



Rye School District Administrator Goals

Michelle Pitts, Principal, RES

Anne Gilbert, Principal, RJH

September 21, 2023

Goal 1: *Maintain a culture that is positive, welcoming, and supportive to all stakeholders, including staff, families, students, and community stakeholders.*

Rye Elementary School

- RES families were invited to three orientations (Preschool-Grade 1) to provide them with an opportunity to see the classrooms, meet the teachers and visit RES prior to the first day.
- Families were invited to our first all school celebration assembly. We discussed ***Dot Day*** and encouraged our students to “make their mark” as well as introducing the character trait of the month, respect. In addition, Caitlin Piper wrote and performed (on video) an original song that welcomed students back to school.
- Students in grades 3 and 4 were all welcome to audition for our upcoming November RES play, *This One Time...in Camelot* written by Miles Burns, the script writer for *Life on a Plate*. We thank Jeffrey, Miles, Josh and Joan for bringing this back to our school, along with REF and PTA who are continuous supporters.
- Mrs. Pitts had lunch with all of the new students at RES this week, welcoming them, getting to know them better and checking in to see how they are adjusting. When asking two new students how they liked RES on a scale from one to ten so far, they both shouted, “TEN!”

Rye Junior High School

- The first Parent Advisory Committee meeting was held last week. The ten parents attending offered valuable feedback on community perceptions, and how we can work together to fully promote the learning happening at RJH. The parents involved will serve as community liaisons. This group will meet each month.
- All advisors made personal contact with their student’s family. The phone calls or meetings focused on establishing a relationship, an invitation to stay connected, and a reassurance that families have a point of contact for any questions or concerns.

- Our students began meeting as advisories in small groups. Teachers are using the One Trusted Adult Program, which focuses on self reflection relationship building for students. Teachers have been trained in OTA, and have an understanding of the program's definition of a trusting relationship: accessible, boundaried, and caring. Through this work in advisory, students will learn skills to build similar relationships in their personal lives. A caregiver training program was also sent home to each family.
- We have two scheduled events for students: Dan Brown will be visiting RJH as part of the Rye400 celebration. Each grade level is identifying two students in conduct a short interview with Mr. Brown, and ask questions created by that grade level. Teachers will ensure that the questions are thoughtful and not repetitive! We also have scheduled Katie Greer, an internet safety specialist, to visit RJH on October 10. Katie will present twice: to our 5/6 students, and our 7/8 students, in order to deliver a specific, age appropriate message about digital citizenship. Adults will be invited to attend that evening for a caregiver presentation by Katie.
- Our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade teams are all planning an overnight field trip! Each grade level has held (or has scheduled) informational nights for families to hear more information about the trip, which will help prepare our students for the fun ahead. We are so excited to be able to offer age appropriate, unique opportunities to all our students.

Goal 2: *Ensure students have equal access to a rigorous and personalized learning experience.*

Rye Elementary School

- Staff will administer the STAR universal screener next week to all students. This will allow our teaching staff to analyze data to ensure students are receiving appropriate interventions and working towards the next step in their learning if needed.
- Teachers in grades K-4 are using the Step Up to Writing program and all students will complete a fall writing assessment to be compared to a winter and spring so we can best support the writing needs for our students in four areas: organization, ideas, language/style and neatness/mechanics. There is more information about the program [here](#).
- We are introducing new assessments this year, such as the Bear Spelling Inventory, which allows us to establish a baseline as well as understanding where students in grades 3 and 4 might need some teaching or reteaching using our new phonics program for the upper grades, UFLI.
- We are in the process of purchasing Lexia Core5, an adaptive web-based reading program, which would replace i-Ready reading during center or WIN time. There is more information about the program [here](#).
- Staff recently had a staff meeting to discuss the components of WIN time (What I Need). This block is a 30-minute period of the day in which students are receiving targeted instruction or enrichment in an identified area of learning. Each grade has an individual block, allowing the math and reading specialist, as well as the school counselor, a time to target the needs of our students who might need extra support.

- Sarah Holmes has been training teachers on math fact running records in grades 1-4 to allow us to understand our students' thinking as they are building their number sense.

Rye Junior High School

- Our first few weeks of EXPLORE classes have been amazing! Teachers have noticed an increased level of engagement in their classes, presumably because our students feel an increased sense of autonomy during their day.
- Starting this year, our schedule has adjusted to provide longer class times with embedded supports during each class. As the year progresses, students will be provided with extensions and interventions based on in class assessments. From the student perspective, the longer class times actually make the day go by faster... I can't figure it out either, but that's what they are reporting to us!
- As part of the MTSS process, we have developed a student support team that meets once a week. Teachers fill out a survey each week, identifying any students who are excelling or struggling. The team then processes who will follow up, if needed. We are implementing student support plans with specific strategies and time frames for needed interventions.
- Our teachers will be using their PLC meetings to hold a data session on our STAR results. Thank you to Ashley Hass, our math interventionist, who has been invaluable in helping us with the MTSS process!

Goal 3: *Prepare our students to be engaged citizens, understanding the impact they can make locally, nationally and globally.*

Rye Elementary School

- Students and families were introduced to our Tier 1 (all school) character development program, Purposeful People. This month the character trait of focus will be respect. Each month we will introduce the staff, students and families to a new trait and provide a CharacterDare to help engage our entire community around the same focus.
- Kindergarten students went on a treasure hunt to find vegetables in our own garden that we can use in our own lunches. This is supporting our students' understanding of natural resources and the benefits of our own grounds!
- Our school now has access to News-O-Matic, a web-based program that publishes new articles daily and has a global component, including news and information from around the globe. There is a geography component, as well as a language component as well, which can be used in World Language! There is more information about the program [here](#).

Rye Junior High School

- Since 2017, the RJH staff has worked to create social studies instruction that follows the C3 standards, and is engaging to students. Each year, we attempt to make our instruction aligned with the standards, but also to address themes that are recurring in US and

world history. This year, all of our instruction will fall into thematic categories, which we call 'power topics':

- 5th and 6th Grade Power Topics:
 - Exploration & Colonization
 - Revolution Indigenous
 - People and the Americas
 - Birth of Civilization
 - Five Themes of Geography
 - Power of Humanity
- 7th & 8th Grade Power Topics:
 - Global Movement
 - Power of Ideas
 - Civics
 - Conflict and Crisis
 - US Role in World Affairs
- These power standards are rooted in the effort to engage students to be responsible citizens, reflective about history, and understanding of varied perspectives.
- This social studies session, the seminars and their power topics can be seen [here](#).
- The power standards and the related C3 standards can be seen [here](#).

August 29, 2023

Dear Superintendent Zadravec and the Rye School Board,

I am writing to request twelve weeks of maternity leave (FMLA) to commence following the birth of my first child this December, per the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Rye School Board and the Association of Coastal Teachers. If it is agreeable to you and the School Board, following the expiration of my 12-week FMLA, I would also like to request an additional leave of absence for the remainder of the school year. One of the things I have loved so much about the SAU 50 community is its focus on families and I feel so optimistic about having the opportunity of this additional time with my family as well as the support of the both SAU and Rye School District. I look forward to the start of the 2023 school year and I will be thrilled to return to my position as Speech-Language Pathologist at Rye Junior High in the Fall of 2024.

With the understanding that these dates may be adjusted should my child be born early or late, I estimate that my leave would begin on December 19, 2023 commencing June 13 (or the last day of school, whichever is later).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Francoeur