Richland Newsletter

September Edition



Hello Richland Families! This is a monthly newsletter to keep you up-to-date on the latest news, events, and important information for your Richland student(s). Always reach out if you have any additional questions and/or need more information. - Mr. Livigni, K-8 Principal

September's Important Dates

Early Release and Lockdown Drill	**September 4th**
No School - Labor Day	**September 7th**
DESSA Screener Begins	**September 9th**
School Picture Day K - 8	**September 17th**
1st Quarter Midterm	**September 18th**

Principal's Message From Mr. Livigni's Desk

Dear Richland Families,

As we begin our 3rd week of school, it has been wonderful to see our students settling into their routines and becoming more comfortable in their classrooms. The beginning of a school year brings many changes—new teachers, new classmates, new expectations, and sometimes a few nerves along the way. Each day, however, I see our students becoming more confident and comfortable in their surroundings.

One of the most important parts of these first few weeks is building relationships. Our students are getting to know their teachers, forming new friendships, learning how to work together, and discovering that they are an important part of our school community. These connections are the foundation for a successful school year. When students feel known, supported, and connected, they are more willing to take risks, ask questions, try something new, and believe in themselves as learners.

As we continue through the school year, I encourage our students to keep being kind, keep trying, and keep stepping outside of their comfort zones. We are just getting started, and there are so many opportunities ahead for our students to learn, grow, and make great memories together.

Finally, I want to give a special shout-out to our students for the wonderful job they did during last week's fire drill and bus evacuation drill! Our students listened carefully, followed directions, remained

calm, and demonstrated that they understand the importance of being prepared for an emergency. We could not be prouder of them. Great job, Eagles!

Safety Drills and Student Safety

The safety and well-being of our students and staff are always our highest priority. Throughout the school year, Richland School conducts safety drills to help students and staff understand how to respond calmly and appropriately during an emergency. Drills may be conducted with local law enforcement and fire departments.

Each year, Richland School conducts at least three fire drills, one severe weather drill, one law enforcement lockdown drill, one school evacuation drill, and one bus evacuation drill. Additional drills may occur as needed. The law enforcement lockdown drill will be announced in advance.

Emergency Procedures

Severe Weather: Students and staff move to designated safe areas inside the school and remain there until further instructions are provided.

Hold: Students and staff remain in their current locations while normal activities may continue. This may be used for situations such as a medical emergency.

Secure: Students and staff remain inside the building, with exterior doors secured. Normal activities may continue while a potential hazard exists outside the school.

Evacuate: Students and staff leave the building and move to a designated safe location when there is a hazard inside the school.

Lockdown: Used during an active threat or serious emergency. Students and staff follow established safety procedures and directions from school officials and emergency responders. **Our Lockdown Drill is Friday September 4th.** Please reach out to the office with questions or concerns.

Communication

If an emergency presents an immediate danger, Richland School will communicate with parents and guardians as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so through available notification methods. In some situations, immediate communication may not be possible or necessary.

Our goal is to ensure that students, staff, and families understand these procedures and know how to respond safely during an emergency. Thank you for partnering with us to keep Richland School safe.

Warm regards,
Mr. John Livigni
Richland Principal

Important Reminders

Arrival and Dismissal

The entrance for car riders will be Door # 5 for Junior High this year. This door is located around the corner from the Junior High Office. **Please [ull all the way up to drop your child off and leave the area immediately so we don't have a traffic back up in the parking lot.** This procedure will be the same for dismissal. Please pick your child up at Door 5 as well. Students will not enter the building until 7:52

Elementary Entrance for car riders will be Door #6. Staff will open the doors at 8:25 am please remain with your child until school personnel has opened the doors. For dismissal, please meet at Door 6 at 3:13 pm- all elementary students must be released to an approved adult. **Adults should be within a reasonable range of Door 6 and not in the parking lot or near Doort 5**.

Staff and Student ID's

All staff and students are required to wear an ID while in the building. This is for Safety and Security purposes. Students will also need their ID if they are getting lunch or checking out materials from the Media Center. Students will leave their ID at school so they don't have to worry about remembering it each morning. They will leave ID's in their locker at the end of the day and it will be there the next morning before going to first period.

Chromebooks

Students have been instructed that the Chromebooks need to be kept in the case at all times. Please help us in reminding your child about the importance of making sure nothing Chromebook or case before closing their Chromebook or putting it in their case. We have had several students break their screens already this year because a pen, pencil, or some other device was still inside when they close it. Students and families are responsible for any damages to these devices. Please remind your child of the importance of taking care of their device.

Attendance

Attendance is very important! Attendance is taken every class period. If your child is going to be absent from school, please call the attendance line (815-744-6166), listen for prompts, and press 2. We ask that attendance be called in by 9am at the latest. Please report all symptoms when reporting your child's absence. If your child is marked absent and we haven't heard from you, calls will be made to make sure your child is home and safe. If your child is late to school, a parent must come into the building and sign them in at the office.

Cell Phones

We completely understand if your child needs to bring a cell phone to school. However, students are not permitted to have their cell phone or other electronic device (smartwatches) on them during the school day. These devices need to be powered off and kept in their locker. They should not have them out until after exiting the building or have permission from a coach/club sponsor if in an after school activity. We also understand you might have to get in contact with your child during the school day. If that is the case, we ask you call the office and we can either relay a message to them or you can talk to them directly. Thank you for your help and cooperation with this.

Skyward

At Richland Jr. High, we use Skyward (online database) to track student progress, attendance, and more. Parents have a login to Skyward. With this login, you can track how your child is doing in all of their classes 24/7. Teachers will update grades as often as possible. If you have any immediate concerns about grades,

please contact your child's individual teacher. If you are having trouble accessing Skyward, please contact the office.

Communication

Communication between home and school is important! If you have had a change in phone number or email, please contact the junior high office so we can update this information in our system. When we send emails, phone messages, etc... the information comes directly from Skyward.

Nurse's Office Reminder

When sending in medications for either short-term or long-term use, please be sure to provide all required paperwork fully completed. Students are not permitted to administer medication to themselves without a medical plan that has been created by the Nurse's Office in conjunction with a medical practitioner. Thank you for helping us keep all students safe and healthy.

Visitors

All visitors, including parents, MUST present their ID before being allowed in the building. We appreciate your help and cooperation in this matter as we work to maintain the highest level of safety and security in our buildings.

Lunch

Students may have a lunch dropped off for them by a parent, guardian, or someone listed on the emergency contacts. Food delivered to school by UberEats, DoorDash, Grubhub, or any other delivery service is not allowed.

Here to Support You

If you believe that you may qualify for free or reduced lunch please contact the Junior High Office for information and an application.

Have you lost housing and need assistance? Richland 88A has resources to assist you. Please contact Kristen Bonie (815) 744 - 7288 x4045

Assistant Principals' Messages...

K - 2 Mrs. Collins

Dear Richland Elementary Families,

Our Littlest Eagles in Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade have been busy building a strong foundation for a successful school year! During the first few weeks of school, students participated in our School-Wide Expectation Stations, where they learned and practiced what it means to be Respectful,

Responsible, and Resourceful throughout different areas of our school.

Safety is a priority at Richland! Our students successfully completed both a bus evacuation drill and a fire drill. Practicing these important procedures help keep everyone safe at school and while traveling on the bus.

Inside the classroom, students continue to learn and master daily routines and expectations. From navigating their classrooms and school spaces to practicing independence and working together, our youngest Eagles are already showing tremendous growth. Best of all, they are excited to make new friends, build relationships with their teachers, and become an important part of their classroom communities.

We are so proud of the wonderful start our K–2 students have made and look forward to watching them continue to learn, grow, and SOAR!

Go Eagles! Kari Collins

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3 - 5 Mr. Berard

Hello Eagle Families!

Welcome back to another fantastic school year! Our classrooms are buzzing with energy, and our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students have done an incredible job jumping right into our daily routines.

Over the past two weeks, we've focused heavily on setting our students up for a safe and successful year. Across all 3rd through 5th grade classrooms, we've spent time practicing our safety drills, learning daily procedures, and establishing clear school-wide expectations in the hallways, cafeteria, and recess. Our students successfully completed both a bus evacuation drill and a fire drill. Practicing these important procedures help keep everyone safe at school and while traveling on the bus.

To help build a positive and supportive school community, we've also been teaching two key strategies during our morning announcements slideshow that you can reinforce and practice at home:

The THINK Method

Before speaking, texting, or posting online, students should learn to ask:

🧠 The THINK Method

Before you say it, send it, or post it, THINK:

T — Is it TRUE?

Am I sharing something that is accurate?

H — Is it HELPFUL?

Will this help the situation or the person?

I — Is it INSPIRING?

Will my words encourage or build someone up?

N — Is it NECESSARY?

Does this really need to be said?

K — Is it KIND?

Would I want someone to say this to me?

5-4-3-2-1 Grounding Technique

To help manage stress or anxiety, students can practice a grounding technique called 5-4-3-2-1. Students will identify aspects of the five senses in their immediate environment. Here is the breakdown of the strategy:



Goal-Setting

As we wrap up these first weeks, please talk with your child about adding something positive to their daily routine. Please have your child write down one positive habit that they want to start this week.

For *Example: "This weekend I will start reading 30 minutes a day and continue reading 30 minutes a day for at least a week!"*

Thank you for partnering with us to make this year safe, kind, and successful for every learner! We look forward to an incredible year together!

Justin Berard

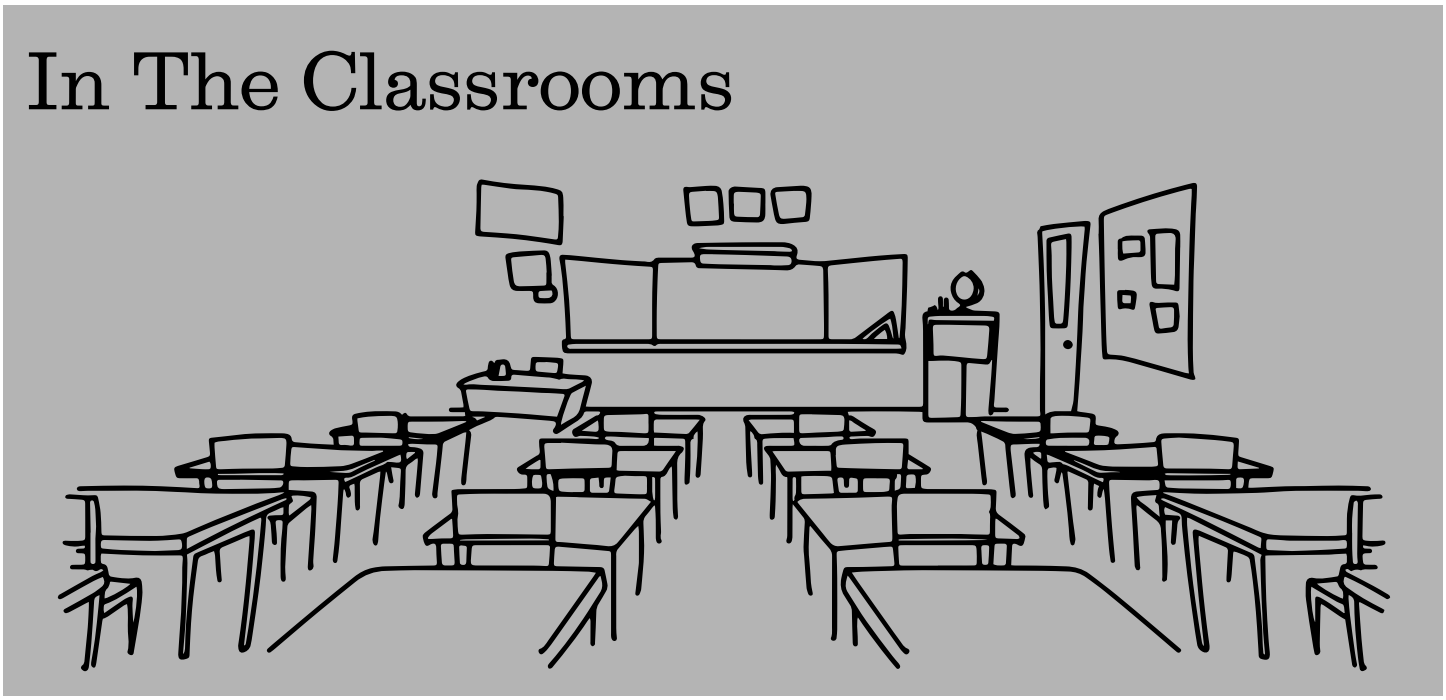
6 - 8 Mr. Kikos

Richland Families,

As we wrap up our first month of school, it has been wonderful to see our students and staff settle into the rhythm of a new school year. Classrooms are buzzing with learning, relationships are growing, and our school community is already demonstrating the energy and spirit that make this place special.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make the start of this school year so positive. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the months ahead!

Jim Kikos



This section will have updates about the learning inside the classroom for each grade, K - 8.

K - 2 Math: We are entering Year 2 of our enVision Mathematics curriculum, building upon the success and growth we experienced during our first year of implementation. Teachers continue to deepen their use of the curriculum while helping students develop strong number sense, problem-solving skills, and mathematical thinking.

K - 2 ELA: This year, we are also excited to begin piloting two new English Language Arts (ELA) resources: Arts & Letters and Really Great Reading. Arts & Letters supports students in building strong literacy skills through meaningful reading, writing, vocabulary, and knowledge-building experiences with high-quality texts. Really Great Reading provides explicit, systematic instruction in foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, and fluency; helping students build the essential skills needed to become confident, successful readers.

K - 2 SEL (Social Emotional Learning): While we continue to use our current SEL curriculum, Second

Step, this year we have started to introduce a new supplemental resource that explicitly teaches and practices skills such as listening, following directions, asking for help, working with others, accepting 'no," and handling feedback appropriately. Just like reading and math, social skills are skills that can be taught, practiced, reinforced, and strengthened. Keep and eye out for weekly emails with resources that you can use at home to reinforce these skills with your child.

3rd Grade Curriculum Updates

Really Great Reading (ELA): We are piloting Really Great Reading this year to target the specific transition 3rd graders make from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." Instruction focuses heavily on multisyllabic decoding, advanced phonics, and morphemic analysis (prefixes, suffixes, and roots) so students can accurately read and understand longer, more complex academic vocabulary.

Arts and Letters (ELA): We are piloting Arts and Letters this year to build rich background knowledge and vocabulary through themed, whole-class book studies. 3rd graders will engage with high-quality literature and informational texts, learning how to ask and answer questions using text evidence, write structured paragraphs, and participate in collaborative academic discussions.

EnVision Math: Entering Year 2 of enVision Mathematics, our 3rd graders will focus on core grade-level benchmarks including foundational multiplication and division concepts, understanding fractions as numbers, and calculating area and perimeter. Visual models and hands-on manipulatives will help bridge concrete thinking to abstract mathematical reasoning.

4th Grade Curriculum Updates

Arts and Letters (ELA): We are piloting Arts and Letters this year to challenge 4th graders with complex, multi-genre texts that deepen critical thinking. Students will move beyond basic comprehension to analyze character motivation, central themes, and text structures. The curriculum heavily integrates writing, teaching students how to compose multi-paragraph essays supported by text evidence.

EnVision Math: Entering Year 2 of enVision Mathematics, 4th grade instruction centers on mastering multi-digit multiplication and long division, equivalent fractions, adding and subtracting fractions with like denominators, and understanding decimals. Lessons emphasize onmulti-step word problems, requiring students to explain their mathematical reasoning both verbally and in writing.

Setting the Foundation for Success 6 -8

The first eight days of school have been all about building a strong foundation for a successful year in grades 6–8. Students have been learning and practicing important routines and procedures, from moving through the building and transitioning between classes to being prepared, respectful, and responsible in the classroom.

We have also spent time reviewing schoolwide expectations and reinforcing what it means to be a safe, respectful, and responsible member of our school community. In addition, students have participated in our safety drills and practiced how to respond calmly and appropriately in different situations. These drills are an important part of keeping everyone prepared and safe.

Thank you to our students for their flexibility, patience, and willingness to learn the routines that help our school day run smoothly. We are excited to see these habits continue to grow as we move forward into a year of learning, growth, and success!

Sports, Arts, & Clubs

Cross Country

- 9/2 - vs. St. Rays @ 4:15
- 9/8 - @ Channahon @ 4:30
- 9/12 - Richland Invite @ 9:00 AM
- 9/15 - @ HHH @ 4:30
- 9/21 - @ AVM @ 4:30
- 9/24 - @ Dirksen @ 4:15
- 9/30 - @ Brooks @ 4:30

Boys Soccer

- 9/2 - @ Sandwich @ 4:30
- 9/3 - @ Channahon @ 4:30
- 9/8 - @ Morris @ 4:30
- 9/10 - @ Coal City @ 4:30
- 9/15 - vs. Plano @ 4:30
- 9/17 - @ Saratoga @ 4:30
- 9/22 - vs. Jane Addams @ 4:30
- 9/24 - @ AVM @ 4:30
- 9/28 - vs. Trinity @ 4:30
- 9/30 vs. HHH @ 4:30

Baseball

- 9/1 - @ Elwood @ 4:15
- 9/3 - vs. Chaney Monge @ 4:15
- 9/8 - @ Laraway @ 4:15
- 9/10 - vs KG @ 7:00 PM
- 9/12 - Regional TBA

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT 88A

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