

Reeths-Puffer Middle School

2024-2025

Curriculum Guide

School Vision

“Reaching Higher to achieve our full potential in an inclusive and supportive community.”

Mr. Hernandez—Principal

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Mr. McClary - Assistant Principal

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Mrs. Adams—Special Services Supervisor

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Mrs. Mitchelson- School Counselor

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Mr. Jacobs - School Counselor

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Reeths-Puffer Schools High School Graduation Requirements (22 Credits)

English –	4 Credits
Math –	4 Credits (Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II, Sr. year math)
Science –	3 Credits
Social Science –	3 Credits (World History, American History, Government/Economics)
World Language –	2 Credits (or seat time equivalent)
Physical Education -	.5 Credit (2 seasons of a sport or band would waive requirement)
Health -	.5 Credit
Fine/Applied Art –	1 Credit

Student Placement Considerations

When determining the correct course placement for a student, the following factors may be considered: administrative approval, Fastbridge math and reading scores, M-STEP scores, end of year exam performance, a prior class, teacher approval, etc.

Registering for Courses

The courses in this curriculum guide will be offered only if registration indicates a sufficient demand for the course. If there is not enough demand, alternative choices will be provided. **Student selections made through this registration process will be considered final.** All students must be enrolled in six classes each semester.

Curriculum

At Reeths-Puffer Middle School, our teachers are working to develop curriculum that aligns with these standards and that will be delivered using best practices.

Middle School is truly a time of transition. During two short years we prepare your student for the academic rigor of high school. That challenge is taken very seriously by all teachers, administrators, and ancillary staff. We ask that you partner with us as we work toward a shared goal of preparing your student to compete and succeed in our modern economy and have identified the following behaviors as essential to supporting student learning:

We have several resources to help you monitor your child's progress. Please utilize our teachers' emails should you have questions, the Parent Portal if you wish to monitor your child's progress, the Reeths-Puffer Schools website to find teacher blogs and contacts, and please attend parent/teacher conferences to get input on your student's academic/social development.

Thank you and we look forward to working with you and your students!

Reeths-Puffer Middle School Scheduling Overview

All students take math, science, ELA, and social studies. Students will be scheduled into 7th Grade Math or given the choice for 7th Grade Accelerated Math based on data (communication in May) AND 8th Grade Math or Accelerated/Algebra.

Semester 1

Math

Science

English

Social Studies

*Semester 1 Elective _____

Semester 1 Elective _____

Semester 2

Math

Science

English

Social Studies

*Semester 2 Elective _____

Semester 2 Elective _____

2 Electives: You Select 4 Semesters Total

- Foreign Language is Highly Recommended - not required
- Electives are listed below:

Half Year (1 Semester) Electives

Art

Introduction to Cross Training (BOTH)

Explore Technology (BOTH)

Navigating Life

General Physical Education (BOTH)

STEM (Robotics and Automation)

STEM Coding/CS Discoveries A

STEM Coding/CS Discoveries B

Teen Leadership

Theater Arts

Year Long (2 Semester) Electives-

Concert Band

Symphonic Band

7th Grade Treble Choir

8th Grade Treble Choir

7th/8th Grade Tenor/Bass Choir

Middle School Spanish, Spanish 1, or Spanish 2

French 1

Electives followed by (BOTH) are options that can be scheduled 1 semester or both semesters (full year).

*We highly recommend selecting a world language course as an elective choice. Many colleges want to see two years of foreign language on a student's high school transcript and some more competitive colleges require three years of a foreign language on a student's high school transcript. By taking Spanish 1, Spanish 2, or French 1 at the middle school, students can earn high school credit.

REQUIRED COURSES

Language Arts

7TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

In grade 7 Language Arts students will learn writing skills (including process writing, descriptive writing, narrative writing and journal writing), literature (including short stories, novels/book reports, drama, folk tales and poetry), and grammar skills.

8TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

In grade 8 Language Arts, students will build on the skills they have acquired in their 7th grade Language Arts class and develop these skills to build a strong foundation for student success in high school. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking are essential life skills and are necessary for achieving one's goals. During the educational process of improving these essential communication skills, students will study various literary genres, learn new vocabulary, engage in the writing process and practice grammar, usage, and mechanics. Students are expected to learn to view the English language as a necessary tool for effective communication.

Science

Both 7th Grade and 8th grade Science are following the Michigan Science Teaching and Assessment Reform (Mi-STAR) curriculum. This curriculum supports both the Next Generation Science Standards and the Michigan State Standards while empowering students to use science and engineering practices to address real-world issues.

7TH GRADE SCIENCE

Students will be using science and engineering practices as they engage in units that cover generating electricity, the use and cycling of minerals, using sustainable building materials and thermal energy. Students will discover how humans impact plant and animal reproduction and how we need to maintain our ecosystems including water quality. Students will engage in a unit on genetics and how as humans we impact agriculture with our decisions. Units have an emphasis on the impacts on the State of Michigan.

8TH GRADE SCIENCE

Students will be using science and engineering practices as they engage in units that cover the history of life on Earth and natural selection. Students will be learning about ways to predict natural hazards and reduce their impact. Students will learn about the solar system and ways to use light and sound for communication. Students will investigate weather and climate and address climate change issues as they relate to the State of Michigan.

Math

7th GRADE MATH

In Grade 7, instructional time should focus on four critical areas per the Common Core State Standards: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

It is strongly recommended that students have a scientific calculator for this course.

8th GRADE MATH

In Grade 8, instructional time should focus on three critical areas per the Common Core State Standards: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. It is strongly recommended that students have a TI-30 scientific calculator for this course.

ACCELERATED MATH PROGRAM:

Students in accelerated math will take the equivalent of 3 math courses over 2 years. At the end of 8th grade, students will have the opportunity to earn high school credit. Placement into this program is based on classroom performance data, Fastbridge test scores, M-STEP test scores, and PSAT score.

7th GRADE ACCELERATED MATH

This course will combine both semesters of 7th Grade Math with the first semester of 8th Grade Math. While the content will be similar in its reflection of the Common Core State Standards, the pace will move faster.

ALGEBRA

This course will combine the second semester of 8th Grade Math with 2 semesters of Algebra. As Algebra is required for graduation, high school credit may be earned by taking this course. A TI-84 Plus graphing calculator optional for this course.

Social Studies

7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

The seventh grade social studies curriculum focuses on ancient world history and geography with a focus on content literacy. Students begin their exploration into world history with a focus on historical thinking. Students then investigate human history from the beginning until around 1500. They explore major and significant changes in each era through a chronological organization. Students learn about the earliest humans and explore early migration and settlement patterns. Students examine how the emergence of societies set the stage for the development of powerful empires, trade networks, and the diffusion of people, resources, and ideas. Extending students' study of world history through Era 4 (300 CE – 1500 CE) places world religions and development of empires in the Americas (Aztecs, Incas, Mayans) in their historical context. The rise and fall of empires, as well as the nomadic groups in Afro-Eurasia, generated new zones of cultural and commercial exchange that linked regions across the world and enabled ideas to spread. The course concludes with the study of comparative world religions. Through a comparative look at the major world religions, students compare them not only to each other, but to other belief systems that did not become “world religions.”

8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

This is an American History course that will cover from the Revolutionary War up through the year 1900. Our first unit will examine the Revolutionary War, Declaration of Independence, and outcomes of the war for independence. The second unit will look at the newly independent United States creating a government and how the United States Constitution was created. Unit 3 will look at the United States acquiring land and moving westward and the impact this had on the United States. The fourth unit will examine the social reform movements of the 1800's and the attempt by many groups to improve society. Our fifth and final unit will look at the bloodiest war in United States history. We will break down and better understand the Civil War and its impact on our history. We will also look at the rebuilding process known as Reconstruction that took place after this brutal war was over.

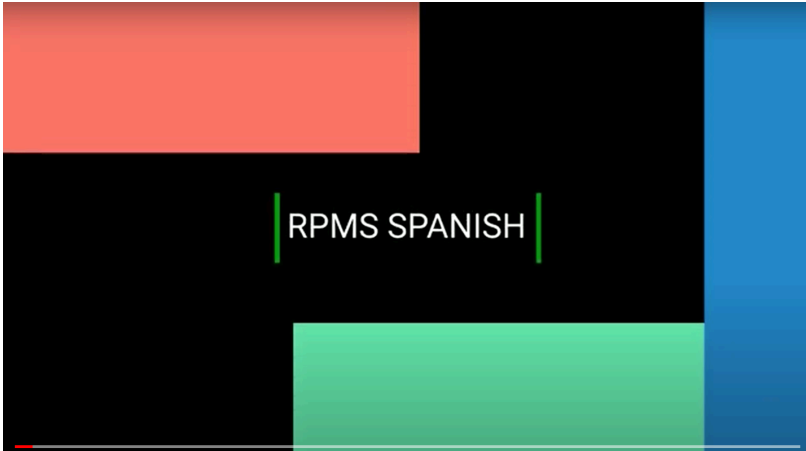
SPECIAL SERVICES

Special service courses and options are specific to advocacy and IEP documentation.

Full-Year Elective Courses

World Language

We highly recommend selecting a world language course as an elective choice. Many colleges want to see two years of foreign language on a student's high school transcript and some more competitive colleges require three years of a foreign language on a student's high school transcript. By taking Spanish 1, Spanish 2, or French 1 at the middle school, students can earn high school credit.



Check-Out the Video Link to learn more about [Spanish](#)

Spanish

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPANISH

This course serves as an appropriate transition following the foundation of K-6 Spanish curriculum. Middle School Spanish is an introduction to the basic skills of Spanish using high frequency vocabulary, storytelling, grammar structures, readings, and conversations in present tense. Students will be exposed to Hispanic culture and language through practice in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Additionally, students will gain an understanding of good habits for success in advanced courses such as organizational skills, study habits, and appropriate use of resources.

SPANISH I (1 POSSIBLE HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT)

This course is for the advanced learner. Students will take the equivalent of a High School Spanish One class. Students will be exposed to Hispanic culture and language through practice in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Teacher recommendation, test scores, and administrator approval will be required for placement.

SPANISH II (1 POSSIBLE HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT)

PREREQUISITE: SPANISH I

This rigorous course is for the advanced learner with a focus on conversational Spanish and the past tense. Students will take the equivalent of a High School Spanish 2 class. Students will be exposed to Hispanic culture and language through practice in listening, speaking, reading and writing

French

FRENCH I (1 POSSIBLE HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT)

This course is an introduction to the French language and culture through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will use storytelling, conversations, cultural events, and other activities to communicate with each other and practice their basic skills in present tense.

Band



Check-Out the Video Link to learn more about [Band](#)

7 th GRADE BAND

This band meets in sectionals (brass, woodwinds and percussion) every day and combines to perform throughout the year. Students interested in starting specialty instruments will be able to do so in this class: oboe, bassoon, alto, tenor and baritone saxophone as well as horn, euphonium, and tuba. Percussionists will be introduced to the full range of professional percussion instruments: marimba, vibraphone, xylophone, chimes, crash cymbals, all accessories, concert bass drum, concert toms, gong, congas, and timpani. We play many pieces of sheet music throughout the year and train in the next level skill book. Also, there is an opportunity to earn medals at the District Solo & Ensemble Festival. In February 2025 we'll be going to Walt Disney World! This will be the 4th time flying to Orlando for the RPMS Bands!

CONCERT BAND

This band is for the 8th grade band students at the middle school; we rehearse as a band every day and perform every month. Some advanced 7th graders may be placed in this ensemble by invitation. How cool is that? We play over 30 pieces of sheet music throughout the year as well as cover two skill building band books in class. The band performs for District Band Festival, school assemblies, Cafe concerts, three different concerts at the Rocket Centre and Band-O-Rama at the HS. Also, there is an opportunity to earn medals at the District Solo & Ensemble Festival. Both the Concert and Symphonic bands travel to Chicago every other year and in February 2025 we'll be going to Walt Disney World! This will be the 4th time flying to Orlando for the RPMS Bands!

SYMPHONIC BAND

Advanced Placement: This is an advanced band with the expectation that students play at a basic high school skill level. Some advanced 7th graders may be placed in this ensemble by invitation. After school commitments are expected for sectionals and lessons. The band performs for school assemblies, Cafe concerts, three different concerts at the Rocket Centre and Band-O-Rama at the HS. We represent our school at District and State Band Festivals. The District Solo & Ensemble Festival in the fall is required for all members. The band travels to Chicago every other year and in February 2025 we'll be going to Walt Disney World! This will be the 4th time flying to Orlando for the RPMS Bands!

Choir



RPMS CHOIRS IN ACTION:

- [Join RPMS Choir](#)
- [Don't Give Up On Me](#)
- [Thriller](#)

7TH GRADE TREBLE CHOIR

7th Grade Treble Choir is a singing ensemble composed of 7th grade treble-voiced (typically female) singers. Treble Choir builds on the performing & music literacy experiences started in the R-P Intermediate Choir program. *No audition is required to participate!*

Students will learn how to read music, learn how the voice works, and will perform many different styles of music. All Middle School Choir students perform in **4 major concerts each year** and have the opportunity to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival, District Choral Festival, State Honors Choir in the spring. *Choir students are also eligible to audition for extra-curricular/advanced singing groups such as the “R-PMS Treble-Makers” & more!*

The Middle School Choirs produce and perform in a fully staged, costumed and choreographed Musical each school year at the High School Rocket Center. This year, the MS students will be performing, “Disney’s High School Musical”. Choir students enjoy access to special opportunities such as Musical Theatre Workshops & Field Trips as well.

Students enjoy relationship & team building while learning to become excellent musicians. 7th Grade Choir, for many, is the beginning of the journey to our award-winning High School Program & beyond!

8TH GRADE TREBLE CHOIR

8th Grade Treble Choir is a singing ensemble composed of 8th grade treble-voiced (typically female) singers. *Participation in 7th Grade Choir is not a prerequisite to join & no audition is required to participate!*

The 8th Grade Treble Choir experience mirrors that of the 7th Grade Treble Choir (see description above). 8th Grade singers will enjoy deepening their performance skills & friendships & will continue to diversify their experiences on stage as they prepare for High School.

7TH & 8TH GRADE TENOR/BASS CHOIR

The Tenor/Bass Choir is a singing ensemble of 7th & 8th Grade changing or changed voices (typically male) that builds on the performing & music literacy experiences started at R-PI or in 7th Grade. *No previous experience or audition is required to participate.*

Students will learn how to read music, learn how the voice works, and will perform many different styles of music. All Middle School Choir students perform in **4 major concerts each year** and have the opportunity to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival, District Choral Festival, State Honors Choir in the spring. *Choir students are also eligible to audition for extra-curricular/advanced singing groups & enjoy special outings & events with our HS Tenor/Bass Choir.*

The Middle School Choirs produce and perform in a fully staged, costumed and choreographed Musical each school year at the High School Rocket Center. This year, the MS students will be performing, “Disney’s High School Musical”. Choir students enjoy access to special opportunities such as Musical Theatre Workshops & Field Trips as well.

Students enjoy relationship & team building while learning to become excellent musicians. 7th Grade Choir, for many, is the beginning of the journey to our award-winning High School Program & beyond!

Other

BIOLOGY (1 POSSIBLE HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT)

PREREQUISITE: TAKING 8th GRADE ALGEBRA CONCURRENTLY

Biology is an **8th grade only** elective. One semester focuses on concepts in ecology, conservation, and evolution. The other semester focuses on topics in organic molecules, cell biology, genetics, and the human body.

Semester (Half Year) Electives

ART

Welcome to Art class. This class is designed to cover elements of art particularly line, shape, form, value, color, and texture. Students will work on projects specific to these elements, as well as incorporating art history and cultural perspectives. Students will have the opportunity to display their original style of artwork, while being encouraged to think outside the box, while creating their compositions. As a group, we will periodically take the time to critique each other's artwork, to help to strengthen our compositions. The Art room will be a non-intimidating atmosphere, where students can display their talents/thoughts/feelings through visual interpretations. The following is a list of items that students will need for class. All other supplies will be provided.

1. Sketchbook
2. Pencils
3. Erasers
4. Ruler
5. Compass (optional)
6. Colored Pencils (optional)
7. Markers (optional)
8. Oil Pastels (optional)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GENERAL PE

Physical Education is an elective course designed to establish healthy patterns of meaningful and lifelong physical activity. Students will participate in basic sports related skill development and games, as well as, individual fitness activities that can lead to living a healthy and active lifestyle.

INTRODUCTION TO CROSS TRAINING

This is an elective course designed for the driven student who would like to become a better athlete. We will explore a variety of topics including strength training and weight room safety, muscular endurance, speed development, agility and quickness training, nutrition, sports injury, body composition, kinesiology, performance enhancing drugs, sports specific training and leadership, circuit training, jump progressions, cardiorespiratory endurance, Fitnessgram testing, and goal setting. Objectives:

- Develop and maintain a high level of physical fitness.
- Develop personal measurable goals and achieve them.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of basic exercise physiology.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of common training methods.

Please note that Introduction to Cross Training requires teacher/coach recommendation and administrative approval. **An application form is available from any physical education teacher or in the middle school or intermediate office.** All applications will be due by the last day of scheduling. If not selected, an alternative elective will be chosen after the scheduling window. A student may register for two semesters and approval for both semesters will be based on availability, the application, and teacher recommendation.

NAVIGATING LIFE

How we navigate the adolescent years has a direct impact on how we'll live the rest of our lives. In Navigating Life, students will be engaged in opportunities that help them build skills to make the decisions they will be confronted with in the future. All students will learn how to overcome challenges that life will throw at them and become the best version of themselves. The course curriculum includes the following topics:

- Sleep
- Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Mental Health
- Relationships
- Peer Pressure
- First Aid / CPR
- Finances

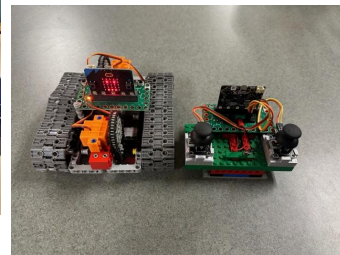
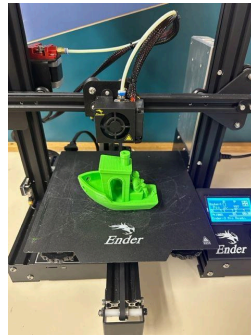
TECHNOLOGY

EXPLORE TECHNOLOGY

The Reeths-Puffer Middle School Explore Tech Lab provides students with the opportunity to learn about various tools and techniques making up today's technology. Students become better problem solvers by practicing the Define – Prepare – Try – Reflect model for solving problems.

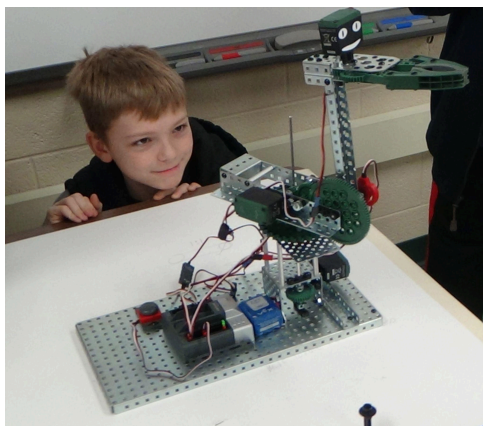
Some of the areas studied are:

- Drone Block Coding (uses the DJI TELLO Drone with camera)
- 3D Design and Printing
- Game Design/Development
- Robotics
- Computer Coding
- Circuits
- CNC Machining
- Lego Simple Mechanical Machines
- SpheroBolt Programming



STEM: AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS

Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

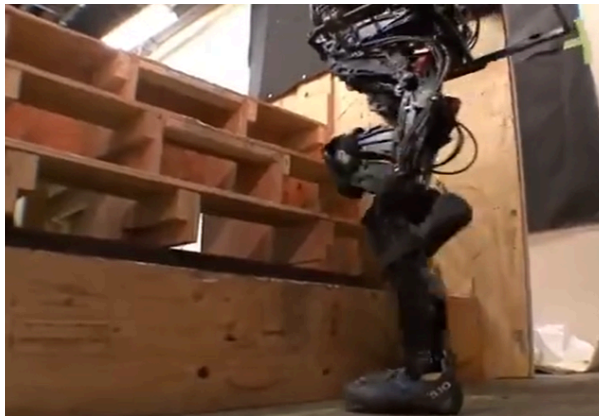


Click here for video: [STEM](#)

STEM: COMPUTER SCIENCE DISCOVERIES A (1 semester) and B (1 semester)

Must have a semester of Computer Science Discoveries A before Computer Science Discoveries B
STEM Coding is an introductory computer science course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. Topics will include the following:

- Explore the problem-solving process and the different ways humans and computers solve problems.
- Discover the languages powering the web. Build your own websites in HTML and CSS using Web Lab.
- Learn the powerful constructs underlying programming languages. Build interactive animations and games in JavaScript using Game Lab.
- Follow a design process to identify and empathize with problems faced by a target audience. Prototype an app to help solve that problem using App Lab.
- Learn how information is represented, collected, analyzed, and visualized by computers. Investigate how data is collected online and weigh the potential benefits and harms to individuals and society at large.
- Explore the relationship between hardware and software while building interactive projects on Adafruit's Circuit Playground.



Click here for video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XwjEQ9flrUI>

TEEN LEADERSHIP

Teen Leadership is an immersive experience that builds personal responsibility and leadership skills through group activities, speeches, and projects. This course focuses on the development of the next generation of leaders and is designed for students of all backgrounds and abilities. The skills taught will help any student successfully make the transition to life in high school and beyond. As part of a culminating experience, students will develop and see through a community service project.

Topics

- Leadership Skills
- Decision Making
- Personal Responsibility
- Social Skills
- Public Speaking
- Resisting Peer Pressure
- Goal-Setting
- Healthy Relationships
- Consequences of choices

Enrollment Considerations

- This elective is open to 7th and 8th grade students
- Preference will be given to 8th grade students based on enrollment.
- Citizenship information from current teachers will be considered.

THEATRE ARTS

Theatre is a semester-long Performing Arts class at R-PMS. Students will use various creative drama techniques to *build confidence and trust, build ensemble, stimulate imagination, movement, and role-play with an emphasis on movement and public speaking skills.* Students will understand and follow stage directions, and use proper techniques for body and voice control. Students will learn and discuss the basic elements of drama to better understand and analyze characters and scripted material. Students will address plot, setting, and character in monologues. Students will learn and use drama and theater vocabulary in class discussions and the activities will address the promotion and reinforcement of students' literacy skills. *There are 2 public performance projects during the semester including a Children's Theater Performance at Central Elementary and an end-of-Semester Peer Performance highlighting scenes from several plays.* Students will exhibit and reinforce their skills through individual and group presentations, performances, as well as script and journal writing.

When choosing your student's elective for the 2024-2025 school year, please consider the following:

The Reeths-Puffer Middle School master schedule will be built around student selections. While every attempt will be made to place students in the electives that they have chosen, please note that all assignments are subject to availability, administrator approval, teacher approval, and/or proven proficiency using standardized measures. **Our policy is to provide intervention courses as a first priority to those students who have shown a need for such support through their performance.**

No changes will be made once the schedules have been created.

If you would like to fill out a **Student Learner Profile**, please visit the Reeths-Puffer Middle School and/or Reeths-Puffer Intermediate School office for a form, or print the form from the last two pages of this guide prior to March 22, 2024.

While every attempt will be made to honor requests, please know that there are no guarantees. Failure to fill out the Student Learner Profile and return it by the deadline forfeits any attempts to request a specific teacher. The Learner Profile can be found on the next two pages or a copy can be obtained in the Middle School and Intermediate office. Forms must be completed and turned in prior to March 22, 2024.

LEARNER PROFILE

Special Accommodations:

Learner Strengths:

Learner Deficits:

Physical and Emotional Considerations:

Other, Medical, etc.:

It should be noted that due to a variety of circumstances, some beyond our control, staff positions may be subject to change over the course of the summer vacation. These changes may or may not impact student placements. While all information will be considered, the scheduling team will make all final decisions regarding placement of students with teachers.

Student Name _____

Teacher Preferences: _____
