



TWO DISTRICTS. ONE MISSION.



Richmond-Burton CHSD 157 - Nippersink SD 2

WINTER 2023

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

Richmond-Burton CHSD 157 and Nippersink SD 2 would like to wish all of our students, families, staff and community members a safe and enjoyable holiday. Take advantage of a well-deserved break and refuel for what is to come. I encourage you to slow down and enjoy the holiday break.



As children grow older, it becomes increasingly difficult to find down time and to discuss gratitude. It is a fact that we take many things for granted such as a warm home, a working car, food on the table and caring family and friends. . .the list goes on. As your family enjoys the holiday together, take the time to remember what you are thankful for and take some time for a random act of kindness to help teach gratitude.

Please take a few moments to look this issue of our newsletter over. Great things are happening in both districts. From our Exemplary Designation to new and innovative programs, students honoring Veterans and seniors becoming state scholars, there is a lot to celebrate and be proud of in this community.

We are extremely pleased with the hard work and dedication that we have seen from staff and students thus far this year. We look forward to bringing the same momentum into 2024! Best wishes to everyone for a joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tom Lind, Superintendent of Schools



RICHMOND-BURTON SENIORS NAMED ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

Richmond-Burton Community High School is thrilled to announce that 21 of our outstanding seniors have been recognized as Illinois State Scholars by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. This prestigious honor is a testament to the dedication, hard work and exceptional academic accomplishments of these students.

Illinois State Scholars are selected based on a combination of their SAT scores and class rank at the end of their sixth semester. This award signifies that these students are among the top academic achievers in the Class of 2024, not only within our school but also throughout the entire state of Illinois.

WE ARE IMMENSELY PROUD TO INTRODUCE OUR 2024 ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Jack Diehl | Lahey O'Connor |
| Amira Falah | Ella Pipes |
| Layne Frericks | James Renier |
| Clayton Garrison | Mary Rivas |
| Julia Hicks | Sean Rockwell |
| Katelyn Highley | Tanner Thompson |
| Ethan Hile | Connor Trepanier |
| Aiden Lindsey | Jacob Trepanier |
| Rachel Mendlik | Allison Vogel |
| Lillian Mumbower | Owen Wisniewski |
| Kate Nielsen | |

Each of these students has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to their education, excelling academically and contributing to our school community in countless ways. They have not only maintained remarkable academic records but have also shown leadership, character and a passion for learning.

RBCHS is incredibly honored by the efforts and achievements of these students. This recognition as Illinois State Scholars highlights not only the dedication and hard work of these individuals but also the exceptional quality of education provided by our school.

RBCHS extends heartfelt congratulations to each of these outstanding seniors for their well-deserved recognition as Illinois State Scholars. Your achievements are a source of pride for our school, our community and for your families.

As we look forward to their bright futures, we are confident that these students will continue to achieve remarkable success in their academic and personal pursuits. We celebrate this momentous achievement with you and anticipate many more accolades in the future.

Congratulations to our 2024 Illinois State Scholars!

RICHMOND-BURTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVES EXEMPLARY DESIGNATION FROM THE ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Richmond-Burton Community High School has achieved the highest honor in the state of Illinois — the Exemplary Designation from the Illinois State Board of Education for the year 2023. This prestigious accolade is a testament to the dedication and commitment of our students, faculty and staff, and it reaffirms our school's standing as a beacon of educational excellence in our community.

The Exemplary Designation, awarded by the Illinois State Board of Education, is a recognition that places our school among the top educational institutions in the state. It signifies that Richmond-Burton Community High School consistently demonstrates outstanding performance and achievement in various key areas.

The Illinois State Board of Education provides a comprehensive description of the criteria that led to our Exemplary Designation.

- **Academic Excellence:** Richmond-Burton Community High School has consistently achieved high levels of academic excellence. Our students excel in standardized tests, exhibit advanced problem-solving skills, and consistently demonstrate strong subject mastery. Our dedicated educators have worked tirelessly to foster a culture of learning that empowers students to reach their full potential.
- **Student Growth:** The Exemplary Designation also takes into account our school's commitment to student growth and improvement. We are dedicated to nurturing the potential of each student, regardless of their starting point, and have a record of substantial progress in terms of academic advancement.
- **Closing the Achievement Gap:** We have taken significant strides to ensure that all students, regardless of their backgrounds, have the same opportunities to excel. This Exemplary Designation recognizes our efforts to close the achievement gap and provide an equitable education for every student.
- **Climate Survey:** Richmond-Burton Community High School has fostered a positive and inclusive learning environment. The Exemplary Designation also considers the results of climate surveys, which reflect the satisfaction and well-being of our students, staff and parents. Our school community is one where every member feels valued and supported.
- **Postsecondary Readiness:** Preparing students for their future is a priority at our school. The Exemplary Designation acknowledges our success in equipping students with the knowledge and skills they need for success beyond high school, whether they choose to pursue higher education or enter the workforce.



Receiving the Exemplary Designation from the Illinois State Board of Education is a remarkable achievement and a testament to the unwavering commitment of our entire school community. This honor could not have been attained without the dedication and hard work of our talented educators, our passionate students and the supportive families who are an integral part of our community.

As RBCHS celebrates this accomplishment, we also look forward to continuing our pursuit of excellence in education. RBCHS remains dedicated to providing the best possible learning experiences for our students, empowering them to achieve their goals and dreams.

We are immensely proud of this achievement and excited about the opportunities it brings. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our school's success, and we look forward to continuing to strive for excellence in the years to come.



RGS PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Richmond Grade School has settled into the new school year and our commitment to learning is as strong as ever. Our devoted teachers and staff have been working to create an environment that is safe, warm and engaging. Here is some information and highlights from the past couple of months.

Michelle Smith
Principal, Richmond Grade School

RICHMOND GRADE SCHOOL FALL UPDATE



Literacy

As a school and district, we have been focusing on our commitment to a strong foundation in literacy for all of our students. Recently, the Illinois State Board of Education released their draft of the 2024 Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan. In that plan, one of the sections addresses the components of reading foundational skills and the importance of phonological and phonemic awareness including the goals for our students by high school. We continue to use research based best practices and provide training to our staff to meet the needs of individual learners. In October, our kindergarten through third grade teachers were introduced to new materials to help our students grow in reading with a strong focus on phonics. Teachers have begun to implement some of the strategies, and they continue to work together to provide targeted instruction. Under the guidance of our interventionists, teachers at RGS will be meeting up to go into more detail about the different components of the materials and learn from one another.

Additionally, we recognize the significance of parental and community involvement in our students' literacy development. Our classroom teachers do an excellent job of partnering with our parents. Some examples include at home reading logs and challenges, opportunities to practice reader's theater, bring home book bags and mystery readers. We appreciate our parent partnerships as we support literacy together.



RGS Incorporates Science

The Next Generation Science Standards help students begin to develop an understanding of the four disciplinary core ideas in the field of science (physical, life, earth and space), engineering, technology and applications. RGS teachers address these standards with inquiry-based learning that is hands-on. Students have opportunities to investigate, explore, question and use skills like data collection, analysis and drawing evidence-based conclusions in order to make sense of the world around them. Science gives our students the opportunity to learn important skills that allow them to collaborate and have scientific discussions.

Community & RGS

1...2...3...4.... that's it for our Coin War!

Our Student Council consists of members in the fourth and fifth grade student body. Under the guidance of fourth grade teachers Ms. Rietchel and Ms. Rett, our Student Council is responsible for organizing events and giving back to the community. Students learn to refine their skills and learn about leadership, communication, teamwork, public speaking and service. In September, the Student Council organized a coin war to raise money for the Stardust Animal Sanctuary. Pennies and bills increased a grade level's points while students had the opportunity to sabotage other classes by adding silver coins to their containers. The extra recess, which was great incentive, went to third grade but everyone was a winner, raising around \$1,700 for the sanctuary!

The Student Council also organized Red Ribbon Week at the end of October. Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco, smoking and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign observed annually in October in the United States. In addition to distributing red bracelets to all students, the committee organized a spirit week. Each day had a theme: Red Day to kick off Red Ribbon Week, Super Hero Day, Head to Toe Crazy Day, Disney Day and Pajama Day. The whole school came together to reinforce the importance of making positive choices with participation across the entire school.



SGE PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

The computer lab classes at Spring Grove Elementary teach so much more than computer application skills. Digital Citizenship Week takes place in October and is threaded across the curriculum all year long. All grade levels discuss how to stay safe when using the internet and are taught to talk to a trusted adult if anything they come across online makes them scared, confused or uncomfortable. Tips are shared about protecting personal information, safely gaming online and avoiding cyberbullying and online scams. All students are taught to let a trusted adult know immediately if someone they meet online asks to meet up with them in person. The younger students work with NetSmartz curriculum while the older students use Common Sense Education's Digital Passport and Google's Interland curriculum to guard against social media pitfalls as well.



Our 3D printer has been running non-stop in the computer lab this fall! Special thanks to our PTO for raising the funds to purchase it a few years ago! Students use Tinkercad software to learn some basic skills of computer aided design and then transfer those skills to create a variety of things including 3D printed magnets, keychains and even holiday ornaments! The third grade classes are working on a collaborative project called "Balloons Over Broadway." They are doing research with Mrs. Richer in the library about the master puppeteer, Tony Sarge, who invented the giant balloons for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. They will then create a float of their own and use Dash robots with Mrs. Kallieris in the computer lab to move them through our very own Spring Grove Elementary Thanksgiving Parade.

Graphic design has been a new focus in the computer lab over the past few years. The classes recently used Canva.com to create informational posters for World Kindness Day, make thank you cards for members of the military that attended our Veterans Day program and designed an infographic showcasing Halloween data. The fifth-graders are currently working on the creation of a collective, uplifting book filled with jokes, daily affirmations and inspirational quotes to be given to a local family struggling with terminal illness. All students in Grades K-5 will be participating in the Hour of Code initiative that will be extended and weaved throughout the curriculum all year long. Be sure to check out some of the free activities available for use at home at <https://hourofcode.com/us>.

Chris Pitman, Principal
Spring Grove Elementary



SPRING GROVE ELEMENTARY VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

SGE welcomed guest speaker Master Sergeant Jeff Morton who served in the military for 32 years. Master Sergeant Morton enlisted on the 9th of December 1991 with the 440th Airlift Wing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. While with the 440th he had two deployments to Panama, four to Puerto Rico, one to Germany and three to the Middle East. He also had a two-year assignment with the Tanker AirLift Control Center where he was part of a medical evacuation team. In September 2007, Master Sergeant joined the 128th Air Refueling Wing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. While there, he was deployed once to the Middle East and once to Guam. In February 2013, Master Sergeant Morton joined the 934th Airlift Wing in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he was deployed to the Middle East, Africa and Thailand. Master Sergeant Morton's current job in the military is as a C-130 crew chief.

SGE students honored Veterans by singing patriotic songs. The local Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts presented the colors. Thank you to all who participated.



SGE STUDENTS LEARN VALUABLE SKILLS IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION

SGE Phys Ed students have had a great start to the year. All Spring Grove students have been working on the importance of communication and cooperation with each other as students must work together as a group and communicate effectively to be successful. A few of the activities that involved these skills were crossing the river; triangle tag; giants, wizards and elves; and sharks and lifeguards.

In Physical Education class the younger students (K-2) have worked on the fundamental skills of throwing (underhand, overhand, rolling) and catching various manipulative objects that include all sizes of balls and Frisbees. Students are working on the proper technique of throwing by stepping with the opposite foot and catching using both hands. An example of one of the activities is called decorate your cookie. Students are given various objects to throw underhand and the goal is for the throwing object to land in the cookie (hula hoop). There are various challenges from distance to type of objects thrown.

The older students (Grades 3-5) have been working on the fundamental skills of volleyball with the volleyball bump, set and underhand serve. Students began the unit on volleyball with activities that focused on the fundamental skills and a modified game at the end of the unit. An example of one of the activities is Ocean Rescue in which students must underhand serve the students trapped on various islands (hula hoops). The volleyball represents a life preserver to rescue the students on the islands.



NMS PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE



It has been a very busy fall at Nippersink Middle School. Our students have completed their fall i-Ready assessments and wrapped up their fall sports seasons. NMS cross country runner Khloe Lundy qualified for the state cross country meet held in Bloomington, Illinois, as well. Congratulations to Khloe!

Brandon Creason, Principal
Nippersink Middle School



NMS CELEBRATES VETERANS DAY

NMS students participated in an observance of Veterans Day on Friday, November 10. Students used homebase time to write messages of support and appreciation, either in general or to a specific veteran of his/her choice on red, white and blue ribbons. The ribbons were used to create a wreath that was presented by the eighth grade class in a

Veterans Day ceremony at the Richmond Veterans Memorial. Selected band students also played Taps during the wreath presentation.

NMS STUDENTS ARE EXCELLING!

SEVENTH GRADE FIELD TRIP

The staff at NMS works very hard to provide our students with learning experience outside of the classroom. One of the more popular experiences that is offered is the seventh grade outdoor education trip held at Timber-lee in East Troy, Wisconsin. For



two days and one night our seventh grade students get to participate in canoeing, tower climbing, trail riding, zip lining, animal encounter, archery and a variety of athletic games. Each of these options is aimed at providing a fun learning experience without cell phones. This year on October 10 and 11, 110 seventh grade students

and 10 faculty members made the trip. We are grateful to be in a district where kids have this opportunity and look forward to these types of offerings in the future.



FVC CHOIR CONCERT

The NMS choir hosted the 2023 Fox Valley Choir Concert at Nippersink Middle School for two days on October 25 and 26. Eleven schools, 124 conference students, including 18 NMS students, participated in the event. The event was very well organized and very well attended. Thank you and congratulations to Ms. Johnson and the NMS choir for all of their hard work!

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



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VIEW THE RICHMOND-BURTON SCHOOL CALENDAR 2023-2024



VIEW THE NIPPERSINK SCHOOL CALENDAR 2023-2024

