News from the Nest

Hello, Riverwood Ravens! Here is this week's edition of News from the Nest. It's hard to believe, but we are at the midpoint of the 3rd quarter already and progress reports will go home with students on Tuesday. We are looking forward to the annual Student vs. Staff Basketball game on Friday at 4:00 with proceeds supporting our AVID Program. Admission is $5 and students should be picked up by 5:15pm in the bus loop. Let's make it an EXCELLENT week!

We're "Raven" About…

- Congratulations to the following teachers for special recognitions:
  - Kayla Mallard (6th/7th Gr Counselor) - nominee for JCPS Counselor of the Year
  - Jaimal Page (ESL Teacher) - RMS recipient of Leading with the Heart Award
  - Tavia Mickens (7th gr Science Teacher) - RMS Beginning Teacher of the Year
  - Amy Wellbrook (6th gr Math), Kim Copeland (8th gr Science), Sarah Aycock (8th gr ELA) - nominees for JCPS Flame for Learning (Teacher of the Year)
- Congratulations to 7th grade AVID students, JaRon Sanders and JaRiah Sanders, who were both nominated for the Victor E Bell Scholarship Program!

New/Time Sensitive/Important Information:

Upcoming Important Dates

Monday 2/3	Tuesday 2/4	Wednesday 2/5	Thursday 2/6	Friday 2/7
MVP Make-Ups **4:15PM:** BBall @ ALMS *(reschedule)*	**8th Science Check-In #2** (during Core Classes) **Q3 Progress Reports**	**MVP Make-Ups**	**6:00PM:** Winter Sports Banquet	**Pep Rallies during Enhancements** **4:00PM:** Student vs Staff BBall Games
Monday 2/10	**Tuesday 2/11**	**Wednesday 2/12**	**Thursday 2/13**	**Friday 2/14**
3:15 - 4:30PM: Spring Sports Interest Meeting (Gym)			**3:30PM:** All-County Chorus Auditions @ RMS	

Excelling Raven
Congratulations to our newest Excelling Raven, Ms. Colleen Hollifield, 7th grade Math teacher and Hall Chair. Here is what Ms. Finch had to say about Ms. Hollifield…"Mrs. Hollified is an asset to the RMS community! Her dedication, passion, and commitment to helping students understand and appreciate math is evident each day. She not only teaches the subject, but also encourages curiosity and fosters a love of learning in her students. Mrs. Hollifield dedicated hours planning the hugely successful Frosty Festival and also serves as 7th grade hall chair and SIT team representative. She's never afraid to jump in and participate at pep rallies and staff games, and the students love seeing her engage and have a great time. Mrs. Hollifield is truly an excelling Raven; we are fortunate to have her here at Riverwood!"



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Thank you to **9 Bar Coffeehouse** for sponsoring our Excelling Raven recognition for the 2025 spring semester! Stay tuned to see who the next Excelling Raven will be…

Ravens Prep Academy After-School Tutoring/Review Sessions
We are excited to announce that our annual spring Ravens Prep Academy began last week. These after-school tutoring/review sessions will offer students an additional opportunity to work on skills they may need support with and to help prepare for the EOGs (as we get closer to that time.) Information about sessions days and locations, along with the required Parent Permission Form, are linked HERE. Students MUST have submitted a permission form prior to staying after school. Students can begin to attend sessions at any time in the semester. Teachers may be reading out to parents of students that would benefit greatly from the sessions after we receive mid-year benchmark data in February. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your student's EOG teacher!

Truancy Letters
Some families have received a Notification of Truancy for their student(s). While my name is on these letters as principal of RMS, they are actually sent via a third party vendor contracted by JCPS to notify parents at the 3rd, 6th, and 10th unexcused absences. If you receive a letter and would like additional information about the unexcused absences, please reach out to Ms. Carolyn Pegues at the front desk or Ms. Casey Carson (Data Manager.) If there are extenuating circumstances that you would like to make us aware of regarding your student's absences or if you have questions above and beyond unexcused absence dates, please contact one of our School Counselors (Kayla Mallard or Mackenzie Boyd) and/or our Social Worker (Danielle Pleasant.)

Important Message from Nurse Sanders
We are seeing an uptick in the number of students who are attending school with fevers and leaving early, or who are returning to school after having fevers just one day prior with the use of fever reducing agents. Please refer to this document for more information.

We want all of our students and educators to remain healthy and safe while in school. Thank you!

Riverwood Middle School PTSA

PTSA Board Current Opening
There is a current vacancy for the secretary position of the PTSA, please reach out to riverwoodptsapresident@gmail.com if interested.

Upcoming PTSA Meetings and 25-26 PTSA Board Elections
The next PTSA general meeting will be on February 24 at 7 pm in the RMS cafeteria, all are welcome. Our final PTSA general meeting and elections for next year's PTSA officer board positions will be held on April 28 at 7pm in the RMS cafeteria, anyone who is interested in serving on next year's board can email the President with their interest at the email above. Most of the positions will be open for election, if we do not get them filled the PTSA will cease to exist.

PLEASE consider a PTSA Board position! The support of our PTSA is VITAL to our school culture and student success!

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RMS Spirit Wear
The RMS PTSA spirit wear website is live and ready for orders! All orders will be delivered to the student's homeroom.
https://www.nesspressnc.com/store/c265/Riverwood_Middle_School.html.

To **join the PTSA** for the school year, please click here:
https://rmsptsa.givebacks.com/store?limit=21&live=true You don't have to volunteer to join the PTSA.

Riverwood Middle School Athletic Boosters

Important Dates Ahead!
This week, we conclude the winter sports season with:
2/3 - Away Game @ Archer Lodge @ 4:15PM
2/6 - Winter Sports Banquet @ 6:00PM
2/7 - Student/Staff Game @ 4:00 PM

We want to extend our gratitude to all the winter athletes, coaches, parents, volunteers and staff for their dedication and hard work throughout the season.

Spring Season Volunteers Needed for Concession Stands!
We are seeking volunteers to assist with our concession stand for the spring sports season. Your help is essential in making game days a success for our athletes and fans! We appreciate your time and support!
Sign up today using the SignUpGenius link located on our Linktree to secure your spot.

Stay Updated!
Be sure to check out our Linktree for important information. We'll be posting updates throughout the year, so keep checking back for the latest news and resources!

As always, thank you for your support!

From Previous Editions & Still Important:

Weekly Math & ELA Homework
All students in grades 6-8 will be assigned weekly homework in their math and ELA classes moving forward. This HW will be given on Friday or Monday of each week and due the next upcoming Friday. It will consist of math problems and a few short reading passages and questions that can be completed all at once or a few each night. This homework will review content previously taught this year, as well as, build on foundational skills from prior years for our students. Our goal is to help our students retain their knowledge and build a strong foundation as they matriculate into the next grade and ultimately into high school. Please reach out to your student's math and/or ELA teacher for additional information or with questions.

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Follow us on Facebook!

https://www.facebook.com/RMSRavens

Sportsmanship & Support at Athletic Contests

The Riverwood Ravens are excited to welcome all fans to our athletic contests this school year! In conjunction with Johnston County Public Schools and the Johnston County Middle School Athletic Conference , we would like to remind everyone that our athletic contests are an extension of the classroom and part of the school setting. We ask that everyone remain positive, refrain from negative comments or behaviors, as well as treat others with respect and the way they would want to be treated. We ask for a show of appreciation and support of all athletes, coaches, and officials throughout all athletics events. We are thankful that our fans have the opportunity to support us and make our athletic competitions possible. Thank you for joining us in demonstrating Excellence in All Ways at Riverwood Middle School! - RMS Administration

Positive Behavior Incentives & Rewards

Each day, our students have the opportunity to earn positive behavior points/tickets for demonstrating the RAVENS Core Beliefs in their classes, the hallway, cafeteria, etc. In addition to our RAVENS core beliefs, students participated in creating their grade level Social Contracts in which they came to consensus on how they wanted to be treated by each other, how they wanted to be treated by their teacher, how their teacher wanted to be treated by them, and how they could resolve conflict in an appropriate way. A copy of the grade level social contracts can be found below.

6th Gr Social Contract 7th Gr Social Contract 8th Gr Social Contract

This year, we will have Fun Friday every 2-3 weeks in which students can cash in points/tickets to participate in fun activities during AIR Time. In order to participate, students cannot have any missing work (outside of an excused absence) and cannot have been assigned ISS or OSS during the previous 3 weeks. Students have been earning LOTS of points in their classes and are excited to cash them in for our fun activities!

Technology Use Agreement Forms

All students should have received a paper copy of the JCPS Technology Use Agreement Form in Homeroom the first week of school. These forms MUST be signed and returned in order for students to have access to their Chromebook during the school day. Students will be issued a Chromebook to use during the school day only. No Chromebooks can be taken home and must be charged in the classroom ChromeCart each night.

RMS Carpool

Carpool drops off and picks up in the front of the school, entering off Athletic Club Blvd. Please follow the direction of the staff directing carpool and bring patience this week. It will be slower this week but by the end of the week, things will be running smoothly and we will get you and your child through the line quickly.

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Remember that you cannot enter the carpool lane before 7:00 am in the morning or 2:55 pm in the afternoon. Until then, carpool drivers must wait on the side of Athletic Club Blvd at the end of the school.

Breakfast & Lunch is FREE for ALL RMS Students
Breakfast will be available at the beginning of each grade level hallway for students to grab & go to their Homeroom each morning. Menus can be found at tinyurl.com/JCPSMenus.

Student/Parent Handbook
Please review the 2024-25 RMS Student/Parent Handbook linked HERE and also available on the RMS website.

Over-the-Counter Medications - A NEW CHANGE
If you have a student that will be taking over the counter medication at school this year, please be aware that they, too, will need a physician signature. Please complete THIS FORM and bring medications to the Front Office to Nurse Sanders. She is at RMS on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays each week.

Late Arrivals and Early Check-Outs
Students arriving after the 8:05 AM tardy bell must check-in in the main office. Parents do not need to accompany students for late arrivals. Students will check themselves in using the office Chromebooks. A note is required for medical appointments in order to be excused.

Students may be checked out early by a parent/guardian or adult listed on the Student Info sheet completed at Open House/Orientation. Parents must come in to check out a student and sign them out using the office Chromebooks. **Please remember that students cannot be checked out after 2:45 PM.**

Voluntary Student Accident Insurance
If you are interested in purchasing voluntary student accident insurance for your student, please visit www.k12studentinsurance.com. The site contains enrollment instructions, enrollment application, claim forms, and coverage details (English and Spanish)

Thank you all for your continued support of our Riverwood Ravens and have a great week! - MJS

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