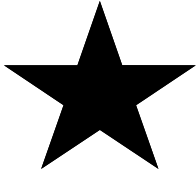




Knigh♦Line

Rockwood Valley Middle School



A Missouri Gold Star School
A United States Blue Ribbon School



A NATIONAL SCHOOL
of
EXCELLENCE

A Letter from Mr. Loiterstein...

October, 2011

Dear Rockwood Valley Community:

Did you love learning when you were a middle school student? I can ask that question to any audience and receive a wide variety of responses. I imagine I would receive many responses from our parent community as well! Even today, many of our attitudes about learning were shaped by our elementary, middle, and high school experiences.

We know that our students at Rockwood Valley are academically successful. We boast about our students' engagement in the classroom, test scores, and their achievements in high school and beyond. However, the score, the grade, or the rank is not our best measure of our success as a middle school. Without minimizing academic accomplishments, the best metric of our success is whether or not our students leave middle school loving to learn. It's hard to accomplish, and even more difficult to measure, but it is the most important thing we do.

Working with you as parents is one of the best ways that we can ensure that students are successful, and fall Parent-Teacher Conferences are coming up at the end of this month. They will be held on Tuesday, October 25 and Wednesday, October 26 from 3:30 – 7:00 pm. Teachers will meet with parents on a first come, first served basis. While we have set aside Tuesday night for those whose last name begins with A-L, and Wednesday night for M-Z, we encourage you to attend on either evening you are available. This is a great opportunity to touch base with teachers!

Sincerely,

Andrew Loiterstein
Principal

October 2011

Volume 19, Issue 3

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Dates to Remember

- Last day of quarter I—October 17.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences—October 25 and 26.



Around Rockwood Valley



The Word of the Month is **RESPECT**

"A youth is to be regarded with respect.

*How do you know that his future will not be equal to
our present?*

~Confucius

Parent Volunteers Needed

The Counseling Center is looking for parent volunteers who are willing to commit to one afternoon per week from 2:25pm-3:25pm to help students with their academics.

If you are willing to help, please contact the RVMS Counseling Center at 636-733-4290.

Thank you for your generous gifts of time, knowledge, and support for our students.



Positive Office Referrals

Demonta Reece, Jacob Listerman, Kathryn Wesolich, Luke Neise received positive office referrals recently. Nice work, students! We appreciate your contributions to RVMS.

Keep Your Information Current

Please inform the school of any changes in your contact information. Stop by the Counseling Center to update phone numbers or e-mail addresses, if necessary.

Maintaining accurate information helps us keep in touch with you through phone contacts, newsletters, and AlertNow messages.

Counselor Corner



Thank you to all the parents that joined us at Wildwood Middle School for the Counselor Coffee presentation on September 2. The topic was Cyber-Safety & Your Child. Due to the positive feedback we received on the topic, we are pleased to announce that we will be bringing Cyber-Safety presentations to Rockwood Valley in December, as well as repeating the parent presentation. More details to come at a later date.

As we know, bullying is a huge issue amongst kids. In an effort to combat bullying, we have developed a Bullying Report Form for students to report incidents that happen to them or incidents that they witness. A copy of the Bullying Report Form can be picked up in the Welcome Center, the Counseling Center, or printed off the RVMS Guidance and Counseling website.

A new ambassador program has been started at Rockwood Valley called the Knight Riders. Sixth and seventh grade students who wish to apply can pick up an application in the Welcome Center or the Counseling Center. Applications are due by October 7.

If you are interested in being an after-school tutor for a RVMS student, please contact the RVMS Counseling Center.

A second Town Hall Meeting for "A Community Response to Heroin" will be held at Rockwood Summit High School on Wednesday, October 19 from 7pm until 8:30pm. If you missed September's Town Hall Meeting at Marquette High School, please consider attending this event. For more information, call 314-962-3456.

Please visit the Rockwood Valley Guidance and Counseling website! The information will be added regarding Counselor Coffee presentations, parent opportunities, helpful news articles, crisis resources, as well as other announcements. Go to this link:

<http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/rvalley/offices/guidance/Pages/default.aspx>

Mrs. Jaime Finck – 6th Grade and Team 8-Red Counselor, finckjaime@rockwood.k12.mo.us, extension 34297

Mrs. Stacey Scott – 7th Grade and Team 8-Black Counselor, scottstacey@rockwood.k12.mo.us, extension 34296

Thank you, Parent Volunteers

Thank you to the following parent volunteers for their assistance during vision screenings: Debbie Boucher, Sherry Uebelein, Melissa McMurtrey, Pam Brown, Jill Jozwiakowski, Janet Bolstad, Jill Rector, and Katherine Listerman.

September Students of the Month

Sofia Orlando-6 Black
 Jacqueline Walter-6 Red
 Katarina Stroud-7 Black
 Jack Mazza-7 Red
 Colton Morgan-8 Black
 Elizabeth Beers-8 Red
 Kaley Recke-6 Fine Arts
 Callandra Hudak-7 Fine Arts
 Morgan Kantouth-8 Fine Arts
 Will Gerretsen-6 Foreign Language
 Dominique Anderson-7 Foreign Language
 Alex Aivaliotis-8 Foreign Language
 Daveiontay Williams-6 Music
 Kennedy Plant-7 Music
 Nicky Gilliland-8 Music
 Allie Sigman-6 PE/Health
 Andrew Moser-7 PE/Health
 Chase Behrndt-8 PE/Health
 Parker Terry-6 Practical Arts
 Scott Caraway-7 Practical Arts
 Michaela Rogan-8 Practical Arts

Thank you, FACS Volunteers

Thank you to all the parents that have volunteered in the FACS classroom during first quarter:

Jennifer Reid, Catherine Hill, Mary Janicki, Karen Minichiello, Cindy Alvarez, Heather Rega, Patty Sanfelippo, Brigitte Underwood, Pam Zickrick, Laurie Charow, Keve Gialouris, Nan Joslyn, Jill Laarman, Melissa McMurtrey, Mary Sims, Elizabeth Oscarson, Liz Robinson, Janice Williams, Amanda Erisgen, Sherri Hoyt, Julie Schroeder, Tonia Stauss, Kiera Twombly, and Arinda Adams.



Are you an Entrepreneur?

The 8th grade DIT (Digital Information Technology) class now includes a unit in entrepreneurship. Mrs. Carpini is looking for a few Rockwood Valley entrepreneurial parents who would be interested in speaking to the DIT students.

If you want to share your knowledge and passion, and possibly inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs, please contact Mrs. Carpini, Business Education Teacher, at carpinijanice@rockwood.k12.mo.us or 636-733-4270.

Bus Notes

Please remember that per VICC guidelines, in order for a Go Ahead (VTS) bus rider student to be approved to ride home with another student, we require a note from the parents of both students. This ensures that the student riding with the other has permission from their parent and is welcomed by the other parent.

Thanks for your cooperation with this guideline.



Lines from the Theatre Department

Congratulations to the following cast members of the fall play, *Cinderella*. We are looking forward to performances on December 6 and 7.

The cast members are Laila Sauer, Lucy Warren, Gabe Bierschenk, Kelly Schaschl, Jordan Christian, Rebecca Treat, Kelsey Baich, Molly Carrier, Andrea Corkal, Lily Glazer, Maddie Mullen, Elaina Creighton, Emma Decker, Colton Morgan, Abby Murphy, Dan Young, David Holmes, Riley Katsev, Caleigh Glazer, Alayna Martin, Art Kumthekar, Christopher Amburn, Deacon Owens, Alan Islas-Malanco, Megan McFarland, Hannah Flowers, Madison Filley, Callandra Hudak, Saaraa Juddha, and Raven Schad.

Parent-Teacher Conferences at RVMS

Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held October 25 and 26, from 3:30pm to 7pm. Conferences will be hosted on a walk-in basis for all teams.

We recommend that parents of students whose last name begins with A-L attend on Tuesday, October 25, while parents of students whose last names begin with M-Z attend on Wednesday, October 26.

We're looking forward to seeing you at conferences.



The Importance of Homework at Rockwood Valley

Homework is an important part of the instructional process at RVMS. It is an opportunity for knowledge and skills to be reinforced and practiced. Teachers at Rockwood Valley continue to assign homework and provide descriptive feedback on it. Parents should continue to stress the importance of homework to their children.

A student's course grade is a reflection of a student's level of mastery of content-area knowledge, so course grades are based primarily on summative (end of learning) assessments. Summative assessments include in-class activities, labs, quizzes, projects, essays, tests, and other work.

In some classes, formative (during learning) assessments such as homework are a smaller component of the course grade than they have been in the past. This is primarily because (1) the concepts practiced for homework are often first attempts, (2) some students require more practice than others to attain concepts, and (3) students do not always do homework independently.

We appreciate your support as our teachers improve their classroom practices to help our students be successful.

Joplin Book Drive, a Big Success

Thanks to all students, staff, and parents who donated books to our Joplin book drive. The NJHS-led drive collected nearly 1200 books for Joplin elementary schools.



Notes from the Nurse

Cold and flu season is already in full swing! Please remember to keep your child home with any fever of 100.5 or above. Giving acetaminophen (or Tylenol) or ibuprofen (or Advil) will cover up a fever, but not cure the illness. Please talk to your child about proper, frequent hand washing and covering their nose/mouth when sneezing or coughing to help protect other students and staff from becoming infected. Any student with diarrhea, vomiting, or fever will be sent home and should not be at school for at least 24 hours of having any of these symptoms.

Regular seasonal flu shots are available throughout the region and should be considered for anyone with a chronic illness such as asthma. The CDC is recommending that all people older than 6 months old receive a flu-shot or flu-mist to reduce the spread of influenza. Please consult your doctor with questions about your family's needs. Flu-shots for the season will be available throughout the Rockwood School District with a schedule posted on www.rockwood.k12.mo.us. Students, parents, staff and community members are welcome. Permission forms for students will also be available on the RSD website.

Remember that any medication, over-the-counter or prescription, to be given at school by the nurse must have a doctor's written order and a signed note from a parent. That includes Tylenol, Advil, cough drops, skin ointments, etc.

Our teachers and staff are vigilant about keeping themselves healthy and their rooms sanitary. Any help from you by not sending ill children to school is greatly appreciated.



RVMS Recognizes Student Achievement

Student Birthdays

Student birthdays are announced daily. Students whose names are read during morning announcements may come to the office for a birthday pencil.

Caught You Being Good Notes

When a staff member sees a student doing a good deed or demonstrating good citizenship, the student can be presented with a *Caught You Being Good* note to take home and share with parents.

Get REAL (Rockwood Valley Excellence in Academics)

Students have the opportunity to be recognized for their achievement in the areas of academics, citizenship, activities, leadership and community service. Each student that participates in GET REAL will receive recognition.

Positive Office Referrals

Staff members can refer a student to a grade level principal for demonstrating good behavior or accomplishing an individual achievement. A student who gets a Positive Office Referral will receive a certificate, a pencil with an RVMS pencil pennant, a positive phone call home, and/or the opportunity to move to the front of the lunch line for a day. The student is also recognized in the school newsletter, *The Knight line*.

Students of the Month

Each month all teams recognize students who exemplify academic achievement, attitude, responsibility, citizenship, effort, cooperation, honesty, and leadership. Twenty-one Students of the Month are presented with certificates at a continental breakfast held each month in their honor. The students' names are also published in the school newsletter and are displayed at school on the Student of the Month recognition board.

Honor Rolls

There are two Honor Rolls each quarter at RVMS: 3.0-3.499 and 3.50-4.0. The names of Honor Roll students are published in *The Knight line* and displayed at school on the Honor Roll recognition board.

Merlin Lunches

Students who earn straight A's or who raise their grade point average by a minimum of .25 from one quarter to the next in the current school year are given a free piz-

za lunch and raffle prizes during lunch in the commons on designated Merlin Lunch days during the first, second, and third quarters.

Knights of the Round Table

Knights of the Round Table (KORT) is a prestigious honor at RVMS. Sixth graders or students who are new to RVMS who receive a 3.5 or higher grade point average for first and second quarter are designated Knights of the Round Table during an annual ceremony. During the ceremony, students receive a certificate and a KORT pin. In order to remain members of KORT, students must maintain a 3.5 or better grade point average each quarter. KORT students are also announced in the school newsletter and are displayed at school on the KORT board. This year's KORT ceremony is Thursday, February 23, 2012.

Excalibur Team Awards and Special Awards

Excalibur Awards are core and encore awards presented to students who display an extraordinary effort in learning in his/her core classes. Students are selected for these awards based on commitment, perseverance, effort, and responsibility.

Special Awards are presented to students who place first in academic competitions, such as the school spelling bee or a math contest. Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders who earn Special Awards receive them at the Excalibur Awards ceremony. The ceremony this year is Wednesday, April 25, 2012.

Eighth Grade Promotion

At the end of each school year, eighth graders who are leaving RVMS are honored in an Eighth Grade Farewell Ceremony. During the ceremony each student's name is announced, and he/she is presented with an Eighth Grade Promotion certificate. This year's ceremony is Wednesday, May 23, 2012.

Award of Academic Excellence

Students who earn six semesters of straight A's during their three middle school years at RVMS are recognized during the Eighth Grade Promotion Ceremony, receive a plaque at the Ceremony, and have their names placed on the Award of Academic Excellence perpetual trophy at RVMS.

Rockwood Valley PSO Page

RVMS Adopt-a-Family Coin Drive

Students, start gathering up your loose change and help support our community with our annual coin drive! Once again, our teams from each grade level will be competing in a coin drive to help support the holiday Adopt-a-Family program, with excess proceeds donated to a local charity.

Mark your calendars now:

November 14-18: Coin Drive

November 21- December 2: Gift Collection

Will your team be the winner of this year's coin drive and earn the most points towards RVMS Turkey Smash? Look for more details to come on RVMS's website and contact me with any questions.

Thank you! Jill Peate, 2011 Adopt-a-Family Chairperson,
us5peates@yahoo.com

Adopt-a-Family
Coin Drive



Used Eyeglass Collection

The Wildwood Area Lions Club is collecting useable old eye glasses. Adult and child glasses as well as sun-glasses are needed. A Lions Club member will collect all donations and deliver them to a recycling center in the St. Louis area.

The school collection box is located in the hall outside of the nurse's office. Thank you in advance for your donation to help the sight impaired.

Permission Needed for Walkers

In the interest of student safety, Rockwood Valley student are not permitted to walk home from RVMS without a signed parent permission form on file in the office. If you would like a permission form, please contact the Welcome Center.

RVMS is Drug Free

In the interest of keeping RVMS a safe and drug free learning environment for all students, St. Louis County Police dogs may periodically be brought in to search our campus.

We appreciate your support of this effort.

Congratulations, Honors Orchestra Students

Please congratulate Wendy Han, Jessica Tremper, Meredith Binnette, Tom Bolstad, and Maddie Mullen for being accepted into the Rockwood Intermediate Honors Orchestra. Wendy, Jessica, and Meredith were selected as the top three violinists for all the auditioners. Tom and Maddie were also the top two cellists chosen. Rockwood Valley will be well represented by these students.



Guiding Change

Gifted Education K-12 Evaluation

Rockwood invites parents and patrons to an **Open Session for Community Input** with Dr. Carolyn Callahan and Karen Lelli Austin, experts in gifted education who are conducting an external evaluation of the gifted program.

As part of the Guiding Change process for K-12 gifted education, they will review the effectiveness of the district's program that serves gifted students. Come and share your input on the following gifted programming and services:

- 1) **student identification**
- 2) **curriculum and instruction**
- 3) **professional development**
- 4) **program administration and management**
- 5) **social and emotional guidance/counseling**

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 12

Time: 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Lafayette High School Theater

Address: 17050 Clayton Road in Wildwood

For more information, visit www.rockwood.k12.mo.us.

Click on:





Prepare, Prevent, Respond

Rockwood is dedicated to safety awareness, prevention and crisis response.

Jesus Villahermosa, the founder of Crisis Reality Training, will lead presentations focused specifically on school crises for middle school students and parents. His realistic and interactive delivery raises awareness for safety and security to a new level.

Parent and Community Training:

All parents and community members are invited to attend as skills and techniques are shared to help make our schools safer places for students to learn.

Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m.
Lafayette High School
17050 Clayton Road in Wildwood

Middle School Training:

Sixth-grade students will engage in training focused on bullying and making safe choices to live drug and alcohol free.

Monday, Oct. 17
Crestview Middle School
Rockwood Valley Middle School
Selvidge Middle School
Wildwood Middle School

Tuesday, Oct. 18
LaSalle Springs Middle School
Rockwood South Middle School

Questions?

Contact Dennis Griffith, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, at (636) 733-2013.

Rockwood Valley Middle School
1220 Babler Park Drive
Glencoe, Missouri 63038

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OCTOBER 2011



3—PSO Meeting, 9:30am
6—8th Gr Field Trip; Senior Citizens' Dance, 3pm-4pm, commons
10—National School Lunch Week
12—8th Gr EXPLORE Testing, 7:30am-10:48am; PD Day; Dismissal at 11:15am
13—EXPLORE Makeups, 7:30am-10:40am
15—RSD MS Cross Country, 8am-12 noon, MHS
17—6th Gr Jesus Villahermosa Assembly, 9:15am-10am; National School Bus Safety Week
18—First Day of Quarter 2
19—6th Gr Camp Meeting for Parents, 7pm, commons; RVMS 8th Gr Band to LHS in am
20—Flu Shots, 1:30-3:30pm; MIOS Choir Concert at LHS, 7pm, LHS gym
21—SOM Breakfast, 7:30am
24—SLSMEA Honor Band Auditions,

6pm
25—Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:30pm-7pm; Q1 Report Cards on Parent Portal
26—MIOS Orchestra Concert at LHS, 7pm, LHS gym; Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:30pm-7pm
27—No After School Activities
28—No School
31—SAT 10 Testing for 6th Graders; Get Real form due

NOVEMBER 2011



1—SAT 10 for 6th Gr
2—SAT 10 for 6th Gr
3—6th Gr Camp (Red Team only)
4—6th Gr Camp (Red Team only); 7th Gr Hearing Screening
7—PSO Meeting, 9:30am; SAT 10 for 6th Gr

8-9—6th Gr Camp (Black Team only)
10—PD Day; Dismissal at 11:15am
11—No School
12—American Education Week; SAT 10 Makeups
15—SAT 10 Makeups; RSD MS Swim Meet, 5pm-9pm, LHS
16—Band Concert, 7pm, gym; Education Support Professional Day; Get Real Lunch-Bags Out
17—Get Real Lunch-Raffle Drawing
18—Q2 Merlin Lunch; Q2 Progress Reports on Parent Portal; Student of the Month Breakfast, 7:35am
22—No After School Activities; Turkey Smash Assembly, 1:00pm-2:22pm, gym
23-25—No School
28—RSD MS Non-Competitive Bowling, 3pm-4:45pm, West County Lanes
30—LHS Middle School Orchestra Tour; RSD Competitive Bowling, 6th Gr, 3pm-4:45pm, West County Lanes