

## Secondary School Monthly Update to Board of Education January 2015



### Raytown High School

#### Academic Focus

- Members of the English and Math Departments are taking the practice EOC exam in Algebra I and English II. They are finding this to be a very educational opportunity that will better inform them of what students will be expected to do on the EOC exams this spring. Teachers will use this experience and the knowledge gained to enhance instruction.
- The Building Leadership Team (BLT) has been working with their respective departments to complete the first Data Review Team cycle focused on Questioning. The groups will begin the second phase of the process during January. During this phase teachers will again visit colleague's classrooms for short observations. The focus will be on enhancing and creating a question rich environment.

#### Activity Focus

- **RHS Girls' Swimming:** Sydney Jackson (9th grade) has qualified for State Diving. She is the granddaughter of RC Jones, retired RQS teacher.
- **RHS Chess Team:** Won first place out of 14 schools at the Fort Osage Chess Tournament. The team is sponsored by RHS Science teacher Kim Lemons.

#### Upcoming School Events

- **RHS Boys' Basketball:** will compete in the Hy-Vee Shoot-out on Saturday, Dec. 20 at 7:30 pm at Avila University. The boy's will be playing Shawnee Mission East HS. They will also be competing in the Wm. Jewell Holiday Tournament (Dec. 26-31). Their first game is on December 26 at 7:30 pm against St. Joseph Central HS.
- **RHS Girls' Basketball:** will compete in the Penn Valley Tournament (Dec. 26-29). Their first game is on December 26 at 5:30 pm against Northeast HS
- **RHS Wrestling:** will compete at the Raytown South Tournament (Dec. 19-20). They will also journey to Springfield for the Kenloch Classic (Jan. 2-3).
- **RHS Marching Pride:** will march in the New Year's Eve Evening Parade at Walt Disney World/Magic Kingdom (Orlando, Florida).
- **RHS Theatre:** in collaboration with RSHS Theater will reprise their performance of School House Rock for the MO Thespian's Conference at the Music Hall (KCMO) January 8-9. This opportunity is by invitation only and is a huge honor for both programs.

### Raytown South High School

#### Academic Focus

- Sophomore Counselor Karen Sinco offers small group counseling experiences this school year 2014-2015.
  - Organizational Skills Boot Camp: This group focuses on organizational skills needed for academic achievement
  - Heartstrings: This group deals with the grief and loss of a loved one

- Changing Families: This group is for students who have had changes in their living situation, addition or subtraction of family members.
- Turning Point: This group is for students living with chronically ill or terminally ill family members
- Safe Place: (co – facilitated with CADR Sarah Oliver) Provides resources for students currently considered homeless.

#### **Parent/Community/Activity Focus**

- Raytown South High School Student Council students recently had their annual Children's Holiday Party with over 300 people attending. They have been collaborating in committees designing party activities for 72 children that were recommended by Elementary School Counselors. Special thanks to Art teacher Ashley Carter and Social Studies Irene Bozikis. Math teacher Michele Anderson was one of the original founders of this activity in 1998. This year over \$4000 was spent on the party and gifts. It is the 17<sup>th</sup> year for this activity and approximately \$100,000 has been raised since the activity began. The money is collected from individual staff members throughout the district and supplemented by our school dance revenues. Activities included a Holiday Stocking Walk, Ornament making tables, Snow man building, and Christmas gifts from Santa. The Jazz band performed and Santa read the night before Christmas. There was pizza, cookies, and refreshments provided compliments of RSHS FCCLA, RSHS Student Council, and Raytown High's Student Council. We can all be proud in sharing this activity either directly or indirectly
- Mrs. Oliver and Ms. Hudgens also worked together with the Counseling team to determine the best way to support our high school at-risk homeless students for the Christmas holidays. The team purchased hoodies, hygiene products, socks, fun food items, hats and gloves to give to each student in need. The students received the gift bags prior to leaving for the holiday break.

#### **Upcoming School Events**

- Herndon sign up for classes next year
- Yearbook sales
- Football conditioning
- Girls Freshman Basketball Tournaments
- Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Tournaments
- Girls Varsity Basketball Tournaments
- Boys Freshman Basketball Tournaments
- Boys Junior Varsity Basketball Tournaments
- Boys Varsity Basketball Tournaments
- Wrestling Tournaments
- Girls Swimming
- Academic Team Competitions
- NHS Community Service
- Future Teachers Club Activities
- Courtwarming

### **Raytown Success Academy**

#### **Academic Focus**

- Questioning
- STAR Math and STAR Reading Test
- Purpose of Culturally Responsive Teaching at RSA

- Differentiation Teaching Strategies
- HiSET testing

**Parent/Community/Activity Focus**

- Weekly Attendance Awards
- Monthly Attendance Incentives
- Level Celebration

**Upcoming School Events**

- None for January

**Herndon Career Center**

**Academic Focus**

- Students in the Climate and Energy Program took and passed EPA exams. Having the certifications allows students more opportunities for employment.
- Law Enforcement students visited KCPD headquarters, the Jackson County Jail, and Municipal Court to see a variety of law enforcement careers and hear from professionals
- Advertising Art & Graphic Design students went to Penn Valley's Graphic Design Portfolio Presentations to learn about post-secondary transition opportunities and see what standards industry needs for students to meet.

**Parent/Community/Activity Focus**

- Herndon hosted Career Night on December 4 for prospective parents and students to learn more about programs.
- Staff are presenting at sending middle and high schools about Herndon to help provide information to prospective students about opportunities at Herndon and beyond.
- Online enrollment is active with over 380 applications already submitted for the 2015-16 school year.

**Northwood**

**Academic Focus**

- State DLM Assessment
  - Continued focus on individualized educational goals

**Parent/Community/Activity Focus**

- NW Parent Support Group (Holiday Open House & Student Polar Express Party)
  - December 9, 2014 6:30-7:30 PM

**Upcoming School Events**

- Northwood Parent/Student Dinner & Dance
  - February 2015
  - MAP-A Testing

**Raytown Middle School**

**Academic Focus**

- As a follow up to November's PD on Reading For Meaning, December's work consisted of three parts: 1) Participating in a Today's Meet focused on four questions: Q #1: Describe your planning process for creating the RFM activity. Include obstacles that occurred and how you overcame them. Q #2: How did you observe this strategy to set the stage for

student thinking? Give example(s). Q #3: How might you improve your next lesson? What would you keep the same or what would you change? Q #4: Reading for Meaning Is....? Teachers followed up with hands up-pair up-share where they shared their process with each other and success (or not) with this strategy and ended with a cold call share out where teachers put their student work/evidence under the document camera and shared their thinking with everyone else. Teachers sharing notes through collaboration was a valuable experience.

#### **Parent/Community/Activity Focus**

- **Pancake Breakfast and Clothing Drive** - On Saturday December 6, the eighth annual pancake breakfast was held at Raytown Middle School sponsored by the RMS Community Outreach Team. As past events reveal, this is a great time for RMS. With can goods donation, families and patrons enjoyed an all you can eat pancake meal while enjoying good music and fellowship. Under the direction of Alex Kolster, Spirit Singers performed a selection of holiday music which highlighted the holiday spirit. This year, a clothing drive was added to support families in our community. The counseling department worked tirelessly to get donations of clothing as well as racks for placement. Forty families benefitted from this event. A special thanks to Jennifer Daleo, Emily McCall, Cynthia Gerdes and the Community Outreach Team for making this event a success.
- **Summit Technology Academy Field Trip** - Under the direction of Cynthia Gerdes, two groups of eight grade students took a trip to Summit Technology Academy. Each group had approximately 35 students. After touring the programs, the prepared presenter engaged students in a conversation about prerequisites for high school and the classes needed in order to attend Summit Technology Academy. Students were selected through the eighth grade guidance curriculum and completion of a Google document. Students displaying an interest were taken on the field trip and it was completely free thanks to a grant. At the end of the trip, all students received a string bag and t-shirt.
- **Wrestling Season** - The Raytown BlueJay Wrestling team started in second season in the same fashion as the first with over forty wrestlers. Our dual, tri, and quad record was 12-4, and RMS took fourth place in total medal count at the Campbell Tournament. We will continue to teach the sport, reinforce character and demonstrate what it means to be a student athlete.
- **Boys Basketball Highlight** - The RMS Boys Basketball A Team is now 5-1 on the season. They have won 1st place in Lewis & Clark Tournament that included Bingham, Center, Nowlin, Osage Trail, Raytown South, Raytown Central, Pioneer Ridge and Raytown Middle. They also have victories over Smith-Hale Middle School and Moreland Ridge. We are on a 4 game winning streak.

#### **Upcoming School Events**

- Major Savor Fundraiser – January 2015

### **Raytown South Middle School**

#### **Academic Focus**

- **News from the Literacy Team:**

- The literacy team presented strategy number two (#2) to the staff during or Monday faculty meeting. Over the next couple of months, our teachers will be incorporating “text sets” into their classrooms. I am excited to see all the creative ways teachers will utilize this strategy to promote literacy across their content areas.
- Our students recently completed the STAR reading assessment and we are seeing that a large number of students have demonstrated growth in their scale scores. I am very proud of the work the Literacy Team is doing and how our teachers have responded!

#### **Parent/Community/Activity Focus**

- **Winter Band Concert:** South Middle has some incredibly talented students and that talent was on display Monday during the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band concert. SM Jazz Band warmed up the crowd with some very inspiring performances. If you have not had the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Kueck in action, I would like to invite you to do so. It is incredible that after 30+ years in the classroom, she still has this much energy. She is truly inspiring and the Raytown School District is fortunate to have her! I am also very pleased with our parent community for their support of our students. As you can see from the picture below, it was a well-attended event.



#### **Upcoming School Events**

- In January we will be hosting another session of Middle School 101 for parents. We will be focusing on 8<sup>th</sup> grade to High School transition. Dinner will be provided!

### **Raytown Central Middle School**

#### **Academic Focus**

- December has been another great month of learning at RCMS! Classroom visits have allowed Administrators and Coordinators to interact with students and their learning. Observations have included students participating in various types of Socratic seminars, Debate students demonstrating their understanding of Student Congress, presentations in English classes, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science students dissecting eyeballs!
- We are excited for the upcoming break to regroup and relax over the next two weeks.
- Our Teacher Leaders are already gearing up for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester and the professional learning opportunities that we will provide for staff during our monthly faculty meetings and some of our Wednesday PLC times together.

#### **Parent/Community/Activity Focus**

- We held our Fall Music (Choir, Band and Orchestra) Concerts in the month of December! Each group did an AMAZING job preparing and performing for their audience. All programs were well attended! The Band program held their concert in the RHS auditorium this year.

The Orchestra program had their first holiday reception following their concert this year. And our Choir program held their concert at Raytown Christian Church this year.

- We have hosted two sessions this semester of “Coffee with the Principal.” This event is sponsored by PTSA and invites parents/guardians in to meet with the Principal once a trimester to address topics of interest and things that are happening at RCMS. So far this year we have discussed topic choices that parents would like more information about, legislative initiatives, and worked in conjunction with our Bookfair to support student literacy. Future topics will include internet safety and awareness.

**Upcoming School Events**

- Winter Break!