

Superintendent's Bulletin

"SERIOUS COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUCCESS"

December 15, 2014

TO: ALL STAFF MEMBERS
FROM: PEGGY DININNO
SUBJ: Updates

SUPERINTENDENT'S BULLETIN

This Bulletin is published periodically to provide staff with updates regarding our vision, district goals, curriculum, and strategic planning. Employees are encouraged to read and reflect on topics shared in this bulletin.

Gratitude

Thank you to each and every member of the Riverview Team for your continuous and genuine commitment to our students. Your effort and your positive attitude truly makes a difference. Your commitment to believing that **all children can learn** adds great value to our students' current lives and their futures. YOU are making a difference.

RSD E-news Publication

To keep interested stakeholders informed, we are pleased to announce that the District will begin communicating through an e-newsletter. Highlights pertaining to RSD academics, student activities, and other happenings in the District will be shared. The first e-newsletter will be published in the next few weeks.

STRATEGIC PLAN Update

A new Strategic Plan has been approved by the school board and submitted to the Department of Education. The plan prioritizes our commitment to the success of all of our students and targets: Academic Competitiveness, School Safety, Customized or Personalized Learning, Opportunities for Students, and Marketing. The overarching goal of the plan is to maintain our current excellent rating as a top performing Junior Senior High and Single A School and to attain one of the Top 15 High School SPP scores in western PA by 2021.

A two page "mini version" of the plan will be provided to all staff in January. The abbreviated version is meant to serve as a practical tool to keep us all focused on our priorities and to assist us with accomplishing the overall objectives and goals using a more reader friendly and accessible format.

School Performance Profile

A review of our SPP indicates that we have much to be proud of at RSD. At the same time, must strive to take our kids to the next level and to assist each and every one of them with reaching his or her fullest potential. Please take some time to examine the

SPP site at

<http://paschoolperformance.org/> to analyze the provided

data and determine ways to meet the needs of all of our students. Our goal is to strive for **constant and never ending improvement.**

Tenth Street = 80.8

Verner = 77.5

JHSH = 79.2

Data Driven Decision Making

We are fortunate to have a myriad of data sources available to us as we work to customize educational plans for our students. Please continue to make use of the OnHands Schools Resource to assess and identify student needs, implement interventions and monitor student learning gains. Thank you for your continued work in the development of **RCEPs**; please continue to use all available data points (PSSA, Keystone, CDT, OnHands Assessments) in your ongoing work toward growing students.

RELIT – All Are Welcome!

All teachers are encouraged to serve as a member of the RSD Educational Leadership Initiative Team (RELIT). You are welcome to join our team at any time. If you are unable to participate in person, please be sure to read over the meeting

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minutes to keep informed. Your input can be provided to any RELIT team member as well.

ELA/Curriculum Mapping

This fall, our K-6 teachers were provided training and collaboration time in order to use the OnHands Schools Curriculum Mapping Tool. District-wide teacher grade level teams have met to map our English Language Curriculum in relation to the new PA Common Core Standards. Upon completion, these curriculum maps will be published for parent and school community access. Final ELA maps will be essential to the selection of a new Reading Series in the Spring.

Secondary /Curriculum Mapping

Teachers in each department have been trained at the Secondary Level to use the Curriculum Mapper. In the future, as content areas come up for curriculum review, we will begin writing curriculum using this tool until all content area curricula have been articulated and published.

LEARNING GOALS

Thank you for continuing to write and refer to a student friendly learning goal at the beginning and end of every

lesson. Research supports this practice.

Professional Development Days

Our next Professional Development Days will occur on January 19th and February 17th. The Professional Development Committee met on December 9th to plan for these upcoming In-Service Days. Sessions will include: team/department collaboration and planning time, Student Learning Objectives (SLO) training, Text Dependent Analysis Writing Professional Development, and ELA Curriculum Development.

DISTRICT WEB PAGE

Our School District website serves as a valuable tool for sharing and communicating important information to staff and families. Please visit the site regularly and review the information.

2014 HOLIDAY CARD

Congratulations to McKenzi Coles, a second grade student at Verner. Her card was selected as the official 2014 RSD holiday card from over 20 outstanding and creative submissions. Thank you to Mrs. Gearhart and to all of the many talented and artistic students who participated in this year's contest.

December Celebrations

Many thanks to all faculty members who availed themselves to students throughout the past months in an effort to assist the kids with creating, planning, setting goals, practicing and sharing their talents with others. From community service, to volunteerism, to concerts, and formal recognition events, the talents and gifts of our students and staff makes us all very proud.

Distinguished Alumni

We will honor 4 Distinguished RSD alumni during our annual Distinguished Alumni Awards this year. Congratulations to Greg Barckhoff (87), Michael Cannon (96), Dimitri Facaros (02), Dominic Lio (87) A special thank you to teachers Patsy Kovortek and Barb Stuart, as well as all of their students for planning and hosting this very prestigious and well organized event.

Education Foundation

Several volunteer community members are in the process of organizing and creating an Education Foundation to assist the District with offsetting the costs for important academic projects, events, and other curricular items. We sincerely

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appreciate the enthusiasm of this group of people who have been working behind the scenes to jumpstart this important program. Stay tuned for more information as the group moves this project forward. ☺

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Employees are reminded to check the district website for the 2014-2015 handbook. Pages 12-13 serve as an excellent resource for locating the proper person when guidance or direction is needed.

SCHOOL VISITORS

Employees are reminded to wear their RSD I.D. badges at all times. Please ask visitors to show you their Visitor Pass after they sign in at the main office in each building. Please direct any unescorted visitors to the office and/or contact school building office staff for immediate assistance. We plan to install new Visitor swipe systems at each Elementary Building in January and one at the JHSH in the near future.

FACILITIES AND FLU SEASON

Our school nurses help us to follow all Department of Health guidelines with regard to prevention of infectious viruses or ailments. Our nurses work collaboratively with our custodians to make sure that we follow Health

Department recommendations. These proactive measures towards keeping our schools as germ free as possible are appreciated. Thank you to our nurses and custodians for helping us to maintain a safe learning environment for our kids and staff.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Please continue to provide building principals and/or Elissa Miller with summaries of any important events or accomplishments. This information helps us to share good news that is happening at RSD with the community and local media. Thank you in advance for your support of this important item.

School Delays / Dismissals

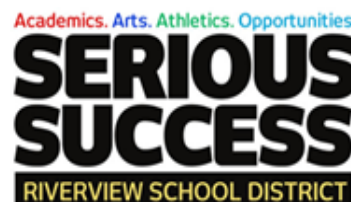
Keep in mind that if the school district has delayed and you feel that it is not safe to set out to school, please wait until you feel the conditions are safe before starting out in the morning. Since unplanned early dismissals have the potential to create situations where children may end up arriving at an unsupervised home or they are unable to get into their homes, unplanned early dismissals will be implemented only in the event of an extreme emergency.

GRANT UPDATES

We are pleased to announce that the following grants have been awarded to assist us with supporting our students:

- \$500 Science grants from McDonalds (Suzie Everett, Brooke Pegher)
- \$1,500 Sensory Room Award to Key Club (Lori Garland)
- \$700 Kindergarten Readiness from High5 (David Zolkowski)
- \$5,000 Highmark Spin Bikes/Nutrition (Dr. Coudriet and Wellness Committee)
- \$4,500 PDE Safe Schools Visitor I.D. systems (Bob Dunkle)
- \$2,000 Student Assistance (Tiffany Nix)
- \$9,000 Eat'n Park Network Switch upgrades (Bob Dunkle)
- \$25,000 INPAX Safety Training (Community Member)

Thank you to everyone for your time, effort and support!



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