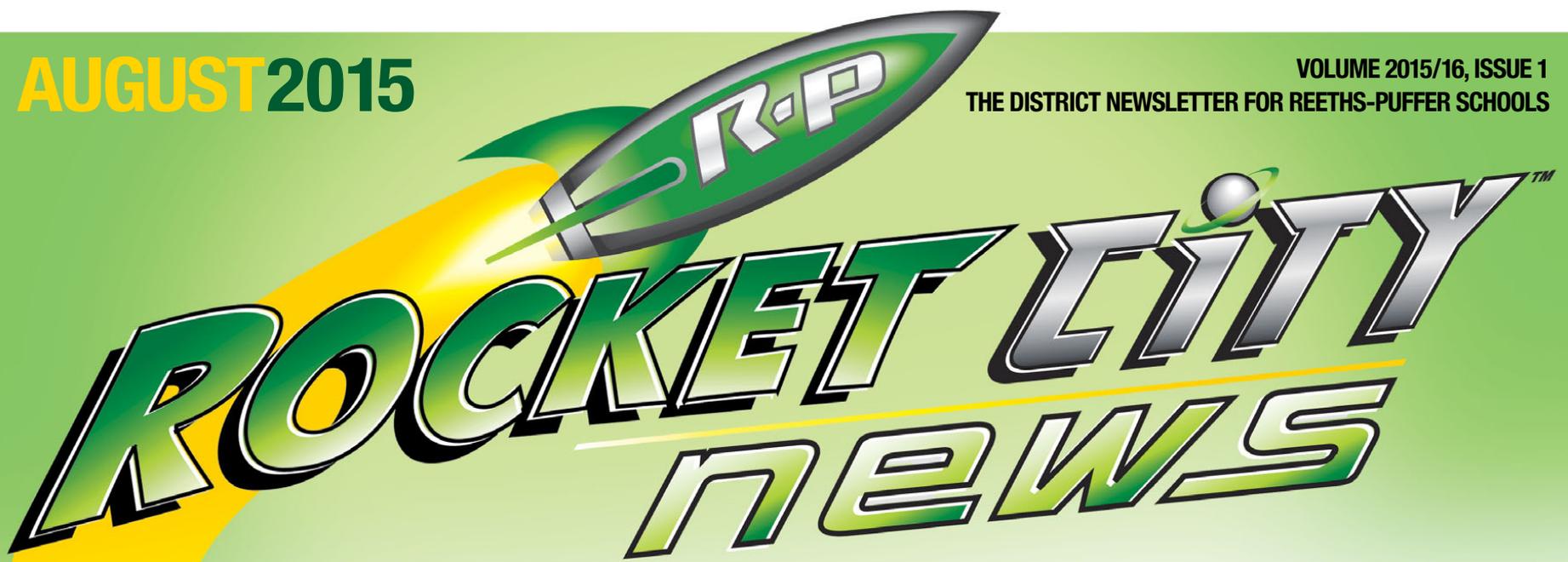


AUGUST 2015

VOLUME 2015/16, ISSUE 1
THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER FOR REETHS-PUFFER SCHOOLS



ROCKET CITY NEWS

You're invited!

An invitation to learning



Dear R-P Community:

An invitation can elicit wonderful feelings of being thought of and considered. An invitation can also elicit a troubling feeling of obligation and expectation. Some invitations can bring about both feelings. Think about a wedding or baby shower invitation: you are excited and honored to be thought of and considered, and it also brings the obligation of making the time, buying a gift, and possibly making travel plans.

At Reeths-Puffer Schools, we are excited to open the 2015-2016 school year and we invite you to learn. I

expect that this "invitation" is no different than being invited to a wedding; it is full of excitement and wonder, but also obligation and preparation. Here in Rocket City, we believe that potential is most likely realized when EVERYONE is invested in the learning and potential of each child. Administrators, teachers, non-instructional staff, parents, and yes, students, all play a critical role in the development of the potential in every Rocket.

When we think about learning in the form of an invitation to learn, it becomes quite clear that opportunities are present, but they aren't something to be taken for granted. Obligations are there, but so is responsibility.

For students, it is imperative they read 20-60 minutes EVERY day. They must understand and learn the value of following through and persevering. They must develop and demonstrate a passion for and love of learning. Students need to complete all tasks and assignments to the best of their ability and create a plan and strategy for seeking help when they are struggling.

For the parents of very young children, it is essential that they read with and to their child EVERY day. Try to encourage creativity, imagination, and curiosity. For parents of older children, make sure you have "college and career" talks with your child. Continue encouraging your child to read EVERY day. Expect your responsible child to complete every assignment to their personal best level.

As a Rocket City community, you can expect your child's teachers to create, stimulate, foster, reinforce, and model a love of reading and learning. You can expect them



to plan, execute, and monitor engaging, rigorous, and aligned lessons. You can expect your child's teacher to create real life connections to learning.

As a community, you can expect your administrators and non-instructional staff to model hope, courage, perseverance, positivity, pride, and consistency. You can expect us to love and support your children. You can expect us to inspire staff, students, and the community by working tirelessly to grow the potential of all our students.

Finally, you can expect us to learn from our mistakes. In some ways, our society has become obsessed with avoiding failure. We are often encouraged to shelter kids from disappointment and

frustration. In my opinion, when handled appropriately, disappointment and frustration can be some of the greatest vehicles for self-improvement. What if our kids never experience disappointment or failure until they are past their formative years? How can they be expected to handle something on their own that we never put them in a position to experience with our support? School and competition provide us an opportunity to work toward a common goal, to learn from our experiences, to modify our approach and to adapt. Isn't that what our society really needs? I'm glad that you have chosen to allow your children to experience success and challenges, ups and downs, victories and defeats. I'm glad that you have chosen Reeths-Puffer to educate your child and I am encouraged by the resilience and resolve of our youth. The invitation has been sent. I hope you take us up on it.



Here's to a great 2015-2016 school year.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Edwards

Steve Edwards, Superintendent of Schools

ROCKET CITY GAMES 2015

Olympics Rocket City Style!

This year, big plans are in place for the launch of another great year of learning. Rocket City Games will be held Thursday, September 3 with an early kick-off the night before with an Adventure Run and cookout. The Adventure Run is an obstacle course where participants drag themselves through mud, manage stations (coordinated by iMove and the U.S. Army National Guard), and run through clouds of paint. Members of Rocket City are encouraged to come out to laugh and cheer on runners.

On September 3, Rocket City Games begin in earnest. A Rocket Science and Creative Studies Center will be set up in the high school commons. Hands on science, health, and fitness exhibitions from all over Rocket City will be available. Kids can get their hands dirty and light their minds as they work with Rocket City high school students on the cyclotron particle accelerator from MSU, learn about chemistry, nutrition for the athlete and composting in the garden.

Other events that day include a Taste of Rocket City, Bounce House, Varsity Athletic Competitions, special programs during the football game including fireworks that have a heavy emphasis on Rocket Green



explosives. New this year will bring a special guest plus a small gift for all Rocket Learners who attend the football game.

Please come out for the Parade of Rocket Athletes followed by the lighting of our own Rocket Torch.

For more information on Rocket City Games, to sign up for the Adventure Run, or to volunteer, please follow Rocket City Games on Facebook or go to www.rocketcitygames-rp.org

Let the Learning Begin!

Bus Routes



Bus routes for the 2015-16 school year will be listed on the District web page beginning August 17. They will also be posted in the front windows of each building. If you have questions regarding your child's route, please contact the Transportation Department at 719-0110.

REETHS-PUFFER SCHOOLS ■ 2015-2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR

September 8 First Day of School (Full Day)

November 6 **K - 12 AM Only**
5-12 Records Day PM
End of 1st Marking Period

November 11 5 - 12 Evening Conferences
(School is in Session)
5-6 – 5 pm to 8 pm
7-8 – 4 pm to 7 pm
9-12 – 5 pm to 8 pm

November 12 5 - 12 Conferences
5-8 AM Only (Conferences Afternoon and Evening)
5-6 – Noon to 3 pm & 4 pm to 7 pm
7-8 – 11:30 am to 2:30 pm & 5 pm to 8 pm
9-12 – 5 pm to 8 pm
(School is in Session)

November 25 **K-12 – No School**

November 26 & 27 **K-12 No School – Thanksgiving Holiday**

December 4 **K-4 AM Only**
Records Day PM
End of 1st Tri-Reporting

December 9 K-4 Conferences (School is in Session)
5 pm to 8 pm

December 10 **K - 4 AM ONLY**
K-4 Conferences:
12:45 pm to 3:45 pm
5 pm to 8 p.m.

December 21 **K - 12 No School**
Christmas Recess Begins

January 4 School Resumes

January 18 **K - 12 No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

January 20 **9-12 AM Only – High School Exams**

January 21 **9-12 AM Only – High School Exams**

January 22 **5 - 12 AM Only**
Records Day PM
End of 2nd Marking Period

February 12 & 15 **K - 12 No School**
Mid-Winter Break

March 11 **K - 4 AM Only**
Records Day PM
End of 2nd Tri-Reporting

March 16 K - 4 Conferences
(School is in Session)
5 pm to 8 pm

March 17 **K - 4 AM ONLY**
K-4 Conferences:
12:45 pm to 3:45 pm
5 pm to 8 pm

March 18 **5 - 12 AM ONLY**
Records Day PM
End of 3rd Marking Period

March 23 5-12 Conferences
(School is in Session)
5-6 - 5 pm to 8 pm
7-8 – 4 pm to 7 pm
9-12 – 5 pm to 8 pm

March 24 **5-8 AM Only (Conferences)**
5-6 Noon to 3 pm & 4 pm to 7 pm
7-8 11:30 to 2:30 pm & 5 pm to 8 pm

March 25 **K-12 AM Only – Good Friday**

April 1 **K-12 No School**

April 4-8 **K-12 No School - Spring Break**

May 30 **K-12 No School - Memorial Day**

June 7 **9-12 AM Only – High School Exams**

June 8 **9-12 AM Only – High School Exams**

June 9 **K-12 AM Only - Last Day for High School Students**

June 10 **K-8 AM Only - Last Day of School**

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents and Students,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back the families of Central Elementary. I hope your summer has been filled with enjoyable events. At Central Elementary, we take great pride in working with our students and parents to ensure student success in future years to come. As we start to gear up for the coming year, here are some important dates to take note of:



Monday, August 17
Wednesday, August 26

Tuesday, September 1

Wednesday, September 2
Tuesday, September 8

Office Staff Returns
Welcome Back Letter and Student Placement Sent Out
Kindergarten Parent Orientation, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Open House (K-4th), 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
First Day of School

The staff and I look forward to seeing our families at Open House. Please enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,

Mike Lyons

Principal, Central Elementary



Mrs. Whitaker does an Interactive Read-a-loud with students.

Summer Reading Clubs

Many of our 1st and 2nd grade teachers are working with their students throughout the summer to extend learning opportunities beyond the typical school year. Teachers met with groups of four students to teach and review key strategies to keep students progressing with their reading skills. Students met with their teacher four times throughout the summer and were challenged to read multiple books between sessions to practice their reading strategies.

Fourth Grade Transition to RPI



Mrs. Peel

Mrs. Peel, Counselor from R-P Intermediate, came to Central to talk to fourth graders about self-value. Mrs. Peel showed the students two twenty dollar bills. One was dirty and crumpled up and the other was brand new. She asked them just because the twenty dollar bill was crumpled and dirty was it worth less than the brand new one? She explained that a student's self-worth is like the two twenty dollar bills. If you have "wrinkles" in your life, your self-worth is still valuable. There is only one you. You are important, wrinkles and all! This was a life lesson that hopefully will stick with our students for the rest of their lives.

ROCKET CITY NEWS

Rocket City News is published three times per year by Reeths-Puffer Schools, 991 W. Giles Road, Muskegon, MI 49445. Reeths-Puffer accepts advertising to defray the cost of production and distribution and appreciates the support of its advertisers. Reeths-Puffer does not specifically endorse advertisers or their products or services. Please contact Margie Bates with inquiries at (231) 719-3104, or email at batesm@reeths-puffer.org. Visit our website at www.reeths-puffer.org.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS AND PRIVACY

Parents of Reeths-Puffer school children are hereby notified that the school often publishes for public view the names and/or pictures of Reeths-Puffer students. The purpose varies and may involve honor rolls, attendance lists, special awards, athletic rosters, etc. If, for any reason, you do not wish your child's name or picture to be published, please contact your school office immediately. This notice is in compliance with the Rights and Privacy Act, P.L. 93.380.



Native American Craft



Trevor Watrin

Native American Studies

Third grade students at Central Elementary had a great day at the Lakeshore Museum learning more about Native American Life in Michigan. This was a wonderful reinforcement of what students had been learning in the classroom for social studies and making real life connections to the Common Core Curriculum.

Central's Vegas Night



iPad Mini – Hunter Alviar was the top prize winner for the iPad Mini

Many community members might have wondered what was going on at Central Elementary on Wednesday, May 6. Are they setting up a gambling operation? Over 140 students and parents participated in playing math games, along with learning conceptual strategies to count, add, subtract, multiply, divide, solve fractions, and more. Students today are expected to go much deeper with their understanding and solve problems in multiple ways using different strategies. These strategies are far different than the way mom and dad learned them. This was a valuable night of learning for all. A big thank you to the Central Elementary staff for orchestrating this wonderful night. Several prizes were given away, including an iPad Mini, for students who participated.

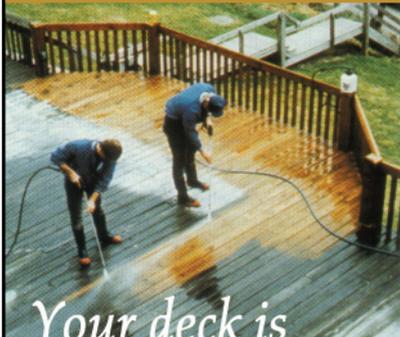
Central Third Graders Explore White Pine Village



Third graders had an amazing time at the historical White Pine Village. They were able to experience what life was like during Michigan's pioneer days. From a one room school house, general store, saw mill, and doctor's office, students were submerged in this hands-on experience. They were asked to find certain items at every building and use that information in a newspaper article they would create later in the classroom.



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Welcome Back RPEL Students and Families!

Hopefully you are rested and ready for another exciting year at Reeths-Puffer Elementary School. West Michigan has many gifts to offer. We are truly blessed to live in vacation land. A summer filled

with friends, fun, sand and water are great ways to enjoy West Michigan. RPEL staff has been working hard all summer getting ready for another year of learning. Teachers have been engaged in summer professional development and are anxiously awaiting the start of the school year. Our custodial and maintenance staff have our building ready for learning. Students, keep reading! Old Yeller and the Rocket City Summer Reading Challenge are great opportunities to keep your reading skills sharp.

Please join the RPEL community on Sunday August 30 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. for a family picnic. We will have inflatable carnival games, food and family time before our school year officially starts. Our theme this school year is "We are better together." Reeths-Puffer Elementary is looking forward to the students from McMillan Elementary School. "We are better together" and look forward to the 2015-2016 school year.

In addition to the Family Picnic we will hold two Open House nights. Kindergarten, first and second grades gather on Monday August 31 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Third and fourth grades meet on Tuesday, September 1 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Please plan on attending these back to school events. We will have school personnel and teaching staff in attendance to help answer any questions prior to the start of the school year.

Have a great rest of your summer.

Sincerely,

Paul Klimsza

Principal, Reeths-Puffer Elementary School

Reeths-Puffer Elementary – Important Dates

Family Resource Center Open Year Round – Mrs. Kanaar (329-5049)

Office Opens – Monday, August 17

Family Picnic – Sunday, August 30

Open House K through 2nd Grades – August 31

Open House 3rd & 4th Grades – September 1

Class Assignments – Mailed the week of August 24

See welcome back letter for exact times and locations.

Welcome Karyn Benner!



While the official title of the position is "Dean of Students", a more apt title might be "barrier buster", as Mrs. Karyn Benner joins the R-PEL team to help students, parents, and families work through adversity and challenges that might otherwise limit school success for our Rockets.

Mrs. Benner brings a wealth of experience to the position as she has formerly been a school leader (AKA principal) of multiple buildings in Toledo, Ohio. A few of her many responsibilities included hiring and training teaching staff, overseeing building and facility operations, developing curriculum, coordinating assessments and testing, and implementing PBIS (positive behavioral interventions and supports) programs.

Mrs. Benner and her husband, David, have four Rockets currently spread out across three buildings and are excited to be contributing members of the Rocket City community.

Peer to Peer is here!

Reeths Puffer Elementary implemented an evidence-based practice program to help students with learning disabilities. R-P Links, a Peer to Peer program, pairs students with disabilities with peers to help them academically and socially. Links (peers assisting those students with disabilities) had to fill out an application and get parent permission in order to be considered. Once the Links were chosen, they attended a week long intensive training where they were taught about ASD and many other disabilities and how to positively support students with any disability. Since January, R-P Links have successfully "linked" fifteen students in need of support with Links to assist them in the classroom, at lunch and out for recess. Teachers commented that all students have benefited from this program. Peers model typical academic and social behavior in educational environments throughout the school day and in return, they gain increased skills in organization, responsibility, problem solving, decision-making, and accountability.



In recognition of their hard work and dedication, R-P Links celebrated the end of the year with a pizza lunch, bounce house, group games and prizes. This was made possible thanks to donations from G & L, Pizza Hut, Coney Island, Meijer, Y-Knot Embroidery, Handsome Hobo's and ASD Crayon sales. This year, the project will partially be funded through a grant Mrs. Graham has written at the National Education Association. The Peer Team at RPEL included: Jennifer Russell, Amy Lisman, Kelly Griswold, Laura Veihl, Betsy Thompson, Tracy Allen, Breanne Woolley, Paul Klimsza, Amy Kendall, and Vicki Graham (coach/coordinator). There were 66 peer assistants (Links) in the program.

Dear Twin Lake Community,



I'm excited to announce that I will be the building leader at Twin Lake Elementary beginning July 1st. Pam Turner, your previous leader, will be returning to her role as our District's State and Federal programming and assessment expert, as well as our District's grant writer. I know that Pam has enjoyed being your leader these last several years and will miss all of you. Her enthusiasm for the Twin Lake community makes me eager to continue in her place!

A little about me... I have been the building leader at McMillan Elementary for the last five years, after spending a year as the assistant principal at Reeths-Puffer Intermediate. Prior to my leadership role, I taught third, fourth and sixth grades for 12 years in several buildings in our District. Twin Lake is the only building in which I haven't had the pleasure of spending much time and I'm thrilled to become a part of your team!

Aside from my service to R-P, I am also a parent of three boys who have graduated from Reeths-Puffer. My husband, Tony, is the Athletic Director at the high school and is also a graduate of R-P. We live in the District and we bleed green for our Rockets! Being a citizen of Rocket City, I am dedicated, not only to supporting our students' academic successes, but also encouraging them to become contributing members of our community.

I will be available throughout the summer to chat, or meet, and will be returning, full time, to Twin Lake in mid-August. I may be reached by e-mail at schmittd@reeths-puffer.org.

I look forward to working with you this school year!

Sincerely,

Dawn Schmitt

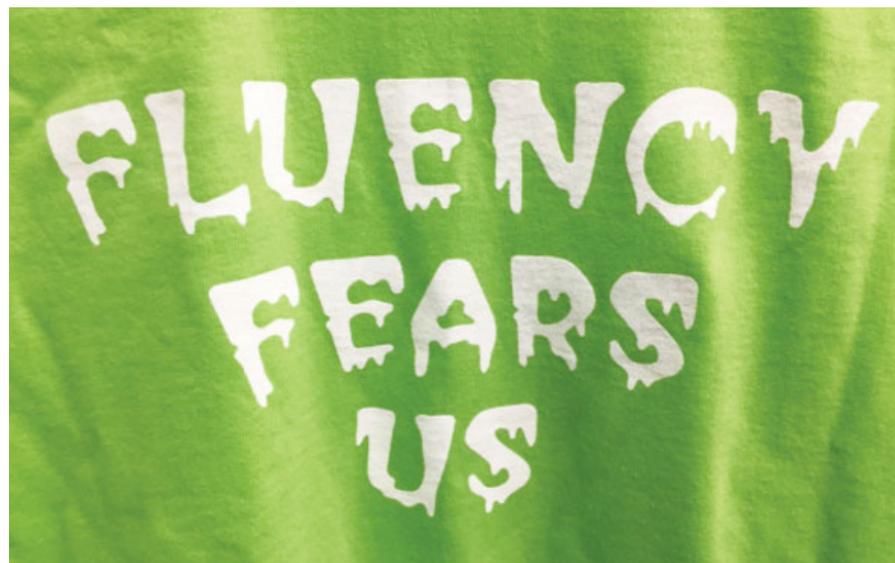
Incoming Building Leader
Twin Lake Elementary

Welcome back Twin Lake Families – Mark Your Calendars!

**Twin Lake Elementary will host a Family Orientation
(formerly known as Open House)
on Tuesday, September 1.**

6:00 to 7:00 p.m. – Community Resource Fair
6:30 to 7:30 – Family Orientation (K-4th)

**More detailed information will be sent home to parents
in August.**



Shark Attack in Twin Lake

It's not as scary as you think, but there is a shark attack coming!

Twin Lake teachers have a plan to push reading to new levels. In the spring, teachers established a new goal for the school in reading comprehension, and the first focused effort will be a

SHARK ATTACK ON FLUENCY!

In nature, sharks are voracious as they gobble up their prey. A business shark is tenacious, unrelenting as he goes after a deal. In the classroom, Twin Lake teachers have a voracious appetite for reading, and they will go after frustration with the tenacity of a shark.

Watch the learning unfold as your child develops skills in fluency and grows to become a reader with a voracity all their own!

Adopt A Classroom for the 2015-16 School year

As a trusted business partner, you contribute to the success of Rocket City and you benefit from the success of Rocket City. Our new Adopt-A-Classroom project is the perfect opportunity for us to continue our relationship and to further our collective commitment to Rocket City.

Why adopt? For only \$295.00, you can adopt a Reeths-Puffer classroom of your choosing for the 2015-2016 academic year. Your tax-deductible dollars will help us continue our pursuit of excellence and success for every Rocket, and your involvement will help you (and your business) forge a unique and lasting relationship with Rocket City.

What exactly is the return on investment on your \$295.00?

- A certificate of appreciation in the classroom naming you (or your business) as the generous adopter.
- Recognition in this Rocket City News, which is delivered to over 10,000 Rocket City homes.
- Multiple opportunities to meet with your adopted class and talk about your business.
- The opportunity to work directly with the teacher and students on projects, field trips, assignments, whatever you and the teacher decide.

Thank you for helping to make Rocket City the home of success! For more information on adopting a classroom, please visit gorocketcity.org today.

Hello Rocket Learners!



Welcome back to the start of our 2015/16 school year at RPI and Rocket City. We have an amazing year of learning ahead of us filled with engagement and positive learning experiences! Our team is ready and thankful for the opportunity to create a safe and engaged learning community at RPI.

This school year will be filled with learning energy that revolves around our RPIS support system. Students will be participating in learning that is **R**espectful of individual learning needs, full of **P**ride, giving our best effort, using **I**ntegrity by doing the positive action when no one is looking and a determination to build on small **S**uccesses each day as learners.

Healthy hearts and healthy minds is something that students will be challenged with daily. Rockets will have physical education classes the entire year. We start our Healthy School and Healthy Communities journey by selling only healthy snack choices at school, promoting healthy choices for our bodies, continuing a school-wide 5K run, 100 Mile Club, Biking Club and Endurance Adventure Racing.

Staff look forward to continuing to engage with parents, businesses and non-profits to strengthen our learning community. We all have a part in the success of our students! These partnerships allow for our students to experience STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) nights at RPI, community problem solving days, learning celebrations, supporters from our community instructing in clubs after school, and authentic instruction in classrooms focused on history and culture. Our students are always watching to see if we are working together for their learning. Each action we take to create a stronger learning community the more success for our students.

The best day of the year is coming! See you all at Open House, Rocket City Games and THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AT RPI!

Sincerely,
Nate Smith

Principal, Reeths-Puffer Intermediate

RPI Rocket Rally

(a.k.a. The RPI Open House)

Tuesday, September 1, 3:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Together we can make the start of the school year one that is filled with excitement and preparation for learning. Please make the Rocket Rally at RPI a must for your family. The following will take place during the evening:

- School pictures
- Meet the teachers
- Classroom information from teachers
- Emergency Form Enrollment
- Volunteer Registration
- Access to Student Schedules
- Concussion Form Confirmation
- Room and Locker Access
- A Community of Learning



Pictures, Paperwork, Schedules - 3:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

5th grade classrooms with teachers - 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

6th grade classrooms with teachers - 6:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Goal: An evening of shared information and great questions to launch a new year of learning at RPI!

LOOK FOR MORE DETAILS AND UPDATES ON FACEBOOK!

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Character Strengths of the Successful!

Recently, there has been much talk about the character strengths most associated with successful people. Many of the character strengths are flexible, which is exciting because that means students can be taught strategies to achieve goals while also learning to manage disappointment or even failure. So, even if a student has struggled in school, he or she is able to learn new skills to approach struggles differently for greater success.

Last year, RPI focused on a few character strengths that have been most associated with success. Not allowing oneself to be knocked down by the first disappointing grade is a wonderful ability to carry into life – as we all experience struggles. The quest at the Intermediate is to help students fill their tool boxes with useful items to not only achieve with their current academic rigors, but also their future career goals. Community Rocket Time is used to focus on three character strengths: Optimism, Grit, and Self-Control.

Optimism, in the midst of failure, is to understand that failure isn't permanent, pervasive nor personal. Failure is specific and limited. For example, if a student

receives a poor grade in math, the optimistic approach would be, "I don't understand fractions YET." Rather than "The teacher hates me" or "I have never been good at math."



Grit = perseverance + resilience. The road to success is really a marathon, as much as we would love to think of it as a sprint. Marathons are accomplished with many monotonous runs over a long period of time. No one would expect a kindergartener to read a novel or chapter book, but after learning letters, sounds and words, students are able to transition from easy to more difficult books. The ability to read proficiently takes daily

reading over a period of time without giving up: perseverance. Resilience is not just the ability to bounce back after a disappointment or failure but to get up and run even harder with more determination.

Finally, **Self-Control**. A student must have the willpower, or self-control, to put school studies first. Delaying gratification can lead to greater rewards later in life. By delaying video game time until homework is complete, one can create a foundation for successful collegiate studies, financial management, etc.

If you are interested in understanding more about RPI's Rocket Time, please join us on Mondays. Learn and engage with us! The 6th graders meet from 8:10 to 8:40 a.m. and the 5th graders meet from 2:20 to 2:50 p.m. in the café. This school year we will go deeper in understanding, optimism, grit, and self-control plus add a few new ones. We love having the community's involvement on our journey.

Another opportunity to learn more about these character strengths is to join us on September 3 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the high school café for our "It is Rocket Science" Center during Rocket City Games. A special area will be created for better explanation of character strengths of the successful.

Reeths-Puffer Intermediate School A Hub for the Whole Community

Have you ever heard the term, "It takes a village?" Well, at Reeths-Puffer Intermediate School, not only have we heard it, we believe in it. RPI, home to the 5th and 6th grade learners of Rocket City, is always looking for passionate and energetic community members wishing to make a difference. Whether you are a grandparent who loves to listen to kids read or a local contractor looking to give back, RPI is a place for you to make that difference.

- Grandma Carol, grandma and master copy machine technician/operator, discovered her calling at RPI through making copies for a very busy teaching staff so they could focus on teaching and learning in the classroom. Grandma Carol also offers the best smiles, and relentlessly models a perky pace while in the halls. Grandma Carol blessed the students and staff of RPI with countless hours of service throughout the school year.
- Don Hagstrom, father, grandfather, and master carpenter, took his love for kids and has found ways to connect with the learners of Rocket City over the past ten years. His connections have included building props for high



school performances, building cigar box guitars with RPI music students, and building and donating beautiful rustic "Buddy Benches" for many of the Reeths-Puffer buildings, including RPI.

- Karyn Benner, mother and local real estate agent for Nexus Reality, found a way to chisel an hour or two per week from her busy schedule to spend time with RPI students needing some additional support in the area of math. Karyn took her passion for kids and put it into action.

- Mary Smith, mother of two R-P grads and former Human Resource Manager for Muskegon Community College, found herself seeking the energy that gushes from schools. Mary took her craving for this energy and excitement to the RPI office where she volunteers her time to supporting the learners of RPI.

If you find yourself wondering, "How might I be able to be a part of the RPI village?" we welcome you to stop in the office. RPI Leaders are more than willing to help you find a way to support the mission of "All Learners, 100% Engaged, All Day."

The Lazy Days of Summer turn into the Exciting Times of Returning to School

As summer comes to a close, it's time to turn our attention back to the routines of a new school year. Many times our summer routines are relaxed, sometimes non-existent. The transition back to a school routine can be difficult for students and parents alike.

Below are nine tips that will help families start back to school routines in a positive manner.

1. Create a family back to school plan a few weeks before school begins so that routines can be established. Slowly transition bedtimes and morning wake up time to schedules that will become routine with the return to school.
2. Consider doing some daily school routine items in the evening instead of the morning before school. Some of the routines you may consider moving to the night before include: laying out clothes, making lunches, and completing and signing off on all homework.
3. Plan at least one meal per day to eat together as a family. This meal does not have to be dinner - it could be a 15 minute breakfast where everyone shares their plans for the day. Try to keep the time focused on the people in front of you, which means that all electronics are turned off.
4. As you sort through all the beginning of the year paperwork and fill out all the updated forms as part of the registration process, be sure to have a calendar available where all the school events are recorded. Some items to consider adding to your calendar include: Open house dates, parent teacher conferences, scheduled breaks and "no school days" for students, special concerts, due dates for special school projects, state testing dates, sporting event schedules, etc. This calendar will help keep the entire family organized, reducing stress for parents and students.
5. If your child is moving to a new building or is new to the District, consider setting up a tour of their new building before school starts. Meeting the office staff, meeting some teachers, finding their classroom(s) and lockers, etc., can greatly reduce the anxiety your child might be feeling. This pre-visit will help make the first day of school an enjoyable and memorable event.
6. As a family, create a designated space where your child can work on homework. Make sure to have all the supplies handy (paper, pencils, computer, rulers, sticky notes, calculator, tape, markers, a book box/storage space for each child) so that weekly homework materials don't get lost. Having this area set up in advance will ensure no time is wasted finding materials to complete homework assignments. This pre-organized system will help keep longer-term assignments in a safe place with easy access to the work until the project is completed.
7. Create a system for processing school work and school papers. Whether you use a mailbox organizer, file folder system, or an accordion folder; having something set up prior to school beginning will keep everyone organized and will set a positive routine right from the beginning of the year.
8. If you have a child who struggles staying organized, create simple check-lists (words or pictures) that your child can use to help them complete a routine without constant reminders from an adult or sibling. Checklist and/or a written contract developed in advance will remove many of the power struggles that often occur regarding what, when, and where something needs to be completed.
9. Sit down with your child to develop a schedule, checklist, goals, etc., to help outline the routines that everyone will follow. Having your child included in the decision making of their plan will increase the likelihood that these routines and

expectations will be followed. Once completed, make sure to display the agreed upon routines and expectations in a highly visible area. For example, a plan might state: Amanda will complete her homework by 7:00 p.m. on school nights. School work will be completed at the designated workstation set up in the family room. After completing her homework, Amanda will have mom or dad sign the assignment and/or agenda. Once signed, Amanda will place the completed homework in the homework folder inside her backpack. Amanda will turn in her homework folder to her teacher as soon as she walks in the classroom each morning.

Students need to be in school on a regular basis to have a continuous learning environment that will help them succeed in school and life. There is a great deal of research that shows that when students are absent from school, even ten days throughout the year, it can have a negative impact on math skills, standardized testing scores, graduation rates, and increases the chance that a child will drop out of school in the later grades. Please get your child to school on-time, every day so that learning can occur and your child will find continuous success.

Welcome 5th Graders!

Staff at Reeths-Puffer Intermediate are looking forward to meeting you and having a great year!! Below is a list of suggested supplies:



IMPORTANT TO HAVE:

Lots and lots of pencils
Hand held pencil sharpener that collects the shavings
Highlighters – at least 2
Kleenex for classroom
Hand sanitizer for classroom
Pencil box or bag
Erasers
Notebook paper
Sticky notes
3 ring binder (1- inch)

NICE TO HAVE:

Pens – blue or black ink only
Colored pencils
Dry erase markers
2 – pocket folders for each class

NO Trapper Keepers (They don't fit in desks)
NO Backpacks with wheels (They don't fit in lockers)



glo

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2015 FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Football – Varsity

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Friday, Aug. 28	Holland High School	Holland Municipal Stadium	7:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 03	Fremont	Reeths–Puffer High School	7:00PM
Friday, Sep. 11	Grand Haven	Grand Haven High School	7:00PM
Friday, Sep. 18	Lowell HS	Lowell High School	7:00PM
Friday, Sep. 25	G.R. Union (Homecoming)	Reeths–Puffer High School	7:00PM
Friday, Oct. 02	Mona Shores	Mona Shores High School	7:00PM
Friday, Oct. 09	Muskegon	Muskegon High School	7:00PM
Friday, Oct. 16	Kenowa Hills	Reeths–Puffer High School	7:00PM
Friday, Oct. 23	Zeeland East	Zeeland East	7:00PM

Football – JV

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Thursday, Aug. 27	Holland HS	Reeths–Puffer High School	6:30PM
Wednesday, Sep. 02	Fremont	Fremont	6:30PM
Thursday, Sep. 10	Grand Haven	Reeths–Puffer High School	6:30PM
Thursday, Sep. 17	Lowell HS	Reeths–Puffer High School	6:30PM
Thursday, Sep. 24	G.R. Union	Houseman Field	6:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 01	Mona Shores	Reeths–Puffer High School	6:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 08	Muskegon	Reeths–Puffer High School	6:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 15	Kenowa Hills	Kenowa Hills	6:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 22	Zeeland East	Reeths–Puffer High School	6:30PM

Football – Freshman

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Thursday, Aug. 27	Holland High School	Reeths–Puffer High School	4:30PM
Wednesday, Sep. 02	Fremont	Fremont	4:30PM
Thursday, Sep. 10	Grand Haven	Reeths–Puffer High School	4:30PM
Thursday, Sep. 17	Lowell High School	Reeths–Puffer High School	4:30PM
Thursday, Sep. 24	G.R. Union	Houseman Field	4:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 01	Mona Shores	Reeths–Puffer High School	4:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 08	Muskegon	Reeths–Puffer High School	4:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 15	Kenowa Hills	Kenowa Hills	4:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 22	Zeeland East	Reeths–Puffer High School	4:30PM

Cross Country – Girls Varsity

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Monday, Aug. 24	Orchard View Invitational	Orchard View High School	4:00PM
Saturday, Aug. 29	Big Red Invite	Muskegon High School	TBA
		(Pending Contract)	

Thursday, Sep. 03	Fremont	Reeths–Puffer High School	6:30PM
Monday, Sep. 14	Tri w/Union and Mona Shores	Mona Shores High School	4:30PM
Friday, Sep. 18	MSU Cross Country Invitational	Forest Akers East & West Golf Courses	TBA

Cross Country – Girls Varsity (continued)

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Wednesday, Sep. 23	Kenowa Hills	Reeths–Puffer High School	4:00PM
Saturday, Sep. 26	Cougar–Falcon Invitational	Gainey Athletic Complex	TBA
Wednesday, Sep. 30	Muskegon	Muskegon	4:00PM
Saturday, Oct. 03	Allendale Invitational	Allendale Invitational	8:30AM
Tuesday, Oct. 06	Zeeland East	Reeths–Puffer High School	4:00PM
Friday, Oct. 16	GMAA Meet	University Park Golf Course	TBA
Wednesday, Oct. 21	Conference Meet	Mona Shores High School	4:30PM

Cross Country – Boys Varsity

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Monday, Aug. 24	Orchard View Invitational	Orchard View High School	5:00PM
Saturday, Aug. 29	Big Red Invite (Pending Contract)	Muskegon High School	TBA
Thursday, Sep. 03	Fremont	Reeths–Puffer High School	6:30PM
Monday, Sep. 14	Tri w/Union and Mona Shores	Mona Shores High School	4:30PM
Friday, Sep. 18	MSU Spartan Invitational	Forest Akers East & West Golf Courses	TBA
Wednesday, Sep. 23	Kenowa Hills	Reeths–Puffer High School	4:30PM
Saturday, Sep. 26	Cougar–Falcon Invite	Gainey Athletic Complex	TBA
Wednesday, Sep. 30	Muskegon	Muskegon High School	4:30PM
Saturday, Oct. 03	Allendale Invitational	Allendale Invitational	8:30AM
Tuesday, Oct. 06	Zeeland East	Reeths–Puffer High School	4:30PM
Friday, Oct. 16	GMAA Meet	University Park Golf Course	TBA
Wednesday, Oct. 21	Conference Meet	Mona Shores High School	4:30PM

Golf – Girls Varsity

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Friday, Aug. 21	Jenison Invitational (Pending Contract)	Jenison Invitational (Pending Contract)	TBA
Monday, Aug. 24	Rocket Invitational	Lincoln Golf Course	9:00AM
Tuesday, Aug. 25	Jamboree	Lincoln Golf Course	3:30PM
Thursday, Aug. 27	Mona Shores Invitational	Mona Shores Invitational	TBA
Wednesday, Sep. 02	Jamboree	Gracewil Golf Course	TBA
Wednesday, Sep. 09	Jamboree	Winding Creek Golf Club	3:45PM
Thursday, Sep. 10	Holt Invitational	Eldorado Golf Course	9:00AM

All dates are tentative and subject to change.

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And, think, your business or service could have been here!

To advertise AND help support The Rocket City News, please contact Mark Williamson at (231) 766-3038 or email mark@orshaldproductions.com

2015 FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

Golf – Girls Varsity (continued)

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Saturday, Sep. 12	Greenville Invitational	The Links at Bowen Lake	9:30AM
Tuesday, Sep. 15	North Muskegon	Lincoln Golf Course	3:30PM
Wednesday, Sep. 16	Jamboree	The Mines Golf Course	3:30PM
Wednesday, Sep. 23	GMAA–Western Michigan Christian	Stonegate Golf Club	TBA
Thursday, Sep. 24	Jamboree	Muskegon Country Club	3:30PM
Friday, Sep. 25	Ludington Invitational	Lincoln Hills Golf Club	9:30AM
Monday, Sep. 28	FHN–Ernie Popiel Invite	FHN–Ernie Popiel Invite	9:30AM
Tuesday, Sep. 29	Conference Tournament	The Meadows	9:00AM

Soccer – Boys Varsity

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Saturday, Aug. 22	Rocket Invitational	Reeths–Puffer High School	9:00AM
Wednesday, Aug. 26	Northview (pending contract)	Northview high School	6:30PM
Tuesday, Sep. 01	Spring Lake	Spring Lake High School	6:45PM
Thursday, Sep. 03	Grand Haven	Grand Haven High School	2:00PM
Saturday, Sep. 05	North Muskegon	Reeths–Puffer High School	2:00PM
Tuesday, Sep. 08	Jenison	Jenison High School	6:45PM
Tuesday, Sep. 15	G.R. Union	Reeths–Puffer High School	6:45PM
Thursday, Sep. 17	Mona Shores	Mona Shores High School	6:45PM
Tuesday, Sep. 22	Muskegon	Muskegon High School	6:45PM
Thursday, Sep. 24	Kenowa Hills	Reeths–Puffer High School	6:45PM
Saturday, Sep. 26	Western MI Christian HS	Reeths–Puffer High School	2:00PM
Tuesday, Sep. 29	Zeeland East	Zeeland East	6:45PM
Thursday, Oct. 01	G.R. Union	Union High School.	5:45PM
Saturday, Oct. 03	Fruitport High School	Reeths–Puffer High School	2:00PM
Tuesday, Oct. 06	Mona Shores	Reeths–Puffer High School	6:45PM
Thursday, Oct. 08	Muskegon	Reeths–Puffer High School	6:45PM
Tuesday, Oct. 13	Kenowa Hills	Kenowa Hills High School	6:45PM
Thursday, Oct. 15	Zeeland East	Reeths–Puffer High School	6:45PM

Soccer – Boys JV

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Saturday, Aug. 22	Rocket Invitational	Reeths–Puffer High School	9:00AM
Wednesday, Aug. 26	Northview	Reeths–Puffer High School	5:00PM
Tuesday, Sep. 01	Spring Lake	Spring Lake	5:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 03	Grand Haven	Grand Haven	12:00PM
Saturday, Sep. 05	North Muskegon	Reeths–Puffer High School	12:00PM
Tuesday, Sep. 08	Jenison	Jenison	5:00PM
Tuesday, Sep. 15	G.R. Union	Reeths–Puffer High School	5:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 17	Mona Shores	Mona Shores	5:00PM
Tuesday, Sep. 22	Muskegon	Muskegon High School	5:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 24	Kenowa Hills	Reeths–Puffer High School	5:00PM
Saturday, Sep. 26	Western MI Christian High School	Reeths–Puffer High School	12:00PM
Tuesday, Sep. 29	Zeeland East	Zeeland East	5:00PM
Thursday, Oct. 01	G.R. Union	G.R. Union	4:00PM
Saturday, Oct. 03	Fruitport High School	Reeths–Puffer High School	12:00PM
Tuesday, Oct. 06	Mona Shores	Reeths–Puffer High School	5:00PM
Thursday, Oct. 08	Muskegon	Reeths–Puffer High School	5:00PM

Soccer – Boys JV (continued)

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Tuesday, Oct. 13	Kenowa Hills	Kenowa Hills High School	5:00PM
Thursday, Oct. 15	Zeeland East	Reeths–Puffer High School	5:00PM

Swimming – Girls Varsity

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Saturday, Aug. 22	Coastal Conference Relays @	Coastal Conference Relays @	9:00AM
		Ludington	Ludington
Tuesday, Sep. 01	Mona Shores Double–Dual	Reeths–Puffer High School	6:00PM
Tuesday, Sep. 08	Unity Christian	Muskegon High School	6:00PM
Tuesday, Sep. 15	Jenison	Jenison	6:00PM
Saturday, Sep. 19	Spring Lake Invitational	Spring Lake Invitational	9:00AM
Tuesday, Sep. 22	Grand Rapids Christian	Muskegon High School	6:00PM
Saturday, Oct. 03	Ottawa Hills Invitational	Ottawa Hills Invitational	TBA
Tuesday, Oct. 06	East Grand Rapids High School	East Grand Rapids High School	6:00PM
Tuesday, Oct. 13	Northview	Reeths–Puffer High School	6:00PM
Tuesday, Oct. 20	Forest Hills Northern	Forest Hills Northern	6:00PM
Thursday, Oct. 22	Ludington Tri Meet	Ludington Tri Meet	6:00PM
Tuesday, Oct. 27	Forest Hills Central (Ludington Tri Meet)	Muskegon High School	6:00PM
Thursday, Nov. 05	Conference Diving Meet @ Northview	Conference Diving Meet @ Northview	TBA
Friday, Nov. 06	Conference Swim Prelims @ Northview	Conference Swim Prelims @ Northview	TBA
Saturday, Nov. 07	Conference Swim Finals @ Northview	Conference Swim Finals @ Northview	TBA
Thursday, Nov. 12	MHSAA Regional Diving	MHSAA Regional Diving	TBA
Friday, Nov. 20	MHSAA Finals	MHSAA Finals	TBA
Saturday, Nov. 21	MHSAA Finals	MHSAA Finals	TBA

Tennis – Boys Varsity

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Thursday, Aug. 20	Fruitport Invitational	Fruitport Invitational	9:00AM
Monday, Aug. 24	Dobber Wenger Caledonia Invite	Dobber Wenger Caledonia Invite	9:00AM
Wednesday, Aug. 26	Cats Dogs Invitational	Cats Dogs Invitational	8:00PM
Monday, Aug. 31	Zeeland West Invitational	Zeeland West	9:00AM
Tuesday, Sep. 01	Grand Haven	Grand Haven High School	10:00AM
Thursday, Sep. 03	Rocket Invite	Reeths–Puffer High School	9:00AM
Wednesday, Sep. 09	Mona Shores	Mona Shores High School	4:30PM
Saturday, Sep. 12	West Ottawa	West Ottawa	9:00AM
Thursday, Sep. 17	Northview	Reeths–Puffer High School	4:30PM
Monday, Sep. 21	Jenison	Jenison High School	4:00PM
Wednesday, Sep. 23	Zeeland East	Reeths–Puffer High School	4:30PM
Saturday, Sep. 26	GMAA	Mona Shores High School	TBA
Monday, Sep. 28	Kenowa Hills	Kenowa Hills High School	4:30PM
Wednesday, Sep. 30	G.R. Union	Reeths–Puffer High School	4:30PM
Saturday, Oct. 03	Conference Tournament	Union High School	4:30PM

Tennis – Boys JV

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Wednesday, Sep. 09	Mona Shores	Mona Shores	4:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 17	Northview (pending contract)	Northview High School	4:30PM
Wednesday, Sep. 23	Zeeland East	Reeths–Puffer High School	4:00PM

All dates are tentative and subject to change.

2015 FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

Tennis – Boys JV (continued)

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Monday, Sep. 28	Kenowa Hills	Kenowa Hills	4:00PM
Wednesday, Sep. 30	G.R. Union	Reeths-Puffer High School	4:00PM

Volleyball – Girls Varsity

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Saturday, Aug. 22	Rocket Invitational	Reeths-Puffer High School	9:00AM
Tuesday, Aug. 25	East Kentwood Invitational	East Kentwood	12:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 03	Montague (Scrimmage)	Reeths-Puffer High School	9:00AM
Wednesday, Sep. 09	Grand Haven Quad	Grand Haven High School	5:00PM
Saturday, Sep. 12	Grandville Invitational	Grandville High School	8:30AM
Tuesday, Sep. 15	Mona Shores	Reeths-Puffer High School	6:30PM
Thursday, Sep. 17	Cedar Springs Quad	Cedar Springs Quad	TBA
Saturday, Sep. 19	Caledonia Invitational	Caledonia	TBA
Thursday, Sep. 24	Muskegon	Reeths-Puffer High School	6:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 01	G.R. Union	Union High School	6:30PM
Saturday, Oct. 03	Spring Lake Invitational	Spring Lake High School	8:30AM
Tuesday, Oct. 06	Kenowa Hills	Kenowa Hills High School	6:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 08	Zeeland East	Reeths-Puffer High School	6:30PM
Saturday, Oct. 10	8th Grade Volleyball Invite	Reeths-Puffer High School	TBA
Tuesday, Oct. 13	Mona Shores	Mona Shores High School	6:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 15	Muskegon	Muskegon High School	6:30PM
Saturday, Oct. 17	GMAA Tournament	Muskegon High School	9:00AM
Thursday, Oct. 22	G.R. Union	Reeths-Puffer High School	6:30PM
Tuesday, Oct. 27	Kenowa Hills	Reeths-Puffer High School	6:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 29	Zeeland East	Zeeland East	6:30PM

Volleyball – Girls JV

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Wednesday, Aug. 26	Northview Quad	Northview High School	5:00PM
Monday, Aug. 31	Quad	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 03	Fremont	Reeths-Puffer High School	12:00PM
Saturday, Sep. 12	Rocket Invitational	Reeths-Puffer High School	9:00AM
Tuesday, Sep. 15	Mona Shores	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:30PM
Saturday, Sep. 19	Spring Lake Invitational	Spring Lake High School	8:30AM
Thursday, Sep. 24	Muskegon	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:30PM
Saturday, Sep. 26	Mona Shores Invitational	Mona Shores High School	8:30AM
Monday, Sep. 28	Grand Haven Quad	Grand Haven High School	5:00PM
Thursday, Oct. 01	G.R. Union	G.R. Union	5:30PM
Tuesday, Oct. 06	Kenowa Hills	Kenowa Hills	5:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 08	Zeeland East	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:30PM
Saturday, Oct. 10	Ravenna Invitational	Ravenna High School	9:00AM
Tuesday, Oct. 13	Mona Shores	Mona Shores High School	5:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 15	Muskegon	Muskegon	5:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 22	G.R. Union	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:30PM
Tuesday, Oct. 27	Kenowa Hills	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 29	Zeeland East	Zeeland East	5:30PM

Volleyball – Freshman

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Thursday, Aug. 27	Fruitport Invite	Fruitport High School	9:00AM
Saturday, Aug. 29	Rocket Invitational	Reeths-Puffer High School	9:00AM
Monday, Aug. 31	Quad East	Grand Rapids High School	5:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 03	Fremont	Reeths-Puffer High School	12:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 10	Northview Quad	Northview High School	4:00PM
Tuesday, Sep. 15	Mona Shores	Reeths-Puffer High School	6:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 24	Muskegon	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:30PM
Saturday, Sep. 26	Mona Shores Invitational	Mona Shores High School	8:30AM
Monday, Sep. 28	West Ottawa Quad	West Ottawa High School	5:00PM
Thursday, Oct. 01	G.R. Union	G.R. Union	5:30PM
Saturday, Oct. 03	Grand Haven Invitational	Grand Haven High School	8:30AM
Tuesday, Oct. 06	Kenowa Hills	Kenowa Hills	5:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 08	Zeeland East	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:30PM
Tuesday, Oct. 13	Mona Shores	Mona Shores High School	5:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 15	Muskegon	Muskegon	5:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 22	G.R. Union	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:30PM
Tuesday, Oct. 27	Kenowa Hills	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 29	Zeeland East	Zeeland East	5:30PM

* All dates and times are subject to change.

SUPPORT YOUR HOMETOWN TEAM!



Reeths-Puffer Flag Football

All Students K-6 (Co-Ed) Welcome Everyone Plays Every Position

The focus of this league is to get kids exposed to football, with the emphasis on throwing and catching a football, along with teamwork.

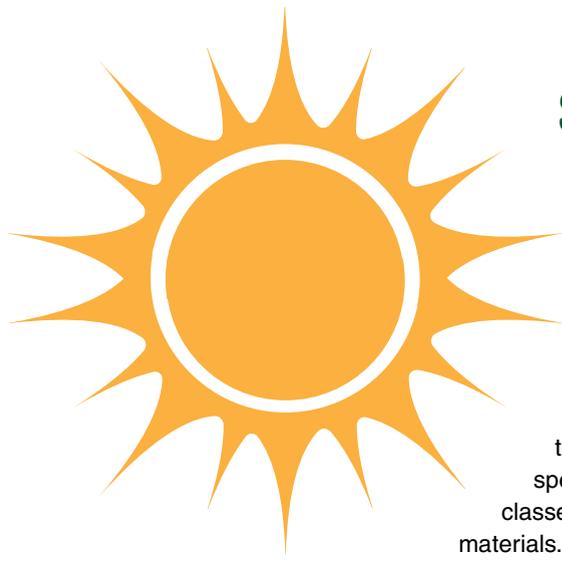
**Season will begin the week of September 7,
with the first game on September 16.**

Equipment needed: Mouth Guard / Athletic Clothing / Cleats
Sign-Up In Person: August 15 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the high school, or on-line at the athletic website, www.reeths-puffer.org
\$50.00 Registration Includes an NFL Jersey

Questions / Concerns / Coaching Opportunities
Nick Kunnen (kunnenn@reeths-puffer.org)
or Todd Farmer (farmert@reeths-puffer.org)



Terri Portice
Director of Teaching
and Learning



Summer Learning Institute for Teachers and Administrators

Students, do you ever wonder what your teachers do in the summer? Before school ends in June, teachers and administrators begin the process of signing up for classes they will take during the summer months, as well as set up times to work on special projects with other teachers. Most teachers spend many days and weeks during the summer months taking classes and working with other teachers making new curriculum materials.

Why do teachers do this? Each summer, teachers come to work on special projects to be ready for students in the fall. Teachers want to keep learning so they can keep challenging students with new learning opportunities. Teachers also spend time throughout the summer working with students as part of our summer opportunities for students. Teachers do this to help students, of all levels, achieve more.

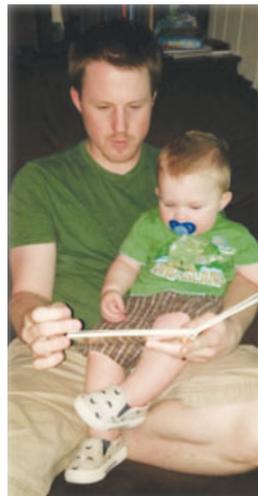
Rocket Three! For R-P Teachers! We are very lucky to have such hard-working, dedicated teachers that are willing to give of their time to keep learning and to work on making learning the best it can be for the students of Reeths-Puffer. The administration would like to take the time to recognize the teaching staff in Rocket City for their hard work and eagerness to continue learning themselves in order to provide the best education possible for Rocket City students and the community as a whole.



Second Annual Ultimate Read 23 Summer Reading Challenge Comes to a Close

Students who completed the Ultimate Read 23 Summer Reading Challenge need to submit their completed calendars and the challenge

form, signed by a parent or guardian, anytime between September 7 and September 11. All Forms are due by Friday, September 11 at 5:00 p.m. The completed and signed forms may be dropped off to either the District office at 991 W. Giles Road (mail or drop off) or to their school building office the first week of school. A winner from each level will be drawn for the Kindle Fire Tablet on Monday, September 14, and will be announced at each building and on the District website on Tuesday, September 15. Good luck to all readers!!



Second Annual Rockets Lift Off to Summer Adventures

In the May edition of Rocket City News, all Reeths-Puffer students and families were invited to share their summer travels with the community. If you haven't already sent your postcards in, please make sure to do so today. Make sure to include the following information on your post card.

- Student name(s)
- Date
- Vacation location
- A short highlight of a favorite travel activity related to the post card

Send postcards addressed to Reeths-Puffer Schools, 991 W. Giles Road, Muskegon, MI 49445. All post cards will be displayed on wall maps (Michigan, United States, or a World Map) in the District office. Please feel free to stop by the office to see where our Rocket Families have traveled this summer.



High School State Assessment is changing from ACT to SAT

In 2007, the State of Michigan began administering the ACT test as part of its spring assessment for all high school juniors. Last spring, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) announced that it will transition to using the redesigned SAT assessment as part of the Michigan Merit Examination (MME). The state will also use the PSAT 8/9 for all ninth-grade students and the PSAT 10 for all tenth-grade students as part of the required spring state assessment.

There are many positive points about moving to the newly redesigned SAT assessment. The SAT has been redesigned to promote focus, relevance, and transparency. The tests reflect what students are already learning in their classrooms in math, English language arts, science, history, and social studies. Finally, SAT has partnered with Khan Academy for free practice assessments and personalized learning plans that can help students, both in and out of school, get support in areas where additional learning needs to occur. This will help all students be ready for the next level of learning, as well as be college and career ready.

As part of the first year transition, we will be giving the PSAT (Pre-SAT)/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) to all juniors in October. This will allow students to have an opportunity to practice the format of the assessment, gain a score, and be able to work on their personal learning plans to help them be better prepared for the required SAT spring assessment. The fall test will also open up opportunities for juniors to be eligible for National Merit Scholarships, based on a student's score.

For additional information see the following sites:

- Reeths-Puffer Schools – District Page – Curriculum Department – SAT
- Michigan and the SAT - <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/state-partnerships/michigan>
- Khan Academy - <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

What Content and Skills Will My Child Be Learning This Year?



This past year, our staff and I have been attending workshops that are helping us to gain a better understanding of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), what our students will need to know to prepare for the 21st century. Below are the Standards for 3rd Grade Math. The greatest message has been deeper experiences, not more. Children need to be able to develop their own thinking, not be told how to think. We need your help. Please become familiar with what your child needs to know and help develop these things at home.

—Terri Portice, Director of Teaching and Learning
portice@reeths-puffer.org

For more information: <http://www.reeths-puffer.org/curriculum/curriculum/curriculum/3rd-grade-parents>

3rd Grade Math Standards:

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Represent and solve problems involving multiplication (finding the unknown product) and division (finding the unknown factor)
- Understand multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division
- Multiply and divide within 100
- Solve problems involving the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division)

Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to solve multi-digit problems

Number and Operations - Fractions

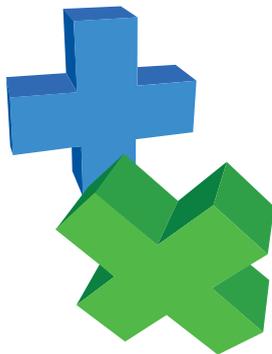
- Develop understanding of fractions as numbers (Parts of a whole, and size of fraction is relative to the whole)

Measurement and Data

- Solve problems involving measurement and estimation (time, liquid volumes, and masses of objects)
- Represent and interpret data
- Understand the concepts of area and perimeter

As a parent, we sometimes feel unprepared as to the grade level learning expectations for our child. To help parents feel better prepared for conversations with their child, I invite parents to review the grade level brochures found on the Reeths-Puffer website.

1. Log onto the website (www.reeths-puffer.org)
2. Go to the "Our District" tab
3. Select the link for "Departments"
4. Select the "Curriculum" tab
5. Select the "Curriculum Corner for Parents" link
6. Finally, under the heading Math and ELA Curriculum Brochures, select the brochure that matches your child's grade level. These brochures are meant to give you a better idea of the content your child will be learning this year in school



As always, if you have questions, please feel free to call your child's school or Terri Portice, Director of Teaching and Learning for Reeths-Puffer Schools. We look forward to an outstanding year!

The Food Service Department welcomes students back for another great school year! Menus for each building can be found on the school website at www.reeths-puffer.org. Free/reduced school meal applications can be completed online through the school website under the tab "Internet Meal Manager" or at www.lunchapp.com. Paper applications will be available in all school offices. Free/reduced meal applications must be renewed every year.



Your food service staff will continue to provide healthy meals with more whole grains, fruits, vegetables and low-fat/fat free dairy products. Vegetables are broken down into sub groups (dark green, red/orange, bean/legumes, starch and other) which must be offered weekly. Students are required to take either a serving of fruit or a serving of vegetable. All a la carte items sold to students during the school day must meet the USDA's criteria for Smart Snacks.

Please call the food service office at 744-1647, extension 3715 if you have any questions regarding school meals and free/reduced applications.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Connie Falbe

Food Service Supervisor
falbec@reeths-puffer.org

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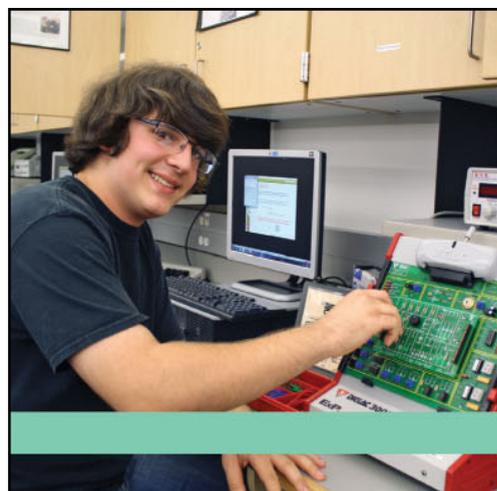
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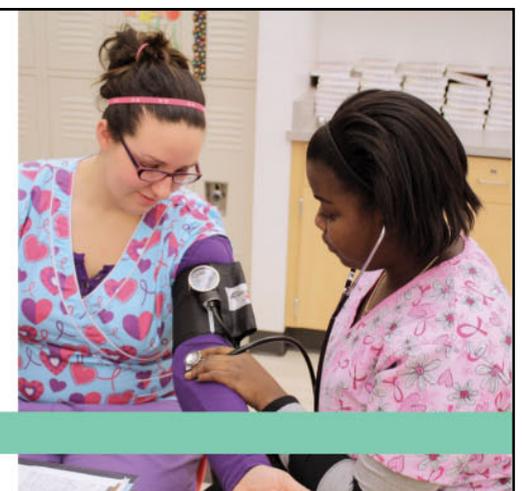
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REETHS-PUFFER SCHOOLS

2015-16 FINE ARTS CALENDAR



* Dates and times could change.
Events held in the Rocket Centre
unless indicated otherwise.

October 30	HS Choir, Boar's Head, 6:00 p.m.
October 31	HS Choir, Boar's Head, 2:00 and 6:00 p.m.
November 7	MCBA Band State Championships at Ford Field
November 10	Marching Band Stadium Echoes Concert, 7:00 p.m., Arena
November 12	Fall Play, 7:00 p.m.
November 13	Fall Play, 7:00 p.m.
November 14	Fall Play, 7:00 p.m.
November 16	5th Grade Fall Concert, 7:00 p.m., RPI Gym
November 20	Theater/Choir Blast-Off
November 21	Theater/Choir Blast-Off
December 2	Children's Theater, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
December 3	Children's Theater, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
December 4	Children's Theater, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
December 8	RPHS Band Holiday Concert, 7:00 p.m.
December 9	RPMS Band Holiday Concert, 7:00 p.m.
December 10	RPMS Choirs Christmas Concert, 7:00 p.m.
December 16	HS Choir Candlelight Carols, 7:00 p.m.
January 14	Winter Eve of Theatre, 7:00 p.m.
February 3	Collage Concert, 7:00 p.m.
February 11	RPHS Talent Show, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
February 18	MS Band Festival Concert, 7:00 p.m.
February 23	HS Band Festival Concert, 7:00 p.m.
March 10	RPHS Musical, 7:00 p.m.
March 11	RPHS Musical, 7:00 p.m.
March 12	RPHS Musical, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
March 20	Band-R-Rama, 2:30 p.m., Arena
March 22	Festival of Choirs, 7:00 p.m.
April 15	6th Grade Band School Tour
April 20	Children's Theater, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
April 21	Children's Theater, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
April 22	Children's Theater, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
April 24	RPHS Band Spring Concert, 2:30 p.m.
May 4	RPMS Band Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.
May 19	HS Choir POPS, 7:00 p.m.
May 20	HS Choir POPS, 7:00 p.m.
May 24	Spring Evening of Theater, 7:00 p.m.
May 25	RPI Band Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.
May 26	Relay for Life Mock Rock, 7:00 p.m.
May 27	Jazz Band Steak Fry, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., RPI Café

Meet Mrs. Anderson

I am thrilled to be joining the team at Reeths-Puffer Middle School. I look forward to assisting both staff and students in the mission of *Reaching Higher!*

I am transitioning to the middle school from Reeths-Puffer High School where I served as the Assistant Principal for the last three years and as a Math Teacher for the previous ten years. Prior to Reeths-Puffer, I began my career at Valleywood Middle School, in Kentwood Public Schools, teaching 7th grade Math and Health. It was during this time, I learned that I love the energy that middle level learners bring with them. One of the many indicators of a successful middle school experience is a smooth academic and social transition to high school. I look forward to bringing my experiences to the middle school in order to build the strongest, widest, and most trusted bridge to the next level.

In addition to my role as an educator, I am the mom to two Rockets; Connor (2nd grade) and Ashlynn (5th grade). Yes, whether I am ready or not, I will have my own student starting at the middle school in two years. Looking through the lens of parents, my husband and I are always appreciative of how the Rocket City community rallies to address the academic, social, and emotional needs of our children in purposeful, meaningful, and innovative ways. Being a Rocket is part of what defines each member of my family and I am grateful that I get to serve other families in my very own community as the Middle School Principal.

I look forward to getting to know the students and families at Reeths-Puffer Middle School. I hope to see you at registration. Please feel free to contact me any time at andersonj@reeths-puffer.org.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Anderson

Middle School Principal



Welcome Back to Middle School!

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the wonderful experiences that summer in Michigan has to offer. Staff is looking forward to the sights and sounds of students in the building again and have been busy this summer preparing for all of the opportunities that will help make 7th and 8th grade a successful launching pad to the high school.

To assist in the start of a great year together, below are some important events to place on your calendar:

OPEN HOUSE

The open house is about making connections. A chance for teachers to connect with parents, students to connect with teachers, and students to connect with parents as they share an inside view of their daily schedule.

Open House is scheduled for **September 14th** from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m. – Welcome and Introduction in Cafeteria.

6:50 p.m. – Lockers and Q & A in Main Commons.

6:56 p.m. – ‘Warning bell!’

7:00 p.m. – Bell Schedule begins for hours 1-6 for parents to meet your students’ teachers.

8:00 p.m. – Bell Schedule ends.

REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULE PICK UP INFORMATION

Once again, you can begin registering your student on-line in August! The middle school will have workstations available for parents to access the on-line registration process.

Once complete, you can print your confirmation at school or at home and speed through the schedule pick-up, student ID and school photo process. You can access the on-line registration site at www.reeths-puffer.info

Schedule Pick-up and Registration at the middle school:

- **August 26th** – 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- **August 27th** – 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Middle School Band Travels to Disney

The R-P Middle School Band returned from an exciting five-day trip to Orlando, Florida as part of a Walt Disney World's Youth Program! This special trip, took two years of planning and fundraising, and was a first for Reeths-Puffer Schools. Sixty-three band members and 26 parent chaperones participated. Disney's program was created to inspire young people to step out of their everyday world and into an imaginative environment designed to educate while immersing students in a learning laboratory of innovation and creativity. Our R-P band had a professional staff guide them through a performance class to help fine-tune techniques and acquire new skills. Also, in the Youth Program's Workshop, the band made a professional soundtrack recording to a Disney animated movie!

R-P students had a full schedule in many of the Disney Parks: EPCOT, Animal Kingdom, Magic Kingdom and Hollywood Studios. On the final day, the band performed a public concert in Downtown Disney on the Waterfront Stage with student soloist,

Evan Hodson (8th grade) performing “Flight of the Bumblebee” on marimba.

Mr. Erne plans one trip each year for the middle school band students. The middle school band has marched on the Midway at Cedar Point's Amusement Park, participated in educational clinics in Chicago, performed for Veterans in Washington D.C., and plans to return to Chicago in 2016 and Disney World in 2017.

Mr. Erne's most memorable moment on the Disney trip was returning to Space Mountain and screaming during the whole ride like a little boy! He is truly proud of his students and their constant striving for excellence.

Top Photo: 8th grade MS Band Students: Jayde Potter, Hailey Coles, McKenna Bayne, Jon Krause, Makaila Rawls and Aaron Boonstra

Bottom Photo: MS Band Concert – Downtown Disney



Greetings from the High School!

The 2015-16 school year looks to be a great year for learning, relationship building and memory-making for all high school students! Students can expect to build their skills in critical thinking, as well as becoming highly literate readers and writers. I hope that all students will find value in joining a school sponsored organization, sports team or club over the course of the 2015-16 school year to form lasting relationships and memories with peers, coaches and advisors. RPHS is a great place to learn, contribute and compete and there's nothing like being a Rocket!

Dates that are important for students to be aware of:

Senior Registration Date: Thursday, August 27

(8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

Junior Registration Date: Friday, August 28

(8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)

Sophomore Registration Date: Friday, August 28

(12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

Freshmen Registration Date: Monday, August 31

(8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

First Day of School: Tuesday, September 8

Open House: Thursday, September 10, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Homecoming: Friday, September 25

End of 1st Marking Period: Friday, November 6

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Wednesday & Thursday, November 11 and 12

Start of 2nd Marking Period: Monday, November 9

Christmas Dance: Saturday, December 12,

Christmas Break: Monday, Dec. 21 – Sunday, January 3

1st Semester Exams: Wednesday – Friday, January 20 – 22

End of 1st Semester: Friday, January 22

Start of 2nd Semester: Monday, January 25

Mid-Winter Break: Friday, February 12 and Monday, February 15

9th Grade Orientation: Wednesday, March 16, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

End of 3rd Marking Period: Friday, March 18

Start of 4th Marking Period: Monday, February 21

Parent/Teacher Conference: Wednesday, March 23

Spring Break: Friday, April 1 – Sunday, April 10

Pride Day: Thursday, May 26

Senior Last Day: Friday, May 27

Baccalaureate: Sunday, June 5

Senior Awards Assembly: Monday, June 6

Underclass Exams: Tuesday – Thursday, June 7 – 9

Graduation: Tuesday, June 7

Underclass Last Day: Thursday, June 9

Staff looks forward to seeing students back in the classroom.

Get ready for a great year!

Dan Beckman

High School Principal

New High School Assistant Principal



RPHS is proud to announce the addition of Mr. Todd Conrad to the high school administrative staff. Mr. Conrad was the committee's top choice of over one hundred applicants for the position of high school assistant principal and he's excited to be a part of Rocket City.

Mr. Conrad came to R-P via Mona Shores where he was a lead instructor in English. His experience in both the classroom and athletics will provide great leadership opportunities for him in his new role as

Assistant Principal. Mr. Conrad with his wife Shannon, have three children; Brayton, Cullen and Molly. Mr. Conrad is a graduate of both Central Michigan University (BA in English) and Western Michigan University (MA in Educational Leadership). He will be a strong advocate for our students and staff and a positive influence in our community.

Middle School Athletic Fall Season

Cross Country

First official practice is **August 31 at RPMS at 2:50 p.m.** under the Green RPYS building. Check our blog for workouts and updates - <http://rpmscc.blogspot.com/>

Football

First official practice is **August 24, 2015**

8th grade head coach: Coach Tescari - tescarim@reeths-puffer.org

7th grade head coach: Coach Shunta - gshunta@gmail.com

Volleyball

Tryouts are **Tuesday, August 25 and Wednesday, August 26, 2015, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** at the middle school

8th grade coach: Coach Ames - rondanames@frontier.com

7th grade coach: Coach Stingle - stinglet@reeths-puffer.org

Sideline Cheer

Team has been selected

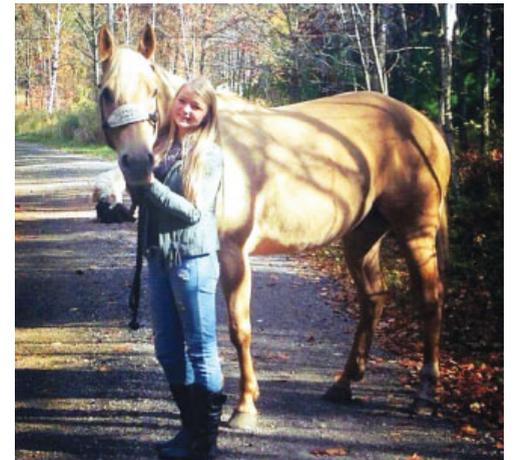
All students trying out must have a current (after April 15) physical on file in the office.



Students Qualify for National High School Rodeo Association Competition

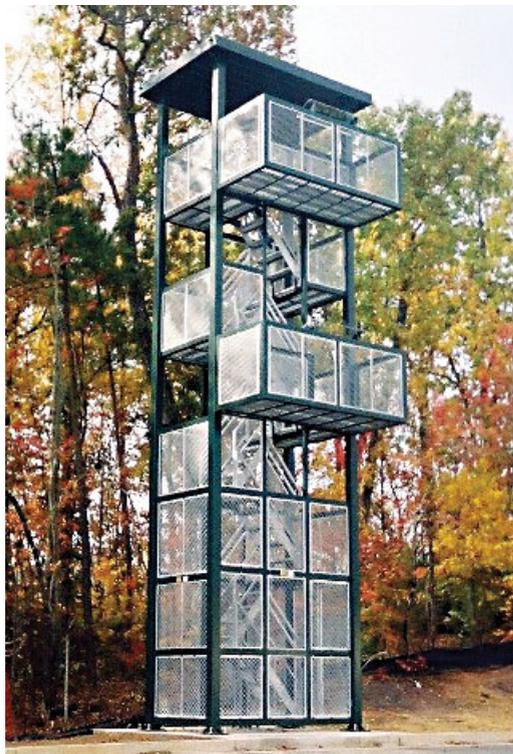
Senior Kevin Fairris, finished second in the bull riding competition at the Michigan High School Rodeo Association, qualifying him to compete in the National High School Rodeo Association in Rock Springs, Wyoming this July.

Karleigh Vande Guchte, Sophomore, qualified for the National High School Rodeo Association National Finals in the light rifle shooting competition. After a serious horse-riding accident that ended her dreams of competing in any horse-riding competition,



Karleigh worked hard and qualified for light rifle shooting competition. She competed in Rock Springs, Wyoming in July.

During the writing of this article, competition hasn't yet taken place. Best wishes to Kevin and Karleigh at the National High School Rodeo Association competitions!



Reeths-Puffer Band Parents to fund NEW BAND TOWER!

The band staff at Reeths-Puffer High School will have a new perspective on marching band rehearsal this fall after a new, permanent, band tower is installed in early September. The new tower will be 27 feet tall, painted Rocket Green, and will have observation decks at 24 and 16 feet above ground level. Safety features of the tower will include an enclosed stairway, a lockable entry gate and galvanized steel mesh that encases the tower to a height of 12 feet.

After encountering a few problems last fall with the old rehearsal scaffolding, the R-P Band Parents, school administration, and the band directors worked together to find something better. The goal was to find a permanent and safe structure that provided good access to a vantage point for rehearsal. After much study and review of many products and vendors, there was strong consensus that this new tower was the solution.

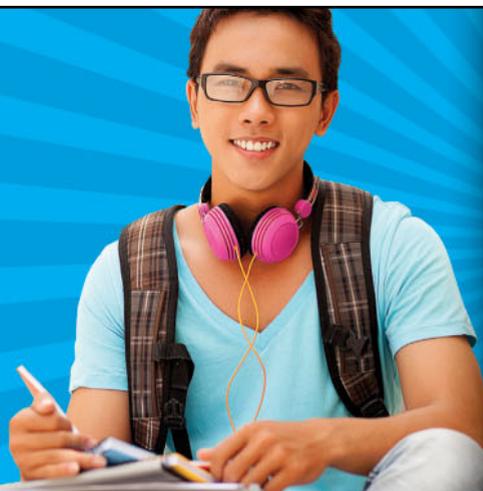
The R-P Band Parents will fully fund the new band tower and are very proud to be able to add this beautiful new structure to the RPHS Campus!

The new band tower on the RPHS Campus will be similar to this tower (minus the roof). Directors Hodson and Olian shouldn't have any problem seeing everything on that field!

Register now!

Classes start August 24.

www.muskegoncc.edu/apply




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youngj@reeths-puffer.org

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McMillan Early Childhood Center Open House

Please join us for an open house at the new

McMillan Early Childhood Center

September 1, 2015

5:00-7:00 PM

Public Welcome

REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

Educational Services Building, 991 W. Giles Road, 5:30 p.m.

REGULAR MEETINGS:

August 17, 2015	February 22, 2016
September 21, 2015	March 21, 2016
October 19, 2015	April 18, 2016
November 16, 2015	May 23, 2016
December 14, 2015	June 20, 2016
January 11, 2016	

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