

RAYTOWN QUALITY SCHOOLS • EXPECT THE EXCEPTIONAL

THE C-2 VIEW



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Summer 2023

Congratulations Class of 2023



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Raytown Schools

A Message From

SUPERINTENDENT DR. PENELOPE MARTIN-KNOX



What an amazing year! As the 2022-23 school year comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for welcoming me to Raytown. I am so proud of our students and staff for all they have accomplished this school year, the first "normal" year following the pandemic. We are grateful for how our school community settled in with dedication and determination to conquer this school year, striving for excellence every single day.

As I reflect on this past year, I am reminded of the many amazing individuals that I have met and interacted with. I met with students, teachers, staff, families, and community members to gain an understanding of the school district's strengths and needs, and ascertain meaningful input regarding

our way forward. This has led the district to invest in and begin the planning for the five year strategic plan. It has been a joy to get to know our students over the past year, and watch them grow and shine. I am proud of all of our graduating seniors at Northwood, Raytown Success Academy, Raytown High School, and Raytown South High School. I am in awe of the Class of 2023's resiliency, perseverance, and resolve as you reach this important milestone in your lives. I look forward to hearing about your future successes and the impact you will continue to have on our community.

There has been much pride in the 2023-24 school year in all corners of the district: from robotics, to speech and debate, to athletics, to theater performances, to concerts, to classroom successes. This year has proven to be one full of accomplishments. Our students have set new goals, broken records, welcomed new challenges and adventures, and maintained their focus throughout their academic journey. These accomplishments are only made possible with the support of dedicated teachers, staff, parents, families, and community partners.

Words cannot express how thankful we are for the support of the Raytown community, especially when it comes to the passage of the district's 2023 'Our Children, Our Investment' bond. Thank you for the overwhelming support to update arts and activity spaces at both high schools. We look forward to welcoming you into these spaces to watch our amazing students.

A special thank you to our partners who supported the first annual Sparkle Empowerment Conference. At the conference, female students in grades 4-12 had the opportunity to hear from leaders across the metropolitan area that left them feeling empowered with knowledge about entrepreneurship, finances, mental health, college readiness, and more.

We look forward to welcoming students and staff for Summer Enrichment Camp, which begins on Thursday, June 1. In closing, I say thank you and have a fun and safe summer.

For the Children,

Dr. Penelope Martin-Knox,
Superintendent of Schools

Raytown Quality Schools

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Staff RAYS OF HOPE



Melissa Hays, Raytown Central Middle School



Juliette Genteman, Little Blue Elementary

Congratulations, District Teacher and Support Staff Employee of the Year!

The 2023-24 Teacher of the Year is Raytown Central Middle School's seventh and eighth-grade social studies teacher, Melissa Hays. Melissa provides students with the connection, compassion, supports, and resources they need to be successful. She's passionate about what she does, and serves with her greatest ability the students, her peers, and the district.

The 2023-24 Support Staff Employee of the Year is Little Blue Elementary's Library Media Clerk, Juliette Genteman. Juliette is passionate about helping students explore the world through reading. Her energy and joy is contagious, and she spreads that throughout the library, the classroom, the hallways.



Maureen Thomas and two RSHS seniors

Maureen Thomas, Raytown South High School

Raytown South High School Speech and Debate teacher, Maureen Thomas, was recognized for the third time as a Diamond Coach by the National Speech and Debate Association. Diamond coach awards reflect excellence and longevity in the instruction, and represents dedicated coaching and hours of practice, revision, and growth for students.



Angelica Huth at the Breaking Traditions Ceremony

Angelica Huth, Herndon Career Center

Congratulations to Angelica Huth, Law Enforcement and Police Science teacher with Herndon Career Center, for being recognized as the Breaking Traditions State Educator award winner by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The award recognizes outstanding non-traditional career and technical school district employees.



Student SPOTLIGHT



Westridge Elementary Students 'Dream Big' With Recent Contest Win

Congratulations to two outstanding Westridge Elementary students for winning the Caring for Kids 'Dream Big' contest. Students were asked to write an essay, poetry, or use art to express their big dreams. Fifth grader Collin G. was chosen as the winner for his essay submission, and third grader Jaylene B., won for her artwork. Their hard work, determination, and perseverance shined through and helped them win in their category.



Mariah Turner, Raytown South Middle School

Student Mariah Turner is paving the way for her peers and district students, living her dream and fulfilling her passion – and she's only in eighth grade! Mariah pursued her passion for creativity by writing and publishing her first book 'Living in Variety.' The book was written in honor of her brother, who lives with autism, and is meant to educate her peers and the community on how being different is not only good, but great. The book can be found on retail sites such as Amazon.



Congratulations to the Class of 2023 Scholarship Recipients!

Congratulations to all Class of 2023 Northwood School, Raytown Success Academy, Raytown High School, and Raytown South High School graduates.



More than 80 students of the graduating class were awarded over 115 scholarships, surpassing \$1.2 million in scholarships. Their hard work and dedication led them to this proud moment in their lives. We are beyond proud of the Class of 2023 and look forward to their next adventure!

High School Arts & Activities



Raytown High School

- Lady Jays basketball placed 3rd in the state championship final four, being the first team in boys or girls basketball history to place that high in the state championship.
- Camerata and Concert Choir performed at the MSHSAA State Large Ensemble Festival and received an 'outstanding' rating.
- Students Luke T. and Shawn H. placed 5th in the Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team Event at State DECA, advancing to the National DECA competition.
- Bluejay Wrestling team's Amaya J. finished 6th place at the Missouri State Tournament. She is the first district champion, state qualifier, and All State female wrestler from RHS.
- Jaywalkers dance team took 2nd place in Hip Hop and 5th place in Mix at the state championships.
- Five juniors will attend American Legion's Boys State this summer: Joshua R., Arcianne S., Nigel T., Brett W., and Page W.
- RHS Theatre Department performed "Into the Woods" at the MO State Thespian Conference. Student Parker C. received a superior rating for his monologue performance.
- Anderson H. will represent RHS at the MO Scholars Academy this summer, for students who excel academically.
- The RHS boys 4x200 relay team is ranked as one of the top teams in the state.



Theatre Department "Into the Woods" performance



Lady Jays at State Championship practice



Raytown South High School

- Girls basketball won their first conference championship since 1999, finishing the season with a score of 19-4.
- The baseball team won their first game against RHS for the first time in 14 years.
- Cardettes traveled to Orlando, FL for dance nationals, finishing in the top 10 in Hip Hop.
- The theatrical design class and senior Caleb P. received a Blue Star Award Nomination for the fall usical.
- The robotics team placed 13th at their Missouri/ Kansas State Competition.
- Senior Zaya Akins broke her own 400m KU Relays Record with a time of 53.56. Zaya and two other student athletes are headed to state.
- Girls soccer placed third in the Van Horn KC Cup Tournament.
- The school weight room received the NSCA Strength of America Award, which recognizes elite high school strength and conditioning programs.
- Student DeTrevion W. won the state championship in information speaking at the Speech and Debate State Competition.
- Choir and orchestra students competed at Festival Disney.



Baseball seniors at Senior Night



Choir performing at Festival Disney in Orlando, FL



2023 Bond: 'Our Children, Our Investment'



In April, the Raytown Quality Schools community voted 'yes' to the district's 'Our Children, Our Investment' 2023 zero tax increase bond. The zero tax increase bond will allow the district to address the immediate needs at Raytown South High School and Raytown High School for updated and new arts and activities spaces for students.

The RSHS Performing Arts Center project is expected to begin in summer 2023, with a projected completion date of fall 2024. The RSHS auxiliary gym project is expected to begin in late fall 2024, with a projected completion date of spring 2025. The RHS projects will begin in fall 2023, with an expected completion date of late spring 2024.

Raytown Quality Schools *Paving the Way*

Finance Department received the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials International. Program participation enhances school business officials' skills in developing, analyzing, and presenting a school system budget.

Fine Arts Program received the District of Distinction Award from the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education. The award is given to schools that have done an outstanding job of making the arts essential to the education of their students.

Raytown Quality Schools Music Education Program received the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education.

Raytown Quality Schools Named as one of Kansas City's Healthiest Employers for 2023, a recognition from the Kansas City Business Journal that honors Kansas City-area businesses who make health and wellness a priority.

Raytown Quality Schools Recognized as 2022 Healthiest 100 Workplaces in America by Healthiest Employers, an award that honors the organizations that are demonstrating care for employees by investing in health and well-being solutions and initiatives.



This edition of the C-2 View was produced by the Communications and Community Relations Department. The department can be contacted at 816.268.7000.

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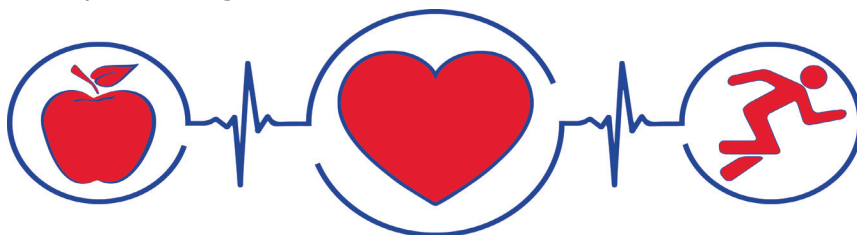
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If you live or work within the Raytown Quality Schools boundaries, then you have access to:

- Commercial grade equipment to meet your strength and cardio needs
- Group exercise classes
- Indoor pools
- Indoor walking track
- Kids Club services
- And so much more!



Pricing:

Single \$31 | Family \$51 | +55 Single \$26 | +55 Family \$46 | More memberships available!

Contact:

Raytown Schools Wellness Center | 10301 E State Rte 350, Raytown, MO 64138 | 816. 268.7190

POLICY OF DISCRIMINATION

Raytown Quality Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disabling condition. This policy regards admission/access to treatment/employment in its programs and activities. This notification is made to: applicants for admission and employment; students; parents of elementary and secondary students; employees; sources of referral of applicants from admission and employment; and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements. Any person having inquiries concerning Consolidated School District No. 2 compliance with the regulations implementing Title IV, Title IX or Section 504 should be directed to contact the district at 816.268.7000 | 6608 Raytown Rd., Raytown, MO 64133