

Secondary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



April 2021

Raytown High School

Academic Focus

- The RHS J-Crew (student council leadership class) developed and oversaw a resource drive for Sheffield Place, which serves homeless mothers and children in the Kansas City area. The group collected over 2100 items and the staff at Sheffield place indicated it was the single largest one-time donation they have ever received. This project is a part of the J-Crew's 2021 Lead4Change submission. Lead4Change is a youth leadership program that combines leadership training with community services projects. Lead4Change was developed by David Novak, 1970 RHS graduate, retired Yum! Brands CEO, Best selling author of Taking People With You, and world respected expert in leadership.
- RHS students and teachers have just completed the 3rd round of argumentative writing essays for this year. The pandemic has certainly challenged our process for teaching and monitoring argumentative writing. However, the Building Leadership Team and the whole of the staff have persevered to continue our effort to improve every student's abilities to critically think and write in all subject areas. Teachers are presently in the process of collaboratively scoring and reviewing student work.
- The return to in-person learning has proven to be a positive for many teachers and students. It is good to see students back in the building and school life returning to some simliance of normal. Students have done a good job adhering to safety expectations. While visiting classrooms we have observed many positive interactions and learning opportunities that give us hope for the future. We look forward to a day when we can safely get back to 100% attendance.
- 2017 RHS graduate Lynnzee Brown made headlines this week when her uneven bars routine clinched the Big12 title for University of Denver Gymnastics. Lynnzee was also named the Big12 Gymnast of the Year. She was a great kid during her time here at RHS and she has gone on to do great things!

Parent/Community Focus

- RHS Speech & Debate has qualified 3 students to the National Speech and Debate Tournament. Riley Harris (12) in Big Questions Debate and Tochi Ihekona (10) and Shawn Hulen (10) in Public Forum Debate.
- RHS Theatre will present their spring play, "Lost in Yonkers" by Neil Simon, April 15-17 at 7pm. This show is the first student directed main stage here at RHS. Senior Kylie Butler is directing.
- RHS Vocal Music: The following students participated in MSHSAA State Music Festival for Solos & Small Ensembles. Earning gold is Clara Bryant (11) and Joshua McCarroll (12). Earning silver is Naomi Gonterman (11), Mesmariah Hall (11), Aiden Harkins (12) and Phenix Watson (10). Earning bronze is Kylie Butler (12) and Cheyli Ferbet (12). Joshua McCarroll (12) was selected to the Missouri All-State Choir. The RHS Mixed Choir performed a Pre-Contest Choir concert on Tuesday, March 23rd. The performance was recorded and will be submitted to MSHSAA for the State Music Festival - Large Ensembles. Results should be announced mid-late April.
- RHS Instrumental Music: The following students participate in virtual State Solo and Ensemble. Earning gold is Oscar Peraza (10)--clarinet solo, Joshua Ramon (9)--trumpet solo, and Alena Harper (11)--cello solo. Earning silver is Jocelyn Johnson (12)--flute

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solo and Kelly Sharp (10)--trumpet solo. Earning bronze is Zahnye Jackson (12)--alto saxophone solo, Joel Martinez (10)--alto saxophone solo, and Grayson Helsel (9)--bassoon solo

- **RHS Men's Basketball** Finished the season as Conference Champs and Second place in MSHSAA Districts. All-District players are: Aaron Franklin (12) All-District Player of the Year and First Team and Terrence Jones (12) 2nd Team. All-Conference players are Aaron Franklin (12) All Conference Player of the Year and First Team, Terrence Jones (12) First Team, and Noble Crompton (12) 2nd Team. Coach Buford was named Conference Coach of the Year. Aaron Franklin (12) was selected to be an All-State player.
- **RHS Women's Basketball** had a record breaking season along with multiple individual awards and had the best overall team record since 2011. The Lady Jays were named the Hy-Vee Team of the Week after beating Blue Springs South in a district overtime game the first week of March. The team placed 2nd in conference and in districts. Stevi Yancy (11) received 1st team All-Conference and 1st team All-District. Amani Henry (10) received 1st team All-District and 2nd team All-Conference. Amani was also listed as one of the top 10 rebounders in Kansas City. Summer Yancy (9) received 2nd team All-Conference. Gladys Brown (10) was listed as on the top 10 assist leaders for the Kansas City Area.
- **RHS Baseball** has kicked off the season in the opening Raytown School District Tournament with a 3-1 start. Mister Jimenez (12) opened up the season with a complete game, Quelann Coleman (12) backed up that performance with a 10 strikeout night, and Luke Markley (10) pitched strong in his high school debut to earn a shutout.
- Spring Sports are underway and practices have started. Coaches report good turn out and are looking forward to successful seasons.

Upcoming School Events

- March 29 to April 2: Spring Break
- April 15-17: RHS Spring Play--Atkins Performing Arts Center--7:00pm
- April 23: RHS Talent Show--Atkins Performing Arts Center--7:00 pm
- May 4: Orchestra Concert--Atkins Performing Arts Center--7:00pm
- May 6: Band Concert--Atkins Performing Arts Center--7:00pm
- May 7: Senior Last Day of Attendance
- May 7: J-Fest Art Show--Atkins Performing Arts Center Commons--3:00 to 7:00 pm
- May 7: Pops Concert--Atkins Performing Arts Center--7:00 pm
- May 8: Prom (tentative)--Crestview Farms
- May 11: Senior Awards Night--Atkins Performing Arts Center--6:00pm
- May 16: Graduation--Starlight Theater--1pm

Raytown South High School

Academic Focus

- English 1 - First Semester for English I has focused on helping students acclimate to the expectations of high school. We have assisted students in learning the importance of attendance and meeting deadlines, while extending a degree of grace to help our newest high school students adjust to a new environment and the challenges of virtual learning. We have modified our curriculum to meet the challenges of changing schedules and a variety of learning platforms that are new to both students and

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teachers. Specifically, Nearpod, Noredink, and ActivelyLearn, in addition to Google Classroom, have all played a part in developing skills in our students. We have focused our attention on short stories and the novel, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian*, in order to help students learn literary skills such as plot structure and analysis and character development, while also helping them to understand the themes of racial inequality and the impacts of poverty on the education of minority populations. We also worked with students to build writing skills through identifying the structure of an essay, learning to establish and support a claim in writing, MLA formatting, and creating citations to avoid plagiarism. Rather than attempt to work students through multiple novels as we would have in our regular curriculum, we opted to help our students focus on these key skills through one novel. We are aware that we have access to common assessments in Edulastic, however, we have not been able to use them due to adjustments in the curriculum during virtual learning.

- English 2 - English II classes opted to spend the first semester working with a collection of short stories, one novel, nonfiction articles, and routine writing. We began scaffolding our priority standards with a collection of short stories. During this unit we identified the elements of a story, began tracking theme, character, and plot development. With our novel, students were pushed to determine and analyze two or more themes found within a text, track and analyze how complex characters develop over time to advance the plot and develop the theme, and analyze how the author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events, or manipulate time impact the reader. With our nonfiction articles, students evaluated an author's argument in order to assess whether the reasoning was valid and the evidence relevant and sufficient. Throughout the first semester daily routine writing was implemented. Students routine writing consisted of a combination of daily quick writes, model texts, writer's workshop, and personal modeling to teach content specific skills.
- English 3- First semester began with a focus on narrative. We studied a narrative from author Amy Tan, and focused primarily on her ability to use descriptive language and incorporate personal emotions. Students then constructed their own narratives using the skills and techniques acquired from our study of model examples. The remainder of the semester was spent studying the American Dream from the perspective of varying races, genders, and people from different socioeconomic backgrounds. Some key texts included "The Crucible", "The Pearl" and "The Sport of the Gods". English III teachers communicated regularly to share ideas and stay grounded during the ever-changing semester dynamics.
- English 4 - English IV choices for first semester consisted of Women's Lit, Modern Lit, and Creative Writing. Modern Lit and Women's Lit focused on a single novel and using smaller articles for connection and extension of ideas. The Creative Writing class focused on reading sample text and creating original pieces with similar themes. English IV maintained focus on getting seniors prepared for the next level using academic writing, reading and discussions of various themes. Teacher's reported higher than expected attendance in their sessions and during tutorial time.
- Diff Reading - Differentiated Reading teachers have been heavily collaborating on lessons and vocabulary words to keep students engaged. Students have enjoyed using Nearpod for vocabulary this semester and teachers have noticed a growth in their understanding of those words. Achieve 3000 has been used to differentiate reading

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comprehension levels, as well as teaching skills needed in language arts classes. Connecting with the students has been an essential component in student success. Finding articles and discussions that are of interest to students keeps them engaged.

- Comp1 - Composition 1 dual credit classes spent last semester writing three types of essays. They first wrote a personal essay that they can include in college applications admissions requirements if they choose. We then studied rhetoric while reading about the American education system. This culminated in the students writing rhetorical analysis papers over one of the articles we read. The last part of the semester was spent reading and discussing fiscal issues in the country (minimum wage, wage gaps, socio economic issues, etc), which ended with students writing comparative analysis papers essentially comparing and contrasting how different authors cover the same topic based on their own biases and/or the types of publications their pieces were printed in.

Parent/Community Focus

- CARDETTES are State Champions for 3A Prop. They also are bringing home 5th in state for 3A Precision Jazz. They also hold 3rd in the Midwest Region through a virtual UDA competition from a week ago. WAY TO REPRESENT! Cardettes get 5th in state for 3A Jazz and State Champions in 3A Prop. Sugar Bears Virtual Invitational were announced and the Cardettes received the following: 1st place in Prop & 3rd place in Kick
- FBLA: Kayauna Barnes FBLA State Qualifier 1st place Client Service and Reily Berroteran FBLA State Qualifier 5th place Political Science.
- SPEECH & DEBATE: Please congratulate the Raytown South Speech and Debate team. They won individual events sweepstakes and overall sweepstakes for their conference! Well done! Way to represent! Caleb Dillon and Breanna Bonner took second in policy debate in our conference. Jayme Thompson and Jamelia Smith took 1st. Way to go South! Way to represent! Caleb Dillon and Breanna Bonner were 5th in policy debate. Kali Ellis and Natasha Story took 5th in duo! Trinity Houts took 4th in Program of Oral Interpretation! Tatyana Midgette and Chinecherem Ihenacho were in the top 10 of PFD debate their first time doing this style of debate!
- WRESTLING: Jasmine Sue Alcantara is now an All State Wrestler. We are proud of you. Way to represent! Jasmine Alcantara Second Place Sectionals FIRST EVER girls wrestling STATE qualifier!! Way to represent!
- Malayah Dansby, placed 3rd in Freshmen solos!
- CHOIR: Congratulations to Lauren Jakes on her acceptance into the All-District SSAA Choir

Upcoming School Events

- Follow us for weekly events and updates 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

- Academic tutoring has continued to work with students throughout this challenging year. At the onset of the first semester, our tutoring program helped decrease the number of failing grades throughout the course of the semester. Assigned days for each core content helped to ensure students have mastery of their content. As we welcomed students back into the building second semester, we remain committed to working with students that are not on campus for that particular day. In an attempt to increase instruction across asynchronous learning days, our tutors are once again available after school hours from 3 to 4 through our virtual platform.
- Physical Education: Although PE has a set of challenges this year, students are now participating in physical activities this semester. The smaller numbers of students have allowed teachers to utilize games that have not been used due to class sizes. Teachers are now able to incorporate lifetime games such as badminton, bean bag toss, washers, bocce ball, cup stacking, Frisbee and shuffleboard. Teachers follow social distancing guidelines while providing students a meaningful experience. One main focus now is to provide in-person students a chance to be social with their peers while elevating their heart rate.
- The health teacher team created lessons that were engaging, fun and more relevant to the students. Using new teaching tools such as Kami made virtual teaching and collaborating with the students much easier. Students can learn, create and collaborate by annotating text and editing documents. In addition, the collaborative tools encourage active, real-time participation in the classroom.

Parent/Community Focus

- Broadcast Club - The Raytown Middle School Broadcast Club (RMS RADIO) is 100% virtual. With newly acquired technology, students are able to participate in broadcasting radio shows from the safety of their homes. RMS Radio has received a grant from The Music and More Foundation that was used in purchasing additional airtime for students to continue broadcast media endeavors during the summer months. Students also provided topics that were educational, entertaining, culturally conscious and socially relevant. In addition, RMS Radio sponsored an essay contest during Black History Month. The winner will receive a cash prize and the opportunity to read their winning essay live on KUAW Radio. This opportunity will instill interest in the club with the goal of acquiring new members. RMS Radio is a club that is made possible through the partnership of Raytown Middle and KUAW Global Community Radio Station."
- Harvesters Event - On Saturday, March 20, students and staff from the RMS Kiwanis club and Student Council volunteered to help out at a Harvesters event held at the RSECC building. The volunteers spent time in the morning unloading trucks of food and unboxing other pantry items to prepare for the Raytown community event. Once items were bagged and ready, community members waited to receive the donated items. The items were distributed and families were appreciative of the needed items. The Kiwanis and StuCo students and staff had such a great time helping out and plan to do it again in April and May.

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- Virtual Talent Show - On February 26, RMS held the *First Virtual Talent Show* sponsored by the RMS Student Council. One of our awesome choir students, Reiko Groves won the competition for her rendition of "Pulled" from the Musical "The Addams Family". She worked incredibly hard on getting prepared. Additionally, Reiko was offered admittance to a higher level choir class next year as a freshman because of the excellent job she did! Both middle school and high school directors were amazed with her performance, as well her proud mom.
- Speech and Debate - The RMS Speech and Debate team represented Raytown well this year. Eight grader JayLeigh Weatherspoon received fourth place in Original Oratory at Belton Middle School's 2021 Invitational Tournament on March 19. JayLeigh also came in fifth place at the Independence Middle School Forensics and Debate Invitational Tournament on March 12th.
- Support Staff of the Year/LaShae Smith - Congratulations to the SSEOY teacher of the Year, LaShae Smith. LaShae is a truly dedicated social worker that does whatever it takes to serve our RMS students and community. During this challenging year, LaShae worked continually to support the school community by building relationships with our families and stakeholders. She established a system of ongoing communication between teacher, student, and parents. Additionally, LaShae worked with families to supply needed resources for them throughout the year.

Upcoming School Events

- Spring Break --March 29 to April 2
- For current updates and highlights, follow us on RMS Facebook.
<https://www.facebook.com/Raytown-Middle-School-106165480742984>

Raytown South Middle School

Academic Focus

- Many times the "academic focus" needs to be blended with an ethic of care, compassion, empathy, and a focus on taking care of the needs of students first. I am so very proud of how the teachers at South Middle work to make sure students are cared for, their days are structured and predictable, and they are safe and connected to our school community. This is the work that needs to happen so we can have an effective instructional focus. In the past three weeks since we've been back with students in person, teachers have committed themselves to this work, have been juggling concurrent, in-person A, in-person B, virtual 1,3,5, 7 and virtual 2, 4, 6 students all while working to recapture lost learning, prepare for state assessments, schedule parent teacher conferences, and plan next year's enrollment with advisory students. This team has done all of this without complaint or hesitation and I could not be more proud to be a part of the team here at South Middle – truly a selfless and remarkable group of educators.

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Parent/Community Focus

- Teachers are meeting with every student/family to begin the enrollment process for next year. This is always an exciting time as we begin thinking about graduating our 8th grade students and getting in a new cohort to the Cardinal Family!

Upcoming School Events

- Spring GLAs April 26th - May 7th

Raytown Central Middle School

Academic Focus

- Teachers and staff are elated to have successfully welcomed our in-person learners back to campus on our hybrid model on March 1st! Our students and staff have done a tremendous job relearning what it looks like to be an in-person student. We have had a great start to this new schedule, and are so proud of our students and how they are upholding the guidelines that have been put in place this semester. We have already started to see some of the positive impacts of having students back in the building - even if only for a couple of days each week.
- I have been so impressed with the continued inclusion of technology in instruction with our in-person learners as we navigate this hybrid schedule. Teachers have been observed utilizing technology to continue to create interactive learning activities to engage students in their learning and maximize their in-person instruction. This, additionally, allows teachers to maximize their time in planning so as not to have to plan separately for in-person and virtual instruction.

Parent/Community Focus

- Our Student Council spent some time collecting "Welcome Back" posters and decorating our halls prior to our first in-person day.
- Spring Enrollment Conferences were held March 24th and 25th. Advisory teachers worked with parents and students to select appropriate courses for the 21-22 school year.

Upcoming School Events

- Track Season is well underway. CMS will be hosting a second track meet in the month of April.

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Raytown Success Academy

Academic Focus

- Social/Emotional Skills
- Spring GLA's grades 3-8th
- Spring EOC testing

Parent/Community Focus

- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Pancake Breakfast April 30th

Upcoming School Events

- Teacher/Staff Appreciation May 3 -7th
- Senior Reception 5/7, Bauer Hall
- Retirement Celebration - Wanda Willis May12th
- Retirement Celebration - Lori Forte' May 19th

Northwood

Academic Focus

- Individualized Education Goal
- Social/Emotional Skills
- Communication

Parent/Community Focus

- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Weekly Parent Communication

Upcoming School Events

- Northwood Graduation, May 5 at 5 PM, Raytown High School Auditorium
- Northwood students are loving their new playground!!



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Herndon Career Center & Southland CAPS

Academic Focus

- Construction students passed their Technical Skill Attainment exam with 100% pass rate.
- Foundations of Nursing students took the theory and practical tests prior to Parent Teacher Conferences. We had over a 94% pass rate.
- We had multiple students in different programs including HVAC, Construction & Welding apply for internships with one company. The company offered opportunities to all students who applied and interviewed.
- Several of our interns at Pet Resource Center of Kansas City have been highlighted in social media posts. Check out an article on their assistance at <https://prckc.org/blog/the-next-generation-of-vets-eager-to-lead-with-love/>.
- We had over 700 applicants for Herndon Career Center and Southland CAPS for the 2021-22 school year.

Parent/Community Focus

- Acceptance letters will go out at the end of the first week of April for the 2021-22 school year.
- We will be celebrating our Industry Partners of the Year at the end of April. We will post the celebrations on our social media sites.

Upcoming School Events

- April 29: Meet the Teacher Night via Zoom
- May 7: Virtual Signing Day Presentation
- May 12: Virtual Awards Presentation