

March '22

THE REPORTER

RAPID CITY AREA SCHOOLS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Inspire. Innovate. Excel.

A Message from Dr. Simon

Dear Rapid City Area Schools Families,

January and February have flown by and the end of school is just a couple of months away, which is hard to believe.

As we continue to face staffing shortages across the district, I want to thank both staff and parents for your continued patience. The good news is that our COVID and Influenza numbers continue to decrease, and our substitute fill rates continue to increase to more normal levels.

There are several things to note from this past month that I want to take a moment to address.

Firstly, the Board of Education approved both the plans to move forward with building a new South Middle School and the financing proposal for the project. Unfortunately, construction costs increased significantly over the past two years, so the project will cost more than originally planned, and as a result, the District will need to finance the balance not covered by ESSER II and III funds. We expect to break ground in the coming weeks.

Secondly, updates to programming at Canyon Lake have also been approved by the Board, which will allow the K-5 classrooms to remain at Canyon Lake with some shifting of where they're located. Previously, the Board determined not to spend \$1.5 million to replace the boiler, as there are other significant needs on this school campus that could also lead to the closure of the school. An alternative was found that will allow the four closest classrooms to the cafeteria/gym and that space to remain open and heated. Thus, at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, Districtwide Special Education and Pre-K programs will be moved to Horace Mann Elementary, Food Service Administration will move to Lincoln, and the Lakota Immersion Pilot program will move to General Beadle Elementary.

Finally, On Tuesday night, the Board voted to approve the new District School Board representation areas. After working with a demographer, it was determined that the boundary lines for areas 5 and 7 needed to be redrawn with few changes to the remaining boundaries. In other School Board news, Board positions in Areas 2,3 and 6 are up for re-election in June.

Despite the many challenges we have faced this school year, we are excited to see that we are making excellent academic progress as measured by the MAP assessment. We will be sharing more about the growth we are seeing at next Tuesday's Board study session.

I want to thank all our families, staff, and students for everything you do to make our schools great! Let's finish the year strong!

Sincerely,



February was CTE Month here at RCAS!

WHAT IS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION?

92% of high school students and **69%** of college and adult students are engaged in CTE, learning skills in the classroom and on the job.¹

CTE is delivered at comprehensive and CTE-dedicated high schools, magnet schools, area technical centers, community and technical colleges and some four-year universities.

CTE students earn industry certifications and licenses, postsecondary certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees and higher.

CTE is good for students, good for businesses and good for communities.

94% CTE high school students are college and career ready – graduate high school and most enroll directly in college.²

Did you know:

- RCAS currently offers nearly 40 Career & Technical Education courses in all 3 of our high schools.
- Students now have opportunity to earn a certification that is aligned with industry standards related to the content of the course.
- During the 1st semester there were 307 certificates earned.
- Nearly 1,300 tests will be administered during 2nd semester, and 1,600 for the year-long classes.

Celebrating CTE Month!

Academy of Human Services & Education

Introduction to Human Services & Education – Students participated in a variety activities to learn more about careers and jobs in the area.



ROTC – All students have the opportunity to participate in co-curricular activities such as Color Guards, Drill Team, Raider Team, volunteerism and adventure skills.

Intro to Health Services is a class that allows students to learn more about healthcare professions. The class incorporates a multitude of healthcare learning dealing with patient care and walking in someone else's shoes. Students get the opportunity to learn about a variety of healthcare careers through hands on-labs and activities as well as hearing and learning from current healthcare professionals.



'21-'22 Teacher of the Year Nominees

Tanya Addison	South Middle School
Andrew Belsaas	Central High School
Jason Bierle	Canyon Lake Elementary
Sean Binder	Rapid City High School
Jeff Fierro	Stevens High School
Ward Johnston	South Park Elementary
Jennifer Macziewski	Valley View Elementary
Shawna Meisman	Wilson Elementary
Bobbie Morrison	Corral Drive Elementary
Jason Olson	Southwest Middle School
Andrea Pulscher	Horace Mann Elementary
Gaylene Richards	Grandview Elementary
Joey Russell	North Middle School
Brandi Sperle	Meadowbrook Elementary
Andrea Thedorff	Black Hawk Elementary
Teila Warren	General Beadle Elementary
Kelsey Wegner	West Middle School
Amanda Widmer	East Middle School

RCAS 2021-2022 TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Jennifer Macziewski

1st Grade

Valley View Elementary



Merideth Wald

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and
Science Teaching (PAEMST)



PAEMST is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States.





On February 10th, all RCAS 4th and 5th graders had the opportunity to attend a Rush game. Our Superintendent, Dr. Lori Simon, was asked to drop the puck for the game between the Wichita Thunder and the Rush. Rapid Valley 5th grader, Cooper G. was chosen to read the starting lineups for the game!



RAPID CITY RUSH KIDS' DAY GAME!

FINE ARTS

The South Dakota High School Activities Association One-Act Play Festival was held here in Rapid City at Central High School!



The Cobblers performed "Shoot Like A Girl" which is based on the life of M.J Heger. CHS won the Class AA Superior rating for both the play itself, and the full ensemble cast.



Stevens High School performed "Jabberwock Asylum" which tells the story of a now adult Alice who has been committed to an insane asylum following her adventures in Wonderland. Several SHS students received a Superior rating for their individual performances.



Simeon Birnbaum

Stevens High School

Gatorade Athlete of the Year

(SD Boys Cross Country)

Alex Otten

Stevens High School

Rising Star of the West

Contest

Kaleum Lowe

Stevens High School

Rising Star of the West

Contest

STAND-OUTS

Shea Ellender

Stevens High School

Rising Star of the West

Contest

Levi Busching

Stevens High School

Rising Star of the West

Contest

**Grace Belcher, Sean Tallon, Asher Burke, Caleb Van
Vleet, Kaylie Tupper, Abby Stevens**

Central High School

2022 SD Honors Orchestra



The Central High School speech and debate team took 2nd place for small teams at the National Qualifying tournament!!

Senior Student Colton Porter also took 1st place for Congressional debate on the Senate and qualified for Nationals for the second year in a row!

Extra Mile Recognition

If you would like to recognize someone in Rapid City Area Schools who goes the "extra mile" to help a student, parent, or staff member - go to: [Extra Mile Recognition Submission – Rapid City Area Schools \(rcas.org\)](https://rcas.org/extra-mile-recognition-submission)

Nicole Fenner
South Middle School

"Mrs. Fenner was always willing to help students and was a great teacher in general." - Eric Errea

Andrew Belsaas
Central High School

"He was willing to literally go the extra mile by dropping my instrument off at my house while I'm in quarantine which is 20-30 minutes away from CHS." - Christopher

CHECK THIS OUT!

On Tuesday, March 3, Rapid City Area Schools welcomed DeMoine Adams to Wilson Elementary.

Mr. Adams is the CEO of TeamMates, a national mentoring volunteer organization that has partnered with RCAS. TeamMates and RCAS have chosen Wilson Elementary as one of the first elementary schools to begin this program.

The goal of TeamMates is to start the pairing process in the third grade and that paired mentor and mentee stay together until high school graduation. Rapid City Area Schools first implemented TeamMates at North and South Middle Schools a few years ago. Wilson will be the first Elementary School to begin pairing youth with adult volunteers.

TeamMates Mentoring Program began in 1991 with the vision of University of Nebraska Head Football Coach Tom Osborne and his wife Nancy. Coach Osborne felt that the athletes in his program could make an impact on the middle school students.

DeMoine Adams serves as CEO of the TeamMates Mentoring Program. DeMoine is originally from Pine Bluff, Arkansas and is a former University of Nebraska standout football player. He also spent time in the NFL with the Green Bay Packers, Tennessee Titans, and San Francisco 49ers. DeMoine received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Nebraska in Political Science with minors in English, History, Communications, Ethnic Studies and African Studies. He went on to receive his Master's degree in Educational Psychology and is currently pursuing his Doctorate degree at the University of Nebraska.

** TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BECOMING A VOLUNTEER GO TO, <https://teammates.org/>.



HELP KEEP SCHOOL GROUNDS CLEAN!



Here at RCAS, we love animals and we understand that dogs are family. But please remember that animals are not allowed on/near school playground equipment as students can step in animal waste that was not picked up.

It sure makes a mess if it's tracked into the school!

Let's work together to keep our school grounds clean!



It's the **RULE...** **SHOTS** before **SCHOOL!**



6th Grade Immunizations:

- **Tdap*** (*Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis*)
- **MCV4*** (*Meningococcal*)
- **HPV** (*Human Papillomavirus*)
- **Flu** (*Influenza*)

For more information, talk with your family physician or your local community health nurse about these and other vaccinations your preteen should receive.

*School entry **REQUIREMENT** for South Dakota 6th grade students.



SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
doh.sd.gov | 1-800-592-1861



*Sunday, March 6 -
Saturday, March 12, 2022*

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK WEEK

CELEBRATE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS WITH US
#SCHOOLSOCIALWORK #SSWAA #TIMETOSHINE #SSWEEK2022



School Social Work
Association of America

CONNECT WITH US!

- Make sure your addresses, phone numbers and emails are up to date in Skyward Family Access.
- If you don't have a Skyward Family Access account then click [here](#). Use the email address you used when registering your child for school and click "forgot password".
- Make sure you are able to receive messages from RCAS via School Messenger.
- Follow us on FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM



Facilities Update

Just a few days ago marked 2 years since the bond election, and due to inflation prices have climbed exponentially, as has our need for facility repairs.

When we proposed the bond, for example, the South Middle School build was projected to cost around \$44 million dollars. Fast forward 2 years and that price is now roughly \$63 million.

However, despite the rise in cost, RCAS is expected to break ground on the new South Middle School in the coming months. We are excited about the new facility and are planning to have it ready for students at the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

In addition to the new middle school, the district has purchased land in the Shepherd Hills area.



The Rapid City Public School Foundation is excited to welcome Kara Flynn as its new Executive Director. Flynn succeeds long-time Executive Director Laura Sobczak, who led the organization from 2012 through 2017 and again from 2018 through 2022.

Kara Flynn has served as a volunteer Board Member and executive director of the RCPS Foundation, before serving as the Area 3 School Board Representative in 2018. She was also the volunteer co-chair for the RCAS Bond Vote Yes Campaign, and served as Black Hills area co-chair for the South Dakota Public Broadcasting's \$14 million Sound Vision Campaign. Flynn currently serves as a member of the RCAS Strategic Planning Taskforce and on the boards of the Friends of SDPB, Children's Home Society Foundation and Black Hills Community Theatre.



Flynn lives in Rapid City with her husband, Leo, and has two sons- one who currently attends Stevens High School and one who graduated from Stevens in 2021.

Please help us congratulate Kara on her new role.

★CONGRATULATIONS★

Jordan Bauer

Rapid City Central High School
Region 8 Athletic Director of the Year





KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION NIGHT

Incoming kindergarteners will:

- Meet kindergarten teachers
- See a classroom
- Learn about resources
- Feel more prepared to enter kindergarten
- Have a chance to win door prizes!

March 10

General Beadle Elementary
6:00 - 7:30 pm



To register click [here](#)
or scan below



Featuring representatives from:

SD Statewide Family Engagement Center
Early Childhood Connections
South Dakota Public Broadcasting
Early Learner Rapid City
Rapid City Area Schools
Starting Strong
...and many more!

SOUTH DAKOTA
STATEWIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTER



RAPID CITY
AREA SCHOOLS



**Starting
STRONG**
RAPID CITY



March Early Childhood Screenings

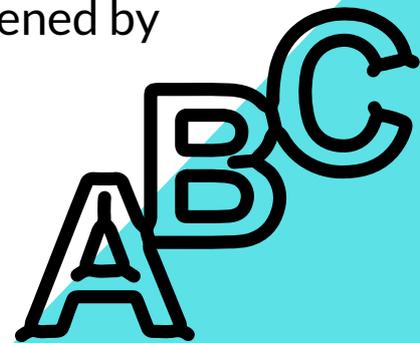
The Rapid City Area School District will offer free Early Childhood Screenings at Jefferson School for preschool children ages three through five.

If your child is five on or before September 1, they are Kindergarten eligible and will not be screened at this time. Note that if a parent decides not to send their Kindergarten eligible child to school in the fall, they still will not be screened during the 2021-2022 school year.

These developmental screenings check a child's development in the areas of language and articulation, concept development, hearing, vision, and motor skills. Information about their child's development is shared with parents, and parents will be provided with ideas to help enhance their children's development.

Preschool children ages three through five will be screened on March 14 and 21, 2022.

Parents who live in the Rapid City Area School District can make an appointment to have their children screened by calling 394-1813.



Mark YOUR Calendar

March 8, 2022: Special Board of Education-
Study Session; RCEC Building, 5:30pm

March 15, 2022: Board of Education
Meeting; City Council Chambers, 5:30pm

March 18, 2022: End of 3rd Quarter

March 21, 2022: PLC/ Teacher Workday/ No
School for Students