

### *A Message from Mr. Ross...*

Thanks for your patience and flexibility these last three weeks as we've navigated the weather and lack of instructional time. Last Friday, we celebrated the unofficial halfway point of the 2023/24 school year. Seeing our students grow academically, physically, and emotionally is what makes the middle school experience for students, parents, and staff so unique.

The mid-year point of the school year provides parents and students alike the opportunity to take inventory of the successes and challenges they've faced and to strategize before embarking on the second half of the school year. Below are a few questions, directly related to our school's core guidelines, that students and parents are encouraged to process together.

#### **Am I doing what's right?**

Middle schoolers can sometimes struggle to make good decisions and they need frequent reminders or "coaching" from their parents and trusted adults. Doing the right thing can be hard at times for young people when other influences can sway them differently. Honest and open dialogue with your student about temptations, negative peer pressure, and risk-taking will enhance the relationship and allow parents the opportunity to set clear expectations about behavior that is aligned with both the school and their family's values.

#### **Am I treating others well?**

We aspire to build a culture at Riley Street Middle School where students care for and support one another. Our school is fortunate to have students who set a great example everyday for their peers to follow. However, we have instances where students make poor choices and don't always treat their classmates very well. We desire for our students to be empathetic, forgiving, resilient, and compassionate. Let's make it a point to teach our students these skills in hopes of supporting them in maintaining positive interactions with their peers.

#### **Am I doing my personal best?**

School is challenging in so many different aspects for our students. For me it was Chemistry! I struggled mightily in this class. Fortunately, I had a teacher who didn't give up on me and taught me the importance of effort. To this day, I can proudly say that I "earned" a C- in the class. For our students, the same holds true today. Work hard and do your best. Letter grades on a report card are not all we should be striving for. Academic growth and improvement are equally as important as academic excellence. Let's encourage our kids to focus on just getting a little better everyday.

# Riley Street Reminder

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM RILEY STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Riley Street Middle School*  
2745 Riley Street, Hudsonville, MI 49426  
Phone: 616-896-1920



**Wizard of Oz Youth Edition** ~ Congratulations to all of the students on the cast and crew of this year's musical: The Wizard of Oz Youth Edition! The performances will be April 19th and 20th! We are looking forward to our first rehearsal and parent meeting on Monday, January 29th!



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the directors by email:

Jessica Jenema ([jjenema@hpseagles.net](mailto:jjenema@hpseagles.net))  
Bonnie Gillis ([vgillis@hpseagles.net](mailto:vgillis@hpseagles.net))

**East Coast Trip Parents** ~ Mark your calendar for the Mandatory Meeting with Countryside Tour Company on Tuesday, April 30 at 7:30 pm in the Riley Street cafeteria. You and your child are required to attend to finalize documents for the trip and hear essential information - including a conversation with your child's chaperone. Contact Mrs. Atkins with any questions or concerns.



**Summer EBT Money for Approved Free/Reduced Eligible Students** ~ In 2022, federal legislation created a new program to fill hunger gaps during summer break, called Summer EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer). The program is being administered by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). A household can receive \$40 per month per child in June, July, and August 2024 (for a total of \$120 per child). Benefits will come in the form of preloaded cards that families can use to purchase groceries.

**Summer EBT benefits will be issued to students who have a completed and approved Application for Meal Benefits on file as of February 14, 2024.**

**If you already have an approved application, automatically receive Free or Reduced Meal Benefits, or already receive EBT Benefits, you do NOT need to re-apply.**

Completion of the form does not automatically qualify your student for the summer benefits. These benefits will be based on annual incomes and household size as noted by you on the form.

**If your address has changed this year, be sure to update it with your school to ensure your benefit card is sent to the right address.**

This **WILL NOT** impact your student receiving free breakfast and lunch at school.

[Click Here for Income Guidelines to see if you might qualify](#)

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY FOR BENEFITS](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Food Service at 616-457-2400 or by email at [foodservice@hpseagles.net](mailto:foodservice@hpseagles.net).

## HOMWORK HELP



Homework Help will be offered to **6th grade** students on **Monday-Friday mornings from 7:20AM-7:45AM in Room 203.**

Homework Help will be offered for **7th & 8th grade** students **Tuesday-Friday from 7:20AM-7:45AM in Room 319.**

These are **quiet** environments where students will receive academic support, if needed, from instructional para professionals, study quietly on their own, read, etc.

Additionally, **Lunch and Learn** is offered **Monday-Thursday in Room 319.** Students may get their lunch, sign in, and complete homework, study, or take (or retake) tests or quizzes (with teacher permission). This quiet environment allows students to receive academic support or complete missing work from absences. This room is staffed by one RMS staff member as well as volunteer parents.

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**Morning Student Drop Off Zone** ~ There is a designated loop for student drop off on the east side of the building. **We ask that you do not use the front parking lot as a drop off area for your student in the morning.** Using the front parking lot for this purpose creates a hazardous environment in the morning for staff, parents and volunteers who need to use this lot for parking. The purpose of the front lot/circle drive is for a parent or volunteer who needs to come into the building or for late drop off or early pickup of a student due to an appointment or illness. Please help us keep this area safe.

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**Leaving School During the School Day** ~ If a student must leave at any time during the school day, parents are asked to phone or write a note stating the reason for early dismissal and the time their child needs to be dismissed. Students should bring the note directly to the office before the school day begins for an early dismissal pass. This pass should be shown to their teacher at the beginning of the class from which they will be leaving.



Should a student need to leave school due to sudden illness or injury, the student should come to the office. Students should NOT call home from their cell phone to be picked up if they are injured or ill. The office will call parents to pick up the student. Students will be signed out in the office before they leave.

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**Early Release Dates** ~ The remaining dates for early release are February 23, March 15, May 3 and our last day of school, June 5. On the early release dates, students will be dismissed at 11:15am. The purpose of the early release is to provide quality collaborative time for our staff to review assessment data and discuss best practices with the goal of improving student achievement.

On the early release days, transportation will be provided in the same manner as it would be at the end of the school day only beginning at 11:15am instead of 2:45pm. A sack lunch will be made available to students who would like to bring one home on the bus. Students must preorder these lunches and the deadline for ordering a lunch is 9:30AM on the day of each early release day.



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## Parents of 6th Grade Students:

**Immunizations** ~ Most 6th grade students need a couple of new immunizations (Meningitis and T-dap) after turning 11 and before entering 7th grade. Students are assessed as they enter 7th grade and must be up-to-date before they can start school for their 7th grade year. As your 6th grader has their well-child check-ups and receives the updated immunizations, please obtain a copy of their updated official immunization record and give a copy to the RMS office anytime this year. (We are required to have a copy of this official document in their file.)



**Immunization Waivers** ~ If you are a parent who chooses to waive immunizations for your child, please know that if you haven't gotten a new waiver since your child turned 11, you will most likely need to get a new waiver which states Riley Street Middle School as the current school and also includes the new immunizations that were not previously required. Getting a new waiver requires making an appointment at the Ottawa County Department of Public Health 616.396.5266. Only waivers that are obtained this way are accepted as valid. If you have any questions or would like us to check on the current waiver, please contact Anne Erickson at 616.896.1920 or at [aerickso@hpseagles.net](mailto:aerickso@hpseagles.net).

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**Chromebooks** ~ The Media Center has a limited number of loaner devices available for students who forget their Chromebooks or need a loaner while their unit is being repaired. Often times, we don't have enough loaners to go around. Encouraging your child to bring their Chromebooks to school every day would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

# WINTER 2 SPORTS

Girls Basketball, Boys Swim & Dive and Wrestling



**Winter 2 Sports** are underway. Check out the [Hudsonville Public Schools Athletics Website](http://www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org/athletics) for the latest schedules and stop out to see a basketball game, swim meet or wrestling match!

**Spring Sports** will begin the week of March 18. Please make sure your athlete has their forms and payments turned in if they are considering Girls Soccer, Boys Tennis, or Track and Field.

If you have any questions, please reach out to:

Josh Magley ([jmagley@hpseagles.net](mailto:jmagley@hpseagles.net)) or  
Karen Hill ([khill@hpseagles.net](mailto:khill@hpseagles.net)).



## UPCOMING DATES

Jan. 26	Early Release (Classes dismiss at 11:15)
Jan. 31	Creative Music Class Performance 7pm @ RMS
Feb. 12-13	Winter Break
Feb. 15	Orchestra Concert (7th & 8th Grade only) 6:30pm
Feb. 19	Choir Concert (7th & 8th Grade only) 7:00 pm
Feb. 20	Band Concert (8th Grade 6:30/7th Grade 8:00pm)
Feb. 23	Early Release (Classes dismiss at 11:15)
Feb. 27	Parent Teacher Conferences
Feb. 29	Parent Teacher Conferences
Mar. 15	Early Release (Classes dismiss at 11:15)
Mar. 27	End of Quarter 3
Mar. 28	Spring Break Begins
April 8	Classes Resume
April 19 & 20	MS Musical



## Important Links

Food Service Menu	<a href="https://jenhudfood.nutrislice.com/menu/hudsonville-public-schools/riley-street-middle">https://jenhudfood.nutrislice.com/menu/hudsonville-public-schools/riley-street-middle</a>
Hudsonville Athletics	<a href="https://hudsonvilleathletics.com/">https://hudsonvilleathletics.com/</a>
Community Ed Information	<a href="http://www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org/communityed/">http://www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org/communityed/</a>
Community Bulletin Board	<a href="http://www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org/rileystreet/community-bulletin-board">http://www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org/rileystreet/community-bulletin-board</a>



# RENAISSANCE NEWS

## GOLD LEVEL MEMBERS

Our January Business of the month is Wesco on 36th St. They are offering a free small popcorn! Thanks to Wesco of Hudsonville for being a proud supporter of the program. We appreciate their efforts in honoring our Renaissance Gold kids. It's businesses like this that make our community great!



## RILEY RENAISSANCE STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Riley Street Middle School prides itself in having students that do what is right, do their best and treat others as they want to be treated. Earlier this month, the staff had the opportunity to nominate four students from each grade to showcase as our Riley Renaissance Students of the Month. The criteria is broad and we left it very open ended to our teachers. After considering a number of nominations, we are pleased and honored to announce the following students as January Students of the Month.

### STUDENT OF THE MONTH-JANUARY

#### 6th Grade

Raegan Serama & Easton Gritter

#### 7th Grade

Janae Bozung & Eli DeWaard

#### 8th Grade

Dakota Koeman & Ethan Scholl

## FREE ICE CREAM FRIDAY

**ONCE A MONTH BLUE AND GOLD  
MEMBERS EARN FREE ICE CREAM  
FRIDAY!**

**ASK YOUR STUDENT IF THEY GOT  
FREE ICE CREAM LAST FRIDAY!**

**CHECK OUT OUR  
EAGLE RENAISSANCE WEBSITE  
FOR MORE INFORMATION!**



# WHAT IS EAGLE RENAISSANCE

## WHAT IS EAGLE RENAISSANCE?

**EAGLE RENAISSANCE IS A PROGRAM BUILT TO ENCOURAGE:**

- ★ **ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**
- ★ **IMPROVEMENT**
- ★ **INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**
- ★ **INCREASED ATTENDANCE**
- ★ **POSITIVE BEHAVIOR**

**.... THROUGH CREATIVE RECOGNITION AND REWARDS.**



**THERE ARE TWO LEVELS OF INCENTIVE FOR STUDENTS: BLUE LEVEL AND GOLD LEVEL.**

### BLUE LEVEL IS BASED ON THE PREVIOUS QUARTER'S ACHIEVEMENTS

1. **3.5 G.P.A., NO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES, NO TARDY DETENTIONS, NO SUSPENSIONS, NO IN-HOUSE SUSPENSIONS, AND LIFE SKILLS PROFICIENT OR BETTER**
- OR**
2. **.5 G.P.A. INCREASE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER, NO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES, NO TARDY DETENTIONS, NO SUSPENSIONS, NO IN-HOUSE SUSPENSIONS, AND LIFE SKILLS PROFICIENT OR BETTER**
- OR**
3. **PERFECT ATTENDANCE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER, NO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES, NO TARDY DETENTIONS, NO SUSPENSIONS, NO IN-HOUSE SUSPENSIONS, AND LIFE SKILLS PROFICIENT OR BETTER**

### GOLD LEVEL IS BASED ON CUMULATIVE ACHIEVEMENT ON THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR

1. **CUMULATIVE G.P.A. OF 3.75 OR ABOVE, NO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES, NO TARDY DETENTIONS, NO SUSPENSIONS, NO IN-HOUSE SUSPENSIONS, AND LIFE SKILLS PROFICIENT OR BETTER**

**EAGLE RENAISSANCE/STUDENT COUNCIL CREW IS FOR ANY STUDENT INTERESTED IN IMPROVING SCHOOL CLIMATE. WE SPONSOR SPIRIT DAYS, STUDENTS OF THE MONTH, LOCKER SIGNS, TEACHER APPRECIATION, AS WELL AS CELEBRATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS IN AREAS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM. MEETINGS TAKE PLACE IN ROOM 217 AFTER SCHOOL OR DURING WIN! PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL CREW!**