



# AROUND THE HORN

**RAMSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**NOVEMBER 14, 2014**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

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### **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS**

Since Ramsey Middle School's inception, we have been afforded a great deal of flexibility in designing a robust program. We are now at a crossroads for moving from development to sustainability.

The Minneapolis Public Schools recently initiated a process called "Community Partnership Schools." Put simply, it allows for schools to write proposals for areas that they would like more control over. You can find more information from the district's perspective [here](#).

Increased autonomy and support could allow Ramsey to sustain quality programming that impacts our students. Our transitional funds have diminished since 2012 and our goal is to fund these innovations by providing this plan and collaboratively working on other funding strategies too.

As a site council and leadership team in the school, we have drafted some preliminary ideas of what we would seek that aligns to our original mission of being an innovative, academically challenging environment empowering learners to explore possibilities, act with integrity, and create positive change within our community and the world.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Tuesday, November 18**

PTA Meeting  
(featuring the Science department)  
6:30 PM

**Wednesday, November 19**

Area C Family & Community Meeting  
6:00 PM

**Thursday, November 20**

Native American Family Day

**Wednesday, November 26**

**Thursday, November 27**

**Friday, November 28**

No School

**Thursday, December 4**

Orchestra and Choir Concert  
7:00 PM

**Thursday, December 11**

Bands Concert  
7:00 PM

**Tuesday, December 16**

PTA Meeting  
(featuring the Social Studies department  
and Transition to High School)  
6:30 PM

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS (CONTINUED)

The following is a draft of the areas in which we may be seeking increased autonomy:

### **Flexible Staffing/Human Resources**

- Hiring process may include: Panel interviews, video submissions, and live teaching
- Pathways for candidates of color and partnership with pre-service teachers
- Foster an observation and evaluation process that meets state expectations for evaluation of performance

### **Changes in the School Day and Student Body**

- Move to 7 period (7.5 hour) day with advisory and extended movement/recess period
- End times to match Washburn's, allowing for participation in extracurricular activities; earlier start time to foster the 7 period day
- Enroll 900-950 students in grades 6-8 with two full teams at each grade level
- Maintain a system of teacher leadership to provide a model for decision making and governance along with peer observations and support

### **Support for Program and Curriculum**

- Focus on STEM and the Arts as a pathway to rigorous and relevant learning
- Use of available technology to differentiate learning opportunities; continue 1:1 program
- Begin to explore the potential for blending learning for some subject areas
- Redefine Special Education to be more inclusive and appropriately resourced
- Create an assessment calendar aligned with state mandates and curriculum material matching the MN State Content Standards

### **Autonomy with School Budget**

- Ability to accrue more money per pupil allocation from local, state, and federal sources

There will be opportunities for public engagement as we continue down this path. I welcome input into what you see or ideas you may have, and I thank you in advance for submitting your feedback via [this form](#).

Sincerely,

Principal Paul Marietta

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MPLS SOUTHSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL MOUNTAIN BIKING TEAM

The MPLS Southside Middle School Mountain Biking Team – which is a composite team made up of students from several different middle schools in South Minneapolis, including Ramsey Middle School – took home five out of five first place trophies, winning the Minnesota MTB League overall for 2014.

On the MPLS Southside Middle School Mountain Biking Team, students learn basic mountain biking skills over the summer while attending two practices a week. They also meet new friends from other schools, and learn to love fitness drills, bike handling games, and challenges that help them go further and faster. Races are available in September and October to those that choose to participate.

If you would like more information, please contact coach Tonja at [tonjasahaydak@gmail.com](mailto:tonjasahaydak@gmail.com).

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## RAMSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURS

Ramsey Middle School is offering tours for prospective families interested in attending Ramsey during the 2015-2016 school year starting on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 and continuing through Thursday, February 5, 2015.

The tours are led by current students, Principal Paul Marietta, and other staff. Expect the tour to last 1-1.5 hours and to include a program overview, classroom visits, and the opportunity for Q & A. Your child is welcome to join you on the tour.

To schedule a tour, please click [here](#).

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## AREA C FAMILY & COMMUNITY MEETING

Families of current and future Ramsey Middle School students are invited to attend the Area C Parent & Community Meeting on Wednesday, November 19 from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM at Southwest High School.

Topics discussed will include:

- **Welcome & Introductions** with Liz Short
- **DPAC Update** with Margaret Richardson
- **Class Size:** Digging deeper, how it works
- **Student Based Allocations:** Update
- **Parent Advisory Councils:** How they support academic achievement
- A **Q & A** on general topics

To view the flier for this meeting, please click [here](#).

## BAND, CHOIR, AND ORCHESTRA CONCERT DATES

Ramsey Middle School's band(s), choir(s), and orchestra(s) will be performing for the public at concerts held in the month of December. The specific dates and times of each are:

### **Orchestra and Choir Concert**

- Thursday, December 4 from 7:00 PM-8:00 PM
- Students involved need to be at Ramsey at 6:20 PM

### **Bands Concert**

- Thursday, December 11 from 7:00 PM-8:00 PM
- Students involved need to be at Ramsey at 6:30 PM

If you would like more information about any of these concerts, please contact:

- **Andy Nelson** at [andrew.nelson@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:andrew.nelson@mpls.k12.mn.us),
- **Julida Kochanowski** at [julida.kochanowski@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:julida.kochanowski@mpls.k12.mn.us), and/or
- **Kim Hotchkiss** at [kim.hotchkiss@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:kim.hotchkiss@mpls.k12.mn.us).