



RMS Newsletter

May 2017



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents/Guardians,

RMS students have completed ISTEP testing and are excited about the last month of school. We have a lot of exciting things happening during the Month of May:

6th Grade Science Central Field Trip – May 9th

8th Grade Reality Fair – May 9th

8th Grade Century Career Center Field Trip – May 10th

Junior Achievement Field Trip – May 12th

7th Grade Field Trip to Indy 500 – May 16th

Choir Concert – May 16th

Washington D.C. Trip for NJHS – May 16th – May 21st

8th Grade Breakfast – May 26th

8th Grade Choir Beef and Boards – May 24th

NWEA Testing – May 22nd, 23rd, 25th

May 30th – Last Day of School

RMS teachers are offering study tables every Tuesday and Thursday after school until 4 p.m. Please check Canvas often to keep up with your student's grades, and see their assignments on a daily basis. F.A.S.T. FRIDAY's – (Friday After School Study Tables) are every Friday from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. for students whom are missing assignments.

If at any time you have a question or concern; Please do not hesitate to contact us at RMS. My email address is: Oscar.haughs@zebras.net, and our school phone number is: 574-223-2280.

Thank you for your time and dedication to your students!

Oscar C. Haughs

Principal RMS

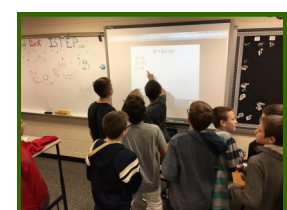
Rochester Middle School Escape Rooms!



The students at Rochester Middle School competed in a post-ISTEP celebration Escape Room Challenge. Six teachers at RMS worked together to design an escape room that could accommodate any room in the middle school. Clues were designed off of items that are found in every classroom, such as clocks, windows, Smartboards, and telephones. Not only did the Escape Room involve academic challenges, but it also incorporated 21st century skills, including teamwork, problem solving, and critical thinking. After the teachers collaborated to create the clues, we did a test run of the Escape Room with the rest of the staff during a professional development time. The staff were divided into three classrooms and completed the same challenge we hoped to perform with the kids. The purpose of this was two-fold. First, we wanted to make sure the clues were adequate and that they actually flowed in the way we intended. Second, it was also a great team-bonding activity for the staff. Many commented that it was a fun way to

start their day and that they were excited to do the activity with their students. At the end of the testing, the students were told to report to their homerooms with only their iPads. Students had no idea what to expect as our administrators read an introduction about surviving their Homeroom Escape Challenge and instructed teachers to play the first clue, a Morse Code. Students had to figure out what the code was and then look up a translator. This clue led them to the clock, which was a word puzzle focusing on capitalization, leading them to the window. Clues included deciphering an anagram to uncover Betsy Ross, leading them to the flag, a picture puzzle that directed them to the telephone, and number codes using the phone to find their next clue. Students scanned QR codes with other clues, and had to solve a math problem, which if they missed, incurred a time penalty or jumping jacks before reworking the problem. If they got it correct, the teacher provided the next clue which was a binary code in our learning management

system, initiating their ESCAPE and finding our administrators in the secret location spelled out by the code. Students competed in their homerooms and were extremely engaged throughout the entire process. They worked together and solved the clues and were thrilled each time they solved one! Students celebrated with a sucker in the final location, and the first homeroom from each grade level was recognized and awarded bragging rights. Students and staff alike had an amazing time in the first-ever RMS Escape Challenge!



Study Skills & Preparing for College & Careers



Study Skills Classes

Study Skills classes have been applying their Learning Styles Study Strategies to review material in a class of their choice. Their projects included reorganizing class notes, writing log summaries, creating online review games, posters, flashcards, graphs, and graphic organizers. These projects helped students better understand and review the material covered in their classes and can help them better prepare for tests and quizzes. They have been doing a great job of sharpening their essay writing skills. Students will be practicing writing a letter to one of their teachers, as they report on their Learning Styles Application Project. They also will be perfecting their cursive hand-

writing. Seventh Grade Study Skills students are preparing a written speech with a PowerPoint report on a famous inspirational person. They will continue to learn more about current events by reading the Newsela News Articles. Their nonfiction reading comprehension skills will be practiced by focusing on reading a news article, taking a quiz, and writing the main idea and supporting details. These students have also been studying test taking and memorization strategies.

Preparing for College and Careers Classes

PCC Class has been learning about the Hoosier Hot 50 Jobs, the jobs that are in the highest demand at this time. Students have been researching careers, colleges, and scholarships. Eighth

grade students have learned about the job of an Environmental Engineer and other careers through choosing a Newsela Dream Jobs article. We will continue to research more about preparing for careers, job training opportunities, and colleges. They also will analyze SAT writing samples and complete SAT college entrance exam practice questions. Our class is continuing to learn about investing, taxes, social security, and preparing a budget. PCC students will be attending a future financial preparation field trip to the Junior Achievement Finance Park on May 12.

PARENT/STUDENT MEETING for NJHS Washington DC Trip

There will be a parent and student meeting on Thursday, May 4th at 5:15 in the RMS commons **for all students attending** the Washington DC trip. Please email Mrs. Cripe if you are not able to attend.

NJHS-Washington DC Trip Information

The 8th grade NJHS students will be attending their Washington DC trip from May 16-21. Students who are going on the trip will need to be in the RMS commons Tuesday, May 16th between 6:45-7:00 p.m. The bus will leave promptly at 7:30 p.m. Students should expect to return on Sunday, May 21 approximately at 7:00 a.m.

7th Grade



Math

The month of May, in math, will be spent studying how math is used in a variety of careers. We will also be working ahead with some 8th grade topics like Pythagorean Theorem and transformations.

Language Arts

Seventh graders will be reading the novel "*Touching Spirit Bear*" in English during the month of May. They will be working on vocabulary and reading comprehension skills.

Social Studies

Social Studies in the seventh grade will be covering Australia and the Great Barrier Reef, along with Native American Folklore.

Science

Seventh graders will be continuing to study causes & treatment of diseases & begin exploring the world of micro-organisms in Science class. Later in May they will have a mini-unit on the Physics of the Indy 500.

Mrs. Long's Success students are currently working on constructing rockets. We will launch them when they are all put together sometime in the next few weeks.

INDY 500 Field Trip

The 7th grade class will be taking their annual trip to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway to watch practice for the INDY 500 on Tuesday May 16th. Everyone always looks forward to this yearly adventure. We will leave school after school begins but will not get back until 4:00 pm. Lunches will be provided. Prior to our trip students will have lessons over the physics involved in racing. Also included in the pre-trip lessons are history and legends of the race and fun trivia. Students and staff alike are looking forward to the month of May and the "Greatest Spectacle in Racing."



Choir Auditions & Concert

Attention 8th graders! High School Choir Auditions for Harmonia (Girls Choir) and Manitous (Top Mixed Choir) are going to be the week of May 1st! Check the announcements for details! There will be three nights of auditions, and you are only required for one of those nights!

May 16 is the RMS Choir Concert, in the RHS Auditorium. Seventh and eighth grade will have their concert at 6:30 p.m. with the call time at 6:00 p.m. Sixth grade will have their concert at 7:30 p.m. with the call time at 7:00 p.m.

*Please note the time changes due to the NJHS field trip to D.C.!

Notre Dame Field Trip

The 8th graders traveled to South Bend to visit the University of Notre Dame campus on Tuesday, April 11th. The day included a tour of the campus, including stops at the Basilica, the Grotto, and various other points of interest on the campus. The highlight of the day for many was an all-you-can-eat lunch in the student union. Students also visited the new bookstore, and viewed a short video about the history of Notre Dame. The 8th grade teachers hope this trip encouraged students to be diligent in their studies and strive for higher education.

Reality Store & Career Center

On May 9th, the 8th grade students will participate in the Reality Store, in which they will experience a taste of real life. They will be provided a salary (minus taxes) and a fictitious family.

At the Reality Store, they must provide housing, child care, transportation, and food for their family. They must also buy insurance and experience unexpected expenses. If money is available, they can purchase extras such as pets and vacations. For some, it will be quite a revelation of all the expenses that are included in a normal month.

The goal of this experience is to understand the importance of studying and working towards a good job that will provide well for them and their future family.

On May 10th, they will travel to the Career Center in Logansport, which will show them various career opportunities as well.

21st Century Scholars-COLLEGE TUITION ASSISTANCE -- All students should apply



How to apply

The 21st Century Scholars application is only available online. Eligible 7th and 8th grade students and their parents or legal guardians can access the online application at www.Scholars.IN.gov. Applications must be submitted by June 30 of the student's 8th grade year. Please review income eligibility requirements online before applying by visiting www.Scholars.IN.gov/enroll.

What you need before you apply

Student's Social Security Number, date of birth, mailing address and contact information

Parent or guardian's Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, if applicable 2016 taxable gross income amounts for all members of the household.

A valid email address (free email accounts are available at yahoo.com, gmail.com, hotmail.com or live.com)—this is an email address that the student has access to use.

Need Help Additional Help??

Stop by Rochester Middle School this spring and we will help you apply at our Parent Center. Feel free to call or email Mr. Kreamer with questions: 574-223-2280 ext. 6005 or nathan.kreamer@zebras.net.

Parent Center Hours: Mon-Thurs. 8:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m.-Noon

Technology Classes

6th-grade students will be doing presentations about a business idea that they have. They will need to make a presentation, logo, business card, business plan, website, and a sales spreadsheet.

7th-grade students will be completing a project where they created an invention. This month they will be creating a 3D model, a physical model, and a commercial for their invention.

8th-grade students will be creating 3D models of automoblox cars.

8th Grade



Math

During the month of May the Pre-Algebra students will work on a project. They will work in groups to create their own Monopoly board, based on a theme of their choosing. Each group will need a poster board as well as other supplies to create their working game board.

Algebra students will continue to work through Chapter 10 of the textbook. On May 11th they will receive a review packet for their Final Exam. The review packet will be due on May 23rd. They will take the Final Exam on May 24th. Students going to Washington DC with NJHS will need to plan on finishing their packet before they leave on the trip.

Science

We have a lot happening to wrap up our school year. Please check CANVAS frequently for activities and assignments.

Students will continue to take small formative assessments over our current Weather and Climate unit. Students are allowed to use ANY and ALL notes from their science journals for the quizzes.

Students have had some interesting weather observations this spring, like experiencing all four seasons in just about a week! We also compared how our weather can be similar to other climates like a rain forest or even the arctic. Students have commented on how fickle Indiana weather can be, but also interesting to study. Several students have mentioned that being a weatherperson might not be a bad job....you still get paid even when you are wrong!

Social Studies

Students in 8th grade Social Studies wrapped up the month of April by learning about what life was like in different parts of the United States in the mid 1800s. These different lifestyles, and opinions on state rights, will lead us into discovering more about the U.S. Civil War during the month of May.

Nurse's Corner

Patty Moore R.N.



As the nurse's office begins to wind down for this school year, the nurse's office also starts preparing for the next school year. Some things that can be completed over the summer prior to returning to school are:

Immunizations for any incoming 6th grade student. On 6th grade orientation night, each child will be given a copy of their immunization and a letter letting them know what immunizations they might need.

Sports Physicals. Sports physicals can be signed by a Doctor, Nurse Practitioner, Doctor of Osteopathic, or a Physician's Assistant. RMS requires what the IHSSA mandates.

The Summer Parks Program will run from June 12- June 30 from 8 a.m. to 12 (noon). The cost is \$60.00 per child. Call the City Parks Department for more details and to register.

In the fall, all incoming 8th grade students will be given an eye exam. If your child sees an eye doctor over the summer, please turn in a copy of the results to Mrs. Moore.

6th Grade

6th graders have been very busy since spring break! First of all, we are FINALLY going to be taking our field trip to Science Central on May 9th. Please watch for permission slips to come home in the near future. This is a great opportunity for our students to learn in a very engaging, exciting atmosphere, as well as show off their knowledge about the solar system from earlier in the school year.

Currently in **Science**, students have been working on ecosystems, reptiles, warm and cold blooded animals, and preparing for the upcoming ISTEP test.

Social Studies has been filled with students learning about stocks and trading through an investment game.

In **English**, we have been reading a novel as we learn about the Holocaust and World War II. Ask your student whether they read *Number the Stars* or *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* and have them tell you all about the book!

Finally, in **Math** students have been discussing inequalities and fractions.

We have many fun things coming up throughout the last month of school. As always, please keep current by using Canvas and contact us if you have any questions or concerns!