

# Secondary Schools Monthly Board of Education Report



March 2021

## Raytown High School

### Academic Focus

- RHS has formed a Reopening Task Force this group consists of 22 staff members (classified and certified). This group has worked alongside administration to develop plans, logistics, expectations, and materials related to our March 1 reopening to hybrid learning. The group has done a great job and will continue to meet and address issues as needed after March 1.
- Congratulations to the 2021-22 RHS Support Staff Employee of the Year....Cathy Mancuso. Cathy is the cafeteria manager at RHS. She and her team have done a great job of working to provide meals to students throughout this unique school year. Cathy welcomes all who come through the cafeteria and she always has a smile and good attitude!
- The RHS Cultural Competency team is currently beginning a study of the book We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Education Freedom by Bettina L. Love. The group previously has done a book study of White Fragility and recently the group watched and engaged in a series of discussions about the documentary The Social Dilemma. This group works to plan upcoming staff professional development. Once students are able to return safely the group plans to add student participants.

### Parent/Community Focus

- RHS Speech and Debate Conference results: Public Forum Debate 1st team all conference Tochi Ihekona (10) and Shawn Hulen (10)--3rd place, Policy Debate 2nd team all conference Riley Harris (12) and Billy Bettis (10)--5th place, Lincoln-Douglas Debate 2nd team all conference Judy Batts (11)--7th place, Dramatic Interp 2nd team all conference Sirneh Asangwe (12)--7th place, Duo Interp 2nd team all conference Tochi Ihekona (10) and Shawn Hulen (10)--4th place and Angel Hernandez (11) and Nahrya Williams (12)--5th place, Humorous Interp 2nd team all conference Dallas Frazier (11)--4th place and Hannah Batts (9)--6th place, Informative Speaking 2nd team all conference Presley Stewart (12)--7th place, International Extemporaneous 2nd team all conference Nya Vargas (10)--7th place, Original Oratory 2nd team all conference Dallas Frazier (11)--3rd place and Awah Asangwe (11)--7th place, Program Interp 2nd team all conference Dominique Anderson (10)--6th place, Storytelling 2nd team all conference Sirneh Asangwe (12)--8th place, United States Extemporaneous 2nd team all conference Mes Hall (11)--3rd place and Billy Bettis (10)--8th place.
- RHS Theatre performed the musical Pippin (Feb. 18-20). The show was also live streamed. It was a huge success!
- RHS Vocal Music: Alden Harkins (12) and Joshua McCarroll (12) were selected to the KC Metro All-District Choir. Clara Bryant (11) was selected to the KC Metro SSAA Honor Choir.
- RHS Men's Varsity Basketball is 20-5 overall and has clinched another conference title, which is 6 titles in 8 years. The team will play their first district game at home on March 2, 2021 vs Blue Springs South High School at 7 pm. Terrence Jones Jr. (12) has been selected as the Spectrum Sports Hy-Vee Athlete of the Week and was presented with the award at practice on Monday February 22, 2021.

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- RHS Women's Varsity Basketball are currently 15-6 on the season. The team should finish second in the conference and are the 2nd seed for districts. The team plays in the first round of district on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 7pm. The game will be held at RHS.
- RHS Competitive Cheer competed virtually at the Missouri State Cheerleading Competition. Results will be in on the 28th. We are wrapping up our season and starting tryouts on March 8th.
- RHS Scholars Bowl will compete in Conference Quads, the next several Wednesdays, against teams in the Greater Kansas City. We are also having our Conference Tournament on March 13!

### **Upcoming School Events**

- March 1--Return to In-Person Learning
- March 1--Women's Basketball vs. Blue Spring South HS--7pm @ RHS (Rd 1 districts)
- March 2--Men's Basketball vs. Blue Springs South HS--7pm @ RHS (Rd 1 districts)
- March 2--District Night of Jazz--6:00 pm @ RHS Performing Arts Center
- March 22--Parent/Teacher Enrollment Conferences--2:30 to 6:30 pm
- March 25--Parent/Teacher Enrollment Conferences--8:00 am to 8:00 pm
- March 29 to April 2--Spring Break

### **Raytown South High School**

#### **Academic Focus**

- Congratulations to our new Assistant Principal, Dr. Brad Drace. Many of us have known Dr. Drace for several years as both a RHS teacher and Administrator. He has taught in China and is a graduate of South High, Class of '84. Dr. Drace will help our school move forward with our school Mission. Congratulations Dr. Drace! We look forward to working with you! It's a great day to be a Cardinal!
- The Science Department has been very appreciative of all of the tools and platforms that help us to make science engaging for students and helps us to get data on student progress. Teachers have stayed pretty close to each other and to the pacing guide, adapting as necessary for the reduced instructional time with students. We feel that students have shown tremendous growth in their ability to use and interact with their laptops and technology. They have been forced to rely on their laptops and this has led to improved technological prowess for our students who struggled with their laptops in the classroom. Of course, we also feel teachers have further developed their own tech skills, too.
- Our favorite new tool has been Gizmos. These simulation activities are the closest thing we have to lab experiences for students in most of our classes right now. The Gizmos are especially helpful with the interactive STEM cases. They have even been adapted so that they are ready to use in a virtual setting. These simulation activities are great for our kinesthetic learners who learn by doing. They have really helped improve student engagement. These will be great to use in the classrooms even when we return as they are easy to use regardless of class size, don't require expensive equipment, and will be great when students are absent from actual labs as make-up opportunities.

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- Teachers are also enjoying Nearpod and Actively Learn. These allow us to provide students with activities that can be interactive, engaging, and provide teachers with valuable data on student progress so that we can adjust our instruction accordingly. Both are great tools for formative assessments and provide students with additional notes and texts and videos beyond our textbooks. Finally, teachers have begun using Edulastic for common assessments and other summative assessments. This is another great tool. The live interface allows us to track student progress and shows us what questions students struggled with so that we can adjust instruction or the test question, depending on the issue.
- Some teachers have taken the opportunity to incorporate some new lessons and activities around COVID-19 that were developed as part of the REESE project (*Responding to an Emerging Epidemic through Science Education* - a grant through the National Science Foundation) last summer. Most of these activities were completed early on in the semester in Biology classes. The students found the lessons to be very relevant and demonstrated a lot of engagement. We will be using these activities more intensively next semester in Microbiology. It is clearly imperative we educate students on viruses and pandemics, not just in elective courses but also in required core classes to reach more students.

### **Parent/Community Focus**

- School Board Recognition Week, Feb. 14-20. Thank you School Board Members!
- The Raytown School District is pleased to announce the hiring of William Harris as the Head Football Coach at @RQSSouthHigh Harris is a 1999 graduate of RSHS and currently serves as the Head Football Coach at Van Horn High School. For more info, visit <https://bit.ly/3iHBMbJ>.
- Happy National School Counseling Week to all our counselors around the District. Thank you for all you do to support our students and families!
- Congratulations South High Teacher of the Year Arianne Henry. She is an outstanding mathematics teacher, Head Girls Varsity Softball, and Assistant Wrestling Coach to name just a few of her activities. We are proud of you Arianne. Way to Represent!
- Jasmine Alcantra is the new District Champion Wrestling.
- Emma Shelley has signed her letter of intent to continue her softball career at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Way to represent!
- George Hanson Has signed his letter of intent to continue his soccer and academic career at Johnson County Community College. We are extremely proud of all of his accomplishments. Way to represent!
- Jabril Cox South Alumni now LSU football star will play in the Reese's Senior bowl.
- Wrestling 1st Place Marek Redding, 2nd Place Marcus Wilson, and 3rd Place Norman Schneider at the George Hoover Invitational.
- Freshman Dezmond McKinney at NDSU is the Nodak Insurance Player of the Game.
- South Side Jam is our school-wide talent show. More information will be coming in your Advisory class regarding auditions and applications.
- Marek Redding 3rd Place Lathrop Invitational.
- Norman Schneider 2nd Place at Lathrop Invitational.
- Marcus Wilson 2nd Place at Lathrop Invitational.

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- Quinton Rowell has committed to Iowa Western Community College to play football. Way to represent!
- Our novice, DeTrevion Wallace took 5th place in Original Oratory!
- John Overfield took 2nd place in Dramatic Interpretation!
- Breanna Bonner barely missed going to the final Super Session, so we want to recognize her efforts too!

### Upcoming School Events

- For current updates and news follow us on Twitter @RQSSouthHigh.
- Check out Sonic Locker Room for sports, clubs, theatre, and music interviews of students, teachers, and coaches.

### Raytown Middle School

#### Academic Focus/SPED collaboration

- At the onset of second semester, the SPED department planned time to meet with grade level content teams to work together to meet their students instructional goals. The daily schedule allowed time for these grade level collaborations. As differentiated instruction has been a building focus this year, The SPED department embraced the strategies and made sure this concept was incorporated in their daily activities. Examples of the student progress include, John Moore was the highest scoring student in RMS using Achieve 3000 for the week ending Feb. 19. Mia Hinojos and Lanyiah Carey were in the Top 5 Achievers in IXL for the month of February in ELA. Reflections shared were focused on a plan to create more opportunities for student choice with the goal of increasing engagement and learning in all classrooms.
- In Resource Math, students have experienced "ah ha" moments of success as they have been learning and discovering how to graph on the coordinate plane. Students work on slides during virtual learning, plotting and naming ordered pairs. In addition, students learned to plot points and make pictures; plotting points correctly. Students show their confidence proudly when they plot points or find them; remembering to plot in order; - x first, then y.

#### Parent/Community/Activity Focus

- RMS has worked diligently to prepare for our students to return to in-person instruction. We have prepared spaces for students, social distancing, and classroom organization, as well as additional mask as needed. We are so excited for the return of our students.
- **Teacher Recognition/ Jason Greene** Congratulations to Jason Greene for winning the Social Studies Teacher Award, the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). The local chapter recognized Mr. Greene for his excellent teaching and instruction. The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and teaching American

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history to future generations. This award recognizes and rewards individuals who possess the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities. The recognition topic Mr. Greene was honored for was titled, "The Importance of Teaching Social Studies in Today's Classroom". Mr. Greene's application was also selected as the state winner as well as the Outstanding Social Studies Teacher of the year. Additionally, Mr. Greene is also being considered for the National Award as the Missouri Teacher candidate. Each year, The Sons of the American Revolution have a Spring Meeting in which Mr. Greene will be honored at that time. This year's meeting is virtual due to the pandemic. We are very proud of Mr. Greene, as a true role model of leading academic excellence for our students.

- **Teacher of the Year/Kim Sonthana** Congratulations to the RMS teacher of the Year, Kimberly Sonthana. Kim is a dedicated counselor that has gone the distance to serve our RMS team and community. During this year of the pandemic, Kim worked continually to support the school community by building relationships with our families. She established a system of ongoing communication between teacher, student, and parents. Additionally, Kim sought to learn what each family needed, then enthusiastically followed through with the task. We are so proud of Kim and the committed spirit she possesses.

#### **Upcoming School Events**

- Parent Teacher Conferences- March 24-25
- Spring Break --March 29 to April 2
- For current updates and highlights, follow us on RMS Facebook.  
<https://www.facebook.com/Raytown-Middle-School-106165480742984>

#### **Raytown South Middle School**

##### **Academic Focus**

- South Middle is continuing to move forward with making tier one instruction more powerful for learners. This past month, we've focused on making learning more durable by first recognizing practices that perpetuate "illusions of knowing". Additionally, presenting strategies that help students retain and remember such as elaboration, contrived cognitive disequilibrium, and quick self-assessments. This information comes from the book, *Make it Stick: The Science of Successful Learning (2014)*.
- I want to commend our educators for working so hard over this past year to stay positive and dedicated and keep the learning and connections moving forward. Our teachers have been exceptionally adaptive and nimble as they have moved their classes to a virtual setting and they are making this most recent transition with the same tenacity and positivity and I could not be more proud to be a part of the community here at South Middle. We truly have an exceptional group of educators!

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### Parent/Community Focus

- This month, led by Ms. Megan Jackman, the South Middle Student Council hosted an Art Contest to celebrate Black History Month. The theme for this contest was "Inspiration. Motivation. and Creation." During their free time, students created artwork that highlighted inspiring moments or people from history. This contest allowed students to express themselves through virtual art tools learned this year in school and past years and the results have been incredible. We look forward to sharing our student's work with the district soon.
- Congratulations to Mr. Jason Lee for being selected as South Middle's Teacher of the Year. Mr. Lee is an exceptional educator, mentor, and coach and he makes South Middle a better place for students and staff.

### Upcoming School Events

## Raytown Central Middle School

### Academic Focus

- Congratulations to our 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year, Ms. Julie Neumann! Ms. Neumann has been a part of the CMS English department for the past three years. She has also served on our Teacher Leadership team for the past year. Ms. Neumann is an exceptional teacher, that strives to create innovative and engaging lessons for her 7th grade English and Reading students.
- Congratulations to our 2021-2022 Support Staff Employee of the Year, Mr. Mike Mikkelsen. Mike is our Lead Custodian, and has been a part of our CMS family for a little over a year now. He leads his team with great integrity and commitment to keeping our facilities in the best possible condition. We are so fortunate to have such a hard working person leading this team!
- Our teachers have been working diligently to prepare for students to return to in-person learning on March 1st! We are so excited to see our students in the coming weeks!

### Parent/Community Focus

- Spring sports kicked off with a week of conditioning for track athletes the week of February 26th. We are looking forward to rounding out this school year with a great track season this spring!

### Upcoming School Events

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### **Raytown Success Academy**

#### **Academic Focus**

- In person learning
- Social Emotional learning
- Academic time/tutoring time

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

- Congratulations to Brandi Harris for being selected as RSA's Support Staff Person of the Year
- Communicating with parents on virtual learning for RSA students.
- Daily communication regarding in person transitioning from virtual to in person

#### **Upcoming School Events**

- Pancake Breakfast - March 19th
- Parent Teacher Conferences March 22 & 25th
- Spring Break - March 28th - April 2nd

### **Northwood**

#### **Academic Focus**

- In-person learning
- Individualized Education Goals
- Social/Emotional learning
- Communication

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

- Congratulations to Emma Wheat on being selected as Northwood's Teacher of the Year. Emma provides Music Therapy to students K-12 with moderate to severe disabilities, as well as emotional behavior challenges.
- Northwood continues to have daily communication with parents/guardians.
- Northwood teachers are collaborating with parents in providing virtual instruction as needed.

#### **Upcoming School Events**

- Parent/Teacher Conferences

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### **Herndon Career Center & Southland CAPS**

#### **Academic Focus**

- Students are beginning more in depth skill development in each of our programs. Auto Tech students are now trying their skills out on their personal vehicles.
- In the upcoming months, students will have the opportunity to earn certifications in our Herndon Career Center programs. In some cases, students will earn multiple certifications depending upon the need within their career field.
- The majority of our Southland CAPS students are continuing their internships with our industry partners. Students report back on a weekly basis to gain feedback, share out accomplishments, and continue their knowledge development.

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

- Information sessions were held to outline our HCC and Southland CAPS programs for prospective students and parents.
- Our community partners are a vital part of all of our programs. We invite their input and also look for opportunities to expand opportunities for students.

#### **Upcoming School Events**

- March 12: Priority deadline for applications
- April 7: Student notification of acceptance