

ROCKETS NEWS

Riverdale School

325 W. 142ND Street

Riverdale, IL 60827

708-849-7153

January 2024



Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians:



Welcome back to the second half the 2023-2024 school year. Riverdale Students showed excitement for learning during the first semester of school. While it is evident that the students and teachers have spent time discussing classroom routines and school-wide procedures, I commend parents for teaching their student the importance of appropriate behavior and academic success.

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**.

Calendar of Events

January 8, 2024

- School Resumes

January 15

- No School
MLK Day

January 17

**Awards
Assembly 1:30
p.m.**

January 19

- Noon Dismissal

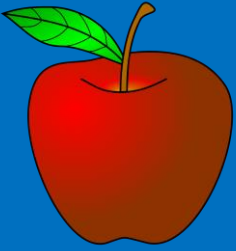
Our purpose is to help each child become the very best he or she can be. Effective communication between home and school is extremely important in achieving this goal. Research shows that strong parental involvement and interest in education is a crucial factor in student success in school. I encourage 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 Black History Program will be held on February 28, 2024. Thank you, students, and parents, for all your support for support the 1st and 2nd quarter. 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

Kindergarten

Ms. Smith and Mrs. Williams-Stewart



The kindergarten classrooms are learning how to be good readers and writers in class. We are discussing the roles of the author and illustrator in the books that we are reading. We are also learning about fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. We are reading different versions of story The Gingerbread Man and will be voting on our favorite retold version of the story. We will also be creating our very own gingerbread man! In math, we are learning how to solve problems using our vocabulary knowledge and the problem-solving skills that we have learned over the quarter. We are learning so much in school and are having a fun time. Please keep up the hard work everyone!

Mrs. Williams-Stewart and Ms. Smith



First Grade

Ms. Thomas and Mrs. Drake



Dear First Grade Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are ready for an exciting start to the year. The month of January is a time for new beginnings and growth, and we have seen so much growth in your students already!

In the first grade, your children have grown not only physically, but also academically and socially. They have become more independent and confident in the classroom, and their eagerness to learn is truly inspiring.

As we continue to focus on their academic growth, we would like to remind you of the importance of reading with your child for at least 30 minutes every night. This simple act can have a tremendous impact on their reading scores and vocabulary development. We encourage you to explore different genres and authors with your child to expand their knowledge and love for reading.

In **math**, your students are working on adding and subtracting double-digit numbers up to 20. We will also be introducing measurements, which include money and time. They have been using manipulatives and various strategies to understand the concepts, and we are proud of their progress so far.

We are excited to see more growth and development in the coming months, and we are grateful for your continued support in your child's education. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Together, we can make this a successful and enjoyable school year for your child.

Thank you for being amazing parents,

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

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Second Grade

Ms. Lyndsey and Mrs. Ingram

Greetings Parents and Guardians!

In reading, we are focusing on describing the connections between steps, and moving into Unit 2, which begins with ask and answer questions about stories and recounting stories. As it pertains to math, we are continuing to work in Unit 2-Numbers within 100. This unit entails addition and subtraction with two-digits, telling and writing time and counting money. In science and social studies, we are continuing to learn about animals and geography, 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. Lyndsey

Mrs. Ingram

Third Grade

Ms. Rogers

Third grade has begun Unit Two in our iReady Reading program. We are focusing on determining the main idea of an informational (nonfiction) text, recounting the key details, and explaining how they support the main idea.

In iReady Math, we are continuing to work on multiplication and division. Students will be able to interpret products of whole numbers and use what they know about multiplication to help them divide. We will also use multiplication to find the area.

Our Science and Social Studies concepts are imbedded in the iReady Reading program and will be enhanced using Flocabulary along with News-O-Matic.

Additionally, students' Spelling words will come from iReady. Please remember to check Class Dojo on Mondays for the Spelling words. Also, check Class Dojo regularly to see real-time notifications about classroom happenings and check your child's behavior.

A big thank you to all the parents that attended Parent-Teacher conferences on November 3rd.

Ms. Rogers



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Fourth Grade Mr. Chadwell and Ms. Miller

On Wednesday, December 6th, our fourth-grade scientists presented their science project boards at Riverdale's fourth grade science fair. All of our students did an excellent job in presenting their projects and the science fair was an enjoyable success.

The winners are as follows:

- 1st place went to Adelyne Figueroa;
- 2nd place went to Nathaniel Cuevas;
- 3rd place went to Savannah Butler.

Adelyne Figueroa, our first-place winner, will present her board at the next District 148 Board meeting.

In iReady Reading our fourth graders are developing their ability to read and understand technical text, where they read a text that explains how to do something with ordered steps. They are also tackling the concept of making inferences when reading, which entails coming up with an idea about a text that makes sense, that was not specifically stated by the author, based on details in the text and what you already know. In iReady Math we have finished the lesson on multi-digit number subtraction (with regrouping) and we are about to start moving into the area of understanding multiplication as a comparison. This will be done once we complete the Unit 1 Test, which encompasses the 5 lessons that we have covered so far this school year.

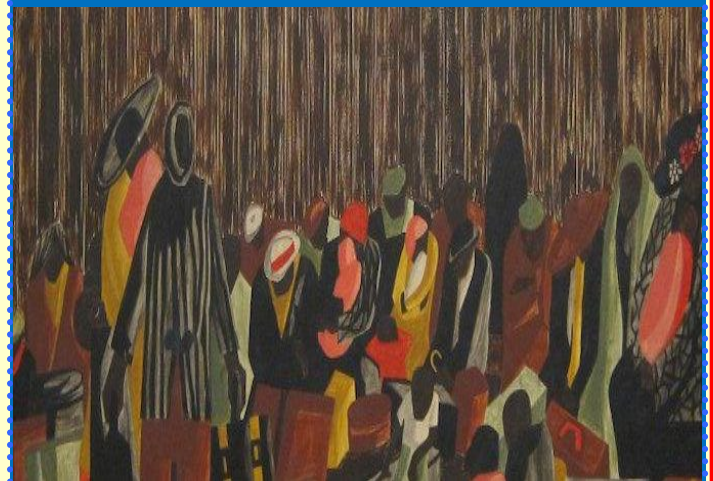
Art Dr. Simpson

Greetings Family!

Art of the Harlem Renaissance

Parents, children end the year with a study on Cultural Celebrations from various countries around the world. When students return in January, they'll begin a rich study on African American Art History during the Great Migration and Harlem Renaissance. They will look at a variety of art forms which include musicians, painters, filmmakers and even some dancers. Students will look at shapes, color, movement, line and space – the elements of art. The idea is to expose children to as many facets of our rich American history as possible so that they are informed individuals about the colorful legacy that informs our society, community, and nation.

Dr Simpson, Art Teacher



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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 7th 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 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

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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

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Music

Mrs. Davis

Music class is doing great with their holiday songs.

Kindergarten and first graders are still learning about sound vs. silence, moving their bodies according to what they hear.

2nd graders are re-enforcing their reading skills by reading music and words while they sing with others.

3rd and 4th graders are learning about harmony, singing 2-part harmony with their class.

It's a challenge for some to sing one thing and hear another, but they are doing well. Soon we will try 3-part harmony!



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!!

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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.

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

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

P.B.I.S

Mrs. Bivins



Dear Parents and Guardians:

Our 3rd quarter has begun, and it is a good time to remind everyone about the importance of good attendance for in-person learning, being prepared and ready to learn. Students should be present every day means your child won't miss out on learning. If your child asks to skip school "just because", remind him/her of what they will miss, such as reading group or art class. Explain that he/she can only be absent if they are sick or if there's a family emergency. Our students are more likely to succeed in academics when they attend school consistently. Thank you for your support in helping your student achieve good attendance at school!

Mrs. Bivins

Safety Facilitator

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M.T.S.S.

New Year's Resolution: Help Your Kids Do Great in School

Did you know? Kids whose parents are involved in their education have better grades, a better attitude toward school, and more appropriate school behavior than those with less involved parents. Consider trying a few of these tips—and make a big difference!

Tip 1: Get involved

- Visit your child's classroom when you bring your child to school.
- See if your school offers any workshops for parents and arrange to go!

Tip 2: Check on homework

- Talk to your child each day about homework.
- Help your child manage the workload by dividing assignments into smaller parts.
- Give your child a good place to study—away from TV, phone, or loud music.
- Do not use homework as a punishment; include it as part of the daily routine.

Tip 3: Make home a good place for learning

- Praise and encourage your child.
- Be a role model for getting work done before play.
- Establish a homework routine—same time, same place, every day.
- Most importantly, read to your child or have him read to you every day.
- What should I do if my child isn't doing well in school?
- Contact your child's teacher; don't wait for the school to contact you. Ask for specific activities you can do at home with your child. Meet with your child's teacher frequently until the problem is resolved.
- What if my child doesn't like school?
- *Try to find out why your child seems unhappy with school. Arrange for a conference with the teacher or school counselor. Listen carefully to your child before you offer any solutions.*

· Adapted from Liontos, L. How can I be involved in my child's education? ERIC Parent Brochure.