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.

For translations contact:
interpreter@raytownschools.org

Para traducciones, contacte:
interpreter@raytownschools.org

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Contact:
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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

RAYTOWN QUALITY SCHOOLS · EXPECT THE EXCEPTIONAL

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Summer 2025

Congratulations Class of 2025

A Message From

SUPERINTENDENT DR. PENELOPE MARTIN-KNOX

RQS Community,

As we come to the close of the 2024–2025 school year, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for making this a year of growth, achievement, and community.

To our students – you continue to inspire us with your resilience, curiosity, and determination. Whether you're moving up a grade or graduating and heading into a new chapter, we are so proud of all you've accomplished.

To our staff – your commitment, creativity, and care for our students are the foundation of Raytown Quality Schools. Thank you for showing up each day with passion and purpose.

To our families – thank you for being our partners in education. Your support and engagement make a powerful difference in the lives of our students and in the strength of our school communities.

To our Board of Education – your leadership and guidance help make our mission possible. We are grateful for your dedication to the success of every student in our district.

A special congratulations to the class of 2025 – we celebrate your hard work and can't wait to see the great things ahead for you. And to our retirees – thank you for the years you've given in service to our students and community.

There has been so much to celebrate this school year including United in Song which brought together the combined music programs of Raytown High School and Raytown South High School at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, thirteen RQS students earned the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish, a social studies teacher at Raytown South High School, Angela Lea, received grant funding for a museum initiative / ecosystem project, and the District was named one of the healthiest employers in the Kansas City area. These are only a few of the amazing things happening in the district.

As we head into summer, I hope each of you finds time to rest, recharge, and enjoy time with friends and family. You've earned it.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in August for another great year. Wishing you a safe, joyful, and well-deserved summer break.

For the Children,

Dr. Penelope Martin-Knox,
Superintendent of Schools

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Raytown Quality Schools

6608 Raytown Rd.
Raytown, MO 64133
816.268.7000
www.raytownschools.org

Superintendent

Dr. Penelope Martin-Knox

Board of Education

Alonzo Burton, President
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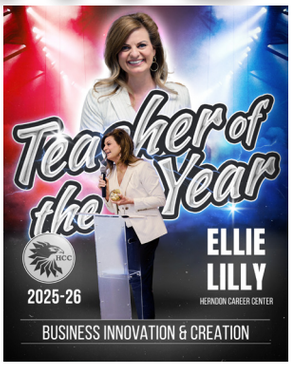
Staff RAYS OF HOPE



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

The 2025-26 Teacher of the year is Ellie Lilly. Mrs. Lilly is the Business Innovation and Creation Teacher at Herndon Career Center and has over 20 years of experience in education. Mrs. Lilly shares that "this position has been a full circle moment in my teaching career and is a space in which I can use everything that I have learned about teaching and the business world to help uniquely influence the lives of upperclassmen from six local districts in my area."

The 2025-26 Support Staff Employee of the Year is DJ Pittel. Mr. Pittel is an interventionist serving at both Raytown South High and Raytown South Middle Schools. He has over 19 years of experience, including the past two years in his current role. He is passionate about his work and is driven by a commitment to providing the best possible support to both students and staff. Mr. Pittel shares, "Each day is a chance to allow the staff and students to see the living word."

Dr. Andrew McCarthy, Distinguished Leadership Award
Congratulations to Dr. Andrew McCarthy, principal of Raytown High School, on receiving the 2025-26 Distinguished Leadership Award. Dr. McCarthy uses a student-centered approach to foster academic excellence, a strong sense of belonging, and a culture of trust within the Raytown High school community. This strategic vision and ability to build meaningful relationships have made a lasting impact on their school.

Lamond Southall & Vivian McKinney, Brian D. Blankenship Heart of the Matter Award Winners
This award is a tribute to those in our district who embody the true spirit of education and bring significant positive energy to their schools. Congrats to Vivian McKinney, Special Education Teacher at Life University and Lamond Southall, teacher at Raytown Central Middle for this award and living these values every day.

Student SPOTLIGHT

United in Song | The Music of Raytown

The combined music programs of Raytown High and Raytown South High School joined together for a beautiful evening of music at the Kauffman Center Center for Performing Arts. Thank you to Hawthorne Bank, Raytown Educational Foundation and all of the sponsors that made this experience possible for our students. We hope to be able to do this again, allowing all music students to have this opportunity once during their high school experience. For more photos, visit our Facebook Page. Search @Raytown Quality Schools.

Sparkle Empowerment Conference

Our third annual Sparkle Empowerment Conference gave many students in grades four through 12 the opportunity to spend the day participating in empowering conversations with leaders in our community. This conference is a time for students to connect with their peers while learning about real life topics such as financial literacy, how to deal with difficult people and more. Additionally, students were given opportunities to learn about potential career fields like working with large machinery and architecture. Thank you to everyone that helped make this a great day including our sponsors and the Raytown Educational Foundation.

High School Arts & Activities

Raytown High School

- 22 athletes made all-conference for Track and Field
- The Raytown esports team won districts and secured their spot as one of seven teams to compete at state
- The theatre department received four nominations for Blue Star Awards and 15 nominations for Kansas City Cappies Awards
- Boys Golf had 17 golfers, nine returning and eight new. JV won matches against Raytown South, Belton, Grandview, and Oak Park
- Raytown Speech and Debate students had a great year. They landed on semifinals and finals posters 64 times, and took home 42 trophies and medals
- Orchestra received an Exemplary Rating at State for a Large Ensemble
- The Scholar Bowl team won twice as many matches this year vs last year and Jacob Weaver made the all-district team
- Boys Wrestling had two state qualifiers for the first time in ten years. Girls Wrestling had two state qualifiers - a school record
- 11 students earn their Seal of Biliteracy certifying them as bilingual in Spanish in the state of Missouri
- Boys Basketball - JV was undfeated in conference play and Varsity boasted a 22-3 record and ranked #4 in Class 5 conf.

Jaeden Davis competes in the 300m hurdles. He placed 2nd at State. Photo credit: Rod Ambelang

RHS Theatre students celebrate during Blue Star Nomination surprise assembly

Raytown South High School

- Djenabou Diallo named a recipient of the Missouri Citizenship Award for 2025
- 11 students were named KC Scholars Recipients
- Two students won a Silver Key at regionals for the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition
- Tyrone Townes was selected as a NHSSCA All-American by the National High School Strength and Conditioning Association and awarded the MSHSAA Award of Excellence for determination, integrity, and athletic achievement
- Student Council hosted the seconda annual Jelly Bean Festival, a talent show featuring CBI and LIFE Academy students in partnership with RHS Stuco
- Raytown South Cardettes made the finals (Top 5) for Best Dance Group in the Kansas City People's Choice Awards
- Seven athletes qualifed for state in Track and Field
- Need something else here.
- Ashlyn Cato was awarded the South High Markland Award for Athletic and Academic Achievement
- Two students earn their Seal of Biliteracy certifying them as bilingual in Spanish in the state of Missouri

Tyrone Townes, outstanding student-athlete

The Cardettes pose during camp with their coach, Renee Schleicher

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! We are nearing completion for all 2023 Bond Projects. The RSHS Performing Arts Center was completed in January 2025 and we celebrated as a community with a ribbon-cutting. The South High Auxiliary gym is almost done and will be ready for useage in July 2025.

Additionally, updgrades to secondary building canopies and signage will be complete ahead of the 2025-26 school year. We are excited to welcome back students and staff to their upgraded facilities. We hope you will take time to admire the work. Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

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: Construction continues for new canopy

RSHS: Aux Gym photo

RHS: Work-in-progress during signage update

Freshman Academies

We are excited to announce that beginning in the 2025–2026 school year, Raytown Quality Schools will introduce a Freshman Academy at both Raytown and Raytown South High Schools. This initiative is a key step in our commitment to transforming the high school experience to better prepare students for success in college, careers, and life.

The Freshman Academy will serve as the foundation of this transformation. In 9th grade, students will enter a supportive and structured environment designed to ease the transition into high school while allowing time to explore the wide range of course offerings that will be offered within the Academies of Raytown in the coming school years. Through this exploration, students will discover their individual interests and strengths and then select a "home" academy — a smaller learning community — for their 10th through 12th grade years. An example of an academy could be "Health and Human Services." A pathway within that academy could be "first responders" or "law and justice." Watch for more about Freshman Academies in the next newsletter or visit our website. raytownschools.org Departments > Academic Services > Career Academies