

# ROCKETS NEWS

Riverdale School

325 W. 142<sup>ND</sup> Street

Riverdale, IL 60827

708-849-7153

May 2024



## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are all very happy with the behavior and wonderful manners the children have shown this school year. 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.

I am impressed by how engaged the students have been in their classroom settings 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 stay 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, or an issue that is unresolved please direct all calls to me, and I will contact you as soon as possible to address those concerns. For your advance planning purposes, our **last month of school is very busy so make sure you are checking the classroom and school dojo for all updates**. We appreciate your continued efforts to work collaboratively in supporting students! Your partnership is important to Riverdale School students and staff!

Striving for Academic Excellence for all Children

*Dr. Shinora Montgomery, Principal*

*\*Students are encouraged to wear the "Be Legendary" Shirts on every field trip as well as every Friday!*

### Calendar of Events

**May 1 & 2**

- **Fine Arts Festival**

**May 8**

- **Museum of Science and Industry Field Trip**

**May 10**

- **Walking Field Trip**

**May 11**

- **Girls on the Run 5K**

**April 15**

- **Parent Café'**

**May 17**

- **School Improvement Day**

**May 24**

- **Field Day**

**May 27**

- **No School**

**May 28**

- **Board or Education at 7:00 p.m.**

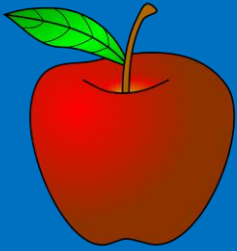
**May 29**

- **Last Day of School**



## Kindergarten

Ms. Smith and Mrs. Williams-Stewart



### May Newsletter

Hello Kindergarten families!!

This month the kindergartner class will be learning about the life cycle of a chick. Our students will have the opportunity to learn about real chicks, watch them develop inside the egg, hatch and grow! We are also looking forward to our Kindergarten Step-up celebration this month which will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. The Kindergartners are excited and are preparing a wonderful performance to showcase how much they have learned and grown throughout this school year. Please continue to stay connected through Class Dojo for more details about our Step-up celebration and other upcoming events. As always thank you for all you do!

Educationally yours,

Mrs. Williams-Stewart and Ms. Smith



## First Grade

Mrs. Drake and Ms. Thomas

Families and Friends!

We hope you had a lovely April and are ready for all the exciting things we have planned for **May!**

We are coming to the end of first grade and want to ensure students are ready for second grade. Please continue to work with students each day to end this school year with success.

High frequency words are important for students to become fluent readers. This month, we will continue to work on these words to help improve reading skills. Please continue to practice these words at home with your child.

We encourage you to continue reading with your child for at least 30 minutes every night. Reading regularly will improve their reading comprehension and help them become better readers overall.

In reading we will be working on integration of knowledge and ideas in literature. This unit covers finding word meanings, text features words and pictures.

In science we are learning about habitats and what animals need to survive.

In Math, we are focusing on place value using tens and ones to organize and count. This unit covers add and subtract tens, add two digit and one-digit numbers

Reminders this month, we will be attending a Field Trip to the Musuem of Science and Industry on **May 8, 2024**. Riverdale's Field Day will also be held **May 24, 2024**.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's education. We are looking forward to a fantastic month ahead!

1st grade team

Mrs. Drake, Dr. Driskell, Ms. Thomas, Ms. Wells



## ROCKETS NEWS



## Second Grade

Ms. Lyndsey and Mrs. Ingram

Greetings Parents and Guardians!

In reading, we will continue Unit 2 (Key Ideas and details in literature) of our Ready Common Core reading series. We will continue to focus on asking and answering questions such as *who, what, where, when, why, and how* to demonstrate understanding of author purpose, recounting stories, and describing how characters act when faced with a challenge. We will also practice reading skills such as comparing and contrasting, sequencing, and cause and effect. As it pertains to math, we are beginning unit 3. This unit's skills include: addition and subtraction with three- digit numbers (with and without regrouping) comparing numbers and mental math strategies. In social studies, we will learn about types of communities and helpers that make up a community. In science, we will learn about Energy and the resources needed to make the world move.

Just a few reminders: We ask that you please ensure assignments are completed daily, including I-Ready for math and reading (at least 20 minutes daily) Please continue to read with your child each night.

Thank you for your support!

The Second Grade Team  
Ms. Lyndsey  
Mrs. Ingram

## Third Grade

Mrs. Cooper and Ms. Rogers

3rd Grade Newsletter

Third grade is working on Units Five and Six in our iReady Reading program. We are focusing on explaining how illustrations contribute to a story. Additionally, asking & answering questions to understand a text, along with understanding how poetry is organized and reviewing main ideas & key details.

In iReady Math, we are working on comparing fractions and measurement. Our Science and Social Studies concepts are imbedded in the iReady Reading program and will be enhanced using Flocabulary, along with Readworks Please remember to check Class Dojo regularly to see real-time notifications about classroom happenings, homework and check your child's behavior.

Ms. Rogers and Mrs. Cooper



## ROCKETS NEWS

**Fourth Grade****Mr. Chadwell and Mrs. Miller**

Fourth grade's Malcolm Arzu, this year's winner of our annual school-wide spelling bee, represented Riverdale School as he competed in a regional spelling bee with other spelling bee winners from this region. Malcolm did an outstanding job, making it all the way to the 8th round of the competition. Another set of congratulations are in order for Malcolm Arzu, and let's also thank him for his dedication and effort in this endeavor!

In iReady Reading our fourth graders are currently working on being able to identify the main idea and key details in a text and using them to write a summary for that text. These concepts and skills are being taught and developed with three separate historical texts (true accounts of real events that have occurred in the past) where young inventors have made improvements to already existing inventions to solve a problem. In iReady Math we have finished the lesson on multiplication and division in word problems and the lesson on factors (any number that is multiplied by another number) and multiples (the product/answer achieved when a particular number is multiplied by another number. We are currently working on, and in the process of finishing up, the lesson on identifying and understanding number and shape patterns. This lesson also teaches our students how to generate a number or shape pattern that follows a given rule. Once we are finished with number and shape patterns, our fourth graders will be embarking on the journey of using their skills and knowledge to model and solve Multi-Step Problems (problems involving two or more mathematical operations to solve them).

***Mr. Chadwell and Mrs. Miller*****Art****Dr. Simpson****Greetings Family!**

Hello Families: May is the month of The Riverdale Fine Arts Festival. See featured artwork from children at Riverdale. School Enjoy visual art, music and more. In classes, students will continue using nature as an inspiration for artmaking with a focus on pattern. Outside of school, Dr. Simpson will host a free event at the University of Chicago Logan Center at their Family Saturday May 4, from 2:00pm-4:00pm. The theme will be Marine & Aquatic Art. See the link here: [May Family Saturday: Marine World — Logan Center \(uchicago.edu\)](#) Please come out to see art and create art. ~ Dr. Simpson

Hola Familias: Mayo es el mes de The Riverdale Fine Arts Festival. Ver obras de arte destacadas de los niños en Riverdale. Escuela Disfrute de arte visual, música y más. En las clases, los estudiantes seguirán utilizando la naturaleza como inspiración para la creación de arte con un enfoque en el patrón. Fuera de la escuela, la Dra. Simpson acogerá un evento gratuito en el Centro Logan de la Universidad de Chicago en su "Familia el sábado" 4 de mayo, de las 14:00 a las 14:00. El tema será Arte Marino y Acuático. Ver el enlace aquí: [May Family Saturday: Marine World — Logan Center \(uchicago.edu\)](#) Por favor, sal a ver arte y crear arte. ~ Dra. Simpson

## ROCKETS NEWS

## Physical Education

Mr. Moore



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Riverdale Physical Education (PE) 2023-2024! 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 encouraged 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](mailto: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



## ROCKET NEWS

## Music

Mrs. Davis

As the end of the school year approaches, it's an exciting time in music class. Music students can apply their knowledge of rhythm, counting, note reading, and steady beat.

They are able to play more instruments to expand their musical experience. Depending on what grade level, your child is playing 1 or 2 of these instruments over the next few weeks: boomwackers, bells, a chance at Mrs. Davis's piano, tambourines, and drumsticks.

"A noisy classroom is a creative classroom" is what I like to remind myself over the next month.



## Support Programs

Mr. Lenz

Greetings Riverdale Families!

The related services team has had a very successful year and spring semester! Students are receiving services on a daily basis and making great progress! We are very proud of the success of ALL our students. Mr. Lenz, Miss. Miller, Mrs. Wall, and Mr. John are all very pleased with how well our students are progressing. We have some very exciting events coming up in the last few weeks of school. Riverdale will have one more school-wide field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry on May 8th. The Girls on the Run 5K is scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup> downtown Chicago. May 10<sup>th</sup> is a specials field trip (art, music, PE) for 2nd, 3rd, and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. Our Kindergarten and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes will also have special ceremonies at the end of the year to celebrate the successes of students in those grades. Please take advantage of the programs this summer at the Riverdale Public Library. Library cards are available there and can be used to check out books that you and your child can read together as a family. It is also important to practice sight words, as well as basic math facts for addition, subtraction, and multiplication and division. Working on the basic, foundational skills is important, as more abstract skills are built upon these skills. As always, we hope you have an enjoyable, fun, and safe summer! We are working hard here over the summer to prepare for next year, and cannot wait to welcome all of you back to our Riverdale School and family this upcoming fall!

Raymond W. Lenz

Special Education Resource Teacher

Riverdale Elementary School

Dolton West School District 148

Working together as a team, we can and will make a difference in the lives of our children.

## ROCKETS NEWS



**C.A.R.E**  
Mrs. Johnson

**P.B.I.S**  
Mrs. Bivins



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 lessons for students and parents.

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. CKH:

We continue to use our CKH strategies to build positive relationships with students. Social Contracts are alive and in use throughout the building. Some of these include:

1. Greeting students by name
2. Launching students with positivity each day
3. Empowering students to have a voice



Learning doesn't have to stop just because it's summer break!

Here are some choice reads that celebrate summer, taking kids on beach trips and bike rides and to the baseball field. Add them to your students' summer reading list. I even included a hands-on activity book that will provide hours of science fun using a few common household items and a whole lot of creativity.

- [\*Curious George Goes to the Beach\*](#) by H.A. Rey (Pre-K-Kindergarten)
- [\*Swashby and the Sea\*](#) by Beth Ferry and illustrated by Juana Martinez Neal (Pre-K-3)
- [\*Hot Day on Abbott Avenue\*](#) by Karen English and Illustrated by Javaka Steptoe (Pre-K-3)
- [\*Flotsam\*](#) by David Wiesner (Pre-K-3)
- [\*Two Whats?! and a Wow! Think & Tinker Playbook\*](#) by Mindy Thomas and Guy Raz (Grades 3-7)
- [\*The Last Last-Day-of-Summer\*](#) by Lamar Giles and illustrated by Dapo Adeola (Grades 3-7)
- [\*Camp\*](#) by Kayla Miller (Grades 3-7)
- [\*Keeping Score\*](#) by Linda Sue Park (Grades 3-7)
- [\*Baseball in April and Other Stories\*](#) by Gary Soto (Grades 3-7)
- [\*Harris and Me\*](#) by Gary Paulsen (Grades 5-7)

Have a great and safe summer!!

Mrs. Bivins

Safety Facilitator



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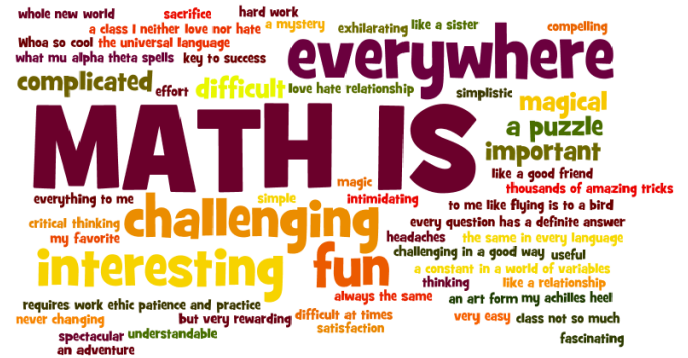


M.T.S.S.

## Math Newsletter

## Math Strategies for Parents

Why is it important for my child to learn math? Math skills are important to a child's success – both at school and in everyday life. Understanding math also builds confidence and opens the door to a range of career options.



In our everyday lives, understanding math enables us to:

- manage time and money, and handle everyday situations that involve numbers (for example, calculate how much time we need to get to work, how much food we need in order to feed our families, and how much money that food will cost);
- understand patterns in the world around us and make predictions based on patterns (for example, predict traffic patterns to decide on the best time to travel);
- solve problems and make sound decisions;
- explain how we solved a problem and why we made a particular decision;
- use technology (for example, calculators and computers) to help solve problems. Knowing how to do math makes our day-to-day lives easier!

Knowing how to do math makes our day-to-day lives easier!

Adapted from Downey Unified School District, [www.dusd.net](http://www.dusd.net)