



TWO DISTRICTS. ONE MISSION.



Richmond-Burton CHSD 157 - Nippersink SD 2

Fall 2023



What's Inside

- Congratulations to Retirees and New Staff
- RGS Mobile Classrooms
- SGE Upgraded Playground
- New Library Resource Center
- Mission Possible Camp at NMS



RICHMOND BURTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

I want to welcome all the students and families of Nippersink SD 2 and Richmond-Burton CHSD 157 back to school! We are off to a wonderful start, and there is a great deal of excitement in our schools as our students once again experience all the fall traditions that come with a new school year.



This summer each district had several significant projects completed. At Richmond-Burton the new Learning Resource Center, cafe and outdoor student patio were completed. In addition, as part of Richmond-Burton's Long Term Facility Plan, the District continued with preventative maintenance by replacing roofing that was at the end of its lifespan. Nippersink

SD 2 also had several projects completed this summer that were part of its own Long Term Facility Plan.

At Nippersink Middle School, the district began to replace the oldest parts of the roof. A schedule has been developed that will see the entire NMS roof replaced over the next several years. Additionally, all school buildings in Nippersink SD 2 received HVAC upgrades to improve ventilation and air filtration in common areas. Federal and state grant monies were used to cover the majority of cost for these projects.

We also made improvements to our playground areas at RGS and SGE. This effort was led by the PTOs and with the generous help of community businesses and families. The playground upgrades have positively transformed recess for the students and will continue to serve as a great place to play and exercise with friends.

Finally, I want to thank our parents and communities for the support they give to our students, staff and schools each day. Our goal remains to ensure each student's individual needs are met, while we create an environment that fosters a positive learning experience for each student.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tom Lind, Superintendent of Schools



NEW LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER

We are thrilled to unveil the newly renovated Library Resource Center at Richmond-Burton Community High School, a space that symbolizes boundless opportunities for our students' intellectual growth and exploration. This state-of-the-art facility has been meticulously designed to inspire and empower our students, providing them with a dynamic environment that fosters collaboration, creativity and a deep love for learning. With a vast array of resources, cutting-edge technology and comfortable seating areas, the Library Resource Center stands as a beacon of knowledge and innovation, inviting students to embark on academic adventures like never before.

This transformation would not have been possible without the unwavering support and visionary leadership of our incredible community and dedicated Board of Education. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the community members whose enthusiasm and generosity fueled this project and to our Board of Education for their tireless commitment to enhancing the educational experience of our students. Their collaborative efforts have resulted in a space that reflects our shared values and aspirations, demonstrating a commitment to providing the best possible resources for our students to thrive.

As our students step into the revitalized Library Resource Center, they enter a realm where possibilities are limitless. The enhanced learning environment encourages critical thinking, exploration and a deep sense of curiosity, enabling our students to broaden their horizons and engage with a world of knowledge. The modern amenities, coupled with an inviting atmosphere, will undoubtedly inspire them to push boundaries, seek answers and embrace the joy of learning. We are excited to witness the transformative impact of this space on our students' educational journey and extend our heartfelt appreciation to the community and Board of Education for their instrumental role in making this dream a reality.



MANUFACTURING OPPORTUNITIES

We are happy to share several manufacturing opportunities for students. R-B will have five site visits to McHenry County manufacturers during the 2023-24 school year.

September 27	TC Industries
October 17	Burnex Corporation
January 23	General Kinematics
February 21	Jessup
March 12	Scot Forge

For more information, please visit the Student Services Department.

October is also Manufacturing Month. There are 13 McHenry County manufacturers who will open their doors for students and parents to tour and gain a better understanding of the great work and potential of manufacturing careers in their own backyard. To see the list of manufactures and sign up for a tour, please visit the R-B website, click on Menu>Departments>Curriculum.

We are thankful and appreciative for our manufacturing partners for hosting and extending opportunities for our students.

NEW STAFF JOIN RB COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL



The Richmond-Burton Community High School community is buzzing with anticipation and joy as we prepare to welcome a cohort of exceptional new staff members for the upcoming 2023-24 school year. These dedicated individuals bring a diverse range of talents and expertise that perfectly align with our school's commitment to fostering an inclusive and dynamic learning environment. We eagerly await the unique contributions and fresh perspectives that Amanda Hardy and Tara Busa, both joining our Special Education team, will bring to our efforts in providing personalized support and guidance to all students. Their passion for ensuring every learner's success is truly inspiring, and we're excited to witness their positive impact firsthand.

In the realm of academics, the addition of Taylor Boelkow to our Math Department is met with great enthusiasm. Boelkow's enthusiasm for mathematics is infectious, and we're confident that her innovative teaching methods will ignite a love for numbers among our students. Likewise, Hunter Zweifel and Nikki Ramsay, our new Physical Education

instructors, are set to infuse energy and wellness into our students' lives. Their commitment to promoting an active and healthy lifestyle will undoubtedly resonate with our community, fostering habits that extend far beyond the gymnasium walls.

Furthermore, the appointment of Angela McMahan to our Social Work team fills us with optimism. McMahan's dedication to supporting the emotional well-being of our students aligns seamlessly with our school's values. Additionally, Rich Petska's expertise in Social Studies promises to engage and enlighten young minds, as he guides students through historical narratives and contemporary issues. As we prepare to embark on this new academic journey together, the excitement is palpable, and we are eager to witness the positive transformations that this exceptional group of educators will undoubtedly bring to Richmond-Burton Community High School.

RGS PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2022-23 school year! I'm extremely excited to start my new role as Principal of Richmond Grade School and I wanted to thank everyone that has reached out to welcome me. I can already tell that this community is a very special place. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the leader of RGS.



Each school year I have an overarching theme that will compliment and tie in to all of the things we do as a school community. This year, our theme will be based on the children's book "The Energy Bus for Kids" by Jon Gordon. I chose this as a basis for our theme because of the powerful message about the profound daily impact of a positive outlook on life. This story focuses on teaching kids and staff how to find their inner motivation and pass on that positive energy to others.

I look forward to getting to know your stories as we embark on this journey together! All aboard the Energy Bus!

Michelle Smith
Principal, Richmond Grade School



MOBILE CLASSROOMS

Richmond Grade School has achieved a significant accomplishment in their ongoing efforts to enhance their learning environment. Over the summer, they undertook a project to remove two aging mobile buildings and replace them with a refurbished facility. This endeavor, made possible through the support of the D2 community, represents a significant milestone in their commitment to provide a safe environment for students and educators. The removal of the older mobile buildings and the construction of the new facility not only improves the aesthetic appeal of the school but also enhances the functionality and versatility of the campus. With the introduction of this new facility, RGS is excited to move forward with a new chapter in the school's history. They are confident that this addition will create more space for student collaboration and optimal learning experiences.



RICHMOND GRADE SCHOOL WELCOMES STUDENTS!

Richmond Grade School would like to extend a warm welcome as they embark on a brand-new academic school year together. RGS firmly believes in the power of community and its vital role in shaping young learners. RGS is grateful for the ongoing support and active involvement of parents, guardians and local community members. They continue their commitment to providing a safe, inclusive and engaging atmosphere where every child can thrive and reach their full potential.

SGE PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Welcome back to Spring Grove Elementary School! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. As we begin this new school year, I want to extend a warm welcome to both our returning students and those who are joining us for the first time.



We are excited to embark on another year of learning, growth and discovery. Our dedicated teachers and staff have been working hard to create a positive and enriching environment where each student can thrive academically, socially and emotionally. I encourage all of you to actively engage in the various activities, clubs and programs that Spring Grove Elementary School has to offer. These extracurricular opportunities are a great way to make new friends, discover new passions and develop leadership skills.

Parents, your involvement and support are crucial to the success of our students. We value your partnership and encourage you to stay engaged with your child's education journey. Feel free to reach out to our dedicated staff if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year. Together, we can create a positive and inspiring atmosphere where everyone feels valued, respected and motivated to reach their full potential. Here's to a successful and rewarding year ahead!

Chris Pitman, Principal
Spring Grove Elementary



SPRING GROVE ELEMENTARY WELCOMES NEW STAFF



1st Grade
Mrs. Katie Jankowski



Paraprofessional
Miss Bella Finnen



ECE Paraprofessional
Miss Sammi Ackerman



Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Christina Swanson

SPRING GROVE ELEMENTARY ENJOYS AN UPGRADED PLAYGROUND

Exciting things are happening on the SGE playground. Thanks to the SGE PTO's Trivia Night fundraiser, enough money was raised to upgrade many aspects of the playground. As a result, the playground will be more functional and much safer.

The upgrades included excavating the old playground surface, installing new drainage systems around the playground and fixing the broken swing set. Additionally, rubber timbers were installed surrounding the new mulch/playground area. The grass field was also leveled with new grass seed.

This project was run by a general contractor, Leverier Enterprises. JBT Enterprises installed the timbers, mulch and landscaping of the field. Thelen Materials donated the gravel that was needed for the project. SGE students are excited to play on their newer, safer playground.

CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES

It is with mixed emotions that RGS announces the retirement of some beloved members of the teaching staff at the end of this school year. While this is a well-deserved transition into a new chapter of their lives, RGS wants to thank them for their unwavering commitment and the immeasurable impact they have made on countless lives throughout their careers.

Together, these teachers have 109 years of experience! They have dedicated their lives, ignited curiosity, and inspired a love for learning. Their passion, expertise and unwavering dedication have left a huge impact on our school community. RGS is immensely grateful for their many contributions. RGS extends their sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to these retiring teachers for their extraordinary service, dedication and love.



Mrs. Peterson
35 YEARS



Mrs. Rietschel
14 YEARS



Mrs. Brown
30 YEARS



Mrs. Bosma
30 YEARS

A TEACHER NEVER REALLY RETIRES
SINCE THEIR WORK LIVES ON IN THE
HEARTS OF THEIR STUDENTS.



SGE MUSIC PROGRAM

All students in Grades K-5 attend general music classes for 30 minutes twice a week. They spend time learning how to create, perform, respond to and connect with music through song, movement, play and performance. The curriculum includes listening to and recognizing different genres of music, understanding the elements of music (timbre, melody, dynamics, etc.), and learning to recognize, perform and compose rhythms and melodies. The younger grades will be starting the year learning and reviewing rhythm. Fourth grade students will then move on to playing the recorder, and in fifth grade, students will begin learning ukulele.

Letters will be going home soon to fourth grade families about ordering a recorder for class. One of the most highly anticipated components of the SGE music program is the musical performances which take place several times throughout the year. The expectation is that all students attend these performances not only to fulfill the curriculum requirements but to support their fellow classmates, all of whom put in a lot of time and effort preparing for the programs. If an unexpected circumstance arises which will prevent a student from attending a performance, please send an email so that everyone can plan accordingly.

Below are the dates for this year's musical performances. Please add them to your calendar.

Friday, November 10, 2023..... Veterans Day Program (Grades 1-5) 2:00 pm
Monday, December 11, 2023 K-3 Winter Concert 6:30 pm
Tuesday, December 12, 2023 4-5 Winter/Band Concert 6:30 pm
Friday, May 3, 2024 K-3 Grandparents/Special Person Concert 9:30 am
Monday, May 6, 2024..... 4-5 Spring/Band Concert 6:30 pm

NMS PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Hello District 2 families and friends and welcome to the 2023-24 school year. I am grateful for the new opportunity to be the Principal at Nippersink Middle School and am looking forward to a fantastic school year. As a teacher and coach at Richmond-Burton for the last 14 years I am thankful for the chance to continue to work in this great community.



Brandon Creason, Principal
Nippersink Middle School

I already know that we have great students and teachers here and the parental support in this community is second to none. Being a new member of District 2 will allow me to form new relationships with the NMS staff and your family. I look forward to working with you.



NIPPERSINK MIDDLE SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Nippersink Middle School is excited to get the 2023-24 school year underway. New staff to NMS this year include Ms. Emily Kopp - Spanish, Ms. Julie Fak - 6th Grade Math, Ms. Mary Hill - 7th Grade Science, Ms. Kelsey Srednicki - Resource and Ms. Christine Powers - Alternative Education. Nippersink MS is grateful to have new members of the staff who are experienced teachers who want to assist in the educational growth as well as improve the lives of children in the community. The new teachers are getting to know the students here at Nippersink Middle School and are excited about the potential they possess.

MISSION POSSIBLE CAMP

The month of August kicked off with a fantastic three-day transitional camp for the incoming sixth grade class. From 8:30 am until 11:30 am on August 1, 2 and 3 over 100 incoming sixth graders were working with current faculty and eighth grade mentors to become more familiar with NMS. They spent time touring the building, going on scavenger hunts, playing ice breaker games, and multiple "locker practice" times were incorporated into the three-day event.

It was great to see so many sixth graders begin the year with a great understanding of where they were supposed to go and what was expected of them. The first day of school anxiety was greatly reduced due to the familiarity with peers, staff and the building. None of this would have been possible without a very motivated teaching staff who put in a lot of time to organize this event. NMS is very grateful for their commitment to the students.

CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES!



Mr. Pat Evans



Ms. Beth Wieters

Teachers retiring from NMS this year are Mr. Pat Evans and Ms. Beth Wieters. Evans began his career at NMS August 2000. He has taught Math at the sixth, seventh and eighth grade levels as well as coordinated field trips, coached wrestling and was president of the teachers' union.

Beth Wieters began her teaching career at NMS August 1987! Wieters has taught PE, Math and Social Studies. She has also coached volleyball, basketball, cross country, track, as well as helped run Knight Crew, Chess Club, Greek Fest and assisted in teacher mentoring.

Both will be greatly missed, and we are grateful for their years of service!

NOBLE KNIGHTS

NMS is excited to continue forward with Positive Behavior Intervention Systems (PBIS) tier one with the Noble Knight initiative to reward students for positive behavior. Part of the tier one initiative is to establish a foundation of proactive support while working to prevent unwanted behaviors. This schoolwide initiative is working to reward students for exhibiting behaviors that are in line with being a Noble Knight. This year a Knight "store" will be made available for students to purchase items.

The goal is to reward students who acquire multiple Noble Knight Cards. The more cards a student receives, the greater the prizes they can purchase. Prizes include lunch with a teacher, outside recess time, and maybe even lunch with the principal if students aspire to that great of a reward. The staff at NMS is constantly on the lookout for positive behaviors and issuing cards to students on a daily basis.

YOU'RE INVITED!

The Richmond-Burton CHSD 157 Board of Education holds regular board meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each calendar month at 7:00 pm. The meetings are to be held in the District Administrative Center at 4213 US HWY 12, Richmond, Illinois. You are invited to attend these meetings. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Nippersink School District 2 Board of Education holds regular board meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each calendar month at 7:00 pm. The meetings are to be held in the District Administrative Center at 4213 US HWY 12, Richmond, Illinois. You are invited to attend these meetings. We look forward to seeing you there.

RICHMOND-BURTON CHSD 157 SCHOOL BOARD OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Steve Holtz President
Dawn Holian Vice-President
Elizabeth Furlan Secretary
Ryan Andrus Member
Ray Lanz Member
Jeremy Miller Member
Jennifer Read Member

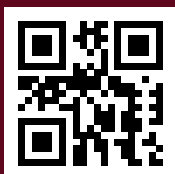
NIPPERSINK SD 2 SCHOOL BOARD OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Joel Johnson President
Joe Quinn Vice-President
Robin Taylor Secretary
Elke Kleisch Member
Natalie MailFald Member
Mary Shufelt Member
Alie Stansbury Member

OUR PHONE NUMBERS

Richmond-Burton Community H.S. (815) 678-4525
Nippersink Middle School (815) 678-7129
Spring Grove Elementary (815) 678-6750
Richmond Grade School (815) 678-4717

OUR WEBSITES:



www.rb157.org



www.nippersinkdistrict2.org



**TWO DISTRICTS.
ONE MISSION.**

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NIPPERSINK 2 AND RICHMOND-BURTON 157 CURRICULUM CORNER

Welcome back! We are looking forward to another great school year. Nippersink D2 and R-B 157 strive each year to provide the best educational experience for your student. One way to provide this is through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Teachers from the same grade levels or content areas work together to answer four basic, yet vital questions, which are:

1. What do we want our students to learn?
2. How are we going to know they've learned it?
3. What are we going to do if they did not learn it?
4. What are we going to do if they already know it?

PLC teams continually go through a process of answering each question to ensure that students are both proficient at their current grade or course level and prepared for the next. PLC teams meet on early release days and other times of the year to make sure all students are progressing.

FOR PARENTS

Parents have asked, "What can we do at home to help our kids with school?" Here are a number of at-home study ideas that can be used even for the busiest of families:

- **Create a "Time to Study"**—Include your students in the decision making for a time to study.
- **Ask Questions**—Inquire about your student's day.
- **Read daily**—Just 15 to 20 minutes a day helps increase vocabulary, brain power, recall and focus.
- **Eliminate distractions**—Turn off TVs or streaming devices.



**VIEW THE RICHMOND-BURTON
SCHOOL CALENDAR 2023-2024**



**VIEW THE NIPPERSINK
SCHOOL CALENDAR 2023-2024**

