



AROUND THE HORN

RAMSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 20, 2015

CURRICULUM NEWS AND NOTES

SCIENCE 7 | FOWLER AND HOLLAND

7th grade Science students are diving into atomic theory. They are learning all about atoms, elements, molecules, compounds, and the Periodic Table. Students will separate a compound and create a compound. They will discover the difference between a chemical change and a physical change. They have already made a model of an atom. Ask them what they know about how the Periodic Table is organized.

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SCIENCE 8 | FOWLER AND SCHULTZ

8th grade Science students are wrapping up their investigations about our changing Earth. Most recently, we have been learning how to examine a rock and tell its story, a very important learning target since rocks hold the clues to Earth's history as a planet.

IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday, February 20 -
Friday, March 20**

Exchange4Good Virtual Garage Sale

Friday, February 27

History Day at Ramsey Middle School

Saturday, February 28

School Request Application Deadline

Saturday, March 14

Get Lucky Run
Pi Day

**Monday, March 16 -
Wednesday, May 13**

MCA Testing

Friday, March 20

School Dance

Saturday, March 21

History Day at South High School

**Monday, March 23 -
Thursday, March 26**

School Spirit Week

Thursday, March 26

Third Quarter Ends

**Friday, March 27-
Friday, April 3**

Spring Recess

Monday, April 6

Fourth Quarter Begins

SCIENCE 8 (CONTINUED) | FOWLER AND SCHULTZ

In the days ahead, we will finish exploring different types of rocks and the rock cycle. Ask your student which type of rock is their favorite and why. Then ask them how that type of rock can become a different type of rock. Our unit ends with taking a closer look at the interesting geologic history of Minnesota. We already appreciate donations of clean up supplies for our labs (bleach wipes, sponges, etc.)

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ART 6, 7, AND 8 | BUTLER AND ELISSA

In Art, our first unit this semester is Drawing and Portraiture. We began the semester by making paste paper covers for sketchbooks that we will use in class. In those sketchbooks we are doing practice drawings of facial features like eyes, noses, and mouths. Next week students will begin drawing either a “half face” or “smushed face” pencil portrait which they will finish with a patterned background like the paintings by artist Kehinde Wiley.

Later in the month we will move into our second unit which is Sculpture. If you have any small do-dads, marbles, nuts, bolts, feathers, buttons, etc. the Art room could use these things for our upcoming assemblage project.

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SPANISH A | SUO

In Spanish A we are wrapping up a unit of family vocabulary as well as activity vocabulary. Students just completed a “Familia Loca” (“Crazy Family”) project. Students selected celebrities, athletes, authors, politicians, and fictional characters and assigned them roles in their new crazy family. Students completed these projects on their iPads. Ask your student to explain their crazy family to you.

Also, we are beginning our first novel, *Las Aventuras de Isabela* (The Adventures of Isabela). Students may be asked to read a chapter or passage from our novel to you as reading practice as we work our way through the novel. As always, check the Homework Calendar for updates on assignments and due dates.

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SPANISH C | SUO

In Spanish C we are getting ready for the High School Writing Placement assessment. A writing assessment is required to help place students into appropriate high school World Language classes. I was really impressed with what students were able to write about and produce!

At the beginning of March students will take their official writing assessment. I will grade them and give a recommendation for high school Spanish. Letters will be sent out around Spring Break to notify families and students as to which Spanish level they should register for during high school registration. If your student is planning on attending a school outside of the Minneapolis Public Schools, I would be happy to complete any additional forms needed to help accurately place your student into high school Spanish.

Additionally, we are currently finishing a short novel. Students have performed skits, created images, and recorded themselves retelling the story in their own words. We will be finishing out the year reading biographies of well known Spanish speakers such as Celia Cruz and Salvador Dali.

To clarify grading, there are two types of grades, homework and learning target assessments. Learning target assessments can be turned in late, up until the last day of the quarter. These assessments can also be redone to improve a grade. However, homework assignments cannot be turned in late. While homework is essential practice, it is only worth 1-2% of the overall grade. Please contact me with any additional questions or concerns regarding grading.

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NEW AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES ADDED | JOLSTAD

The Winter Session of Community Education after school classes at Ramsey Middle School is now in full swing. There are still openings in many classes and two new classes have been added. Writing Creations is on Tuesdays from 3:40 PM-4:40 PM and is \$15.00 or free to students who qualify for ALC, and Latin American Dance is on Thursdays from 3:40 PM-4:40 PM. Please call 612.668.3450 for more information, or click [here](#) or copy and paste the following URL address into a web browser to check out all of our great classes: <http://www.youth.mpls.k12.mn.us/ramsey>

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HISTORY DAY | SOMMERS

History Day is coming up on Friday, February 27 for all 7th graders. Everyone is encouraged to see the exhibits and even help judge them if you have time. Contact Paul Sommers for more information on how to help.

Several students will be chosen to represent Ramsey Middle School at the citywide event on Saturday, March 21 at South High School. Following this there may be a few students who qualify for the state event on Saturday, May 2!

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PI DAY | MATH DEPARTMENT

The Math department is planning something very special for Saturday, March 14. Ask your student for details.

MCA TESTING

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) are given each spring for 6th-8th grade students in reading and math, and for 8th grade students in science. Reading and math tests are scheduled according to grade level. Math tests are scheduled according to math class and teacher. Please check the following schedule for when your student(s) will be testing, and please try to avoid any doctors appointments or other absences during testing:

- March 16-20: 8th grade reading with Ms. Constant and Ms. Miller (during ELA classes) and 7th grade Algebra/Intermediate Algebra with Ms. Van (during math class)

MCA TESTING (CONTINUED)

- April 13-17: 7th grade reading with Ms. Wender and Ms. Bauck (during ELA classes) and 6th-8th grade Reading/ELA with Ms. Hedge (during reading class)
 - April 20-24: 6th grade reading with Ms. Marr and Ms. Bauck (during ELA classes)
 - April 27-May 1: Algebra 8 with Ms. Janicek and Ms. Ismail, and 8th grade Intermediate Algebra with Ms. Krasean (all during math classes)
 - May 4-8: Math 6 with Mr. Halvorson, Math 7 with Ms. Van and Ms. Krasean, and 8th grade Intermediate Algebra/Geometry with Ms. Janicek (all during math classes)
 - May 11 and 13: 8th grade science with Ms. Schultz or Ms. Fowler (during science classes)
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SCHOOL DANCE AND SCHOOL SPIRIT WEEK

The school dance will happen on Friday, March 20 from 4:00 PM-5:30 PM. School Spirit Week will happen the following Monday, March 23 - Thursday, March 26 to help get us ready for Spring Recess. Stay tuned for more information on the themes for those days!

6TH GRADE MATH CHALLENGE | MATH DEPARTMENT

The 6th Grade Math Challenge will be held Saturday, April 11 at North High School from 8:30 AM-2:00 PM. Every 6th grade student is eligible and encouraged to participate. There are no pre- or qualifying tests. Last year Ramsey Middle School had more than twice as many students participate as any other school; this year we hope to have more students than all of the other schools combined.

The challenge consists of both individual and team rounds that cover a variety of mathematics skills.

There are three parts to the challenge:

- One Fact Drill: Students will have three minutes to solve as many of the 40 math facts as they can.
- Five Individual Challenges: Challenges One and Two will focus on space, shape, measurement, and number sense; Challenges Three and Four will involve patterns, relations and functions, data and uncertainty data investigations, and randomness and uncertainty; and Challenge Five will draw from all of these subjects.
- Three Group Challenges: Each team will submit a single answer sheet for judging.

Students should inform their Math teacher that they would like to go and they will be added to the list.

EXCHANGE4GOOD VIRTUAL GARAGE SALE | PTA

Your spring cleaning efforts have finally paid off! The Exchange4Good website is now live, starting today, Friday, February 20! Here is a refresher on how to post your items:

- Click [here](http://fs30.formsite.com/exchange4good/form1/index.html) (or copy and paste the following URL address into a web browser: <http://fs30.formsite.com/exchange4good/form1/index.html>) to fill out a description of your item, define the price, designate your method of communication for a potential buyer, and upload a photo.
- Be available after Friday, February 20, as potential buyers may contact you.
- If your item has sold, it will no longer appear on the website. The buyer should contact you to schedule a pickup of the item, and you should ask them to bring along a copy of their receipt (via paper copy, phone, or tablet) so you know the transaction went through.

You will be able to add items throughout the month. Exchange4Good will take care of getting funds to Ramsey Middle School. Thank you for your continued generosity to our school community!

RAMSEY RENDEZVOUS | PTA

The first event is in just a few short weeks! Sign up today to enjoy some time with Ramsey Middle School parents in a non-school setting. Click [here](https://sites.google.com/site/ramseptafundraising/ramsey-rendezvous) or copy and paste the following URL address into a web browser for more details: <https://sites.google.com/site/ramseptafundraising/ramsey-rendezvous>

GET LUCKY RUN | PTA

Once again Ramsey Middle School has an opportunity to earn money by helping out at this year's Get Lucky Run, which is organized by Team Ortho. The race will happen on Saturday, March 14 in St. Paul. We'll be a part of the "Cheer Zone" and will need about twenty students and parents. A sign up will be coming shortly.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS | PTA

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, April 12, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM for...the Battle of the Bands (start getting your band back together)! Here's what you need to know:

- Bands from Washburn High School and Ramsey Middle School's staff, students and families battle for bragging rights and a trophy.
- You! Parents, students, families and staff from both schools are invited!

BATTLE OF THE BANDS (CONTINUED) | PTA

- Build community among staff, students, and families and raise money.

Have a Band? Please reach out to Beth Gyllstrom (bethgyllstrom@yahoo.com) or John Walthour (john.a.walthour@gmail.com) to enter or ask questions: