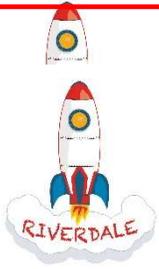


ROCKETS NEWS

Riverdale School
325 W. 142ND Street
Riverdale, IL 60827
708-849-7153
October 2022



Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians:



Thank you to all who attended this year's Open House/Back to School Night that was held on Wednesday September 07, 2022 for Riverdale School! I hope that you learned about our curriculum and about the high expectations the teachers and I have for all students. Again, I thank everyone for attending our classroom sessions and look forward to seeing everyone at our future virtual events. In addition, it has been wonderful having the children in person for learning this year. I believe they are thoroughly enjoying their learning experiences.

We are all very happy with the behavior and wonderful manners the children have shown during in person learning. While it is evident that the students and teachers have spent time discussing classroom routines and school-wide virtual procedures, I commend parents for teaching their student the connection between appropriate behavior and academic success during these unprecedented times.

I am impressed by how engaged the students have been in their classroom setting and by all the teaching and learning that is ongoing at Riverdale School. Should you ever have questions, concerns, or suggestions during the school year, please do not hesitate to call me at 708-849-7153.

Our purpose is to help each child become the very best he or she can be. Effective communication between home and school is extremely important in achieving this goal. Research shows that strong parental involvement and interest in education is a crucial factor in student success in school. I encourage you to keep informed with up-to-date information about your child's class and about our school. If you wish to discuss a matter that directly affects your child in the classroom, please speak with your child's teacher first. He/she is the person who interacts with your child daily and is the person to address your initial concerns. Also, your child's teacher is the best person to help you in the areas concerning your child's academic progress, behavioral issues, classroom discipline matters, questions on classroom routines or procedures, and homework. Additionally, the classroom teacher can share ideas to help you reinforce skills and concepts taught at school. If your concern centers on a school wide practice, please direct your call to me and I will contact you as soon as possible to address those concerns. For your advance planning purposes, our Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Friday, November 4, 2022.

Striving for Academic Excellence for all Children

Dr. Shinora Montgomery, Principal

Calendar of Events

October

- Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October 10

- No School, Columbus Day

October 20

- Great American Shake Out

October 21

- First Quarter Ends
- Early Release 12:00p.m.

October 24-28

- Red Ribbon Week

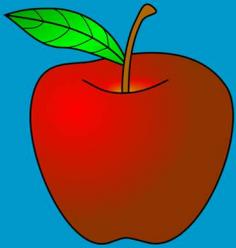
October 25

- Board Meeting 5 p.m.

First Grade

Kindergarten

Ms. Kovalik and Mrs. Williams-Stewart



The kindergarten students have started their journey to discover and learn. We have met new friends and have started to learn new and amazing things. We are currently working on our PBIS strategies (being respectful, responsible and safe). We have created our classroom social contract in order to help us work together harmoniously. We are also working hard on learning how to spell and write our first and last names, recognizing our letters and their sounds, and learning how to count objects in math. We have been having a lot of fun and we are working diligently. We can't wait to show you everything we learn each day!

Thank you for your support!

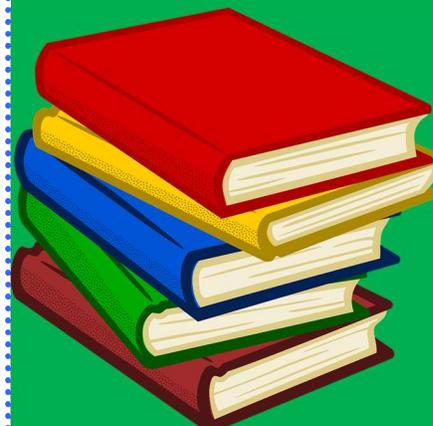
Ms. Kovalik and Mrs. Williams-Stewart

First grade is coming along just fine. Our "Firsties" are becoming familiar with routines and should be able to navigate the daily classroom agendas. After all, of the testing, that has taken place over the last few weeks; we are now able to see where students are and who needs extra support. In reading, we are deep into our story *The Empty Pot*. We are learning to identify the main characters and identify the key details and retell a story. In math, we are working on chapter 1, and are using the many strategies that we have learned to add and subtract. Please continue to read with and to your child each night, as well as practice spelling words. In science, we are learning about plants. In social studies, we are learning about rules and why they are important.

One last thing, when your child comes home with graded assignments please review this work with them to see if they can figure out their mistakes.

Thank you for all that you do!

The First Grade Team,
Mrs. Taura Harris
Dr. Dolores Merriweather



ROCKETS NEWS



Second Grade

Ms. Huff and Mrs. Ingram

Greetings Parents and Guardians,

In reading, we have begun Unit 1 in our new i-Ready reading series. We are focusing on asking and answering questions such as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text, finding the main idea/topic, and describing connections between historical events. As it pertains to math, we began Unit 1, Numbers with 20. This unit encompasses the following: using mental math strategies for addition and subtraction with one and two digit numbers, solving one and two-step word problems, and drawing and using bar/picture graphs. In science and social studies, we are learning about plants and communities, respectively.

- Just a few reminders:
- We ask that you please continue to read with your child each night to build fluency and comprehension.
- Your child should practice addition and subtraction facts to attain automaticity.
- Please send a sweater with your child to school as the classroom is sometimes cool.

Thank you!
The Second Grade Team
Ms. Huff
Mrs. Ingram

Third Grade

Mrs. McPherson and Ms. Rogers

We are focusing on understanding how a character's actions affect the sequence of a story. Our science and social studies concepts are embedded in the i-Ready Reading program. In Math, we are working on place value, addition, and subtraction. Students will be able to add and subtract up to the thousands place with regrouping. Check Class Dojo regularly to see real-time notifications about classroom happenings and check your child's behavior.

Thank you to those parents who were able to join us for our *Back to School Night*. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Parent-Teacher conferences on November 4th!

Ms. Rogers and Mrs. McPherson



ROCKETS NEWS

Fourth Grade

Mr. Chadwell and Mrs. Toney

Our fourth graders have had a fantastic first few weeks of school. Our classrooms are beginning to gel, teaches included, treating one another like family. Both fourth grade classes have created, signed and posted our classroom Social Contract, which is a contract that the students have developed. The Social Contract details how our students want to be treated by their classmates, how they want to be treated by their teacher and the type of working relationship that the students will share with their respective teacher. We have also been going over classroom and school procedures, rules, and expectations. We've also knocked out some of the beginning of the year testing in Math and Reading, which is done to find out where we are at in terms of skill levels in those academic areas. Our fourth graders are currently working on place value in Math and focusing on the main idea and summarizing texts in Reading. Fourth grade is ready, and we are looking forward to soaring to new heights this school year, running on all cylinders to achieve our goals.

Mr. Chadwell and Mrs. Toney

Art

Dr. Simpson



Art Family and students of Riverdale School. We will be focusing on Dia de la Muerte during the month of October. Children can expect to learn about this cultural celebration honored by Mexicans here and abroad. I look forward to a month of exciting exploration!

Dr. Simpson, Art Instructor

ROCKETS NEWS

Physical Education

Mr. Moore



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Riverdale Physical Education (PE) 2021-2022! For our new families, I am Justin Moore and I will be your child's Physical Education teacher. It is indeed a pleasure and honor to be returning for my 6th year at Riverdale elementary. My goal in physical education is for everyone to learn how to make healthy choices and feel successful when participating in a variety of activities. The long term effect will be developing healthy habits that will be beneficial well into adulthood. Due to the pandemic, all P.E. classes will be held outside, weather permitting. We will be complying with all district, local, state and federal C.D.C. guidelines.

All students will be encouraged to participate to the best of their ability. In doing so that also includes being prepared for those activities. All students are expected to wear gym shoes to every gym class. Boots, heely boots, sandals, and dress shoes will not be allowed in the gym room. Female students are encouraged to wear pants, skorts or black or blue shorts with uniform skirts on P.E. days. Students who wear dresses or skirts should wear navy shorts underneath. All students are also encourage to bring water bottles on P.E. Days and will receive extra points during the 1st quarter for modeling healthy habits.

It is very important that parents contact Nurse McGowen to facilitate the collection of medical documents from your doctor in reference to asthma and other health concerns. Also, remember to make arrangements for inhaler storage with the nurse's office. It is my belief that to attain and maintain academic success, we must have on-going communication. Should you or your child have a question or concern, please feel free to contact me via sending a note, emailing me at moorej@district148.net or calling me at (708) 849-7153 to request a parent conference. For any concerns that I may have, I will contact you by phone, sending a note home, or emailing you (if an email address is provided) Girl's On The Run and our new intermural sports programs. More information on new programs will be forthcoming. We welcome any amount of time, talents, and/or resources that you can offer to make our learning experiences even richer.

Please review the attached P.E. Rules as well as class and unit schedules. Thank you so much for entrusting me with your most prized possession. I look forward to working with you and your child.

Sincerely,

Coach Moore

ROCKETS NEWS



Be prepared
Be safe
Follow all direction
Give 100% effort
Be responsible / respectful

P.E. 1st semester Class Days

Monday / Wednesday Classes

Tuesday / Thursday Classes

107 / K 110 / K

105 / 1st 106 / 1st

104 / 2nd 103 / 2nd

109 / 3rd 108 / 3rd

101 / 4th 102 / 4th

Unit schedule

Fall sports

Soccer

Physical fitness

Football

Winter sports

Basketball

Floor Hockey

Bowling

Spring / Summer Sports

ROCKETS NEWS



Music

Mrs. Davis

Students in music are off to a good start! Kindergarten and first grade have been practicing keeping a steady beat with their class. We march in place, practice body percussion, and sing call and response songs.

Second graders are learning what music and notation looks like, practicing writing and adding the note values together. We sing and keep the beat together every day.

Third and fourth graders are reviewing rhythms from the previous year and expanding on their knowledge of note value. We clap and write rhythms together and are learning how to sing 2-part harmony with "The Lion Sleeps Tonight."

It's difficult to sing with masks on, but I'm so proud that the students are making it work. It will definitely help them practice their singing volume, with the need to give a little extra support to be able to be heard.



Technology



It's going to be a very busy and rewarding year for your scholar. During our "NEW NORMAL" I will make every effort to help them feel safe, comfortable, and excited about learning how to use technology. Also, communication between school and home is very important to our scholars' education, so if you ever need to contact me you can send a message through CLASS DOJO and I will respond as soon as time allows.

I am excited for what this school year has to bring and can't wait to teach your scholars how to be AWESOME DIGITAL CITIZENS!!

ROCKETS NEWS

C.A.R.E

Mrs. Johnson



Mrs. Johnson's CARE Memo:
Suite360:

Grades K-4 students are working on identifying social norms and safety considerations that guide their behavior. There are corresponding

Reinforcement Activities:

Students are given opportunities to show how they can accomplish these goals through Restorative Justice, Capturing Kids' Hearts and P.B.I.S. Check out some of these fun activities on [Classdojo.com](https://www.classdojo.com) each Monday and make a family night.

Mrs. Johnson, C.A.R.E. Facilitator

P.B.I.S

Mrs. Bivins



The safety of all children attending our school is of the utmost importance. When parents enter the building to drop off or pick up their children, it is difficult for staff to easily distinguish between who is and who is not a legitimate caregiver. This could present a safety risk for children. Therefore, in the interests of safety and security, all exterior doors are locked. At the end of the school day, students need to follow their routine dismissal procedure. Parents who wish to speak with their child's teacher are asked to send a note or go to the office via the main entrance doors.

Our safety and traffic procedures will be carefully monitored and adjusted, if necessary. They have been established for the safety of our students - **not for convenience**. Walkers will be dismissed from their assigned doors. Siblings will be instructed to check and wait for family members. Please review the walking route with your child.

Parents do not stop your vehicles in the middle street and let your children depart your vehicles or enter your vehicles. For the safety of all our students' parents should park their vehicles and come across the street to pick up students. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these procedures, please contact **Mrs. Bivins the Safety Facilitator.**

Mrs Bivins, Safety Facilitator

ROCKETS NEWS



M.T.S.S.

Mrs. Patrick

This is a new school year that is sure to be a great one. I am Mrs. Patrick, the MTSS Facilitator for Riverdale School. My main responsibility is to ensure that ALL students experience academic success.

What is MTSS?

The Multi-Tiered System of Support provides academic and behavior support for all students. The system allows teachers to create high-quality, researched based instruction and interventions based on the needs of the learner. MTSS consists of 3 tiers or levels of support. The district uses STAR reading and i-Ready math assessment data to identify those students who may need academic support.

The key to MTSS success is early intervention. Once students are identified as needing support, an intervention plan is created, and students are monitored to ensure that the interventions are appropriate. MTSS benefits ALL students by improving learning, ensuring high quality teaching, and providing research-based interventions.



Students working hard in 4th grade.