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Important Dates

May 1 - May 5:	6th Grade Math MCA Tests
Fri, May 5:	Yearbook Orders Due
May 9 - May 10:	8th Grade Science MCA Tests
Thu, May 11:	Jazz Band Concert, 7 pm, Ramsey Auditorium
Tue, May 16:	PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm, Ramsey Media Center
Wed, May 17:	Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, 8-9 am, Ramsey Media Center
Thu, May 18:	Choir Concert, 7 pm, Ramsey Auditorium
Tue, May 23:	Orchestra Concert, 7 pm, Ramsey Auditorium
Wed, May 24:	Concert Band Concert, 7 pm, Ramsey Auditorium
Mon, May 29:	NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day
Wed, May 31:	Beginning and Varsity Band Concert, 7 pm, Ramsey Auditorium

[See the full calendar for more info](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Support for Ramsey Rename

April 21, 2017

Dear Principal Rathke,

I would like to extend my deep respect and appreciation to you, our students, staff and families for the conversations you have undertaken over the past couple of months regarding the possible renaming of Ramsey Middle School. I have carefully reviewed the recommendations from the site council and concluded that I support your decision to rename the school after former Minnesota State Supreme Court Justice Alan Page.

Click here to [read the full text of Superintendent Graff's letter](#). The school board is expected to vote on the name change in June.

Last Chance To Get Your Yearbook

Yearbook orders are due this Friday, May 5, 2017. The yearbook costs \$7.



Two ways to order a yearbook:

1. Go to tinyurl.com/2017RMSYearbookOrder, click the Tickets button, and pay by credit or debit card. Note: online orders incur an additional processing fee of \$1.38, for a total charge of \$8.38.
2. **Print** and complete [this order form](#) and send it with cash or a check to school. If paying by check, please make the check payable to Ramsey Middle School PTA. Paper forms can be dropped off either in the Main Office, or with students' advisory teachers.

Paper forms are also available in the Main Office.

A Note on Standardized Testing

From Principal Rathke: I know that we are deep into testing season across the state.

To our students:

The people who create these tests and score them do not know each of you—the way your teachers do, the way I hope to, and certainly not the way your families do. They do not know that many of you speak two languages. They do not know that you can play an instrument or that you can dance and paint a picture. They do not know that your friends count on you to be there for them or that your laughter can brighten the most dreariest of days. They do not know that you are a great student, that you try your best, that you play sports, that you write poems and that you take care of your little brother or sister after school. They don't know that you are kind, trustworthy, and thoughtful, and that you try, every day, to be your very best....the scores you get will tell you something, but they will not tell you everything!

To our families:

For many of us, we are watching our child at home have test anxiety, concerns and possibly dislike testing. I agree with many of you that this is only one data point of our children. I know that tests do not always assess all of what it is that makes your child special and unique. However, I do want our children to do their very best on these tests!

[Click here for tips to help students prepare for testing and relieve test anxiety.](#)

Bullying

Advisory is going over some important and difficult topics with students. We are doing our best to create a safe and welcoming environment for all students.

Cyber-Bullying: Cyber-bullying was discussed at the beginning of the year, through a series of lessons & apps, and a mission pack on MyMPS. All students had to do this. There were discussions and prompts before and after related to cyber-bullying.

Anti-Bullying: One week before spring break, we worked through lesson 6 from second step about anti-bullying. Based off of these lessons, we watched videos, defined terms, and discussed how to improve this at RMS.

Sexual Harassment: The last two weeks we have been doing lesson 7 from second step about sexual harassment. We have discussed definitions of respect, personal space & sexual harassment, and sexual harassment myths vs. facts. In addition, students filled out notecards of what types of sexual harassment they have seen or heard.

Last week, 8th grade's Advisory lessons focused on making Ramsey a slur-free school. We read anonymous comments about incidents of hate speech students have heard or experienced and then did definitions, discussions and role plays to deepen our understanding of offensive language and its repercussions. We brainstormed ways students can be upstanders, anti-racist allies, mediators and whistle-blowers. Finally, each class signed a "Slur Free School" pledge.

2017-2018 Ramsey Course Registration

Registration for electives will be happening soon for incoming 6th grade students, and current Ramsey 6th and 7th graders:

- May 9: **Current 6th graders** receive information about course registration for 7th grade during MN Studies. Course cards need to be turned in to MN Studies teachers by Tuesday, May 16.
- May 11: **Current 7th graders** receive information about course registration for 8th grade during US Studies. Course cards need to be turned in to US Studies teachers by Thursday, May 18.
- May 16:
 - 9:45-10:45 am: Counselor visits current 5th graders at **Lyndale** and helps them choose elective classes for 6th grade.
 - 1:30-3:00 pm: Counselor visits current 5th graders at **Burroughs** and helps them choose elective classes for 6th grade.
- May 19:
 - 9:45-10:45 am: Counselor visits current 5th graders at **Armatage** and helps them choose elective classes for 6th grade.
 - 1:15-2:15 pm: Counselor visits current 5th graders at **Green** and helps them choose elective classes for 6th grade.

Incoming students from non-feeder elementary sites are currently being coordinated/decided. The school counselor will visit each site and help students register for elective classes for 6th grade. Current 5th grade teachers will help in sharing the date/time.

Media Center Announcements



Please be aware of the following dates for the Media Center as we near the end of the school year:

Friday, May 19	Last day for book checkout
Monday, May 22	Paper and email overdue notices distributed (2nd notice)
Wednesday, May 31	All books due

Attention Former and Current Burroughs Parents

The Burroughs Community School invites you to celebrate former Principal Cadotte and thank him for his many years of service and commitment to our school and community. Please join us on Friday, May 12 at 9:30 am as we rename the Burroughs auditorium in his honor. A brief program in the gym will be followed by a reception in the atrium.

EVENTS

Help Finish the Ramsey Mural

Ramsey is hosting two community painting days:

- **Wednesday, May 3**, 4-7:30 pm (bring \$5 for pizza; students will need written permission to stay after school and a ride home at 7:30)
- **Saturday, May 13**, 1-4:30 pm (bring a snack to share)

Parents are welcome and encouraged to come help paint the mural! Wear old clothes and meet us in the mural hallway (just outside of the cafeteria).



Mark your calendars! The Mural Unveiling Event will be held on **Wednesday, May 31**, at 6 pm (before the band concert). If you're able to help with planning this event, please [contact Wendy Williams](#).

6th Grade Math Competition

The MPS District-wide 6th Grade Math Competition will be held at North High School on Saturday, May 6. Winning teams and individuals from Ramsey's school-level competition will be participating. Good luck to all participants! See the MPS website for [more information on the district-wide competition](#).

We need at least 6 people to attend and volunteer at the district competition. You can [volunteer for a half or full day](#). The competition runs from 8 am until 2 pm.

2017 Jr. Iron Chef Competition

Ramsey's Max M. has been selected to compete in the upcoming [3rd Annual Jr Iron Chef Competition](#), hosted by MPS Culinary & Wellness Services and the True Food Chef Council.

On May 8, Max and seven other MPS middle schoolers will team up with local chefs to compete top-chef style for a panel of judges including Rep. Ilhan Omar, award-winning food writer Dara Moskowitz Grumdahl, and Ramsey student **Nyle D.**—the reigning 2016 Jr Iron Chef champion!

We hope that the Ramsey community will come to cheer on Max and Nyle as they represent Ramsey Middle School! Here are the event details:

- When: Monday, May 8, 5:30-7:30pm
 - Where: Solar Arts by Chowgirls (711 15th Ave NE, Minneapolis)
 - This event is FREE and open to the community! Light dinner will be provided.
-

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

Calling All Volunteers! On **Wednesday, May 17, at 8:00 am** in the Media Center, we will come together for breakfast to thank our wonderful Ramsey volunteers. The Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast is for the school community to honor and thank volunteers for their time, talent, and commitment. Volunteer efforts support the building of community and make possible wonderful activities and programs for our students, parents, and teachers.



Whether you baked cookies for conferences, greeted our students, or chaperoned an event, we sincerely appreciate all of our volunteers and every contribution made to Ramsey. Please stop by anytime between 8:00 and 9:00 am on May 17 to enjoy some food provided by the staff.

Homemade Ice Cream for Breakfast?!

Yes, it's true. At Morning Greeters on Friday, June 9, 8:00-8:30 AM. Just for Greeters & Ramsey staff (sorry kids).

Enjoy gourmet ice cream in waffle cones, homemade & served up by Ramsey parent Angie North.

With live music from The Melvilles & Ramsey students. It will be a morning not to miss.

[Sign up to be a morning greeter](#).

VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS NEEDED

Math Competition Volunteers Still Needed

The MPS 5th-6th Grade Math Competition needs 55 volunteers, and we are required to bring at least 6 from Ramsey. Can you attend and volunteer? The competition is **Saturday, May 6**, from 8 am to 2 pm. You can [sign up for a half or full day](#). Thanks for helping support our students and our school in this district-wide competition!



Arts Council

We need a new group of parents to lead the Arts Council next school year. It is an easy and fun way to be involved! We meet only once a year to gather ideas and get organized. If you would like to be involved, please reach out to [Wendy Williams](#), who is moving on to Washburn after six years of Ramsey involvement.

Volunteers Needed for Spring Concerts

We need parent volunteers to help with our spring concerts. If your student is participating in any of these concerts, please sign up to greet or chaperone. Our great music teachers need your support to make these concerts run smoothly, and it's fun to hear our Ramsey musicians show off their accomplishments from the year!

[Jazz Band Concert](#), Thursday, May 11, 7pm

[Choir Concert](#), Thursday, May 18, 7pm

[Orchestra Concert](#), Tuesday, May 23, 7pm

[Concert Bands Concert](#), Wednesday, May 24, 7pm

[Beginning and Varsity Bands Concert](#), Wednesday, May 31, 7 pm

ACCOLADES

Ramsey at State History Day

Congratulations to Eli GB for receiving Honorable Mention in the Junior Individual Performance category at last weekend's State History Day competition! Ramsey was well represented in the competition, and our 7th graders performed admirably.



AFTER SCHOOL

Last Day of After School Classes

Thursday, May 4 is the last day for Community Education classes after school at Ramsey. Thank you to the many students who participated in our program. Please send your insights and ideas for next year's program to [JoEllyn Jolstad](#).

Boundary Waters Canoe Trip

Project SUCCESS Boundary Waters Canoe Trip Applications are due this coming Friday, May 5, and spots are filling fast! Applications are in the main office at school and [on the Project SUCCESS website](#). Make sure to return your completed forms right away! If you have any questions, contact Jenny at Project SUCCESS at 612-874-1277 or jennyb@projectsuccess.org.

Birdwatching Club Starts May 4

Middle School Nature Nuts... BirdClub is starting up again May 4. No experience necessary and all materials are provided. All kids 6th grade & up from any school are welcome.

Get out from behind a screen... and out into nature. Together we explore the neighborhood around Ramsey looking for birds and anything else that interests us.

Kids are increasingly detached from nature. Birding reconnects kids to the great outdoors. And it's a great lifetime hobby because you can do it anywhere (Peregrine Falcons nest downtown).

Questions? Email Amy Simso Dean.

[Register and learn more here.](#)

Summer Theatre Camps at Ramsey

Be in the show or the tech crew for "High School Musical" at Ramsey this summer! Also back is our popular Musical Theatre Camp, held the first week of summer break. See the MPS Community Education website for [class and registration information](#).

PTA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ramsey Rendezvous 2017

We have a great list of Rendezvous for this year—on sale now! We have a wide array of social offerings, all of which go to support Ramsey! Some of these fill up quickly, so make sure to check out what's available and check back, as we have additional parties pending. See the [Ramsey PTA website](#) for details and ticket information for these fun upcoming events!

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. All proceeds help support and enhance Ramsey activities. Events range in price and activities in order to appeal to varied interests. Have a great party idea and willing to host or co-host? Please contact Beth Gyllstrom at ramseyfundraising@gmail.com.

Do You Have News to Share?

Send all stories, ideas, and comments to the *Around the Horn* editors at RamseyMSCommunications@gmail.com.

Deadline for submission is Friday the week before publication at 5:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE LINE
TRANSPORTATION

(612) 668-4030
(612) 668-2300

[SCHOOL MESSENGER INFO](#)
[MPS LUNCH MENUS](#)