

RJHS Board Update - October 2023

COMMENDABLE - 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.

Upcoming Events: RJHS Important Dates 2023-2024

10/19 Schoolmasters Leadership Conference

10/25 PTO - 6:30 - conference room

11/01 Parent Teacher Conferences 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (NO student attendance)

11/15 Rocket Crew - alternate schedule

11/17 Midterm Qtr. 2

12/06 Rocket Crew - alternate schedule

12/22 End of Qtr. 2; SIP Day - 11:15 Student Dismissal

Current Enrollment for 2023-2024

7th Grade - 140

8th Grade - 155

Student Leadership

On October 6, Mrs. Staley’s Foundations of Leadership elective class led our first quarter [Rocket Rally](#). Many student groups were recognized. Our cheerleaders performed a dance, and our Poms led some brave staff members in a dance as well. Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Rezba were chosen for special recognition by the students. And we wrapped up with a game of Knockout with Mr. Lauber being crowned champion.

October 18 will be the 2nd monthly meeting of our Rocket Crew/Rocket Launch groups. Activities planned for Oct. 18 include more “ice breaker” games which allow our students to get to know one another a little bit better followed by a goal setting activity for all students. During this month, we also expanded our student leadership crew by training some 8th graders to lead their Learning Labs in the same activities that the 7th graders are doing as well as adding some 7th grade Rocket Crew Leaders to help lead the activities within their groups.

October 19, eight of our Rocket Crew Leaders will be attending (and helping to present) the annual Leadership Conference hosted by Sangamon County Jr. High Schoolmasters. The conference will be held at Rochester United Methodist Church and will feature Dr. Courtney Orzel as the keynote speaker.

Leader in Me/Lighthouse Team

Our Lighthouse Team, comprised of Mrs. Rezba, Mrs. Luttrell, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Spraetz, Mrs. Viola, and Mrs. Tweryon, along with Mrs. Poole and Mr. Lauber continues to work on climate and culture at RJHS. This group had their second training with Mrs. Jenifer Hearn from Franklin Covey on Wednesday, October 5. The team will be meeting with Ms. Hearn again on October 24.

Professional Development

- Our first SIP day was held on Sept. 26. Areas of focus were on the Implementation of Leader in Me, Literacy across the curriculum, and curriculum alignment.
- RJHS Math teachers are doing a book study on “Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics” and had the opportunity to go to Iles School to see a teacher put practices from the book into practice in a

middle school classroom. RJHS math teachers then implemented those instructional practices and strategies in their own classrooms.

- On October 3, teachers met in small curricular groups to set goals and discuss specific instructional practices targeted at increasing lower performing areas of the fall MAP testing.
- On October 6, the 6th grade teachers from RIS joined our 7th and 8th grade teachers to work on curriculum alignment for grades 6 - 8.
- On October 24, our Lighthouse team will once again meet with Jenifer Hearn from Franklin Covey to develop action plans for the next steps at RJHS with The Leader in Me.

Athletics

The baseball team won their Regional and competed against Glenwood Middle School (the eventual state champs) at Chatham for the sectional game. The team had a great season!!

The cross-country team competed in the sectional meet held at Lincoln Park on Friday, October 6. The girls team won the Sectional meet and will advance to state on Saturday, October 14 at 12:15 at Maxwell Park in Normal. The Boys team placed 3rd at Sectionals and also qualified as a team for state. The girls team running at state includes: Cali Gardner, Charlotte Long, Pippa Gardner, Sohpia Dunn, Addie Dukes, Ava Vandyke, Rachael Schorfheide, Alexis Hillis, Lakin Vose and Mady Sitko. The boys team running at state includes Bronson Mitchell, Nathan Thomas, Jude Hayes, Will Hayes, Gavin Sampson, Levi Gerberding, Lincoln Keitzman, Nathaniel Crowle-Healey, Vincent Powell and Carter Spengler.

We are so proud of our running Rockets!!

Both the 7th and 8th grade Junior High girls' basketball teams are off to good starts on their season. The 7th grade team currently has a record of 6-4 and the girls are continuing to improve each day. The 8th grade team currently has a record of 5-5. Three of the losses for the 8th grade have come by a combined 4 points. The girls are continuing to develop and strive to make some noise in the postseason.

Miscellaneous

- Our annual HLS inspection from the ROE took place on 10/02/23
- SEMA Honor Band - Glenwood Middle School - October 18.
- RJHS Fall Choral Concert on October 18.
- RJHS will participate in the Veterans Day Assembly with RHS on November 10.
- Sangamon County Schoolmasters will once again host the annual Literary contest at RJHS on November 11.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim & Matt