

RJHS Board Update - September 2023

Upcoming Events: RJHS Important Dates 2023-2024

September 15 - Mid Quarter

September 18 - 22 - Homecoming Week!

September 22 - SIP Day

October 11 - First Parent Teacher Conferences

Current Enrollment for 2023-2024

7th Grade - 141

8th Grade - 154

Testing - We have completed the Fall Benchmarking for MAP

- 7th and 8th grade students took the MAP tests in Math and ELA classes on Sept. 5 - 7.
- Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Poole are working on a goal to address student achievement in the lowest quartile. Along with the goal, we will develop action steps and provide teachers with meaningful data from MAP to help them identify gaps and strategies to help move them forward.

General Notes

Our RJHS students are off to a GREAT start. We have issued several spirit day challenges and the students have greatly exceeded our expectations. On our first Orange & Blue Friday, the Learning Labs were competing with one another to see who had the most school spirit. Our LOWEST percentage rate was over 80% and multiple classes had over 100% attendance.

Student Leadership

Our students continue to step up and lead in multiple arenas. On Thursday, August 31, we coordinated with Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Reed to have our 8th and 9th grade Rocket Crew Leaders meet with the same groups we used during Rocket Launch. Our groups did more team building, talked about the transition to junior high, and talked about school spirit and school connections. The students did an amazing job leading. We are in the process of planning our next meeting.

Mrs. Luttrell is teaching a *Leader in Me* elective class that allows students to take a deeper dive into how to lead as well as giving them opportunities to lead through acts of service. Some of the things our students are working on include:

- Regularly emptying recycling bins
- Cleaning the front entryway and sidewalks
- Keeping the floors and common areas clean
- Reorganizing the Trophy Case
- Sending cards and/or words of encouragement to all school community members (bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians, as well as first year at Rochester teachers)
- Keeping the copy machines full of paper and ready to go
- Preparing coffee for staff each day

Mrs. Staley teaches a *Foundations of Leadership* elective class. Students in this class are in the process of working with Ms. Viola to plan building wide activities for Red Ribbon Week. In addition, they are taking one day each week for Acts of Service around our school campus.

More informally, we are seeing more and more students ask adults if there are jobs they can do to assist in the afternoon. These students have been sweeping the rocks out front, cleaning the front windows and entryway,

scrubbing the black marks off of the floors, dusting all of the window sills and tops of lockers, and any other jobs that need to be done!

Leader in Me/Lighthouse Team

Our Lighthouse Team, comprised of Mrs. Rezba, Mrs. Luttrell, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Spraez, Mrs. Viola, and Mrs. Tweryon, along with Mrs. Poole and Mr. Lauber continues to work on climate and culture at RJHS.

This group continues to provide support to the rest of the RJHS staff by creating a weekly schedule for Learning Lab (our 20 minute advisory period) to ensure that students continue to learn about *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* and how to be student leaders in addition to addressing other SEL needs for our students. [Here's an example](#) of their work!

Safety Drills

- Bus evacuation drills were completed on August 30, 2023
- Fire drill in conjunction with RFD was completed on August 29, 2023
- Our Law Enforcement Drill was held on August 31, 2023

Homecoming Week

We are celebrating Homecoming Week September 18 - 22 at RJHS with spirit days (coordinated with RHS), a number of our students participating in the parade and once again RJHS students will be attending and participating in the RHS Pep Rally.

Professional Development

- All teachers were trained on the new Leader in Me digital curriculum by Jenifer Hearne on September 12. The Lighthouse Team had additional training time with Ms. Hearne that afternoon/evening.
- Our first SIP day will be held on Sept. 26. All district staff will continue Leader in Me training.

Athletics & Activities

Baseball is currently engaged in regional play. RJHS is hosting our regional Sept. 13 - 18.

Softball finished their season with a record of 6-6. We are very proud of our 10 8th grade softball players and we had a nice day celebrating them at their last home game.

Girls Basketball has been practicing and will begin their season on the road on Saturday at Quincy Junior High School. We have 2 new coaches this season, both teachers in our district PE program, Coach Andrew Kelley and Coach TJ Eubanks.

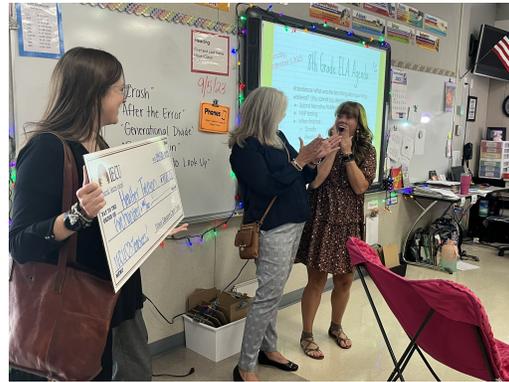
Cross Country's season is well underway! Coaches Johnson and Busboom are looking forward to a great season with continued PR's and personal growth for each athlete. Our sectional meet will take place on October 6 at Springfield Lincoln followed by the state meet at Maxwell Park in Normal on October 14.

I would also like to give a shout out to a group of our student-athletes who have worked on different projects around the school beautifying the building and grounds. They have swept the rocks of the sidewalk, cleaned the scuff marks off the floor, wiped down our windows and cleaned the walls for us to hang Shout-outs and new pictures. They are doing a great job and representing RJHS both on and off the field/court in a great way.

Miscellaneous

- The RJHS play will be moved to the spring. We are working on potential dates.

- Sangamon County Schoolmasters will once again host the annual Literary contest at RJHS on November 12.
- Mrs. Tweryon was awarded a \$500 grant for her classroom through Illinois Educators Credit Union.



Respectfully Submitted,

Kim & Matt