

**RJHS Board Update  
December 11, 2024**

**Upcoming Events:**

[RJHS Week at a Glance](#) - please reach out to Kim if you'd like to have this emailed to you weekly

**12/20** End of Qtr. 2; SIP Day - 11:15 Student Dismissal; Annual Italian Beef Lunch!

**12-23 - 01/03** Winter Break

**01/06** Teacher Institute Day - No Student Attendance

**01/07** Students Return from Winter Break

**Current Enrollment for 2024-2025**

7th Grade - 146

8th Grade - 146

**Student Leadership**

Day of Service - Our Fall "Day of Service" was held on Friday, November 1. Mrs. Rezba's Leader in Me Class planned the activities for our Day of Service. They coordinated and communicated with community members to organize activities for our students on that day. They also created a list of needed supplies and worked with our PTO to secure those supplies. Some of their service Activities were making goody bags for the homeless, making PBJ's for a food pantry, collecting winter gear and arranging for donation, cleaning up on the trail and around our campus, going to the 3 elementary buildings to hold "Rocket Rallies" and work with the younger kids, Volunteering at our local daycare centers, Making Veterans Day Cards, and visiting area senior care centers. The feedback from our students was overwhelmingly positive! We also received a lot of positive feedback from around the community.

Here's one example of a success story from our day of service from Ms. Burke at RES 2-3:

*Hi there! Happy Friday!*

*I wanted to reach out and tell you how amazing [REDACTED] was today at the 2-3 Pep Rally! For the pep rally, my students were in the front row just in case they needed to leave for a break if it became too overwhelming. As we walked in, [REDACTED] was in that same front row and he immediately greeted my students and welcomed them with open arms. He introduced himself, explained his job as a section leader, and his excitement was contagious. He immediately made them feel included. He jumped right in and was not afraid to use their communication devices to communicate with them or to help some of the kiddos move during the cheers/chants for those who do not have the ability to move and clap independently. He was also a main reason some of the kids were able to participate in the games. When they played, he went out there and helped them play, follow along, and cheer them on. It was so special to watch! The thing that stood out the most to me, was that ALL of my students stayed the entire pep rally...this does not typically happen and I think that was all due to [REDACTED] and the love and attention he poured into being with the kids. It made my day to see his kind heart in action with the younger students!*

*I wanted to tell you how awesome it is to see this program in action and how these 7th and 8th graders are stepping up as leaders and just overall humans! What a positive impact you are having on their lives! So, thank you for all the work you do on a daily basis.*

*Please feel free to share this with [REDACTED] family! We all need some positive news and I would love for them to hear how he made my day and my students' days!*

*Have a great weekend! :)*

Our Rocket Crew led all of our students in Rocket Crew Activities on Thursday, September 19.

Our next "Fun Friday" and "Rocket Rally" will be held on Friday, December 20. Mrs. Rezba's students are planning the Fun Friday and our Student Council will plan and execute our Rocket Rally. In addition, they are taking on a number of other activities for the good of the school.

Mr. Johnson's Announcement crew is up and running! Students are adding a weekly food review as well as keeping students abreast of all the things happening at RJHS via video announcements. You can see their work on our YouTube Channel @RocketsMedia3a.

Mr. Johnson and Ms. Lyons have been working on a number of activities with the Foundations of Leadership class. They help promote belongingness at RJHS by decorating lockers to recognize student achievement, organizing a door decorating competition for all Learning Labs, and more!

Our RJHS student council is working on plans for a winter dance and a fundraiser to help offset the expenses.

Our Rocket Shop is up and going but differently than we imagined. Our students made all of the shirts for our Rocket Launch in the fall. They also made shirts for Rochester Robotics, Announcement Crew, all Bus Drivers, Cafeteria Staff, Custodians, Maintenance Staff, and Technology Staff. These shirts were distributed during American Education Week to show some of our underrecognized groups how much we appreciate them. This was a collaborative effort from all building administrators. Next up, this group will be making shirts for the RJHS staff from the PTO for Christmas and for the RJHS Student Council Fundraiser.

### **Leader in Me/Lighthouse Team**

Our Lighthouse Team met with the whole staff at RJHS to discuss and plan for the next steps in obtaining our Lighthouse Accreditation. We are scheduled to be evaluated for accreditation on March 8, 2025.

### **Professional Development**

- Teachers and staff attended the county-wide Teachers Institute Fall Forum on Friday, October 11. A number of staff members will be presented and facilitated groups. This opportunity to network with other educators across the ROE is always beneficial and appreciated. RJHS was happy to have 2 student groups present. One group presented about student voice and leadership and the other presented on how to do video announcements. We were the only school to bring students in to present.

### **Athletics & Activities**

**Boys Basketball** began on October 21st. Their season is in full swing and Coach Heberling is doing a great job of helping the boys improve over time.

**Volleyball** - Volleyball tryouts are taking place December 3 for 6th grade and December 9 & 11 for 7th and 8th grades. The parent meeting for volleyball took place on December 2.

**Wrestling** - Wrestling season began on December 2. We are looking forward to watching their progress throughout the season. The parent meeting for wrestling took place on December 3.

### **Miscellaneous**

- We hosted the 7th grade girls basketball sectional on December 4 between Chatham Glenwood and Mt. Zion. Mt. Zion came away with the win.
- On December 11, we will host the 8th grade sectional game between Mt. Zion and Springfield Washington.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim & Matt