



Raymond School District Community Newsletter

The Green Gazette

June 2020

Superintendent

As this very atypical school year draws to a close I would like to thank our entire educational community for pulling together to meet every challenge that arose from the COVID-19 pandemic. Students, families, teachers, employees and citizens all adjusted very quickly to changing circumstances and showed just how creative and nimble they could be. It was truly an inspiration to see how folks worked together to find new ways to educate, support and inspire our students.



While the school year is winding down, there are some obstacles still ahead of us. The District is working to plan for the start of the 2020-21 school year, in the context of changing guidelines and circumstances. Three interrelated committees will continue to meet throughout the summer to review new information and make decisions about how the District will educate all students next year. We will need to plan for several alternatives: a traditional opening with substantial modifications related to health and safety, the possible continuance of remote learning if necessary, and a feasible combination of remote and on-site learning. Updated information will be disseminated when it becomes available through newsletters, social media platforms and the District website.

Parents can help the planning process by completing a brief **survey** about Remote Instruction In Raymond. Please, while it is still fresh in your minds, provide us with feedback that will help us improve the way we serve our students. While we do not yet know exactly what the next school year will 'look like', technology will surely continue to play a large role in education going forward.

The link to the Remote Learning Parent/Guardian Experiences Survey can be found here. It consists of 8 questions and takes only a few minutes to complete. Thank you in advance for your time!

Thanks to Dr. Mike Whaland, Director of Curriculum, and Jessica Caron, Director of Student Behavioral Health, for developing this parent survey.

School Board Summer Meeting Schedule

The School Board will be meeting on the first and third Wednesday of June at 6:00 PM, as per their usual schedule. Their meeting schedule has been modified for July and August, dates and times listed below. Agendas for these meetings, as well as any revisions to the schedule, can be found at www.sau33.com/agenda. Options for remote viewing and participation can also be found there and on each meeting agenda as they are posted.

Tuesday, July 14, 6:00 PM, CIP Work Session
Wednesday, July 15, 6:00 PM, Regular Meeting

A large, bright room with a polished floor, wooden tables, and chairs, likely a classroom or activity room. The room features large windows, a whiteboard, and various storage units.



Every year, in Kindergarten, classes have a unit on Community Helpers. They usually have parents and community members come in, to talk about their jobs and how they support the whole community. This year with remote learning, the classes still taught the unit, but in place of visitors coming in to share their experiences, the teachers and students wanted to thank the first responders for all that they are doing to keep our community safe during COVID19. Some parents sent in videos and pictures of the

students thanking our first responders. A few classes had enough response from families that they shared the videos with front line workers that they knew. "We all felt given what is happening right now, that we needed to thank our front line workers" stated Ms. McAvoy, Kindergarten teacher.



The 2019-2020 School Year Comes to a Close at IHGMS!

Although this school year will most likely be remembered for the Covid-19 Virus pandemic and how it impacted everything about all of our lives as well as public education across the country, there are many other memorable aspects of this school year.

We started the new school year with several new teachers as members of our faculty. All of them have done an outstanding job, acclimated to our school and community, and all have shown tremendous professional growth. Everything we could have hoped for!



We are very fortunate that our students have the opportunity to participate on a number of different athletic teams for both the school and the town. Many of those teams did exceptionally well and made their respective post season tournaments. Go Rams!

Our teachers are super creative with their lessons and allow our students to expand their horizons and their knowledge well beyond our classrooms. Whether it be math through pumpkin carving or biology through

collecting live samples from the river, or writing persuasive essays to convince the principal and assistant principal to eat insects.

None of these things would be possible without the amazing support of our community and our parents, grandparents and extended families. It's always a special time when we can invite our families in to enjoy the learning and celebrations with their children.

Our community is always so generous and supportive. This is demonstrated over and over again by their support of our school district budgets and warrant articles and through overwhelming support for activities like our career fair that gives our students the opportunity to learn about meaningful careers right here in Raymond and surrounding towns.

We are so fortunate to have so many volunteers that are willing to do almost anything for our students and our school. Our Parent Core Group works tirelessly behind the scenes to raise funds for our students and our staff. Almost anything that is asked of from the PCG they somehow make it



happen.



The Town of Raymond is the home of the New Hampshire School Volunteer of the Year, Dana Zulager. Another outstanding example of Raymond generosity! There are not enough words to express our thanks for her support of our students and school.

All work and no play will never happen at IHGMS! Congratulations to the 6th grade class for their upset win of this year's Spirit Week! The week culminated with the student-faculty basketball game; one of the highest scoring, closest games in anyone's memory. It

was truly an edge of your seat game from the beginning to the last buzzer!

The whole school has been working hard to hone the art and science of teaching and learning. We are continually striving to do better. We were encouraged to apply for School of Excellence recognition and our team was selected to present to the Middle School of the Year selection committee. Although we did not continue on in the process, we received many accolades and words of encouragement from the panel of judges. Evidence that we are headed in the right direction!

There is one very special member of the IHGMS family that has had a lasting impact on literally generations of Raymond youth and that is our very own Assistant Principal, Mr. Mike Chouinard. His years of service to the community are awe-inspiring. The love for him is felt and seen every day. There are not enough words to express our gratitude for the passion that he poured out to our students, faculty, staff and community. We have all been blessed to have him in our lives for so many years. Mike is retiring and we wish him a very long and healthy retirement where he can focus his love and energy on his growing extended family; #13 & 14 grandchildren are on the way!

Thank you Mike! We won't say goodbye as we know you will be around for all the fun family activities with your grandchildren!



A Letter from RHS Principal Steve Woodward

Dear Ram Community,

On behalf of RHS, I would like to thank all of you for your support and working with us this year to educate the students. Now, more than ever "it takes a village" and your support has been appreciated.

We have a couple of dates that you should keep on your radar. Today, at 1PM was our Celebration of Excellence. We will be recording and posting it for anyone who was unable to attend.

Senior Night: On June 12th, at 6:00PM, we will be holding a virtual Senior Night and we will also be announcing scholarships. We usually announce scholarships during graduation, but because RHS Graduation was postponed this year, we are adding scholarships to Senior Night for financial planning purposes. It is important that students receiving scholarships have this information earlier, rather than later. Members of the class of 2020 should send pictures of themselves and their friends from their grade from both senior year and freshman year. These pictures will be used as a part of the class night ceremony, please send the pictures to Mrs. Tudisco, s.tudisco@sau33.com.

Graduation Ceremony: RHS will hold its graduation ceremony on July 17th at 6:30PM. A special committee is planning this event, with the goal of making it as traditional as social distancing guidelines will allow.

More information about important RHS events will be sent out as the dates draw closer.

Please encourage your child to complete their work as the end of the school year approaches so he or she can enjoy a relaxing summer break! the summer.



Wrapping Up ELOs in 2019-2020



The school year brought about an active turnout with over 45 successful, student driven extended learning opportunities. From start to finish, regardless of how or where students completed their ELOs, the ambition, dedication and resilience have been outstanding!

Here are some diverse student examples and feedback to help demonstrate the benefits of learning through ELO experiences:

(Fence Construction) "Yes, I would recommend an ELO to every student because it's a way to help them get out of the classroom and actually learn how to survive in the world. I also would recommend it to anyone that likes to do hands on things that like to learn how things around us have been made."

(Thinking Outside the Box) "If I could describe my ELO in 5 words it would be, interesting, COVID 19, brain-thinker, calming and knowledgeable."

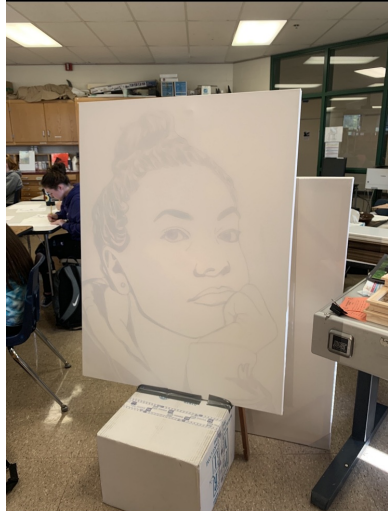
(High School English T.A.) "I learned that this is what I want to do in the future. I wanted to do this ELO in order to ensure that I want to be a high school English teacher out of college, and thankfully this course affirmed that for me. I feel as if I didn't take this ELO, I would be a lot more nervous concerning college and what I am majoring in."

(Automotive) "I would 100 percent recommend doing an ELO to anybody because it is the best choice I have made in high school. The experience that I have gotten throughout the ELO has given me a jumpstart to my career of working on cars and I plan on going to college for automotive diagnostics and performance."

(EMT Training) "I learned that I really enjoyed being in an ambulance and in fast paced situations. I enjoyed the sight of all of the medical assessments and procedures done. I feel even more inspired to really get through my certifications and start a job as an EMT or AEMT more than ever."

(Kindergarten T.A.) "The whole reason I decided to do this internship was because I want to major in Elementary School Education. The biggest take away from it for me was finding my confidence to be able to get in front of everyone and teach them."

(Acrylic Painting) "This entire painting was a huge challenge for me because I have never painted a portrait before and especially this big. I feel that students don't realize what opportunities are offered to them through ELOs and should definitely check it out."



Reach High Scholars

The Reach High Scholars Program recently surveyed several parents and students for their interest in participating this summer in a “Virtual Harkness” version of Raymond Roundtables. The response was sufficiently encouraging that we have decided to offer a program that will allow students to participate from home in this unique educational opportunity.



Please take a few minutes to learn more about Reach High Scholars:

www.reachhighscholars.org. and

Raymond Roundtables: http://www.reachhighscholars.org/summer_enrichment.html.

Raymond Roundtables this Summer

It is not practical to conduct RR this summer around our beloved Harkness tables. Instead, we will use Google Classroom to offer online classes as a “Virtual Harkness” experience. We have PEA instructors who have been teaching spring classes in this format and other Raymond area teachers with Harkness experience.

The Raymond School District has agreed that our classes can be conducted using its Google Classroom platform. All Raymond students are currently registered to use Google Classrooms and the same arrangements will be made for students from other towns.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Curriculum - Adapting and Working Together

Our Raymond teachers, students, and families have achieved much and have much to be proud of while in this process of remote learning. This has been a team effort, and would not have been possible without our entire community working together. We will continue to work together as we prepare for all scenarios, as we move forward to educate our Raymond students.



Please see the statement below (in italics) from the NH Department of Education - a reminder that we have much to be proud of and have adapted to keep our students safe without lowering our expectations.

This does not mean that we have lowered our learning expectations for any of our students. We continue to embrace the concept of rigorous and relevant education that leads to bright futures for all New Hampshire students.

What it does mean is that we embrace a degree of flexibility with our students, our families, our teachers, and our school leaders, recognizing that the pivot to remote instruction and support was a significant one.

Thank you all for your support, collaboration, and flexibility. We have all worked tremendously hard for our students and children who are the future contributors of our great town of Raymond. Enjoy a well deserved summer and congratulations to all our graduating seniors. Stay green Rams!

LEAP Summer Programming Update



Summer is here! Congratulations to all of you for making it through this crazy school year, especially those of you moving up to different buildings or on to the next great adventure! It has been a challenge for all of us and we hope that we have been able to serve our LEAP members effectively during remote learning. We will be back next year at LRES and IHGMS but we also have our eyes on the summer. While restrictions are easing up, there are still many details to be worked out in order for LEAP and Summer Recreation to take place in person. While we cannot finalize plans at this time, we are ready for both in-person and remote opportunities to be available to elementary and middle school students this summer if we are allowed. Once we are given the final decision from town leadership regarding summer, we will get that information out to you ASAP! Thank you all for your continued support of LEAP!



Visit www.sau33.com/jobs to view our job openings and apply online!

Nutrition Services

While time has stood still these past few months, it has also flown by. As we are about to enter our final week of Emergency Feeding for the 2019-2020 school year it is amazing to realize that we have served over 7,000 meals since this event began.

And what an adventure it has been. We have experienced changes in location, exemptions and freshly developed regulation guidance, product shortages and vendors' fast responses to meet the needs of School Nutrition programs all over the country as we all worked towards one very common goal. Feed the kids. One way or another, networking with each other, solutions were developed and shared. It has been an incredible journey that we might not have believed could come together the way it has. We are immeasurably grateful to all of the partners who took part along the way.

We are also grateful to all of the families who have participated in the grab and go Remote Meals program. Your presence at pick up

times and at the bus stops has continued to give us a connection to our sense of purpose. And occasionally getting to see one of our students always made us smile.

Today we actually set up the bags for the last days of school. Wow! So, with that in mind, from our dedicated and fabulous Nutrition Service staff, our wonderful district staff folks who have become Bus Ambassadors on the delivery runs and the energetic bus drivers that took us where we need to be on varying routes each trip, we wish you a delightful summer. May you stay safe & healthy. In the different kinds of summer experiences we are all heading into, may your families create some really cool new memories!



Athletics Awards



The coaching staff at RHS has selected the following student-athletes as recipients for the **ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD**. Criteria for selection is based on participation in at least two sports and displaying outstanding sportsmanship, teamwork, commitment and athletic ability. Congratulations to this year's recipients: Alianna Braley, Erin Roderick, Colby Kissane, Anya Cunningham, Kathryn LaCasse, Scott Philbert, Katelyn Whitman, Brady Potter, Adrianna Morasse, and Kaleb Bisson

The NHADA and NHIAA are honoring the **SCHOLAR ATHLETES** from the Class of 2020: Congratulations to this year's recipients from Raymond High School: Emaleigh Boucher, Alianna Braley, Sheridan Dileo, Hannah Reardon, Jeremiah Audette, Matthew Finneran, and Ryan Nadeau

COVID-19 and Kawasaki Disease

As you have probably noted from multiple media sources, some children recently diagnosed with what is called Kawasaki Disease were positive for COVID-19. Kawasaki Disease is an inflammatory response to the blood vessels and heart. The connection is not yet fully understood but if parents are searching for additional information, Boston Children's Hospital has an informative summary at <https://www.childrenshospital.org/conditions-and-treatments/conditions/k/kawasaki-disease>.



Upcoming Events						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

LRES Farewell Parade

Wednesday, June 3, 12:00 - 2:00 PM

Regular School Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 3, 6:00 PM

Last Day of Classes

Friday, June 5

IHGMS Bubble Parade

Friday, June 5, 1:00 PM

RHS Senior Night

Friday, June 12, 6:00 PM

Regular School Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 17, 6:00 PM



Visit our website