

Principal EOY Report

2023-2024 School Year

Introduction

Elementary: This year at RES we wanted to focus on building community partnerships. We had a very successful year doing so. Some noteworthy events were our 100th day celebration, Meet the Machines, and High Five Friday.

Intermediate: This year at RIS, we continued to make strides with our Leader In Me program and identify and develop areas of student leadership. We work daily on emphasizing and teaching our four R.I.S.E expectations of Responsibility, Inclusion, Safety, and Empathy.

Junior High: Increasing Student Leadership opportunities in real and meaningful ways has been a key focus for the 2023-2024 school year. Four student leadership groups composed of Rocket Group (same kids all year), Student Council (same kids all year), Leader in Me elective students (one new group each quarter), and Foundations of Leadership elective (one new group each quarter) met regularly and proposed a number of initiatives that we were able to implement.

High School: A very successful year at Rochester High School. Professional Development Opportunities for Staff and Student Safety and Leadership Activities were a focus for the school year. Academic achievements included the Class of 23-24 receiving over 6 million dollars for College and Career Scholarship Opportunities.

Academic Achievements

- **Summary of Academic Performance Indicators:**

- **RES:** 1st grade students made massive growth in ELA on the AIMS benchmarking. In the fall 46% of students in 1st grade fell below the 10th percentile nationally. We are proud to announce in the spring we have reduced that number to 9%.
- **RIS:** 2023 Summative Designation: Commendable
 - 2023 Score for IAR: Math 31.4 “Met/Exceeded” (State average - 27.1)
 - Comparison: 2021 was 22.8 and 2022 was 24.4
 - Fewest students in “Did Not Meet” at 9.7 since 2019
- **RJHS:** The preliminary summative designations for schools were released on Tuesday, October 3. For the second year in a row, RJHS was moved up to the “Commendable” category. We made significant gains this year in the areas of reading and writing. Thanks to all of our teachers and staff, students and families for their hard work in achieving this goal. We still have work to do, but we are excited to see continued positive results from our efforts over the last few years.
- **RHS:** When the seniors were in 9th grade, their predicted average SAT score was an 891. Their actual Average Score as 11th graders was 973. We scored, on average, 16 points above the rest of the state
 - 86% of students either experienced high growth or expected growth in mathematics.
 - 85% of students either experienced high growth or expected growth in reading.

Academic Achievements

- **Highlight of notable achievements:**
 - **RES:** 95% of our kindergarten students performed above the 25% nationally in early numeracy testing.
 - **RIS:** IL Science Assessment (5th Grade)
 - 22.4 “Exemplary” Highest in three years (State average 17)
 - Doubled from 2021 (10.5) and 2022 (11.7)
 - Fewest students in lowest rating “Emerging” 7.7
 - **RJHS:** IAR 2023 Score for ALL students - 72.87 - up 18.72 from 2022, 19.12 from 2019. Cutoff score for EXEMPLARY - 81.33 only 8.46 points away. Subgroup scores - CWD - 62.17 up 10.04 from 2022, 29.04 from 2019 & Low Income - 63.16 up 19.87 from 2022, 29.39 from 2019
 - **RHS:** We had 19 state scholars; Curtis R. is a commended student in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. Elliana H., Paul H., and Aidan B. enlisted in the USMC. RHS students have currently received 6.3 million dollars worth of scholarships. This is 2.6 million higher than what was reported for last year's seniors

Academic Achievements

- **Overview of Changes made to curriculum or teaching methodologies & their impact**
 - **RES:** RES teachers have worked very hard to familiarize themselves with the methodologies of the Science of Reading.
 - **RIS:** Each of our grade levels are looking to enhance their curriculums for next year. 4th and 5th grade participated in upgrading our Reading Wonders curriculum which will go into place this fall. Additionally, our 6th grade will begin a new Math series which is aligned to the 7th and 8th grade curriculum. Finally our 6th grade Science will be using the same series as the junior high as well.
 - **RJHS:** Teachers worked on curriculum alignment for grades 6 - 8 with the 6th grade teachers. ELA, SS, and Science continued to focus on reading and writing standards. Math teachers did a book study and went to another school to observe, specifically focusing on increasing tolerance for frustration in the math classroom.
 - **RHS:** New Dual Credit Class; had 80 students enroll in the class.
 - CACC - With the addition of the 5 weight selection we have increased to 74 students enrolled for the 24-25 school year!

Student Engagement & Well-being

- **Summary of extracurricular activities & student participation**
 - **RES:** Students participated in a Spring Reading Challenge where collectively they read over 20,000 minutes. Students also spent time reading to the elderly at Rochester Estates. Within the building we have created “buddy partners” between the 1st grade and PK students.
 - **RIS:** Our students participated in a variety of activities including fine arts, band, basketball, cross country, track and field, and volleyball. We also had representation from all three grades at our County Spelling Bee again this year.
 - **RJHS:** Baseball won regional; Cross Country - girls won sectional, boys & girls qualified for state; GBB - one player participated in the All-State All Star Game; BBB - 8th grade - 3rd place at state; Wrestling - 2 State Qualifiers; Track - sectional meet coming up!
 - **RHS:** 381 Rochester High School students participated in IHSA interscholastic athletics during the 2023-24 school year, which is 54% of the student population. Many of these individuals are multi-sport athletes and/or are involved in at least one Fine Arts program or school service organization (Club U, NHS, etc).

Student Engagement & Well-being

- **Overview of initiatives to promote student well-being & mental health**
 - **RES:** High Five Friday and family engagement nights have played a big role in promoting student wellbeing at RES. The students look forward to school knowing that different activities are happening.
 - **RIS:** Throughout the year we had presentations on Child Safety, Digital Responsible Citizenship, and Discrimination.
 - **RJHS:** The most significant change at RJHS was our cell phone policy. We adopted an “Away for the Day” policy regarding phones and earbuds and we have seen our student engagement and success increase while discipline issues - specifically those related to phone drama have decreased. Parents - and surprisingly most students - have been very supportive of this change.
 - **RHS:** Big Buddy Program, RHS Clubs/Organizations, Student Assemblies, as well as the numerous activities offered at RHS play a BIG part of student engagement and well-being.

Student Engagement & Well-being

- **Notable events or programs that fostered a positive school culture**
 - **RES:** High Five Friday, Family Engagement Nights, Literacy Night, Teacher Bonding Night
 - **RIS:** We are continuing to work with small groups on social issues as well as getting staff feedback for student concerns and support through our MTSS referral programs.
 - **RJHS:** Teacher leadership and autonomy, student leadership and implementation of student initiatives, Rocket Rallies, Fun Fridays, Rocket Launch, Rocket Crew, High Five Friday, 8th Grade Student & Parent/Guardian Dinner; Field Day, Day of Service
 - **RHS:** Sports - RHS Football - won its 9th state championship in program history; Boys Soccer - finished in 4th place in the IHSA Class 2A State Tournament; Girls Cross Country - team qualified for the IHSA class 2A state meet; Boys Basketball - won the program's first regional championship since 2005. Fine Arts - 20 RHS students were named all-state musicians, the most in the history of the school. RHS Madrigals and Concert Band were both named "Best of Day" at the IHSA Organizational Music Competition, each earning the top honor among 24 competing schools. Scholastics Art Award Results for Rochester High School included 2 Gold, 1 American Vision, 9 Gold Keys, 8 Silver Keys and 19 Honorable Mention.

Staff Development and Collaboration

- **Overview of professional development opportunities provided to staff**
 - **RES:** Overview of Illinois Literacy Plan, UFLI observations, STEM school observations
 - **RIS:** Curriculum work for all three grade levels, Leader In Me community events and collaboration, IEA professional development for strategies on student behavior management and training.
 - **RJHS:** Curriculum alignment 6 - 8, Leader in Me Training, Adoption of updated textbooks for math, many conferences attended by staff
 - **RHS:** Staff attended the Redefining Ready Conference in Mansfield, Texas while students participated in the Renaissance Leadership Conference in the Fall. STEM Fair and Leader In Me Trainings.

Staff Development and Collaboration

- **Collaboration initiatives among teachers or staff members**
 - **RES:** Joint MTSS time to help meet the needs of all students
 - **RIS:** Our Lighthouse Leaders continued to work on developing lessons and planning for our Leader In Me work including introducing student leadership binders for our RIS students to track their progress in academics and personal development and interests.
 - **RJHS:** Our Lighthouse Team continues to work regularly with Jenifer Hearn from Franklin Covey. In addition, they meet weekly as a team and continue to create and compile weekly SEL/LIM activities/lessons to push out to staff. They work collaboratively with the entire staff and with our student leaders to implement positive changes and cultivate a positive school culture.
 - **RHS:** RHS Staff attended a CACC tour in the FALL as well as formed a Focus Group Committee was formed at RHS to communicate concerns for Freshman Transitions, Cell Phones, Building Security, Curriculum Development, and Rocket Time. This group will continue its focus in these areas to provide data for RHS 24-25.

Staff Development and Collaboration

- **Recognition of outstanding contributions by faculty or staff**
 - **RES:** Erin Clemens helping plan and teach a PreK during a leave of absence.
 - **RIS:** Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Ramsey collaborated on a children's book which was published this year as well.
 - **RJHS:** Completion of the AED project at the park by the 2022 RJHS Baseball Team (ELA teachers, Mr. Uptmor, Mrs. Poole); Lighthouse Team members presenting at NASSP conference in Nashville this summer on the topic of Elevating Student Voice,.
 - **RHS:** CPR Certification for Staff by School Nurse Heather Arnold; Becky Leonard, Megan Hawkins, Alex Gunter taking group of leaders to Renaissance Conference; Dennis Jones and Josh Spear "Best of Show/Day" Honors at IHSA and State Fair competitions.

Parent & Community Involvement

- **Summary of parent involvement initiatives & events**

- **RES:** Parent Engagement Nights- Western Night, Luau Night, Literacy Night. High Five Friday with a variety of different community members
- **RIS:** Our big community events this year were the Spring Carnival hosted by our PTO, our Fine Arts night, and hosting a meeting for local school board members.
- **RJHS:** 8th Grade Student & Parent/Guardian Dinner; Day of Service, 8th Grade Sectional Championship Game in the RAC;
- **RHS:** Fall, Winter, Spring Sports Competitions; STEM FAIR; Fine Arts Concerts; Spring Musical; Parent-Teacher Conferences; Blood Drive; Academic Guest Speakers; Veterans Day Assembly.

- **Partnerships with community organizations or businesses**

- **RES:** Men's UIS Basketball Team, Rochester Estates
- **RIS:** This year we used a variety of local vendors for our food trucks at our Spring Carnival and Fine Arts festival.
- **RJHS:** Day of service - Beginning Steps, Silverleaf, Rochester Estates; Village of Rochester - AED project;
- **RHS:** CACC Events; College and Career Days; LLCC and Scholarship Meetings; STEM Fair; RHS Athletic and Fine Arts Events; Blood Drive; Academic Guest Speakers; Veterans Day Assembly.

- **Any outreach programs or events that engaged the broader community**

- **RES:** High Five Friday, Meet the Machines
- **RIS:** We brought back guest readers this year, had a local veterinarian talk about animals, park rangers present about the importance of our national and local parks, and even saw the return of the Book Fair.
- **RJHS:** AED Project at the park will benefit the community for years to come; collected funds (RIS & RJHS staff members) and organized breakfast (prepared by Mrs. Leonard's food classes) for teachers and staff at Southeast HS to show our support after the tragic loss of a student. With the leftover funds, we made Italian beef for a lunch for the staff and delivered the week following the service for the student.
- **RHS:** Blood Drive; Academic Guest Speakers; Veterans Day Assembly.

Facilities & Resources

- **Overview of any facility upgrades or improvements.**
 - **RES:** Update of Entryway furniture
 - **RIS:** Added mulch to our playground area over the summer which allowed us to have outside recess more often even after rainy days.
 - **RJHS:** We are looking forward to the window repair/replacement project this summer
 - **RHS:** Upgrade of the RHS Courtyard.
- **Summary of resources allocated and utilized throughout the year.**
 - **RJHS:** Several sets of interior doors were replaced this spring. Online textbooks continue to be a major expenditure.
 - **RHS:** New Classes approved and upgrades to our academic classes.
- **Future plans for facility maintenance or enhancements.**
 - **RJHS:** Eventually we would like to secure funds to improve the commons areas in the high school to make them more attractive spaces for student collaboration, open work areas, or as an alternative to the cafeteria for our students who struggle in that environment.
 - **RHS:** The RHS Academic Wing will include Science Labs/Classrooms; Student Commons Area, Administrative Offices, Nurse and Resource Offices, Guidance Counseling Offices, and Security Updates.
 - The following sports facilities will be upgraded: Tennis Courts, Rocket Booster Stadium (Football, Track, and support buildings), Softball Press Box, Soccer Field at the Elementary Campus, and Baseball Support Wall.

Challenges & Solutions

- **Identification of key challenges faced during the school year.**
 - **RES:** Staffing and transportation posed a challenge multiple times throughout the year.
 - **RIS:** RIS continues to look at and update our safety plan with our Crisis Response Team. As well as staffing needs.
 - **RJHS:** The loss of our instructional coach mid-year was a challenge that impacted our new-to-the-district teachers as well as some veteran teachers who collaborated to with her to manage differentiated learning groups for lessons specifically targeting reading strategies that data indicated we needed to work on. Transportation and having enough subs were also challenges.
 - **RHS:** Instructional Support - with our instructional coach having to teach English for the second semester, staff and students missed opportunities for support in the classroom. Vaping - continues to be an issue at Rochester High School. Cell Phones - cell phone usage during instruction continues to be a concern at RHS. Safety and Security - Visitors and door security were a challenge during the school year.

Challenges & Solutions

- **Strategies implemented to address these challenges.**
 - **RES:** Creative Scheduling, building relationships with substitute teachers
 - **RIS:** Implementation of the Raptor system to help streamline visitor identification and logging
 - **RJHS:** Dr. Johnson will resume her role as instructional coach in the fall. In the meantime, we were able to use other staff members (library aide, care room supervisor, etc.) to assist with differentiated reading activities. The transportation issue takes a considerable amount of administrative time to navigate, specifically Mr. Boudouris and Mr. Lauber, but also the other building principals/APs as we now each have 1 - 2 more nights of supervision each week when we supervise the students who are on double routes and stay in the building until all busses are empty on those evenings.
 - **RHS:** New Cell Phone Policy - RHS Staff and Administration worked together providing input and insight for a Cell Phone Policy for 24-25. Administration visibility, supervision, and accountability for the safety and security of staff and students in regards to secure entrances and visitor expectations and requirements.

Challenges & Solutions

- **Lessons learned and plans for improvement in the future.**
 - **RES:** Creating a positive relationship with substitute teachers helps retention
 - **RIS:** We continue to look at our supervision plan in all areas including before and after school and have also added the option for hot breakfasts for our students this year.
 - **RJHS:** We are excited to have Dr. Johnson return to her role as instructional coach. The positive in this is that our staff realized what a great resource she is! We will continue to search for creative solutions to both the transportation and sub issues.
 - **RHS:** Hiring a qualified teacher in the area of English for the 24-25 school year. The instructional coach will return to the position at the start of 24-25.

Goals for the Next School Year

- **Presentation of goals and objectives for the upcoming school year.**
 - **RES:** Common Assessments throughout the grade levels
 - **RIS:** Effective implementation of the curriculum updates for Reading Wonders for 4th and 5th grades as well as utilizing the new Math and Science curriculum for 6th grade will be a focus as we get started next fall.
 - **RJHS:** We will continue to grow our student leadership initiatives and elevate student voice. We will continue to empower our teachers to be leaders in the building as well. We will implement our new math textbooks and continue to use data from MAP, IAR, and classroom assessments to improve our instruction.
 - **RHS:** Promote instructional minutes during academic block times. Administrators will schedule daily/weekly walkthrough meetings and provide data at staff meetings.

Goals for the Next School Year

- **Strategies to build upon successes and address areas needing improvement.**
 - **RES:** We would like to use staff meetings to discuss and plan using data.
 - **RIS:** Continued efficient implementation of our MTSS program including expectations and monitoring at the Tier I (classroom) level.
 - **RJHS:** During the 2024-2025 school year, Rocket Crew will continue as we begin a new cohort with our incoming 7th graders. Our hope is that by the time our first group of students are seniors in high school, all students will be participating in Rocket Crew Groups at the same time, once a month.
 - **RHS:** A Focus Group Committee was formed at RHS to communicate concerns for Freshman Transitions, Cell Phones, Building Security, Curriculum Development, and Rocket Time. This group will continue its focus in these areas to provide data for RHS 24-25.

Goals for the Next School Year

- Alignment of goals with district priorities and standards.
 - **RES:** We will continue to work hard to provide solid foundational skills using our Everyday Math and Wonders curriculum. Particularly looking at the data and how it drives our instruction.
 - **RIS:** Another goal is to continue to enhance student leadership. We are working on identifying student leaders and finding ways to incorporate them into assemblies and other parts of the school year. This goal aligns with the Journey of a Rocket Learner in the areas of Communication, Leadership, and Critical Thinking.
 - **RJHS:** We will continue to elevate student voice and build the capacity of teachers and students to lead. We will implement the updated math texts to ensure that we are meeting all standards, and we will provide support for students who are not working at grade level in math and/or reading.
 - **RHS:** Provide data in the following focus areas for staff: Assessments; Grade/Discipline; Attendance; Cell Phone; Supervision.

Conclusion

- **Recap of the school's achievements and growth throughout the year.**
 - **RES:** EC-1 has had a great year of growth. From student achievement to building community partnerships we are excited to see what 24-25 had in store for us!
 - **RIS:** The area of community involvement is an area that we are rated lower on in our MRA data (collected from students, staff, and families) and one that we continue to work on and look forward to new events and ways to better include the community in the coming years.
 - **RJHS:** We are excited about our growth academically, as demonstrated by our IAR scores as well as the growth measured on the MRA (Leader in Me) survey. A couple of notable areas of growth include Prosocial Behaviors +12%, School Climate +14%, and Social Supports +19%. We believe that these results reflect our collective dedication to minimizing the impact of cell phones by limiting their use at school and elevating student and teacher leadership through our Leader in Me initiative.
 - **RHS:** Over 95% of the staff was recognized by students for “Staff of the Month”. There were over 210 students awarded “Students of the Month” for the 24-25 school year. Seniors earned over \$6 million in scholarships which was \$2 million more than the previous year.

Conclusion

- **Expression of gratitude to the Board of Education, staff, students, parents, and community partners for their support.**
 - **RES:** We are so thankful for the Board and District Office for letting us branch out and invite community members into our school this year. It has been amazing to share the joy of RES with the community. We would also like to thank our AMAZING teachers. They have been nothing short of amazing throughout this year of growth and learning.
 - **RIS:** We can't thank the Board of Education enough for all your continued support including providing us with additional resources for Math, Science, and Reading at all grade levels at RIS next year.
 - **RJHS:** Our staff at RJHS is a cohesive, tight-knit group of educators who truly work together to support the goals and initiatives that we take on. Our success can be attributed not only to their joint efforts, but also to the support we get from our student body, our families, the greater school community including our colleagues across the district, and the support of the board of education.
 - **RHS:** We want to thank Mr. Cox, Rochester Superintendent; Rochester CUSD 3A School Board of Education, and especially our RHS Staff and Administration for one of the most successful school years at Rochester High School.

Conclusion

- **Commitment to continued excellence and collaboration in the coming year.**
 - **RES:** RES is excited to see what the next year has in store. Through collaboration as a building and district we know the future is bright!
 - **RIS:** RIS is looking forward to continuing to learn and grow in collaboration with our stakeholders and in the coming school year.
 - **RJHS:** The students and staff at RJHS are committed to continuing to grow, and we are excited to jump back into the work of the Journey of a Rocket Learner in conjunction with our work in the Leader in Me.
 - **RHS:** RHS will continue its progress in academic growth and instruction. The staff is committed to our instructional commitment to the common core standards as well as our social-emotional learning environment.