

# R. K. SMITH MIDDLE SCHOOL

We are committed to ensuring that all students are critical thinkers and life-long learners in order to make a positive impact on society.

Harold Blood, Principal  
Ami Houston, Assistant Principal  
Corey Weeks, Assistant Principal



## Message from Mr. Blood

As we approach the end of the year, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible achievements of our students, staff, and the entire R K Smith community. I am thrilled to share that our school has maintained a 'B' letter grade, and our school performance score has increased by more than 6 points! This improvement is a reflection of our shared commitment to excellence in education and a direct result of the dedication, hard work, and collaboration among our teachers, staff, students, and all stakeholders. Our teachers have gone above and beyond in their efforts to engage and support our students. Our students have shown incredible resilience, determination, and growth, and the entire R K Smith team has worked tirelessly to create an environment where all students learn at high levels. I am so proud of all that we have accomplished together.

As we head into the second half of the school year, I want to remind our students that success is intentional. It doesn't just happen by chance—it requires focus, dedication, and a growth mindset. With the second quarter coming to a close, now is the time to finish strong. I encourage every student to stay motivated, keep pushing forward, and finish this quarter with the same energy and determination that has led to our success so far. Remember, success is a journey that we take together, and it is made possible by the collective effort of our entire community. Let's continue to support one another as we strive for even greater success in the months ahead.

Thank you for your continued support of R K Smith Middle School. I am excited to see what the future holds as we work together to achieve even greater heights in education.

Wishing you all a joyful and restful holiday season!

Mr. Harold Blood  
Principal, R K Smith Middle School

Follow the links  
for more  
information:

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Activities](#)

[6th Grade  
Weekly  
Information  
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[7th Grade  
Weekly  
Information  
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[8th Grade  
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[Power School  
Parent Log In](#)

ATTITUDE  
GRATITUDE

## Mind Matters

December 5th is International Volunteer Day! In what way can you volunteer? Giving makes you feel better. Scientific studies prove that cheerfully giving to others releases endorphins (feel good hormones) in our brains. Donate canned goods. Help make packages at your local food bank. Volunteer at our church or community center. Serve in a local kitchen. Sing Christmas carols to elderly at a local retirement home or to your neighbors. Pick a name off of a tree to give a gift to a child less fortunate. It can be as simple as cleaning your elderly neighbors yard or helping carry their groceries. There are endless possibilities around you to volunteer and the feeling of gratefulness, appreciation and happiness are endless too! Share your volunteer stories on social media using hashtags like #InternationalVolunteersDay, #VolunteerRecognition, and #VolunteerImpact



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Library Lowdown



December is the perfect time to grab a good book and dive into new worlds! Whether you want to read something wintry, adventurous, or even magical, we've got awesome reads waiting for you. Plus, if you're looking for something fun to read over winter break, ask us for recommendations—we'll help you find the perfect book! And don't forget, we have tons of resources for any last-minute assignments, too. Enjoy the holiday season, and remember, books are the best travel buddies, even if you're just hanging out at home! Happy reading!



Hello Parents/Guardians,

As we approach Christmas time, students will learn lessons on self-control and conflict resolution. During the Christmas holiday, students may experience a range of emotions, from excitement and joy to stress and loneliness. Here are some positive coping skills that students can use to navigate their emotions during this season:

1. Mindfulness and Relaxation Techniques: Deep Breathing and Meditation
2. Journaling: Writing notes of gratitude
3. Creative Outlets: Listen to Music and Take Time to Draw
4. Spending Time with Family and Friends
5. Physical Actives: walking, jogging, or yoga helps release endorphins, which improve mood and reduce stress.

By practicing these positive coping strategies, students can better navigate their emotions and make the most of the holiday season, balancing joy with moments of self-care and reflection.

Upcoming Events:

- December: LOSFA Forms need to be turned in (Only 8th Grade Students)
- December 12: Hahnville High School ROTC will be giving a presentation to RKS 8th graders
- December 13: 8th LOSFA and TOPS Lesson in Social Studies Class (Students will be working on Individual Graduation Plan (IGP)).
- December 14th : St. Charles Toy Gift Event: Edward A. Dufresne Community Center Saturday from 9:00am-1:00pm (Infant to 14) Must be accompanied by parent or guardian. St. Charles Residents Only.
- January 14th and 15th : Hahnville High Counselors will be at RKS to schedule 8th graders for their 9th grade classes at HHS. 8th grade parents, please mark this date on your calendar.



**FLU FACTS/INFORMATION:** The flu is a highly contagious viral infection of the respiratory tract. Although the flu affects everyone, children tend to get it more often than adults. The season for the flu is usually from November to April with most cases occurring between late December and early March.

The flu is often confused with the common cold, but flu symptoms tend to develop quickly (usually 1 to 4 days after a person is exposed to the flu virus) and are usually more severe than the typical sneezing and stuffiness of a cold.

Symptoms of the Flu may include:

Fever, Chills, Headache, Muscle aches, Dizziness, Loss of appetite, Runny or stuffy nose, Nausea or vomiting, Weakness, Tiredness, Cough, Sore throat, Ear infection & Diarrhea. Symptoms can last for a week or two. The flu is very contagious. It is spread by coughing or sneezing into the air. People who are infected with the flu are contagious as long as they show symptoms (most of the time that means about a week for adults, but for children it can mean up to two weeks).

Ways to Prevent The Flu:

- To have the flu shot if your pediatrician feels you should have it.
- Wash your Hands thorough and frequently
- Never pick up used tissues.
- Never share cups and eating utensils.
- Stay home from work or school when you're sick with the flu.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.

How Do You Treat The Flu?

- Stay home from school
- Drink lots of fluids.
- Get plenty of sleep and take it easy.
- Call your doctor for a fever or achiness so that he/she can let you know what to take to make your child feel better.
- The student may return to school when he/she is both fever free (temperature not higher than 100 F) and has not taken Tylenol or Ibuprofen (Motrin) for 24 hours.

Thank you in advance for your help in providing the healthiest and safest environment for all students and staff.

<p><b>St. Charles Parish Public Schools</b></p> <p><b>December 2024</b></p> <p><b>Middle School Menu</b></p> <p><small>This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Menus are subject to change.</small></p>		<p><b>Monday, December 2</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast</b> Grits / Yogurt Parfait Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p><b>Lunch</b> Red Beans w/Steamed Rice Seasoned Mustard Greens Steamed Carrots Cornbread Diced Pears</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, December 3</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast</b> Chicken Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p><b>Lunch</b> Nachos w/Golden Queso Steamed Corn Refried Beans Nacho Salad Cup Apple Wedges</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, December 4</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast</b> Cinnamon Roll Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p><b>Lunch</b> Shepherd's Pie Green Beans Dinner Roll Banana Jell-O w/Topping</p>	<p><b>Thursday, December 5</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast</b> Sausage Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p><b>Lunch</b> Stewed Chicken w/Rice Carrot Souffle Steamed Cabbage Strawberry Cup</p>	<p><b>Friday, December 6</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast</b> Fresh Donut Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p><b>Lunch</b> Southwest Pasta Refried Beans Garden Salad Fresh Orange Wedges</p>
<p><b>Daily Specials</b></p> <p><b>With all meals:</b> Low Fat White or Fat Free Flavored Milk</p> <p><b>Every day at Lunch</b> Deli Sandwich Fresh Hot Pizza</p> <p><b>Mon/Weds/Fri Special</b> Fresh Hot Pizza</p> <p><b>Tuesday's Special</b> (selection rotates weekly) Chicken Sandwich Totchos</p> <p><b>Thursday's Special</b> Hamburger or Cheeseburger</p>		<p><b>Monday, December 9</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast</b> Pancake on a Stick Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p><b>Lunch</b> Pork Chop Mashed Potatoes &amp; Gravy Cal Blend Veggies Cinnamon Apple Slices</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, December 10</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast</b> Chicken Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p><b>Lunch</b> Fish Nuggets Macaroni &amp; Cheese Green Beans Cucumber &amp; Tomato Salad Diced Pears</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, December 11</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast</b> Cinnamon Roll Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p><b>Lunch</b> Chili, Fritos Garden Salad Steamed Corn Banana Cake or Fruit Crisp</p>	<p><b>Thursday, December 12</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast</b> Sausage Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p><b>Lunch</b> Jambalaya Broccoli Florets Steamed Carrots Pineapple Tidbits Dinner Roll</p>	<p><b>Friday, December 13</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast</b> Scrambled Eggs w/Toast Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p><b>Lunch</b> General Tso Chicken Lo Mein Noodles Edamame Asian Salad Orange Wedge</p>
		<p><b>Monday, December 16</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast</b> Breakfast Pizza Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p><b>Lunch</b> Chicken Tenders Waffles w/Syrup Green Beans Steamed Carrots Sliced Peaches</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, December 17</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast</b> Chicken Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p><b>Lunch</b> Orange Chicken Fried Rice Asian Chopped Salad Edamame Beans Tropical Fruit</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, December 18</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast</b> Cinnamon Roll Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p><b>Lunch</b> Turkey &amp; Sausage Gumbo Steamed Rice Potato Salad Cucumber/Tomato Salad Banana</p>	<p><b>Thursday, December 19</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast</b> Sausage Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p><b>Christmas Brunch</b> Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Grits, Biscuit Potato Coins, Salsa Strawberry Kiwi Frozen Cup</p>	<p><b>Friday, December 20</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast</b> Pop Tarts Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p><b>Early Dismissal Lunch</b> Bosco Sticks Marinara Sauce Green Beans Pineapple Tidbits</p>

# Cafeteria Calendar

**Merry Christmas**  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Christmas Holidays begin at the end of classes  
**Friday, December 20**  
Classes resume  
**Monday, January 6**  
**We'll see you in 2025!**



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## Grade Level and Extra Curricular News



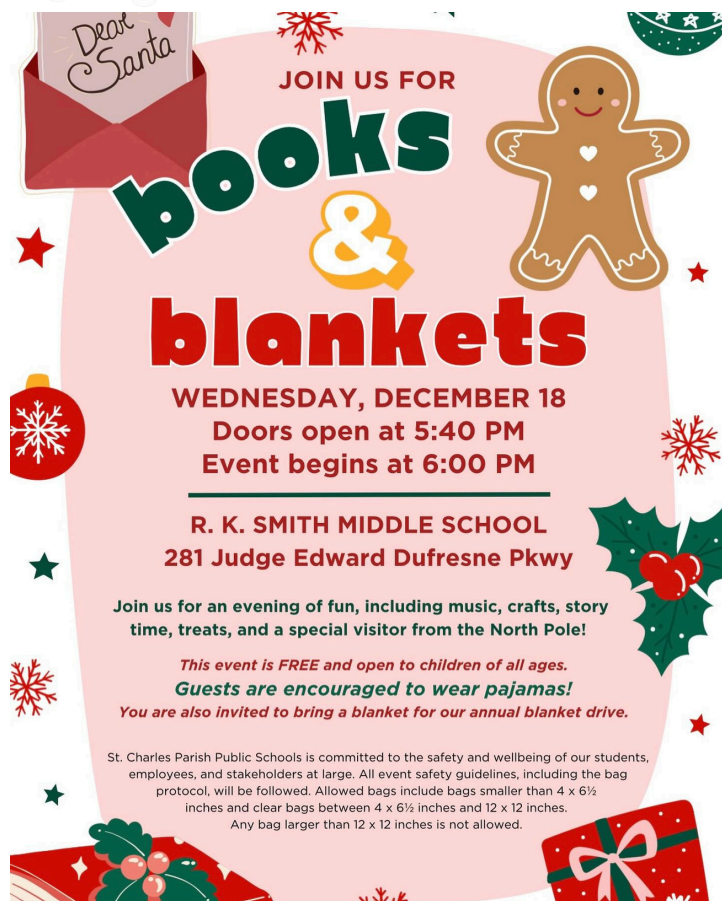
### 6th Grade

In ELA, we will continue reading *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*. In math we will continue Module 3, learning about rational numbers. In Science, we will begin unit 5 on waves. In Social Studies, we will continue learning about Colonial Louisiana. Students will attend a field trip to the Lafon Performing Arts Center on Monday, December 9th.



### 8th Grade

8th Graders are diligently preparing for their Benchmark Assessment, the final assessment for Modules 1 & 2. They are learning about Earth's processes and the Rock Cycle in science. Specifically, they are learning how energy from the Sun and Earth's interior drives the cycling of Earth's materials. In ELA, our 8th graders are reading "Sugar Changed the World" and related literary and informational texts. In Social Studies, they are learning about the social, cultural, and economic changes that occurred in the 1920s for both Louisiana and the United States. HHS ROTC is coming on December 12 to present to 8th graders about ROTC.



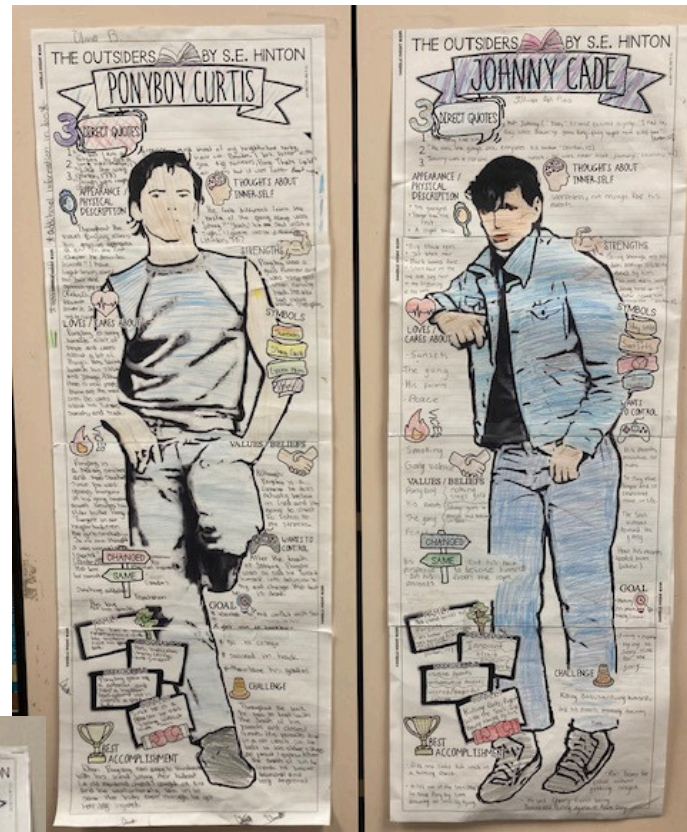
## Chess Club



The Chess Club has had a great start to the year! The club has been awarded a grant from the US Chess Federation that provides a one-year US Chess Federation Membership for each club member, as well as 20 complete chess sets for the club! Several meetings have already been held where club members played friendly matches with one another to practice strategy and shared advice with each other on improving at chess. Club meetings have been very encouraging and educational, with a focus on fostering a love for chess and providing a supportive environment for students to grow their skills. New members are always welcome, so if you're interested in joining, please see Mrs. Green or Mrs. Thibodeaux!

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Our 7th graders in Gifted and Advanced ELA had fun analyzing traits and values from details found in their extension novel as they created these "body biographies" of the eight main characters in The Outsiders. They especially enjoyed inferring the characters' inner thoughts and using different symbols to represent each character.

**TEAM  
7TH  
GRADE**

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