



# News from the Nest

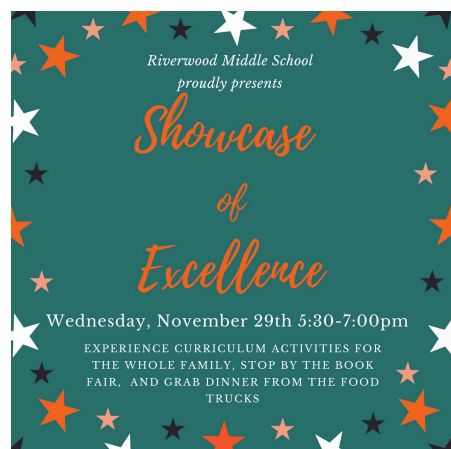
Hello, Riverwood Ravens! Here is this week's edition of News from the Nest. We are excited to celebrate our benchmark scores, which were released at the end of last week. Our students are performing 6% higher than last year this time! Kudos to all of our students and our tested subject teachers for getting it done in the classroom...and this is only the beginning! We wish all of our Raven Families a very Happy Thanksgiving, we are so grateful for your support of our school. Let's make it another EXCELLENT week at RMS!

## New/Time Sensitive/Important Information:

### Upcoming Important Dates

Monday 11/20	Tuesday 11/21	Wednesday 11/22	Thursday 11/23	Friday 11/24
	Treat Trolley  4:15pm: BBall @ Jamboree @ Princeton MS/HS	Happy Thanksgiving Break		
Monday 11/27	Tuesday 11/28	Wednesday 11/29	Thursday 11/30	Friday 12/1
Fall Book Fair				
	Fall Picture Retakes  4:15pm: BBall vs. McGee's MS  6:00pm: PAC Mtg	5:30-7:00pm: Showcase of Excellence & Family Night @ Book Fair	4:15pm: BBall @ Cleveland MS	

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Riverwood Middle School Showcase of Excellence



#### Wednesday, November 29th 5:30-7:00 pm

Please join us for the first **Showcase of Excellence** where our teachers and students will be showcasing their learning in all content areas, including fun learning experiences for the whole family to enjoy. Food trucks will be on site to grab dinner and the Book Fair will be open to make your purchases. We can't wait to demonstrate our excellent Raven staff and students in this special event! More information is forthcoming.

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## Thank A Teacher

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we will provide the opportunity for students to complete this [Teacher Appreciation note](#) for teachers tomorrow and Tuesday. If your student would like to fill it out at home, please feel free to print it and have them drop it off in the front office in the morning.

## JCPS Choice Programs

JCPS Choice Programs Family Information Night will be on Tuesday, December 12, from 5:30 - 8:30 pm at Smithfield-Selma High School. Just as a reminder the application opens this year on December 1 and closes February 21. More information about JCPS Choice Programs can be found [here](#).

## EXCELLING RAVEN Award



Congratulations to Ms. Pam Lane, Lead Secretary/Bookkeeper, who was selected as this week's Excelling Raven by Ms. Little. Here is what she had to say about Ms. Lane...

*"I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for Mrs. Pam Lane's dedication and flexibility in her role as the school bookkeeper. Her willingness to step in and fill in for staff, especially myself, during times when my meetings have run over schedule has not gone unnoticed. Her flexibility and support have been invaluable, and I am truly grateful for her willingness to go above and beyond to ensure the smooth operation of our school."*

## After-School Tutoring

Riverwood Middle School will be starting our after school tutoring program this week. Our goal is to support our students as they work towards achieving their academic goals. The tutoring program will allow students to work closely with staff members on math, ELA, social studies, and science curriculums, homework help, and more.

Please take time to let us know if your child will be able to attend these sessions. You may return this form to your child's homeroom teacher or submit it electronically by going to [the online sign-up form](#). Schedules will be communicated to parents and students by email once they are finalized. Feel free to email [elizabethadams@johnston.k12.nc.us](mailto:elizabethadams@johnston.k12.nc.us) if you have any questions.

## Riverwood Middle School PTSA Updates:

### Holiday Fundraiser

Our Charleston Wrap Holiday fundraiser has officially started. Our fundraising goal is \$25,000. With over 2,500 gift ideas there is something for everyone on your holiday gift list which means your support can really help us reach our PTSA goal! Be sure to REGISTER online today at [www.registercw.com](http://www.registercw.com), and START SHARING our fundraiser with your family & friends! Our SCHOOL CODE is 27626. Once you register, TEXT, email, and share our fundraiser on social media. Catalogs should have gone home on Friday with your student.

### Fall Book Fair

Mark your calendar for Book Fair!

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Join us on 11/27-12/4 in the Media Center for captivating stories, engaging activities, and literary treasures!

We are in need of volunteers to support the book fair. We have several options for shifts, morning, mid day, and afternoon.

Sign up here:

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/4090B48AFAE2BA7FA7-45906997-book>

Also register with JCPS as a level 2 volunteer for the 23-24 school year:

<https://myvolunteer.com/jcps/volunteer/login>

Add money to your student's e-wallet here: <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/content/fairs/ewallet.html>

Follow RMS Book Fair website here for more announcements:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/riverwoodmiddleschool2>

## Grant Updates

We are excited to announce that Riverwood Middle PTSA is the recipient of one of the 2023-2024 National PTA Programs Grants! We are being awarded \$1,250 in funding to implement the National PTA's Wellness Fairs program, as designed, during the 2023-2024 school year. We plan on using the funds for any expenses associated with promoting, hosting, and executing our spring wellness fair.

## Resource Room Update

Thank you to RMS parent, Ms. Robin Vaughn and her company, AT&T, who did a non-perishable food drive over the past month. All of the items that her office collected are being donated to the Riverwood Resource Room!



## RMS Athletic Boosters Updates:

Please sign up to help with concessions at our home basketball games this winter. See the [Booster Club website](#) for more details. Thank you for your support of our athletic programs!

## From Previous Editions & Still Important:

### RAVENS Recognition Cards & RAVENS Positive Behavior Tickets

**RAVENS Recognition Cards:** Staff members will begin distributing RAVENS Recognition cards this week to students. These cards can be given to students that are consistently going above and beyond exemplifying EXCELLENCE in our RAVENS Behavior Expectations Matrix where students demonstrate their excellence through RESPECT, ACCOUNTABILITY, VALUES, EMPOWER, NURTURE, SUCCESS. Any staff member can give a card to any student as a recognition. Students receiving a RAVENS Recognition card will be entered into a quarterly drawing to win a BIG prize courtesy of PTSA. Students receiving a card will also be able to select a small prize from the treat cart without having to cash in tickets.

**RAVENS Tickets:** Each grade level/department will also begin distributing RAVENS Positive Behavior Tickets this week. All students will receive a plastic zipper bag to keep their tickets and should write their name on their bag in marker. Students must keep their own tickets, lost tickets will not be replaced. Students can earn tickets for a variety of positive behaviors (walking quietly in line, helping a friend, cleaning up after themselves without being asked, etc.) The purpose is to reward students for doing what

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they should be doing and encouraging positive behavior. The RAVENS Treat Trolley will begin rolling in a few weeks with a menu of items that students can purchase by cashing in their tickets. Students can also save tickets for access to larger prizes/activities. A menu of prizes/activities is forthcoming.

## NCVPS Tutoring Opportunities

I am excited to share information regarding an exciting opportunity with NCVPS EDVANTAGE Tutoring Program that will be available to individual middle school and high school students nightly from 4 PM to 7:30 PM, Monday-Thursday. This is an optional tutoring program with a cost of \$35 per hour and is not required by JCPS or Riverwood Middle School.

To have your students begin tutoring sessions, please direct them to:

<https://ncvps.org/edvantage-tutoring/> or they may use the QR Code on the [JCPS + EDvantage Tutoring Program Flier](#). Tutoring is available this evening, so encourage your students to jump right in!

Once on the [Edvantage Tutoring](#) website, students should simply click their school district, Johnston County Public Schools and/or school name. Students will find an expandable section that guides them along as they create an account, and then enter the tutoring platform. "How To" videos are also available right below the "Schedule A Session" button.

*Please encourage students to:*

- Begin creating their accounts;
- Sign up for tutoring sessions in advance (or on the same day); and
- Write down their username and password (for use each time)

Should you have questions, please reach out to Ms. Jill Boudreau, Academic/Curriculum Coach at RMS.

## Attendance Spotlight from School Social Worker - Ms. Pleasant

**November:** All Educational Trips must be approved 5 days in advance by requesting a form from the office. Approval must be given by the principal. If it is not approved in advance, the absences will be unexcused. Only one educational trip will be approved per year.

## RMS Student Clubs

Interested in getting involved in a club? Check out the before/after school clubs available now linked [HERE](#). Don't see anything you're interested in? Talk to Ms. Mallard, your grade level administrator, or Ms. Sawyer about starting a new club. **Friday Morning Carpool Fun is PAW-fect!**

Beginning this Friday morning, our awesome carpool staff will be handing out dog treats for all the sweet four-legged pups that ride through the carpool with our families! We encourage families to bring their furry friends through carpool each Friday morning so we can show them some love and maybe get a few puppy kisses in the process. SRO Raven thinks this is a GREAT idea also! We promise not to delay the carpool line. :)

## RAVENS Spirit Fridays

Students are invited to join the staff in showing their RAVENS school spirit every Friday! Feel free to wear a RMS shirt or school colors (orange, teal, black, white, gray). We'd love to see our entire school family showing RAVENS SPIRIT each week!

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## Visitor Guidelines Reminders

As a reminder, measures are in place to help us keep students and staff safe while they are in our building. When you come to a school's front doors, press the button on our buzzer system at the main entrance to allow you to be greeted by Ms. Pegues or another office staff member. We will ask to see your ID, as this is a district protocol. Please be sure to have your ID readily available when you come to check out your child or conduct other business on campus during the school day. Once you are provided entrance to the school, please walk directly through the Weapons Detection System. Items that routinely cause the systems to false alert, due to their shape and composition, are eyeglass cases, laptops, umbrellas, and 3 ring binders. Keeping these items in your vehicles, as opposed to bringing them with you into school, will expedite the process for gaining entrance into the office area. If the detection system happens to alert as you're passing through it, please wait for direction from an employee who will assist you in gaining access to your destination. We thank you for your support as we strive to make our schools as safe as possible for students and staff.

## FREE Breakfast & Lunch for ALL RMS Students

RMS is fortunate to be one of the JCPS schools that can provide FREE breakfast and lunch to our students! All students are strongly encouraged to participate in these free meals each day and we are happy to see more students taking advantage of this opportunity! The menu for RMS students is linked [here](#).

## Bus Transportation

Students needing bus transportation MUST register with the district. Please visit the JCPS Transportation site linked [HERE](#) for additional information.

## Carpool

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

## Amazon Wish List

With feedback from our teachers & staff, we have created an Amazon Wish List. Please help us provide morale boosters and classroom supplies for our amazing Ravens Staff throughout the 23-24 school year! Visit our wish list [here](#). THANK YOU to those that have already helped us clear our list! We appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness!

Let's make it an EXCELLENT week, Ravens!

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