheon for being recognized:
 - 6th Grade-Gracie Seese
 - 7th Grade-Lukas LeSage
 - 8th Grade-Jason Holliday

Upcoming School Events

- Spring P/T Conferences: February 16th - February 17th

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Raytown Success Academy

Academic Focus

- Curriculum based instruction applying TLAC with fidelity
- Teaching from an inclusive understanding with students needs and diversity in mind

Parent/Community Focus

- Communication about upcoming parent teacher conferences

Upcoming School Events

- Family fun night with a celebration of ethnicity.
- Parent teacher conferences

Northwood

Academic Focus

- Individualized Education Plans
- Communication
- Social/Emotional Learning

Parent/Community Focus

- IEP Meetings
- Scheduling Parent/Teacher Conferences

Upcoming School Events

- Spring P/T Conferences: February 16th - February 17th

Herndon Career Center & Southland CAPS

Academic Focus

- All Southland CAPS students eligible for internship are currently placed an internship and participating 4 days a week. Students report back one day a week to discuss what they learned and continue to expand their knowledge.
- Students in each program have been preparing for knowledge or skills contests in SkillsUSA or HOSA. Students who do well at the district level earn the opportunity to advance to the state leadership conferences.
- Students on the Culinary ProStart and Management ProStart teams are continuing to practice their skills in preparation for the state ProStart Competition on Friday, February 17 in Springfield.

Parent/Community Focus

- HCC hosted an in person Open House on January 27 and had a steady flow of prospective students and parents throughout the night. Feedback from attendees was great as they had their questions answered and were impressed with the opportunities they have to begin their career development while in high school.

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- Teachers are preparing for parent-teacher conferences with a focus on each student's career goal and next steps in either training, education, or job placement.

Upcoming School Events

- Parent Teacher Conferences: February 15 & 17
- Open House: February 15 from 5:00 - 6:30 pm
- ProStart Competition: February 17
- March 13: Priority Deadline for Applications for 2022-23 school year