

The Superintendent Sentinel | PARENT NEWSLETTER

June 2021



Message from the Superintendent

June is always an exciting time of year; it's a time to celebrate the accomplishments our students and staff have made throughout the year as well as a time to look forward with anticipation to the fun that the summer months will bring.

We have so many great achievements to celebrate this year, in the face of such challenges. At this upcoming Board of Education meeting we will honor students who participated in the SEL parent evenings and student artists who used their artistic talents to decorate our Board Office and design new district logos. Our Life Skills Breakfast Cart group received recognition from the Hunterdon County Office of Education for the outstanding contributions they bring to the school community. Our staff and students have presented at regional and national conferences showcasing their work on Green initiatives for the district. Students developed their own inquiry passion projects. Our staff reached beyond our school walls to develop partnerships in a virtual setting. These are just a few highlights from the year; I know that each and every student and teacher, in both big ways and small, has done tremendous work since September.

Leave this year feeling confident in all our accomplishments. Talk to your child about how he or she has grown and changed. Annually, I give myself pause to see the growth and change in my own two children. I know if I don't stop, I'll miss it.

Have a wonderful summer. Take the time to enjoy family and friends. We look forward to seeing you in September.



Dr. Jonathan Hart / 908-534-2897
Follow me on twitter @hartjonathanr

In photo above with Dr. Hart: Wyatt Hughes and Joseph Delli Santi



The Readington Middle School award winning Breakfast Cart provided breakfast to-go-bags at our Governor's Educator of the Year presentation. The Breakfast Cart students are pictured here with Dr. Hart and our County Superintendent, Mr. Juan Torres.

**"There are many ways to enlarge your child's world.
Love of books is the best of all." – Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis**



Curriculum Corner

Avoid the Summer Slide

Dr. Stacey Brown, Supervisor of Humanities, Ms. Sarah Pauch, Supervisor of Math, Science & Technology,
and Ms. Sherry Krial, Supervisor of Professional Development/Tech+

Summer is a great time to learn new things and have fun. Kids everywhere, and many parents and grandparents, are ready for all the summertime activities that allow families to enjoy the beautiful weather and outdoor festivities. Game-based math practice can be a fun way to maintain fact fluency and explore new topics. Also, penciling in “read a book or two” on your busy summer to-do lists should be a priority for all kids. Research shows that children who don’t read or participate in math practice over the summer, especially young students and struggling readers, can show regression over the summer.

The good news is that there are easy steps to take to avoid summer regression. Reading just a few books this summer, visiting the local library, and insisting that children make time for fact practice can curb the summer slide. Here are a few tips for keeping your children academically engaged all summer long.

Be a model. Experts agree that this is the most important thing parents can do. Children mimic the people they respect and feel closest to.

Learn together. Find a series or topic that you both enjoy and read together; historical non-fiction, biographies, science fiction, or books about a topic that link to a summer trip or activity are all great choices to hook children into reading. Suggested book lists on the Readington School District website include authors and titles families can enjoy together. Shopping and baking activities promote math practice and create real-world connections. In addition, math websites can be used to help make your child's summer learning more interactive and exciting while still focusing on and reviewing specific concepts.

Give kids time to read. Summer schedules can be jammed packed, so be sure to find time for your child to read. Time in the car is a great opportunity to listen to audiobooks. The local library and bookstores all have a wide variety of books available. Insist that kids bring a book with them to the beach or cabin or on a long drive or flight. Talk with your children and grandchildren about the books they are reading.

Set aside “no electronics time” daily. Summer days are long. There is plenty of time for kids to make summer learning a priority. Start with an amount of time that can be easily achieved by your child and build time weekly.

Begin right away. Don’t wait until the last weeks of the summer to begin practicing reading and math concepts. Be consistent and begin as soon as school ends so that an established routine is set for the summer.

Promoting a child’s love of learning is one of the most important things we can do as parents and grandparents to put children on the road to success. Keep the learning alive this summer and reap the benefits in the fall when your children return to school with confidence.

“I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book.”
– JK Rowling



Summer Activities to Replenish Your Mind, Body, and Spirit

Mr. Anthony Tumolo, Supervisor of SEL and Special Projects

As we all know, this has been a challenging time for all of us. As I reflect on the past several months, the strength and resilience of the human spirit never ceases to amaze me. The skills we have learned and cultivated have been life-changing. Having had an opportunity to visit classrooms and see teachers and students adapt to a completely unfamiliar environment with such grace and flexibility fills me with so much hope. I recognize that school looked different from what we once knew and I also understand that learning expectations understandably had to be adapted, however I am so proud of the level of teaching that did take place this year. Regardless of the obstacles that were put in front

of us, growth and progress still prevailed and we will take these new skills with us for the rest of our lives.

Every human being has been through their own personal struggles during this time regardless of age, however we have all been able to find some joy in the darkness. As summer quickly approaches, my wish for all of you is to find opportunities to create new moments that replenish your mind, body, and spirit. Below is a short list of resources that may help you and your family reset, recharge, and rejuvenate. I wish you all a happy, healthy, joyful summer.

- [Mindfulness Practices](#) to cultivate peace, focus, and a sense of calm
- [Cosmic Kids](#)- Mindfulness, Stories, Yoga and Movement for K-3 students
- [Stay at Home Guide: 100's of Free Activities for Families](#)- As we slowly begin to transition back to the world we once knew, this summer may feel different than in past years. This guide is a wonderful resource to help children stay engaged and motivated as we continue to social distance through the summer.
- [Ultimate 20 Minute Full Body Workout](#)- Appropriate for Middle School Students (Grades 5-8) This workout is a great activity to schedule some bonding time with your child. Set aside 20 minutes in your schedule and work out together. Prepare to sweat!
- [13 Fun Summer Learning Activities for Every Grade Level](#)
- [SEL District Parent Page](#)- Welcome all parents. Below you will find an assortment of short, guided videos ranging from breathing exercises, chair exercises, standing exercises, and mindful resting exercise. You will also find some longer yoga practices suitable for all ages that will get the heart pumping and the body moving. These practices are great for the entire family. I hope you find them helpful! You will notice that the brain breaks are broken down by grade level. On this page, I have also included some great SEL resources for your information, as well as links to powerful TED TALKS geared towards parents. All the way at the bottom you will find some resources centered on cultivating your own personal mindfulness practice for your interest.



Boggled by Emotions?

As shared by Screenagers

Ideas to help our kids share their emotions

Dr. Delaney Ruston of Screenagers created the game “Boggled by Emotions” to help kids share their emotions.

How the game “Boggled by Emotions” works:

1. Everyone has a pen and paper (you don’t need a Boggle set -- only pen and paper).
2. Set a time for 1 minute.
3. Then, everyone writes down as many emotions that they can think of as fast they can, without others being able to see their list.
4. Next, someone (call them Reader 1) volunteers to read all the emotions on their list. So Reader 1 reads “Joy,” then if someone says, I have Joy on my list, then that person, Reader 1, and anyone else with the word Joy, all cross that word off their respective lists. Reader 1 continues reading each word of their list in this same manner.
5. Then it goes to the next person until the last person reads their list.
6. If a person says a word that is not obviously an emotion, like “ready” or “bold,” put a question mark next to it.
7. Next, bring up this popular list of emotions and compare the questioned words against this list. [Here is one list](#). There are many different lists of emotions, and showing our kids a list makes the point to them that even among researchers, emotions are confusing!
8. Once everyone has had a turn of reading their lists and checking any confusing “emotions,” have everyone count up the number of points — one point per emotion that no one else guessed.

Tech Department

Mr. James Belske, District Technology Coordinator
jbelske@readington.k12.nj.us or 908-386-2502



Student Chromebook/iPad end of school year returns

All students will be required to return their school issued Chromebook or iPad (Kindergarten students only) at the end of this school year. Each school will be sending out notices informing parents and students of the specific dates that student issued equipment (device and charger) should be returned to their homeroom classes.

Extended school year students and students who have been identified for our Accelerate Learning program may keep their device through the end of their session. Equipment return dates for these students will be communicated at a later date.

“Mindfulness shows us what is happening in our bodies, our emotions, our minds, and in the world. Through mindfulness, we avoid harming ourselves and others.” - Thich Nhat Hahn

Building Spotlight: Readington Middle School

Mrs. Sharon Moffat, Principal



The end of the year is quickly approaching, and the students at Readington Middle School continue to be hard at work. Even though it has been a challenging year, our students have really stepped up and made great progress.

Spring athletics were very successful. It was great to see our students back out on the athletic fields participating in lacrosse, baseball, softball and track. The coaches enjoyed getting to know the students outside of the academic setting. Each student athlete represented RMS in a positive manner. They demonstrated a great attitude, determination, sportsmanship and a love for the sport. We are so proud of their efforts on and off the field.

RMS was able to hold a virtual spring musical, Annie, Jr. this year. We had about 20 students participate in this virtual event under the direction of Ms. Lauren Greenberg, the play director, and Mr. Doug Radziewicz, the musical director. The students dedicated a great deal of time and effort to pull off this amazing

performance. Parents and community members were able to livestream the performance, which showcased our very talented students.

Our 8th graders are looking forward to an exciting end of the school year. Their teachers have been working hard to provide them with some special events, including a kickball game and field day.

Graduation may look a little different this year, but it will be a wonderful milestone for each student as they close the chapter on their Readington Schools experience and move onto high school. We are so proud of our 8th graders, and we wish them the best in their future.

Continue to check the weekly Genesis e-mails for important information about RMS, including our monthly calendars.

We are looking forward to a great end to the school year. Thank you so much for continuing to be a partner in your child's education.

Photos from Readington Middle School Spring Activities:



Annie – Cast Photo



RMS – Baseball Team



RMS – Softball Team



RMS – Boys LAX



RMS – Girls LAX

Readington Middle School Honors the Military

Readington Middle School is participating in its third annual school-wide celebration to honor our Military Heroes. RMS Staff members have planned a day of interdisciplinary projects to commemorate Memorial Day. We created activities for each subject area. Language Arts classes will be writing letters to veterans in VA hospitals, math classes will be using ratios and scale with flag designs, social studies classes will be doing a project involving calculations of data spanning all American wars, science classes have a choice of activities found in the Google Drive calendar and world languages will explore rights of citizens in different countries. The encore classes will be taking students outside to plant a flag in honor of family/friends/community members who have served. We believe that this project is a meaningful way to honor the servicemen and women in our community, and we feel that thousands of flags planted in the field will send an impactful message of support.



Governor's Educator of the Year Honorees



2019-2020



2020-2021

The Governor's Educator of the Year recipients were honored by the County Superintendent, Mr. Juan Torres, at the Board of Education offices. The honorees are pictured above with Dr. Hart and Mr. Torres.

2019-2020: Stephanie Armstrong, Adam Connelly, Sara Grzenda, Jennifer Kostelansky, Christine Lewis, Nicole Maraventano, Michael Roosen, and Bruno Somma.

2020-2021: Christine Crielly, Megan Greco, Jodi Rehrig, Anne Romano, Arlene Schlosser, Megan Sloan, Paul Smith, and Carrie Squire.

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Events:

- June 11 / WHS Walk of Honor
- June 16 / TBS Clap Out
- June 17 / HBS Clap Out
- June 17 / Early Dismissal Day – Curriculum Day
- June 17 / 8th Grade Graduation – HCRHS Athletic Field
- June 18 / Early Dismissal Day – Last Day of School
- September 8 / First Day of School for Students 2021-2022 School Year



Upcoming BOE Meetings:

- June 8, July 20, August 24, September 14

"Reading... a vacation for the mind..." – Dave Barry