



2023-24 6th Grade Orientation

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August 2023



Welcome

Thank you to our students and staff in attendance for volunteering their time to support our incoming 6th grade class of students.



School Leadership / Points of contact

Principal

Nicholas Steffner - Ext. 2002

Dean of Students

Mr. Esposito - Voicemail - 5009

Main Office Administrative Assistants

Mrs. Keller - Attendance - Ext. 2000

Mrs. Capriglione - (Executive Assistant) Ext. 2002

Nurse

Mrs. Kentner - Ext. 2004

School Psychologist

Mrs. Rinaldi - Ext. 2003

School Counselor

Mrs. Crumm - Ext. 2005

6th Grade Team Leader

Mrs. George - Voicemail - 5015

7th Grade Team Leader

Mrs. Mehta - Voicemail - 5016

8th Grade Team Leader

Mrs. Stein - Voicemail - 5035

Encore Team Leader

Mr. Leone - Voicemail - 5021

Technology Coordinator

Jim Stiles - Voicemail - 2025

Daily Schedule

Full Day (Students will rotate classes)

Drop off - 7:30 am

Period 1 - 7:45-8:43 (I&E)

Period 2 - 8:45-9:45

Period 3 - 9:47-10:47 (Homeroom)

Period 4-5 - 10:49-11:49

Period 6 (6th Grade Lunch) - 11:51 - 12:21

Period 7-8 - 12:23 - 1:23

Period 9 - 1:25 - 2:25

After School Activities - 2:30-3:30/4:00

Trimesters/Marking Periods and Rotation of Days

RMS works on a Trimester Schedule for all Core Academic Classes

Trimester 1 - September 11th - December 8th

Trimester 2 - December 11th - March 15th

Trimester 3 - March 18th - June 24th

Quarterly System with 4 Marking Periods For Encore/PE

Marking Period 1 - Sept 11th - November 17th

Marking Period 2 - November 20th - February 2nd

Marking Period 3 - February 5th - April 19th

Marking Period 4 - April 22nd - June 26th

RMS has a 6 day rotating schedule (A-F) which you may have noticed on your child's schedule.

- The rotation enables students to alternate between Social Studies and World Language/Literacy Intervention Program or another Supplemental Language Program such as Wilson Reading/Visualizing & Verbalizing.
- This also occurs in Physical Education and Encore.
- This must be an even number of days in order to maintain a balance between these two courses.
- The rotation also provide students access to the catalog of courses we offer during our Intervention and Enrichment Period (Period 1). [Sample Schedule - Full Day](#)

Intervention and Enrichment (Period 1)

Intervention & Enrichment

At the end of the 21-22 school year, teachers analyzed individual student plans and data to determine interventions that would target the most important areas for growth in ELA and Mathematics. We have developed curriculum and refined our placement procedures each year since.

ELA Courses

Interventions - Students are scheduled into these courses

ELA Enrichment (LLI) - Spring Running Record Under “U”
Reading and Writing Enrichment - Spring Running Record “U/V”
Reading and Writing Acceleration - Spring Running Record “W or above” and an average score below 70 on 3 on-demand writing assessments.

Math Courses - Students are scheduled into these courses

Pre-Algebra/Algebra Enrichment (Grades 6-8)
Math Academic Support (MAS) (Grades 6-8)

Electives - Students may opt in to take this course

Journalism I, II, III (Grades 6 - 8)
Creative Writing I, II, III (Grades 6 - 8)

Elective Courses

Full Year

Band 6, 7, 8
Chorus 6, 7, 8
Strings 6, 7, 8
Gifted and Talented 6, 7, 8
SEL/SJ 6, 7, 8

Marking Period (Quarter based)

Financial Literacy - 6, 7, 8
Civics - 8 (Semester 2)
RMS:101 - 6 (MP 1-3)
Art & Design - 6 (Digital Photo & Editing, Illustration)
Interactive Technology - 6 (CAD I, CAD II)
TV Productions - 6, 7, 8
Fitness and Nutrition - 6, 7, 8
Independent Study - 6, 7, 8
Guided Study - 6, 7, 8

Sample Schedule - I&E Full Year

Encore - What is it?

Encore is what we call our elective or “specials” classes here at RMS.

- Stem - Mrs. Barta
- Visual Art - Mrs. Bulleit
- Music - Mrs. Lynch
- Technology - Mr. Esposito

Students will switch Encore classes every Quarter (Marking Period). On your child's schedule, it will be denoted with Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4 for each class.

Physical Education

Mr. Ring and Ms. Shelus

- We consider Physical Education part of our Encore team although they stand alone as a full year course.
- We will integrate Health Education/Human Growth and Development into these courses beginning in Marking Period 2. Each grade will have a few units of Health Education in a particular Marking Period. (For instance, 6th - Q2, 7th - Q3, 8th - Q4.) We will provide you with communication weeks prior to the start.

Lunch/Recess (30 mins total)

Lunch (20 mins)

- Each grade level has their own lunch period.
- Hot lunch is provided through the [PTA](#)
- Lunch is provided in the Gymnasium

Recess (10 mins)

- After lunch, students transition into recess for the duration of the period.

Indoors

- We have the ability to offer recess indoors on half of the gym as well as other spaces throughout the building when necessary.

Outdoors

- When the weather permits, students will utilize the blacktop and back fields for recess in all seasons. Please make sure they dress in alignment with the weather.

RMS Olympiad / Lockers

RMS Olympiad - Day 1 (come in sneakers!)

- On the first day of school, students will spend the day participating in a number of activities that will help build community, set shared values, and orient themselves to our building.
- We will start the day with a Restorative Circle (Restorative Practices) to build community, create group norms, develop relationships and get to know each other.
- Students will then engage in a variety of activities throughout the course of the day such as:
 - Tour the building/scavenger hunt
 - Map out their schedule & develop time management calendar.
 - Meet the Encore Team of teachers and tour their rooms for MP 1.
 - Practice their locker combinations
 - Grade level kickball/soccer game
 - In class icebreakers/get to know RMS trivia game
 - Class meeting with Principal
 - Restorative circles - check in/check out

Hallway Lockers

- Students will each be assigned a hallway locker to store their belongings.
- All students will have the opportunity to practice their locker combination on the first day of school.
- Students will also develop a schedule for how to utilize their locker to maximize efficiency and plan out visits during the day (before/after PE, before/after lunch).

Arrival / Dismissal

Arrival

Drop-off

- Will occur in the lane closest to the school. Please leave the lane closest to the green open for busses.
- All students will enter through the front of the building via the doors outside of the Art Room.
- Upon arrival, students will report to their locker to start preparations for the day.
- Once they have their belongings for the morning, they may report to their period 1 class for the designated letter day and stay outside in the hallway until welcomed in by the teacher.

Dismissal

Pick Up

Will occur in the lane closest to the school. Please leave the lane closest to the green open for busses.

- Students who are taking the bus will report to the loop outside of the Board of Education building.
- Students who are being picked up by a parent will be released to the front of the building and will wait on the sidewalk near the building for pickup.

Busses will be using the loop outside of the BOE office, parents must stay out of this area to avoid traffic backup.

Athletics / Co-Curriculars

Athletics

- All information can be found via the [Athletics](#) tab on the RMS website, linked above.

Fall Sports

Boys Soccer - Coach - Brian McParland

Tryout date - 9/12 - 9/13

Time - 2:30pm-4:00pm

Girls Soccer - Coach - Kimberly Shelus

Tryout date - 9/12 - 9/13

Time - 2:30pm-4:00pm

Cross Country - Coach - Rebecca Fano, Vincent Putignano

Start date - 9/14 - 9/15 (time trials)

Time - 2:30pm-4:00pm

Co-Curriculars

- We have approved our full scope of fall/winter co-curricular programs to run at the start of the school year.
- Please visit our website and/or student handbook to see a comprehensive list of the offerings at RMS.
- Advisors will send out information to students once school gets started to discuss membership and schedules.

New Additions

- Paw Print - Student Newspaper
- The Wordsmith - Poems, short stories, art
- Steel Drum Band

Field Trips and Assemblies

Field Trips

- We are affiliated with a consortium of schools that runs small academic challenges throughout the course of the year for students to participate in. Students can sign up when each challenge comes out.
- Our 6th grade class will visit [Frogbridge Day Camp](#) on Friday, May 17th for their 6th grade class trip.
- This trip is fully funded by the District.

Assemblies

- Currently working with the PTA to determine what programs we would like to bring in.
- We will have HP students in the building throughout the year to work with students in Financial Literacy and to perform band and choral numbers.

Running Records, Report Cards, Standards

Running Records

We conduct running records for the purposes of establishing baseline assessment data, which is then used to create individual goals that drives our whole group and small group instructional practice. This happens for all students.

Progress is monitored through formative and summative measures including repeats of the benchmark assessment 3 times per year in both ELA and Mathematics.

Results of these assessments are provided to all stakeholders to ensure this partnership helps each student grow to their maximum potential.

Report Cards & Standards

- RMS uses both numerical grading as well as standards for each content area.
- You will also see GPB (global performance behaviors) that come from both homeroom teachers and Encore staff over the course of the school year. (We will denote which staff member is reflected in the current GPB for any given Trimester).
- Please know that standards reflect growth across the entire curriculum so it is possible to see (2's) during trimester 1 as students are still progressing through a standard or have not yet gained full exposure. This is considered on target for the first grading cycle.

Communication Platforms

My Communication Platforms

- School Messenger - All of my communication will be pushed out through this platform, make sure you have an active account. This comes as an email (noreply@) and is a connected to the email parents give during registration.
- Wednesday Update - I will be sending out a weekly update every Wednesday through School Messenger.
- Document Manager - On RMS website under parents tab. Contains important school and community communication.
- Morning Announcements - On RMS website under parents tab. Contains important school communication.

Student/Parent Platforms

- Genesis - Student data management system. Here you will find information on students grades and attendance.
- Google Classroom - All teacher assignments are posted through this platform. Your child has a Google Classroom for every subject.
- Google Calendar - We are syncing students google calendar with their google classrooms so assignments populate right to their calendar.

Reporting Attendance / Signing out students / Dropping off materials

Mrs. Keller

RMS Administrative Assistant

- Option #1 - You can login into the Genesis parent portal and report your child absent for the day. The Technology department will be sharing information about how to do this in the coming week(s).
- Option #2 - If your child is going to be absent, please call Ridgedale Middle School @ 973-822-3855 and press the #1 prompt to leave a message.
- Please do not send emails to homeroom teachers or other staff members to report an absence.

Signing out your child from school

- If possible, please let the main office know of your child's scheduled early dismissal from school.
- Ring the buzzer, check in at the front table and fill out the sign out form.
- Report to the main office.

Dropping off items to the building

- In the event that your child has forgotten an item that needs to be dropped off at school, we have provided a secure bin located at the front of the building, by the main entrance. Please open the lid and place the item with the child's name on it into the bin. Please ring the bell and communicate your intent to drop off an item for your child. This bin is under video surveillance so it is safe to leave musical instruments and Chromebooks. There is no need to bring the object into the building.

Use of Cell Phones

For Students

- Students are not permitted to use cell phones through the school day.
- They are to remain in student lockers.
- If a student's cell phone is turned into the main office, a parent or guardian will have to pick it up at the end of the day.
- If it occurs again, students will have to turn in their cell phone to the main office at the start of the school day.
- Students are not permitted to use their phones to take photos/videos of the building and/or other students/staff.
- Students who take and post pictures to a social media site will face disciplinary consequences.

For Parents

- Communicate with the main office for any message you need to get to your child.
- In the event of an emergency, call the main office and we will work with you to communicate as necessary.

[RMS Code of Conduct](#)

[Agenda Handbook](#)

Reminders

Sports Physicals

- Turn them in as soon as possible for Fall Sports.
- The processing time takes about 2 weeks from the school doctor.
- Students can not participate until we receive clearance from the doctor.
- The due date is 8/4, they can be turned in after that date but do know that participation in sports will not occur until the doctor has cleared your child.

Vaccination/Immunizations

- Please make sure to get the records uploaded into Genesis ASAP.
- Your child will not be able to start school until these records are produced.

Important Dates / District Calendar / RMS Calendar

- 9/6 - Chromebook Distribution 1pm-3pm (Front Entrance RMS)
- 9/7 - Chromebook Distribution 10am-12pm (Front Entrance RMS)
- 9/11 - RMS Olympiad - (wear sneakers!)
- 9/25 - Yom Kippur - School Closed
- 9/28 - Back to School Night 5:00pm - 7:00pm
- 9/29 - PTA Fall Fest
- 10/6 - Half Day Early Dismissal
- 10/9 - Columbus Day - School Closed
- 10/12 - Student Picture Day
- 10/17 - Hanover Park Regional High School Open House @ 6:30pm (All Grades)
- 11/6 - 11/8 - Parent Teacher Conferences - 12:40pm - 2:40pm
- 11/6 - RMS Nigh Parent Teacher Conferences - 5:00pm-7:00pm