



AROUND THE HORN

RAMSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

MARCH 6, 2015

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS AND NOTES

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL | MARIETTA

As the weather warms up, many more of our students are walking and biking to school. My own 10-year-old daughter broke out her bike and has been using it every day this spring. Situations like this provide us with an opportunity for to speak with our children about safety. A few important highlights for our children should include:

- Walk and ride in groups
- Stick to a route and time plan that has been communicated to family members
- Do not use technology unless needed while walking and be vigilant of surroundings
- Do not engage with strangers

For our bicycle riders, it is very important that they protect their bicycles. Chain and cable locks do not work! Unfortunately, we have had many incidents of students' bikes being stolen with cut cables. We strongly suggest U-Locks. We have about 15 locks available for students to check out and use for the day if they need it.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, April 10

Yearbook Order Forms Due

Saturday, April 11

6th Grade Math Challenge
Walk! Bike! Fun! Volunteer Training

Sunday, April 12

Battle of the Bands

Monday, April 13

Community Education
Spring Session Classes Begin

Saturday, April 18

Somali Tea and Culture
Ramsey Rendezvous Event

Friday, May 1

Twins Game

Saturday, May 2

8th Grade Moms Celebration
Casino Night

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS | MARIETTA

We are fortunate as the capital (or building) improvements continue to happen at Ramsey. Over spring break, we installed a new cafeteria floor, the auditorium is well on the way to completion, all the bathrooms are getting a freshening, construction of two new science labs is slated to begin soon, and we will be adding single stall bathrooms on the third floor.

Finally, speaking of safety, this spring we will be installing 25+ new cameras both inside and outside of our building and installing a new lock system.

BUDGET UPDATES | MARIETTA

We had a fortunate budget cycle where we were able to add many elements to our school in preparation for 160 new students next year. Some major highlights:

- Adding 2 new deans
- We will have 6 bilingual AE instructional focused staff (1 Spanish speaking and 1 Somali speaking staff per grade)
- Adding an additional full time staff in the front office
- Ensuring 100% health office coverage
- Additional classroom teachers (2 ELA, 3 Math – this will make Math classes much smaller -- 2 Science, and 1 Social Studies)
- Adding ESL teachers to equal one per grade
- Adding more 2 more SERTs (Special Education Resource Teachers)
- Adding more social work time
- Adding Digital Media/Multimedia (emphasis in computer coding), Drama, and potentially Dance classes
- Adding AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) and AVID tutors
- Adding more PE/Health
- Adding an additional reading teacher
- Adding an additional SEA to support citywide programming

All of this is without cutting any current programming! The final budget is comprised of approximately 98% personnel.

EXTENDED STUDENT DAY | MARIETTA

In addition, the district has supplied many of the middle schools with additional resources to have an extended student day. Most schools have been advocating for a longer school day for quite some time.

Our goal is to align our start and end times more closely with Washburn while providing equitable access to a broad array of services to all of our students. Unfortunately, we do not yet have clarity on our official start and end times. Our tentative goal is to be from 8:30 to 3:30 (30 more minutes per day). We will let you know as soon as we receive our official start and end times.

YEARBOOK ORDER FORMS DUE TODAY

Order forms for Ramsey Middle School yearbooks for the 2014-2015 school year are due today (Friday, April 10).

Paper order forms were sent home with students the week of March 15. Yearbooks can still be ordered online by clicking [here](#) or by copying and pasting the following URL address into a web browser: http://link.entourageyearbooks.com/YBStore/YearbookStoreMain.asp?yearbook_id=15693

If help is needed with paying for a yearbook, please contact Vicki Berg in the main office.

Also, if you have photos of any school activities from the 2014-2015 school year, please send them to yearbookramsey@gmail.com, and please be sure to identify the event(s).

6TH GRADE MATH CHALLENGE

The Challenge is tomorrow (Saturday, April 11) at North High School starting at 8:30 AM. Ramsey should easily continue its reign of showing up with more students willing to do some extra math on a weekend than any other Minneapolis middle school. It is possible to add a team at the last minute...

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Speaking of math, here's a challenge: You have 1 stage, 13 musicians and groups, and only 4 hours: How many will show up to see the inaugural Battle of the Bands between Ramsey Middle School and Washburn High? Join us at Whiskey Junction, 901 Cedar Ave, starting at 3:00 PM Sunday, April 12. All ages!

SPRING AFTER SCHOOL SESSION | COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The spring session of after school classes starts on Monday, April 13. Registration forms are available in the Community Education Office or can be downloaded by clicking [here](#) or by copying and pasting the following URL address into a web browser: <http://youth.mpls.k12.mn.us/ramsey>. Call 612.668.3450 if you have questions.

ULTIMATE IS HERE!

Ramsey Middle School students can join an Ultimate Frisbee team this spring. Registration is open to boys and girls interested in this co-ed, worldwide, non-contact sport. Teams of seven players work together to win points by moving a flying disc into the opponents' end zone. It's fun and fast-paced. No previous Ultimate experience is necessary.

The team will practice near school (Fuller Park) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:50 PM-5:30 PM starting Tuesday, April 14 with games on weekends against neighboring middle school teams. To register and find more information, click [here](#) or copy and paste the following URL address into a web browser: <http://www.youthultimateprogram.org/spring-league.html>

SUMMER FUN AT RAMSEY | COMMUNITY EDUCATION

This summer, Community Education will offer enrichment camps for youth. There will be fun things like Theatre, Basketball and Cheerleading for students entering Kindergarten through 9th grade. A flyer will be available soon, but in the meantime, parents can view and register for classes by clicking [here](#) or by copying and pasting the following URL address into a web browser: <http://mplscommunityed.com> (search for Ramsey Summer.) Call 612.668.3450 for more information.

8TH GRADE YEAR END EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING APPEAL | PTA

Attention all 8th Grade families! You should have received a letter this week or right before break – ask your student to dig it out of the backpack...

Please read the letter as it has important information about the events we hope to have in May and June to recognize and remember this first class of Ramsey Middle School students. We are asking for your financial support to help make these events happen and available to all 8th grade students (and not to mention set the bar for all future Ramsey classes!).

You can also read the letter by clicking [here](#) or by copying and pasting the following URL address into a web browser:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzzzuMUSybj6YnZxTFY1UzJBcHM/view?usp=sharing>

RAMSEY RENDEZVOUS | PTA

Are you looking to fill your social calendar with some unique and fun outings? Hang with friends and meet new ones? We have the perfect opportunity for you: Ramsey Rendezvous! Here is what is coming up soon:

- Somali Tea and Culture Event (Saturday, April 18)
- 8th Grade Mom's Celebration (Saturday, May 2)
- Casino Night (Saturday, May 2) – Only 10 tickets remain!

Special prize to anyone who makes it to the Twins Game, 8th Grade Mom's Celebration AND Casino Night! Learn more about all of these events by clicking [here](#) or by copying and pasting the following URL address into a web browser:

<https://sites.google.com/site/ramseptafundraising/ramsey-rendezvous>

TWINS GAME | PTA

We have just a few tickets left in the Ramsey/Burroughs/Lyndale section on Friday, May 1. Tickets are only \$11. Ask in the main office.