



# AROUND THE HORN

**RAMSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**DECEMBER 16, 2015**

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWS AND NOTES

### **AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) comes to Ramsey!**

Beginning this academic year, the nationally recognized AVID program has launched at Ramsey Middle School with the addition of AVID elective classes in seventh and eighth grades! AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a college readiness class designed to prepare students for advanced classes and success in their postsecondary endeavors.

At Ramsey, AVID is taught during the literacy period, which is a specific period in the schedule when all students in a particular grade have a literacy-focused class. The AVID elective class supports students in the growth of their reading, writing, inquiry, collaboration, and organizational skills in anticipation of students taking advanced classes at the high school level, which in turn better prepares them for college. The teaching methods used in AVID are research-based, and provide a foundation for students to learn more

## IMPORTANT DATES

### **December 17th**

Concert/Jazz band concert 7:00-8:00

### **December 18th**

Daytime music assembly

### **December 21<sup>st</sup>-January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

No school – Winter break

### **January 6th**

PTA Treats for Teachers

### **January 12th**

PTA Meeting 6:30-8:00

### **January 14<sup>th</sup>**

Varsity/Beginning Band concert 7:00-8:00

### **January 15<sup>th</sup>**

No School – End of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter

### **January 18<sup>th</sup>– 19<sup>th</sup>**

No School

### **January 20<sup>th</sup>**

Grade level field trips

### **January 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>**

Intersession

effectively in their other courses.

During a typical AVID week, Mondays and Wednesdays are focused on reading, writing, and inquiry-based curriculum; Tuesdays and Thursdays are student-led tutorials; Fridays are typically focused on collaboration/team building activities, guest speakers, & organizational skills.

The AVID elective primarily serves students who are in the “academic middle” at Ramsey, students who are traditionally underrepresented at colleges/universities, and/or students who might be first generation college students. AVID is available to students at the high schools, so it is a support that students can apply to continue with as they progress in their coursework in Minneapolis Public Schools.

For more information about AVID, feel free to attend the January 12th PTA meeting at 6:30pm, where there will be a more in-depth presentation about AVID and an opportunity to ask questions of our AVID teacher/coordinator, Doug Werner. Feel free to also visit the AVID section of our website, or [www.avid.org](http://www.avid.org) to learn more!

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Principal

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## PTA NEWS

### **Ramsey Rendezvous 2016!**

We're launching our next round of Ramsey Rendezvous for 2016. What's a Ramsey Rendezvous you ask? Ramsey Rendezvous are social gatherings that Ramsey parents host in their homes and elsewhere. Tickets will be sold online on a rolling basis, until events fill. First up, Ms. Ismail, teacher and parent, is creating an authentic Egyptian dinner for 100! Yes, 100 people! Buy your tickets at the link below and check back on our website for additional parties coming

soon!

## [Authentic Egyptian Dinner](#)

### SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

#### **Vision Screening:**

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, every 6<sup>th</sup> grade student will have a vision test administered by the Phillips Eye Institute. Parents will receive written notification about this test after winter break. We are seeking parent volunteers to assist with managing students during the vision testing. Shifts are as follows:

January 14<sup>th</sup>: 9:45-11:45 OR 11:45-1:45  
January 29<sup>th</sup> – Make up date. 11:00-1:00

If you can help, contact Kate Goeddeke at [Kathleen.Goeddeke@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:Kathleen.Goeddeke@mpls.k12.mn.us)

#### **Intersession**

After first semester, on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will have Intersession. This week begins with grade level field trips followed by some “untraditional” classes. Classes will include Guitar, Knitting, Social Activism Through Art, Theater Set Design, and more! It provides a nice break in the year before we begin the second semester. We have more parents each week volunteering to help! This is a great way to be involved in your child’s school.

If you are available to help for a half day, a full day, or more than one day, please complete this [volunteer form](#). Once you have completed the form, we will contact you in January with more details.

If you have specific questions, contact Kate Goeddeke at [kathleen.goeddeke@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:kathleen.goeddeke@mpls.k12.mn.us).