



"REED ROCKET EXPRESS SCHOOL NEWS" DECEMBER 2020



Vision: Jonathan E. Reed is a forward-thinking school that is the **centerpiece of the community**. Our vision is to produce **major gains in student achievement** and **resilient well-rounded individuals** who will be **successful** today and are **prepared** for tomorrow.

Mission: Our mission at, Jonathan E. Reed School, is to provide a **high quality, comprehensive, and meaningful education** for **all students**. Each student will be expected to succeed within the bounds of their abilities and chosen educational goals. Students will be **treated as individuals** and **equipped with the tools to succeed** throughout their academic career. **Educators alongside parents** will guide students in becoming **responsible, respectful, and productive members of society**.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Dear Reed Families:

The Reed staff and I would like to wish your family a "Happy Holiday Season"! We hope you enjoy your time with your family over the holiday season. Take some time to reflect on all the things you are thankful for this year and in your life. We would also like to remind you of the following.

- Winter Break begins on Thursday December 24th and online classes will resume Monday January 4th.
- No School Wednesday January 6th Three Kings Holiday
- In-Person students are expected to resume in-person learning on January 19, 2020

As we enter the holiday season, I want to express my gratitude for everyone who makes it possible for as many students to log into school every day, on time, ready to learn. Thank you to our students and families for following our online expectations and making daily attendance a priority! We know that research has shown that having good attendance will help your child do well in the classroom and eventually in their chosen career. Just a few missed days here and there, even if they are excused absences, can add up to a lot of lost learning time and leave your child with learning gaps. This is as true in kindergarten as it is in high school. We are excited to begin announcing students from each grade level with great attendance! Students that have great attendance will receive a certificate and special prize to be picked up at the school. If you have any questions, please reach out to the classroom teacher(s). Teachers hold office hours daily from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. via Google Meet. We are here to help.

Enjoy the holiday season and have a Happy New Year!

**Warm wishes,
Mr. Tomasella**

DECEMBER CALENDAR

December 9th (Parent Conferences 5-7 p.m.)

December 24th- January 1st Winter Break/No School





CONGRATULATIONS NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!

Kindergarten

Morotto-Luis Gallegos-Bustillo
Mrs.Pelletier- Carmen Malave

Grade 1

Rogers-Olivia Ruthy
Shampang- Jocian Luciano

Grade 2

Albizu- Arianna Ahmetovic
Selvarajan- Adriel Lopez

Grade 3

Steffero-David Hairston

Valletta-Ahmed Polozhani

Ms. Hastings- Karen Pepin

Ms. Moroz- Julian Vega

Grade 4

Hakim- Ziaire Santana
Coty -Sa'niyah Spencer

Grade 5

Grant - Travis Lewis
Choi- Isaiah Gonzalez

Grade 6

Crosby- Abril Outerbridge
Fort-Byron Morillo-Alcantara

Grade 7/8

Rock- Dorian Morales-Diaz

Bolduc- Nicheal Newell

Boratko- Reggie Temple

Colon- Ashley Saca-Tello

Pre-K

Rinaldi- Larry Stovall

Kachur/Ruggiero- Jaziel Martinez

Jael Almonte



DISTANCE LEARNING TIPS

The guidance below can help us all make the best of new and sometimes unfamiliar distance learning environments. It can help you be ready for some of the more practical aspects of learning from home.

1. Establish routines and expectations

It is important to develop good habits from the start. Create a flexible routine and talk about how it's working overtime. Chunk your days into predictable segments. Help students get up, get dressed and ready to learn at a reasonable time. Everybody make your bed! Keep normal bedtime routines, including normal rules for digital devices.

2. Choose a good place to learn

Your family's regular learning space for occasional homework might not work for extended periods. Set up a physical location that's dedicated to school-focused activities. Make sure it is quiet, free from distractions and has a good internet connection. Make sure an adult monitors online learning. Keep doors open, and practice good digital safety. Our teachers, counsellors and safeguarding teams will do the same.

3. Stay in touch

Teachers will mainly be communicating regularly through our online platforms and virtual learning environments. Make sure everyone knows how to find the help they need to be successful. Stay in contact with classroom and support teachers, school leaders and counsellors. If you have concerns, let someone know.

4. Help students 'own' their learning

No one expects parents to be full-time teachers or to be educational and content matter experts. Provide support and encouragement, and expect your children to do their part. Struggling is allowed and encouraged! Don't help too much. Becoming independent takes lots of practice.

5. Begin and end the day by checking-in

In the morning, you might ask:

- What classes/subject do you have today?
- Do you have any assessments?
- How will you spend your time?
- What resources do you need?
- What can I do to help?

At the end of the day you might ask:

- How far did you get in your learning tasks today?
- What did you discover? What was hard?
- What could we do to make tomorrow better?

<https://www.acs-schools.com/parents-guide-distance-learning>



PARKING

Parents: Please do not use the bus lane to drop off or pick up your child. This area is reserved for busses only. All parents must use the parent drop off area or the parking lot when they visit the school. This is for the safety of our students. Thank you!

School Hours School Hours

Regular School Day

Kindergarten – 8 th Grade	8:05-12:35
Virtual Learning	12:45- 2:50 p.m.

Meeting's With Teachers

We encourage meetings and communication with your child's classroom teacher. Working together increases student achievement. We do ask that you please provide your child's teacher with 24-hour advance notice when wanting to meet with them. They will be able to meet with you via Google Meet.

Link for the Student Contact Information Sheet to be completed virtually.

If you have trouble logging on through your personal email, you can log on under your child's account. Please be sure to submit either a hard copy or virtual form for each child you have attending Reed School. Thank you!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQ-93NHKVhgTmvFITIWtoifDzBvajAMVdLBH_gOazhqq9hkQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Please keep us updated with any changes of phone numbers and addresses



What's happening around the school????

PRE-K

As the weather gets colder and we welcome the beginning of the holiday season we would also like to welcome our in-person Preschoolers to the our virtual learning program! During our virtual teaching sessions, we will continue developing our numeracy and literacy skills with fun on-line lessons and activities each day! We look forward to seeing all our youngest faces together on line as we begin to engage them in this new platform for learning!

We will be completing our Trees Study in which the children were excited to learn about trees, what grows on trees and what lives in them. We now are preparing to begin our Study on Clothing in early December! We look forward to this interesting topic and learning all about different kinds of clothing, how they are made, and what clothes we wear in different weather. Lots to learn and look forward to for our Preschoolers!!

Kindergarten

Kindergarten - Hello everyone! We can't believe how fast we are approaching the end of 2020! In Reading, we introduce new High Frequency Words every week, and these are posted on our Google Classroom as well for you to review. We continue to discuss characters, setting, and events in our stories. Please be sure to complete and submit the weekly Foundations lessons in the afternoon as well as Wonders assignments. In Math, we are decomposing numbers 0-5 to begin addition and subtraction. Continue with Direct to My Path i-ready lessons, these are under the Math tab on Google Classroom. In Science, we have been learning about the weather; patterns, tools, and severe types of weather. Please be sure to check Parent Square daily, as messages about our school community are posted frequently and important messages are sent from teachers. As always, reach out with any questions or concerns, and thank you for all your continued support!

1st Grade

The first grade Reed Rockets have been working hard this year! In reading, we continue to work on story elements (characters, setting, main events, and problem/solution). We are also reading lots of different kinds of genres including fantasy, nonfiction, and poetry! We will start reading words with our glued sounds -all, -am, and -an. In math, we are solving addition and subtraction story problems using our math strategies! We are writing equations to match our story problems. Please make sure students are not only logging into our Google Meets daily, but also completing their asynchronous assignments in the afternoon. While our students may need help navigating to complete work, please make sure they are doing the work themselves. It's important for us to know what students have learned and what we may need to reteach to the class. We appreciate it! Have a great winter break, and we will see you in the New Year!

2nd Grade

This is what is happening in Second grade!

In Reading our third unit of study is Animal Habitats-exploring living things in different environments.

Students are learning about key details, main topic and the main purpose of a text.

Students are comparing texts and identifying important information in non-fiction.

In Writing students are using complete sentences with the correct punctuation. Students are learning about the four types of sentences. Questions, exclamations, statements and commands.

Students are learning about nouns, singular and plural nouns.

Students are learning to segment syllables, suffixes and prefixes.

In math Students are learning different strategies to solve two-digit addition, subtraction and word problems. Students are using base ten blocks to understand tens and ones.

In science students are studying physical properties of matter, and how matter changes,

To continue with asynchronous learning In the afternoon, please have your child log into Lexia , Wonders , i-ready .

Foundations lessons are assigned every Monday and they are due on Fridays. Please have your child spend twenty minutes a day completing the Foundations lessons. in the google classroom. Please make sure you open the Foundations lessons with Kami to watch the embedded videos.



3rd Grade

Third grade will be learning that area is the space inside an object or shape. They will be using their multiplication skills and the formula for the area of a rectangle ($A = \text{length} \times \text{width}$) to solve various math problems. Need a new rug for your room? Well, have your children find the area of the room so you know what size carpet to get! Giving your children real life situations will allow them to utilize all the math skills and practices they've been learning. Also, continue to practice multiplication and division facts with your children to increase their fluency. In reading, students are working on visualizing. When reading with your child, have your child draw a picture for the chapter or page that he/she just read (without looking at the illustrations within the book). Have your child compare his/her drawing, to the book's illustration. By the end of third grade, students should be reading at least 112 words correct per minute. Feel free to message us on Parentsquare if you have any questions or concerns.

Happy Holidays! Ms. Steffero & Mrs. Valletta

4th Grade-

Fourth Graders are working hard and have started a new Marking Period on stride! In Reading and Language Arts, students will be focusing on character identities. Our classes will be exploring all types of narrative elements. We will be talking about how character identities are revealed through their actions, dialogue, thoughts, and relationships with others. Using the conflicts, we discover, we will be determining how a character can change based on the internal and/or external factors they face. Encourage your child to read at home. After, have a talk about the different characters!

Reminder Please encourage your child to read for 20 minutes every day and to continue using Lexia.

In Math, students will gain familiarity with factors and multiples of whole numbers, as well as working with and comparing fractions and decimals. We will be solving multi-step word problems with whole numbers using the four operations. Our classes will learn to work with factors and multiples of whole numbers 1-100 using a variety of strategies that include concrete models, number lines, charts, grid paper, or graph paper in order to solve real-world problems. We will also be starting fractions. *Reminder* Please use iReady at home to enrich our classroom learning, as well as practicing multiplication facts.

5th Grade-

Hello 5th Grade families. We have been working hard at our comprehension strategies in reading and have begun Unit 2 in Wonders. The big idea for this unit is "What does it take to put a plan into action?" and we have been reading about solving problems and how the different characters use different strategies to gain the same end result. The students have been really focusing on using the information from the story to help them respond to open ended questions. In math we have been working hard to build our understanding of fractions with unlike denominators tenths and hundredths. This has prepared us for our new topic that focuses on Decimal. We are still using I-Ready as a tool to help close the grade level gap in math. In science we are having so much fun exploring plants, talking about what plants do to make their own food- photosynthesis. They have been doing great! Let's make sure they are logging in daily to complete any assignments so they don't get overloaded with missing assignments at the end of the 2nd marking period.

6th Grade-

Wow! I can't believe we have already made it to December! In Math we will be working on Ratios and Rates. Students will learn how to compare ratios and rates, find and apply unit rates and solve ratio and rate problems using proportional reasoning. In Science, students will be learning about abiotic and biotic factors living in our ecosystem. In Geography, students will be learning about Human Geography. Fascinating topics like: population, culture, global connections with social media and economics will be discussed. In ELA we will begin Unit 2 "Facing Challenges." Students will examine ways that people address injustices, and those who stand up for their rights and the rights of others. Students will analyze Theme and Central Idea, as well as the components of Narrative Writing. We will also begin a novel study for "Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry" determining key events, characters, and the connections between them.

We want to remind families to continue to ensure students are logging in daily and completing all asynchronous assignments. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to us on Parent Square, or contact the office directly. We appreciate and thank you for your continued support.



7th Grade Math-

7th grade will continue to apply prior knowledge of decimals and fractions as they learn about percentages and how to calculate real world scenarios, such as discounts, taxes, and gratuities. We will also be working with rational numbers, specifically how to add and subtract negative and positive integers.

7th Grade World Geography- Students are studying the physical features, history, and culture of the Western United States. As part of our study who will be looking at how the geography has impacted how people live out west, and will compare and contrast the western US to the eastern US. Students will be engaged in inquiry based learning activities through a research project to learn more about the states out west.

Gr. 7 Reading/Language Arts-

Seventh-grade English language arts students will begin unit two and their first novel study of the year with Lois Lowry's *The Giver*. The purpose of unit two is to explore the principles of a fair, or just, society from a variety of literary perspectives - through folktales, short stories, poetry, and excerpts from contemporary novels. Throughout this unit, students will investigate the principles of a just society by exploring different cultures, eras, and diverse points of view.

Gr. 8 American History- Students are beginning to study the events that led the American colonists to organize a revolution for independence from the British. Students will be learning about how ideas from the Enlightenment pushed colonists to want a more democratic society.

Gr. 8 Reading/Language Arts-

This month in ELA, students are working on unit 2 of our StudySync Curriculum. We have just completed our District Unit 1 Assessment. For Unit 1 we did a lot of writing, specifically learning to write suspense stories and argumentative essays. Quarter 2 will focus on readings that take place during the time period of the Civil War and we will use those texts to help us work on informative writing.

Gr. 8 Math:

8th Grade will continue to be working with linear equations, where we will solve two-step equations with variables as we prepare for algebra. We will also extend our knowledge on angles as we cover a little bit of geometry.

Essential Skills-Ms. Hastings Last month Mrs. Hastings' class worked on the following:

In Language Arts we have worked on letters Cc, Aa, Tt and Ee, vocabulary words retire, were, schedule, would, attendant, any, courageous, first and compound words. In Math our focus has been on the numbers 8 and 9, addition combinations for 8 and 9 and comparing counts of 8 and 9 in various configurations. In Social Studies we learned about elections, Pilgrims, Native Americans and the first Thanksgiving. We had fun learning songs and listening to stories about these topics.

Essential Skills-Ms. Moroz –

Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday! Students have been doing very well with switching to virtual learning. We are continuing to work on our Language Arts, Math, Movement and Living Skills lessons. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



To all the Parents of EL (English Learners)

This is a year of challenges for us teachers, students and parents. Let's work together to make the best of it.

- We are encouraging students to read at least 15 to 20 extra minutes per night. You can have access to books online: Here is a list of websites that your children can log in for free and have access to books in different languages: [The International Children's Digital Library](#) , [StoryPlace](#) , [Magic Blox](#) , [MightyBook](#) , [Kids | Read.gov - Library of Congress](#). They have books at all levels in English and Spanish.
- It is important that you communicate your concerns to the teachers and teachers can also let you know about the great things your child is doing in the classroom, so use www.parentsquare.com to create that bond with the teachers of your children. The messages can be translated.
- If you need to speak with me call the school at (203) 574-8180 and ask for extension 129 or 123. We are here to assist you.
- You can also contact me at my office hours via your child google meet link in the google classroom every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm.

Mrs. Figueroa (ESL Teacher) and Mr. Garcia (Bilingual Resource/ESL Teacher)

Health and Physical Education -

K-2 will be learning about locomotor movements

3-5 will be learning about mindfulness/ yoga lessons

6-8 will be doing health lessons

Library-

Hello students and parents of Reed! This December in our library, elementary students will be studying various holidays that are celebrated in December. Students will research the holidays of Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Christmas. Kindergarten and 1st grade students will begin to learn about all three holidays, and 2nd grade through 5th grade students will do more in-depth research about the three holidays. 6th grade students will continue to work on and complete their community oral history research project, and 7th and 8th grade students will read the classic Charles Dickens' novel A Christmas Carol, then conduct research about the time period the novel was written in. In our library, we celebrate all holidays that our students observe and no one will ever be left out! Have a wonderful December and holiday season!

Reading Team-

Happy Holidays to all our Reed Families. We hope everyone has a peaceful and healthy holiday. We would like to remind you how important it is to read to your child everyday. If you aren't a fluent reader yourself please have your child listen to at story which s/he can access in their Wonders accounts. After the winter break we will be doing mCLASS winter benchmark assessments and the goals for grades 1-5 in oral reading fluency are:

- Grade 1 35 words correct per minute (wcpm) 87% accuracy
- Gr. 2 73 wcpm 97% accuracy
- Grade 3 105 98% accuracy
- Grade 4 121 wcpm 99% accuracy
- Grade 5 122 wcpm 99% accuracy



If you have any questions about oral reading fluency or accuracy please don't hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Zukowski, Reed Literacy Facilitator my email is: dzukowski@waterbury.k12.ct.us Thank you!

Computers-

Hello Reed Rockets, Parents, Friends and Families! I hope your year has gotten off to a smooth start and that you have learned a whole new set of skills when it comes to the Google Suite. This month Computer Class will be heavily focused on using the G-Suite. My older classes will be primarily working on their Google Slides presentations so that by the time they get to high school they are presenting wizards. My younger classes will be working on their motor skills and how to handle the mouse correctly while using the computer. Don't forget to check your course stream for important news and announcements. Have a wonderful holiday season!! Mr. Secondi

From the Health Office:

We are hoping everyone is staying healthy and safe! Physical exams and immunizations are due to stay in school. It is very important during this pandemic year to stay on top of your child/ren's health care! **Even if your student(s) is/are learning virtually, they still need to be up-to-date with exams and immunizations per Connecticut State Law.**

Per state law, all **new Pre-K students, Kindergarten, and 6th graders need up-to-date physicals and immunizations to stay in school.** Any physical from this year, 2020, will be valid for Pre-k and Kindergarten. 6th graders have all of 2020 to June of 2021 to get their physical/immunizations.

Any 7th graders who do not have the 6th grade physical exams/immunizations, should **NOT** be in the building. Letters were sent home to those students' parents, please follow up with us at the health office.

Per state law, **all Pre-k students will need a flu shot by December 31st 2020.** The sooner the better, especially during this pandemic year!

We have been doing our best to contact the parents of students who are non-compliant. If your child has an upcoming appointment, you can call the health office and let us know the date and they will be able to stay in school. If you are wondering if your child/ren are up to date, call us!

Any questions at all, please feel free to call the health office here at Reed!

Nurse Steph

Phone: 203-575-3745

Fax: 203-575-3746 (have the doctor fax over exams, immunizations, notes, etc!)

<https://www.waterburyct.org/schoolnursing> (lots of information/resources, including the two links below)

https://www.waterburyct.org/filestorage/9573/9623/45134/Area_Resources_for_School_Physicals_%26_Immunizations--July_30_2020.pdf (where to get physical exams/immunizations/covid tests)

https://www.waterburyct.org/filestorage/9573/9623/45134/2020-2021_CT_Immunization_Requirements.pdf (state requirement sheet for physical exams/immunizations)

Family Resource Center

We are having an Open enrollment for our **FREE VIRTUAL** Children Birth to 4 ½, not already in a school setting or program, in our Parent as Teachers Program. This program will give you and your child the opportunity to explore and network with other families in the community. A certified parent educator will conduct personal visits to give you, hands on activities in which you can continue to encourage to encourage your child's development. Group connections, parent networking, free field trips, personal/home visits. To register please bring immunization shots form, any special screening completed by a healthcare provider, for example: Hearing, vision, dental.

Contact Ms. Martinez, FRC Coordinator: 203-8108 ext: 101

