

RAYMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Raymond, New Hampshire



GREEN GAZETTE NEWSLETTER

June 2022

From the Superintendent

“Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things,
but just look at what they can do when they stick together.”

-Vesta Kelly

When we opened our school doors in August there was a sense of excitement as we looked toward a return to a ‘normal’ school year. Students, staff, and parents in those early weeks of the school year were happy to be back in person and began the process of recreating the school classrooms and district we all left in March of 2020. It wasn’t long into our start of the year the calm was broken and we found ourselves dealing with COVID issues, family and personal illness, and the stressors of attempting to function in year two of an unrelenting virus. We faced these challenges, only this time, there would be no long term closures and no hybrid classroom. We were open for in person instruction and as a district we were expected to stay open. It has been a long road to get to where we are today.

Over the last few years our staff nominates a colleague to be recognized as part of the ‘You Make a Difference Award.’ This year it was decided to recognize the hard work and collaborations of all the members of our Raymond Schools by changing the event to a ‘District that Made a Difference.’ All of our school staff, support staff, cafe workers, custodians, secretaries, and administrators will be recognized and celebrated for their collaborative efforts to keep our district open and functioning all year. It was difficult but we pulled together, supported each other, and made it work.



If we are recognizing the collaboration and efforts of all, I would like to recognize our parents, guardians, and community members who have also joined together to support our work. During our most turbulent days this year, parents and guardians also dealt with the personal impacts of COVID as well as dealing with a school district working through our issues. As stakeholders, you worked with us and supported our schools as we juggled classrooms due to

staffing issues, changed schedules for vaccine clinics, and introduced COVID testing protocols in our schools.

Throughout the year we asked for a great deal of patience and tolerance from you and you provided it. I saw a great deal of effort from our stakeholders to work with the school district and I appreciate it. If we are celebrating a ‘District that Made a Difference’ you all played a part in making that difference a positive one.

The district's success this year was based on our ability to work together as staff, parents, and community members to ensure our schools stayed open. We are a ‘District that Made a Difference.’

School Board Summer Meeting Schedule

During the school year (September - June), the School Board holds their regular meetings the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the RHS Media Center.

The Summer 2022 School Board meeting schedule is:

Wednesday, July 13, 6:00 PM: CIP Work Session – RHS Room 109
Wednesday, July 20, 6:00 PM: Regular School Board Meeting - RHS Media Center
Wednesday, August 3, 6:00 PM: Regular School Board Meeting - RHS Media Center
Wednesday, August 17, 6:00 PM: Budget Work Session - RHS Media Center
Wednesday, August 24, 6:00 PM: Regular School Board Meeting - Location TBD

Any changes or additions to this meeting schedule will be posted at www.sau33.com/agenda.

Strategic Planning Committee Being Formed

The Raymond School Board is seeking letters of interest to serve on the 2022 Raymond School District Strategic Planning Committee.

The timeline for the committee's work has been adjusted, so that the committee will be meeting as per the following schedule during the summer. The committee will also meet during the fall, dates to be determined, with a goal of a completed Strategic Plan by December 31, 2022.



Summer meeting dates:

Thursday, July 28, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Thursday, August 18, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Thursday, August 25, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Open positions on the committee include parents, teachers, support staff, a community member, and a high school student.

Letters of interest to join the Strategic Planning Committee will be reviewed by the Raymond School Board.

Please submit letters of interest by 3:00 PM on Tuesday, June 14, 2022.

Letters may be sent via email to j.heywood@sau33.com or mailed to:

Strategic Planning Committee
c/o Jennifer Heywood
Raymond School District
43 Harriman Hill Road
Raymond, NH 03077

Parent University - Survey to Help Guide Our Efforts!

As we begin planning for the 2022-23 school year, the Student Support Services Department is embarking on a new adventure - Parent University!



Through Parent University, we plan to provide information sessions to parents and community members on topics that are important to you.

Please take a moment to complete [this brief survey](#) to help guide our efforts. Thank you!

LRES Honors and Celebrates Soldiers

On Friday, May 27th, LRES held a Memorial Day Concert on the front lawn of our school and families. This is a tradition that has been in place for many years. This year, we had an exceptional turnout as we filled the front lawn with students, staff, and families. Students in all grade levels sang patriotic songs for our community. Each song was introduced by students who shared historical facts connected to the song.



Classroom teachers provided opportunities for students to learn more about the Memorial Day holiday and Ms. LaCasse (music teacher) spent many days/weeks preparing the students for their performances. During a time when things have been challenging for us all, it was a special day for our school community. It provided an opportunity for us to gather together to honor our soldiers and all that they sacrificed for the freedoms that we have today. Thank you to all of the families and first responders that were able to join us.

Laura Yacek,
LRES Principal

IHGMS Return to Traditions

As we begin to wind down toward the end of the school year our school was able to enjoy some traditional end of the year activities that we have not been able to take part in for a couple of years; a Rams Rally, Concert and Art Show. We also have had an opportunity to begin to thank our three retirees for their many, many years of service to our students and our community.

Pre-pandemic we would have a Rams Rally each month to celebrate positive student and staff accomplishments and have some good, fun school spirit competitions. We were able to have one Rams Rally at the end of the year, the first for our 4th, 5th & 6th graders and our last for our 8th graders. Because we now have over 500 students, faculty and staff we started a new tradition; our 8th graders will now have the privilege of sitting in chairs at the far end of the gym.



Our first concert and art show in over two years was very well attended by the community with an almost full capacity audience! Two bands and our after school chorus performed a wonderful program.

Before and after the concert attendees took the opportunity to view over 1,000 pieces of student art exhibited from the gym lobby, up the long hallway into the school's main lobby. A wonderful evening exhibiting the artistic talents of our middle school students! If you would like to watch the video of the concert please go to the RVTC website and click on the [IHGMS Spring Concert](#) link. The art show will be up through the last week of school.



With almost 90 years of teaching experience here at IHGMS between them we say thank you and Happy Retirement to Barbara Buckingham, Reading Specialist, John Fulton, Physical Education and Mary Ann Lessard, Art. We will miss them along with the generations of Raymond students who they have taught!

Have a happy and safe summer everyone!

Bob Bickford,
IHGMS Principal

Tech Update: Unified Classroom

An update from our I.T. Department

Earlier in the year , we received the following notification from PowerSchool:

"We have determined that Unified Classroom cannot provide our customers with the same level of robust capability that PowerSchool SIS can offer you with our other products. PowerSchool announced the discontinuing support of Unified Classroom after September 30, 2022."



Since receiving this notification we have been working with PowerSchool to create a plan to transition our users back to the traditional PowerSchool Parent Portal. PowerSchool has reassured us that parent accounts credentials will be transferred from Unified Classroom to PowerSchool so that the interruption will be minimal. We will make sure that all links on the website and in school communications are

updated to guide you back to the original parent portal instead of the Unified Classroom screen before the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.

Brittany L'Heureux,
Technology Director

Flag Retirement Ceremony



We've been asked to share an invitation to the Annual 14 June Flag Retirement Ceremony, which will be taking place on the Town Common and sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America. The annual solemn event will start at 8 PM and will be done before 8:30 at dusk to taps and a bagpipe. Questions, please contact Doug Vogel at 603-793-9513.

From Raymond Coalition for Youth



Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported our RCFY Operation Raymond Clean Up event. It was a complete success because we worked together to make it happen. Check out this great video on our [RCFY You Tube channel here](#).



You are invited to join us on June 9th for our monthly Raymond Coalition For Youth meeting, 9 am at the Raymond Baptist Church. Our RCFY Youth Action members will be sharing their Film Festival videos on mental health, suicide prevention and nh988.com

Events are subject to change.

Please check our Events Calendars at www.sau33.com.

3rd Grade Parent Information Night

Tuesday, June 7, 6:00 PM, IHGMS Media Center

Senior Class Night

Wednesday, June 8, 6:00 PM

3rd Grade Step-Up Day

Thursday, June 9

IHGMS NJHS Induction Ceremony

Thursday, June 9, 5:30 PM, IHGMS Cafe

RHS Graduation

Friday, June 10, 6:00 PM, RHS

Kindergarten Celebration

Tuesday, June 14, 9:30 AM

School Board Meeting

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		

Wednesday, June 15, 6:00 PM, RHS Media Center

3rd Grade Celebration

Thursday, June 16, 1:30 PM

8th Grade Class Day

Friday, June 17

Last Day of School

Monday, June 20th

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!



Visit our website

Raymond School District | 43 Harriman Hill Road, Raymond, NH 03077

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