

January 2018

RMS Newsletter



From the Principal's Desk

Where has the time gone? We are half way through the 2017-2018 school year. I hope all of our students, and their families got to spend a lot of time together over the Holiday Season. As we wrap up the first semester at RMS and transition into the second semester, we have a lot of exciting things happening.

We completed our NWEA testing with the student body the week before break. The English and Math teachers will be discussing each student's progress with them on an individual basis within the next week. I believe it would be very beneficial for the students to show you their progress and discuss with you at home where they stand from the beginning of the school year. We will take the NWEA test again in May, and as an RMS staff will be looking at the growth of each individual student over the 2017-2018 school year.

We have welcomed a few new staff members to RMS over winter break. Ms. Kenzie Collins is joining the 7th grade team as our language arts teacher. Mr. Bernotus is also joining the 7th grade team as our social studies teacher. Mr. Todd Wilson is taking over the Project Lead the Way position at RMS.

During winter break RMS classrooms received all new lighting fixtures. We are excited about the new LED lighting! The classrooms are a lot brighter and the lights no longer flicker. This is a tremendous upgrade and will benefit our teachers and students moving forward. This is all made possible by a generous donation by the Dick Belcher family. We appreciate the Belcher family's support of the RCSC school corporation

RMS will continue to have individualized Wednesdays during the second semester. We are seeing a lot of positive gains from this individualized instruction. Please take time to talk with your student about this experience and stress the importance of their individual growth for their future success. The Math department will continue to use IXL diagnostic for individualized Wednesday. Language Arts will be using several programs that will allow for individual instruction in language arts and reading.

RMS teachers are offering study tables every Tuesday and Thursday after school until 4 pm. Please check Canvas often to keep up with your student's grades, and see their assignments on a daily basis.

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

7th Grade



7th grade math will start our new nine weeks solving equations and inequalities. Hopefully the lack of snow will help us get ready in time for the first round of ISTEP testing the first of March. If you are ever looking for some math practice for your 7th grader, they can also go into IXL and practice the lessons recommended for them at their level.

7th grade science classes will begin a new unit on Understanding Matter when we return from winter break. We will explore the following essential questions: 1. How do particles move in solids, liquids, & gases? 2. How are physical properties different from chemical properties? 3. How are properties used to identify a substance? 4. How are physical changes different from chemical changes? 5. How do physical changes and chemical changes affect mass?

The 7th grade team welcomes Ms. Kenzie Collins, who will be teaching **language arts** the second semester.

Honor Choir

We want to wish good luck to Katie Stewart, Sophia Freeman, and Parker Wallace as they head to Fort Wayne on January 11-12 to participate in the Indiana All-State Children's and Middle School Honor Choir! These students were selected through an audition process to participate with 140 other singers from around the state. They will be rehearsing all day Thursday and most of Friday, then performing in the beautiful Embassy Theater in downtown Fort Wayne late Friday afternoon as part of the Indiana Music Educator's Conference.

ATTENTION PARENTS: If you have a new address, phone number, or email; it is very important that you update this information by calling the school! Our number is 223-2280. Thank you!

REPORT CARDS will be available on Harmony on January 10th. Please watch your email for notification that they have been posted.

8th Grade

Science

Your 8th grade scientist will study chapter 5, Chemical Reactions and Equations. Students will learn and understand chemical reactions, types of chemical reactions and how energy changes.

Social Studies

Students in 8th grade social studies will be working on an essay about a Constitutional Amendment that they have chosen. We will then begin learning

more about the Early Republic of the United States.

Math

Pre-Algebra students will work on Functions and Scatter Plots. We will start preparing for the ISTEP Test that is coming up at the end of February.

Algebra students will work on Systems of Equations and Inequalities. We will also work on properties of exponents

English

8th grade English students will continue study-

ing argumentative writing and the process of turning their argumentative essay from social studies class into a speech.

21st Century Scholars-COLLEGE TUITION ASSISTANCE



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. If applying after December 31, 2017, please use 2017 gross income. A valid email address, this is an email address that the student has access to use.

Need Help Additional Help??

Stop by Rochester Middle School 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 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Friday 8a.m. to noon.

6th Grade

6th Graders have enjoyed an AWESOME December at RMS. The kids were able to attend a wonderful performance of the musical "A Christmas Carol" at the beautiful Lerner Theatre in Elkhart. The students were extremely well behaved and it truly was an excellent performance. In addition, they participated in their first RMS Etiquette Dinner. The kids had a great time enjoying a nice meal, practicing proper table manners, and conversing with school staff and community members. Check out the RMS Facebook page (Rochester Middle School) and our twitter feed (@RMSZebras) for pictures of these special events.

Our classes have also been extremely busy wrapping up the semester! In **math**, students have been working on an "If I Had a Million Dollars" project in which they get to dream BIG and spend money however they choose, with certain stipulations. This has helped them work on calculation of taxes and percents, as well as basic calculations. It has been fun for the teachers to see what the kids would spend their money on. Ask your student how they spent their \$1,000,000! In **English**, students read the Charles Dickens classic "A Christmas Carol" and then have finished the semester by creating iMovies depicting different Christmas traditions around the world. Students have continued to learn maps of South America, Canada, Central America, and Southern Europe in their **social studies** class. In addition, they have spent a great deal of time discussing current events. Finally, our student **scientists** have been creating murals displaying how food chains work in different biomes, as well as reviewing course topics discussed throughout the school year.

We have truly enjoyed this amazing first semester with the students and are looking forward to the second half of the year. The 6th grade teachers and staff hope you enjoyed your holiday break with your families and friends!

Paying Textbook Rental Online Through Harmony



- 1) Log into Harmony
- 2) From the Menu icon, select "TBR Balance" OR scroll down to select Blue "Make A Payment" link
- 3) Select "Textbooks" to pay for textbook rental
- 4) Enter the amount desired to pay & billing information
- 5) Select "Continue"
- 6) Enter Credit Card Information
- 7) Select Submit
- 8) Print Confirmation page, if desired (Not necessary if email address provided-transaction will generate a receipt to email address for confirmation)

Yearbook Orders

Deadline-February 16

Yearbook-\$30

Personalization-\$5

Icons-\$3 each

Orders can be taken to the office, to Mrs. Wilhite in room 104, or submitted online at jostensyearbooks.com.

Homework Hotline

1-877-ASK-ROSE (1-877-275-7673)

HOMWORK HOTLINE ABOUT HOW IT WORKS MEET OUR TUTORS > STUDENT RESOURCES EDUCATOR RESOURCES EMAIL A TUTOR

HOW IT WORKS

From "Huh?" to "Aha!" – rather than simply giving students answers, Homework Hotline tutors help students truly comprehend the questions, arrive at the answers themselves, and prepare to tackle similar questions on their own.

When students are stumped by a math or science problem:

- 1 They can call, email or chat online with a friendly tutor.
- 2 The tutor starts the session by reviewing the problem.
- 3 The tutor guides students through the problems until he/she understands the solution.

How a call WORKS

Call 1-877-ASK-ROSE
OR Click the Email a Tutor Link on the Homework Hotline website



Let's fight the flu together!

Influenza is a contagious disease of the respiratory tract. Respiratory tract includes your nose, throat and lungs. Flu symptoms may include fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and muscle aches. The best way to protect your family is to get a yearly vaccine. Other ways to prevent the flu are to follow healthy habits such as eating right, exercise and get plenty of rest to help boost your immunity to fight the effects of the flu. Washing your hands frequently, coughing into your elbow and using disinfectant are also preventative measures. If you do come down with the flu make sure you see your doctor to be properly diagnosed and get the treatment you need.

Dry Air = Nose Bleeds

The main cause of nose bleeds is dry air! A dry climate or indoor heating irritates and dries out the nasal passages, causing crusty areas that may be irritating to the nasal membranes. When these areas are scratched or picked they cause bleeding. If a nose bleed does occur tilt your head slightly forward and gently pinch the soft part of the nose with a tissue.

4 RULES FOR AFTER A NOSEBLEED

NO BLOWING
NO SNIFFING
NO RUBBING
NO PICKING

NOSE BLEED PREVENTION

Saltwater (saline) drops daily!
Humidifier or vaporizer in the home!
No nose picking!