

RAYMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Raymond, New Hampshire



GREEN GAZETTE NEWSLETTER

March 2022

From the Superintendent

"In a high-IQ job pool, soft skills like discipline, drive, and empathy mark those who emerge as outstanding."
-Daniel Goleman

My community memo will focus on a professional development day planned for March 14, 2022*. The School Board, recognizing the needs of our students and staff, granted a change in the school calendar to support a professional development day. There will be no classes that day for students with the exception of our SST high school students.

The overwhelming support of this day by the School Board sheds light on their understanding of the needs of the district at this time. I appreciate this opportunity which has presented itself and plan on taking full advantage of this opportunity.

The School Board, recognizing the social emotional needs of students and staff, asked me to create a professional development day focusing on moving forward our work we are doing in the area of social emotional learning. My administrative team and I went right to work and created a professional development day we hope will support the work the district and staff are doing in our buildings and classrooms. I have engaged the services of Constellations Behavioral Health, Seacoast Mental Health, Raymond Coalition For Youth and our parent organizations to support us during this day.



The offerings for this day will focus on social emotional support for our students, but also offer our staff sessions to help them to continue to navigate the chaos and loss of stability in our personal and professional lives to ensure the district will meet the needs of all stakeholders in the future. I am working with my leadership team to make this a day to celebrate our accomplishments and also provide us with additional skills we need to move forward as a school district. This day of learning will encompass the entire district. All staff will participate in some capacity.

We are in the final stages of bringing this day together.

Dave

[*See the updated school district calendar here.](#)

March 8th Voting Day

Our Voter Information web page contains information that continues to be updated throughout the budget and voting season. There you'll find a sample copy of the School District ballot, a video presentation of our warrant articles, and information shared at our Deliberative Session.

Visit www.sau33.com/voterinformation.



Tuesday, March 8th, 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM **VOTE**
at Iber Holmes Gove Middle School!

Raymond School Board Announces Offer of Employment for Superintendent of Schools

The Raymond School Board is pleased to announce that an offer of employment has been presented to and accepted by Terrence "Terry" Leatherman to be the next superintendent of the Raymond School District. Mr. Leatherman said "I am very excited for this opportunity and am looking forward to meeting and working with the students, teachers, school board and community members. I envision building a successful and collaborative school district with all your help as a community."



Terry comes to us with over 21 years of experience in education. He started his time as an elementary and middle school teacher in Londonderry and his latest position as a middle school principal in Barrington has set him up for success here in Raymond. He has made it a point to communicate and be open not only to staff and parents, but to the whole community.

The Raymond School Board is excited to welcome Mr. Leatherman to our school district. Terry went through an exhaustive search process and demonstrated he was the best candidate, not only to the search committee, but to the community and school board as well. We have complete confidence that Terry will be a great asset to the district and will work collaboratively with all stakeholders to improve our district in the future.

Joe Saulnier stated "I have every confidence that Mr. Leatherman will be able to continue to improve our school district. I believe he will be a catalyst in helping get parents involved and will always look to not only include staff and administrators, but the larger community in his decision making. I look forward to seeing the progress the Raymond School District will make over the

upcoming years with the leadership of Mr. Leatherman.”

Terry comes highly recommended by his peers and public alike. He has made drastic improvements in all the districts he has been in. His number one goal is the students and you can not only see that in the results, but the way students react to him. When his school needed a basketball coach, he was there. When they needed a volleyball coach, he was there. He will be a very visible leader in our district and in our community. Mr. Leatherman has made it perfectly clear, he is here to stay.

Current Interim Superintendent, Dr. David DeRuosi will remain in his current role until June 30, 2022. The Raymond School Board would like to thank Dr. DeRuosi for all his hard work, dedication, and expertise during this very difficult transition. Dr. DeRuosi has done a fantastic job pointing out the ways could move forward in the years to come including a tiered system of support and opportunities of professional development. We are confident that Dave and Terry will work together to ensure a smooth transition in our district.

The Raymond School Board

LRES Student Supports in Response to Pandemic

We are so fortunate at LRES to have additional academic support for our students this school year. Since the start of the school year, we have had reading and math support for our students, to assist us in responding to the extra instructional support our students require, due to the pandemic. Our team of reading and math specialists work collaboratively with our grade level teachers to provide additional academic time for groups of students, based on assessment results taken throughout the year. Our content specialists



have taken the time to collaborate and analyze our benchmark and progress monitoring data to see where our students are experiencing academic gaps and how they can best support and reach the most students. They are strategic and creative with their schedules to find more ways to push in to work with larger groups of students at a time, as well as co-teach with classroom teachers.

Our specialists have also played an important role in looking at instructional practices in our school and have been providing teachers with effective instructional strategies that address the skills our students need to access the curriculum. Thank you Ms. Wells, Ms. Rocci, Ms. Baka, Ms. Watts, Ms. Pierce, Ms. Botsch, & Ms. LeClerc for your dedication to the students at Lamprey River Elementary school.

Laura Yacek
LRES Principal

IHGMS: March, 2020 - March, 2022; The Journey We Have Been On...



When we left school at the end of the day on Friday, March 13, 2020 little did we know that would be the last “normal” day of school for over two years. The pandemic had begun and we were already instituting measures to reduce the spread of this somewhat unknown virus in our schools. At the time we had no idea what changes lay in front of us or had any idea the roller coaster we all would be on over the following 24 months, and likely beyond.

I was with my family on March 14 celebrating our son’s and granddaughter’s birthdays when I received a text to check my email. There was a message that went to all principals and superintendents across the state to join the Commissioner of Education the following morning for a non-public online meeting where we were told that the Governor was going to be making a major announcement later in the day. We were given enough information to realize that an unprecedented event was about to be announced; we were going into a statewide lockdown for what we thought at the time was only to be for a couple of weeks. We now know that was not the case.

Fast forward almost two years and it appears that in some ways we may be getting back toward what some would consider “normal”. Just a few short weeks ago we had over 10% of our students home under quarantine. There were remote students attending almost every class through the school. We will start this month without any positive cases in the school; students and staff alike. We can see each other again; we can see the smiles on our students. Our students can work together again on class projects. Our cheerleaders are back and competing for the first time in two years.



We have learned much over the last two years, not all the effects of the pandemic have been bad. We have learned how to provide teaching and learning in a number of new ways. Our students and staff have gained valuable technology skills. We have learned to be flexible and to implement changes seemingly overnight. But all these changes have been exceptionally stressful on students and staff. The behavioral mental health of all has become one of our major focuses. Luckily we now have more support in this area than we have ever had before thanks in large part to a

grant the district received just prior to the start of the pandemic and with the federal funds that we have received over the past two years that will be available for a few more years moving forward. These mental health professionals have been in high demand and the support that they have provided have had a significant positive impact on students and staff alike.

As we attempt to move back to our new “normal”, whatever that may bring, please reach out to us at the school if you notice that your child is experiencing challenges that are having an impact on them and/or your family. We will do our best to help. Contact us at 603-895-3394 or at b.bickford@sau33.com.

RHS Sports Update



Dear Ram Nation,

Our newest endeavor in athletics has been a major success for Raymond High School. Last weekend at the State Tournament, two of our wrestlers did very well. Freshman Michael Morse came in second place in his weight class. Sophomore Hayden Robinson, placed first in his weight class and he is the Division III State Champion. We are proud of all of our wrestlers. Hayden will next

compete in the Wrestling Meet of Champions on Saturday, February 26.

RHS Bowling had a very successful season making it to the semifinals for the first time in the NHIAA Bowling Team Championship. This Saturday, our bowlers will compete in the Bowling Individual Championship. We wish Maddie the best of luck defending her title as NHIAA Bowling Individual Champion.

Sincerely,

Steve Woodward
RHS Principal

Reach High Roundtables

Reach High Roundtables (formerly known as Raymond Roundtables) is a summer academic enrichment program for rising 8th, 9th and 10th graders in Raymond and neighboring towns. The classes are designed for curious, motivated students who are interested in challenging themselves academically. They use Phillips Exeter Academy's renowned “Harkness Method” of teaching. It is a student-centered seminar style in which classes are conducted around a table, while the teacher guides and fosters discussion among the students based on their questions and observations. The students learn to take responsibility for their education, to listen to each other and to explore the potential of their academic and intellectual abilities.

This summer's classes will likely include: language arts, mathematics, and neuroscience (The Amazing Teenage Brain). Classes will run for twelve weekdays, July 7-22, 2022. Registration materials will be available in the upcoming weeks.

Shanyn Grenier,
Reach High Scholars

Universal Screening

This year the Raymond School District achieved the lofty goal of universal screening of students as it relates to social and emotional wellness. This screener was used by school staff and prompted them to rate observable student behavior. The screener did not require specialized knowledge or training. The purpose was to better understand school wide trends and to connect students more quickly to supports and services.

Across the district a total of 1,103 students were screened. During a time of staffing shortages and absences related to COVID, it is nothing short of impressive that teachers and buildings were able to complete this. In order to be considered “universal” each building had to ensure at least 80% of their student population was screened. Each building exceeded 80%.

The universal screener used, the SAEBRS, is an evidenced based tool that rates students in the following areas:

Social	Academic	Emotional
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arguing• Cooperation with peers• Temper outbursts• Disruptive behavior• Polite and socially appropriate responses towards others• impulsiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interest in academic topics• Preparedness• Production of acceptable work• Difficult working independently• Distractedness• Academic engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sadness• Fearfulness• Adaptable to change• Positive attitude• Worry• Difficulty rebounding from setbacks• Withdrawal

What have we learned?

District wide, students are most at risk for emotional and academic challenges. This was a clear theme at each building. Approximately 1 in 4 students are at risk in all areas.

What will we do?

With these results, Raymond School District will take a two pronged approach starting with a professional development day to support emotional wellness of students. Topics include (but are not limited to) suicide prevention, compassion fatigue, and behavioral interventions for the classroom. This day is also to recognize that teachers are seeing unprecedented rates of social and emotional challenges in their classroom- something schools across the country are grappling with. The second prong is providing an additional layer of support to students identified as at risk. Each school received high level and detailed results with recommendations based on the outcomes. Buildings are preparing to run small groups for students to build skills that will increase emotional wellness and academic success. We thank our community partners,

Constellations Behavioral Services and Seacoast Mental Health Clinic for their willingness to support us with this additional layer of support for students.

Jessica Caron,
Director of Student Behavioral Health

LEAP Update; Education Expo



This is a very exciting time for our 5th year of LEAP under this current grant cycle. We have been working hard to put together a new grant application for 5 more years of funding and we believe we will be submitting a string proposal to the state on March 9th. We'll find out if we get the award on May 9th. Fingers crossed!

Thank you to all who came out to our Education Expo on February 25th. It was a great event where kids got to play math games, make clay, participate in literacy circles, and even do spells at "Hogwarts!" Our next event is tentatively scheduled for April 1st. Be on the lookout for more details soon!

Pat Arsenault,
Youth Program Director

Extended Learning Opportunities

Seize the Opportunity...

Congratulations to Paul Cahill, Alyciana Ashley, Madison Tesniere, Savanna Minton and Jessica Duchemin on their acceptance into a 14 week Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA) Program. The program was made possible through the NH Caregivers and a recent NH Health Care Grant. The grant will provide 300 NH students free tuition and the opportunity to earn and receive their LNA certification while still in high school. Students are required to complete theory and clinical components of the course as well as work at least 8 weeks in the field following certification. Students will complete the course in May and will be eligible to complete the certification soon after. If any student is interested in the Health Care Field, it is strongly recommended that you begin as an LNA. Applications for the summer program are available now.



PROJECTSTENO

PROJECTSTENO is a FREE basic training program which introduces students to many career options in court reporting and captioning professionals. Basic Training can be the first step to figuring out if stenography is the career path for you.

- 6 program sessions.

- Stenograph machines and textbooks provided.
- Open to students grades 9-12
- Certificate of Completion upon completion of class.
- Future career opportunities to work in the courtroom, law office or from home.
- Dates of classes: April 6, 13, 20, May 4, 11, 18
- Where: RHS, 3-4:30 pm
-



For more information regarding any of the opportunities, contact Holly Londo, h.londo@sau33.com.

Holly Londo,
ELO Coordinator

Athletics Update

The winter sports season was an exciting one for sure.

- Three of the Iber Holmes Gove Middle School basketball teams made it into the Tri County League Tournament with both the girls and boys A teams advancing to the semi finals!
- The cheer team grew in number this year under Coach Nieves and competed in the Tri County League Competition.
- At RHS, our basketball teams were able to complete their full regular season schedule even with the obstacles of COVID and Mother Nature.
- Our bowling team advanced to the NHIAA semi finals in the State Tournament which is the furthest to date for this program. We had several bowlers selected for the individual state championship at both the medal and championship levels.
- Our independent wrestlers saw Mike Morse finish runner up in his weight class at the NHIAA State Tournament and Hayden Robinson was crowned as the 2022 State Champion for his weight class. Both Mike and Hayden now compete at the Meet of Champions.
- Our cheer team is just getting into their competition season with the NHIAA State Tournament scheduled for March 6 and March 10th.

Davinney Brazeau,
Athletic Director

From Raymond Coalition for Youth



The [Raymond Coalition For Youth](#) is celebrating twenty years in 2022. We invite you to [learn more](#) and get involved. Our website has helpful information, resources and updated information on events and you can [join our newsletter](#). Please contact our office if you have questions, or check us


out on social media.

Do you know the top three concerns from our youth? Vaping, marijuana use (often via vape devices), and prescription drug misuse They want information, they want to know the truth about their dangers, and they want to talk about it.



Mostly they are concerned people (peers, parents and other adults) are using these substances for coping with mental health and stress. RCFY Youth Action students are participating in the I Care NH campaign to raise awareness and let people know that they are cared about. [More info here.](#)

RCFY Youth Action groups meet at the middle and high school. If your student is interested in getting involved please contact Pam Baker pbaker@rcfy.org.




Roaring into our Twentieth year!!!


Raymond Coalition For Youth FUNDRAISING GALA

7th Annual


March 12th, 2022, 6 pm – 10 pm, Atkinson Country Club



Tickets are \$80
and include cheese & crackers,
dinner, comedy show, raffles,
auction, anniversary cake.
A spectacular night out!!



**Roaring 20's
theme optional**

Comedian Juston McKinney
Sponsored by the
 **Rotary**

Tickets, Sponsorship opportunities & more www.rcfy.org
All funds raised support the mission and programs of RCFY

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							

Events are subject to change. Please check our Events Calendars at www.sau33.com.

School Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 2, 6:00 PM, RHS Media Center

Voting Day
Tuesday, March 8, 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM, IHGMS

IHGMS Principal's Coffee Hour
Thursday, March 10, 9:00 AM

LRES Principal's Coffee Hour
Friday, March 11, 10:00 AM

School Closed - Staff In-Service Day
Monday March 14

School Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 16, 6:00 PM

IHGMS Principal's Coffee Hour
Thursday, March 24, 9:00 AM



[Visit our website](#)