



Superintendent's Bulletin

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Dear RCSD Community,

When I first came to the RCSD, the student club program looked a little different. At the High School, there was always a very robust club program. The school received anywhere from 15-37 student requests for new clubs every year! That seems like a lot, but when we took a closer look at the kinds of clubs available, we found there wasn't a club for every student who wanted to join one.

There were clubs focused on skill-building, the arts, community acceptance, and academics, but there were clearly a number of underrepresented populations. For example, the engineering course pathway was an important addition at RHS, but there were no clubs having anything to do with engineering! As a result, the school launched an Aerospace Club in the fall of 2022. Other clubs that formed at the same time include the Bridges Club (which works to connect students), a Craft Club, Film Club, The Billion Oyster Project Club, and the Sports Medicine Club. They are all still going strong today.

A similar evaluation at RMS at the same time found that clubs were often offered based on recommendations from club advisors, rather than students. The school decided to survey students for feedback on what kinds of clubs they would like to see. Students told us they'd like to compete in something other than sports. We also learned there were a lot of kids who were interested in coding and Legos, all of which combined to lead to the creation of a FIRST® LEGO® League Robotics team called appropriately, "Ryebotics." Today at RMS, students lead the clubs, and while faculty advisors are there to assist, they don't drive them.

In the years since its creation, the RMS Ryebotics team has gone from strength to strength. This school year, in three short months, the 10-student team designed, built, and coded a robot to compete in the FIRST® Lego League® Challenge, an international competition that asks students ages 9-16 to build and program a LEGO® robot that navigates the missions of a robot game. In the qualifying tournament, they placed 5th overall out of 14 teams with a high robot mission score of 215, far exceeding their goal score of 200. The win secured them a spot at the Championship Tournament at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, NY, on February 10.

At the tournament, the team competed against 24 other teams from around the state, taking home a trophy for "First Place - Innovation Project" in the Hudson Valley FIRST® LEGO® League as selected by a panel of judges.

Congratulations to the team and to coach and RMS engineering teacher Susan Granata. Build on! And to all the new RMS and RHS students out there who are looking for a different kind of club, join in! We've got you covered.

Sincerely,

Eric Byrne, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



RMS Club Squash Team are National Champs



Left to right: Natalie Hofmann, Sofia Echlov, Sophie Ehrlich, Eliza Relyea, Brooke Erickson, Ava Apostolatos

Rye Middle School sent a total of 17 students on three teams to the National Middle School Squash tournament in Philadelphia over the first weekend in February, and the girls team won the national championship for Division 2! We will be recognizing the team with Rye Recognition of Excellence awards at the Board of Education meeting on April 9. Congratulations to the team and to parent club advisors Jennifer Crozier and Russel Echlov.

RHS Seniors Sign Letters of Intent



Left to right: Charlie Saurack, A.J. Miller, Ella Sheth

On February 7, three Rye High School seniors, their parents, friends, and coaches gathered in the RMS Multipurpose Room to participate in a National Letter of Intent Ceremony. A Letter of Intent is used to indicate a student athlete's commitment to participating National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) colleges and universities in the United States. The seniors, their sports, and colleges/universities are:

A.J. Miller, football, Syracuse University

Charles (Charlie) Saurack, football, Bowdoin College

Ella Sheth, crew, Harvard University

Congratulations to the seniors, their parents, and coaches!

Commendations

- Both of Rye High School's National Merit Semifinalists are now Finalists in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. Good luck to seniors **Jeffrey Harrigan** and **Dan Yamaguchi**
- The **RMS Ryebotics Club** competed in the Championship Tournament at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, NY, on February 10, winning the best Innovation Project in the Hudson Valley FIRST® LEGO® League (see story on p. 1)
- RHS sophomore **Claire Curran** was the winner for the Rye High School Poetry Out Loud Contest. She participated in the semifinal competition on Wednesday, February 7, in Sleepy Hollow, NY
- **Rhythm on Rye**, Rye High School's a capella group, participated in the ICSHSA (International Championship of High School A Capella) northeast quarterfinals on February 10 in Danvers, MA. The team is hoping for a wildcard placement for the semifinals
- The **RHS boys varsity basketball team** are league champions. The team beat Hendrick Hudson 64-58 on February 26 to win the Section One class A semifinals. They head back to the County Center to take on Byram Hills in the Section One Class A Finals on March 2. The team last won a gold ball in 2020
- The **girls varsity basketball team** made it to the first round of playoffs this year
- The **varsity cheer team** competed in sectional competitions and finished the season with a first place finish at Roy C. Ketchum Varsity Tournament on February 17
- The **varsity hockey team** won the Section One quarterfinals against Chappaqua on February 20 before losing to Pelham in the semifinals on February 22
- Eleven members of the **varsity ski team** participated in the Section One Sectional Championships for Ski Racing at Hunter Mountain on February 15: **Trent Bisceglia** (12), **Zach Choo** (9), **Charlotte Derman** (12), **Margaret Derman** (10), **Harrison Gelinas** (11), **Kiran Gounden-Kobes** (11), **Justin Gray** (12), **Tori Hobbins** (10), **Audrey Meier** (11), **Lukas Steinmann** (12), and **Kira Woolsey** (10)
- Senior ski team co-captain **Justin Gray** won the Silver Skimeister award for best combined Giant Slalom & Slalom times at sectionals. He qualified for the State Championship and headed to Lake Placid to compete on February 26 and 27 and finished 13 in Slalom and 32 in the Giant Slalom
- The **boys varsity swim and dive teams** were co-League 3 Champions with Yonkers. Four members of the swim team competed in the sectional finals on February 14 at Felix Festa Middle School: **Filip Glitterstam** (9), **Bryan Laverty** (12), **Kieran Moran** (9), **Tripp Redd** (12), and **Wilson Redd** (9)
- Nine members of the **Rye-Rye Neck boys varsity wrestling team** qualified for sectionals and competed at the County Center on February 10 and 11: **Jack Anderson** (10), **Tommy Anderson** (12), **Eamon Bagley** (12), **Jack Frenchman** (12), **Mauro Flores** (12), **Jason Gaylord** (10), **Hunter Gillies** (10), **CJ Luth** (10), and **Ronan Sutter** (Rye Neck, 10). Two athletes finished in the top four: **CJ Luth** (10) finished second and **Tommy Anderson** (12) in fourth
- Freshman varsity cheer team member **Elle Talbot** was named to the Nfinity All American Team
- Senior varsity football player **Charles (Charlie) Saurack** was named to the Class of 2024 Golden Dozen Scholar-Athlete list; senior **A.J. Miller** received Golden Dozen Honorable Mention. The Awards are given annually by the Westchester Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame
- Senior boys winter track team athlete **Will Squarek** qualified for the New York State High School Track and Field Championships in the 600 meters. He competes March 2 at the Ocean Breeze Complex in Staten Island, NY
- Senior girls winter indoor track team athlete **Mali White** was named the January Lion's Club's Athlete of the Month

Information Session on School Board Service



If you've ever thought about school board service, consider coming to the RCSD Board of Education Service Interest meeting on Tuesday, March 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room. Current members of the Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Eric Byrne will be on hand to provide an informal primer on School Board service. Hear about the experiences of Board members and learn about School Board responsibilities, time commitment, and election procedures.

Gung Hay Fat Choy!



Milton School celebrated the Lunar New Year dragon-style



Looking Ahead



Friday, March 1 and Saturday, March 2

RHS Parsons Street Players present Mamma Mia!
March 1: 7:00 p.m. and March 2: 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Rye High School Performing Arts Center

Tuesday, March 5

Board of Education Service Interest Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting - Budget Work Session
7:30 p.m.
RMS Multipurpose Room

Friday, March 15

Superintendent's Conference Day
No school for students

Tuesday, March 19

Community Budget Cafe
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
RMS iLab

Board of Education Meeting - Budget Adoption
7:30 p.m.
RMS Multipurpose Room

Monday, March 25 - Friday, March 29

Spring Recess
RCSD schools closed
RCSD offices open March 25 - 28 from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
RCSD offices closed March 29