

RAYTOWN QUALITY SCHOOLS • EXPECT THE EXCEPTIONAL

THE C-2 VIEW

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Winter 2024

High School Arts & Activities - Fall Recap



Raytown High School

- The boys soccer team finished 16-4-1, with the best season in a decade. The team won the Northmen Classic Tournament, was named the FOX4 News Hy-Vee Team of the Week, and was recognized by KMBC for their great season.
- Boys swim and dive won the conference championship with members competing at State.
- Theater presented the fall musical 'Sister Act,' and will be one of the first high schools nationwide to present 'The Six' this spring.
- Three orchestra students were selected to the KC Metro All-District Orchestra.
- Two band students were selected to the KC Metro All-District Band, three to All-District Honorable Mention Band, two to All-District Jazz Band, and one to All-District Jazz Band Alternate.
- Choir had one student selected to the District SSAA Honor Choir, two students selected to the District TTBB Honor Choir, and four students selected to the 9/10 Honor Choir.
- Marching band won first place at the Golden Regiment Invitational, with the best music, visual, and general effects performance. They placed first in class and best drum majors.
- Speech and debate club participated in several tournaments, with nine students placing in finals.
- Jaywalkers hosted their first K-8 clinic, performing an amazing halftime routine.
- Cross country competed at conference and districts.
- The girls tennis team had 20 student participants this year, finishing second in the annual Lady Jay Invitational.



RHS Boys Swim Team
Photo credit: Bobbie Sue Photography



RHS Marching Band



RHS Boys Soccer Team
Photo credit: Bobbie Sue Photography



Raytown South High School

- Football finished their season 8-3 in the district semi-finals and was named KMBC's Hy-Vee Team of the Week.
- Volleyball raised funds for American Cancer Society at their first ever "Spike Out Cancer" event.
- Band won first place indoor color guard, second place indoor drumline, second place field show, second out of 17 bands for field show, and member Sophia L. won outstanding musicianship for her mellophone solo.
- Theater held a successful fall play, 'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown.'
- RSHS held its first ever Student Activity Advisory Council, which consists of student-leaders chosen by coaches and sponsors to participate in community service events.
- The cardettes hosted a youth mini clinic, performing an amazing halftime routine with the minis who participated.
- Boys swim had their best season in recent years.
- Football Coach Harris was selected as Chiefs Coach of the Week.
- Activities Director, Lauren Adair, was named the KC Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's Newcomer of the Year.
- Successful football, band, cheer, and cardettes alumni night.



RSHS Football Team



RSHS Coaches

A Message From

SUPERINTENDENT DR. PENELOPE MARTIN-KNOX



The first semester of the 2023-24 school year is coming to an end, and what a great one it has been! I want you to know how proud I am of the learning and leadership I have seen firsthand in every corner of the district. There is much to be excited about for the second half of the school year.

The theme this school year continues to be "Ray of Hope: Happiness, Opportunity, Purpose, Excellence." From our students, staff, families, and community, there are rays of hope all around us. We have a wonderful school system with incredible support from our community.

A few celebrations to-date include:

- Outstanding efforts by our Challenge and Gifted Program students, who helped lead the unveiling of Riveting Robots, the newest, RQS student-led and designed, \$1 million exhibit at Science City Union Station. Thank you to Burns & McDonnell for their partnership.
- Exceptional recognitions for the Raytown South High School and Raytown High School arts and activities.
- Amazing start of two new district programs, Connections Academy and Transitional Kindergarten, both housed at Norfleet Elementary School.
- RQS named a recipient of the state's School Safety Grant Program, a \$300,000 grant to continue supporting school safety improvements across the district.
- Strengthening ties with our alumni with the induction of the 18th Alumni Hall of Fame class.
- Hosting the district's first annual RQS Young Men of Excellence Leadership Conference.
- Successful launch of the inaugural RQS Day.
- Witnessing the power of community, with partnerships such as the Kansas City Royals hosting Herndon Career Center students interested in sports medicine, and Kansas City University providing free physical, dental, and vision assessments to Westridge Elementary School at their Score 1 for Health event.

There are many things to look forward to as we welcome 2024, including the State of the District Address in February, that will be available for the public to view online, the district's second annual Sparkle Empowerment Conference in April, the Staff Recognition Breakfast to honor our teacher, support staff, and administrator of the year, happening in March, and witnessing the district's five-year strategic plan and board goals at work throughout the school communities.

As we enjoy the holiday season, I encourage students, staff, and families to take this time to rest, and prepare for the second half of the school year. As always, I am proud to be your superintendent and look forward to another semester of preparing students for their future.

For the Children,

Dr. Penelope Martin-Knox,
Superintendent of Schools

Raytown Quality Schools

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www.raytownschools.org

Superintendent

Dr. Penelope Martin-Knox

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Raytown Schools

Growing our own:

How RQS is paving the way for future teachers and leaders

Raytown Quality Schools career exploration and real-world learning opportunities for secondary students take students past “knowing” and into “doing.”

One example of that is Education Exploration, a career exploration program offered through the Southland Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) housed at Herndon Career Center. Education Exploration is a nationally recognized, innovative high school program offered to inspire students to pursue the education profession. Student participants learn about the various levels of education, including early childhood, elementary, middle and high school, and post-secondary.

“Our future teachers are right in front of us,” said Kristin Drummond, CAPS Education Exploration Instructor. “In the midst of the teacher shortage, this is a small, but important step, to help grow future teachers and leaders.”

Drummond helped found and support the first cohort of the program in the 2018-19 school year. Two students in that cohort, Messiah Walls, a senior at Raytown High School at the time, and Charity Wright, a senior at Raytown South High School at the time, are back in the district as first-year teachers.

“I was walking down the Norfleet hallway, when Messiah called out to me and let me know that her and Charity are current teachers in the building,” said Drummond. “I was so excited to learn that they are not only teaching, but teaching with the district. It’s amazing to see the program come full circle.”

Walls, a first year Instructional Assistant at Connections Academy, says her decision to pursue the education field was an easy one. “I always had an interest in teaching,” said Walls. “The hands-on component as a senior in high school helped me solidify that education is what I wanted to pursue as a career.”

Student participants can enroll in the program as a junior or a senior in high school.

The first semester of the program relies heavily on exploration and learning the teaching fundamentals. The second semester of the program is a commitment to student teaching, with students diving into the grade, subject, or education field they want to shadow.

“I went into college with a lot more prior education experience than many of my peers,” said Wright, fifth grade teacher at Norfleet Elementary. “I was easily able to connect what I was learning in the college classroom with what I experienced hands-on while shadowing a third-grade teacher in high school.”



Pictured: Messiah Walls, left, and Charity Wright, right

High school seniors with a commitment to pursuing education in college and returning to the district as a teacher are eligible to apply for the district’s \$10,000 Grow Your Own scholarship, which has been offered in the district since 2017. The goal of the scholarship is to promote education as a career pathway for RQS students. To date, the district has had 15 participants in the scholarship program.

“The scholarship absolutely inspired me to come back to the district,” said Wright. “Raytown was always my home. I attended Raytown from first through twelfth grade. It felt like this was the district where I was supposed to work in.”

The successes of the Education Exploration Program are only beginning, with stories like the ones of Walls and Wright paving the way for other future leaders like Alec Snider, a recent graduate from RSHS and the Education Exploration Program, who is in their first year at the Institute for Urban Education.

“

I was so excited to learn that they are not only teaching, but teaching with the district. **It’s amazing to see the program come full circle.**

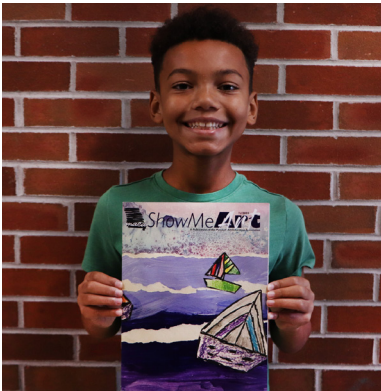
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Kristin Drummond

CAPS Education Exploration Instructor



Student SPOTLIGHT



Dominick E. holding the cover of the Show Me Art Magazine

Spring Valley is home to its very own published artist!

Congratulations to Spring Valley Elementary School fifth grade student, Dominick E., for becoming a published artist! His artwork was selected as the cover of the Fall 2023 Missouri Art Education Association's (MAEA) Show Me Art Magazine!

The Show Me Art Magazine is published twice a year and is viewed by more than 1,000 MAEA subscribers, including educators from across the state, Missouri legislators, the Missouri Commissioner of Education, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education board members. With his artwork being selected for the cover, Dominick is now a published artist. This is truly a reason to celebrate.

Five RCMS students prepare for musically filled second semester and performances!

Five Raytown Central Middle School students are taking their learning beyond the classroom and gearing up for important performances the second half of the school year. Congratulations to Caden G., Siriayah C., and Eze O. for being selected as members of the Kansas City Metro Area Middle School All-District Band. Congratulations to Amelia C. and Marvin G. for being selected as a part of the 2024 All-District Orchestra.



RCMS All-District students

Staff RAYS OF HOPE



Teacher Emily Bartz, left, and Mark Barber, right

Little Blue Percussion Club doubles in size in just one year!

Two Little Blue Elementary School teachers, music teacher Emily Bartz and third grade teacher Mark Barber, are showcasing the power of music in our schools, founding the Percussion Club, an afterschool music club open to students in grades 4-5.

In just one year, the club has more than doubled the number of student participants, serving seven students last year, to 19 this year.

Thank you to the Raytown Educational Foundation for providing the club with a grant for the purchase of a drum set. The club is set to have three performances this school year.

District Communications Department receives two Awards of Merit from MOSPRA

Congratulations to the district's Communications Department for being the recipient of not one, but two Awards of Merit from the Missouri School Public Relations Association (MOSPRA) for their work in the 2022-23 school year. They received the Golden Achievement Award of Merit for the 2022-23 Bond Campaign communications and marketing, and for their work with the Ray of Hope video series shown at every Board of Education meeting.



Pictured (left to right): Stephanie Eastland, Marissa Cleaver Wamble, Lindsay Hardiman



2023 Bond Update: 'Our Children, Our Investment'

In April 2023, 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 (PAC) is well underway. Crews have been working diligently at the site, running utilities, drilling piers, and pouring foundations. The RSHS PAC projected completion date is January 2025. The RSHS auxiliary gym is the second phase and will begin once the PAC is completed.

The RHS auxiliary gym is also well underway. Crews have been busy with site work and running utilities in preparation to pour footings in the near future. The RHS auxiliary gym projected completion date is Summer 2024.

Zero Tax Increase Bond



Addressing **immediate** needs at both high schools for **new** arts and **activities** spaces



Enhancing high school arts and activities programs to be on **par** with **school districts** in the **metropolitan area**



Pursuing every opportunity to provide students with **state of the art facilities**



RSBS: Placement of concrete footings for PAC



RSBS: Concrete footing



RHS: Installation of storm structure

Congratulations, 2023 Alumni Hall of Fame inductees!



Raytown Quality Schools is pleased to announce its Alumni Hall of Fame Class of 2023. The class includes six individuals who were officially inducted into the district's Hall of Fame in early October 2023.

Inductees included Anthony Bestafka-Cruz (RHS Class of 2006), Kemet Coleman (RHS Class of 2005), Lesa McCord Francis (RHS Class of 1975), Dr. Keith Hardiman (RHS Class of 1997), Kenneth Hardiman (RHS Class of 1997), and Bill Price (RHS Class of 1963), not pictured.

Visit www.raytownschools.org to read the full biographies for each inductee, or to nominate a 2024 Hall of Fame honoree. Nominations for the class of 2024 will be accepted until Friday, Feb. 2, 2024.

R QS L.I.F.E University Program

Building confidence, connection, and life skills



L.I.F.E University Program Interns

Raytown Quality Schools is the proud home of the Learning in Future Environments (L.I.F.E) University Program, a transition program that provides opportunities to prepare 18-21 year old students who have completed their high school academic requirements and are staying in school for additional instruction in the skills necessary for a successful transition to adult life.

A typical day in-the-life of a L.I.F.E University Program intern consists of spending the morning in the program's dedicated business park, located at Raytown High School, where they work towards vocational and life skills through internships.

With hands-on opportunities at one of the 15 micro businesses created in the space, interns receive experiences to promote independence and prepare them for their next phase of life. This includes job exploration, financial literacy, self-advocacy, workplace readiness, and life skills.

The interns then spend their afternoon in the transition house where they work towards learning independent living skills such as housework, including laundry and making their own snack or meal, and spending time in the office space where they practice office work and socialization.

The end goal of the program is to support interns in leading independent, productive, and fulfilling lives. The program strives to help the interns grow their confidence and develop a sense of pride in their every day work.

"It's important to know that the interns drive this program," said Vivian McKinney, teacher at L.I.F.E. University Program. "They have done a lot of the groundwork – they do the cleaning, the mowing, and beautifying of the spaces – and they are key to making this space what it is."

Interns are also connected to local businesses and community partners through their externships, which provides them the resources to be engaged, active members of their community. Externships include the KC Pet Projects, where interns help to make dog treats, work at the local food and clothing pantry, where interns help to organize the space to effectively support the community and their needs, and work with the Raytown Schools Wellness Center, where interns help to maintain the facilities equipment.

Though the program's hands-on work is exciting for the interns and something they look forward to daily, one intern stated that there's something they enjoy even more about the program. "The best part of my day is being with my best friends in the whole wide world," said Hannah Reffitt, intern at the L.I.F.E University Program. "And being with the best teachers."

Connect with us on our app!

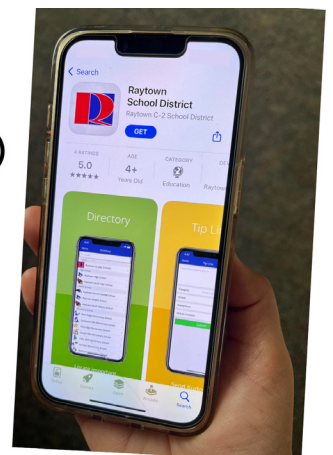
The intuitive and easy-to-navigate app allows customizable filtering options for a truly enjoyable browsing experience.

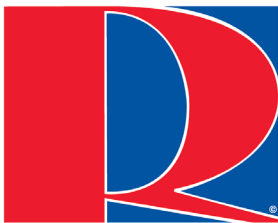
Access the district and school communities news and announcements, events and calendar, and so much more. Users can filter content, including events and calendars. There's also easy access to the district's directory. Users have the ability to receive notifications and push notifications, in the event of an emergency or school closure.

You can find

Raytown School District

in the app store





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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interpreter@raytownschools.org

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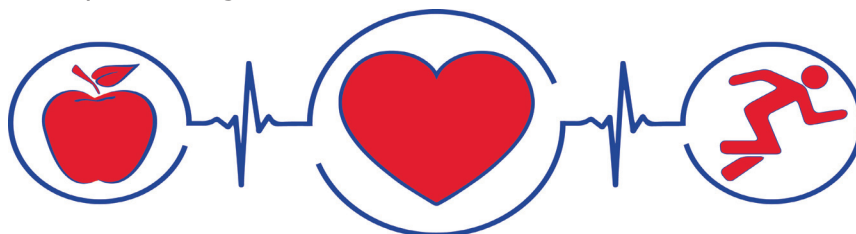
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- Indoor pools
- Indoor walking track
- Kids Club services
- And so much more!



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Contact:

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

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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