

- October 5th – First day of after-school classes
- October 6th – Speaker Kevin Harrington: Raising a Resilient Teen
- October 7th – National Bike/Walk to school day
- October 13th – Picture Retake day
- October 13th – Evening Conferences 4:20-8:00 p.m.
- October 14th – Morning Conferences 8:00-Noon
- October 14-16th –No School
- October 20th – PTA Meeting 6:30 – 8:30
- October 26-28th – 6th grade Field Trip to Camp St. Croix

Principal's News and Notes

It's hard to believe that we are nearly a month into the school year. Everyone is adjusting to new teachers, new routines, new school hours and you might have heard something about a new literacy class happening at school.

For the first time at Ramsey, there is a period in your child's schedule called Literacy. Students are required to take a literacy elective course with peers in their same grade. The additional minutes added onto our school day provided the opportunity to add a new class for students to strengthen their literacy skills.

Additionally, we know that literacy in all avenues of our curriculum is essential as we prepare students to be ready for high school and beyond.

Richard Vaca, author of *Content Area Reading: Literacy and*

Learning Across the Curriculum nicely summarizes our purpose for this literacy focus by saying, "Adolescents entering the adult world in the 21st century will read and write more than at any other time in human history. They will need advanced levels of literacy to perform their jobs, run their households, act as citizens, and conduct their personal lives."

Using multiple data points, students were placed into a literacy class that best fit their needs and interests. A few of the unique topics students may learn about in their classes include Neuroscience, Graphic Novels, Journalism and Public Speaking. We are seeing some very enthusiastic readers at Ramsey this year!

Below is a more detailed description of the different literacy classes offered at Ramsey:

Literacy Class (taught by ELA, Science, Social Studies teachers):

This class is intended to meet the literacy needs of Ramsey Middle School students by explicitly teaching strategies students can choose to use as they read and write throughout their day. During the class, students will have opportunities to practice content area reading and writing proficiency; and receive support in studying the variations in vocabulary, format, comprehension, and study procedures in their content areas.

AVID Class (taught by a trained AVID teacher)

This class is intended to help prepare students for post secondary success.

AVID uses proven practices, including incorporating literacy strategies, in order to prepare students for success in high school, college, and a career, especially students traditionally underrepresented in higher education. In the class students will

experience the following:

- Skills and behaviors for academic success
- Intensive support with tutorials and strong student/teacher relationships
- Creation of a positive peer group for students
- Develops a sense of hope for personal achievement gained through hard work and determination

Reader's Workshop Class (taught by Reading Teacher):

This class is intended to meet the individual literacy needs of Ramsey Middle School students by using a model that includes small group mini-lesson strategy instruction, reader response tasks (where students practice the strategies they are learning), and independent reading time. This is also a very explicit strategy-based instructional model of teaching reading. This means that students learn explicit reading strategies, which they can then transfer to their own reading tasks. By learning strategies, rather than the content of one "book," each student is able to build a tool kit of skills for use in whatever book matches his/her level.

READ 180 Class (taught by Reading Teacher):

This class is intended to meet the individual literacy needs of Ramsey Middle School students by having students regularly engaging in four components:

Whole-Group Instruction: Teachers begin the class by facilitating systematic instruction in reading skills and strategies, academic vocabulary, writing, and grammar to the whole class.

Instructional Technology: Students work independently on the *READ 180* Software, where they follow an individualized learning path that allows them to work within their zone of proximal development.

Small Group: Students receive individualized, data-driven instruction that meets their unique learning needs while building meaningful relationships with their teacher.

Independent Reading: Students engage with complex, content-rich literature and informational texts that they can read with success and apply their newly acquired vocabulary and comprehension skills.

Key points:

- 1) Explicit Teaching of strategies
- 2) Time to practice new strategies
- 3) Independent Reading (Student choice)

Amy Janecek

Principal, Ramsey Middle School

What's Happening

Conferences

October 13th 4:20 – 8:00 p.m.

October 14th 8:00 – 12:00 p.m.

At Ramsey Middle School, we follow a model called student-led conferences as recommended by AMLE (Association of Middle Level Education). These student-led conferences are “goal setting” meetings with you, your child and their advisor. In each class, teachers work with students to choose meaningful goals.

During Advisory, we will be working with your child to identify their strengths and areas of growth. We are excited for the

opportunity to sit down with you and your child at conferences.

Your child's advisor will contact you in the coming days to schedule this conference. We will have interpreters available for families who request this service.

For more information about specific classes and to monitor your student's progress, we encourage you to access the Parent Portal. This tool also gives parents opportunity to communicate with individual teachers through e-mail.

Ramsey Community Education Enrichment and Extended Learning

After-school classes at Ramsey start Monday, Oct. 5. Flyers will come home with students in advisory this week. For more information and to download a copy of the registration form, go to the Ramsey Community Education Youth page: <http://youth.mpls.k12.mn.us/ramsey.html> .

Math Center

The Math Center is now open during all lunches! Students may come to the Math Center to get help with homework or other assignments. It is also a place where students can retake assessments or work on ST Math! The Math Center is staffed by Ms. Janicek and Ms. Krasean, as well as, tutors from the University of Minnesota. Find us in room 322!

6th Grade Field Trip to Camp St. Croix

Ramsey Middle School's 6th Grade Team is getting excited about our upcoming field trip to Camp St. Croix, and we are hoping you and your student are as well! We will be at camp from Monday, October 26 through Wednesday, October 28, and will arrive back at Ramsey in time for busses on Wednesday afternoon. Please be sure your student packs light and appropriate clothing for the weather.

There are scholarships available! We encourage all students to participate in this great opportunity.

If you have any questions regarding the Camp St. Croix field trip, please contact your student's advisor.

PTA Corner

Join us Tuesday, October 6 to hear Kevin Harrington speak about Mindfulness and Raising a Resilient Teenager. Parents and students are encouraged to attend. The event is co-sponsored by Ramsey PTA and the Washburn Parent Council and will be held in the Ramsey auditorium.

<http://tinyurl.com/o2tod58>

Our first PTA meeting of the year was last week with a focus on learning more about RMS. If you are interested in the discussion, our Secretary, Lisa Thiigs, has them posted on our website and here <http://tinyurl.com/ob8pf5h>

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Help feed the teachers for conferences on October 8th. Donate food for the teacher conference dinner. Follow this link to sign up: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0544abaa2aaafe3-dinner2>

The media center is also in need of volunteers to help keep it organized. Volunteers are needed on an ongoing basis. Times are flexible during the school day. Come once to see what it is like, then keep coming back because it is great to be at Ramsey! Follow this link to sign up:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0544abaa2aaafe3-media1>

Girls on the Run Volunteers needed! To sign up as a running buddy, follow this link:

<https://www.raceplanner.com/register/index/GOTRTCFALL20155K>

Who: Women runners

What: Be a running buddy for a Ramsey girl. Run alongside her and encourage her!

When: ONLY 2 days - Practice 5k Wed, 10/28 and Final 5k race 11/14

Contact: Rachel Borrell Rachel.Borrell@mpls.k12.mn.us or

Brenda Butler Brenda.Butler@mpls.k12.mn.us

Student Hours – 8:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Office Hours – 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Office – 612-668-4040

Fax – 612-668-4050

Somali – 612-668-4045

Spanish - 612-668-4032

Attendance Line – 612-668-4040

Transportation – 612-668-2300