REDLANDS MIDDLE SCHOOL

January 2018

Jory Sorensen, Principal | Timothy Fifer, Assistant Principal | Carrie Euler, Secretary | Mary Jacobs-Bachtell, Secretary

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear RMS Parents,

How would Chronic Absenteeism Affect Your Child's Future?
How many absences does your child have this year?

"Students who are absent from school receive fewer hours of instruction; they often leave education early and are more likely to become long term unemployed, homeless, caught in the poverty trap, dependent on welfare and involved in the justice system" (US House of Representatives, 1996 p. 3)."

This statement says it all. Research has proven that chronic absenteeism leads to dropping out of high school and fewer options as an adult. As a society, I don't believe we take the issue of students missing school as serious as we should. Parents often check students out for a long weekend or allow students to stay home for a variety of issues. To make the situation worse, some students are not great at collecting or completing missing work from absences. For all the issues that occur from absenteeism, the good news is, this is an issue that we can solve.

Here is RMS attendance data from the beginning of school until December 22, 2017. This is a total percentage of daily attendance for each grade at RMS. For example, our 6th graders this year have an attendance rate of 95.24%. This means that on average our 6th graders have missed 4.76% of the days during first semester this year. Our students were in school 81 days during first semester, using their attendance rate of 95.24%, this means that the average RMS 6th grader missed 3.85 days last semester. Of course, this is an average, so some students missed 0 days of school, others missed many more than 3.85 days.

School Year	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	Totals
Grade				
6	95.13	94.15	95.24	94.76
7	93.59	94.57	94.3	94.13
8	94.38	93.01	94.47	93.84
Totals	94.37	93.93	94.68	94.26

As a group the students of RMS are attending school at a higher rate than the middle school average in District 51. Missing school for illness and family related issues is okay. The problem occurs when students begin to form habits around poor attendance. I want to encourage you to compare your child's first semester attendance with our school average. Did you child miss more days than the school average? We are working with those students and families who have chronic absenteeism. Good school attendance is essential to providing our students with all of their future options.

Thank you for trusting us with the education of your child. As educators and parents, it is our duty to get students to school as much as possible. Please send your child to school every day!

Jory Sorensen

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS:

Name	Date	Time	Location
NO SCHOOL- TEACHER WORKDAY	Monday January 8		
3RD QUARTER BEGINS	Tuesday January 9		
GIRLS BASKETBALL	Thursday January 11	3:45pm	8th grade @RMS 7th grade @Holy Family
NO SCHOOL- MLK NATIONAL HOLIDAY	Monday January 15		
GIRLS BASKETBALL	Tuesday January 16	3:45pm	8th & 7th grade vs. Debeque MS @RMS 8th grade C team @Fruita 8/9, 5:45pm
GIRLS BASKETBALL	Thursday January 18	3:45pm	8th grade @RMS 7th grade @Orchard Mesa MS
GIRLS BASKETBALL	Monday January 22	3:45pm	8th grade @East MS 7th grade @RMS
PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES	Wednesday January 24	3:00-7:00 pm	RMS
GIRLS BASKETBALL- TOURNAMENT	Thursday January 25	TBD	TBD
GIRLS BASKETBALL- TOURNAMENT	Friday January 26	TBD	TBD
GIRLS BASKETBALL- TOURNAMENT	Saturday January 27	TBD	Bookcliff MS/Bookcliff Activity Center

Thank You to the D51 Education Foundation for purchasing RMS a class set of Chromebooks! Your generosity will benefit our students for years.

REDLANDS MIDDLE SCHOOL GEAR FOR SALE

Stop by the office to purchase Redlands gear!

FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE

Counseling Groups- Winter and Spring 2018

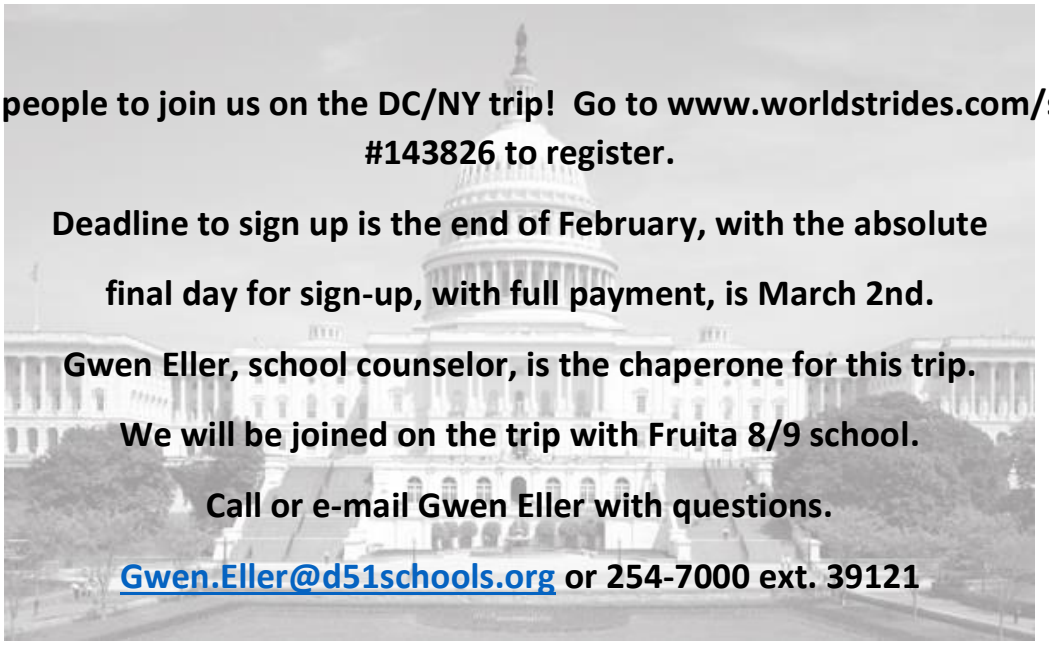
The School Counselors at Redlands Middle School will begin some new counseling groups beginning in Jan/Feb of 2018. The groups that will be offered will be: Changing Families, Grief and a Trauma Group. If you would like to have your child be part of a group or have an issue you would like for a school counselor to address, please feel free to contact us. You can call us at 254-7000 ext. 39121 (Gwen Eller) or ext. 39122 (Shan Mixon) or e-mail- Gwen.Eller@d51schools.org or Shan.Mixon@d51schools.org

2018 WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP INFORMATION

8th GRADE STUDENTS- IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!

Join us on the Washington D.C. and Williamsburg, Virginia trip this year!

June 5th-9th, 2018



We need more people to join us on the DC/NY trip! Go to www.worldstrides.com/signup use trip #143826 to register.

Deadline to sign up is the end of February, with the absolute final day for sign-up, with full payment, is March 2nd.

Gwen Eller, school counselor, is the chaperone for this trip.

We will be joined on the trip with Fruita 8/9 school.

Call or e-mail Gwen Eller with questions.

Gwen.Eller@d51schools.org or 254-7000 ext. 39121

Reminder- this is not a school sponsored activity.

REDLANDS MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

2017-2018 CONCERT PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

ATTENTION 6th GRADE BAND PARENTS!

Mrs. Kamstra made an error on the original concert calendar that was provided to you at the beginning of the year. Our 3rd Quarter concert was indicated to be on Thursday, March 1 but it is actually on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 at 7pm in the RMS Gym. Thank you in advance for making this correction on your family calendar.

ATTENTION ALL 8TH GRADE BAND PARENTS AND STUDENTS!

SAVE THIS DATE and add it to your calendar!! On THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, we will host our 2nd annual "8th Grade Band Mini Lock-In" from 3 to 7pm at RMS. This is basically a big 8th Grade Band celebration and party! More information will be forthcoming soon from Mrs. Kamstra.

Thursday, February 8 – 7th Grade Band and 7th Grade Ensemble Concert
7:00PM, RMS Gym

Friday and Saturday, February 9 and 10 – Band Solo and Ensemble Festival
Friday 4:00-8:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-4:00pm, Grand Mesa MS

Wednesday, February 21 – 6th Grade Band Concert (with 6th Grade Orchestra and Choir)
7:00pm – RMS Gym

Thursday, March 8 – Fruita Cluster Jazz Jam – 7th Grade Jazz and 8th Grade Jazz
7:00pm, Fruita Middle School Auditorium

Middle School Jazz Showcase – 8th Grade Jazz Band only
7:00pm, Palisade High School

Thursday, April 12 7th Grade Band, 8th Grade Band, 8th Grade Jazz Band Pre-Festival Concert
7:00PM, RMS Gym

Thursday and Friday April 19 and 20 - Colorado West Music Festival
Times TBA (during school day) 7th Grade and 8th Grade Bands, 8th Grade Jazz Band

Monday, April 30 – CMU Jazz Festival
Times TBA (during school day) – Jazz Band only

Monday, May 21 – Spring Pops Band Concert
7:00PM, RMS Gym – all band students

REDLANDS MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR ORCHESTRA

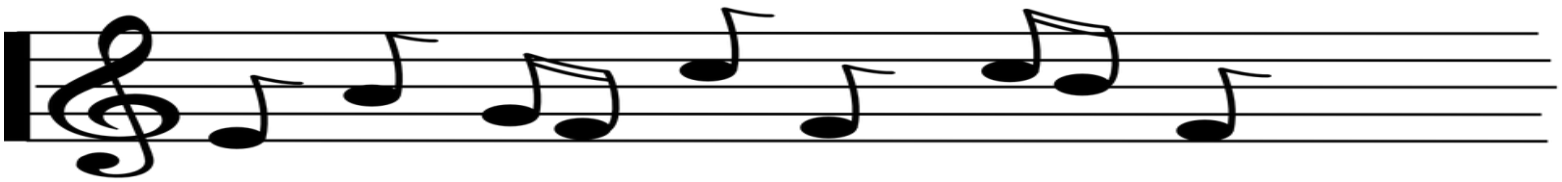
2017-2018 CONCERT PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

6th Grade Choir

Date	Event	Time	Place
Wednesday, February 21, 2018	6th Grade Band, Choir, and Orchestra Concert	7:00	RMS Gym
Friday and Saturday, February 23rd and 24th, 2018	*Solo/ Ensemble*	*Scheduled Individually TBA*	*Grand Mesa Middle School*
Wednesday, May 16, 2018	End of the Year Concert	7:00	RMS Gym

7th and 8th Grade Choir

Date	Event	Time	Place
Friday and Saturday, February 23rd and 24th, 2018	*Solo/ Ensemble*	*Scheduled Individually TBA*	*Grand Mesa Middle School*
Monday, April 16, 2018	Pre-Festival Concert	7:00	RMS Gym
April 18, 19, and 20, 2018 TBA	Colorado West Festival	TBA	Colorado Mesa University
Wednesday, May 16, 2018	End of the Year Concert	7:00	RMS Gym



REDLANDS MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

2017-2018 CONCERT PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

6th Grade Orchestra

Date	Event	Time	Place
Wednesday, February 21, 2018	6th Grade Band, Choir, and Orchestra Concert	7:00	RMS Gym
Friday and Saturday,	*Solo/ Ensemble*	*Scheduled Individually*	*Grand Mesa Middle School*

February 23rd and 24th, 2018		*TBA*	
Thursday, April 26, 2018	6th Grade String Clinic	?	Grand Junction High School?
Wednesday, May 16, 2018	End of the Year Concert	7:00	RMS Gym

7th and 8th Grade Orchestra

Date	Event	Time	Place
Tuesday, January 30, 2018	Combined Fruita and Redlands Concert	7:00	Fruita Middle School Auditorium
Friday and Saturday, February 23rd and 24th, 2018	*Solo/ Ensemble*	*Scheduled Individually TBA*	*Grand Mesa Middle School*
Monday, April 16, 2018	Pre-Festival Concert	7:00	RMS Gym
April 18, 19, and 20, 2018 TBA	Colorado West Festival	TBA	Palisade High School
Wednesday, May 16, 2018	End of the Year Concert	7:00	RMS Gym

HELPFUL INFORMATION

HELPING CHILDREN LEARN IMPULSE CONTROL

As children get older, the challenge of impulse control moves more toward delayed gratification skills, independence with daily tasks, and emotional maturity.

Often children get 'in trouble' at school or at home because of a lack of impulse control. Here are some ideas to help middle school children gain impulse control:

- Role model delayed gratification and impulse control- talk out loud about it and show children examples of choices you make that require impulse control.
- Teach positive self-talk related to impulse control. Phrases such as "I can wait," "I am working for ___," "Let's try something else," or "Let's check with an adult." The way you talk around and to children becomes how they talk to themselves. Impulse control is often driven by verbal self-talk.
- Play games together- charades, Pictionary, slap jack, and many other board games involve self-control challenges. This is a great chance to role-model and practice in a fun way. If children have a difficult time with turn-taking, 'losing,' etc., help them understand that ALL feelings are healthy, but not all BEHAVIORS are appropriate. I.e., it's ok to feel sad or mad when losing a game – it's not ok to tip the board over, scream and yell, etc. If this happens, one response might be to say something like, 'I see you're upset. Losing isn't fun, AND it's not ok to _____ (insert inappropriate behavior). Let's try again tomorrow.'
- Build routines that include delayed gratifications, such as tasks that earn tokens (encourage saving for a larger purchase), organized sports or classes where you work toward a larger cooperative goal, cooking or science experiments where you have to wait for a response.
- Teach concepts of time both in short and long duration. Time is abstract, making it visual can help. Use calendars, chore charts, write down a homework plan for larger projects.
- Teach social skills and practice handling situations where impulses might take over, such as being teased or fighting with a good friend.

Practice using some of these ideas, and before long your children will be better able to regulate themselves more effectively!

For more information: http://paigehays.net/impulse-control-home-activities-and-games/

GOALS PROGRAM

GET OUTSIDE & LEARN SOMETHING

This year, give your children the gifts that keep giving:

CONFIDENCE, COOPERATION, COMMUNICATION

Enroll your children in the GOALS program to take a backcountry rafting and camping adventure in Utah on the Green River in June 2018.

****GOALS is not an officially sanctioned school trip.****

GOALS expeditions are designed for students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

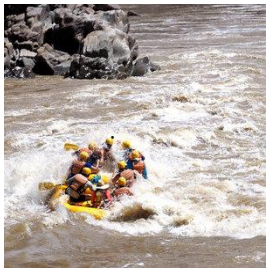
Summer 2018 Adventure:

Projected expedition dates: June 8th through June 15th.

Join us on an outdoor adventure that you will never forget!

Parent and Student Information:

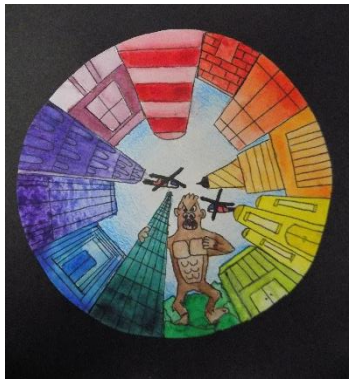
Contact Mr. or Mrs. Fifer at RMS, 970-254-7000.



RMS ARTISTS

8th Grade Perspective City

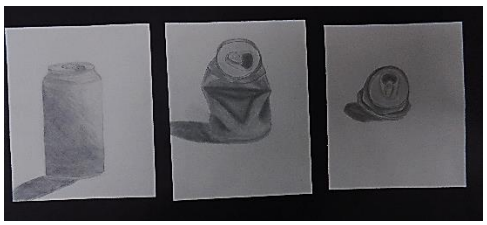
Evelyn White



Hailey Cox

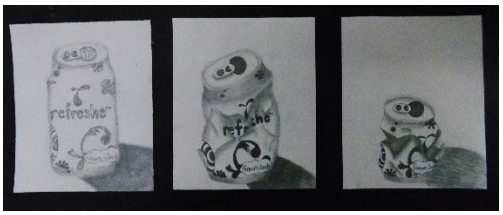
Jeni Jacobson

8th Grade *Soda Cans*



Rachel Gardner

Alyson Mummert



Tori Vaughn-Thompson

7th Grade Radial Designs

Sophis Watson

Reina Clark

Gio Robles

6th Grade Repetition Paintings

Macie Allen

Ria Hayward

Hannah Kasnoff

THANK YOU to our Student of the Month Sponsors!!!