

May 2026

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.

A Message from our Principal

Mr. Harold W. Blood

Dear RKS Families,

Can you believe it is already May? We have officially entered the "home stretch" of the school year! While it can be very tempting to start taking it easy as the summer months approach, now is the time to stay focused and keep working hard. Let's finish this year as strong as we started.

Throughout this school year, our theme has been "**The Power of a Positive Team.**" As we navigate these final weeks, remembering that theme and keeping a positive outlook is absolutely vital for our students. Our attitudes as adults in their lives shape their perspectives, and when we team up to stay positive and focused, our students feel empowered to overcome any challenge.

Don't forget that **LEAP testing begins the week of May 4.** This isn't just about taking a test; it is an opportunity for our students to show how much they have learned and grown over the past school year. We want every student to feel confident, do their absolute best, and be proud of their progress.

Parents and guardians, you are a crucial part of our positive team! You can help set your child up for success during testing in a few simple but impactful ways. First, please make sure your child gets a full, good night's rest before their testing days so they wake up refreshed and ready to focus. Additionally, we ask that you send them off with positive, encouraging words each morning. Remind them of how smart and capable they are—a little boost of confidence from you goes a very long way!

Once testing is behind us, we have a lot of fun to look forward to! We are excitedly planning our end-of-year celebrations to honor all the hard work our students have put in. Please be sure to read through the rest of this newsletter for more information, important dates, and specific details on these upcoming events.

Finally, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude. Thank you for your continued partnership, dedication, and support throughout this school year. "The Power of a Positive Team" starts with our families, and we truly could not do this without you.

The Power of a Positive Team,

Mr. Blood

TIGER SPORTS

Our Tigers delivered an outstanding performance at the **Parish Track & Field Meet**, earning an impressive number of Parish Champion titles. From sprints to distance events, relays, and field competitions, our athletes competed at a high level and represented R.K. Smith with pride. We are proud of the effort, focus, and determination they showed throughout the meet, as well as the way they supported one another and finished strong

Parish Champions

Boys Relays:

4x100 Relay: La'Daneion Williams, Logan Gorden, Jerry Gillard, Jaysun Washington

4x200 Relay: Damien Joseph, La'Daneion Williams, Jaysun Washington, Jerry Gillard

4x400 Relay: La'Daneion Williams, Joaquin Naranjo, Logan Gorden, Craig Ransaw

Girls Relays:

4x200 Relay: Kassidy Pierre, Kinsleigh Ransaw, Kalyn Ransaw, Dasia Brickhouse

4x400 Relay: Kalyn Ransaw, Ni'Ya Robinson, Cylie Lorio, Dasia Brickhouse

Girls:

Kalyn Ransaw – 400m Dash

Mariah Lumar – 800m Run

Field Events:

Ja'Zyri McLeod – Shot Put and Discus

Kinsleigh Ransaw – High Jump

Boys:

Jerry Gillard – 100m Dash

Logan Gorden – 200m Dash

Dane Collins – 400m Dash

La'Daneion Williams – 800m Run

Craig Ransaw Jr. – 1600m Run



BAND & CHOIR HIGHLIGHTS

The RKS Spring Band and Choir Concert was a beautiful success and a truly special evening for our school community. From the first note to the final bow, the voices, the music, and the energy of our students made the performance unforgettable. We are so proud of these musicians and singers and the dedication, growth, and heart they put into preparing for this event.

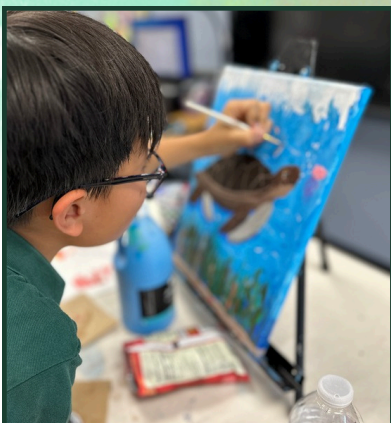
It has been a wonderful year for our band and choir students, and we are delighted by the growth they have shown and the way they have represented our school, district, and state. A special thank you to our band director, Ms. Yarbrough, and our choir director, Mrs. Schayot, for their leadership, passion, and commitment to our students.

Thank you to all of our families and supporters who joined us and helped make the night so meaningful.



TALENTED ART

Over the month of April, our talented art students worked alongside our amazing art teacher, Ms. Mahdi, to fine-tune their skills through the study of expressionism. Students explored how artists use color, texture, and bold techniques to communicate emotion and tell a story. It has been exciting to see their creativity come to life as they experimented, took risks, and continued developing their own unique artistic voice.





CLUB NEWS

Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy

During the month of April, our Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy led a schoolwide “Need to Feed” food drive to support a local food pantry in St. Charles Parish. Students across all grade levels brought in nonperishable food items, making it a true team effort to give back to our community.

This friendly competition brought out the best in our Tigers, and we are excited to share that 6th grade earned the most donations and won the competition! We are so thankful to all of our students and families who participated and helped make a positive impact. Your generosity and willingness to serve others truly reflects the heart of R.K. Smith.

4-H Club

The RKS 4-H Club wrapped up the school year with a fun and engaging final meeting. Students learned how cucumbers are turned into pickles and had the opportunity to create their own using fresh ingredients like cucumbers, dill, and other add-ins. They also enjoyed making a sweet treat to share together as they celebrated the end of the year.

A special thank you to our club sponsors, Mr. Cornwell and Ms. Higgins, for creating meaningful, hands-on learning experiences and making each meeting enjoyable for our students.

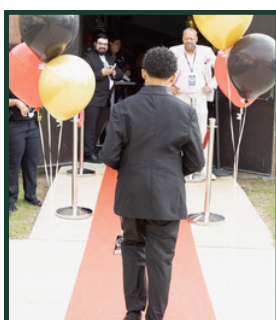
Student Council

Student Council has had an incredible year bringing school spirit to RKS and creating meaningful experiences for our students. From hosting our first Veterans Day celebration, to energizing the campus with a schoolwide pep rally, to organizing a memorable Spring Formal, their impact has been felt all year long. They have worked hard to build a strong sense of pride and community across campus, and it shows.

They are excited to close out the year on a high note with a magical Student Appreciation Week, celebrating our students and all they bring to RKS.



SPRING FORMAL HIGHLIGHTS



CAREER FAIR

Our students had an incredible experience at this year's Career Fair, where they explored a wide range of career paths, asked thoughtful questions, and connected with professionals from a variety of fields. It was exciting to see their curiosity and engagement as they learned more about future opportunities and began thinking about what lies ahead.

A big thank you to all of the businesses and professionals who took the time to be a part of this day. Your willingness to share your knowledge and experiences made a lasting impact on our students, and we are truly grateful for your support. A special thank you to our school counselor, Dr. Dorsey, for organizing this event and making it such a meaningful experience for our students.



Like & FOLLOW

Here's what's happening on our social media pages! Stay connected & follow along for the latest highlights, events, and Tiger pride moments! #rksmithmiddle #followus #kidsfirst

ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM @RKSMITHMIDDLE



LEAP TESTING & THE 7 MINDSETS

Using the 7 Mindsets for Testing Success

Testing week is May 4–8! While tests like LEAP can sometimes feel overwhelming, it is important to remember that you already have the tools you need to succeed. In addition to everything you have learned this year, the 7 Mindsets can help you stay confident, focused, and ready to do your best. Remember, we are proud of you and know you are ready to succeed.

Everything is Possible

When you sit down to test, believe in yourself. If you come across a difficult question, do not panic. Take a deep breath, trust what you have learned, and give it your best effort. You can always flag a question and come back to it later.

Passion First

This is your chance to show what you know. Take pride in your work, read each question carefully, and focus on doing your personal best from beginning to end.

We Are Connected

You are not taking this test alone. Your teachers, administrators, families, and classmates are all supporting you and want to see you succeed.

100% Accountable

Take ownership of your success. Get a good night's sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and come to school ready. During the test, take your time, stay focused, and check your work.

Attitude of Gratitude

Keep a positive mindset. Being calm and thankful, even during a long test, can help you stay focused and think clearly.

Live to Give

Help others by creating a respectful testing environment. Stay quiet, follow expectations, and support your classmates so everyone can do their best.

The Time is Now

You have been preparing all year. This is your opportunity to show how much you have learned. Answer every question, give your best effort, and finish strong.

We are proud of you and know you are ready.

SAVE THE DATE

As we head into the final month of the school year, here are a few important dates to keep in mind. We are excited to celebrate our students and finish the year strong.

May 1, 8, 15: Snack Shack

Drinks and chips, \$1

Candy, \$2

May 4-8: LEAP Testing & Faculty and Staff Appreciation Week

May 11: Athletics Awards Ceremony at 7PM in the RKS Gym. All student athletes are invited to attend

May 11-15: Student Appreciation Week

May 18-21: Early dismissal for students

May 20: 8th Grade Ceremony, 8:45 AM, RKS Cafeteria

All parents and guardians of 8th grade students are invited to attend

May 21: 6th and 7th Grade Awards Ceremony, 8:45 AM, RKS Cafeteria. Students receiving an award will be given an invitation.

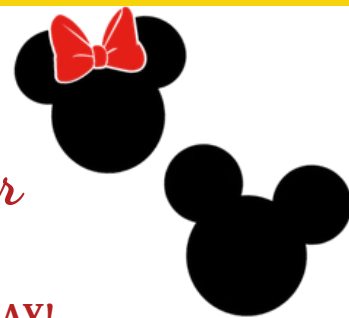
May 21: Last day of school for students

HELLO
SUMMER



It's Been a Magical Year
AT RKS!

So Let's Finish it Happily Ever After
MAY 11-15, 2026



PAJAMAS AND SLIDES ARE TO BE WORN ONLY ON MONDAY!

Monday



Dress: Dress Up like an old person (pajamas)
Snack/Activity: Koolaid Jammers/Extra time outside with bubbles

Adventure is out there. And we are finding it at RK Smith! Join us today as we dress like a senior citizen (pajamas are ok!) to embrace our adventure. Enjoy a "grape soda" at lunch.

Tuesday



Dress: Favorite hat (with School Uniform)
Activity: Extra time outside for the toys

Toy Story got it right, knowing that you've got a friend here at RKS! Woody never goes anywhere without his cowboy hat, and today you can do the same. Tip your hat to Toy Story today by wearing your favorite hat to school today. As an extra special treat, you will get to spend some extra time outside for some extended recess.

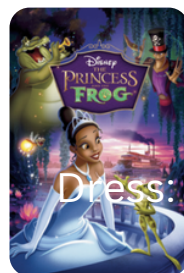
Wednesday



Dress: Jeans with Shirts of various colors (based on your emotions)
Snack: Skittles

We have had a great year of making new core memories, and we are going "Inside Out" today! Wear your emotions on your sleeve today with a colored shirt with jeans to represent your favorite emotion. Enjoy a colorful treat at lunch.

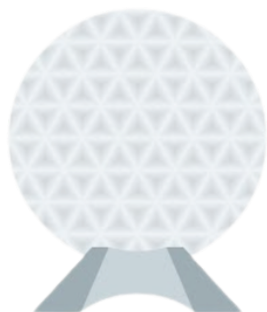
Thursday



Dress: Jeans with a Louisiana-themed shirt
Snack: Ring Pops

Come take a trip down the bayou today with Louisiana's favorite princess! Celebrate Tiana by wearing jeans (no rips!) with your favorite Louisiana themed shirt.

Friday



Dress: Sunglasses/Hawaiian dress
Snack: Freeze Pops

Stitch knows...And so do we...that ohana means family. Celebrate the upcoming summer break with your RKS Ohana today by wearing your favorite Hawaiian-themed shirts and sunglasses. Be ready to enjoy a cool summer treat today.





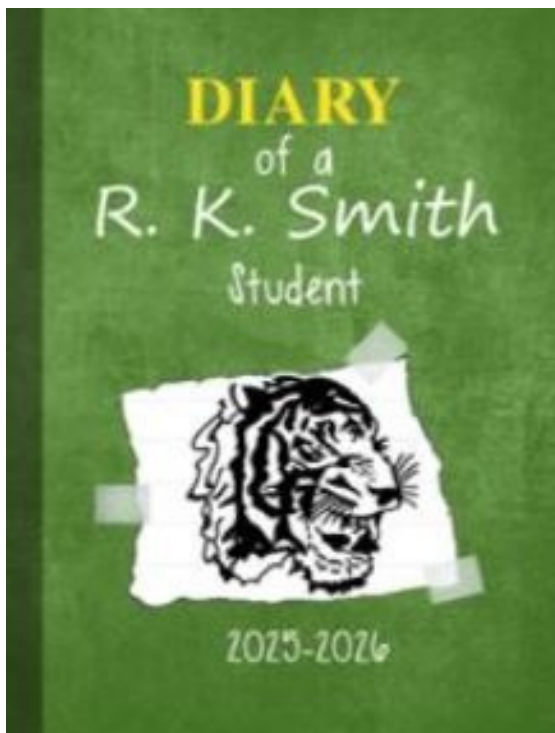
R.K. Smith Tigers Spirit Wear for the 2026–2027 School Year

The Spirit Wear shop for the 2026–2027 school year will open at the end of May. We encourage families to place orders early to ensure items are ready for pickup at orientation in August. Ordering ahead is a great way to start the year prepared and show your school pride from day one.



2025-2026 YEARBOOKS ARE HERE!

A few extra were ordered, so get yours before they are gone!



Yearbooks are on sale now for \$30. Be sure to order yours soon before they sell out!

Payment options:

- Cash, returned in the envelope provided
- Check written to R.K. Smith
- OSP, Online School Payment System, link available on the RKS website

Please see Mrs. Mascarella or Ms. Montgomery with any questions. Don't miss out on capturing this year's memories!

Counselor's CORNER

Hello Parents/Guardians,

As summer break approaches, we hope your family enjoys a well-deserved time to relax, recharge, and make lasting memories. While this is an important time for rest and fun, it is also essential that students continue to engage their minds, so they are well-prepared for the upcoming school year.

Studies have shown that students can lose some of the academic progress they made during the school year over the summer months. To help prevent this “summer slide,” we encourage you to support your child in maintaining a simple daily routine of learning.

We recommend that students:

- Read for at least 30 minutes each day. This can include books, magazines, or any material that interests them.
- Practice math skills for 30 minutes daily to keep their problem-solving abilities sharp.
- Stay physically active by spending time outdoors, playing sports, or engaging in other healthy activities.

Balancing learning with fun and physical activity will help your child return to school confident, refreshed, and ready to succeed.

Thank you for your continued support, and I wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable summer!

Dr. Dorsey

School Counselor

jdorsey@wearescpss.org



HEALTH NOTES

from

OUR

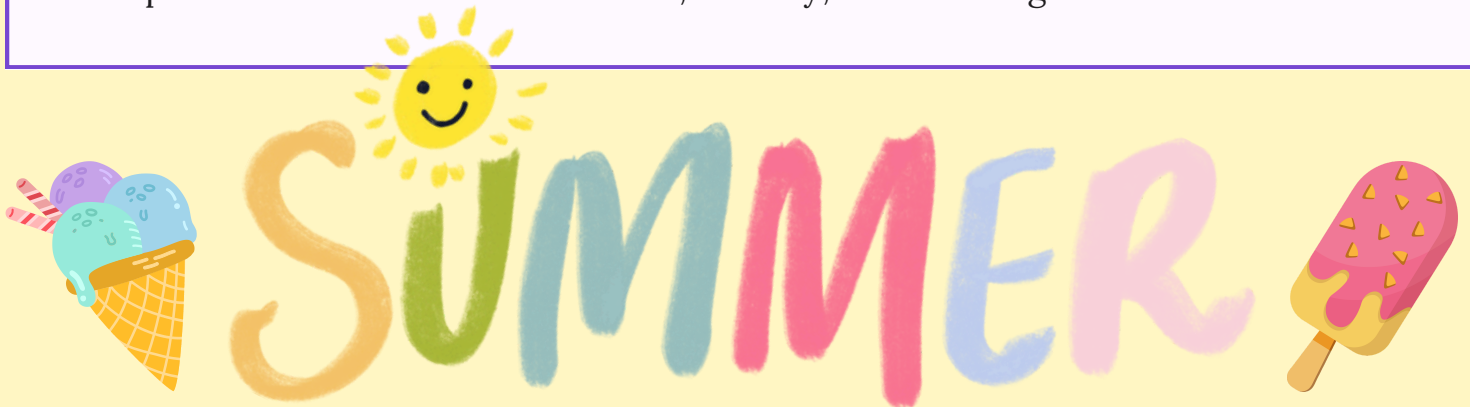
NURSE

Heading Into Summer

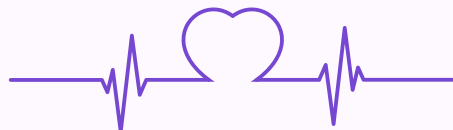
As we wrap up the school year and head into the summer months, it is important to keep health and safety a priority. With the Louisiana heat and humidity in full swing, students can become overheated and dehydrated quickly. Be sure they are drinking plenty of water throughout the day, wearing sunscreen, and taking breaks in the shade or indoors when temperatures are high. Lightweight clothing and limiting peak afternoon outdoor activity can also help prevent heat-related illness.

Encouraging healthy habits like regular sleep, balanced meals, and daily physical activity will help students stay energized and ready for the new school year.

This is also a great time to schedule annual check-ups, update immunizations, and refill any necessary medications before the busy back-to-school season begins. If your child has a medical condition or requires medication at school, please plan ahead and communicate with the school nurse to ensure a smooth start in the fall. We hope all of our families have a safe, healthy, and relaxing summer.



School Nurse: Aspen Jack
ajack@wearescpps.org



Nurse Para: Toni Scott
tscott3@wearescpps.org



**Only
Date This
Year**

Pre-Sports Physicals 2026

Saturday, May 9, 2026

- **J.B. Martin Middle School**
8 a.m.
- **R.K. Smith Middle School**
8:15 a.m.
- **Harry Hurst Middle School**
8:30 a.m.
- **Albert Cammon Middle School**
8:45 a.m.
- **St. John Parish Middle Schools**
9:45 a.m.
- **East St. John High School**
9:30 a.m.
- **Hahnville High School**
9 a.m.
- **Destrehan High School**
9:15 a.m.
- **St. James Middle & High Schools**
10 a.m.
- **All Other Schools** 10:30 a.m.

Please attend during your school's scheduled time.

You must arrive by 11 a.m.

A medical evaluation form must be completely filled out and signed by a parent to receive a physical evaluation.

Please scan the QR code to download the form.



NO COST

Location:

St. Charles Parish Hospital | 1057 Paul Maillard Road, Luling, LA 70070

ENTER AT ENTRANCE ONE BY THE FLAG POLE | PARK IN LOT B

For additional questions, please email Donna.Palahang@ochsner.org or contact:

- Albert Cammon Middle School | 504-467-4536 | Dayne Denham
- Harry Hurst Middle School | 985-764-6367 | Waco Bickham, Zachary Barton, or Alexis Keightley
- J.B. Martin Middle School | 985-758-7579 | Nathan Fauchaux or Michelle Lee
- R.K. Smith Middle School | 985-331-1018 | Kevin Carrigee
- East St. John High School | bbrown@stjohn.k12.la.us | Brandon Brown

NEW

THIS

YEAR

HEALTH SCREENING FOR PARENTS

- Biometric screenings
- BP
- Glucose
- BMI
- Lipid panel

Fasting preferred, but not required.
No cost and no registration required.

May 2026 Middle School Menus St. Charles Parish Public Schools

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
Menus are subject to change.

AVAILABLE DAILY

Every day at Lunch

Deli Sandwich

Mon/Weds/Fri Special

Fresh Hot Pizza

Tuesday's Special

(selection rotates weekly)

Chicken Sandwich

Totchos

Thursday's Special

Hamburger or

Cheeseburger



SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY

Friday, May 1	
Breakfast	Egg Bites Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice
Lunch	Pastalaya Green Beans Garden Salad Fresh Orange Wedges Cookie

FRIDAY, MAY 1
Help us express appreciation for our school cafeteria staff. These ladies are committed to caring for our students every day!

Monday, May 4	Tuesday, May 5	Wednesday, May 6	Thursday, May 7	Friday, May 8
Breakfast Breakfast Pizza Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast Chicken Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast Cinnamon Roll Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast Sausage Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast Scone Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice
Lunch Chicken Tenders Waffles Green Beans Steamed Carrots Sliced Peaches	Lunch Nacho's Steamed Corn Refried Beans Sala Apple Wedges	Lunch Spaghetti & Meatsauce Italian Salad Broccoli Florets Garlic Bread Banana	Lunch Turkey & Sausage Gumbo Steamed Rice Potato Salad Cucumber/Tomato Salad Pineapple Tidbits	Lunch Mini Corn Dogs Crinkle Cut Fries Baby Carrots w/Ranch Orange Wedges Jello w/Topping

HAPPY Mother's DAY



Monday, May 11	Tuesday, May 12	Wednesday, May 13	Thursday, May 14	Friday, May 15
Breakfast Confetti Pancakes Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast Chicken Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast French Toast Sticks Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast Sausage Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast Waffle Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice
Lunch Chicken Alfredo Pasta Green Beans Carrots Applesauce	Lunch Orange Chicken Fried Rice Asian Chopped Salad Edamame Beans Mandarin Oranges	Lunch Vegetable Soup Grilled Cheese Sandwich Garden Salad Banana Brownie	Lunch Manager's Choice	Lunch BBQ Pit Turkey on Bun Crinkle Cut Fries Lettuce/Tomato/Pickle Fresh Orange Wedges
Monday, May 18	Tuesday, May 19	Wednesday, May 20	Thursday, May 21	Friday, May 22
Breakfast Manager's Choice Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast Manager's Choice Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast Manager's Choice Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast Manager's Choice Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	SCHOOL'S -out for- SUMMER
EARLY DISMISSAL	EARLY DISMISSAL	EARLY DISMISSAL	EARLY DISMISSAL	
Lunch Chicken Tenders Crinkle Cut Fries Green Beans Sliced Peaches	Lunch Fresh Hot Pizza Marinara Sauce Veggie Fruit	Lunch Mini Corndogs Crinkle Cut Fries Veggie Fruit	Lunch Bosco Sticks Marinara Sauce Veggie Fruit	

May Celebrations

Daily Celebrations

- 1st - School Principals' Day
- 4th - National Orange Juice Day
- 6th - National Teacher Day
- 6th - National School Nurse Day
- 13th - International Hummus Day
- 15th - National Chocolate Chip Day
- 21st - Eat More Fruits and Vegetables Day
- 28th - World Hunger Day

Other Celebrations

- Food Allergy Awareness Month
- National Asparagus Month
- National Egg Month
- National Salad Month
- National Salsa Month
- National Strawberry Month
- Mental Health Awareness Month

Have a
GREAT SUMMER!

Thanks for eating with us this year. We look forward to seeing you when school starts up again!