

Dear RCSD Community,

It really feels as if the days are starting to grow longer. I read that by February 20, we will be gaining three minutes more of daylight per day. I am looking forward to not waking up to pitch black in the mornings!

2024-25 Budget Presentation

At Tuesday night's Board of Education meeting, we officially kicked off the 2023-2024 school district budget season. At the meeting, we presented the 2023-2024 Superintendent's Recommended Budget. There are lots of ways to learn more about the budget. For the next two Board of Education meetings, we will hear presentations about specific areas of the budget of interest to the public. Next week (on February 14) we will learn about the Curriculum and Special Education areas of the budget. On March 7, we will learn about the Technology, Athletics, and Facilities portions of the budget.

On March 18 from 9:30-11:00 a.m., we will hold our Community Budget Cafe. This is an event held annually in the Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room on a Saturday morning, and members of the community are invited to come and rotate between tables dedicated to particular segments of the budget. Please mark your calendars!

You can watch Tuesday night's presentation by clicking [here](#); the discussion starts at 2:00. The accompanying slide deck is linked [here](#).

RCSD Curriculum Maps

For parents/guardians of middle and high school students, this time of year brings the beginning of the course selection process for next year. Both schools have a program of studies with course listings posted on the Counseling Department pages of the District's website. RMS's is [here](#) and RHS's is [here](#). With so many choices, it can all be a bit dizzying. For those looking to take a deeper dive into what students study in each of the classes, we have a public website with the *curricula* of many of our courses linked [here](#). To help students' parents navigate the website, we have created a short video linked [here](#). Students and parents will be meeting with school counselors before making any final class selections, but this will help you differentiate between (for example) "Studio Art in Graphic Design in Animation" and "Studio in 3D Design and Architecture."

Garnets Connect Valentine's Workshop Sunday

The Rye High School Garnets Connect Club is hosting a Valentine's Day Workshop at Rye Rec on Sunday, February 12, from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. for RCSD 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Garnets Connect is a club dedicated to creating meaningful connections between high schoolers and younger kids in the school district by sharing favorite hobbies, be they crafting, baking, or computer programming. Sunday's activities will include games, crafts, and more! Please complete the form linked [here](#) if you would like your child to attend. There are just 10 more spots available. You will receive an email confirmation.

Open Topics Forum February 14

Come spend Valentine's Day with the Board of Education and the RCSD administration! We are holding our second (and final) Open Topics forum of the year this coming Tuesday, February 14. I can't promise it will be romantic, but it will be informational!

For those of you who are Eagles or Chiefs fans, or just plain old football fans, enjoy the Super Bowl on Sunday. I'll personally be crying copiously into my Jets mug and hoping for better things next year.

Sincerely,
Eric Byrne, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

K Registration for 2023-24

As part of budgeting for next year, one of our "wild cards" is Kindergarten registration. We never know exactly how many students will be coming on the first day of Kindergarten, and every year there are some surprises in both the plus or minus column - students whose parents decide to wait another year, or forge ahead with Kindergarten, or transfer to a private school, or move in or out of Rye, etc., and forget to tell us! If you have an incoming Kindergartner at home (or know of a friend or neighbor who does), please let us or ask them to let us know. It's always interesting to learn about parents who think we know (psychically?) that they have a Kindergartner coming to school. We're good, but we're not that good! The link to register is [here](#).

RHS Volleyball Tournament (HOLD FOR FEB 17 - FINALS ARE 16th)

Black History Month?

February is Black History Month. Many of you were not yet born or sentient when it was created in 1976, but I was! Gerald Ford was the first U.S. President to officially recognize the month calling upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Every President since then has done so. Black History Month is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans across U.S. history and society, from activists and civil rights pioneers like Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and Rosa Parks, to leaders in industry, politics, science, culture, and more. **SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN SCHOOLS TO MARK.**