



RAMSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Curricula News:

November 6 – Ramsey Arts
Booster Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Media Center

November 7 - Picture Retake
Day

November 11 – 8th Grade
EXPLORE Assessment

November 13 – GIVE TO THE
MAX DAY

November 18 – PTA Meeting
6:30 p.m. Media Center

November 20 – Native
American Family Day

November 26 – NO School

November 27-28 - NO School
Thanksgiving Holiday

ELA 6

6th grade ELA students are beginning to read *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman, a novel told from 13 different characters' perspectives about a community garden. We'll be reading closely for significant moments and exploring literary terms such as voice, metaphor, simile, and personification. The end of our unit will result in personal narratives with art integration, performed for students and parents in Cafe Lit!
- Mrs. Bauck and Mrs. Marr

ELA 7 (Bauck)

7th grade ELA students in Mrs. Bauck's class are halfway through *The Outsiders*, one of the first YA books to hit the scene in the 1960s. Kids are loving the story of the Greasers and the Socs - ask about it at home! This unit will end with a persuasive essay. - Mrs. Bauck

ELA 7 (Wender)

7th graders in Mrs. Wender's ELA class have finished *The Outsiders*, and their persuasive essay is due Nov. 7th. In the meantime we move on to the next text, *The Skin I'm In* by Sharon Flake. Students will have an independent project due at the end of this unit.

Hear ye, hear ye, 7th grade writers! Mrs. Wender will be hosting another morning writing session to either 1) work on persuasive essays (ahem, *Outsider* essays), or 2) just

write about what comes to your mind! Students have creative writing assignments due for each class, and this provides the time to get it done in the company of fellow writers! Further, you can have others read your work, and get teacher input. Therefore, please join us on Thursday, November 6th at 8:30 a.m., room 111. For more information, email hayley.wender@mpls.k12.mn.us.

ELA 8 (Constant and Miller)

As we near the end of *The Giver*, we are discovering how the community in the novel is more of a dystopia than a utopia. Students come in daily asking if we will continue the book today, so we are excited to continue and find out what happens to Jonas and his community. We are working

diligently on developing more sophisticated writing skills and ensuring that students fully answer a question with evidence from text.

Social Studies 7 (Sommers & Kragthorpe)

We've been digging into some interesting history topics. For the past few weeks, 7th graders have been investigating Manifest Destiny and Westward Expansion with a lens on evaluating the diplomacy the young USA used and didn't use as it expanded westward. As the second quarter begins, we start looking into the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution, slavery and the growing sectional crisis as the country boils towards the Civil War. We will also be ramping up our work with History Day, asking students to narrow their choices for topics into their 1st and 2nd choices, as well as deciding if they would like to work together with a partner or work alone.

Social Studies 6 (Sommers & Cisco)

Sixth graders have been learning about traditional Dakota & Anishinaabe cultures over the past couple of weeks. They have also begun to investigate the life of the Fur Trade in Minnesota (1650s-1850s) and its effect on the people & landscape. This unit gives us a great opportunity to examine relationships between different groups of people as European and American Indian cultures interact during this time seminal time period. Students will be asked to evaluate difficult choices made by Dakota, Anishinaabe, and European/Americans as the fur trade leads into treaties being signed and broken, and then later into Minnesota becoming a state in 1858.

Spanish A (Suo):

Students in Spanish A are learning how to describe themselves and others. We have already started work on being able to discuss how we and others are feeling. A new vocabulary list went out this week for how to describe how people look and their personality traits. These topics allow students to engage more meaningfully in dialog with one another. As we move into quarter 2, we will begin focusing more on reading comprehension in preparation for our first novel, which we will begin in second semester.

Spanish C:

Students in Spanish C have been spending more time practicing their reading comprehension skills. We are about halfway through our novel *Patricia va a California*. Students have also been working on comparing their lives here in the United States with those in Guatemala, the setting of our novel, through writing. As we move into second quarter, we will begin to focus more on speaking and listening comprehension. We will also begin to read and write short stories.

Math 6: (Halvorson)

Students in math 6 are currently working on Unit 3--2D and 3-D Geometry. Students are investigating several kinds of measurement: perimeter, area, and volume. It is critical to study these ideas together and to probe their relationships to each other. The notions of maximum and minimum related to area and perimeter are also being explored.

Science 7

It is all in our genes! 7th graders are learning about heredity and how our genes affect our characteristics. They may ask you if your earlobes are attached or if you can roll your tongue. Don't be alarmed, these are traits we have discussed in class which are inherited. Ask your child why they have similar traits as you do or why they don't. We will be focusing next on how the environment plays a role in heredity. These have been really interesting discussions!

Science 8 (Fowler and Schultz)

8th grade scientists are wrapping up their investigations of WEATHER AND CLIMATE. Upcoming investigations will focus on weather fronts, reading weather maps, factors that affect climate, comparing climate regions, and climate change. Climate is what we expect, weather is what we get! Will we get another winter like last year?

Attention young scientists! The Young Scientist Roundtable series is starting soon. Each month, the group focuses on a different topic in science, hosts a guest speaker, and concludes with a teen roundtable discussion for students who would like to discuss the topic in more depth with the speaker. The programs are open and FREE to all students. The next event is November 11, titled "Ebola," and Dr. Michael Osterholm (director for the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota) will speak. For more information, go to www.wayzata.k12.mn.us/ysr.

Picture Retake Day – Picture retake day is this Friday, November 7. All students should have their picture taken whether they buy a package or not so they will be in the yearbook. If your student purchased a package and will have their picture retaken, they should bring their picture package with them on Friday and give it to the photographer at the time their picture will be retaken. Picture packages purchased on Picture Day have been passed out to students so check your student's backpack.

If you wish to purchase a package, have your student bring the money with them Friday. Packages may also be bought online through Lifetouch. If you have any questions, you may call Lifetouch at 1-888-543-3867.

We have a few picture scholarships available in the office.

AFTER SCHOOL:

Ramsey Community Education after school classes are in full swing. Classes are filling up quickly, but we still have space available in many fun enrichment and academic support classes. Registration forms are available outside the Community Education office (room 106) or at <http://youth.mpls.k12.mn.us/ramsey>. For students who are already registered, confirmation letters will be sent home through advisory on Wednesday.

Donate your unused iPad 2 Bricks and Cords

If you have any unused iPad 2 cords and/or bricks, you can recycle them at RMS. We will gladly accept these unwanted cords to aid our 1:1 iPad initiative. You can drop them off at the office.

8th Grade EXPLORE Assessment, November 11

All 8th-grade students will take the EXPLORE Assessment on November 11. Please avoid any absences on this date. Students' results will arrive to RMS in January.

The primary purposes of the EXPLORE program are to stimulate students' career exploration and to facilitate development of a plan for each individual's high-school academic program. EXPLORE has four academic tests: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. A Composite Score (score range 1-25) summarizes performance across all four academic tests. In addition to

the academic tests, students complete an interest inventory and needs assessment. For more information about the EXPLORE test, please visit the ACT Web site at <http://www.act.org>. EXPLORE is part of the state's suite of college and career readiness assessments; participation is required by legislation for high-school graduation.

Sample test items available at: www.actstudent.org/explore/

PTA Fundraising Updates:

Monster Dash Report!

Last Saturday, on an incredibly beautiful fall morning, 14 Rhinos (and 2 future Rhinos plus 10 parents) handed out "Sixlets" (the candy) to 7,000+ runners at the Monster Dash race. This earned the PTA a \$550 donation from the race organizers! Thanks to Augie B. Maren R, Kate R., Gabe G, Olivia B. Isabel H-N, Sophie I, Sara T, Elena K-P, Claire W, Madison C, Max T, McCullough S and Marley H for their help. They had fantastic costumes and lots of fun!



Ramsey students in front of the Landmark Center in St. Paul.

The Ramsey Arts Booster Club is meeting this Thursday, November 6th, at 6:30pm in the Media Center. We will be discussing fundraising for a new kiln for our school, plus other topics of interest for the visual arts and music programs here at Ramsey. We are currently looking for leadership including a club president and someone to manage the member database and announcements.

This is a change from the previously chosen time, but Miller Voices have a concert with the Southwest Singers (yes... from Southwest High School) on November 11th. I hope the new time does not inconvenience too many of you.

Ramsey Rendezvous are coming soon!

What's a Ramsey Rendezvous you ask? You may already know them as Great Gatherings, Adventures, or FUNdraisers from your elementary school. But for those uninitiated, Ramsey Rendezvous are social gatherings that Ramsey parents host in their homes and elsewhere. Tickets will be sold online starting in December and all proceeds will help support and enhance Ramsey classroom activities. Events range in price and activities in order to appeal to all families and interests. Popular ideas from years past include home cooked meals, guitar lessons, themed parties, wine tasting, and more.

What can you do now? We need ideas and hosts for Ramsey Rendezvous! Please contact Beth Gyllstrom (bethgyllstrom@yahoo.com) if you have an idea or are interested in co-hosting a Rendezvous.

Ramsey Spirit Wear

Want Spirit Wear, but don't want to wait for the next event to purchase? You can contact Jan Sadusky at rmsspiritwear@hotmail.com or 612-240-9874. She is happy to meet you at school or leave your order in the office for pick up.

Ramsey Middle School PTA is celebrating **Give to the Max Day on November 13!**

"Give \$10 and turn it into \$10k!" Every donation counts, no matter how big or small!

Keep your eyes open next month for a link to the easiest way ever to contribute to Ramsey. What if you could help the Ramsey Middle School PTA receive \$1,000 just by giving \$10? On November 13, 2014, you'll have that chance. Participate in **Give to the Max Day on November 13**, and you could help us receive a **\$1,000 Golden Ticket**. Just make an online donation on GiveMN.org, and your donation will be entered into an hourly drawing for a \$1,000 GiveMN Golden Ticket – which could go to Ramsey Middle School PTA! That adds up to 24 opportunities for you to help us receive an extra \$1,000! In addition, we'll be entered into the grand prize \$10K drawing too.

For more info visit our link now...this will be live for donations on November 13th!

<https://givemn.org/organization/Ramsey-Middle-School-Pta-1>

Student Hours – 9:10 a.m.-3:40 p.m.

Office Hours – 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Office – 612-668-4040

Fax – 612-668-4040

Somali – 612-668-4045

Spanish - 612-668-4032

Attendance Line – 612-668-4030

Transportation – 612-668-2300