



News from the Nest

Hello, Riverwood Ravens! Here is this week's edition of News from the Nest. This week we will be administering our middle of the year MVP benchmark assessments in Reading, Math, and 8th gr Science. See more information below about these assessments this week. Let's make it an EXCELLENT week at Riverwood Middle!

New/Time Sensitive/Important Information:

Upcoming Important Dates

Monday 2/5	Tuesday 2/6	Wednesday 2/7	Thursday 2/8	Friday 2/9
MVP#2 - Reading Reports Cards Sent Home	MVP#2 - Math	MVP#2 - Science *8th only		
Monday 2/12	Tuesday 2/13	Wednesday 2/14	Thursday 2/15	Friday 2/16
		Happy Valentine's Day Apex Fundraiser Kicks Off		

EXCELLING RAVEN Award

Congratulations to Mr. Joshua Lawrence, 7th grade Social Studies teacher, who was chosen as this week's Excelling Raven by Ms. McGuire, who had this to say about him...

"I am passing the Excelling Raven Award on to Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence came to Riverwood this year with an open heart and an enthusiastic attitude. The fact that I have not had the opportunity to get to know Mr. Lawrence all too well, and I'm still able to see the positive impact he has on this school speaks volumes. His support for his team and encouragement for students has not gone unnoticed by his colleagues. He has a calming and reassuring presence, which creates a learning environment conducive for learning and impactful relationships amongst staff and students. Mr. Lawrence is a wonderful addition to the Riverwood team. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to excellence each day."



JCPS Middle School PLC of the Month

Congratulations to the 8th grade Science teachers for being selected as the JCPS Middle School PLC of the Month for February!!! Ms. Copeland, Ms. Cordray, and Ms. Witmer were surprised Friday afternoon by Ms. Dorlisa Johnson, Executive Director of Middle School Programs with this recognition. Their PLC (professional learning community) will receive \$250 to use towards instructional

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supplies for their PLC and students and they will be recognized during the February Board of Education meeting on 2/13/24. Congratulations on this well deserved recognition!!

It Takes a Village

Thank you to the many parents and students that reached out to me on Clayton PD Thursday evening to ensure that we were aware of a potential threat towards our school. Because of these reports, we were able to work that evening with CPD and our JCPS Security Officer to ensure that this was NOT a credible threat and that our students and staff are safe. Safety is my TOP priority as your Principal and I appreciate the teamwork and collaboration with our parents, families, and community to ensure our safety! Please continue to encourage your students that if they SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING and let us know.

MVP Testing THIS WEEK

We will be administering our middle of the year MVP benchmark assessments this week. These assessments are critical to our teaching & learning as they assess what students have learned so far this year. Results from these benchmarks allow our teachers to provide remediation and interventions to students as we head into the second semester towards EOG testing. Students need to be ON TIME to school so we can begin testing on time. All students should take advantage of FREE breakfast each morning so they are ready to SHOW WHAT THEY KNOW!! Incentives will be awarded to classes with the highest proficiency increase since the beginning of the year and for students that show marked growth since the beginning of the year.

December Character Ed - Responsibility

Congratulations to the following students who were selected by their teachers as students of the month for demonstrating RESPONSIBILITY!

6th grade: Caroline Cameron

7th grade: Carson Byrd

8th grade: Jordyn Brown

Riverwood Middle School PTSA Updates:

ACTION ITEM: Health & Wellness Fair Feedback

Mark your calendar for March 9th for our Health and Wellness Fair presented by the RMS PTSA at the Archer Lodge Community Center from 10am-2pm.

In order to help shape our PTSA Health and Wellness Fair and make it successful, we need your input. Tell us-what do you think are the most important health/wellness related issues that we should address to assist in supporting our school community? Please take a moment to answer our survey questions. Students and families are encouraged to provide feedback. <https://bit.ly/3R2QNGH>

RMS Athletic Boosters Updates:

Apex Color Battle Fundraising is coming up soon! Stay tuned for details coming home with your students.

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From Previous Editions & Still Important:

Staffing Updates

We are so excited to let you know of our many staffing additions over the past two months!! We continue to work diligently to hire highly qualified teachers for our students. We will continue to update you as we continue to add exceptional staff to our team! Please join us in welcoming:

6th Grade

EC - Ms. Julie Pruitt

ELA - Ms. Sara Phillips

Social Studies - Ms. Veronica Hatton

7th Grade

EC - Mr. Anthony Ray

Enhancements

Computer Science - Mr. Luis Morales

Health/PE - Mr. Roy Harrell

After-School Tutoring

Riverwood Middle School has begun our after school tutoring program. 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 if you have any questions.

Attendance Spotlight from School Social Worker - Ms. Pleasant

February-If your child is absent please send a written note from the parent/guardian or doctor with the child's first/last name, reason for absence(s), date of absence(s), and homeroom teacher's name on the day they return to school. Medical notes should be provided if your child went to the doctor. No note will result in an unexcused absence. Please call the school periodically and speak with someone to check on the status of your child's attendance and provide notes for absences if needed.

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.

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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