



# Rensselaer Central Middle School

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[www.RensselaerSchools.org](http://www.RensselaerSchools.org)

Mr. Greg Michael, Principal • Mrs. Ava Kosiba, Dean of Students • Miss Lydia Albin, School Counselor  
Mrs. Sue Cook, Treasurer • Mrs. Alina Misch, Administrative Assistant • Mrs. Sarah Redlin, Nurse

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Dear incoming 6th grade students & parents/guardians,

On behalf of the RCMS family, I would like to welcome you to the middle school years! From some conversations I've had with 5th grade parents, I've found that you would like some information about how the Middle School operates. I will try to provide you with some essential information about RCMS in this letter. Of course, this information may create some more questions, so please don't hesitate to call and ask, or send an email message.

## **The 6th Grade Teachers**

I'd like to start by introducing our all-star lineup of teachers who will be working with your child next year. These teachers are an excellent bunch and work diligently to provide your student with a top-notch education.

Mrs. Stanley - Reading - [jennifer.stanley@rcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:jennifer.stanley@rcsc.k12.in.us)

Mrs. Van Meter - English/Language Arts - [kelly.vanmeter@rcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:kelly.vanmeter@rcsc.k12.in.us)

Mrs. Schmid - Mathematics - [kim.schmid@rcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:kim.schmid@rcsc.k12.in.us)

Mrs. Hill - Science - [amanda.hill@rcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:amanda.hill@rcsc.k12.in.us)

Mrs. Sterk - Social Studies - [megan.sterk@rcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:megan.sterk@rcsc.k12.in.us)

## **6th Grade Orientation**

The 6th grade orientation will be held on Tuesday, August 11th from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. This will be an open house format. You are welcome to come at any time between 4:30 and 6:00 p.m. All of the teachers will be in their rooms for you to meet and greet. The student schedules will be available, along with their locker number and combination, so they can practice a few times and drop off all of their supplies. There will also be information about how to create PowerSchool and Canvas parent accounts so you can monitor your student's grades and school work. Additionally, there will be athletic meetings at 6 p.m. The football team will meet in the gym, the volleyball team will meet in the cafeteria, and the cross country team will meet in the library.

## **Elective Classes**

The students have the choice to join band and/or choir. If a student is not interested in these classes, they will receive a full year of P.E./Health, one semester of Art, one quarter of Computer Science, and one quarter of Success Skills. Our Success Skills class is taught by our counselor. This class covers topics like career exploration, study skills, social and emotional learning, organization, and much more.

Mr. Zacher - P.E./Health - [brian.zacher@rcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:brian.zacher@rcsc.k12.in.us)

Mrs. Kaufman - P.E./Health - [linda.kaufman@rcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:linda.kaufman@rcsc.k12.in.us)

Mr. Feagans - Computer Science - [mike.feagans@rcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:mike.feagans@rcsc.k12.in.us)

Ms. Amber Hall - Band - [amber.hall@rcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:amber.hall@rcsc.k12.in.us)

Mrs. Davisson - Choir - [stephanie.davisson@rcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:stephanie.davisson@rcsc.k12.in.us)

### **Supply List**

Our supply list is posted on our website, [rcms.rensselaerschools.org](https://rcms.rensselaerschools.org). At this time, the supply list is not current/correct, but it will be shortly. There will also be copies of our supply list provided at local stores for your convenience.

### **Parent Expectations**

The move to the Middle School can be a difficult transition for some students. Moving from a self-contained room (one teacher), to a departmentalized setting (7 teachers), is typically a challenge for an eleven year old. A departmentalized school requires students to be organized, yet many sixth graders haven't developed this skill yet. This is where parents can help.

Recommended Parent Expectations:

- Check your student's grades weekly.
  - PowerSchool can let you see every teacher's gradebook 24/7. Every assignment is listed along with the teachers' email address if you need to ask a quick question about a missing assignment.
- Sign up for a Canvas Parent Account.
  - Canvas is our learning management system (LMS). It is an electronic meeting place for teachers and students. You can see the teachers' weekly agendas, and you can see your student's work.
- Attendance is directly connected to student success.
  - Consistent attendance is of utmost importance. Although students can make up the work they miss, we can never recreate the classroom experience a student misses when they are absent.
- Go through their backpack.
  - Check your student's backpack regularly, and teach them how to organize their materials and school work.
- If you see your student's grades decline, reach out to the teachers.
  - If you do notice a decline in your student's academics, please contact us. We can set up a meeting with the teachers, and create a specific plan for your student.
- Minimize screen time and monitor their social media accounts.
  - If you allow your student to have social media accounts, I recommend that you follow your student on these accounts. You can monitor their activity, and you might learn a bit more about them as well!
- Like our [Rensselaer Central Middle School Facebook Page](#) and follow us on Instagram!

### **Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports**

Here at RCMS, we teach our students the appropriate expectations in a positive way. We help students who struggle to follow the rules by teaching them the expectations repeatedly. We do have consequences that go along with certain behaviors, but we recognize that punitive punishments do not change negative student behaviors. Our handbook covers all of our policies concerning discipline and behavior interventions.

### **School Hours**

The Middle School opens its doors at 7:30 a.m. When students are dropped off in the morning, they will enter the front doors and either go to the gym, or the cafeteria. Breakfast is served in the cafeteria every morning, and is free to all students. The RCMS daily schedule can also be found in our handbook. Our doors lock at 4:00 p.m.

There are many more details I could include in this letter, but I don't want to make it too lengthy. I hope this answers some of your questions, but if ever you have a question about anything at the Middle School, please do not hesitate to ask. We are here to help! The professionals at RCMS do an excellent job, and I know you and your student will enjoy your time here. We are looking forward to meeting you! Have a wonderful summer!

Kind regards,



Greg Michael

Principal - Rensselaer Central Middle School