

# ROCKET CITY NEWS

## Building On Our Strengths

### The five pillars that are guiding our progress



Dear Rocket City Community,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year. I am eager to report to you the many ways the Reeths-Puffer strategic plan is being put into action across the District. I am inspired by the progress already made and the impact the plan continues to have on our school and community. The plan provides the overarching goals, but the impetus for transformation is arising from throughout this great community. The plan contains five "pillars," or areas of focus, that build on Reeths-Puffer's strengths and

works to concentrate resources on the key issues for the District. The report included in this edition of Rocket City News highlights initiatives underway in each of those five pillars. Although not intended to be comprehensive, the list is wide ranging, demonstrating that significant efforts are already transforming the District in many areas.

I am proud of our progress, and as Robert Frost once said while reflecting on his journey in the poem Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening: "But I have promises to keep, / And miles to go before I sleep, / And miles to go before I sleep."

Reeths-Puffer has come a long way, and we have miles to go before we sleep! I look forward to walking those miles together.

Here's to a fantastic 2016-2017 school year.  
Go Rockets!

Sincerely,

*Steven L Edwards*

Steve Edwards, Superintendent of Schools

### Division 1 State Finals - R-P takes 5th place

On June 4, Jordan Cooley, Parker Aerts, Mike Weissert, Armund Gordon and Nate McCrary competed in the Division 1 Track and Field State Finals. These five young men competed in six different events and represented R-P with pride and class. In the process they broke two school records. The 4 x 100 meter relay team - Parker Aerts, Armund Gordon, Jordan Cooley, and Nate McCrary finished with a time of 43.09, a new school record. This team broke the record three times this season. The 4 x 200 team of Nate McCrary, Parker Aerts, Mike Weissert, and Armund Gordon turned in a time of 1 minute 28.56 seconds for a new school record! This performance earned those four All-State honors with their 5th place finish. This team also broke the oldest Muskegon area record dating back to 1962!



School Record 4 x 100 team.  
Jordan Cooley, Nate McCrary,  
Parker Aerts, Armund Gordon



Congratulations to Maryssa Depies for earning all state honors by placing 2nd in the state meet Saturday, June 4 in the 3200m run. She broke her own school record and the all-time Greater Muskegon area record with a time of 10:36.57. She was .72 away from being state champ. Great job Maryssa!

# Engaging Families Launch into Early Literacy at Workshop Series Developed by Literacy Experts!



Parents practiced fun ways to build relationships around literacy activities in the home.

This fall, a four-session workshop will teach R-P preschool and kindergarten families how to support their children's literacy by including it in everyday life. Each session includes a copy of a book and materials to take home and use with your child. A light dinner is included.

2016-2017 fall dates are: Tuesdays, September 20, 27, October 4 and 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. To register, please call Nancy Goudzwaard at (231) 744-4777, extension 2031, or email [goudzwan@reeths-puffer.org](mailto:goudzwan@reeths-puffer.org). All sessions are held in the RPEL cafeteria.

These workshops are made possible with a generous grant from the Edith B. Ebrecht Literacy Foundation, and through the support of the Michigan Reading Association, and Western Dunes Reading Council.



Last year, parents and grandparents attended this workshop and learned fun and creative ways to engage their children in literacy.



Kindergarten and Title I teachers were on hand to coach and interact with the families.

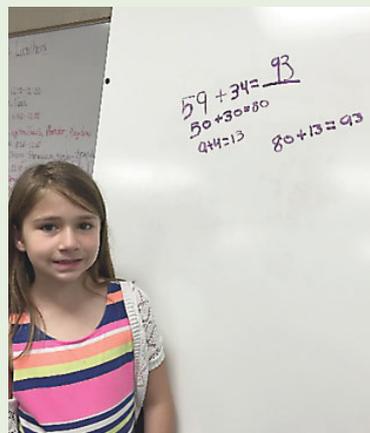
## CELEBRATORY MATH PERFORMANCES



First grade students Olivia and Zoey, at Central Elementary, demonstrate their knowledge on how to make a ten. They used the 10-bead rack as they played the game Terrific Ten Snake. Using the bead rack as a visual, students do not need to count by ones on their fingers to solve  $4 + \underline{\quad} = 10$ .

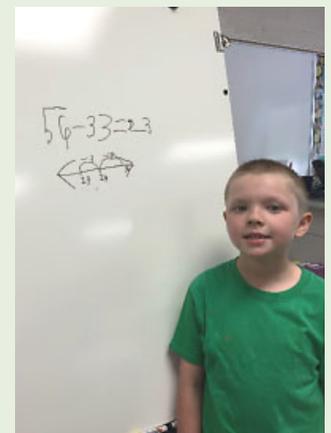
First and second grade students involved in the Title I Math Program at both Central and Twin Lake Elementary celebrated their hard work at the end of the year. The students met every day throughout the year for 20-25 minutes to strengthen their math skills and learn from one another in small groups. Some of the concepts covered included: knowing combinations of five and ten, strategies to add and subtract single digit numbers quickly and mentally, and strategies to add and subtract 2-digit numbers quickly and mentally.

On Thursday, May 24, and Friday, May 25, parents and grandparents joined their students for a glimpse of the math skills/strategies they had been working on throughout the year. After the students performed for the audience, juice and donuts were enjoyed as the students took questions.



Twin Lake Elementary second grader Sierra Wright explains how she solved her 2-digit addition problem mentally by splitting the two numbers into tens and ones. She then used equations to record her thinking.  
 $50 + 30 = 80$ ;  $9 + 4 = 13$ ;  $80 + 13 = 93$

Second grade student Ethan, from Twin Lake Elementary, explained how to solve this 2-digit subtraction problem mentally. He then recorded his thinking using an open number line. By splitting the 33 into its tens and ones, Ethan was able to solve the problem.  
 $56 - 30 = 26$ ;  $26 - 3 = 23$



## 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 their success in future years to come. As we gear up for the coming year, here are some important dates to take note of:



Tuesday, August 16	Office Staff Return
Monday, August 22	Welcome Back Letter and Student Placement Sent Out
Monday, August 29	Kindergarten Parent Orientation, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, August 30	Open House (K-4th), 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 6	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

## A Visit from an Air Force Lieutenant



Last November, Miss Nauta's second graders had the privilege of writing Thanksgiving letters to 1st Lieutenant Corey while he was deployed to Qatar. Corey is a 2005 R-P graduate and is currently serving in the United States Air Force. In February, during his visit home, students were honored to have him visit their classroom. Students were able to ask many questions and thank him in person for serving our country.

## Hands on Learning



On June 2nd, Central Elementary second graders experienced nature first hand. They had a fun filled day of learning outside at the Betsy Cutler House in Muskegon. While at the Betsy Cutler House, students had the opportunity to explore different native habitats and learn about the different plants and animals that inhabit the area. Students also had the opportunity to explore a pond area where they were able to catch different insects and animals that live in the pond, including tadpoles.



Above: Students look for various living organisms in the pond.

Left: Students are ready to collect their insects.

Below: Cohen Beck and Michael Moschke note their observations.



## ROCKET CITY NEWS

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## 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.

# 100 Mile Club

Staff at Central Elementary were excited to start a new fitness activity this year - the 100 Mile Club! Over 190 Central students participated and were encouraged to walk during recess time. Their goal was to log 100 miles by the end of the school year. As an added incentive, special 100 Mile Club recess periods were included throughout the year, complete with hot chocolate during the cold winter months! In total, students walked 5,532 miles. That is the same distance as walking to Disneyland in California and back home again! The top walker for Central Elementary was second grader Kate Bullion, with over 100 miles. Congratulations to Kate and all students and staff for taking the steps to a healthy future.



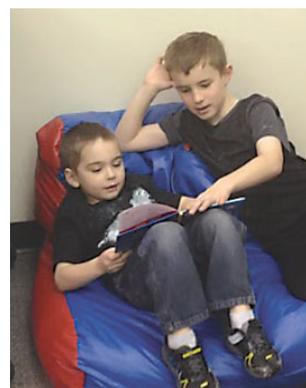
Pictured above: Kate Bullion was Central's top walker, walking over 100 miles during the 2015-16 school year.

# Central Students Love to Read!

Students in Mrs. Warren's 4th grade class beat the heat and enjoyed reading in Central's beautiful library. Students worked diligently all year with reading in "just right books" and recording their minutes read in reading logs. Hard work paid off as all students, in all classrooms, made tremendous growth in their SRI scores. Great job, readers!!!



To practice fluency and comprehension skills, Mrs. Warren's students read with kindergarten students from Mrs. Farmer's class. The two classrooms came together monthly to spend time learning together. What a great experience for both the coaches and readers!



Above: Larson, Gage and Caiden get comfortable to read.

Left: Carson helps Isaiah with his fluency.

# Central Gardeners



Students in Mrs. Tindall's, Mrs. Wahr's and Miss Nauta's classrooms took what they had been learning in the classroom to start their very own garden at Central Elementary! Students worked to prepare, plant and maintain their garden. With the help of many hands and determination, students were able to successfully plant tomatoes, carrots, onions and green beans. Students cannot wait to start collecting the veggies!

Above: Students get their hands and feet dirty planting their garden.

Right: Miss Nauta reviews the root system of tomato plants.





## Laketon Bethel Church

Laketon Bethel is a safe and accepting place to explore your relationship with Jesus.

Families will appreciate engaging worship services with a safe, loving nursery provided.

*Two types of Service every Sunday Morning*

9:00 am — Classic Service

11:00 am — Alternative Service



Our Youth Ministry, LBRC Kids, offers activities for all ages Preschool through Senior High

1568 W. Giles Rd., Muskegon, MI 49445

[www.laketonbethel.org](http://www.laketonbethel.org)

(231) 744-1749 [lbrcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lbrcoffice@gmail.com)

## Welcome back students and families!

Once summer started and I was able to digest the incredible year WE had at Reeths-Puffer Elementary School, my focus slowly started to look at the unlimited possibilities that lie ahead. The upcoming year is full of opportunities for us to change the world! I encourage you to look at the opportunities ahead as a gift. Look for opportunities to engage with your school.



As we start the transition from summer fun and relaxation to the fast paced scheduled days of school, please savor the rest of your summer and make the best of your remaining days.

Reeths-Puffer Elementary School accomplished many initiatives last year that we can be proud of. We will continue to be a leader in Rocket City. The amount of focused teaching and learning along with our "other" initiatives that support our goals, make our school a great place for students and families. I look forward to the challenges ahead. It is fun to be involved with a dedicated staff that is continuously looking for learning opportunities for students. We love working with our students and families. Thank you for sharing your children with us.

Our building and grounds look great and are ready for students. The school office will open on Tuesday, August 16.

### Student Orientation Nights:

**Monday, August 29th** – Third and Fourth Grade from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Our program will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

**Monday, August 29th** – Kindergarten Parents Only Orientation from 6:00-7:00 p.m. report to your child's classroom.

**Tuesday, August 30th** – First and Second Grade from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Our program will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

**Tuesday, August 30th** – Kindergarten Parents and students from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Our program will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

School pictures will be taken on the same nights as your child's Orientation from 4:30-8:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. Order forms will be in the welcome back letter.

Feel free to call me at 744-4777 if you have questions or concerns. The staff and I look forward to seeing you this fall and we are excited about another great school year at Reeths-Puffer Elementary School.

Sincerely,

*Paul Klimsza*

Principal, Reeths-Puffer Elementary School

## RPEL Community supports its



## students' health!

WOW! An incredible huge thank you to everyone who supported RPEL students in their May Walk-A-Thon. The RPEL community raised over \$5,000.00! Thank you for your continued support.

The money raised by RPEL students will be used to continue supporting two important initiatives that students and staff have embraced.

1. Two water bottle filling and drinking fountains will be installed. The water filling stations will support the wellness movement in Rocket City. Students will have access to chilled water and be able to fill water bottles throughout the day. This reduces waste from plastic water bottles and supports healthy living.
2. Our community garden initiative will utilize the remaining fundraising money. These monies will be used by our Earth Force team to continue the gardening program at RPEL.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and their efforts to be healthy and make the earth a better place.



## Data Supports First Grade Pilot Program

First grade teachers at Reeths-Puffer Elementary School piloted a program they named Departmentalizing. This simply means that each first grade teacher specialized in one core instructional area. The areas of specialization were: Reading, Math, Writing and Phonics/Word Work. This concept allowed each of the four teachers to become "experts" in their core content area. From January to the end of the school year, each of the four teachers were able to dig deep into the core curriculum of their identified area and focus all of their planning and professional development in this one area. Each teacher, during this time period, rotated throughout the day to each of the first grade classrooms. They were the instructional expert of their content for all first grade students. Lessons were extremely focused and at a deeper instructional level than in the past.



Classroom data in first grade supports their experience. Student gains in all four areas exceeded the growth normally seen during this time period. This positive experience will be back in first grade for the 2016-2017 school year. Staff looks forward to refining the process and documenting student growth. Opportunities for expansion to other grade levels are being explored.

# REETHS-PUFFER SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT 2016

## GOAL: 100% OF ROCKET GRADUATES ARE COLLEGE AND CAREER “AWARE AND READY”

### WHAT WE’VE DONE:

- **23 Initiative** - While the legislature might have changed the “test,” the 23 initiative was and is successful in helping our students and community understand the varied and various entry points for consideration at colleges and universities across the state.
- **Operation Boots on the Ground** - Since its implementation, this initiative has placed over 1,000 RPI 6th grade students on college campuses all over the state. From visiting admissions offices, marketing departments, athletic facilities, science laboratories, to the always popular dining halls, impressionable 6th grade students have had their eyes opened to a world outside of Rocket City.
- **College Night** - Growing every year, colleges and universities from all over the state have descended upon Rocket City to introduce themselves to our fifth through eighth grade students. From college areas of emphasis and majors to admission requirements and financial aid, Rocket City students are gaining a deep and lasting understanding of post graduate opportunities.
- **Know “How to Go”** - Pictures and posters are strategically placed in buildings all over the District showing students relevant information related to every college and university in Michigan. From the distance from Rocket City to the admissions requirements for each, Reeths-Puffer students have a clear and compelling constant reminder of post-secondary possibilities.
- **Mentoring** - Current and former students work with younger students to help them understand the college preparation process. In addition, alumni return to Rocket City to discuss the practical experiences they’ve had and the lessons learned through the process.
- **Citizenship the R-P Way** - As a way to celebrate both the academic and employability skills necessary for success after Reeths-Puffer, students from grades 7-12 are assessed both academically and from an employability or work skills perspective.
- **Launched** - An intentional and focused effort to publically recognize Rocket seniors that have been accepted to the college, university or military branch of their choice. The seniors are designated as having been “launched” into their future.



- **Career Speakers Forum** - Growing every year, RPHS students have the opportunity to hear from and interact with professionals in our community from every career pathway. Students report a greater understanding of the connections with and valued purpose of the high school curriculum after hearing from these dedicated professionals.
- **Divergent Thinking Day** - Most problems have more than one solution. At R-P, learners have the opportunity to interact with creative professionals from

all over the state who are working at solving some of society’s greatest problems. From splitting atoms at MSU to identifying solutions to clean drinking water for Michigan’s residents, R-P students have an opportunity to interact with and learn from some of the greatest and most creative thinkers in Michigan.

- **College Access Advisor** - In a unique partnership with Michigan State University, R-P students have access to a professional focused solely on helping our kids navigate the college preparation experience. From exploring programs at colleges and universities to organizing visits both on our campus and at the institutions of higher learning to helping families navigate the FAFSA process, our students have access to the most up to date and relevant navigation tips, strategies and experiences.

## GOAL: NO BOUNDARIES, NO LIMITS ANYTIME, ANY PLACE, ANY LEVEL LEARNING

### WHAT WE’VE DONE:

- **Early College Access** - In Rocket City, eligible students can partner with Muskegon Community College to earn a college Associates Degree by extending their stay at Reeths-Puffer by one year. This program has grown every year, with more and more Rockets graduating with a two-year college degree at NO cost to them or their family.
- **Around the Clock Support** - More and more classrooms and content areas are taking advantage of the power of technology to provide access and support to students and families. Blogs, Facebook pages, Moodle, Schoology, Raz, Khan Academy, and grade level/ building specific instructional videos are available to kids and families around the clock.
- **Virtual Instructional Support** - The number of students leaving and going to Adult Education to finish their high school diploma has been cut by more than 50% with the implementation of the virtual program, Apollo, in addition to multiple and varied opportunities for struggling students.
- **Growth Mindset Instructional Approach** - At RPMS, recognizing the unique period of adolescence, staff and students approach challenging tasks from a growth mindset perspective. Problems and deficits are approached from a “yet” perspective. I don’t know how to do multi-variable equations “yet” as opposed to “I’m not good at math.” A growth mindset recognizes the inherent value of the struggle and reaching higher.
- **Inter and Cross-Disciplinary Instruction** - Recognizing that the brain learns better outside of traditional silos, the RPI staff has created multiple inter-disciplinary thematic units of instruction to focus core academic skill from a broader, holistic approach.
- **AP Course Offerings** - Regularly recognized by the College Board as a leader in leveraging Advanced Placement courses as a means of increasing student achievement and opportunities, RPHS continues to be a leader in West Michigan in this area.
- **Pilot Programming** - Using Pennsylvania Elementary as a model, and the success of Pennsylvania as a “beacon,” buildings and departments are piloting various instructional and programmatic initiatives. Rather than waiting for answers from the outside, Rocket City is challenging traditional schooling from the inside out.
- **Summer Reading Challenge and Read 23** - Recognizing the devastating impact of summer regression or the “summer slide,” incentives have been put into place to encourage students to minimize summer regression by actively and consistently reading ALL summer.
- **Rocket City Book Boxes** - Recognizing that access to reading material can be a barrier to constant and consistent reading initiatives, 21 Rocket City Book Boxes have been strategically placed in and around the community as a way to break this barrier.
- **Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum** - R-P Curriculum is currently the most horizontally and vertically aligned curriculum in the county. Our curriculum meets or exceeds the standards expected by the State of Michigan.
- **Summer Institutes** - Over 900 staff days of rigorous, aligned professional development occurred in the summer of 2015 with a primary focus on best-practice instructional approaches and curriculum alignment.
- **Focused Family Literacy Experiences** - While carnivals and fun nights will always have a presence in schools, the proliferation and expansion of focused and dedicated literacy and math nights at the elementary schools has led to significantly better understanding and support of the instructional content at home.
- **Increased Pre-K Opportunities** - While K-12 has traditionally been the domain of Reeths-Puffer Schools, the recognition of the importance of pre-K learning experiences has led to the expansion of the Great Start Readiness Program and Head Start slots by



over 500%.

- **McMillan Early Childhood Center** - In addition to increasing slots and opportunities, the District worked to consolidate both human and financial capital in one location to maximize learning opportunities for our youngest learners.
- **Increased Formative Assessment Understanding** - Recognizing that learning happens continuously and fluidly, R-P staff has deeply engaged in the Formative Assessment process to monitor progress and adjust instruction accordingly on a day by day and sometimes hour by hour basis.
- **Rocket Time** - At RPI, students have the opportunity to engage in corrective or enrichment opportunities that are tailored to their unique and collective needs. The opportunities are reassessed frequently to ensure students are getting what they need, when they need it.
- **W.I.N. Time** - W.I.N. Time, or "What I need" Time, was established at the elementary level to fully recognize and adapt instruction that is needed for each individual student based on their unique educational place and track.



## GOAL - 100% PLUGGED IN EVERY CHILD CONNECTED TO AN "OUT OF SCHOOL, COORDINATED, VALUE ADDED" ACTIVITY

### WHAT WE'VE DONE:

- **Seaway Run Leader** - Once again, Reeths-Puffer led the county in the Seaway Run 5K relative to staff and student participation, earning it the coveted Stinky Shoe award. Over 10% of R-P students participated in this summer run.
- **Increase in Extra-Curricular Clubs** - From the Smash Club, the LINKS Program, MS Chess, HS Chess, Men of Honor, Women of Honor, R-P Blast, to an increase in Boy and Girl Scouts in the District, more and more Rockets are finding and participating in activities that connect them to others.
- **Youth Sports Coordination** - Increasingly, our athletic offerings are being coordinated and implemented from a varsity to youth perspective. When coordinated and aligned programs are created, the result is a more successful program and better opportunities for kids. Collaboration around fundamental skills and physical preparation has resulted in a clear difference for the programs that have been implemented in this manner. The sheer numbers of students participating continues to rise dramatically.
- **Increased Planned Family Activities** - More activities are being intentionally planned to bring families closer to each other. Some examples include: Math Strategy Night, Literacy Night, The Princess Ball, etc.

## GOAL: COMMUNICATION ON DEMAND, CONTINUOUS AND PERSONALIZED

### WHAT WE'VE DONE:

- **Go Green App** - An innovative and proprietary App was created specifically for Reeths-Puffer High School that gives parents and students access to grades, assignments, news, schedules, extra-curricular events, sporting events, and teacher schedules. This one-touch app will serve as a model for West Michigan and beyond.
- **Increased Push of Information** - Utilizing technology such as Facebook, Edmodo, Schoology, blogs, Google calendars, and e-mail, parents and students have access to information 24/7.
- **Standards Based Reporting** - Recognizing that traditional grades are very limited in the scope and breadth of their reporting and meaning, all K-6 core content areas are reported upon using a standards based measure.
- **Rocket City Radio** - The District has added a weekly radio show fully sponsored by advertising to inform the Reeths-Puffer Community. The one-hour show, airing on 100.9FM, Saturdays at 10 AM, covers a wide range of interesting and relevant topics. The show, co-hosted by Steve Edwards and Tim Wheeler, has focused on District programs, approaches, philosophies, and achievements. It has hosted students, staff, administrators and community members.
- **Go Rocket City** - This website was created to highlight and share District achievements and to promote all that is right in Rocket City.
- **Adopt a Classroom** - This initiative was implemented to solve two problems. First, the amount of money raised to supplement classroom instructional resources has peaked at over \$10,000 this year (2015-2016). Additionally, creating partnerships in the business community has increased our pool of partners willing to work with our students in their career area.
- **Pathways to Potential** - All areas of the District currently have access to Success Coaches, funded by the Department of Human Services, to help the community navigate barriers to success. These Success Coaches are fully embedded in the school community and serve as experts in the area of outreach.
- **Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting** - The District's Finance Department received the top award available for transparency in reporting. As part of our commitment to lead the way relative to financial transparency, the District was awarded the Certificate of Excellence after completion of a CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report).



## GOAL: GREEN AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENTALLY AND ECONOMICALLY AWARE

### WHAT WE'VE DONE:

- **Trash and Refuse Reduction** - Using the lunch trays and trash bins as an example, decisions have been made that have significantly lowered costs for R-P, while fostering an environmentally conscious student body.
- **Composting and Recycling** - Reeths-Puffer Schools is a community and county leader in the adoption of composting and recycling initiatives. Teams exist in most of the District schools to coordinate the education of students and staff and the implementation of recycling and composting practices.
- **Green Schools** - Four Reeths-Puffer school buildings have been designated as Green Schools for their adherence to strict environmental protection practices.
- **Community Gardens** - Community Gardens operate in multiple areas of the District. In addition to teaching students healthy growing and eating habits, these gardens serve as community providers.
- **Hoop Houses** - In an effort to prolong the growing season, two hoop houses have been erected in the District to increase learning and serving opportunities.
- **Grants** - The District has received a gift of \$4,500 from the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative for continued green projects for three years in a row.
- **Rooftop Garden** - In another educational awareness initiative, R-P partnered to provide a rooftop garden near one of our primary gardens. In addition to the beautifying aspect, rooftop gardens also act as waste diversion and storm water management strategies.
- **Energy Management** - Staff and students continue to use energy in an efficient manner, resulting in over \$3 million in energy savings since the implementation of the program. In spite of a significant increase in technology usage in the District, in the past year electrical usage was reduced an incredible 44% from where we were before we started our program.
- **Utilization of Technology** - The utilization of technology to substitute for printed versions of registration cards, student and staff handbooks, curriculum guides, etc., has promoted the Green and Clean message and intention.
- **Rocket City** - The creation of a unifying theme among our five townships (Laketon, Muskegon, Fruitland, Dalton and Cedar Creek) in the attempt to retain and attract students from an identity perspective.
- **Healthy Body, Healthy Mind** - A District wellness committee has worked to establish partnerships and programs for efficiently and effectively educating students on the value of proper nutrition.



## Hey RPTLE Families!

Staff at Twin Lake are looking forward to a new school year and are eager to meet our 2016-2017 learners! Please mark your calendar for the following events:

### KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION:

**When:** Monday, August 29, 2016 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**Who:** Kindergarten parents only, please. (No children at this time.)

**Where:** Mrs. Kinstner's parents meet in room 1 and Mrs. Palazzolo's parents meet in room 2.

**Description:** Parents are invited to come in and learn more about the kindergarten experience, including a sample daily schedule. Learn about the curriculum and what you can do to partner with teachers to support your child in kindergarten. Resources will be available, as well as the opportunity to find ways to volunteer.

#### What to Bring:

- Any additional registration information that RPTLE will need to allow your child to begin school.
- Questions that you may have regarding kindergarten.

Note: It will be important to return with your child on Wednesday, August 31st at 6:30 p.m. for our Family Orientation. At this time, you will learn more about RPTLE's building expectations, your child will be invited to meet their kindergarten teacher and you will have access to our Community Resource Fair.



### ALL SCHOOL FAMILY ORIENTATION (FORMERLY KNOWN AS "OPEN HOUSE")

**When:** Wednesday, August 31, 2016 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Who:** All K-4 families and learners

**Description:** A presentation will be given to families in our gym from 6:30 -7:00 p.m. to learn more about RPTLE, our academic and behavioral expectations and ways that you might consider supporting our school community. We'll also present a calendar that will include important events and activities that will be offered throughout the school year. Our teaching team will be introduced so that families become familiar with the RPTLE crew.

From 7:00- 7:30, our families will be invited to visit their child's classroom(s) to meet the teacher. We'll also have a Community Resource Fair in the gym until 8:00 p.m. that will include booths from area service agencies.

All are invited to join Mrs. Schmitt on the playground for a treat at 7:30.

**At RPTLE, we are Respectful, Honest, Smart and Safe!! We look forward to meeting our families at the end of August!**



## Up Close and Personal!

Twin Lake Elementary 1st graders study the lifecycle of the butterfly which is followed by a visit to Frederick Meijer Butterfly Garden. This exhibit showcased thousands of butterflies (50 different species) from Central and South America, Africa, and Asia. Some favorite butterflies viewed were the Postman, Lacewing, Swallowtail and Blue Morpho. Students and families enjoyed making discoveries when exploring the many gardens, sculptures and learning areas. They also had the opportunity to dig for fossils, follow animal tracks, and of course see chrysalises or cocoons right before their eyes. It was a great day enjoying both nature and the arts!

Students pictured: Tessa Ross, Hunter Rensberger, and Kaila Uhlig



## LINKS

With 23 participants, the Twin Lake Elementary R-P LINKS program more than doubled during the 2015-16 school year! LINKS is an evidence based peer to peer model that is used statewide to support students with autism and other students who benefit from social support. TLE participants learned about autism, served as peer leaders, built empathy skills, and practiced engaging with new friends. They also discovered that they shared more commonalities than differences with their peers. Students practiced using these shared interests to help build friendships. TL LINKS celebrated Autism Awareness Day 2016 by offering the opportunity for the entire school to watch a short educational video about autism.

# Fun on Fitness Fridays

Who's getting fit? Everyone at Twin Lake Elementary! All grade levels, kindergarten through fourth grade, walk each and every Friday. Their goal? To walk one mile! Students try to walk outside as much as possible, but if the weather prevents it, they walk in the gym. Often you will find little buddies walking the loop with their big buddies. Throughout this past school year, students at Twin Lake Elementary walked a total of 7,757.6 miles! Around and around they go... getting fit and loving it!



Top: Stephen Salazar and Tanner Cowles are "buddies." Stephen is a 4th grader in Mrs. Rice's classroom. Tanner is a kindergartner in Mrs. Kinstner's classroom.

Left: Audra Allen (kindergarten), Brook Titus (4th grade), Jerzie Zielinski (4th grade), and Kayleigh Brown (kindergarten) walk together for Fitness Friday.

# Going Hand in Hand



"I can go through the entire writing process without picking up my pencil." This could have easily been the learning goal for a group of fourth grade students at Twin Lake Elementary. With the help of Jim Kauppila from the Muskegon Intermediate School District (MAISD), a group of fourth graders learned how to plan, organize, and write an informational text on a Chromebook. They used a program called Mindmup™ to plan out their thoughts and ideas via a digital graphic organizer. Once their plan was in place, they imported the information into Google Docs to organize and add to their work. Finally, they used a voice-to-text program called Co:writer™ to transfer their work to their final document. Students were quick to pick up on all the new tools they were presented, and were really engaged in the entire writing process. When asked what they thought about using the Chromebooks, one student reported, "I liked the Chromebook because it made writing easier." Another student said it was, "Easier to type than it is to write." Everyone also discovered that the use of technology fostered increased independence and allowed students to access online tools and supports they might not have otherwise thought to utilize. Technology and devices are now a part of our everyday lives, and should be incorporated into our learning environments to ensure students know how to use a variety of electronic tools in their daily school work.

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## Early Release Wednesdays – New for 2016-17

Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the State of Michigan requires all Michigan schools to have a minimum of 180 student instructional days. In the past, we had approximately 176 instructional days, leaving us with multiple full days to schedule state-required teacher professional development (PD) hours. With the change in the law, the District plans to release students early on multiple Wednesdays during the course of the year to provide PD for R-P staff. The calendar below spells out when those days will occur. On those early release Wednesdays, students will be dismissed 90 minutes early. R-P will provide bus transportation as usual - it will simply be 90 minutes earlier than normal. As a general rule, early release Wednesdays are scheduled for the second and fourth Wednesday of each month except for May, which will not contain any early release dates.

## REETHS-PUFFER SCHOOLS ■ 2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR

<b>September 6</b>	First Day of School (Full Day)	<b>February 17</b>	<b>K-12 No School –</b> Mid-Winter Break
<b>September 14</b>	K-12 Early Release – 90 minutes	<b>February 20</b>	<b>K-12 No School –</b> Mid-Winter Break
<b>September 28</b>	K-12 Early Release – 90 minutes	<b>February 22</b>	K-12 Early Release – 90 minutes
<b>October 12</b>	K-12 Early Release – 90 minutes	<b>March 3</b>	<b>K-4 AM Only</b> Records Day PM
<b>October 26</b>	K-12 Early Release – 90 minutes	<b>March 8</b>	End of 2nd Tri-Reporting K-12 Early Release – 90 minutes
<b>November 4</b>	<b>5-12 AM Only</b> 5-12 Records Day PM End of 1st Marking Period	<b>March 9</b>	<b>K-4 AM Only</b> K-4 Conferences
<b>November 9</b>	K-12 Early Release – 90 minutes	<b>March 22</b>	K-12 Early Release – 90 minutes
<b>November 10</b>	5-12 Conferences (School is in Session)	<b>March 24</b>	<b>5-12 AM Only</b> Records Day PM End of 3rd Marking Period
<b>November 23</b>	<b>K-12 AM Only</b>	<b>March 29</b>	5-12 Conferences (School is in Session)
<b>November 24 &amp; 25</b>	<b>K-12 No School –</b> Thanksgiving Holiday	<b>March 30</b>	5-8 Evening Conferences (School is in Session)
<b>December 2</b>	<b>K-4 AM Only</b> Records Day PM End of 1st Tri-Reporting	<b>March 31</b>	<b>K-12 AM Only</b>
<b>December 7</b>	K-4 Conferences (School is in Session)	<b>April 3-7</b>	<b>K-12 No School –</b> Spring Break
<b>December 8</b>	K-4 AM Only K-4 Conferences	<b>April 10</b>	School Resumes
<b>December 14</b>	Early Release – 90 minutes	<b>April 12</b>	K-12 Early Release – 90 minutes
<b>December 21</b>	<b>K-12 No School –</b> Christmas Recess Begins	<b>April 14</b>	<b>K-12 AM Only –</b> Good Friday
<b>January 3</b>	School Resumes	<b>April 26</b>	K-12 Early Release – 90 minutes
<b>January 11</b>	K-12 Early Release – 90 minutes	<b>May 26</b>	<b>K-12 AM Only</b>
<b>January 18</b>	<b>9-12 AM Only –</b> High School Exams	<b>May 29</b>	<b>K-12 No School –</b> Memorial Day
<b>January 19</b>	<b>9-12 AM Only –</b> High School Exams	<b>June 6</b>	<b>9-12 AM Only –</b> HS Exams
<b>January 20</b>	<b>5-12 AM Only</b> Records Day PM End of 2nd Marking Period	<b>June 7</b>	<b>9-12 AM Only –</b> HS Exams
<b>January 25</b>	K-12 Early Release – 90 minutes	<b>June 8</b>	<b>K-12 AM Only</b> Records Day PM HS Exams
<b>February 8</b>	K-12 Early Release – 90 minutes	<b>June 9</b>	<b>K-12 AM Only</b> HS Exams <b>Last day of School for all students</b>



## Got Heart? Get Screened.

Student heart screenings are FREE and open to any high school student.

**FREE STUDENT HEART  
SCREENING**

**Wednesday, August 17**

All screenings will take place at the Youngberg Auditorium at Mercy Health Hackley Campus, 1700 Clinton Street in Muskegon, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and are completed in about 15 minutes.

A student must be entering 9th grade in the fall of 2016 or currently in 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade.

Register today at [MercyHealth.com/StudentHeart](http://MercyHealth.com/StudentHeart).  
For more information, call 231.672.3080.

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# 2016 FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

## Boys Varsity Football

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Monday, Aug. 08	First Practice	Reeths-Puffer High School	TBA
Thursday, Aug. 25	Grand Haven	Reeths-Puffer High School	7:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 01	Orchard View	Orchard View	7:00PM
Friday, Sep. 09	Grand Rapids Union	Reeths-Puffer High School	7:00PM
Friday, Sep. 16	Mona Shores	Reeths-Puffer High School	7:00PM
Friday, Sep. 23	Muskegon	Muskegon	7:00PM
Friday, Sep. 30	Jenison	Reeths-Puffer High School	7:00PM
Friday, Oct. 07	Thornapple Kellogg HS	Thornapple Kellogg HS	7:00PM
Friday, Oct. 14	Fruitport HS	Fruitport HS	7:00PM
Friday, Oct. 21	Kenowa Hills	Kenowa Hills	7:00PM

## Boys JV Football

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Wednesday, Aug. 24	Grand Haven	Grand Haven	6:30PM
Wednesday, Aug. 31	Orchard View	Reeths-Puffer High School	6:30PM
Thursday, Sep. 15	Mona Shores	Mona Shores	6:30PM
Thursday, Sep. 22	Muskegon	Reeths-Puffer High School	6:30PM
Thursday, Sep. 29	Jenison	Jenison	6:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 06	Thornapple Kellogg HS	Reeths-Puffer High School	6:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 13	Fruitport HS	Reeths-Puffer High School	6:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 20	Kenowa Hills	Reeths-Puffer High School	6:30PM

## Girls Varsity Volleyball

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Saturday, Aug. 20	Rocket Invitational	Reeths-Puffer High School	9:00AM
Tuesday, Aug. 23	East Kentwood Invitat.	East Kentwood Invitational1	2:00AM
Wednesday, Aug. 24	Tri w/ Union & Mona Shores	Union HS	5:00PM
Wednesday, Aug. 31	Double Dual W/Fruitport and Reeths-Puffer HS	Kenowa Hills	5:00PM
Wednesday, Sep. 07	Double Dual W/Muskegon and Mona Shores High School	Jenison	5:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 08	Grand Haven (Grand HavenQuad)	Grand Haven High School	5:00PM
Saturday, Sep. 10	Grandville Invitational	Grandville High School	8:00AM
Tuesday, Sep. 13	Kenowa Hills	Kenowa Hills HS	6:45PM
Saturday, Sep. 17	Caledonia Invitational	Caledonia Invitational	8:00PM
Tuesday, Sep. 20	Jenison	Reeths-Puffer HS	6:45PM
Saturday, Sep. 24	West Ottawa (West Ottawa Invitational)	West Ottawa High School	8:30AM
Tuesday, Oct. 04	Grand Rapids Union	Union HS	6:45PM
Thursday, Oct. 06	Reeths-Puffer Double Dual	Reeths-Puffer HS	5:00PM
Tuesday, Oct. 11	Mona Shores	Reeths-Puffer HS	6:45PM
Saturday, Oct. 15	GMAA Tournament	Reeths-Puffer High School	TBA
Tuesday, Oct. 18	Fruitport HS	Fruitport HS	6:45PM

Tuesday, Oct. 25	Muskegon	Reeths-Puffer HS	6:45PM
Thursday, Oct. 27	Coopersville Quad	Coopersville Quad	5:00PM
Monday, Oct. 31	OPEN DATE (Districts)	OPEN DATE	TBA
Tuesday, Nov. 08	OPEN DATE (Regionals)	OPEN DATE	TBA

## Girls JV Volleyball

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Wednesday, Aug. 24	Tri w/ Union and Mona Shores	Mona Shores High School	5:00PM
Monday, Aug. 29	Reeths-Puffer Quad	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:00PM
Wednesday, Aug. 31	Double Dual W/ Fruitport and Kenowa Hills	Kenowa Hills High School	5:00PM
Wednesday, Sep. 07	Double Dual W/Muskegon and Jenison	Reeths-Puffer HS	5:00PM
Saturday, Sep. 10	Rocket Invitational	Reeths-Puffer High School	9:00AM
Tuesday, Sep. 13	Kenowa Hills	Kenowa Hills	5:30PM
Saturday, Sep. 17	Spring Lake Invitational	Spring Lake Invitational	8:30PM
Tuesday, Sep. 20	Jenison	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:30PM
Saturday, Sep. 24	Mona Shores Invite	Mona Shores High School	12:00PM
Monday, Sep. 26	Grand Haven Quad	Grand Haven Quad	5:00PM
Tuesday, Oct. 04	Grand Rapids Union	Grand Rapids Union	5:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 06	Quad W/ Holland Christian and Hamilton	Hamilton High School	5:00PM
Saturday, Oct. 08	Western Michigan Christian Invitational (Pending Contract)		
Tuesday, Oct. 11	Mona Shores	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:00PM
Tuesday, Oct. 18	Fruitport HS	Fruitport HS	5:30PM
Tuesday, Oct. 25	Muskegon	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 27	Reeths-Puffer Quad	Reeths-Puffer HS	5:00PM

## Boys Varsity Soccer

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Saturday, Aug. 20	Lakeshore Invitational	Fruitport HS	9:00AM
Tuesday, Aug. 23	Northview	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:00PM
Friday, Aug. 26	Grand Haven	Grand Haven	5:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 01	Western MI Christian HS	Western MI Christian HS	5:00PM
Tuesday, Sep. 06	Kenowa Hills	Kenowa Hills	5:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 08	Jenison	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:00PM
Saturday, Sep. 10	North Muskegon	North Muskegon	11:00AM
Tuesday, Sep. 13	Grand Rapids Union	Grand Rapids Union	5:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 15	Mona Shores	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:00PM
Tuesday, Sep. 20	Fruitport HS	Fruitport HS	5:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 22	Muskegon	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:00PM
Saturday, Sep. 24	Kenowa Hills	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:00PM
Tuesday, Sep. 27	Jenison	Jenison	5:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 29	Spring Lake	Reeths-Puffer HS	5:00PM

All dates are tentative and subject to change.

# MADE YOU LOOK!

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# 2016 FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

## Boys Varsity Soccer (cont.)

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Tuesday, Oct. 04	Grand Rapids Union	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:00PM
Thursday, Oct. 06	Mona Shores	Mona Shores	5:00PM
Tuesday, Oct. 11	Fruitport HS	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:00PM
Thursday, Oct. 13	Muskegon	Muskegon	4:00PM

## Boys JV Soccer

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Saturday, Aug. 20	Lakeshore Invitational	Fruitport HS	9:00AM
Tuesday, Aug. 23	Northview	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:00PM
Friday, Aug. 26	Grand Haven	Grand Haven	5:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 01	Western MI Christian	Western MI Christian HS	5:00PM
Tuesday, Sep. 06	Kenowa Hills	Kenowa Hills	5:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 08	Jenison	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:00PM
Saturday, Sep. 10	North Muskegon	North Muskegon	11:00AM
Tuesday, Sep. 13	Grand Rapids Union	Grand Rapids Union	5:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 15	Mona Shores	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:00PM
Tuesday, Sep. 20	Fruitport HS	Fruitport HS	5:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 22	Muskegon	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:00PM
Saturday, Sep. 24	Kenowa Hills	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:00PM
Tuesday, Sep. 27	Jenison	Jenison	5:00PM
Thursday, Sep. 29	Spring Lake	Reeths-Puffer HS	5:00PM
Tuesday, Oct. 04	Grand Rapids Union	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:00PM
Thursday, Oct. 06	Mona Shores	Mona Shores	5:00PM
Tuesday, Oct. 11	Fruitport HS	Reeths-Puffer High School	5:00PM
Thursday, Oct. 13	Muskegon	Muskegon	4:00PM

## Boys Varsity Cross Country

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Monday, Aug. 22	Cardinal Invitational	Orchard View High School	TBA
Saturday, Aug. 27	Big Red Invitational	McGraft Park	9:00AM
Friday, Sep. 16	MSU Invitational	MSU Invitational	TBA
Wednesday, Sep. 21	Conf. Jamboree @ Kenowa Hills	Gracewil Golf Course	4:30PM
Saturday, Sep. 24	Cougar Falcon Invitational	Gainey Athletic Complex	TBA
Saturday, Oct. 01	Allendale Invitational	Allendale Invitational	TBA
Wednesday, Oct. 05	Conf. Jamboree @ Mona Shores	Oak Ridge Golf Course	4:30PM
Friday, Oct. 14	GMAA Meet	University Park Golf Course	TBA
Wednesday, Oct. 19	Conference Championship	Reeths-Puffer HS	4:30PM

## Boys Golf

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Wednesday, Aug. 17	Traverse City Central Lober Classic	Grand Traverse Resort	8:00PM
Thursday, Aug. 18	Traverse City Central Lober Classic	Grand Traverse Resort	8:00PM
Friday, Aug. 19	Jenison Invitational	The Meadows	7:00AM
Thursday, Aug. 25	Mona Shores Invitational	Stonegate Golf Club	9:00AM
Monday, Aug. 29	Rocket Invitational	Lincoln Golf Course	9:00AM
Wednesday, Aug. 31	North Muskegon (Dual @ Lincoln)	Lincoln Golf Course	3:30PM
Wednesday, Sep. 07	Conference Jamboree @ Union	The Mines Golf Course	3:30PM
Thursday, Sep. 08	Holt Invitational	Eldorado Golf Course	9:00AM
Monday, Sep. 12	Conf. Jamboree @ Mona Shores	Muskegon Country Club	3:30PM
Wednesday, Sep. 14	Conf. Jamboree @ Reeths-Puffer	Lincoln Golf Course	3:30PM
Monday, Sep. 19	Conference Jamboree @ Jenison	Sunnybrook GC	3:30PM
Wednesday, Sep. 21	GMAA Tournament	GMAA Tournament	TBA
Monday, Sep. 26	Conf. Jamboree @ Kenowa Hills	Gracewil Golf Course	3:30PM
Wednesday, Sep. 28	FHN- Ernie Popiel Memorial Tournament (Pending-Date Conflict)	FHN- Ernie Popiel Memorial Tournament	9:30AM
Wednesday, Sep. 28	Conference Jamboree @ Fruitport	Fruitport HS	3:30PM
Monday, Oct. 03	Conference Finals Macatawa	Legends Golf Club	9:00AM

## Middle School Cross Country

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Thursday, Sep 18	Mona Shores Middle School	Away	4:15 PM
Wednesday, Sep 14	(XC Quad)	Home	4:15 PM
Wednesday, Sep 21	Zeeland	Away	4:15 PM
Tuesday, Sep 27	Grand Haven Middle School	Away	4:15 PM
Thursday, Sep 29	Northview High School	Away	4:15 PM
Thursday, Oct 6	West Ottawa	Away	4:00 PM
Monday, Oct 10	Holland Christian	Away	4:15 PM
Friday, Oct 14	City Meet at Fruitport	Away	4:00 PM

## 7th Grade Volleyball

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Thursday, Sep 8	Fruitport	Away	4:00 PM
Tuesday, Sep 13	Hudsonville Middle School	Away	4:00 PM
Thursday, Sep 15	West Ottawa White	Home	4:00 PM
Tuesday, Sep 20	Mona Shores Middle School	Home	4:00 PM
Saturday, Sep 24	Grand Haven Middle School	Away	8:30 AM
Tuesday, Sep 27	White Pines Middle School	Home	4:00 PM
Thursday, Sep 29	Zeeland Cityside	Away	4:00 PM
Saturday, Oct 1	Mona Shores Volleyball Invite	Away	9:00 AM
Tuesday, Oct 4	Jenison Junior High School	Home	4:00 PM
Thursday, Oct 6	Rockford North	Away	4:00 PM
Tuesday, Oct 11	Rockford East at RPHS	Home	5:00 PM
Thursday, Oct 13	Holland Middle School	Away	4:00 PM

## Eighth Grade Volleyball

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Thursday, Sep 8	Fruitport	Away	5:00 PM
Tuesday, Sep 13	Hudsonville Middle School	Away	5:00 PM
Thursday, Sep 15	West Ottawa White	Home	5:00 PM
Tuesday, Sep 20	Mona Shores Middle School	Home	5:00 PM
Saturday, Sep 24	Grand Haven Middle School	Away	8:30 AM
Tuesday, Sep 27	White Pines Middle School	Home	5:00 PM
Thursday, Sep 29	Zeeland Cityside	Away	5:00 PM
Saturday, Oct 1	Reeths-Puffer Volleyball Invite	Away	9:00 AM
Tuesday, Oct 4	Jenison Junior High School	Home	5:00 PM
Thursday, Oct 6	Rockford North	Away	5:00 PM
Tuesday, Oct 11	Rockford East at RPHS	Home	5:00 PM
Thursday, Oct 13	Holland Middle School	Away	5:00 PM

\*\* All schedules are tentative and subject to change.

7th and 8th grade football schedules were not complete at the time of publishing.

Any sports schedules not listed in this newsletter may be found at [schedules.schedulestar.com](http://schedules.schedulestar.com)

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## Hello Rocket Learners!



Welcome back to the start of our 2016-2017 school year at Reeths-Puffer Intermediate. 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.

In 2016-17, RPI will be filled with learning energy that revolves around a positive school culture. Students will have weekly Rocket Time meetings, as a grade level, to learn about Grit, Optimism, Empathy and Problem Solving. Students will engage in lessons that revolve around their needs for a stronger team and positive school culture.

Healthy hearts and healthy minds is something that students will be challenged with daily. Our Rockets will have Physical Education classes the entire year. We promote healthy choices in our diets and in our life. We have biking groups, snowshoeing in the winter, two sessions of Endurance Adventure racing, and many opportunities throughout the day to elevate our heart rates and learn about a healthier Muskegon County. This year, we will have a focus on farms-to-table systems in our partnership with RPEL's Green Team, Penn School and over 15,000 square feet of garden space on our campus. We will also learn about ways to compost 35 gallons of organic waste that leaves our café each week to create our fertilizer!

This year we look forward to engaging 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 our students to experience STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) nights at RPI. This has led us to begin studying Design Schools that put our students in the middle of projects and community problem solving days. Also, supporters from our community will instruct in clubs after school and conduct 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, creates more success for our students.

The best day of the year is coming! See you all at the Rocket Rally on Wednesday, August 31.

*Nate Smith*

Principal, Reeths-Puffer Intermediate

## RPI Rocket Rally (a.k.a. The RPI Open House)

**Wednesday, August 31**

**5th grade classrooms with teachers - 6:30 to 8:30**

**6th grade classrooms with teachers - 5:00 to 7:00**

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

- Welcome by Mr. Smith
- School Pictures
- Learning Expectations
- Meet the Teachers

We all want to make this night a great time for learning and starting to build our learning team for the year!

**LOOK FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE R-P WEB SITE ([www.reeths-puffer.org](http://www.reeths-puffer.org)) AND UPDATES ON FACEBOOK!**



What is a Positive School Culture? Well, it is one of the key pillars that supports the RPI vision of "All Learners, 100% Engaged, All Day" and, although many believe that establishing and maintaining this type of culture would be easy, it is something that has to be frequently and relentlessly strived for. It takes commitment by all members of the team including parents, students, and staff.

A couple of the pivotal links to establishing a Positive School Culture at RPI are grounded in providing expectations for both students and adults. The Respect, Pride, Integrity, Success (RPIS) Behavior Expectations, established by the RPI staff, guide student behaviors throughout the building as do the RPIS Norms when staff are working collaboratively. When taught, practiced, and used, both nurture a culture that is student centered, high-functioning, and supportive of learning.

The RPIS Behavior Expectations are a set of guidelines that students and staff use to establish what Respect, Pride, Integrity, and Success should look like throughout their school. RPIS Behavior Expectations can be

found within the hallways, the classrooms, the bus, and even the bathroom. RPIS Behavior Expectations are taught, retaught, and practiced throughout the school year by both students and staff to ensure that everyone clearly understands what it means to be a RPIS student.

The RPIS Norms, another key part of the RPI Positive School Culture, were established by the adult leaders of the building and are primarily used during collaborative work. The norms include things like "Focus on the Kids," "Respect Others Opinions," and "Think Outside of the Box." The RPIS Norms are the expectations that drive student centered dialog and decisions which in turn creates a positive culture that supports high-performing students.

A Positive School Culture is not something that happens by chance. At RPI, the Positive School Culture is spear headed by clear expectations. From the moment you walk through the doors, RPI is committed to ensuring that everyone knows that the expectations of Respect, Pride, Integrity, and Success are what we are about.

## Writing is a Process... Not a Product

When a piece of writing is difficult to understand and ideas do not flow from one sentence to the next, it is not coherent. Incoherent writing just doesn't make sense.

Sixth grade students at Reeths-Puffer Intermediate have learned about creating cohesive and coherent writing that communicates effectively through the use of these key ideas:



- Writing is a process! Writing takes time, thought, organization, and reflection.
- EmPower is an instructional tool designed to guide the process of writing. Students learn to talk themselves through six steps of the writing process.
- Brain Frames are a set of six graphical patterns that students draw to organize their language and ideas. Brain Frames are built into the third step of the

EmPower process. If students have thoughts, they can show them with Brain Frames. If they can show their ideas, they can organize them and communicate them effectively with others through writing.

RPI sixth grade students have learned the importance of effective communication, organized and cohesive writing, and the tools they can use to make it happen. They know that writing is a process...not just a product!

# Uke Can Do It! Ukuleles for RPI Vocal Music Class



Exciting news from the RPI Vocal Music classroom! Thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Deidra Ross and the community of parents and learners at R-P Intermediate, the Vocal Music Program was able to purchase 55 Kala brand Soprano Ukuleles this spring!

Ukulele programs are on the rise in the world of music education as they provide a hands-on way to learn about melody, harmony, rhythm, form, tempo, dynamics, and tone. Areas of skill include singing, picking, strumming, ear training, sight-reading, improvising, music theory, harmonizing, arranging, and more. Not only are student's learning music literacy, but they are singing along while playing their instruments! They are double-threat musicians!

Thanks to all who contributed to this positive initiative for music education at RPI! Now let's make some music together!

## Corner

### Curriculum



**Terri Portice**  
Director of Teaching  
and Learning

## Lazy Days of Summer Turn Into the Exciting Days of Return 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 9 tips to 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. 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 beginning of the year paperwork and fill out all the updated forms as a part of the registration process, be sure to have a calendar available where all 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 children can do 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. A 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 10 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.

## Read to Succeed! Ultimate Read 23 Summer Reading Challenge Ending Soon

The summer reading challenge, back for a third year, was offered to students entering Kindergarten through 12th grade. The challenge was an opportunity to instill the love of reading as a life-long habit, as well as offer an opportunity to win an electronic tablet. Readers - don't forget to turn in your Ultimate Read 23 Summer Reading Challenge parent signed forms by September 9. Forms may be turned in at the Administration Office (991 W. Giles Road) or at your child's school office. A winner from each level will be drawn on Monday, September 12. Winners will be notified on September 13. Good luck Rocket Readers!

## Summer Math Challenge Coming to a Close

Over the summer, Mathematicians worked hard on their math grids. Please remember to submit all grids completed with parent sign off by September 9. These grids will go into a drawing for a variety of prizes. Fifty math grids will be drawn from all that are turned into the Educational Service Building, or your respective school building and winners will be notified on Tuesday, September 13. Good luck to all!

# Food Service Program Sets High Bar with New Improvements

There have been many improvements over the last year in the Reeths-Puffer Food Service program. With assistance from Jessi Boehme MS, RD, Nutrition Support Coordinator, we had new menu choices, improved food quality and introduced more farm-to-school efforts.

Some new homemade menu items included sloppy Joe's, chili, Cajun fish with brown rice, confetti soup, harvest stew, chicken stir fry with squash and corn, porcupine sliders, veggie spaghetti, roasted red potatoes, baked squash with apples and cinnamon and Chinese vegetables. Salad bars were offered across the District at least once a week and more often at the high school level. Salad bar participation started to drop so the decision was made to add some variety. The elementary and intermediate buildings were offered salad bars including Oriental salad bar, Greek salad bar, hummus and cottage cheese bar, chicken fajita salad bar and nacho salad bar.

The breakfast menu also had some changes. Some cereals were eliminated due to sugar content and hydrogenated oils. Yogurt and oatmeal were added to the weekly menu and served with a variety of fruit toppings.



Food Service teamed up with Bradshaw Farms (Fruitport) and Sodini's (Rocket City) to provide blueberries that were served mostly at breakfast with the yogurt and oatmeal. Pennsylvania Elementary provided food service with herbs and vegetables grown by the students in their garden to cafeteria program. Dried herbs included cilantro, basil, rosemary and sage which were used in many homemade dishes. The high school also received fresh lettuce, spinach, arugula and radishes for the salad bar. All the

greens and radishes were grown in early spring in the hoop house. We look forward to more fresh tasty produce in the coming fall and early winter to share with other kitchens in the District.

Food service is required to raise paid lunch prices in order to be compliant with the USDA's Paid Lunch Equity. The cost of an elementary/intermediate paid lunch is now \$2.60 and the cost of a middle/high school paid lunch is \$2.95. Student breakfast prices and prices for reduced breakfast and lunch will not change. To apply for free/reduced meals complete an application online at [www.lunchapp.com](http://www.lunchapp.com). Deposits to your student's account can also be done online at [www.SendMoneyToSchool.com](http://www.SendMoneyToSchool.com).



Please call the food service office at (231) 744-1647, ext. 3715 if you have any questions regarding school meals and free/reduced applications.

*Connie Falbe*

Food Service Supervisor  
falbec@reeths-puffer.org

## Welcome RPMS Students!

RPMS staff can't wait for the start of the 2016-17 school year and to fill classrooms with the sights and sounds of learning. We are focused on creating challenging and relevant learning opportunities so all students reach their fullest potential as critical thinkers in the complex world that surrounds us. Students will be engaged in setting lofty goals, collaborating with peers, processing and discussing complex topics, taking risks, building leadership skills, and pushing outside of their comfort zone. The countdown has started and we can't wait to see you on the first day of school.

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

### RPMS Open House

The RPMS 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.

RPMS Open House is scheduled for **Monday, September 12th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

- 6:30-7:00 Welcome and Introduction in Gymnasium.
- 7:00-8:00 Rotate through hours 1-6 to meet your students' teachers and learn a little about the course standards and how to help your student succeed.

### Registration and Schedule Pick Up Information

You can begin registering your student on-line on August 8th! 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 online registration site at [www.reeths-puffer.info](http://www.reeths-puffer.info)

Schedule Pick-up/ Registration at Middle School:

- August 23rd at 8:00-12:00 or 5:00-7:00**
- August 24th at 12:00-3:00 or 4:00-7:00**

## Register now!

Classes start August 22.

[www.muskegoncc.edu/apply](http://www.muskegoncc.edu/apply)

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## One Step Closer to a Greener School

Thanks to a very handy group of students, our compost bins are constructed, installed, and being used to decompose our food waste into usable black dirt. Students learn to be good stewards of the environment, they are part of something larger than themselves, and the many relevant science lessons connected to decomposition. Additionally, when students organize the steps to making RPMS a greener school, it is another opportunity for them to build and practice leadership skills. Thanks to the leadership and work of our students, we will get better every year.



## Good Deeds Rewarded

When students at the middle school act appropriately and do the right thing, staff members recognize these efforts and give students "Reaching Higher" slips. Slips are collected and drawings take place to honor students throughout the year with "special" prizes. At the end of the year, two lucky eighth graders won bikes donated by Horrace Mann. Thanks to all students who do the right thing every day to make Reeths-Puffer Middle School a great place to learn.

# RPMS Choirs: Lion King was a "Roar-ing" Success!



Thanks in part to a generous grant by the Michigan Council of Arts, all 110 RPMS Choir students brought the Broadway classic, "Disney's The Lion King" to the Rocket Centre Stage in April. Performing for packed audiences, students brought the story of Simba, Mufasa, Nala, Rafiki, Timon and Pumbaa to life. The popular musical, inspired by the Broadway spectacular, featured authentic African choreography, drumming, costuming and puppetry.



"The Lion King" was a unique musical theatre project that came with a supplemental curriculum called The Lion King Experience. Students developed and experimented with a variety of theatrical and 21st Century skills from acting and design, to creativity and group collaboration throughout the entire experience which made the Lion King unforgettable not just for our community but the performers themselves.



## Visit to Muskegon Community College and Career Tech Center

At RPMS, eighth grade students spent one of their last middle school days by looking toward their post-secondary plans. Students were guided through Muskegon Community College where they heard about the Muskegon Promise and the programs that are offered at M.C.C. Former Reeths-Puffer graduates provided real life narratives of how M.C.C. has fit into their post-secondary plan. The Rocket Alumni that served on the panel were happy to share information on how they transferred to a four-year university, participated in college athletics, attended the Early College Muskegon County (ECMC) program, dually enrolled, took summer classes at M.C.C., and completed a certificate program at M.C.C.

Following a morning at M.C.C., students traveled to the Career Tech Center (CTC) where they heard from practitioners in the field they have identified with through Career Cruising (a career and college exploration tool). Students can take classes for half of the school day at the CTC during their junior and senior year. Class topics include options such as culinary arts, welding, health care, criminal justice, construction trades, and automotive repair.

Students are encouraged to continue to explore their "why" (passions, skills and talents) as well as their "how" (the educational avenue they will pursue to get there).



## An East Coast Tour

Beginning in June 2017, RPMS is excited to offer a great travel opportunity for our students as they leave 8th grade. At Reeths-Puffer Schools, we are dedicated to preparing students to be college and career aware and ready. A driving force in this work is asking our students about their “why.” What are they passionate about, what problem do they want to solve, or what impact do they want to have on their world? This is much deeper than asking what they want to be when they grow up. Once students know their “why,” it is much easier to figure out the “how” and what their post-secondary education path will look like. We believe that experiencing a tour of some of our nations’ most important historic sites, surrounded by their peers, will help students see the world from a larger lens and begin to shape their “why.”

Some stops on the tour will include Niagara Falls, New York City, Statue of Liberty, the National Constitution Center, Independence Hall, and the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, Washington D.C. memorials and museums, Arlington Cemetery, Gettysburg, and Hershey Park. We will also visit an Ivy League college.

Please look for additional information coming home with your student. A parent meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. September 22nd.

## MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO ENGAGE

Middle school is the perfect time to build leadership skills and explore interests and passions through the variety of clubs and opportunities RPMS offers. A priority at RPMS is to continue to build the leadership capacity of our students. Clubs and opportunities evolve as student involvement and interest drives the change. Listed below are some of the current opportunities to look for next year.

- Rocket Reach Out
- Calling All Colors
- Reading Buddies
- Service Learners
- Student Council
- Green Team
- Ski Club
- RC Club
- Choir
- Theater
- Band
- 100 Mile Club
- Endurance Adventure
- Science Olympiad
- Men of Honor
- Ladies of Honor
- Many Athletic Opportunities



## MOCK ROCKet Scholars Raises \$5,200.00

Rockets of all ages got into the act with song and dance that kept the audience laughing and clapping throughout the night. All buildings were represented in the hour-long program.

This year, MOCK ROCKet Scholars raised \$5,200.00 that will be donated to the Rocket Scholars Foundation providing scholarships to Rocket graduates. What a great way to enjoy an evening on campus and at the same time, support Rocket Scholars Foundation!

The big winner of the event was senior Luke Lewis. Luke created his own version of “Music Through the Decades” and had the audience in stitches. Get your tickets early for next year as this event is a fast sellout!

## Graduation Ceremony Live-streamed on Periscope



The class of 2016 was the first RPHS class to have their graduation live-streamed via Periscope, a free live-stream app found in the app store. It’s easy to download Periscope! Just follow the prompts it provides.

After you’ve downloaded the Periscope app, type: DanBeckeman in the search window. Click to follow. Our graduation ceremony can be viewed at any time.

# The Rocket 3 Disc Golf Course is Open for Play



The newest addition to the RPHS Campus is The Rocket 3! The Rocket 3 is a 9-hole Disc Golf Course, situated on the southeast corner of the high school campus and is open for play!

The idea for our newest campus addition came from an IEP meeting when a staff member asked the student what he liked to do in his free time. The response was, "I like to Disc Golf."

From there, the ball (or disc) started to roll. RPHS is very fortunate to have a special group of Rockets that make popcorn and sell it at lunch. They take their proceeds from sales and make

purchases to help make our school and campus a great place to learn, contribute and compete. This group is our Rocket Enterprise Group and they are beloved by our students. Through their sales, they donated \$2,500.00 towards the purchase of nine official Disc Golf baskets. The Muskegon Community Foundation also donated \$1,000.00 to cover the remaining costs of the course resulting in a fully funded course!

The course is open to our community members all summer and when school is not in session. Come to campus and play our Rocket 3 Disc Golf Course!



## Rocket Stock Team Earns Trip to Washington D.C.

SIFMA (Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association) and the SIFMA Foundation announced the 10 winning teams of the 13th Annual Stock Market Game™ -Capitol Hill Challenge™ (CHC) national program. Once again, RPHS was among the winners. The RPHS Stock Challenge Team traveled to Washington DC on June 15 and were recognized at the Awards Reception on Capitol Hill.

This 14-week challenge organizes teams of middle and high school students by congressional district and state and teaches the importance of saving and investing, while simultaneously promoting a better understanding of our government. Teams invest a hypothetical \$100,000 in listed stocks, bonds, and mutual funds and learn the value of the capital markets as they work together to maximize the return of their portfolios. "This program provides critical educational experiences to young people across America, emphasizing underserved schools and enabling students who otherwise might not be exposed to the capital markets to gain insights that lead to their success," said Melanie Mortimer, President of the SIFMA Foundation. "Capitol Hill Challenge students experience the positive compounding effect of understanding, from an early age, how finance, civics and government touch their lives."

Pictured is the RPHS Stock Challenge Team (L-R): Kaylah Vande Guchte, Shelbi Adams, Emily Bride, Melissa Powell, Sydney Colgrove and Mr. Corbin. Mr. Corbin had this to share, "It has been so amazing to see these young adults grow in their financial literacy. At the beginning of the year they didn't even know what a portfolio was, now they are capable of trading in sophisticated securities such as triple levered Exchange Traded Funds."

Just a Reminder,

## Reeths-Puffer High School Registration

School Pictures and ID Cards

Registration portal is open starting 8/3/16  
[www.reeths-puffer.info](http://www.reeths-puffer.info)

**Picture Days**

<p><b>August 25 - Seniors</b> 8:00 am - 11:00 am 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm</p>	<p><b>August 26</b> 8:00 am - 11:00 am - Juniors 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Sophomores</p>
<p><b>August 29 - Freshmen</b> 8:00 am - 11:00 am 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm</p>	

**Make up Picture Days:** September 6 & October 4

Mark your Calendar TODAY!

**Please print and Bring This Card On Picture Day**

You will need to register online at [www.reeths-puffer.info](http://www.reeths-puffer.info) to be enrolled in classes for 2016-2017. Should you decide to order an ID Card/Pictures apart from registering online you can do so at [www.geskusphoto.com](http://www.geskusphoto.com) using the High School's Specific webcode: 571VFTACOCW

After you have your ID/Picture taken, you can pick up your schedule. Lockers will be assigned as requested. Tours for Freshmen will be available from National Honor Society guides. Freshmen will also have vision testing during registration on August 29th.

Go to: [WWW.GESKUSPHOTO.COM?A=571](http://WWW.GESKUSPHOTO.COM?A=571) for picture information to order online OR fill out form on reverse side.

## ANNUAL NOTICE OF PERSONAL CURRICULUMS

This posting serves notice to all high school parents of the school's obligation to develop a personal curriculum at a parent or guardian's request. For more information, contact the high school counseling office at 744-1647, ext. 3202.



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## NO TIME TO REST... TEACHERS IN SUMMER SCHOOL

The Reeths-Puffer World Language team didn't waste time revamping the K-12 Spanish curriculum. On June 13 at 8:00 a.m., R-P teachers began training with Dr. Terrill, the co-author of the book, *The Keys to Planning for Learning: Effective Curriculum, Unit, and Lesson Design*. Beginning with an understanding of the 21st Century learner, Dr. Terrill coached and guided teachers to develop lessons and units that incorporate the Standards for Learning Languages, Common Core State Standards, 21st Century skills and technology integration. Teachers created units that integrate multiple content areas and expand language speaking skills. Rather than teacher directed and student response, the shift will be more student to student conversations, beginning in kindergarten.

A "rocket three" to R-P Spanish teachers for starting their summer break developing more interesting and meaningful lessons for our Rocket learners!

## REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

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

### REGULAR MEETINGS:

August 15, 2016	February 13, 2017
September 19, 2016	March 20, 2017
October 24, 2016	April 17, 2017
November 21, 2016	May 22, 2017
December 12, 2016	June 19, 2017
January 16, 2017	

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