RAYTOWN QUALITY SCHOOLS

THE C-2 VIEW

WINTER 2025

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HIGH SCHOOL ARTS & ACTIVITIES
// FALL RECAP

RAYTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

- The RHS Choirs had a strong showing at Kansas City Metro All-District Choir auditions and the All-District Choir festival. In total, there were 11 student participants.
- The Raytown High School Swim Team capped an outstanding season with a 12–2 dual meet record, a second-place conference finish, and state qualifications in seven events, including the 400 Free Relay placing 26th out of 90 teams. This milestone year also marks the 100th MSHSAA Championship, where Coach Jim Aziere continues his national-record streak of qualifying swimmers for 50 straight boys championships, and Raytown South graduate Robby Chance earned an impressive 2nd place at the World Championship Ironman.
- Theatre put on a successful fall musical, Hadestown, and is preparing for the winter play.
- On November 3rd RHS Jaywalkers went to Norfleet Elementary to "Read to the Littles". Principal Lori Kang provided the opportunity to come over and share the love of reading with 1st graders.
- Congrats to the Lady Jay Golfers at the Independence Invitational Tourmanent at Drumm Farm in September. Sophomore Traci Carlock took 1st place on the Executive course with an 82 and the JV team took 2nd overall! Sophomore Carynn Campbell took 9th place on the Championship course.
- Four Raytown High School athletes went to the state cross country meet in November. This accomplishment marks the first time since 2002 that RHS had four athletes qualify for state and the first time since 1998 that three RHS boys have qualified together.







RAYTOWN SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

- Art students at Raytown South High School attended a field trip to the Kansas City Art Institute for Portfolio Day in September. RSHS also had 6 students get nominated and accepted to attend Nerman Museum's Young Artists Retreat at Johnson County Community College.
- Raytown South High School's band program had an exceptional fall season. The drumline earned 1st place at Drummit at the Summit, while the full marching band captured 2nd place at both the Smith-Cotton and UCM field show competitions. The Cardinals also brought home multiple specialty honors, including Outstanding Visual Effect, Outstanding Field Percussion, and Outstanding Field Guard. Indoor groups continued the strong showing with 1st place and 2nd place finishes for indoor drumline and a 3rd place finish for indoor guard.
- Raytown South High School musicians earned top honors this fall, with Elizabeth Krueger and Marvin Gatchet selected for the All-District Orchestra and qualifying to audition for All-State Orchestra. They will rehearse and perform at Liberty North in January. In the All-District Band auditions, Caden Guhr placed 8th chair clarinet and will advance to All-State Band auditions, while Siriayah Cowans earned 20th chair clarinet and All-District Honorable Mention recognition.
- RSHS Football players Kenton Hampton and Jordan Wright earned first team all conference after another great fall season.





A MESSAGE FROM

SUPERINTENDENT DR. PENELOPE MARTIN-KNOX



As we close the first semester and look ahead to the opportunities of the new year, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to every member of our Raytown Quality Schools family. Your hard work, determination, and commitment to one another continue to define who we are. This year's theme, "We R What We Do — Rooted in Excellence," has been reflected daily in our classrooms, hallways, buses, offices, and community partnerships.

One of our most exciting milestones this fall was Raytown Quality Schools' official designation as a Ford Next Generation Learning (Ford NGL) community. This marks the beginning of the Academies of Raytown—an initiative that brings together educators, employers, and community leaders to strengthen real-world learning for our students.

This school year, our Freshman Academy launched as the first phase of this work. Our ninth grade students have been busy building a foundation for success through the Commitment to Graduate ceremony and a career fair. All freshmen attended the career fair where they engaged with local businesses, organizations, and industry leaders. Students explored opportunities across the eight pathways that will be available beginning in the 2026–2027 school year: Healthcare, Human Services, First Responders, Environmental Science, Business & Marketing, Arts, Entertainment & Design, Manufacturing & Industrial Trades, and Information Technology. Their energy and curiosity remind us that the future truly is bright.

We also celebrated another year of academic growth. For the 2025 Annual Performance Report, RQS earned 73% of the points possible under MSIP 6, and we are proud to share that our district remains fully accredited. This marks the third consecutive year of increased points earned—rising 7.1% from 2023 to 2025. Gains in math, science, and social studies reflect the dedication of our staff and the hard work of students who continue to strive for excellence.

In addition, we are pleased to welcome Holly Van Dierendonck as the new Executive Director of the Raytown Educational Foundation. We look forward to the leadership, collaboration, and community partnerships she will help strengthen in support of our students and schools.

None of this progress would be possible without the steadfast leadership of our Board of Education. I want to thank our board members for their ongoing commitment to our mission and for their belief in what our students and staff can achieve.

As we enter the second semester, I encourage all of us to continue working together, supporting one another, and striving to finish the year strong. Thank you for all you do to make RQS a place where excellence is rooted in every action.

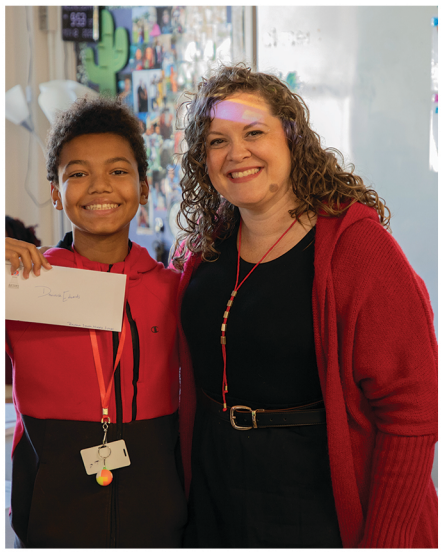
With gratitude,



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 third annual RQS Day - a community wide spirit day to showcase our pride in our schools and for our entire district.

Leaders across the district helped promote this exciting day by encouraging their school communities to wear red, blue, or school spirit wear on November 13th as we continue to celebrate the achievements of RQS.

This year, in addition to the community wide spirit day, we also hosted our second annual district-wide creative contest for students. Students in elementary and secondary schools had the opportunity to compete in three categories; essay, video, and multimedia. The Raytown Educational Foundation offered their support once again and partnered with the district to give 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.

Administrative staff also joined in on the fun with door decorating contests and an RQS day lunch.

Thank you to Holly Van Dierendonck, Executive Director of the Raytown Educational Foundation (REF), and the entire REF Board of Directors for supporting this contest. We also appreciate the leadership of Digital Media Specialist Colin Cloney and Assistant Director of Communications and Community Relations Hannah Shackles, and we look forward to continuing our partnership in support of our students.

> RQS Day celebrates what matters most; our students knowing they are valued and that they belong. When they show off their school pride, they're also showing the strength of our Raytown community. It's joy, connection, and belonging all wrapped up in one day!

HOLLY VAN DIERENDONCK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RAYTOWN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



ACADEMIES OF RAYTOWN

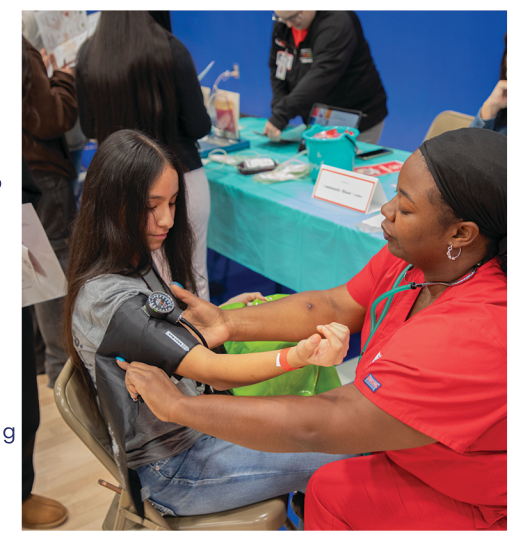
ACADEMIES OF RAYTOWN DESIGNATION CEREMONY

In November, the district celebrated an important milestone for our upcoming Academies of Raytown students transformation with a special designation ceremony honoring the community leaders, staff, and administrators who are helping to make our new secondary learning experience possible. The event also featured powerful performances from both Raytown High School and Raytown South High School. We are looking forward to ensuring every student is academically sound, reflective, able to relate, contributes to their community, and has the professional skills and real world experiences to succeed in a high demand/high wage career.

FRESHMAN ACADEMY CAREER EXPO

In October, nearly 650 RQS freshmen took part in a Career Expo Fair. This was an exciting day of hands on exploration and real-world learning! Students connected with local businesses and organizations to discover career paths across Raytown's two Freshman Academies: Health & Human Services and Businesses, Innovation & Industry. Through interactive exhibits, they learned how classroom lessons connect to future goals and gained a glimpse into life beyond high school.

This was just one of the many events RQS has put together so far this year as we work towards our future vision: The Academies of Raytown, serving all 9-12 students with career-connected learning opportunities!



STAFF RAYS OF HOPE

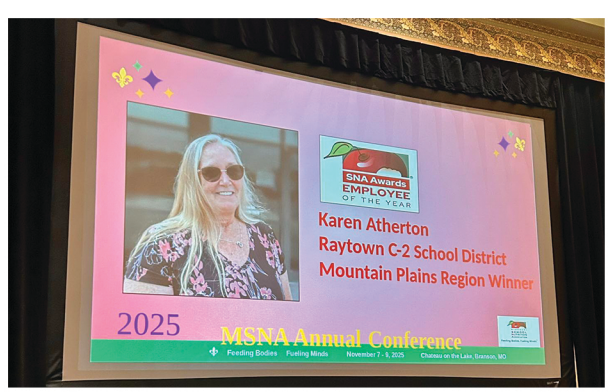


DIGITAL MEDIA SPECIALIST, COLIN CLONEY, RECEIVES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FROM MOSPRA

Congratulations to our RQS Digital Media Specialist, Colin Cloney, and the Communications Department for receiving the Award of Excellence from the Missouri School Public Relations Association in the video category for our 2024-25 Convocation video, The Secrets of Education. This is the highest award given by MOSPRA. Thank you to everyone who helped make this video possible!

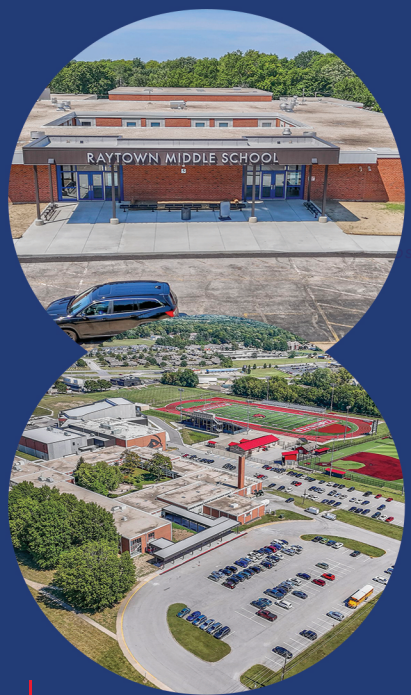
NUTRITION SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, KAREN ATHERTON, RECOGNIZED AS THE 2025 MSNA EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Karen Atherton, RQS Nutrition Services Administrative Assistant, on being named the Missouri School Nutrition Associations 2025 Employee of the Year! Thank you for all you do behind the scenes to ensure our students are receiving proper nourishment every day.



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 allowed 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 RSHS auxiliary gym opened in Summer 2025. 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.

The district also completed new entrances at Raytown South High School, Raytown High School, Raytown South Middle School, Raytown Middle School, and Central Middle School.

CONGRATULATIONS, 2025 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES!

Raytown Quality Schools is pleased to announce its Alumni Hall of Fame Class of 2025. The class includes individuals who were officially inducted into the district's Hall of Fame in early October 2025.

Inductees included Dr. Kimberly Johnson-Hatchett (RSHS Class of 1994), Lawrence (Larry) Mock (RHS Class of 1947), Timothy Monsees (RHS Class of 1973) (inducted posthumously),and R. James Stilley, Jr. (RHS Class of 1966).

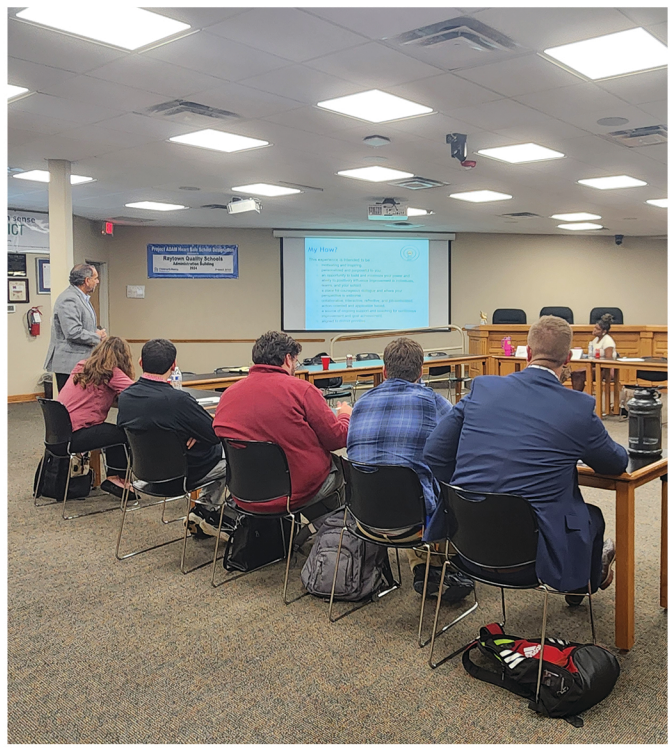
To celebrate, honorees enjoyed a full day in Raytown filled with school visits, celebrations, and time at the historical society.

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.



Pictured from left to right: R. James Stilley, Jr., Dr. Kimberly Johnson-Hatchett, & Lawrence (Larry) Mock.
Not Pictured: Timothy Monsees (inducted posthumously).

RQS PRESENTS
THE ASPIRING LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



Raytown Quality Schools is excited to announce the launch of the inaugural Aspiring Leadership Academy for the 2025-2026 school year. As part of the district's continued commitment to supporting staff from hire to retire, the Academy is designed to create clear pathways for leadership growth across the district. This new initiative represents a significant investment in cultivating the next generation of leaders for RQS.

The program engages participants in interactive, reflective learning focused on the mindsets and practices needed for transformational school leadership. Dr. Carl Calcara, Chief Executive Business Officer, partnered with educational leadership consultant Dr. Mike Brown, who brings more than 34 years of experience as an assistant superintendent, Principal of the Year, keynote speaker, and leadership coach.

"We are excited to invest in our people and create intentional pathways for leadership development across the district," said Dr. Calcara. "This academy is designed to nurture the strengths of our aspiring leaders and help them maximize their impact on students, staff, and school communities."

This year's cohort includes 15 aspiring leaders, referred by their principals and representing classrooms from Early Childhood through high school. The group meets monthly and explores four leadership pillars: Leading Oneself, Leading Others, Leading a Healthy Culture, and Leading Teams & Schools. Staff interested in the 2026-2027 Aspiring Leadership Academy are encouraged to begin conversations with their building principal. Referrals will open in May 2026.

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.

Raytown Quality Schools
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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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