A message from the principal…

Dear Ramsey Community,

It has been a great first few weeks here at Ramsey. In just a short amount of time, I have been able to meet with each employee to gain their perspective on the school, welcome new families during our 5th grade Open House, hold student meetings in each grade level, meet with our hard working PTSA and SBDM boards, and begin to make many positive changes around the building. During class meetings, students were reminded of what it takes to be a part of the RAMS community. We went over our motto below and discussed expectations for the year.

I am RESPECTFUL of others.
I am ACCOUNTABLE for my actions.
I am MOTIVATED to learn.
I will be SUCCESSFUL today.

We also discussed the importance of academics here at Ramsey. Teachers have made a commitment to be prepared every day and provide students with engaging lessons; in return, students are asked to come ready to learn! Just recently we recognized almost 700 students for receiving proficient or distinguished on KPREP, and all A/B honor roll students received a dress down day this past Friday. There is a lot to celebrate at Ramsey.

Students are currently taking the Winter Session of the MAP Growth assessment, and we are looking forward to Backpack Week next week to celebrate and highlight the quality work our students are producing for the Backpack of Success Skills.

In an effort to increase communication and transparency, we will send out this newsletter monthly. Additionally, be sure to follow us regularly on Twitter to check out the awesome work of our students and teachers. Follow us on Twitter @RamseyMS_JCPS

Sincerely,
Dr. Terra Greenwell
Principal, Ramsey Middle School

Important Dates

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>10/29-12/19</td>
<td>High School Optional/Magnet Program Application Period</td>
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<td>11/26-12/21</td>
<td>MAP Testing Window</td>
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<td>12/10-12/14</td>
<td>Backpack Week</td>
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<td>12/3-12/14</td>
<td>Jr. Beta Club Toiletry Drive</td>
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<td>12/4</td>
<td>Future Ram Tour @8am</td>
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<td>12/11</td>
<td>SBDM Meeting @4pm</td>
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<td>12/14</td>
<td>Remarkable Rams @7:40am</td>
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<td>12/17</td>
<td>PTSA Meeting @6pm</td>
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<td>12/18</td>
<td>Choir &amp; Orchestra Concert @6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/19</td>
<td>Band Concert @6:30pm</td>
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<td>12/20-12/21</td>
<td>Finals - All Grades</td>
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<td>12/21</td>
<td>Third Grading Period Ends</td>
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<td>12/24-1/4</td>
<td>Winter Break</td>
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RAMS are

R- Respectful A- Accountable M- Motivated S- Successful
The 6th-graders are off to a great start
By Christel Lanier

Whew! Can you believe that more than one third of the school year has already passed? It seems like just yesterday that we were returning to school from summer break. We’re excited and honored to share this critical time in your student’s life.

The transition to 6th grade can be challenging for both students and parents. Navigating around a larger building, learning the expectations of multiple teachers and, of course, making new friends are all realities that can be both exciting and stressful. Thankfully, we have a group of caring teachers who are here not only to empower students academically but also to equip them with life skills that they will use long after they finish middle school.

So far this year, the students have been engaged in learning activities that connect with real life and prepare them for the next level of their education. For example, I’m sure you’ve been seeing lots of homework for students to practice operations with fractions and decimals. There are so many practical applications in everyday life where it is important to understand these math concepts.

In Language Arts, students have been reading *The Phantom Tollbooth*, a children’s literature classic, to sharpen their skills at using figurative language. Could you come up with an example of onomatopoeia? Pow! I bet your student can!

To ensure that our students are globally competent citizens, they’ve also been studying the different aspects of culture in other countries. Very soon, they’ll even be making culture dolls to demonstrate their learning.

Finally, in science, “To infinity and beyond!” Students have been learning about the solar system, including the sun and the moon and their impact. I wonder… Why is it getting colder outside? Could it be because the sun’s rays are more indirect during the winter months? Ask your student. I’m sure they can tell you all about it.

As you can see, the 6th graders are learning new and interesting information to fill their digital backpacks and move them forward!

Ramsey 7th-graders maintain focus through student engagement
By Maureen Biggs

Welcome, Dr. Greenwell, our new principal and leader. We are very lucky to have her to guide us to even more success.

One of our highest priorities at Ramsey is student engagement, and our teachers are working hard to ensure that all students are engaged. We have been busy working in the 7th Grade. We are examining habitats in science. Ms. Hogue, Ms. Shewmaker, and Ms. Wilson all have “special guests” in their rooms—LIZARDS! They will be looking for homes soon, so if you are interested in a new pet please contact one of the science teachers.

Our students have a lot coming up in December, so please remember that it is very important for students to be present and ready to learn each day. We began round two of MAP testing on 11/26. This is a very important test that tells teachers what students are ready to learn.

Mr. Neel and I will be in classrooms during the week of Dec. 3 to conference with each 7th grader regarding grades and their progress towards mastery of all standards (Step It Up). Please don’t forget to ask your students what’s in their digital backpack! We will begin filling them next week.

12/4 Champions (Step It Up)
12/5 Challengers (Step It Up)
12/6 Titans (Step It Up)
It’s time for 8th-graders to choose a high school
By Dara Cook

As we close out the fall semester, I just want to take a moment and thank the 8th grade students and their teachers for their continued efforts in daily classes. These efforts will help them to be prepared for high school. Any student wishing to attend a high school other than his or her resides school must complete the online application under the “Register and Apply” link on the JCPS homepage, https://www.jefferson.kyschools.us/. In order to complete the process, parents will need a Parent Portal username and password or a GUID number that can be obtained from our records clerk, Ms. Kavanaugh (stella.kavanaugh@jefferson.kyschools.us), or from Ms. Cook (dara.cook@jefferson.kyschools.us).

Eighth-graders start preparing for their Digital Backpack defenses
By Paula Boggs

Hello! I cannot believe that Thanksgiving has come and gone. We certainly have so much to be thankful for here at Ramsey Middle School! Exciting things are happening in our classrooms and in the school in general. We have a new leader and a refreshed vision on how to serve to be GREAT! Our 8th grade student leaders are on their backpack journey preparing for their future defenses. They are also talking about their MAP goals and participating in MAP testing for the next couple of weeks, so feel free to ask them about their growth goals and progress. We are so excited about the many upcoming events for our 8th graders, so be sure to stay tuned so that you can be informed.

In math, we are beginning our unit on solving multi-step equations and determining the number of solutions to given equations. Students will have homework 2-3 nights a week and should be prepared for quizzes on Friday and a test before winter break. As always, if your child is struggling with any of our content, my khanacademy.org is a great resource. In Algebra, we will be starting a unit on solving inequalities and systems of inequalities. In all math classes, we will begin a project in the next two weeks that is a real world application of solving equations and could be beneficil for their backpacks!

In science, we are studying climate change and how human impact affects our biosphere. We will be doing an activity with the carbon cycle, and students will do a project on the carbon cycle which could possibly be used in their backpacks. Students need to keep up with all assignments, do their homework, complete all assignments in the lab book, and study for any tests and quizzes.

In language arts, we will be finalizing our argument essays as possibilities for our backpacks. We have our winter MAP testing and district common assessments coming up. We will also be studying irony and reading O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi." December also gives us the chance to fine tune our close reading/critical thinking skills as well as practice making inferences while analyzing poems, stories, and texts.

In social studies, we are starting an in-class study of the Constitution. We will spend multiple weeks on this, and there will be lessons and quizzes, so students need to make sure they are keeping up with their notes and assignments.

December Mental Health Tip
By Stephanie Barclay
Mental Health Counselor

In Peace Ed training, our Peer Mediators recently learned that “when your emotions are high, your thinking is low.” This means that you should not make any behavior decisions when you are very emotional because these decisions are made impulsively; therefore, you may not make healthy decisions when your thinking is low. Wait to make any decisions/choices when you are calm.