

Secondary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



May 2021

Raytown High School

Academic Focus

- 7 RHS seniors have earned the Seal of Bi-Literacy from the state after successfully completing a rigorous course of study and examination. Recipients are: Madisen Berry, Yamila Chavez-Flores, Rianna Ellis, Johnathan Martinez, Daysha Sipho, Ashley Spears, Presley Stewart, and Katie Valdovinos.
- RHS Louder than a Bomb (LTAB), Raytown's competitive slam poetry team, has advanced to the finals of the city-wide competition this year. Our students have been performing original pieces of poetry in virtual slams for the past month to lead up to this competition. The winning team will move on to the national competition, "Brave New Voices."
In addition to this competition, students Alyscea Jackson (11) and Leahna Seals (11) have both had poems published this year. They have also been invited to perform alongside professional poets at events through Race Project Kansas City and the African American Artist's Collective.
LTAB finals will be held virtually on 4/30 at 7pm. Poets include Alyscea, Leahna, Ramiah Harris (10), Lynniya Miller (11), Sam Oliver (10), Aurelia Rivera-Brown (11), and Trae Hawkins (12). We have also received support this year from RHS LTAB alumni Kennedy Wynn, Ariyahna Allen, and Lillith Vieux. The team is under the direction of Mr. John Garofalo, RHS English Teacher.
- RHS theatre recently produced Niel Simon's Lost in Yonkers, which was student-directed by senior Kylie Butler. The play starred a great cast including RHS Theatre Director Katie Kolster! This was the first play completely directed and produced by an RHS student.
- RHS teachers are currently in the process of completing their 5th round of argumentative writing essays. Teachers are collaboratively scoring the essays and monitoring overall student skill development. We continue to see incremental improvements in our students abilities to appropriately reference texts, support arguments, and use textual evidence.
- RHS will host a Senior Awards Night on May 11 to recognize graduating seniors who received special awards and recognitions for the school district foundation and community.
- RHS will host a Senior College Signing Night on May 12 for the 16 students who have committed to play sports in college.

Parent/Community Focus

- RHS Speech & Debate has 5 qualifiers to the National Speech and Debate tournament: Riley Harris (12) in Big Questions Debate, Tochi Ihekona (10) and Shawn Hulen (10) in Public Forum Debate, Judy Batts (11) in Extemp Debate, and Presley Stewart (12) in Original Poetry and Expository.
- RHS Theatre: Cheyli Ferbet (12) was selected as a finalist for the Blue Star Rising Star Scholarship. Aiden Harkins (12), was nominated for the Leading Actor in a Musical award for his performance in Pippin as the title role. He will perform at the Blue Star awards ceremony, and if selected as Leading Actor, will participate in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards this summer.
- RHS Orchestra: Alena Harper (11), received a Gold (1) rating on her Cello Solo at State Music Festival.
- RHS Baseball is currently 4-8 and recently defeated our cross town rival, the Cardinals.

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- RHS Women's Soccer: is currently 4 and 6. The team recently defeated Raytown South. 3 players have signed to play college soccer: Yamila Chavez (12) and Sahree Eng (12)--MidAmerica Nazarene University, Brigid Hughes (12)--Avila University

Upcoming School Events

- May 3-7--Senior Finals
- May 3-7--RHS Staff Appreciation Week!
- May 4--RHS Spring Orchestra Concert, 7pm @ RHS Performing Arts Center
- May 6--RHS Spring Band Concert, 7pm @ RHS Performing Arts Center
- May 7--RHS Pops Concert, 7pm @ RHS Performing Arts Center
- May 11--Senior Awards Night, 7pm @ RHS Performing Arts Center
- May 12--Senior Signing Night, 7pm @ RHS Gymnasium
- May 14--Graduation Rehearsal/Senior Celebration 8am @ Chittwood Stadium
- May 16--Graduation, 1pm @ Starlight Theater
- May 20-27--Semester 2 Finals

Raytown South High School

Academic Focus

- Lauren Jakes and Daniel Caden Green have been accepted to the Missouri Scholar Academy.
- The Mathematics Department at RSHS is a group of dedicated, resilient and professional educators. They are meeting the challenges of teaching math during a pandemic with a continued commitment to our students and our school mission. The department continues to meet in course specific groups to discuss instructional strategies and review data as they plan engaging and rigorously appropriate lessons. The teachers are utilizing many new programs and platforms as they adjust their lessons to the virtual format. Geometry teachers are using Nearpod for notes and vocabulary. They also regularly use it for warm-ups, exit tickets and a quick method of checking for understanding. Edulastic is used throughout the department. It is offering the teachers a way to monitor how the students solve equations and graph lines and process information to problem solve. It also gives a timely look at data to review when designing lessons, reteaching opportunities as well as assessments. In addition, it offers the student a chance to try assignments multiple times as they work towards mastery of a concept. Many formative assessments have already been placed in Edulastic for use in the future. Academy teachers are using IXL to assist in differentiating instruction for the range of students they teach.
- We are also excited that nearly 40 percent of our students in College Algebra, Precalculus and Calculus will earn college credit through UCM this semester. These students will graduate from RSHS with 3-5 college credits in math. The math teachers at South continue to work many hours outside of class tutoring students through office hours, tutorial time or via countless emails. They have seen an increase in students staying after class for tutoring due to the new schedule adopted for second semester. While math is a challenge to learn and teach virtually, the students and teachers have stepped up to this challenge and have established a solid educational climate in the virtual setting.

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Parent/Community Focus

- State Champions Cardettes team earned 1st place in 3A Prop Dance and 5th place in 3A Precision dance category in the Missouri Dance Team Association State Competition.
- Charles B. Wolfe was selected for All State Orchestra.
- The Raytown South High Jazz Band participated in the Virtual MNU Jazz Festival. The group received a II+ (Excellent) rating. Makari Locke (12), Charles Wolfe (11), and Philip Wolfe (9) received outstanding soloist awards. At the Virtual Pittsburg State University Jazz Festival. They received a I (Outstanding) Rating. Charles Wolfe (11), Makari Locke (12), and Kale Sipes (12) received outstanding musicianship awards.
- Boys State SHS representatives Nathaniel Osciak 2022 and George Hanson 2020.
- Thessalonias Ryan received a GOLD (top rating) on Solo for Solo & Ensemble.
- Freshman Carys Shelley received a SILVER rating on solo for Solo and Ensemble contest this year!
- Speech and Debate -This weekend Raytown South competed at the MSHSAA district tournament. The following students advanced to finals: Kali Ellis and Natasha Story took 8th in Duo interpretation. Trinity Houts won poetry, taking first place, and will represent us at the State tournament next month. Sophomores Breanna Bonner & Trinity Mae Houts. Breanna qualified in Informative Speaking and Trinity Mae in Program of Oral Interpretation.
- SH Track Event Champions at Blue Springs South Track Tuesday night.: Markayla Lottie - Triple Jump; Zaya Akins - 200m Dash; Nia Shields, Markayla Lottie, Tachelle Thomas, Zaya Akins - 4x100m Relay. At Ray-Pec, 1st Place:Zaya Akins 100 meters Ja'Nyiah Davis High Jump Markayla Lottie Triple Jump; Travon Bray-Howard 300 M Hurdles. At Lee's Summit North Invitational:100m - Zaya Akins, 1st Place; 400m - Zaya Akins, 1st Place; 4x100m Relay - Nia Shields, Markayla Lottie, Tachelle Thomas, Zaya Akins, 1st Place; Triple Jump - Markayla Lottie, 2nd Place; Javelin - Marcus Foster, 2nd Place
- All-Conference Tack Athletes: Jiyani Thompson- 1st Team All-District, 2nd Team Amrri Thompson- 2nd Team All-District, 2nd Team All-Conference; Dy'Anna Nicholson-Honorable Mention All-District, Shawndale Ross, 2nd Team All Conference VBBB; Desman Bows and Kobe Shahib All District Team
- Congratulations to Marcus Foster. His throw of 40.94m (134' 3.75") in the Javelin is a new school record!
- Jasmine Alcantara, South's First Lady All-State Wrestler!
- Congrats to the Thompson twins for being selected to the Class 5 D 13 All-District Teams! Jiji making First Team, second selection and Riri making Second Team in her first selection!
- Tommy Massurawas chosen as Technology Support Staff Employee of the Year.
- The Fire and Ice Robotics team who placed 1st runner-up for the design award in the Northwest League of the @FTCMORRegional Competition. The team is made up of students from Raytown High a @RQSSouthHigh

Upcoming School Events

- For current updates and news follow us on the Twitter @RQSSouthHigh.

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Raytown Middle School

Academic Focus

- MAP week I: MAP preparation has been the emphasis for the past few months and students are now working to complete week one of their ELA assessment. Each department worked with their students to make connections to their learning by teaching test-taking strategies aligned with content standards/activities. Although distance learning has been a challenge, teachers have worked tirelessly to ensure their students are ready to test.
- Foreign Language students explore the Spanish and French geography, language, and culture throughout the semester. The use of authentic materials, such as songs, to learn a new language and culture has many advantages for learning a new language, i.e. assimilation of syntax, memorization, and pronunciation. A popular song, “La Gozadera” by La Gente de Zona (Cuban reggaeton) was employed via music video. The song provided students an opportunity to recall the Spanish speaking countries. The importance of using language learning tools, such as cognates, prior knowledge and visual cues, were also emphasized for overall comprehension of the lyrics. Students used these tools to unlock the cultural information embedded within the song.
- FACS students were enlightened by the importance of eating a balanced breakfast. Students learned how eating breakfast can give them more energy preventing them from falling asleep in class. The importance of protein was demonstrated using nutritional facts, and food sources that contain protein. This lesson also included informing students that eggs are an inexpensive source of protein. Students were encouraged to eat breakfast daily at home or school. A food lab was used to demonstrate how simple ingredients have a huge impact on your body.

Parent/Community Focus

- RMS Broadcast club sponsored its first annual essay contest for Black History Month with the prompt, “*Is it important to have Black History Month, or should it be considered part of American History?*” This topic allowed the students to instill higher order thinking to answer this question of curricula stature in essay form. This year, two winners, Abigail Stuart and Naria Burton were awarded with a gift card as well as the opportunity to read their essay live on KUAW Internet Radio.
- Soccer Club began their first practice on March 25 and has gained 25 dedicated members. Many of the beginners are excited and ready to learn the sport. We also have experienced players who are enjoying the extra practice. Students are learning new skills, connecting as a team, and scrimmaging against each other. Overall it is going well and we are excited for the rest of the season!

Upcoming School Events

- Spring Orchestra Concert Monday May 17, 2021 at 6 pm
- Eight Grade Celebration Tuesday May 18, 2021 from 3-5 pm
- Student Recognition Night Thursday May 20, 2021 at 5:30 pm
- Spring Band Concert/Virtual Tuesday May 13, 2021
- For current updates and highlights, follow us on RMS Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/Raytown-Middle-School-106165480742984>

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Raytown South Middle School

Academic Focus

- Besides planning and prepping for grade level assessments, teachers at South Middle have begun the necessary work of strengthening their professional learning communities and content teams by reviewing the data review team process, reviewing and establishing team norms, creating a collective commitment statement and posting personal goals for next year with regard to their professional learning communities. Teachers are also brainstorming possible topics for exploration and inquiry around instruction and their content. PLCs are the laboratories of experimentation for teachers and it is through this process that best practice and instructional prowess can flourish. By doing this work now, we can ensure we hit the ground running next fall.

Parent/Community Focus

- A group of teachers, led by the PBIS team, organized a window painting party in anticipation of MAP testing. Teachers stayed after school on a Friday to paint positive and encouraging messages to students. We appreciate our teacher's commitment to their students and I know students enjoyed the bright and colorful art as they entered the building. Way to go South Middle!

Upcoming School Events

- South Middle will be hosting a virtual assembly to celebrate this past year on Friday, May 7th. We will be handing out awards for Honor Roll, Principal's Honor Roll, attendance, and other department awards. Ms. Romero and the jazz band will be performing and a few lucky students will be throwing a pie in the face of their favorite teachers. Our students have been absolute troopers this past year and we are looking forward to celebrating with them.

Raytown Central Middle School

Academic Focus

- CMS Teachers and Staff have been working with students this month preparing for our grade level assessments that take place at the end of April and first week of May. Despite limited contact time with students fact-to-face, I have been so impressed with the intentionality of our teachers with the in-person learning time they have, and the use of supplemental asynchronous work to keep moving students forward in their learning. Each time I am in a classroom I am so grateful to see our students engaged in their learning, and participating through the asking and answering of thoughtful questions.

Parent/Community Focus

Upcoming School Events

- Band Concert May 11th at 8:00pm in the Gymnasium
- Orchestra Concert at SHS at 7:00pm
- We will host our annual Academic Awards Recognition night on May 13th at 6:30pm for our 8th grade students in the Gymnasium.

Raytown Success Academy

Academic Focus

- Social/Emotional Skills
- Spring GLA's Grade 3-8th
- Spring EOC Testing

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Parent/Community Focus

- Pancake Breakfast April 30th
- Vaccine Days (Students 16+)- RHS April 26th & May 17th

Upcoming School Events

- Teacher/ Staff Appreciation May 3rd-7th
- Senior Reception May 7th-Bauer Hall
- Retirement Celebration- Wanda Willis May 5th- Bauer Hall
- Retirement Celebration-Lori Forte' May 12th-Bauer Hall

Northwood

Academic Focus

- Individualized Education Goals
- Spring GLA's Grades 3-8
- Spring MAP-A grades 3-8 and 11.

Parent/Community Focus

- Vaccine Clinic at RHS April 26th & May 17

Upcoming School Events

- Northwood Graduation, May 5 at 5 PM (RHS Auditorium)
- Retirement Celebration for Jan Jonas-Date TBD
- NW/RSA Summer School June 2-June 29

Herndon Career Center & Southland CAPS

Academic Focus

- Students in all programs have been completing certification testing or capstone projects.
- Students of the Year for each program were recognized for their growth and leadership.
 - Ashlynn Jensen, Advertising Art & Graphic Design
 - Chad Gardner, Animal Health Science
 - Conner Mosburg, Auto Collision
 - Ethan Tye, Auto Technology
 - Jazmin Allen, Business Innovation & Creation
 - Mason Estes, Construction Technology
 - Cydni Shaver, Cosmetology
 - Elizabeth Baker, Culinary Arts
 - Zach Fennewald, Diesel Mechanics
 - Annette Gujjarro, Education Exploration
 - Emma Rogers, Emergency Medical Technician
 - Brisa Campos, Foundations of Nursing, Pratt
 - Anamia West, Foundations of Nursing, Plesser
 - Daniel Houts, HVAC/Industrial Maintenance
 - Maddison Cunningham, Law Enforcement, Bowers
 - Sydney Fris, Law Enforcement, Huth
 - Kore Walker, Technology Solutions
 - Isaiah Mims, Turf Management & Horticulture
 - Cole Davis, Welding, Wise
 - Gage Selley, Welding, Bergschneider

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Parent/Community Focus

- Each program area selected an Industry Partner of the Year for their support of our programs and students.
 - Steel City Media, Advertising Art & Graphic Design
 - KC Pet Project, Animal Health Science
 - Molle Toyota, Auto Collision
 - O'Reilly Auto Parts, Auto Technology
 - Morgan Miller Plumbing, Business Innovation & Creation
 - Royal Door, Construction Technology
 - Kim Adkins, State Beauty, Cosmetology
 - Frank Dominguez, Culinary Arts
 - Langer Tow, Diesel Mechanics
 - Spring Valley Elementary, Education Exploration
 - John Knox Village Public Safety, Emergency Medical Technician
 - Scrub Hub, Foundations of Nursing
 - Temp-Con Inc., HVAC/Industrial Maintenance
 - Worlds of Fun Security Department, Law Enforcement
 - Brummel Lawn & Landscaping, Turf Management & Horticulture
 - Royal Metal, Welding
- Meet the Teacher for 2021-22 students was held on April 29 via Zoom.

Upcoming School Events

- May 7: Senior Signing Day Video Released
- May 12: Awards Video Released