

RAYMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Raymond, New Hampshire



GREEN GAZETTE NEWSLETTER

September 2021

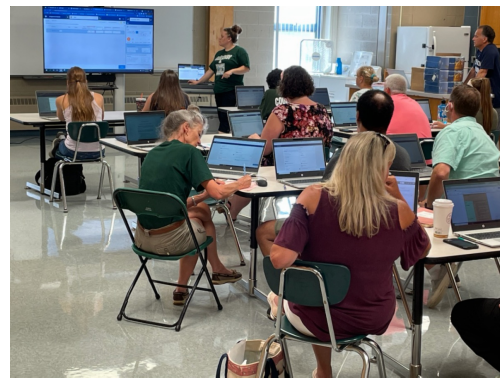
From the Superintendent

"Before every great reward, comes the footprint of persistence,
courage, faith and patience."

-Edmund Mbiaka

I took advantage of our Transition Day and First Day back to visit schools, meet some parents, and watch our students return to our classrooms. It was nice to see teachers and students excited about being back to school. Both the Transition Day and First Day back provided the Raymond School District and the community a chance to start the process of building a bright future.

In my opening day letter to staff, I spoke of the professional and personal challenges we all faced during the pandemic and stand by my statement that as public educators we did an outstanding job responding to that unprecedented situation. I would also like to acknowledge the challenges many parents, guardians, and members in our community faced during the last eighteen months. While there were many commonalities about the pandemic's impact on all of us, we also had many different personal experiences. Each one of us can share a story about the pandemic and how it impacted us and our families. It's time to move forward.



Breakout Sessions at District In-Service Day

Now starts the work of moving from Opening Day to the end of the school year. As a district, our work will consist of starting to assess our students to find out where they are academically. Using student data, we will build the academic support systems to move them forward as learners. Another area we will be working closely with students is on their social and emotional needs. The past eighteen months have also impacted our students. Like us, they all have experienced something different with regards to the pandemic. Gaining a better understanding of their social emotional needs will support us in helping them return to normal.

It is important for parents and guardians to be active partners in this work. We need you to make school important and when your child is physically healthy to attend they need to come to school. You can help us establish open lines of communication by not waiting for the school to call if we see a problem. Instead, I encourage you to contact us at the first signs your child is struggling. If your child is struggling academically or social emotionally, we need to know. Finally, take time to talk with your child about school and how they are doing. It will be important to keep lines of communication open in our school buildings and at home.

I write this as a grandparent with two granddaughters, one off to kindergarten and the other preschool. My daughter and son-in-law are educators and they are back to school with students in their district and they are navigating this situation as professionals and parents. We all have some personal connection to reopening schools for in-person learning. We all share the same concerns and I believe we share the same hope of working through these next few months with the goal of a return to normal.

Let's work together to ensure this year ends as strong as it opened.

Dave DeRuosi,
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Surveys: COVID-19 and Flu Vaccination Clinic / COVID-19 Testing

Raymond School District is working with Walgreens in preparing to host a **vaccination clinic on October 1st**, open to students, staff, and community members. The Pfizer vaccine will be offered, as well as a flu vaccine. (Note, the Pfizer vaccine offered is not being offered as a "booster" at this time.) If you or your family members would like to receive a free COVID-19 or flu vaccination on October 1, please complete [this very short survey](#) by September 17th to help us gauge interest and to know how many to potentially prepare for.

Raymond School District is also considering offering **free COVID-19 testing to students and staff**. This testing would be facilitated through the Safer at School Screening (SASS) Program, offered in partnership with ConvenientMD and the NH Department of Health and Human Services. ConvenientMD would perform free COVID-19 testing of asymptomatic students and staff.

If you would like your child to participate, please complete [this very short survey](#) by September 17th to help us gauge interest in bringing this program to the Raymond School District.

You can find more information about the [SASS Program here](#). (Note that this is a generic flyer provided to you now as preliminary information only - we have not confirmed participation in the program and our schools do not have more specific information at this time as indicated on the flyer.)

How Your Free and Reduced Meals Application Can Help Keep Our Programs Running



We are looking forward to kicking off LEAP in our 5th and final year of our current 21CCLC grant that supports these programs! **We are hoping to apply for another 5-year round of funding this year but we need your help.**

As of this writing, the expectation is that schools need 40% of their students to be eligible for free or reduced. **Please consider filling out the application for this benefit this year even though lunches are once again free for all families.** These percentages are used to determine eligibility for many federally funded programs, not just after school. Students have no way of knowing who receives this benefit because all students swipe a card or enter their code when going through the line. There is no indication of what's being paid. This is an important step in keeping LEAP and other services in Raymond.

The application can be found here:

https://www.sau33.com/sites/g/files/vyhlf5441/f/uploads/fr_packet_2021-22_complete.pdf

We still have room at both LRES and IHGMS LEAP programs! For information and registration forms, you can visit each school's home page and find a link to LEAP on the left side of the pages. If you have any questions, you can email Pat Arsenault at **p.arsenault.com**.

Patrick Arsenault,
Youth Program Director

Preschool Screening

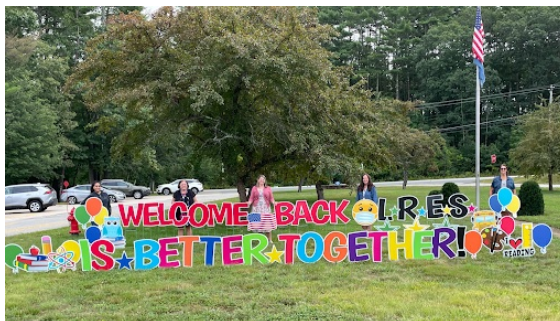


Our first Preschool screening is November 19, 2021. Screenings are for those parents who have concerns of their child's development and question whether the child has an educational disability. To schedule an appointment you may contact Linda Mahoney, Student Services

Secretary at 895-4299 ext 1106. Her email address is **l.mahoney@sau33.com**.

LRES "Time to Shine"

We are so excited to welcome our students and families to Lamprey River Elementary School, for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. The classrooms, hallways, cafeteria, and playgrounds are ready for students! LRES staff and families were able to connect on the playground for the traditional meet and greet on Monday, August 30th.



The PTO has been a great support and has worked collaboratively with the administration to help prepare for the opening of school. We would like to thank them for the amazing welcome back sign, treat bags and name tags for staff, and the amazing Kona ice treat at our meet and greet. We are looking forward to a great year as we do our best to return to normal. Our theme at LRES this year is "Time to Shine".

We have so many wonderful things planned for the school year and we look forward to sharing the great ways that we are shining at LRES with our community throughout the school year.

Laura Yacek
LRES Principal

IHGMS Supporting Students



We are so excited to have our students back, for at least the start, a near normal school year! It warms the heart to see all the students arrive with their smiles and excitement! We can see those smiles this year! I lost count of the number of students who said to me on the first day of school as I visited classrooms, "That's what you look like Mr. Bickford" For many of our 4th, 5th & 6th graders they had never seen me without a mask on.

We are very fortunate to have a number of student behavior health staff to work with our students who are feeling the impact of the pandemic more significantly than others. We know that we all have been impacted in one way or another, but there are many that need more support than ever before. The Raymond School District was very fortunate to be selected as a recipient of a multi-year Project Aware Grant awarded by the NH Department of Education. Along with our school counselors, we have two part time social workers. One we share with the elementary school and the other we share with the high school. We also have a full time Student Assistance Program counselor. All of these wonderful professionals support behavioral mental health of all of our students.

The pandemic has not only been challenging for our students and our staff, but has also had an overall impact on our school. Although there may not be a one to one correlation between the pandemic and the fifteen unfilled positions we have as we start the school year, it is not hard to make those connections.

We are off to a great school year with a building full of happy students!

Bob Bickford,
IHGMS Principal

RHS Update - Looking Forward

It has been two years since we had a 'normal' school opening and it was great to see a bunch of smiling faces in the building. We look forward to a productive school year and reestablishing our traditions and learning environment as we move towards "normal." Our first day of school went smoothly and the

students were wonderful. We are looking forward to a great school year.

The RHS Transition Day saw 65 freshmen attend. They were able to meet their teachers and find their classrooms. The latter part of the day included a session of Captain's Calling, distribution of Chromebooks, and a cookout hosted by the Freshman Academy and faculty.



You will be seeing a lot more of us this year. Mr. Lacasse is looking forward to getting the band and chorus out in the community and our athletic contents are open to everyone. We are excited to be able to show off our local talent; it has been too long.

If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at 895-6616, ext. 2306, or via email at s.woodward@sau33.com. We will see you soon!

Forever Green,

Steve Woodward, M.Ed.
RHS Principal

Special Education Information

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your current special education student, please contact your child's case manager. If the case manager is unable to address your concerns, you may be referred to the building level facilitator. You may reach out to this individual, as well. If you require administrative support, please contact your child's building principal. The building admin will be available to assist you with day to day concerns that transpired in the building. For administrative needs pertaining to the special education process, please connect the SAU Student Services Admin team.

Case manager

Facilitator

Ms. Haynes -LRES; Ms. Bronson - IHGMS;
Kim Capen - RHS

Building
Assistant/
Principal

SAU Admin Team
(Coord, Asst
Director, Director)

Jen Foley - DW Coord; Barb Kelly - Asst Director
Michael Hatfield - Director

Wish to refer your child to Special Education? To obtain a referral you may contact your building special education facilitator or you may contact Linda

Food Service Update - Meals Remain Free of Charge for Students



We are excited to see All of our students back in the school buildings again for the start of school!

We are delighted to announce that once again, a Breakfast and Lunch meal for each student will be available Free in school each day throughout the entire school year.

Families are encouraged to take full advantage of this convenient, delicious and cost effective opportunity! With the return to in-school learning, the program only applies to registered students of the Raymond School District on days when they are present. This is all thanks to a new waiver issued by the USDA to all schools nationwide. **Households are also reminded that this waiver covers the daily Free Meals, but parents must plan on having funds available in student accounts to purchase milk only, a la carte, seconds or extras as these items may not be charged.**

We are extremely grateful to a generous donation from within the Raymond community that paid off every negative balance in the district over the summer. Many, many thanks to those involved for giving many of our students a fresh start in their accounts this school year!

All three schools began serving both breakfast and lunch on the first day of school, Tuesday, August 31. In keeping a cautionary approach, our staff is still serving most of the items and handing silverware, condiment packets and such directly to individual students. Self-serve opportunities are limited to prepackaged items where there are very few choices, such as white or chocolate low fat milk.

During August, all households received this year's Free & Reduced price meals application packet via email. They are also available to download and print from the [District website](https://www.sau33.com/district/food-services). **We hope that even with free meals for the 21-22 school year, parents and guardians will still review the criteria and apply if they think they may be eligible. Approved applications are still important to the School District in the determination of funding for some programs far beyond school meals.**

As always, Menus are posted each month, along with our "News from Nutrition Services" to keep everyone updated on changes and happenings. Please visit <https://www.sau33.com/district/food-services> for additional information.

Judith DiNatale,
Nutrition Services Director

Attention 2019-2020 Graduates!

2019-2020 Graduates, Can you believe it has already been a year since you left high school?

The NH Department of Education is asking for your help. We want to learn about what you are doing now and how well you think high school prepared you for the future.



Please assist us by completing our online survey at: <https://bit.ly/nhdoepostgrad>

Your participation in this survey is voluntary and your responses to this survey will be kept confidential. The survey will close October 29, 2021. To protect your confidentiality, the NHDOE has contracted with Panorama Education to collect responses and analyze the results.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this important survey.

Welcome Back from the Reach High Scholars Program

Reach High Scholars Program
Control your destiny.



The start of another school year brings a mix of nervous excitement and anticipation for all of us, as we look forward to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. For seniors especially, the fall means that the college application process has finally arrived! And no matter where you are in your college search, the Reach High Scholars Program is here to help. What can you be doing to get off to a great start?

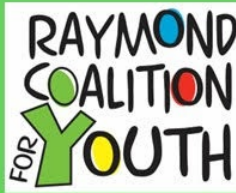
1. Get into a good routine with classes, homework, activities, and sleep. Keeping your grades up is important work!
2. If you haven't already, investigate schools either in-person or virtually. So much information is available online these days—take advantage of it and do your homework! A great place to start is your counseling office calendar and https://reachhighscholars.org/college_visits.html.
3. Schedule tours and information sessions—again, in-person or virtually.
4. Schedule interviews where possible, for the schools you are most interested in. Show them you are serious and let them get to know you!

The Reach High Scholars Club will begin weekly meetings early in the academic year, during morning RAM time. The first meeting for all Scholars, grades 9-12 in Wednesday, September 8th in the library. Our new Program Director, Mrs. Shanyn Grenier (sgrenier@reachhighscholars.org), brings a wealth of experience and knowledge as one of the top college counselors in NH. Both she and Sarah Nelson (snelson@reachhighscholars.org) cannot wait to start—or continue—your college journeys!

Follow us on social media!

Facebook - Reach High Scholars and Instagram - @reachhighscholars

www.reachhighscholars.org



September 9th, 2021

9:00–10:30

Raymond Baptist Church



Meeting resuming back in person

School Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 1, 6:00 PM, RHS Media Center

School Closed - Labor Day

Monday, September 6

IHGMS Principal's Coffee Hour

Thursday, September 9, 9:00 AM, IHGMS and Virtual

LRES Principal's Coffee Hour

Friday, September 10, 10:00 AM, LRES and Virtual

School Board Meeting

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

RHS Principal's Coffee Hour

Monday, September 20, 10:00 AM,

School Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 22, 6:00 PM, RHS Media Center

IHGMS Principal's Coffee Hour

Thursday, September 23, 9:00 AM, IHGMS and Virtual

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		



[Visit our website](#)