

April 2023 Raymond School District Community Newsletter

Jennifer Heywood • hace 2 días • Wednesday, Apr 5 at 5:15 PM • **Raymond School District, Add to District Staff Newsletter**

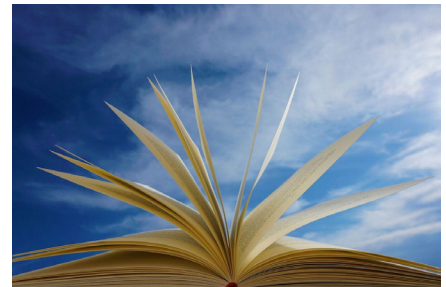


Your Raymond School District Community Newsletter

From the Superintendent: Student Leadership

Student leadership is an essential part of any K-12 district. It provides opportunities for students to develop skills that are essential for success in both their academic and professional lives.

Student leadership provides opportunities for students to develop important skills such as communication, collaboration, problem-solving, and decision-making. These skills are essential for success in any field and can be developed through activities such as student government, clubs, and extracurricular activities. Students learn how to work with others towards a common goal and develop leadership qualities such as responsibility, empathy, and integrity.



Student leadership helps to create a positive school culture. When students are actively involved, they feel a sense of ownership and pride in their school. This sense of belonging helps to foster a positive school culture where students feel safe, supported, and valued. Student-led initiatives such as anti-bullying campaigns, community service projects, and peer mentoring programs can help to create a positive school culture that benefits everyone.

Student leadership is an important part of any K-12 district. It provides opportunities for students to develop essential skills, create a positive school culture, and prepare for their future. By fostering student leadership through involvement, training, and support, schools can help to create a culture of student empowerment and success.

Terry Leatherman,
Superintendent of Schools

Raymond School District

SUPERINTENDENT'S COFFEE HOUR

Wednesday, April 12, 6:00 PM
IHGMS Media Center



Join Superintendent Terry Leatherman, along with Director of Safety and Facilities Todd Ledoux, for an **informal discussion about school safety**.

OPEN TO ALL PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Though we'll be reviewing school safety, **please feel free to discuss any other topics with the Superintendent**. Your thoughts and comments are welcome!

LRES Student Leadership



We have some exciting news at LRES. We had our first "Principal for the day" event a few weeks ago! Every student wants to know what it's like to be a principal in a school, right? Students will have the opportunity as we promote "Principal for the day" each month. Students' names are entered into a drawing for each time they receive a positive office referral from any staff member. At the end of each month, one name is drawn to have the opportunity to spend the day with me! Some activities that students will have a chance to do include; morning and afternoon announcements, reading a story to a class, helping with drop off and dismissal, having lunch in the office with me, and anything else that the students think Mrs. Yacek does during the day.

With our first student principal, we had a meeting and discussed playground equipment being off limits during the winter months. The student shared her perspective. It was great to hear her thoughts and gave me a lot to think about! "Principal for the day" is one way that we recognize students who are being safe, respectful, and responsible school citizens. I look forward to having more students participate in this monthly event.

Laura Yacek,
LRES Principal



IHGMS Student Leadership

It's starting to feel like spring! The snow is all but gone, its lighter later and spring sports have begun! Spring is when we see some of our students really blossom and show us what they can be. Leadership appears in lots of different ways, mostly in informal ways. Those students who, when some asks for help with something, they just do it without making a big deal about it and those who do things without being asked. There are also lots of opportunities to show leadership in more formal ways as well. Being the team captain or volunteering to be the lead for Morning Meeting. We've also had several students volunteer to share what they are learning in their various classes and school related activities.



Pictured here are four of our student council members sharing their experiences with our school board. They worked diligently to plan and implement our annual IHGMS Spirit Week not too long ago. They put together a slide presentation of Spirit Week while they talked about how they planned, what they updated, what they liked best about it and what the results of the fun class competitions were. To their credit they are the members of the winning class and they also were members of the winning class three years ago, the last time we were able to have Spirit Week. They were in fifth grade then and it was

unprecedented to have one of our younger classes win the week long competition! Kudos to them for being back-to-back champions and for doing an outstanding job of putting together something that everyone enjoyed!

Bob Bickford,
IHGMS Principal

RHS Student Leadership

The week of April 24th is National Student Leadership Week. Each and every day, I have 335 different examples of student leadership. Some of these examples take place in classrooms and some in one of our many athletic teams and/or extracurriculars. Today, I am so very proud to share a few stories of some of our student leaders as submitted by our dedicated faculty and staff.

Science Teacher, Ben Ramsey, immediately shared his observations of Gabriella Hone. Gabriella is involved in many school activities including Site Council and Student Council, and participates in club and school athletics. She approaches challenges with a positive mindset and encourages her peers to do the same.

Our Library Media Specialist Bob LeMoine works closely with Savannah Laughlin who is completing an Extended Learning Opportunity with him. "Savannah has been doing an ELO in the library, handling circulation, displays, cataloging, processing, and assisting students and staff with various needs. This is a big step for her and represents how much she has grown through the years".

Mr. LeMoine was also quick to note the contributions of Julia Janvrin and others who have been working on a fresh, positive display at the library desk. It is still a work in progress they are putting their hearts into!

RCFY (Raymond Coalition for Youth) member and RHS Student Kaylee McGlynn bravely shares her message "People over Profits" at the State House. Thank you Kaylee, for representing many youth who wanted to share this message but were unable to attend.



RCFY Members and Student leaders from both RHS and IHGMS visited Epping to share their ideas for the Granite Youth Film Festival. They did a fantastic job representing our organization, schools and community!

Congratulations go out to our Financial Literacy team who competed in Concord recently. They finished as the state runner-up for the 2023 competition. Congratulations go out to all 21 participants as well as to our live competition team. Job well done!



These are just a few of the 335 student leaders who grace our school each and every day and quite simply are our present learners and leaders who make this such a special place.

Sharon Wilson,
RHS Principal

Education Expo!

We hope you can join us on Thursday, April 13th, for our Educational Expo! This event will be held at IHGMS from 5:30-7:00 and is open to all families in the district. There will be fun stations that consist of games, demonstrations, and other hands-on activities geared towards students of all ages. You do not have to be enrolled in LEAP to attend. Feel free to drop in at any time and join your friends and favorite teachers for an evening that shows learning can be fun!

Patrick Arsenault,
Director of Youth Services

Raymond School District's

Education Expo!

THURSDAY APRIL 13TH
5:30 - 7:00 pm
IHGMS GYM

JOIN US FOR A
 NIGHT OF
 EDUCATIONAL FUN!

ALL AGES
 WELCOME -
 GEARED FOR
 ELEMENTARY AND
 MIDDLE SCHOOL
 FAMILIES

Lego robots
 BOOK SWAP photography
 Literacy Circles **chorus**
 Band **trombone**
Gelli Printing **oxidation**
 math **books** **trebuchant**
Science **biology** **specimens**
Math **saxophone**
History **flute**
Reading **math puzzles**
ART **instruments** **marimba** **potions**
ukuleles
family engagement **maple syrup**
Van de Graaff generator
math "escape room" **maple syrup**
chemistry **edible play dough** **card games**
makerspace **Harry Potter**
Brain Breaks



FREE SNACKS

...popcorn, cookies, juice, milk

BOOK SWAP



...bring a book you want to pass along
 ...take any books that interest you!



Facilitated by Raymond School District, staff, partners, and parents - hope to see you there!

603 Bright Futures Survey

The NH Department of Education is once again providing an opportunity for comment on instruction in schools. All parents, staff, and community members are encouraged to complete the 603 Bright Futures Survey. This survey invites your opinion on matters such as instructional materials, school communication, student safety, and more. Parents who indicate that their child has an IEP will be asked additional questions in addition to the general survey.



This is an important opportunity to provide feedback directly to the NH Department of Education and we encourage everyone to participate. The survey is open until April 28th and is available at the links below:

Families in K-12, Preschool, and Private Schools: bit.ly/nhedfamily

Staff in Public and Private Schools: bit.ly/nhedstaff

Community Members*: bit.ly/nhedcommunity

*Please note that "Community Members" are those who do not have students enrolled in New Hampshire schools. Those who do should complete the family survey instead.

Health and Wellness Support for Our Students

In order for our students to be successful, adaptable lifelong learners, "ready for anything", we need to support them in developing skills to do so. Through many of our behavioral health programs, we are teaching our students skills such as self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making; all of which are important skills for our students to become leaders in their lives.



For some examples of that work, at Lamprey River Elementary School, the School Counselor is implementing Second Step® in each grade, a program to help students build skills like nurturing positive relationships, managing emotions, and setting goals so they can thrive in school and in life.

At Iber Holmes Gove Middle School, the behavioral health team implemented the Courage to Care program, teaching civility to the 7th graders, reinforcing the value of compassion, kindness, and empathy. At both Iber Holmes Gove Middle

School and Raymond High School, the Student Assistance Program Counselors are beginning to implement Project SUCCESS, a research-based prevention program that uses interventions that are effective in reducing risk factors for substance use and enhancing protective factors.

We are always striving to empower our students to reach their full potential. If you are interested in learning more about these programs, or if you have any questions about how your student can increase their leadership skills, such as understanding and managing their emotions, getting along with others, or making better decisions, please reach out to your school behavioral health team.

Samantha Horrigan
Director of Health and Wellness

Student Services: Summer Camp, Extended School Year, and Parent Involvement Survey

Spring is finally here and summer is right around the corner. We are still looking for staff to work our Extended School Year (ESY) programming. If any community members are interested, please complete and submit an application, click [here](#) to access the postings. We are in need of teachers, paraeducators, nursing and other related service providers. Families should be hearing from Special Education teachers soon, if they have not already, to discuss eligibility requirements and recommendations.

In an effort to support local Raymond, NH families and students with disabilities, I want to make sure families did not miss an **important announcement regarding summer camps and state funding**. On January 18, 2023, the NH Department of Education made a press release about summer scholarship money available to families for summer camps. Please click [here](#) for the press release. ReKINDling Curiosity launches its third year hoping to ensure that every child who wants to attend a fun and engaging summer camp this year has the opportunity.



“Summer camp is the perfect time to play outside, escape from the everyday pressures of school, meet new friends and make new memories,” said Frank Edelblut, commissioner of education. “ReKINDling Curiosity is a program that offers low-income families or children with disabilities a scholarship to attend a New Hampshire-approved overnight or day youth recreation camp.”

Students with a disability are eligible for a \$750 camp fee, and other awards are available, ranging from \$450 to \$600, depending on the family’s federal poverty level. For more details on the program, or to apply, visit [ReKINDling Curiosity](#).

Summer experiences help shape our students to develop interests they may not otherwise have had exposure to and help them engage in social activities. Camp activities are one opportunity for students as they prepare to be “ready for anything”, outside of school. Camps often offer voice and choice for children, allowing them to take ownership for their interests and experiences. Where and whenever possible, involve students in setting their own personal academic and behavioral goals to develop their own autonomy and leadership styles.

The state is asking families to complete a Parent Involvement Survey in Special Education so we can improve upon the services your child(ren) receive and the support you receive in collaboration with the perspective schools and IEP teams. All family surveys are available online and are open from March 14 to April 29. The survey dives into family engagement which is vital to the success of our students and our systematic approach to education. In an effort to instill a sense of advocacy and create student leaders, take this opportunity to complete this survey in collaboration with your children so they have a say in their educational experience.

Jodi Gutterman,
Executive Director of Student Support Services

Guide to ChatGPT for Parents and Caregivers

Find out how the artificial intelligence (AI) tool works and how to talk with kids about it. (ChatGPT is currently blocked in our district, based on the fact that the Terms of Use state that users must be 18 years of age or older. This information is recommended reading as an FYI for parents.)

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/articles/guide-to-chatgpt-for-parents-and-caregivers>

Brittany L'Heureux,
Director of Technology

Taking the Lead with ELO's

April is blooming with career exploration opportunities. This month, students will have the chance to participate in field trips such as Graphic Design/Manufacturing at COED Sportswear in Newfields, NH, and tour the United States Coast Guard station in New Castle NH. The field trips are designed to highlight the awareness of various career pathways available to students after graduation.

Several RHS Alumni have been invited to speak with students during RAM Time. The visitors will discuss their lives after Raymond High School and how they pursued the career that they are in. The guests will include:

Samantha Roy, 2022

Scott Roy, 1991 (no relation to Samantha)

Alexandria Hovatter, 2021

Patty Sherman, 1986

Tyler Francis, 2014



Students interested in participating in an ELO over the summer should reach out to Mrs. Londo to discuss and pick up ELO paperwork. Paperwork is due on May 12th.

Holly Londo,
RHS ELO Coordinator

RHS Librarian: New Book Release

Bob LeMoine, RHS Librarian has recently published a book entitled *When the Babe Went Back to Boston: Babe Ruth, Judge Fuchs and the Hapless Braves of 1935*. The story involves an aging Babe Ruth who suddenly found himself unwanted in baseball. He was desperate for a job and one team, the Boston Braves, were desperate for anything to draw a crowd. Ruth's final season in Boston was a total disaster and he spent the rest of his life wrestling with who he was in retirement. Until he found final fulfillment, speaking to kids.

You can grab a copy from the publisher, McFarland Books, or also find it on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or other online sellers.

Fun Events - Food Service

March brought many fun events for each school. We kicked off our return from February Break with National School Breakfast Week. This districtwide event was a week-long highlight of the benefits of school breakfast and how it can support learning and behavior for students of all ages. We featured new breakfast items and raffle prizes all week long. Thank you to Hannaford, Tuckers, New England Dairy Council and our private donors for making this fun event possible.

Read Across America also took place during March. The elementary school events centered around a literal Read Across America and our menu featured many regional and national favorites from Hawaiian Ham and Pineapples to Chicago Deep Dish Pizza. At the middle school we added popular book titles to the menu offerings and celebrated March 15th "Pi Day" with Pizza "Pi" and Cucumber Circles. There was also a color coded secret book title incorporated into the breakfast menu. Our

high school cook sampled a variety of homemade sauces with students. We expect the General's Sauce and Jalapeno Ranch will make an appearance on future menus. The high school hosted a "Taco Bout It" Tuesday Job Fair. This fun crossover event was hosted in the cafeteria and students were able to visit with potential employers while enjoying a Taco Tuesday. We were also awarded a small equipment grant at the high school for a Chocolady Machine for the purpose of offering hot chocolate daily. The chocolate milk will be offered for purchase individually or as a part of any full school meal.

Tasha Ball,
Director of School Nutrition Services



Join Us for a
Town Hall Meeting

Keeping Teens Safe

ALCOHOL & DRUG FREE



**Tuesday,
April 11th, 6:30 pm**
**Raymond Middle School
Media Center (Library)**

There is a lot to keep track of as a parent and a teen. Join us for a conversation to learn more about the risks and harms of current alcohol and drug trends amongst youth, and the issues that impact and contribute to teen substance misuse. Our RCFY Youth Action Students will share data provided by local substance misuse surveys.

Alcohol Marijuana Fake Pills Vaping Phone pressure The Laws



The evening will be an opportunity to provide information, awareness and resources for Parents and Caregivers to help keep teens and your home safe.

There will also be time for questions and answers
and an opportunity to meet our
Student Assistance Program Support Counselors
from both our middle and high school.

We hope you will Join us to hear from the experts who work together with
your kids to keep our community safe.

