



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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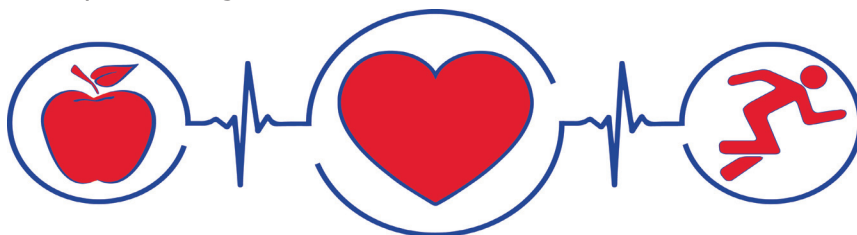
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RAYTOWN QUALITY SCHOOLS • EXPECT THE EXCEPTIONAL

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Winter 2025

High School Arts & Activities - Fall Recap



Raytown High School

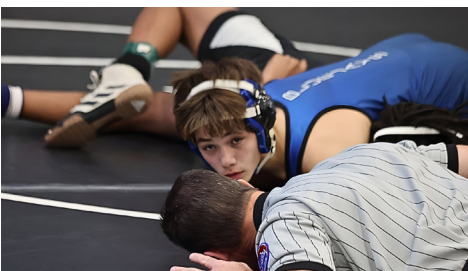
- RHS choir programs had seven students audition, and be selected for KC Metro All-District Choirs.
- The Girls Tennis program completed their fourth full year and finished with their most wins of any season to date.
- The Boys Swimming team placed 20th at the Missouri State Championship in October. They were undefeated this year in dual meets with a record of 15 and 0, and won the Conference Championship.
- Larry Porter and Cyiree Arty were both selected to All-State Football.
- The Girls Swim program (RHS & RSHS) has over 50 girls. This is the largest participation in years.
- Six students attended an art competition at RayPec HS for the first time. It had a student art show and live art competition events. Three students took home awards at the show.
- Theatre put on a successful fall musical, Little Shop of Horrors, and is preparing for the winter play, Clue, which performs Feb 20-22 at 7:00pm.
- FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) had four students attend the student-led Missouri FCCLA Fall Leadership Conference.
- Girls golf had 18 students on the team this year – including 12 new golfers - the largest group in decades. They had a successful season including JV placing 2nd overall team score at Conference.
- The Jaywalkers are working hard inside the building and out in the community. In addition to practices and competitions they also volunteered at KC Pet Project this Fall.



RHS Little Shop of Horrors
Photo credit: Rachel McCarroll



RHS Jaywalkers
Photo Credit: RTown Media



RHS Boys Wrestling Team
Photo credit: RTown Media



Raytown South High School

- Cardettes received 2nd in Pom and 1st in Hip Hop at the NDA Blue Springs Regional Competition in January 2025. As of publication the team is Regional Champions for Intermediate Hip Hop. The team leaves for Nationals in Florida in February 2025.
- Girls Basketball earned a win over William Chrisman 51-30.
- The Scholar Bowl team has jumped out to a great start, placing in the top three at each of their first three competitions.
- Raytown South hosted a 50th year reunion of the 1974 football team. The 1974 Cardinals were ranked #1 in the state of Missouri in Class 4A - the largest class in the state at the time. The team went undefeated in the regular season with a record of 10-0, won the BIG 6 Suburban Conference Title, and qualified for MSHSAA 4A Semifinals.
- The 2024 Football team ended the season 4-6.
- Girls wrestling medaled in their conference tournament - the first time in school history to have a team from South High place.
- Raytown South's first ever Mock Trial team competed in its first competition and nearly defeated a state-ranked program.
- Fine Arts: The programs in the Fine Arts Department (Theater, Band, Choir) patiently awaited the opening of the new Performing Arts Center in Jan. 2025 and will now perform in the new space for all spring performances.



RSHS Cardettes



RSHS Girls Wrestling Team

A Message From

SUPERINTENDENT DR. PENELOPE MARTIN-KNOX



RQS Community,

As we approach the second half of the 2024-25 school year, there is so much to celebrate from the first semester. Recalling the visits to every building and department brings a deep sense of pride of the hard work and dedication from students, staff and families.

The theme for this school year is "Providing students with the keys today, for a successful tomorrow." The RQS stands for Readiness through Quality experiences for Student Success. We are deeply grateful for our

committed staff who work tirelessly to ensure students are provided with a variety of learning experiences and opportunities.

Some accomplishments so far this year include the opening of the Raytown High School Auxiliary Gym, elementary students Brielle S. and Elliott B. for their selection to the Missouri Music Educators Association All-State Children's Choir, Raytown South High students earning second place in the Career Education Consortium Innovation Challenge, several schools and departments are now Project Adam Heart Safe Schools, and RHS Spanish teacher, Lauren Hurst, was named a finalist for Missouri Teacher of the Year!

There is much to look forward to in the second semester, including the opening of the Raytown South High School Performing Arts Center and Auxiliary Gym, the combined music programs of Raytown High School and Raytown South High School will present United in Song: The Music of Raytown on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, the Sparkle Empowerment Conference and Young Men of Excellence Conference.


We are lucky to live in a community that supports the District at every turn, with partnerships that include The Raytown Schools Board of Education, the City of Raytown, Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, Rotary Club, Retired School Personnel, the Raytown Educational Foundation, Caring for Kids, and many more, all who have played a role in the successful start to the school year. I am grateful for our community that is always ready to step in and do what is best for students.

On behalf of Raytown Quality Schools, we wish you all the best in 2025.

For the Children,

Dr. Penelope Martin-Knox,
Superintendent of Schools

Follow us for up-to-date information:

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 Raytown Quality Schools

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6608 Raytown Rd.
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www.raytownschools.org

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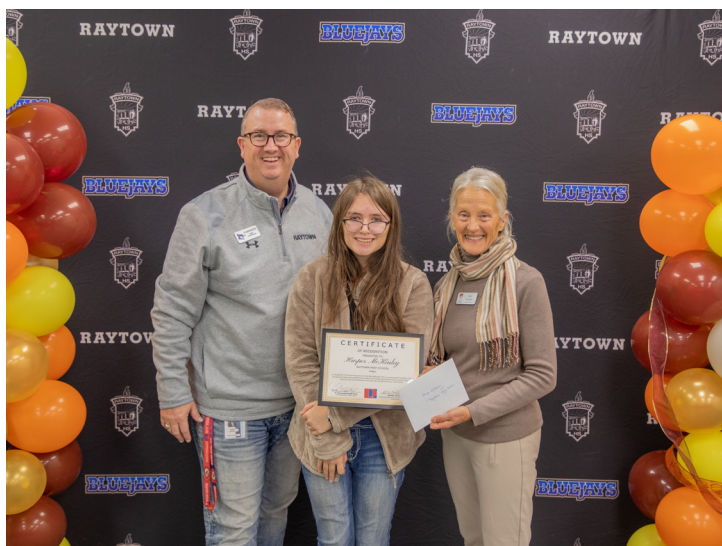
RQS DAY:

Inspiring Creativity and School Pride

When you reflect on your school days, you might recall a pep assembly or spirit day. Those fun days leave a lasting impression and we've been working hard to bring that feeling back for the entire Raytown community. This past November, our learning community celebrated our second annual RQS Day - a community wide spirit day to showcase our pride in our schools and for our entire district.

Leaders across the district reached out to local businesses and asked them to post banners and share social media posts as we came together in support of RQS. Thank you to all of our community partners and businesses that showed their support for RQS Day - we really felt the love.

This year, in addition to the community wide spirit day, we launched a district wide creative contest for our students. Students in elementary and secondary schools had the opportunity to compete in three categories; essay, video, and multimedia. The Raytown Educational Foundation also offered their support and partnered with the district to offer our student winners a \$100 gift card for winning submissions. The creative contest asked our students to share "why I love my school" in the type of media they preferred. All of our student entries were very positive and our judges loved reviewing their stories. In our first year, we had over 25 entries! You can see more about the winners and their works on our website. <https://www.raytownschools.org/newsroom>



Pictured: RHS Principal, Dr. McCarthy, student, Harper McKinley & REF Board Member, Kim Snyder.



Pictured: Jana Caudle, teacher, Samantha Blanton, student, and Krista Phillips, Principal, Blue Ridge Elementary



The Raytown Educational Foundation is proud to be a participant and sponsor of RQS Day. We love the positive energy and creative displays of school building and school district pride that come about from RQS Day. It's like a school district pep rally!

Martha Cockrell
Executive Director, Raytown Educational Foundation



As part of RQS day, schools across the district also showed their RQS Day pride by wearing school colors, school spiritwear, and by decorating their school. Administrative staff also joined in the fun with door decorating contests and an RQS day lunch.

Thank you to Martha Cockrell, Raytown Educational Foundation (REF) Executive Director and the entire REF Board of Directors for their support of this contest. We look forward to our continued partnership in support of our students. RQS would also like to thank Digital Media Specialist, Colin Cloney, for his leadership and creation of this contest.



Student SPOTLIGHT



Pictured: Brielle Stokes



Pictured: Elliott Basham

Elementary Students Selected to All-State Choir

Congratulations to Brielle Stokes and Elliott Basham on their selection to the Missouri Music Educators Association All-State Children's Choir. You exemplify the spirit of hope and positivity and your efforts inspire and uplift both your school and our entire district. Thank you for your dedication to excellence within the Raytown Schools Learning Community. Find out more about these students by watching a video about them where they are honored as the November 2024 Ray of Hope. Find the video on YouTube @RaytownQualitySchools

Andersen Howard named a National Merit Semifinalist

Congrats to Andersen Howard on being named the October 2024 Ray of Hope Awardee. Andersen was recognized for his outstanding academic achievements as well as his overall character and care for his community. Andersen is a senior at Raytown High School and has been named a National Merit Scholar Corporation Semifinalist. This is a prestigious honor with the nationwide pool of semifinalists representing less than 1% of U.S. high school seniors. Way to go Andersen! You can watch a video that honors Andersen for his achievements on our YouTube Channel or Facebook page.



Pictured: Dr. Martin-Knox, Andersen Howard, Mr. William Howard & President, Alonzo Burton

Staff RAYS OF HOPE

Parents as Teachers Program Helps Connect Families

Congrats to Parents as Teachers Program for being named the September 2024 Ray of Hope Awardee. The Parents as Teachers program has seen big success in their family retention rate this last year with over 91% of families choosing to continue in the program. This is big news! Thank you to the entire Parents as Teachers team for being the great connectors in our community. Helping young families find resources and tools that support early learning makes an impact in our community. To watch a video highlighting this achievement, visit our YouTube Channel, @RaytownQualitySchools and choose the Ray of Hope Playlist.



Pictured: Parents As Teachers Team, Fall 2024

Blue Bell Makes a Special Delivery to Raytown High School Teacher of the Year Finalist, Lauren Hurst.

Blue Bell Creameries has a fun tradition of celebrating State Teacher of the Year finalists across Missouri by surprising them with lots of Blue Bell Ice Cream! In May of 2024, they delivered ice cream for Mrs. Hurst and for all of our RHS staff. Thank you to Blue Bell Creameries for this fun surprise. Congrats again to Lauren Hurst on being named one of the Missouri State Teacher of the Year Finalists!

Pictured below: Dr. Andrew McCarthy, Lauren Hurst & Noah R. from Blue Bell Creameries





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.

Exciting news! The RHS auxiliary gym opened in August 2024. We celebrated with a ribbon-cutting, donuts, and the RHS Cheer Team. The RSHS Performing Arts Center was completed in January 2025 and once again the community gathered together with a ribbon-cutting in celebration of this state-of-the-art space.

Work continues on the Raytown South High Auxiliary Gym and the expected opening date is Summer 2025. Watch for a community wide ribbon-cutting event on our website or social media.

No Tax Increase Bond



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



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



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



RSHS: Ribbon-cutting event on 1.15.25



RSHS: View from the stage.



RHS: Ribbon-cutting for Auxiliary Gym

Congratulations, 2024 Alumni Hall of Fame inductees!



Pictured from left to right: Michael McDonough, Deanna Rutland, Vicki Turnbow, Sara Quatrocky & Kyle Krull (standing in for honoree Jennifer Goddard).

Raytown Quality Schools is pleased to announce its Alumni Hall of Fame Class of 2024. The class includes five individuals who were officially inducted into the district's Hall of Fame in early October 2024.

Inductees included Jennifer Goddard (RHS Class of 1975), Michael McDonough (RSHS Class of 1973), Sara Quatrocky (RSHS Class of 2000), Deanna Rutland (RHS Class of 1987), and Vicki Turnbow (RHS Class of 1980).

To celebrate, honorees enjoyed a fall day in Raytown filled with school visits, celebrations, and time at the historical society.

Visit www.raytownschools.org to read the full biographies for each inductee, and to find out more about the Raytown Quality Schools Hall of Fame.

United In Song

The Music of Raytown

The combined music programs of Raytown High School and Raytown South High School will present United in Song: The Music of Raytown on Wednesday, April 16th, 2025 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. With the support of many generous sponsors, our band, orchestra, and choir students will have the opportunity to perform in one of the finest concert venues in the world: Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center.



We are thrilled to be performing at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, one of the finest concert halls in the world. Thanks to several generous sponsorships and donations, all of our high school band, choir, and orchestra students will get this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Alex Kolster
RQS Secondary Fine Arts Coordinator



The United in Song concert will feature the fine arts programs of both Raytown High and Raytown South High. Tickets will go on sale at kauffmancenter.org beginning Monday, February 3, 2025 at 10:00am.

If you are interested in sponsoring the concert, please reach out to Alex Kolster, RQS Secondary Fine Arts Coordinator, at alex.kolster@raytownschools.org



Be a part of Raytown Quality Schools!



Join our team! We are now hiring for many positions across the district. The Raytown Quality Schools Human Resources team is committed to providing our employees with a positive, supportive, respectful experience, as well as all of the information needed to enjoy a satisfying and successful career with us. We know you'll come to find out what we already know — our wonderful students, staff and community make Raytown a premier education destination. Find more info and see current openings by scanning the QR Code above.



We Are Hiring

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Whether you're wanting to substitute in our district, teach full time, or be part of our support staff, we want YOU!

Benefits

- Paid Medical Benefits
- Up to \$1,555 HSA Contribution
- Free Fitness Center Membership
- On-site Medical & Wellness Clinic
- Paid Training & Professional Development